

**Basking Shark Identification Features:** Typically, it is the large, triangular dorsal fin that alerts you to the presence of a basking shark at the water's surface. Look into the water to see if the animal is filter feeding or traveling with other basking sharks.



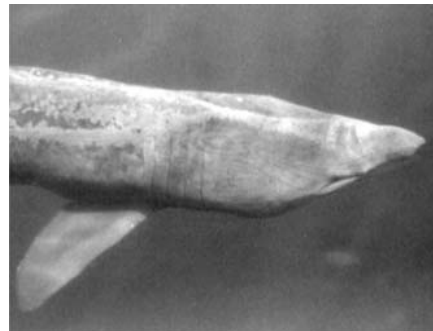
large dorsal fin visible at surface



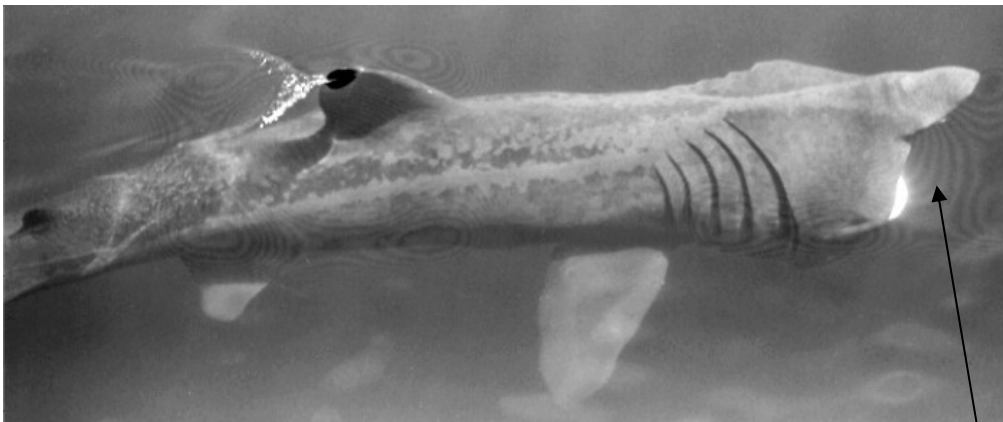
both the dorsal fin + caudal (tail) fin visible at surface



mouth open = animal is filter feeding

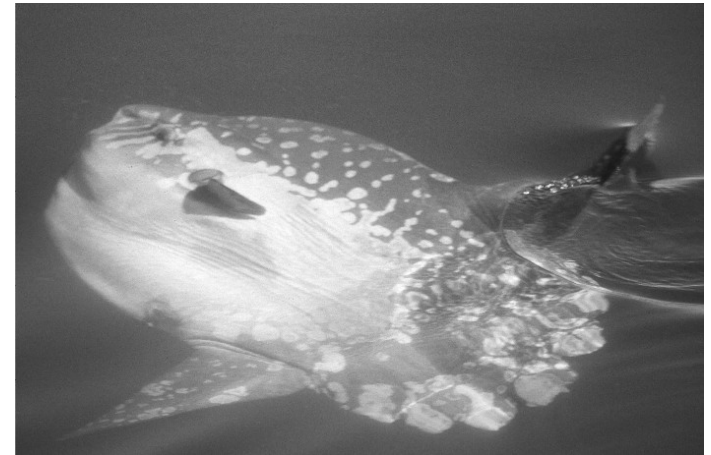


mouth closed = not feeding

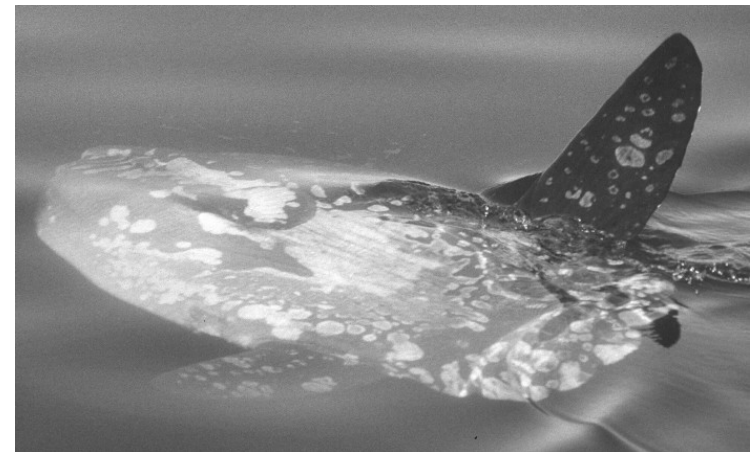


Basking shark swimming just beneath the water's surface with only the tip of the first dorsal fin showing. You can see the greenish-white patch near the mouth indicating that the basking shark is filter feeding.

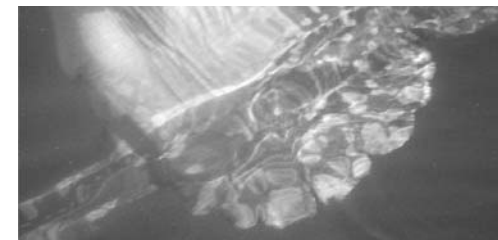
**Ocean Sunfish Identification Features:** The common sunfish (*Mola mola*) is the species of ocean sunfish most commonly seen in New England waters. Common sunfish can be 6 – 10 feet long and have a very distinctive caudal (tail) fin that is very short and rounded in appearance.



Common sunfish basking on surface with left side up.



Dorsal fin of common sunfish visible above water's surface.



The rounded tail fin of the common sunfish (*Mola mola*).