

Southeast US White Shark Encounter Database

Background

White sharks, or “great whites,” are one of the most recognizable sharks in the public eye.

Recent research has shown that white sharks migrate south to the waters off the southeastern US during winter months (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1 – Southern migration of a white shark tagged in the north Atlantic in 2009 © MA Division of Marine Fisheries

Objectives

This database was set up to record white shark sightings off the southeastern US. This will help researchers to:

- Document white shark movements and habits.
- Determine the when and how long white sharks are present.
- Identify hotspots

Report White Shark Encounters!

What information to report?

Your report can help research efforts by providing the following information:

- Name, phone number, and email address
- Date, time, and location of encounter
- Size and behavior of white shark
- Your activity at the time of the encounter
- Information on distinguishing markings
- Reports of past encounters are welcome!

How to report an encounter!

Go to www.unf.edu/sharks and follow the link for the White Shark Encounter Survey

You can also download a copy of the survey to fill out. Completed surveys can be sent to:

SharkProgram@unf.edu

UNF Shark Biology Program
University of North Florida
1 UNF Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32224



This is a joint project between researchers at the University of North Florida and Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries.

White Shark Sightings

Each winter there are multiple reports of white shark sightings off the southeast US from fishermen, boaters, etc. Only recently have these sightings started to be documented and recorded (Fig. 2).

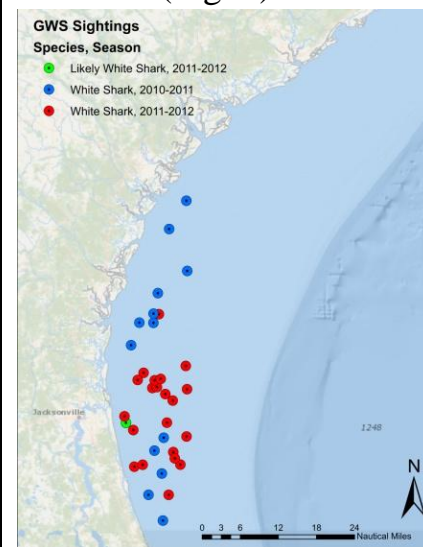


Fig. 2 – White shark sightings from 2010-2012. Sightings occurred from December – March



Photo courtesy of FWC