ACTIVITY: Surfing
CASE: GSAF 1998.07.11
DATE: Saturday July 11, 1998
LOCATION: The incident took place in the Indian Ocean near the Krom River mouth on the north side of St. Francis Bay, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

NAME: Darren James
DESCRIPTION: He is a 16-year-old male.

BACKGROUND
MOON PHASE: Full Moon, July 9, 1998
SEA CONDITIONS: "The water was clearish — I could see the bottom — but where we were surfing there had been some dredging going on and there was mud in the water," said Darren.
ENVIRONMENT: No sharks had been seen in the area prior to the accident. This accident took place a day after the Billabong MSF Pro surfing competition ended in nearby Jeffrey's Bay.
DEPTH: Two metres
TIME: Morning

NARRATIVE: "Some friends of mine and I had just gone for a surf," Darren said. "I paddled out first and they were getting ready to paddle out when I felt something grab my knee. "I looked around and saw the shark which was bigger than I am. It must have been about five to six feet in length. It shook me, let go and swam away. As it was heading away, I noticed it had a black tip on its tail," Darren said. "I managed to catch the next wave in to the shore. "I couldn't walk properly, so my friends had to help carry me out."

INJURY: According to fire department spokesman Dewald Barnard, "You could see the

knee bone and ligaments and blood was pumping out as he moved it. The wound was about six cm long and three cm wide."

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Paramedics rushed Darren to a local doctor who disinfected and stitched the wound. "I'm still a bit sore, but my leg will be OK," Darren said.

SPECIES: Not identified. Darren believed the accident involved a blacktip reef shark, but as Port Elizabeth shark expert Dr Malcolm Smale said, blacktip reef sharks are normally found in warmer water.

NOTE: This is the seventh shark accident in the Eastern Cape in the past two months.

SOURCE: East London Daily Dispatch, Monday, July 13, 1998
http://www.dispatch.co.za/1998/07/13/easterncape/SHARK.HTM