

ACTIVITY: Surf skiing

CASE: [GSAF 2008.01.29](#)

DATE: Tuesday January 29, 2008

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Indian Ocean off the Suncoast Pirates Beach, located four kilometres north of the entrance to Durban Harbour KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The beach (formerly known as Battery Beach) was named for the Suncoast Pirates Surf Lifesaving Club which was founded in 1928.

29°50,3'S, 31°02,2'E

NAME: Wayne Symington

DESCRIPTION: He is a 42-year-old male from Glenwood.



BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, January 30, 2008

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: Three kilometres

NARRATIVE: Wayne Symington was on a training stint when he was thrown off his ski by a shark. "I was paddling at a fast rate out near where the ships are anchored when I was catapulted out of my ski when the shark hit the rear, tearing a big chunk out of it," he said.

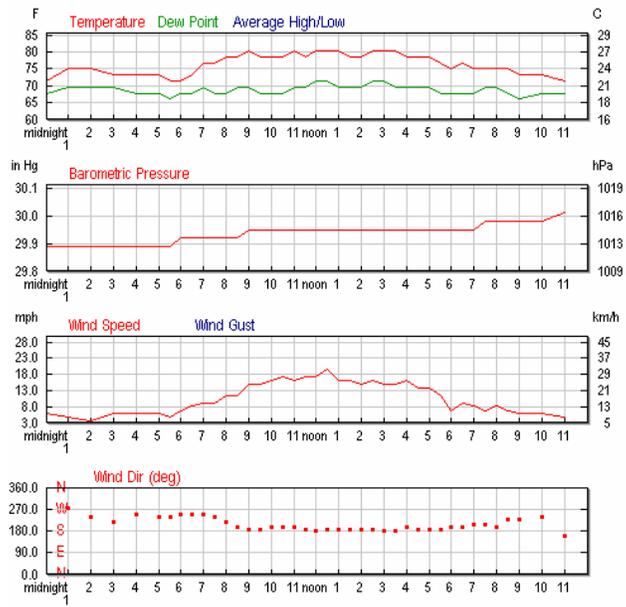
"I knew immediately it was a shark which had attacked me and that to survive I would have to get back on my ski as fast as possible, which I managed to do and luckily I still had my paddle in my hand," said Symington. "As I turned the ski back towards the shore it began to sink as water poured in through the hole, but a big bubble of air got trapped up front and the nose of the ski lifted out of the water."

"I guess it took me about half-an-hour to get back to the line of shark nets and I was functioning on pure prayer and adrenaline," he said. When he reached the shark nets, his ski became snagged on them. He jumped off his ski, dragged it over the net, and was then able to get to the beach

INJURY: No injury.

SPECIES: Next day, Symington visited Jeremy Cliff at the Natal Sharks Board who examined the surf ski. Cliff matched the imprint of the shark's bite on the surf ski with a specimen of a blacktip shark's jaws and estimated the shark was about two metres in length.

SOURCE: The Mercury, February 1, 2008



Weather at Durban on January 29, 2008