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OCEARCH

**Mary Lee was tagged off Cape Cod in 2012.**

**By Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF JUNE 24, 2015

The first great white shark of the season was spotted off Cape Cod in late June, and the first was tagged this week, setting the stage for what researchers expect will be a busy summer for sightings.

Last year, 68 sharks were spotted off Cape Cod. The number of sharks has risen in recent years, lured by a surge in seal populations off the Cape.

Researchers over the years have tagged dozens of sharks, allowing their habits and movements to be tracked and studied and, sometimes, making that information public. With tagging certain sharks have become particularly familiar, getting their own names, online profiles, and social media fanbases.

Here's a look at the sharks that one group, the nonprofit research organization OCEARCH, has tracked near the Cape in recent years:

**Mary Lee**

This white shark has become somewhat of a sea star, gaining her own following on Twitter. She also has a large physical presence, at 16 feet in length and weighing 3,456 pounds. Mary Lee was tagged off the coast of Cape Cod on Sept. 17, 2012, and has since swum about 21,400 miles, or roughly 10 miles per day. She is named after the mother of OCEARCH expedition leader Chris Fischer.



## Video captures season's first great white encounter

“Freckles” the shark is 15 feet long, and she was spotted off the coast of Orleans on Monday.

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“My parents have done so much,” Fischer has said, according to the nonprofit’s website. “I was waiting and waiting for a special shark to name after her and this is truly the most historic and legendary fish I have ever been a part of and it set the tone for Cape Cod.”

Mary Lee has visited shores up and down the East Coast, and has even checked out Bermuda. She was last tracked Monday night off the coast of Florida, but hasn’t been tracked close to Cape Cod since she was tagged.

### Katharine

Another white shark tagged off Cape Cod is Katharine, a 14-foot 2-inch, 2,300-pound fish named in honor of Katharine Lee Bates, a Falmouth native who wrote the lyrics to “America The Beautiful.” Katharine, the shark, has traveled more than 15,100 miles since she was tagged on Aug. 20, 2013. Unlike Mary Lee she has returned to Cape Cod, swimming around Cape Cod Bay in October 2014, before checking out shores off Nantucket and Falmouth, and booking it out of town right around New Year’s Day. She was most recently tracked way out in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean at roughly the same latitude as Florida.

## **Genie**

This 14-foot 8-inch, 2,300-pound white shark is named after Eugenie Clark, a well-known and highly regarded marine biologist and shark researcher who was sometimes called “The Shark Lady.” Genie has been tracked

across some 7,560 miles since she was tagged on Sept. 13, 2012, in waters off Cape Cod. She has been an annual visitor since, coming to waters south of the Cape in August 2013 and again in October 2014. She was last tracked in late May off the coast of the Carolinas.

## **Betsy**

Betsy, also a white shark, was tagged off the shores of Cape Cod on Aug. 13, 2013. Measuring 12 feet 7 inches and weighing 1,400 pounds, she has traveled more than 6,800 miles since then, including stopping by Nantucket last fall. She is named after a nickname given to the prototype of construction equipment company Caterpillar's first diesel engine model. Caterpillar Inc. is a backer of OCEARCH's marine research efforts. Betsy was last tracked in early June off the southern coast of Louisiana.

## **Cate Ells**

This mako shark was tagged along the coast of Montauk, N.Y., on July 13, 2014, but has visited waters off the Cape since then. She is 6 feet 6 inches in length, weighs 78 pounds, and has traveled more than 13,600 miles over the past year, including swimming just south of Martha's Vineyard last August. She's gone as far south as the Turks and Caicos Islands, and was last tracked off the coast of Ocean City, Md., this past weekend. Cate Ells was tagged during the Second Annual Shark's Eye Tournament and Festival — a catch and release event — by Wendy Benchley, wife of the late Peter Benchley, who wrote "Jaws." Wendy Benchley named her catch after her two

granddaughters Catharine and Eloise.

## **April**

April was also tagged in waters off Montauk. Measuring 5 feet and weighing 103 pounds, the mako shark was tagged on July 28, 2013. She has traveled more than 11,350 miles, including trips to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, since. April was most recently tracked last week, a ways off the coast of New Jersey.

### **More distant visitors**

The above sharks are among those that OCEARCH has tracked making relatively close visits to the shores of Cape Cod. Several other sharks have been tracked further out in the Atlantic:

- Lydia, a 14-foot 6-inch, 2,000-pound white shark

- [Jaimie](#), a 9-foot, 263-pound tiger shark
- [Beamer](#), a 9-foot, 200-pound male blue shark
- [Bonac](#), a 9-foot 8-inch, 216-pound blue shark
- [Chris Nic](#), a 6-foot, 112-pound mako shark
- [Rizzilient](#), a 5-foot, 84-pound mako shark

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