

NORTHERN GULF OF MEXICO WHALE SHARK SIGHTING SURVEY

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 _____

Contacts: Dr. Eric Hoffmayer
Research Scientist
eric.hoffmayer@usm.edu
(228)-872-4257

Jim Franks
Research Scientist
jim.franks@usm.edu
(228)-872-4202

Jennifer McKinney
Graduate Assistant
jennifer.mckinney@usm.edu
(228)-872-4257



Address: Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
703 East Beach
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Fax: (228) 872-4204



GULF COAST
RESEARCH LABORATORY
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Thank You