

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

August 6, 2020 – Why are there Great white sharks in Maine this year? There have been occasional sightings of Great white sharks in the Gulf of Maine forever, but they've been relatively rare and, until last week, interactions with them have not been fatal. Last week a woman from New York was attacked and killed by a Great white shark while swimming near Bailey Island in Harpswell, Maine. Julie Dimperio Holowach, 63, of New York City, was swimming with her daughter when she was attacked and killed. We send our condolences to her family and friends that are dealing with this terrible tragedy.

Great white sharks (*Carcharodon carcharias*) range as far north as the Bay of Fundy and Newfoundland, in Canadian waters and scientists have been conducting tagging studies to monitor and better understand their migratory patterns. Researchers believe that these sharks commonly breed off of New York bight and generally head to warmer waters. But some head north in search of prey. In the 1990's these sharks became protected after being over fished to the level of endangerment. At the same time, seals are protected through the Marine Mammal Protection Act and scientists believe the burgeoning seal population is attracting the sharks in the New England region in search of food. It's possible that the victim of last week's attack, who was wearing a black wet suit, may have been mistaken for a seal. Scientist do not know how many Great white sharks there are, but they can be found in Canadian waters. Fishermen and boaters can attest to the growing numbers of seals in eastern Maine's coastal waters in recent years. Somewhat paradoxically, the recovery of an endangered species is the reason a species comes under protection and we need to realize that these animals are in their own habitat, and it's wise for us terrestrial animals to respect their space and exercise caution.

The state Marine Patrol is recommending people be cautious and keep your eye out. If there are seals in the area, don't go swimming. If you see a Great white shark, report its location, date, time, and a photo if possible to the Marine Patrol at: www.maine.gov/dmr/marine-patrol/marine-contact.html

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to info@coastalfisheries.org or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us online at www.coastalfisheries.org.

FISHERIES LOG

Prices to Harvesters in Stonington

Lobsters (shedders): \$2.50/lb.

Bait (fresh pogies): \$80/bu.

Fuel (diesel): \$2.10/gal.