



**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2010.04.13

**DATE:** Tuesday April 13, 2010

**LOCATION:** The accident took place in the Indian Ocean at East Beach, Port Alfred, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. Port Alfred is 118 kilometres southwest of East London and 135 kilometres northeast of Port Elizabeth.  
33°36'S, 26°54'E

**NAME:** Brendan Denton

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 35-year-old male. He has been surfing for 21 years.

**BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 11h00, the sky was clear with 4% cloud cover, air temperature was 82°F, humidity 43%, and wind direction was North at four mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Crescent, 1% of the moon was illuminated.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was very murky. It was cold and dirty with extremely poor visibility.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Port Alfred straddles the banks of



the Kowie River.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 100 metres

**TIME:** Shortly before 10h00

**NARRATIVE:** Denton was surfing with friends when he felt something pulling him underwater. Initially, he thought it might be his friend playing the fool with him. The second time it happened, he turned around and saw his feet in the shark's jaws. "It then tried to swim down with me. I tried to swim up and smack it at the same time before it let loose," he said. The shark came up behind him a second time. "I thought it was really going to chow me this time. I gripped its body and pushed it away from me. My leash got tangled in its mouth and it pulled me and my board back under again." The shark pulled his board about three metres before the leash untangled and Denton was able to pull it off his ankle. "I swam up to my board, climbed on and held both my bleeding feet above the water," he said. "I screamed and paddled to the beach." He was taken from the water by his friends.

**INJURY:** Both feet were bitten and tendons injured.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Denton was carried up the beach by local surfing pilot Bruce Findlay and others. His friends loaded him onto a bakkie and took him to a local GP, Dr Tommy Webster. Then he was taken to Port Alfred Hospital.

**SPECIES:** Not identified. The shark was thought to be more than two metres in length.

**SOURCES:** Zig Zag, April 13, 2010; Times Live, April 13, 2010; News24, April 13, 2010; Wavescape, April 14, 2010; The Star, April 14, 2010; Daily Dispatch, April 28, 2010.