



**ACTIVITY:** Spearfishing

**CASE:** GSAF 1984.07.00

**DATE:** July 1984

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Sodwana, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

**NAME:** Rory O'Connor

**NARRATIVE:** Raggedtooth sharks have displayed aggression towards divers in the Cape, but tend to be placid in KwaZulu-Natal waters. The one that Rory O'Connor encountered in July 1984 at Sodwana was downright lethargic.

When the raggedtooth shark started feeding on a kingfish, *Carangidae*, attached to O'Connor's float, the diver chased it away.

"Suddenly I felt something hit my swim fin...hard! Looking down I saw the shark between my legs," said the diver. "I hit it three times with my speargun and then it just idled off...it was in no hurry."

O'Connor and his dive buddy continued to swim along the edge of the reef, but moments later the shark came back and stopped a metre behind the O'Connor in midwater. "I hit it between the eyes with my gun and it didn't react at all," he said. "It seemed to be eyeing the fish on my float, but never made an attempt to take them. When it moved off we returned to shore."

**INJURY:** The diver's swim fin was hit by the shark, but the diver was not injured.

**SPECIES:** The incident involved a raggedtooth shark.

**SOURCE:** Interview with Rory O'Connor

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Marie Levine, GSAF