

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 2014.12.28](#)

DATE: Sunday December 28, 2014

LOCATION: North Beach, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

NARRATIVE: Five people claimed they were bitten by a “baby” shark. Police said lifeguards had searched the vicinity for a baby shark but had not seen any, and bathers went back into the water five minutes later.

Mike Anderson-Reade of the KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board flew over beach from Umhlanga to Durban Harbor mouth in a helicopter that morning. “I could see a lot of debris in the water from the recent storms. Pieces of wood, logs, trees and debris were scattered along the shoreline. I can assure people one shark cannot bite five people. I have never heard of such an attack from sharks,” he said. “I checked the shark nets twice in the morning. They were perfect. This is not a shark or baby shark. It could be a sea pike, a fish or sharp debris floating in the water.”

INJURIES: According to postings on social media sites, the injuries consisted of small cuts on the heel and shins, which would also be consistent with injuries from debris or small fish.

FIRST AID: None of the people who claimed they were bitten were taken to hospital and neither were their names taken down by volunteers who had given them first aid treatment.

SPECIES: Shark involvement not confirmed and highly unlikely.

SOURCE: IOL News, December 29, 2014