

**ACTIVITY:** Tending shark nets

**CASE:** [GSAF 1986.10.17](#) / SA-351

**DATE:** Friday October 17, 1986

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean aboard the Natal Sharks Board skiboat, *Nasus*, off Umhlanga Rocks, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

**NAME:** Kliki Ndlazi

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a Learner Seaman, one of the meshing crew of a Natal Sharks Board ski-boat.

## **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, October 17, 1986

**NARRATIVE:** A female raggedtooth shark was heading inshore when she was caught in net number one. Live raggedtooth sharks caught in the Natal Shark Board nets are routinely tagged and released. Robin Gardiner, the field officer in charge, was experienced and had been closely involved with the NSB tagging programme for years. If he had any suspicion that the shark was alive it would never have been taken aboard. The crew of the *Nasus* said the shark appeared to be dead when it was taken from the nets and all five men, despite years of experience handling sharks, were wrong. The shark was lying on deck when she suddenly turned and bit the right leg of Ndlazi.

**INJURY:** The injury consisted of two small lacerations extending one and 2,25 centimetres in length plus four small punctures.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Gardiner administered first aid and took Ndlazi to a doctor; the wound was sutured and an anti-tetanus injection was given.

**NOTE:** This was a provoked incident; the shark had been netted.

**SPECIES:** The incident involved a female raggedtooth shark, tag code UMH48, 1,96 metres in length and weighing 140 kilograms