



Cape Cod Great White Shark Safety



Cape Cod's waters are part of a natural and wild marine ecosystem with a rich diversity of sea life, including sharks. Seals are the major prey species for the great white shark, and as the seal population increases, great white sharks have become more numerous. In recent years there have been confirmed reports of great white sharks feeding on seals close to shore as well as great white shark sightings from spotter planes flying along the Outer Cape near swimming beaches. **People have been seriously injured and killed by white sharks along this coastline.**

BE SHARK SMART

To stay safe and to protect wildlife:

- Be aware sharks hunt for seals in shallow water.
- Stay close to shore where rescuers can reach you.
- Swim, paddle, kayak, and surf in groups. Don't isolate yourself.
- Avoid areas where seals are present.
- Avoid areas where schools of fish are visible.
- Avoid murky or low-visibility water.
- Limit splashing.
- Follow all signage and flag warnings at beaches and instructions of the lifeguards.

Shark Sightings

- Notify a lifeguard if a shark is spotted.
- Water will be temporarily closed to recreational activities.
- Beachgoers will be notified when they can reenter the water.

Shark Facts

- Sharks have existed for more than 400-million years.
- As top predators, sharks are critical for maintaining a healthy and balanced marine ecosystem.
- Great white shark numbers have increased on the Cape because of a growing seal population which has rebounded after being hunted to near extinction.

Other Resources

Massachusetts Shark Research program
Division of Marine Fisheries
www.mass.gov/marinefisheries

Supporting Local Shark Research and Education
Atlantic White Shark Conservancy
www.atlanticwhiteshark.org

Download the Sharktivity App for Apple and Android devices on the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy website.

**For additional information, visit the Cape Cod National Seashore website at:
go.nps.gov/sharksmart**