



**ACTIVITY:** Spearfishing

**CASE:** GSAF 1994.02.27 / SA-409

**DATE:** Sunday February 27, 1994

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean on the southern inshore pinnacles of Saxon Reef. Saxon Reef is south-east of Arniston Point, and Arniston is 35 kilometres from Cape Agulhas in the Western Cape Province, South Africa.

34°37,6'S, 20°21'E

**NAME:** Gary Liebermann

**DESCRIPTION:** The diver is a member of the Zimbabwe Spearfishing Team.

**BOAT:** Unknown, but the diver was using a support boat.

## BACKGROUND

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, February 26, 1994

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** Less than 120 metres?

**DEPTH:** Five to six metres in the gully

**TIME:** 11h00

**NARRATIVE:** "I dived off a pinnacle into a gully," said Liebermann. "After roughly 30 seconds I thought my fins had bumped into the reef from the swell. Looking around I saw the shark inches away from my feet. My immediate reaction was to kick out at the shark. At this point the shark bit my right-hand fin, shook it hard removing the fin, and slowly cruised past with the fin in its mouth. At this point I realized it was a great white shark, approximately 10 feet [in length]. I then swam to the surface and signaled to John Jakabowicz who was on the surface 20 metres away. Our dive boat retrieved us within two minutes. The shark was never seen again. Another diver in the area retrieved my fin close to the pinnacle and returned it."

"At the end of the day having limited sea and shark experience there is a possibility I could

be mistaken on the shark's identity, but I still believe it was a great white shark."

**INJURY:** No injury

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** The widely-spaced scratch marks on the diver's fin tends to support his belief that the incident involved a three-metre [10-foot] white shark.

**SOURCE:** Gary Lieberman

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Marie Levine