

ACTIVITY: Surf skiing

CASE: GSAF 2003.12.31

DATE: December 31, 2003

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Western Indian Ocean at Salt Rock 46 km northeast of Durban on the north coast of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. $29^{\circ}30,8'S$, $31^{\circ}14'E$

NAMES: Unknown

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, December 30, 2003

ENVIRONMENT: Salt Rock adjoins the northern boundary of Shaka's Rock and is situated in the center of a wide bay. The long sandy beach is backed by low dunes. In the surf there are a few exposed rocks and rocky outcrops, one of which has a group of tidal swimming pools and a fishing tower. Zulus collected salt crystalized in the potholes of the rocks after spring tides, hence the name of the beach.



NARRATIVE: The two surfski riders had their ski bumped by a shark while paddling seaward of the shark nets.

INJURIES: No injury to the two surfski riders.

DAMAGE TO SKI: The surfski was bitten by the shark.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The incident involved a shortfin mako shark. The species was identified from tooth fragments found embedded in the craft.

SOURCE: Natal Sharks Board