

**ACTIVITY:** Spearfishing

**CASE:** GSAF 1984.05.31 / SA-327

**DATE:** Thursday May 31, 1984

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean off Arniston, Western Cape Province, South Africa.



**NAME:** Anton Bosman

**DESCRIPTION:** A 28-year-old male clad in a black neoprene full wetsuit, including hood, black socks, mask, snorkel and fins, and he carried a blue speargun. He is 1.89 metres (6') tall and weighs 90 kilograms.

**BOAT:** A 4.25-metre [14'] white hulled ski-boat

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** Bosman remembers the weather as “fine”. The Cape Agulhas Met Office recorded temperatures of 13° to 28°C and no rain. The sky was cloudless throughout the day and no wind was recorded.

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, May 30, 1984

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was murky, visibility was less than three metres

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** More than a kilometer

**DISTANCE FROM BOAT:** 100 to 150 metres

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Nine metres

**TIME:** 13h30 / 14h00

**NARRATIVE:** Anton Bosman and his dive buddy Phillip de Bruyn had been diving for about an hour, but had shot no fish, when suddenly they were surrounded by cape fur seals. Aware that the presence of the animals might attract sharks, Bosman and De Bruyn moved 50 metres away. “We deliberately swam away from the seals”, said the divers. When Bosman saw more seals swimming below him, he started to ascend.

Before he reached surface, however, a large shark swam up behind him. The shark hit Bosman with force, tossing him out of the water, and bit his left swim fin, wrenching it off his foot. After swimming slowly between the two men, the shark disappeared. The two divers swam back to the boat and “decided to call it a day”.

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

**SPECIES:** The shark passed within a metre of de Bruyn who was certain that it was a white shark. “I never saw the full length of the shark because of the poor visibility”, says de Bruyn, “but what impressed me was – not the length – but the girth of the shark; it was too large to put one’s arms around, and it had a smooth back”. Bosman believes the shark was either a dusky shark, *Carcharhinus obscurus*, or a bronze whaler, *Carcharhinus brachyurus*.

**SOURCE:** Interviews with Anton Bosman and Phillip de Bruyn

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Marie Levine

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