

ACTIVITY: Boogie boarding

CASE: [GSAF 1987.10.25](#)

DATE: Sunday October 25, 1987

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Indian Ocean south of the main bathing beach at Richards Bay, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

NAME: Darrel James Rowe

DESCRIPTION: He is a 14-year-old male from Richards Bay. He is 1,62 cm tall, weighs 46 kg and was wearing red, white and black baggies. He wore a reddish leash on his right ankle, and he had a scratch on his right arm.

BOARD: A 1,5-metre Safari with four fins. The board has a yellow upper surface and a white undersurface.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It was a hot, sunny day, with a strong northeast breeze.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was choppy and “brownish” with zero underwater visibility. There was debris in the water. A channel was present and the incident took place seaward of the channel.

ENVIRONMENT: The area where the incident took place had no shark nets. Two anglers were fishing from the dolosse approximately 20 metres distant.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 10 to 15 metres, and four metres from the pier.

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep

TIME: 16h00

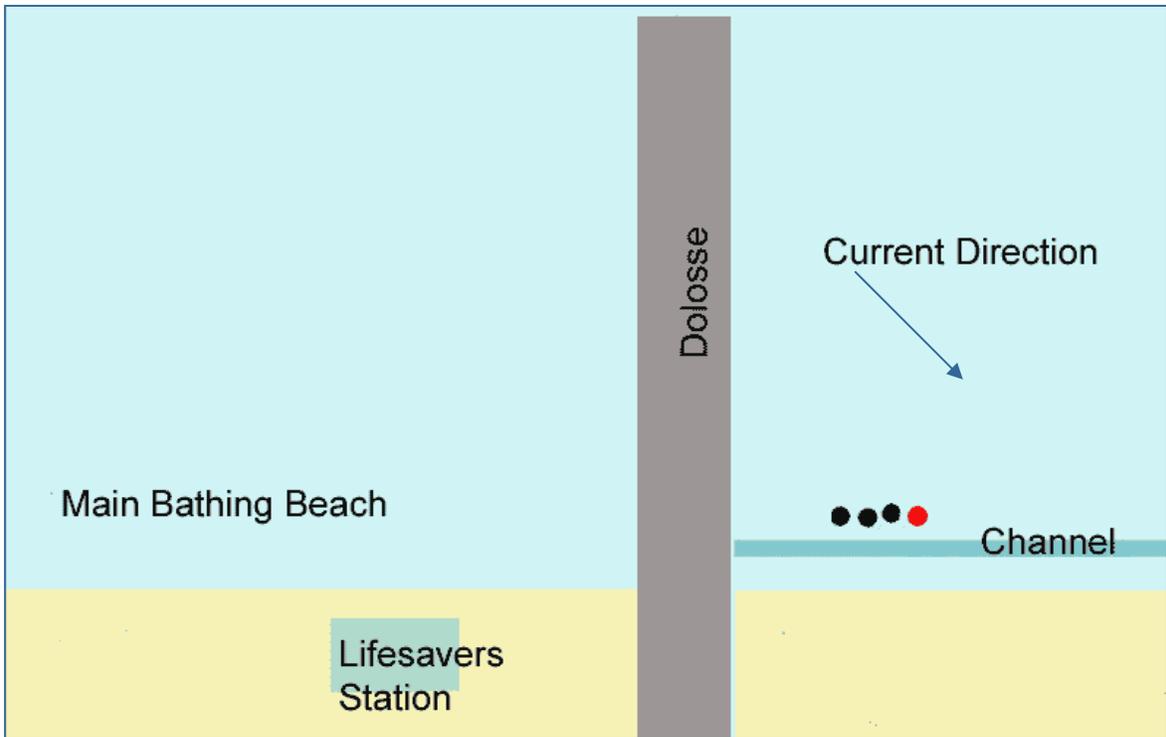
NARRATIVE: Darrel had been in the water for 20 minutes with his friends: Andrew Tomsett, Toni-Lee O’Neil and Stewart Jones. The three were on Darrel’s left and all were engaging in horseplay and paddling. A wave had just passed and, in the turbulence that followed, something pulled at Darrel’s left forearm. He pulled his arm out of the water and saw that it was bloodied. He shouted a warning to his friends, paddled, then caught a wave to the beach.

INJURY: Abrasion to posterior forearm.

FIRST AID: Darrel walked to the Lifesavers station unassisted. Lifesavers bandaged his arm and then his mother took him to Dr. Uys’ surgery for further treatment and a tetanus shot.

SPECIES: Darrel did not see a shark (nor did his friends), no tooth fragments were recovered from his wound, although the abrasion could have resulted from the rough skin of shark, and there was debris in the water. Shark involvement was not confirmed.





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