



**ACTIVITY:** Windsurfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2016.02.04](#)

**DATE:** Thursday February 4, 2016

**LOCATION:** Hams Beach, New South Wales, Australia.

**NAME:** Andrew Morris

**DESCRIPTION:** A 40-year-old male from Cardiff. He has been windsurfing since he was 15.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 15h34, Lake Macquarie recorded air temperature of 71.8, dew point 68F, sea level pressure 29.92 inches (rising) and wind direction was South at 23.9 mph with gusts to 30 mph.

**MOON PHASE** Waning Crescent, 23% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, February 9, 2016.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was murky.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Hams Beach (NSW 254) is located on the southern side of the Swansea Heads rocks and extends 1.5 km southeast from the rocks to a sandy point in the lee of an inshore reef known as Frenchman Rock. Hams, considered a potentially hazardous beach, is exposed to waves averaging 1.6 m, which maintain a single bar usually cut by three to four rips with a permanent rip against Frenchman Rock.



*Andrew Morris*

Picture: Marina Neil

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**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 200 metres  
**TIME:** Late afternoon.

**NARRATIVE:** Andrew Morris was windsurfing when the back of his board was struck, but the sail of his board prevented him from seeing the shark. The impact pitched him forward onto the sail which was draped in the water. He hauled himself back onto his board and two other windsurfers escorted him back to the beach.

**INJURY:** No injury

**SOURCE:** Newcastle Herald, February 5, 2016  
<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/3709568/windsurfer-escapes-shark/>

**REPORTED BY:** Bob Myatt, Global Shark Accident File.



*The bite punctured the carbon fibre body of Andrew Morris' board*

Picture: Marina Neil