

Three swept away in rip current

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TWO people are missing and one person is believed to have drowned after they got caught in a rip current while swimming at Port St Johns's notorious Second Beach yesterday.

But lifeguards and the local National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) did not respond because of a combination of no early warning, no jet

skis and a fear of shark attacks.

Second Beach resident Mike Gatke said: "They found the body of a young girl at 2.30pm [yesterday], she might have been about 19 years old."

Local NSRI commander John Costello confirmed three people had gone missing while swimming at Second Beach.

The trio were apparently caught in a rip current near rocks at Second Beach and disappeared while

several people watched helplessly from the beach.

Patrons flocked to the beach to enjoy the sunny weather and were swimming and drinking despite no lifeguards being on duty at the time.

Lifeguard Sizwe Dusubana said: "There are no nets at the beach and lifeguards are very scared of being attacked by sharks.

"They do not want to enter the water." — *davidm@dispatch.co.za*