

**ACTIVITY:** Fishing

**CASE:** **GSAF 2005.11.15**

**DATE:** Tuesday November 15, 2005

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Aston Bay, a suburb of Jeffreys Bay, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa

*Latitude -34.082766, Longitude 24.90435*

**NAME:** Ivan Gerger

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 32-year old male, a local policeman.

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Knee-deep

**TIME:** 14h00

**NARRATIVE:** The Shark Aquarium at Jeffreys Bay exports sharks throughout the world. Local fisherfolk are contracted to catch the sharks.



*Ivan Gerger*

In his free time Sergeant Ivan Gerger caught sharks for the Shark Aquarium. He caught the shark and when it was in knee-deep water, he grabbed it by the tail with his right hand (he still had his fishing rod in his left hand). He was attempting to pull the shark from the water when it broke loose from his grip. The shark swam a short distance away (about two metres) then turned around and came straight for him (possibly pushed by a wave). The shark bit him below the knee, then it swam off.

**INJURY:** Gerger sustained lacerations to his right leg, the palm of his left hand, and a finger of his right hand.

**TREATMENT:** He was admitted to the Humansdorp Hospital. The injuries required about 30 stitches in all, some deep and others to close the skin.

**SPECIES:** The incident involved a raggedtooth shark more than 2.5 metres in length.

**NOTE:** This is considered a provoked incident because it involved a hooked shark.

**SOURCE:** John Visser, Shark Aquarium, Jeffrey's Bay, South Africa



*Shark Aquarium, front view*



*School children touch a ray at the Shark Aquarium*