



Town of Orleans

Dawson L. Farber IV
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Paul Diodati, Director
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114

March 26, 2013

Dear Director Diodati:

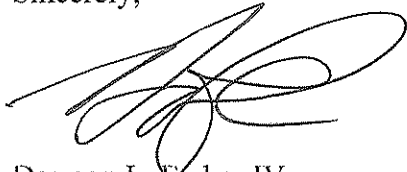
As you may know, the communities of Orleans, Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet, Eastham, Chatham, Harwich, Brewster, Dennis, Yarmouth, Barnstable, Nantucket, and the Cape Cod National Seashore have formed a regional working group to address the white shark presence in our harbors and along our coastline. This group has been meeting over the last several months in order to develop a regional approach to this issue. We have developed standardized signs advising and cautioning the public of these sharks in our waters. Additionally, we are producing an informational brochure that all of the above communities will use to help educate the public on the presence of these animals. These brochures will be made available throughout the mid, lower and outer Cape communities including the Cape Cod National Seashore. We are also considering engaging an existing regional entity to receive calls from the public when they witness the presence of sharks. That information will then be distributed to local beach managers and harbormasters.

At our most recent meeting, the newly formed Atlantic White Shark Conservancy presented our working group with recommendations on protecting white sharks and regulating commercial eco-tourism activities in our area. While we may support some of the proposed regulations, we feel that it is the responsibility and duty of the Division of Marine Fisheries to investigate the need for and, if necessary, the development and implementation of regulations for the protection of marine species in state waters and the regulation of commercial activities associated with these species. Specifically, we are concerned about eco-tourism businesses operating in near-shore waters that will target the white shark species and pose a risk to the public safety and the welfare of this protected marine animal. We therefore respectfully request that the Division initiate a review of this matter to determine if additional regulations or restrictions on commercial activities involving white sharks are necessary and appropriate. We would welcome the opportunity to work with your agency on this matter of mutual and significant environmental, social and economic concern.

We strongly support the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries' research on the white shark. The program findings are vital in assisting our communities as we struggle to address the impacts of this new phenomenon. We look forward to continuing our cooperative work with you and your agency and hope that the Commonwealth will continue to provide the necessary resources to address the issues associated with white sharks in our waters.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawson L. Parber IV', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Dawson L. Parber IV
Chairperson, White Shark Regional Working Group

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Smith', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Stuart Smith, Chatham Harbormaster
Vice Chairperson, White Shark Regional Working Group