



**ACTIVITY:** Surf-skiing  
**CASE:** [GSAF 2016.04.22](#)  
**DATE:** Friday April 22, 2016  
**LOCATION:** The incident took place at Robberg Beach near Plettenberg Bay, Western Cape Province, South Africa.

**NAME:** Dave Manson  
**DESCRIPTION:** A male from Plettenberg Bay.

#### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** At 08h00, George (88 km from Robberg beach) recorded scattered clouds and 12-mile visibility. The air temperature was 69°F, dew point 52°F, humidity 45%, sea level pressure 29.70 inches (falling) and wind direction was NW at 15 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 400 metres

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Seven to nine metres.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The incident occurred over a sandy bottom, near a spot known as “The The Wreck”, the rusting hulk of the Greek trawler, *MFV Athina*, which went ashore on August 1, 1967.

**TIME:** Between 08h00 and 08h30

**NARRATIVE:** Five men from Plettenberg Bay – Dave Manson, Douglas Hill, Peter Green, Mike



*Manson's damaged surf-ski*



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Briereley and Neil Kilpatric, all in their 50s and 60s – were on a paddle when Manson’s ski was pushed violently from behind, the impact throwing him into the water. Although aware a shark had struck his surf-ski Manson climbed back into it. When his ski began to sink, it was noticed that the back of the surf-ski had been bitten off by the shark. Manson abandoned his sinking surf-ski and held onto the surf-ski of one of the other men as they paddled ashore.

**INJURY:** No injury. National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) recovered the surf-ski from the water and returned the surf-ski to the paddlers.

**SPECIES:** According to the surf-skiers, the incident involved a large white shark. Craig Lambinon of NSRI notes that at this time of year sharks normally move close inshore to feed.

**SOURCES:** The Gremlin, April 22, 2016  
<http://thegremlin.co.za/plettenberg-bay-news/wordpress/2016/04/22/paddlers-have-close-encounter-with-a-shark-at-robberg/>  
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<http://www.knysnaplett Herald.com/news/News/General/162349/Man-survives-shark-attack-at-Robberg>  
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EyewitnessNews, April 22, 2016  
<http://ewn.co.za/2016/04/22/Surfer-escapes-unharmmed-after-shark-attack>



*A trawler wrecked at Robberg Beach in 1967*