Gray Seals
Chatham, MA – A Local Perspective

Marine Mammal Commission Annual Meeting
April 6, 2017

Robert A. Duncanson, Ph.D.
Director of Health & Natural Resources
Town of Chatham
Bathing Beach

Water Quality
Health & Ecological Impacts
Tourism

Chatham Municipal Fish Pier

Seal Tours
Great White Shark Eats Seal Near Chatham Beach

Great white shark rescued on Chatham beach last year returns to the Cape

Family Has Close Encounter With 14-foot Shark In Pleasant Bay

Great White Shark Nursery Found South of Cape Cod
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Notice of Beach Closure

Date: September 5, 2009 Time: 1330

In response to updated information on recent shark sightings in Chatham’s East Side Waters, town officials have closed all East Side Facing Beaches to swimming effective immediately. Swimming is prohibited at North Beach, Lighthouse Beach, South Beach, and Andrew Harding’s Lane. For further information regarding these sightings please contact Kate Plourd at Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, 617-626-1809 or 617-851-5636. The above beaches are closed to swimming until further notice.

For more information on beaches contact:
Dan Tobin, Park and Recreation Director – 508-945-5185

FOR SHARK SIGHTINGS CALL – Harbormaster’s Office – 508-945-5185

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS & SWIMMERS
3:30 p.m. E.S.T. July 27, 2010

Today, the MA State Division of Marine Fisheries successfully tagged a Great White Shark off of South Beach in Chatham and identified several others in the area. During the last several weeks there have been numerous reports of sharks throughout southern Massachusetts waters and now again along Chatham’s eastern shoreline. With this report, we may expect further reports of such activities along Chatham’s barrier beach waters.

Again, swimmers should exercise caution while swimming in Chatham’s ocean waters, particularly the waters off of South Beach and North Beach Island. In addition, people should avoid swimming in waters in the direct proximity of seals where sharks may be in search of prey. Specifically, by order of the Chatham Harbormaster all beach goers are hereby prohibited from swimming within 300 feet of observed seals in the water along Chatham’s ocean side waters.

At this time, the Town of Chatham is not closing our east facing beaches to swimming, but is strongly suggesting that beach goers and swimmers pay close attention to their surroundings while in the water and to not venture too far from shore.

If a shark is sighted, please get out of the water and contact the proper authorities:

Dept. of Energy & Environmental Affairs – (617) 626-1809 - Catherine Williams
Harbormaster- (508) 945-5185
Police Department- (508) 945-1213

Thank you for your attention,

Chatham Harbormaster
Director of Parks & Recreation
Sharks in the Park