



UNDAUNTED . . . Heinz Schwab says he will embark on his third voyage around the world early next year.
Picture: IVOR MARKMAN

Survivor of PE yacht disaster ready for the high seas again

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By MAX MATAVIRE

SEVENTY-four-year-old German adventurer Heinz Schwab, who last year narrowly escaped death after his yacht capsized in strong ocean currents, is at it again.

The intrepid Mr Schwab, who celebrates his 74th birthday today, is only waiting for his broken arm to heal before taking on the high seas again on his third circumnavigation of the world.

He sustained a broken arm five months ago when he fell in his yacht.

"I am not afraid. I am only waiting for my hand to heal then I will continue with my voyage early next year. I trust in God. He will show me the way," said the bearded adventurer.

"It's my life. I enjoy sailing alone and to go out to sea."

In November last year, Mr Schwab was plucked to safety by the National

Sea Rescue Institute in a dramatic sea rescue operation off Port Elizabeth after he was caught in howling 120km/h winds about 90 kilometres out to sea.

His yacht lurched and flipped over before righting itself. A wave crashed over it and he struck his head. The mast, rigging and radio antennae were torn down. The yacht rolled five times.

Mr Schwab has survived six near disasters at sea. But, he says, he doesn't look back. "I think there is no sailor who has survived six times in terrible sea accidents. It's beyond belief.

"Sometimes when I think of the circumstances I survived from – it's unbelievable. It's like a miracle," he said.

"My yacht is now repaired and is in good condition. I had a beautiful time in PE while waiting for it to be repaired and me to heal. PE is the friendliest city in the world."