



## ADVENTURE:

# Steward puts off last leg — again

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# Solo SA sailor puts off last leg yet again

By JACK DEWES

SOLO round-the-world yachtsman Anthony Steward was back — yet again — in Port Elizabeth yesterday, ruefully remembering his own prediction that his home waters would be the toughest part of his epic voyage.

This time, with only two-and-a-half days to go to Cape Town from Mossel Bay, it's a howling south-easter that has driven him back to land.

At the weekend he was about to set sail from Mossel Bay when the weather forecast told him to expect a 40-knot south-easter.

Asked last night if he hadn't been through worse gales in his long and adventurous voyage, he said:

"Certainly. But in the shallow waters off Cape Agulhas, the waves will be so steep that I'd be sure to capsize. And in that freezing water I'd have no chance of surviving.

"Right at the start of the voyage, when people asked me about the dangers I might face, I always said it was the last leg (from



**ANTHONY STEWARD**  
... nearly there

Durban to Cape Town) that I feared the most.

"And that's how it's turned out."

The voyage, starting from Cape Town and going westward, began on February 16 in 1991 in the first open boat yet to attempt a circumnavigation. Having reached Durban on January 8 this year, he made it to Port Elizabeth fairly easily.

On January 23 the last leg to Cape Town began. But only 190 minutes from Port Elizabeth, the rudder pintles broke and he was back again.

On February 23 he was on his way again.

Steward expects the Agulhas south-easter to blow itself out by tonight. He will be in Mossel Bay early on Wednesday.

"With reasonably good weather it will take me two-and-a-half days to get to Cape Town. Then I'll be back. I can't wait."

And what will he do then?  
"Look for a job."