

# GREAT WHITE SHARK AND HARBOR SEAL POPULATIONS

Survey		Counts	
Year	Date	All seals	Gray seals
2012	3/12/13	15,330	12,730
2014	6/15/15	3,820	3,170
2015	5/23/15	20,550	17,060

2018.09.15	15-Sep-2018	2018	Unprovoked	USA	Massachusetts
2018.08.15.a	15-Aug-2018	2018	Unprovoked	USA	Massachusetts
2017.08.23	23-Aug-2017	2017	Unprovoked	USA	Massachusetts
2017.08.03	03-Aug-2017	2017	Provoked	USA	Massachusetts
2016.07.07.b	07-Jul-2016	2016	Provoked	USA	Massachusetts
2014.09.03	03-Sep-2014	2014	Boating	USA	Massachusetts
2012.07.30.a	30-Jul-2012	2012	Unprovoked	USA	Massachusetts
2001.07.21	21-Jul-2001	2001	Boating	USA	Massachusetts
1996.07.21	21-Jul-1996	1996	Unprovoked	USA	Massachusetts
1969.08.22	22-Aug-1969	1969	Provoked	USA	Massachusetts
1965.02.04	04-Feb-1965	1965	Unprovoked	USA	Massachusetts

## *Fatal Shark Attack Off Cape Cod Is First in Massachusetts Since 1936*

### Cape Cod's Seal Problem

The population of gray seals on the Cape has exploded in recent years. Is it time to cull the herd?

Since the passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act in 1972 and its ban on hunting gray seals, populations of seals—and the great white sharks that eat them—have rebounded dramatically in Massachusetts, with the potential to reshape the tourism industry on Cape Cod. Using USGS and other data sources, this digital visualization will represent a snapshot of seal and shark populations, contextualizing the figures with data on shark attacks and tourism spending relative to the overall economy.

USGS Bison search: <https://bison.usgs.gov/#opensearch>

BioScience article with seal population table: <https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/67/8/760/3865418#113367600>

Global Shark Attack File: <http://www.sharkattackfile.net/index.html>