

Sharks once almost made a meal of Ant – now they've got his lunch

Graham Spence

THE sharks got their own back on Durban adventurer Ant Steward yesterday when they attacked his lunch.

Three months ago Ant almost became main course on the menu during his epic 800m swim after being wrecked on a reef off Cerf Island, north of Mada-

gascar. He fended off a pack of sharks with a marlin spike.

The Royal Natal Yacht Club sailor, who aims to be the first to circumnavigate the world in his 5m open boat **NCS Challenger**, said he had wanted some fresh fish to supplement his meagre diet after leaving Mayotte last Wednesday.

He had called into the French-owned

island after his boat had lost his steering gear when it "bumped something" four days after leaving Cerf Island. He sent out a general shipping alert, but due to exceptional seamanship, made it to Mayotte under jury-rig steering.

"Ant phoned us at sea yesterday to say he was 200 miles south of Mayotte and that much closer to home," said his father, Ronnie Steward. "His biggest

problem at the moment is that he was a bit peckish and he hooked a good fish. As he was pulling it in, a shark took it off at the gills. All that was left was the head.

"We've promised Ant a good fillet of fish when he arrives in Durban in about two weeks' time.

"But knowing him, he'll probably want a steak by then."

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