

ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: GSAF 1988.01.05.R / SA-0361

DATE: Reported January 5, 1988

LOCATION: The incident took place at the mouth of the Great Brak River, Western Cape Province, South Africa.

BOAT: A five-metre semi-rigid inflatable boat

OCCUPANTS Twenty-one-year-old Mr. Kobus Potgieter, owner, and five other men.

BACKGROUND

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 300 metres

NARRATIVE: The holiday-makers had been fishing two kilometers offshore and were returning to shore when they apparently collided with a shark. "We felt a hard blow, and at first thought we had hit a sand bank; the dinghy appeared to be stuck," said Potgieter. "When one of the men wanted to climb into the water to loosen the craft, somebody shouted: 'Watch out; it's a shark!' I've never seen anybody get back into a boat so quickly," he said.

Shark scares fishermen back to shore

5/1/88

Mercury Correspondent

CAPE TOWN—A businessman yesterday described how he and five other holiday-makers frantically raced 300 m to shore in an inflatable rubber dinghy after a collision with six-metre-long shark had ripped part of the boat away.

The incident happened off the Great Brak River beach.

The dinghy's owner, Mr Kobus Potgieter, 21, told how he and five others were fishing about 2 km offshore and were returning to land when the shark struck.

'We felt a hard blow, and at first thought we had hit a sand bank, the dinghy appeared to be stuck,' Mr Potgieter said.

'When one of the men, wanted to climb into the water to loosen the craft, somebody shouted: "Watch out, its a shark!" I've never seen somebody getting back into a boat so quickly,' he said.

'Four of the guys sitting in front saw the shark. It was about six metres long and just lay in the water as if it was idling,' he said.

With water streaming into the 5 m dinghy, the men raced to shore with the throttle of their engine wide open.

The dinghy was completely filled with water by the time they had reached land, said Mr Potgieter. The men discovered that the entire glass fibre hull had been ripped off by the shark.

As the boat filled with water the men raced to shore with the throttle of their engine wide open.

INJURY: None of the occupants were injured.

DAMAGE TO BOAT: The fiberglass hull of the boat was ripped off.

SPECIES: Not identified. The shark was said to be six feet in length.