

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 1980.05.15 /  
SA-288

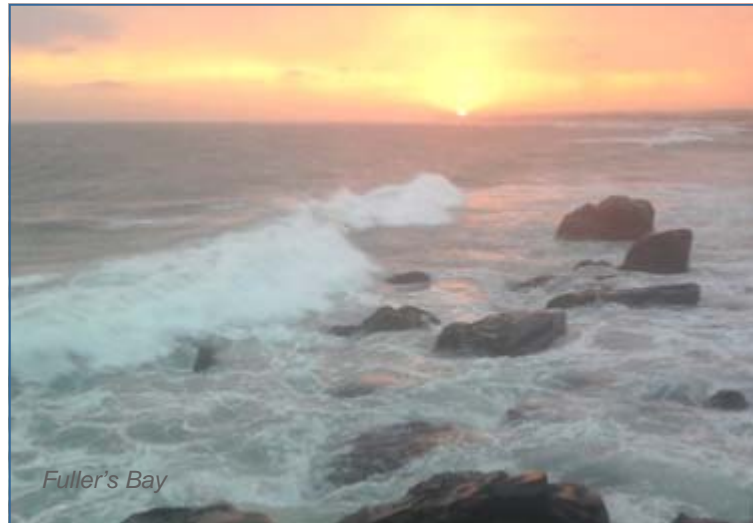
**DATE:** Thursday May 15, 1980

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Fuller's Bay, a small bay south-west of East London, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

**NAME:** Eric Stedman

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 22-year-old male.

**SURFBOARD:** A brand-new white 1,88-metre LarMont board.



### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** It was an overcast day.

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, May 14, 1980

**SEA CONDITIONS:** A large swell was running, and churning sand reduced water visibility to less than a metre.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 300 metres

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Three to four metres

**TIME:** 08h00

**NARRATIVE:** Eric Stedman had been surfing with his brother, 31-year-old Brian, for 15 minutes. He was lying on his board paddling seawards when he felt a sudden jolt at the back of his board and heard a crunching sound. As he turned around he saw the shark. "It did not bump the board," said Eric. "It just bit in once and out again." The two men returned promptly to shore.

**INJURY:** The surfer was not injured by the shark.

**DAMAGE TO SURFBOARD:** Tooth impressions were visible on the fin and covered a 30-centimetre area on the tail of the board.

**SPECIES:** Stedman described the shark as dark-coloured and more than 1,8 metres in length. He noted that its first dorsal fin was larger than the fin of his surfboard (30-centimetres).

**SOURCES:** Carl Vernon and Graham Ross, Port Elizabeth Museum.

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1st June, 1980

Dr. G.J.B. Ross,  
Port Elizabeth Museum,  
P.O. Box 13147,  
Humewood 6013.

Dear Graham,

Herewith the information and photographs of the shark attack on the surfer.

Date : 15 May 1980

Time : 08h00

Locality : Fullers Bay, East London

Distance off shore : 300 m lying on the surf board, paddling.

Water Depth : c 10 feet

Water Quality : Breakers, churning sand, visibility c 2 feet

Temperature : 68°F

Weather : High Cirrus, North Wind, Temperature - Warm

Sea : Large swell

Clothing : Black Wet Suit, with red sleeves, brand new, so red was signal bright.

Jewelry : None (What do you think he was ?)

Board : Colour - White opaque, Type : Law Mont, Size : 6foot 2in

Person: - Age : 22, Height : 6 ft. Mass: 150 lbs.

Address : care of : G.Isenberg (Pty)Ltd., Box 360, East London

Comments by Eric Stedman : beach was sand with sparse low lying rocks, he was going out to sea, shark came from behind, sounded like a rock hitting the board, shark came from shore side, Eric had been in the water for 15 min. Shark was bigger than 6 ft, its dorsal fin was bigger than his surfboard fin. Shark did not bump the board, just in once and out again. Fin was very dark in colour. His brother was 10m behind at time. They then went back to the shore and to Queensbury Bay

Hope that this is what you were asked to obtain.

Best wishes,

*Carl*