

# Two saved after yacht hits object

By DENNIS CAVERNELIS

TWO men yesterday escaped possible death when the 8m yacht on which they were sailing and fishing near Kalk Bay hit "something solid" and did a "turtle turn" in rough seas.

The yacht, *Spray*, was taken in tow by a police waterwing unit launch to Fish Hoek beach where beachgoers helped pull it onto the beach. An NSRI vessel had meanwhile taken the men to safety.

The skipper of the Protea class yacht, Mr John Doble, said he and Mr Andrew Metcalf, both of Durbanville, felt the yacht hit a hard object.

"At first we thought it was a whale, but when we looked in the water there was no blood, only some kind of muck. So we're sure whatever we hit wasn't living," said Mr Doble.

The keel had broken in the collision with the submerged object, so the ves-

sel could not be sailed properly. To add to their woes, shortly afterwards a wave washed over the yacht and the outboard motor "packed up", Mr Doble said.

He anchored the yacht and fired a flare. The Simon's Town NSRI arrived shortly after the vessel began listing and turned on its side.

## Stricken

Mr Metcalf jumped into the water to attach a tow rope to the NSRI vessel and then boarded it, while Mr Doble stayed on his yacht until it was ready to be towed.

A police waterwing unit vessel towed the stricken yacht to Fish Hoek beach.

"We will anchor it to a post on the beach until it can be towed away today. Hopefully it'll still be here," Mr Doble said.