

**ACTIVITY:** Body boarding

**CASE:** [GSAF 1998.05.29.a](#) / SA-429

**DATE:** Friday May 29, 1998

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at The Point, Jeffrey's Bay, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

**NAME:** Jan-Henrick Opperman

**DESCRIPTION:** The surfer is a 16-year-old male. He was wearing a wetsuit.



**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, May 25, 1998.  
First Quarter, June 2, 1998.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was murky.

**ENVIRONMENT:** There was a lot of activity, with flocks of birds circling overhead.

**TIME:** Early afternoon.



**NARRATIVE:** Eyewitnesses reported that the shark dragged the body boarder below the waves, its teeth buried in his leg.

**INJURY:** Lacerations to surfer's leg.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** The patient underwent surgery at Greenacres Hospital.

**SPECIES:** Not identified

**SOURCE:** Daily Dispatch (East London), May 30, 1998

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Andrew Gifford, Shark Research Institute-South Africa