



Bill Selkirk, a descendant of Alexander Selkirk, aka Robinson Crusoe, was a bait shop owner in Hermanus and well known as the “king of the game-fish hunters.” He lived in a fisherman’s cottage on this very plot almost 100 years ago and is famous for his world record shark catch in April 1922. It took him 5 hours and 1 kilometre up and down the rocks between the Old Harbour and the Marine pool to land a massive Blue Pointer shark with his 12-ft. Cape bamboo rod. The shark was twice the size of anything previously caught on rod and line.

Bill Selkirk’s feats were published in newspapers all over the globe and his record shark was featured in full colour in the Illustrated London News. Selkirk, more than anybody else, put Hermanus on the world’s fishing map.



The jaws of this world record shark are on display in the Selkirk Room of the De Wet’s Huis Photographic Museum.

