

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1999.11.13

DATE: Saturday November 13, 1999

LOCATION: The incident took place at Umtentweni on the south coast of KwaZulu-Natal, 110 km southwest of Durban, South Africa.

30°42,8'S, 30°27,7'E

NAME: Sean Grenfell

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a 35-year-old male.



BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 24% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. First quarter Moon, 16 November 16, 1999 at 09:03 Universal Time.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was calm and very clear.

ENVIRONMENT: The incident took place shoreward of the shark nets. The net installation was set 400 metres offshore in 13 metres of water. Deputy Sharks Board chief Norman Wynne said a preliminary investigation into the incident indicated that the shark nets were in perfect working order. "We were very surprised to learn that sardine shoals were close inshore at the time of the attack - which is very unusual for this time of year," said Wynne. "There is also a lot of dolphin, whale and fish activity and we believe that a white shark was attracted inshore by this environmental activity."

NARRATIVE: No details.

INJURY: The surfer sustained lacerations to both of his lower legs.

TREATMENT: The surfer was treated in Port Shepstone's Hibiscus Hospital. Hospital administrator Craig Strydom said he was "stable and not in a life-threatening state". He added that Grenfell would probably be in hospital for a while as he would need physiotherapy.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The Natal Sharks Board believed the incident involved a white shark at least three metres in length.

NOTE: The Natal Sharks Board reports that beaches between Umzumbe and Umtentweni were still closed on Monday.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Jeremy Cliff, Natal Sharks Board