



**ACTIVITY:** Fishing

**CASE;** [GSAF 1984.02.18 / SA-324](#)

**DATE:** Saturday February 18, 1984

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Paradise Beach, Jeffrey's Bay, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.



**NAME:** Henri de Villiers Melville

**DESCRIPTION:** He was the Chairman of the Eastern Province Rock and Surf Angling Association.

## **BACKGROUND**

**TIME:** Night

**NARRATIVE:** Henri de Villiers Melville hooked and landed a shark. He was attempting to remove the hook from the shark's mouth when a bystander stepped on its tail. The shark thrashed about and closed its jaws on Melville's leg.

The July 28, 1986 edition of the *Eastern Province Herald* reported that the Port Elizabeth anglers presented Chairman Melville with one of Natal Sharks Board's "I tried to kiss a shark" T-shirts to remind him of his memorable catch.

**INJURY:** Lacerations to leg.

**TREATMENT:** A hundred stitches were needed to repair the wound.

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**SPECIES:** A 56-kilogram [123-lb] raggedtooth shark

**NOTE:** This was a provoked incident; it involved a hooked shark.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Marie Levine