



Cape fur seals at Dyer Island, 1,2 km off Gansbaai.

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 2009.01.13.R](#)

DATE: Reported January 13, 2009

LOCATION: The attacks took place in the Indian Ocean off Gansbaai, Western Cape Province, South Africa.

NAMES: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: They were poachers.

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: Dyer Island and Geyser Rock lie a few kilometres off Gansbaai. Dyer Island is home to thousands of jackass penguins, and Geyser Rock is a rookery for some 60,000 Cape fur seals, a favored prey item of white sharks. The channel between the two islands is patrolled by white sharks and has become known as Shark Alley.

NARRATIVE: On June 2, 2004, 21-year-old Nkosinathi Mayaba, was killed by a white shark while he was poaching perlemoen (abalone) at Dyer Island. According to abalone farmer, Stephen Ashlin, four more poachers were believed taken by white sharks at Dyer Island in the past year. *See article on next page.*

Poachers become the poached in shark infested waters

Sharks may be threatening the safety of Australian swimmers with three attacks since Sunday, but in South Africa it is the most desperate people who are getting munched by great whites.

At Gansbaai, west of Capetown, unemployed people dive into shark infested waters to poach seafood.

Abalone farmer, Stephen Ashlin, says four poachers have been taken in the last 12 months. "If you're hungry, you got no food on the table, you're going to go find it somewhere," he says.

"A lot of guys turn to poaching and they swim out to Dyer Island which is about a 1.2 kilometre swim out. It's the great white shark capital of the world. So now and again one or two of them are bound to get mistaken for a seal."

SOURCE: ABC, Tuesday January 13, 2009, <http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200901/s2464667.htm>