

Sighting Form for NEBShark and NEOSunfish

Date (mm/dd/yy): _____

Observer: _____ Phone #: _____

Time of Day: _____

Address: _____

Position (GPS preferred): GPS position: _____ / _____ Loran: _____ / _____

Photos Taken? Yes No If photos taken, please email to info@nebshark.org or mail to NEBShark

Animal Sighted? (check one): basking shark OR ocean sunfish

of animals: _____ Estimated size of animal (in feet): _____

BASKING SHARK - If you sighted a basking shark, what behaviors did you observe? Check all that apply.

BEHAVIORS FOR A SINGLE BASKING SHARK:

- feeding - mouth is open (can see greenish patch near mouth)
- not feeding - mouth is closed
- swimming pattern is relatively straight
- swimming pattern is more circular
- tail thrashing
- breaching (jumping out of water)
- other: _____

BEHAVIORS FOR MANY SHARKS SEEN

- echelon behavior (one above the other)
- parallel swimming (side by side)
- following (nose to tail)
- nudging
- pectoral fin grabbing
- other: _____

OCEAN SUNFISH - If you sighted an ocean sunfish, what behaviors did you observe? Check all that apply.

- swimming at surface
- skulling with dorsal fin
- basking on surface with right side up
- basking on surface with left side up
- breaching (jumping)

Basking Shark Identification:



large, triangular dorsal fin visible at surface



both dorsal fin + caudal (tail) fin visible



mouth open = animal is filter feeding



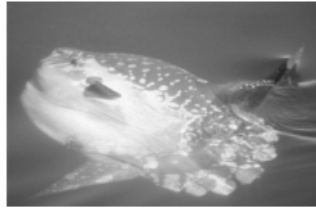
mouth closed – not feeding



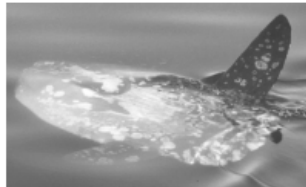
Basking shark swimming just beneath the water's surface and only tip of dorsal fin is showing. You can see the greenish-white patch near mouth indicating that the basking shark is feeding.

Ocean Sunfish Identification:

The common sunfish (*Mola mola*) is the species of ocean sunfish most commonly seen in New England waters. Common sunfish can be 6 – 10 feet long. They have a very distinctive caudal (tail) fin that is rounded in appearance.



Common sunfish basking on surface with left side up.



Paddle-like dorsal fin of common sunfish visible above water's surface.

Please
attach a
stamp.

New England Basking Shark Project (NEBShark)

P.O. Box 92

North Carver, MA 02355



Attach a stamp and mail card to NEBShark. Or input your sighting info and digital photos online at www.nebshark.org