



Kobus Maritz in front of his Surf-Ski that was "attacked" by a Great White Shark on Saturday.

Great White 'eats' boat

Kobus Maritz and Jan-Hendrik Barnard from Mossel Bay had a very close call with a Great White Shark on Saturday, 28 June.

According to Mr Maritz, an avid surf-ski fanatic, they decided to paddle out from Santos Beach on Saturday afternoon at approximately 13:30.

Their plan was to paddle towards Diaz Beach and go onshore there, but due to the nice weather and a strong North-Western Wind, they decided to go further.

On their way back - at Beneke Rock (approximately 50m from Di-

az Beach) - , Kobus Maritz' Surf-Ski hit something with quite a force.

In a matter of seconds, it became clear that it was a Great White Shark that hit the boat and caused Kobus to fall out from the Surf-Ski. The Shark caused quite a bit of damage to the boat with it's teeth.

Fortunately Kobus managed to get back onto the Surf-Ski and both paddlers made it to shore before the boat could sink (they were approximately 100 metres from shore). According to Stephan Swanson of the South African Ma-

rine Predator Lab (SAMPLA), Great White Sharks are very inquisitive creatures and would go investigate any floating object on the ocean. They have been known to bite driftwood and even foam on the surface of the sea.

Stephan says that it was probably the case with this incident and that the shark took a bite of the boat more out of curiosity than aggressiveness.

According to the bite marks on the Surf-Ski the shark is estimated to be about 2 metres long which is not very big for a Great White Shark.