



**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2009.12.18.b](#)

**DATE:** December 18, 2009

**LOCATION:** The accident took place in the Indian Ocean at North Beach, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

**NAME:** Lance Morris

### **BACKGROUND**

**SEA CONDITIONS:** There has been an unusually high amount of rainfall in KZN this summer with rivers flowing fuller than usual. This translates into reduced visibility for all predators.

**TIME:** 14h30

**NARRATIVE:** "I'd just finished a wave in the right bowl and was close inshore near the bathing area when I felt something clamp down on my leg," said Morris. "At first I thought it was one of my mates playing a joke on me but then I realised I was being attacked. I tried to shake it off but it clamped down harder. Eventually I got it off and quickly got out of the water. There was a bodyboarder right next to me who was just in shock. I dunno for sure what it was but it gave me a hell of a fright!"

**SPECIES:** Although Morris thought the accident might have involved either a small dusky shark or Zambezi shark, the incident did *not* involve a shark. Mark Addison, who examined and photographed the bite, said "the bite is NOT consistent with that of a shark, but in all likelihood was caused by a Sea Pike or Barracuda". After examining the photographs of the injury, the GSAF agrees with Mr. Addison.

**SOURCES:** Mark Addison; Karl Liebenberg; The Bomb Surf, December 18, 2009, <http://www.thebombsurf.com/news/492/durban-surfer-lance-morris-attacked-at-north-beach-this-afternoon>

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Christofer Ekstander, Global Shark Accident File