



Sharks on the Cape: Feeding research into a bigger conversation on ecosystem dynamics and community needs

Megan Winton, Ph.D. Student
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Cape Cod Coastal Conference
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Cue the JAWS theme music...

Shark Sightings Prompt Beach Closures, Concern on Cape Cod

Beachgoers at Nauset Light saw the shark attack the seal at around 4 p.m. Wednesday

Daily **Mail**
.com

'It was like Jaws': Cape Cod beaches closed after huge shark attacks seal in cloud of blood just 10ft from shore before spitting carcass onto sand

- Lifeguards on Nauset Light spotted the attack which turned the sea red
- Huge shark spat out carcass of the seal onto shore to horror of beachgoers
- Officials raised the alarm and closed two beaches in Cape Cod for safety

ANIMAL NEWS



OCTOBER 25, 2015

DOES CAPE COD REALLY HAVE A GREAT WHITE SHARK PROBLEM?

DUSTIN WICKSELL

White sharks actually aren't new to Cape

Henry David Thoreau – *Cape Cod*, 1865



flux, though it was quite cold and windy. The ocean there is commonly but a tantalizing prospect in hot weather, for with all that water before you, there is, as we were afterward told, no bathing on the Atlantic side, on account of the undertow and the rumor of sharks. At the light-house both in Eastham and Truro, the only houses quite on the shore, they declared, the next year, that they would not bathe there "for any sum," for they sometimes saw the sharks tossed up and quiver for a moment on the sand. Others laughed at these stories, but perhaps they could afford to because they never bathed anywhere. One old wrecker told us that he killed a regular man-eating shark fourteen feet long, and hauled him out with his oxen, where we had bathed; and another, that his father caught a smaller one of the same kind that was stranded there, by standing him up on his snout so that the waves could not take him. They will tell you tough stories of sharks all over the Cape, which I do not presume to doubt utterly, — how they will sometimes upset a boat, or tear it in pieces, to get at the man in it. I can easily believe in the undertow, but I have no doubt that one shark in a dozen years is enough to keep up the reputation of a beach a hundred miles long. I

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White sharks actually aren't new to Cape

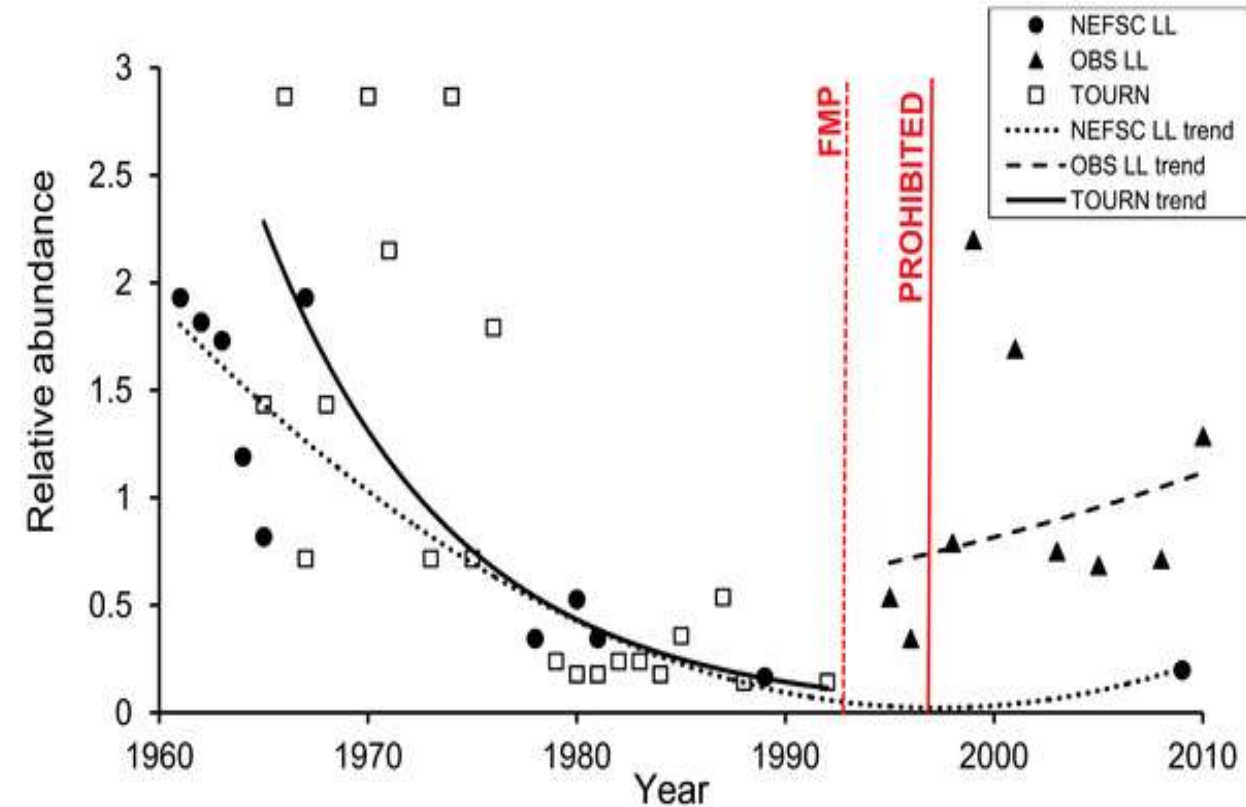
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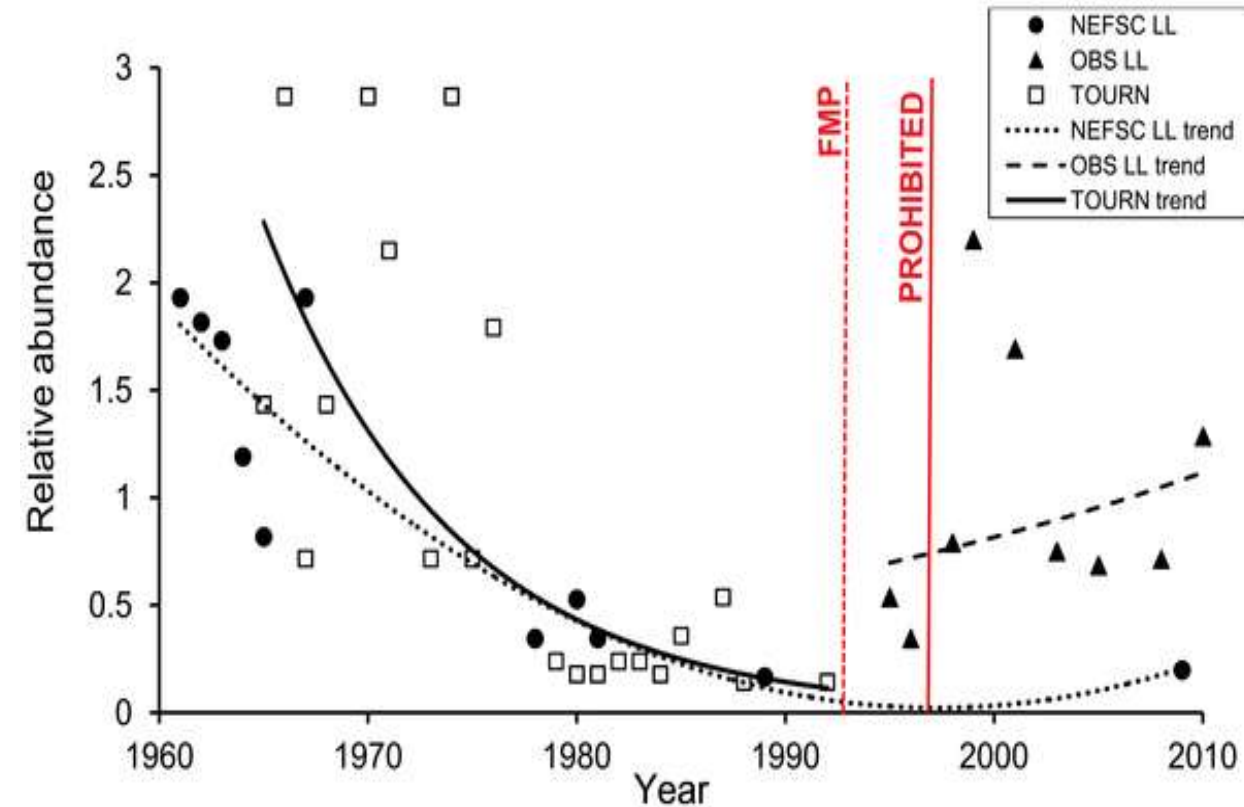
So where have they been?

1) The white shark population declined in the western North Atlantic.



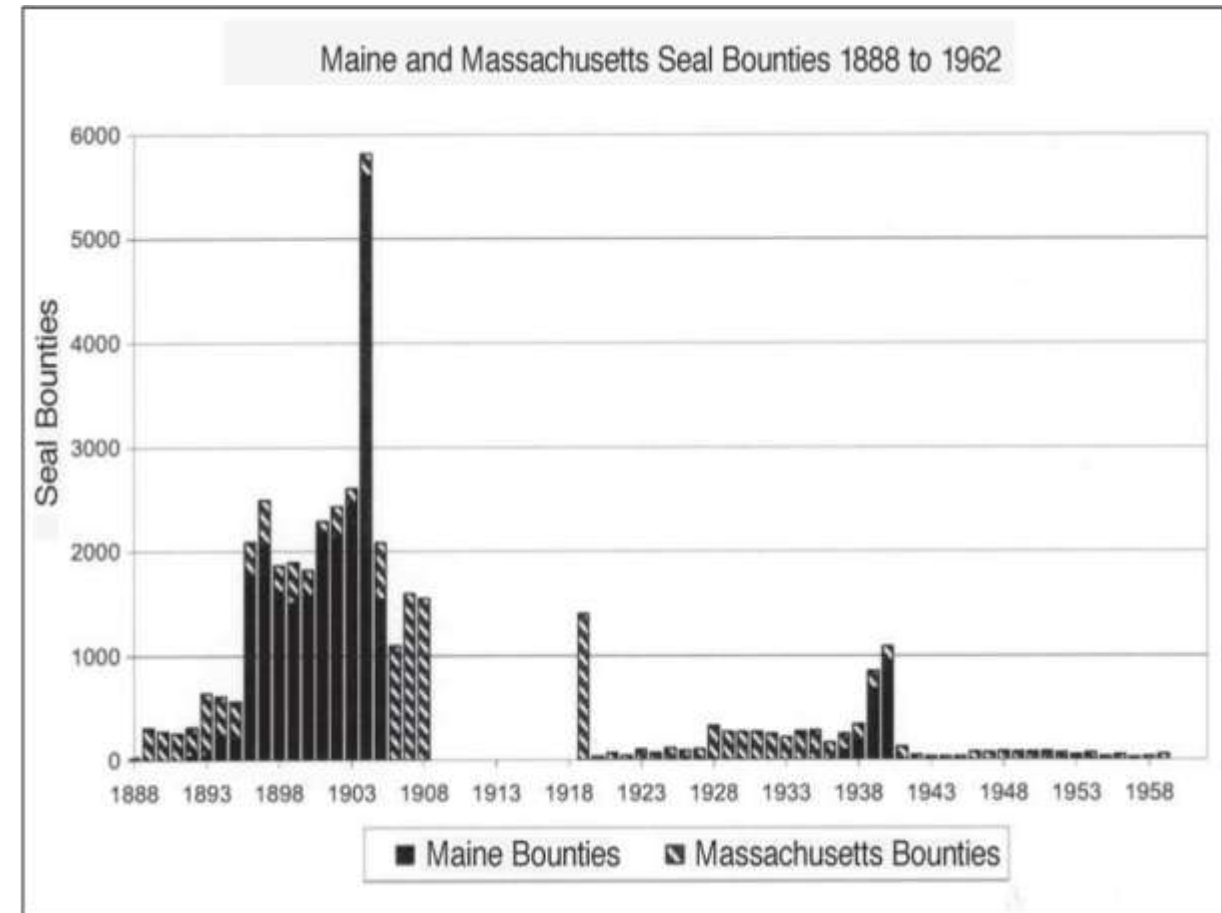
So where have they been?

1) The white shark population declined in the western North Atlantic.



Curtis et al. 2014

2) Seal populations were really low.



Lelli et al. 2009

The re-emergence of Cape Cod as a

White sharks love to eat seals.
And seals love Cape Cod.



MMPA
1972
+



=



Spotter Pilot Wayne Davis





White shark population study

ID: WS 14-20 (Lumpy)

Sex: Male

Est. Length: ft

ID Date: 8/25/2014

Tagged: NA

Tag Type: NA

Comments: This shark has a big lump on its caudal peduncle that makes it twist to the left. Looks like it may have been bitten by another shark.



Sharks and seals – a conservation success



@Atlantic White Shark Conservancy/Wayne Davis

Seal population control



Public safety concerns



Regional Shark Working Group

BE SHARK SMART

The inshore waters off Nauset Beach are a preferred feeding ground for Great White Sharks. They come to this area to feed on seals. Great White Sharks are predators and should be considered dangerous. Encounters with sharks are rare, but please remain alert.



SAFETY TIPS

- Do not swim near seals
- Swim close to shore in waist deep water
- Avoid swimming at dawn and dusk
- Swim and surf in groups

Download the **Sharktivity App** to receive alerts and report sightings

For more info and to view the latest research visit www.atlanticwhiteshark.org



Outreach and education

Gills Club Science Team

One day, you could be on this very list. If you put in the time, the effort, and the dedication, you can very well find yourself on this list, inspiring the next generation of researchers!



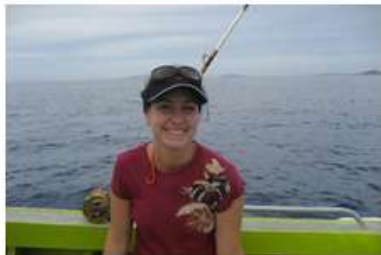
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DR. MISTY PAIG TRAN -
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SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 11:41AM

You Can Help Scientists Study Great White Sharks Off the Coast of Cape Cod



L.Graff/Atlantic White Shark Conservancy

White sharks are bringing people to Cape Cod

CHATHAM SHARK CENTER

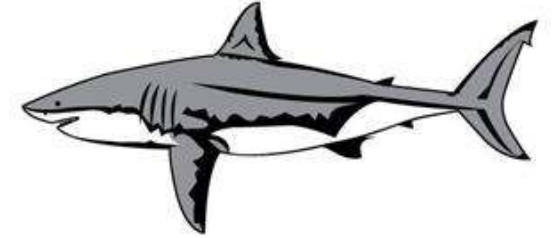


The Chatham Shark Center opened in June -2015 with shark cage for visitor photos



Artist: Jerry Evans

CHATHAM WHITES



We couldn't do any of this without you!

Our research is funded mostly by donors.



Check out our website and social media pages!

- www.mass.gov
- www.atlanticwhiteshark.org
- www.gillsclub.org
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram

Thank you!

Contact Information:
mwinton@umassd.edu

Atlantic White Shark Conservancy

- Cynthia & Ben Wigren
- Marianne Long
- Heather Marshall
- John & Pam King
- Wayne Davis
- Donors and Volunteers!