

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming or Wading

**CASE:** GSAF 2015.12.08

**DATE:** Thursday December 8, 2015

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Mpande Bay on the Transkei coast (Eastern Cape Province), South Africa.

**NAME:** Tamsin Scott

**DESCRIPTION:** She is a 22-year-old female from Tzaneen, a farm close to Letsitele.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, December 11, 2015

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Waist-deep

**NARRATIVE:** “It was such a beautiful, clear day out at the beach, the sun was shining and the water was just crystal clear. We all headed to the beach early that morning. My mom was walking along the beach and my dad went in deep to swim in the breakers, but I stayed in the shallow water. For some reason I just had a bad feeling that morning and so I was too scared to go in deeper,” explained Tamsin. “I felt a bump against my side from behind me and when I turned around I saw the shark coming straight at me. I started punching at it with all my might, but it just kept coming and so I knew this was a fight I was not going to win. I couldn’t use my hands at all and so I tried to kick the shark all the while screaming at the top my lungs. My dad, who was swimming nearby, rushed over and positioned himself between me and the shark and started beating the animal with his fists until it let go of me and swam away. He grabbed me in his arms and started running out of the water to the beach.”

**INJURY:** Lacerations to both forearms and hands.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** “We managed to get her to the cottage where we applied first aid and tourniquets to stop the bleeding before rushing her off to the nearest hospital in the rural Isilemela,” said Tamsin’s mother. “The doctor who happened to be on duty that day was a former classmate of our eldest daughter while in medical school, and she assisted us in stabilizing Tammy. In the meantime I arranged with our medical aid to have her moved to another hospital for surgery” There were no helicopters available in the Eastern Cape and so an ambulance was sent from Umtata, which was then used to transport the patient to Umtata airport from where she was flown to Lanceria and taken to Millpark Hospital in Johannesburg where she was placed in high care.

**SPECIES:** Not identified

**SOURCE:** The Bulletin, December 17, 2015

<http://www.bulletin.us.com/articles/news/34837/2015-12-17/shark-attack-local-lass-survives-jaws-of-death-tells-all>



*Tamsin Scott and her father, Mark, in the high care unit of Millpark Hospital.*