



# NORTHERN GULF OF MEXICO WHALE SHARK SIGHTING SURVEY

Researchers at The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs, Mississippi maintain a database of whale shark sightings 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 it to the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory via email, fax, or mail. The form may also be completed online at

[http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/whaleshark\\_survey](http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/whaleshark_survey)

Visit us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/whalesharkresearch>

## Survey Information

Date of encounter (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_ Time of encounter: \_\_\_\_\_ am \_\_\_\_\_ pm

Lat: \_\_\_\_\_ Lon: \_\_\_\_\_ Water temp.: \_\_\_\_\_ °F \_\_\_\_\_ °C

Location description: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of whale sharks observed: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated length (ft.): \_\_\_\_\_

Duration of encounter: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe behavior of whale shark(s):

---

---

---

How was your sighting made (Check all that apply.)?

Boat     Plane     Helicopter     Diving     Petroleum Platform

If platform, which one? (Name and #) \_\_\_\_\_

Were any other fish associated with the whale shark(s)?  Yes  No

If yes, which species? \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate number of fish? \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide your contact information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

## Thank You!

### GCRL contacts:

Jill Hendon  
Research Scientist  
<mailto:jill.hendon@usm.edu>  
(228)-872-4257

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



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

**Fax:** (228) 872-4204