Biologists at the University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs, Mississippi are developing a database of whale shark sightings/encounters in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Your information is vital to a greater understanding of whale sharks in the region and is greatly appreciated. Please complete the form below and return to the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory via fax or mail. The form may also be completed online at:

http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/whaleshark

**Survey Information**

Date of sighting _________  Time ________  Latitude ____________________

Number observed _________________  Longitude _______________

Duration of encounter ____________  Estimated length of shark(s) (ft.) _________

Water temperature ______________

Describe behavior of shark(s).
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

How was the observation made (check all that apply)?

☐ boat  ☐ plane  ☐ helicopter  ☐ diving  ☐ petroleum platform

If petroleum platform, which one? (Name and number) ________________

Were any other fish associated with the whale shark(s)?

☐ yes  ☐ no

If yes, which species? _______________  Approximate number of fish? _________

(See Reverse Side)
Please provide your contact information.

Name ________________________________
Email ________________________________
Telephone ________________________________

Were any photographs or video taken? If so, please provide contact information for the individual who took the pictures or video, if different from above.

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
Email ________________________________
Telephone ________________________________

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Thank You