

Sailor midway, but it's not easy, says Sue

HERALD REPORTER

SOLO round-the-world yachstman **Anthony Stewart of South Africa** is in the middle of the Indian Ocean now, halfway between Madagascar and Darwin — and not a single fish can be catch for his supper.

"He's sailed 20 000 sea miles since he left Cape Town in February last year," fiancée Sue Middleton in Port Elizabeth said yesterday after receiving a radio-telephone call from him.

"From a sailor's point of view the weather is bad out there.

"Wind is coming at him from different directions, often with rain squalls, making life damp and uncomfortable.

"He's wet much of the time and he hardly gets any sleep."

Anthony can take no shelter in his yacht because the interior is sealed. The point of the voyage is that he wants to be the first person to sail around the world in an open boat.

For much of his voyage he has relied on catching fish, which he eats raw, to supplement a small stock of preserved foods.

"Birds are fighting to sit on the boom of his yacht," Sue said. "That's about all the company he's got. The fish aren't biting, so he's having to ration his canned foods strictly.

"A bit of bad luck was the loss of a fishing lure. Something big took his second-last lure and snapped the line.

"If the canned food runs out he will have to restock at the Comores. He'd prefer not to but he might have to, arriving there according to his calculations about July 20. From there the trip to Durban should take 12 to 14 days."