



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2015.10.25](#)

DATE: Sunday October 25, 2015

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Morris Reef, in front of National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) Station 31 in the in the Skulpiesbaai Nature Reserve at Still Bay, Western Cape Province, South Africa.

NAME: Stuart Anderson

DESCRIPTION: A 42-year-old male, a local builder.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 15h00, FAGG, the airport nearest to George (George is 130 km from Still Bay) recorded mostly cloudy skies and 6.2-mile visibility. The air temperature was 64.4°F, dew point 60.8°F, humidity 88%, sea level pressure 30.06 inches (rising) and wind direction was SSW at 11.5mph.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 94% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, October 27, 2015

ENVIRONMENT: Southern Right Whales migrate along the coast from June to November, Humpback Whales, Bryde's Whales and Orcas frequent the route.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 metres

TIME: 15h00

NARRATIVE: A witness said, Stuart Anderson told him that he had never been hit so hard in his life. "The shark hit him while was lying on his surfboard. Stuart said at one point he could feel his foot in the shark's mouth." Another surfer, 46-year-old Jonathan Gersh saw the shark swimming behind Anderson and then submerge .Gersh was about 20 metes from Anderson with another friend, 21-year-old Petro van Nierop. As Gersh reached the rocks he realized

Stuart had been bitten by the shark. Gersh abandoned his surfboard and assisted Stuart from the water and onto the rocks, helped by two junior NSRI volunteers: 16-year-old Arno Grewe and 17-year-old Leon Combrinck.

INJURY: Lacerations to his right calf, knee, and hip.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The two NSRI volunteers immediately accessed the emergency shark medical kits kept at beaches in Still Bay and began to use the medical equipment in the boxes to treat the man's injuries while activating an emergency response, NSRI Still Bay duty crew responded to the scene and the injured man was brought into the sea rescue base where medical treatment continued. Western Cape government health emergency medical services and the AMS/EMS Skymed helicopter responded and paramedics took over treatment of the man. He was airlifted to hospital aboard the Skymed helicopter in serious but stable condition.

SPECIES: From descriptions given by the surfer it is suspected that a white shark of about three to 3.5 metres was involved in the encounter, although that cannot be confirmed until investigated by authorities, based on the bite marks.

SOURCES: ENCA, October 26, 2015

<https://www.enca.com/south-africa/surfer-bitten-shark-still-bay>

News24, October 26, 2015

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/I-saw-the-shark-behind-them-injured-surfers-friend-20151026>

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/I-saw-the-shark-behind-them-injured-surfers-friend-20151026>

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Shark-attack-victim-had-never-been-hit-so-hard-in-his-life-witness-20151026>