



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
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Marine Fisheries Advisory

DMF to Host Public Meeting on Nantucket Regarding Shore-Based Shark Fishing Restrictions

The Division of Marine Fisheries will host a public meeting on Nantucket to discuss recent emergency regulations to restrict the use of certain terminal tackle to prevent shore-based fishing for white sharks within the Town of Nantucket's coastline (see [Advisory](#)) and inform future regulations.

The meeting will be held from **5PM to 7PM on Thursday, September 10, 2026** at the Community Room inside the Nantucket Public Safety Facility, located at 4 Fairgrounds Road.

Intentionally baiting and attracting white sharks to the shoreline increases the likelihood of dangerous interactions with beachgoers and presents an unnecessary public safety risk. Although longstanding rules prohibit attracting and capturing white sharks and require the release of the animal as expediently as possible upon incidental capture, Massachusetts has become a seasonal destination for anglers seeking to target white sharks.

In response to emerging issues on Cape Cod, in 2025, DMF adopted new regulations that prevent the shore-based use of metal or wire leaders measuring 18 inches or greater in combination with hooks with a gap larger than 5/8 inch from the coastline beginning at Plymouth Point extending around Cape Cod Bay and the eastern shore of Cape Cod to Stage Harbor in Chatham and including all of Monomoy Island. This was done to prohibit the type of gear anglers would use to fish for white sharks in areas where white sharks are most abundant.

Nantucket was not included in this initial rule because its beaches have a long history of shore-based fishing for a variety of other shark species and there was little evidence to suggest anglers were targeting white sharks from the town's shoreline. However, throughout the spring and summer of 2026, there were several documented incidents involving shore-based anglers targeting and catching white sharks on busy public beaches and among swimmers and surfers. DMF responded to this acute public safety risk with new regulations to expand the existing gear restrictions to the Town of Nantucket's coast on an emergency basis. While the emergency rules expire in 90 days, DMF is gathering input to develop a proposal to amend its shark fishing rules for 2027 to ensure white shark

fishing is adequately prohibited, public safety is preserved, and traditional shore-based fishing opportunities are maintained to the greatest extent practicable.

For more information, please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries