

*A chopper hovers over the water at Mollymook after the incident.*



Source: Supplied

**ACTIVITY:** Filming

**CASE:** [GSAF 2015.01.16](#)

**DATE:** Friday January 16, 2015

**LOCATION:** Bannister Head, New South Wales, Australia.

**NAME:** Sam Smith

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 17-year-old male from Mollymook.



*Sam Smith*

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** The air temperature was 73°F at Bannister Head.

At 11h00, Nowra Ran Air Station, recorded partly cloudy skies, air temperature of 75°F, dew point 60°F, humidity 49%, sea level pressure 29.75 inches, and wind direction NNE at 6.9mph. By 12h00, the sky was overcast, air temperature 80°F, dew point 57°F, humidity 35%, sea level pressure 29.74 inches and wind direction was N at 10.4 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Crescent, 25% of the Moon was illuminated. Last Quarter, January 13, 2015. New Moon, January 21, 2015.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea surface temperature was 73°F, and waves were 1- to 2-feet in height.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The incident took place about two kilometres from where thousands of surf life savers were competing in the 2015 NSW Stramit Surf Life Saving Country

Championships at Mollymook Beach.

**NARRATIVE:** Sam Smith was spearfishing and filming with a friend, Luke Sisinni of Ulladulla. Luke told *Milton Ulladulla Times* that when Sam saw a shark lying on the ocean floor he went down to film it, but the shark spun around and started swimming at him. "I was in it's path and it moved around me and I poked away at it to keep it heading off and that's when it turned. It's built to kill fish and stuff seals and stuff could've ripped my whole arm off if it wanted to. It was just saying getaway; it probably didn't like me getting to close to it."

"Sam stabbed [the shark] with his spear to try and scare it off, but it just went ballistic and bit him," Luke said. "[Sam] came up screaming saying 'I got bitten by a shark'".

**INJURY:** The teen sustained lacerations to the right hand and wrist, including multiple lacerations to his fingers.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Two ambulances arrived onsite. Paramedics treated Sam in the car park beside Bannister Lodge, before taking him to Milton Ulladulla Hospital. Then he was airlifted to Sydney for specialist treatment.

**SPECIES:** It was initially hypothesized the incident involved a wobbegong shark about 1.5 metres long. Wobbegongs, bottom-dwelling sharks, are not normally considered a threat but they have small shark teeth and can and will bite when they feel threatened. However, footage of the incident taken by Smith implicates a bronze whaler shark.

**SOURCES:** Glenn Ellard, Milton Ulladulla Times, January 16, 2015,  
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<http://www.news.com.au/national/nsw-act/teenager-attacked-by-shark-on-nsw-south-coast/story-fnj3rq0y-1227187266096>

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<https://au.news.yahoo.com/nsw/a/26017386/teen-mauled-by-shark-admits-he-got-too-close/>

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