The Potential for Great White Sharks to Frequent the Long Island Sound

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Abstract
There are a few species of sharks that regularly inhabit the coastal waters of Long Island, New York. Rising water temperatures and increasing human/seal populations in the New England/Long Island region have the potential to cause alterations in local species composition, especially as white shark populations continue to grow in the northwest Atlantic Ocean. Increased competition may drive species such as sand tiger sharks and white sharks into areas previously thought to house low shark concentrations, such as the Long Island Sound. This work was written so that tourists and the people of New England become informed as to the ever-changing ecology of our aquatic ecosystems. Spotting a shark in the Long Island Sound is now a “once in a blue moon” event, but this may change with alterations in our local ecology.

Recommended Citation

A great white shark was detected in Long Island Sound on Monday in what researchers believe to be the first time ever. The nearly 10-foot-long, 533-pound shark was seen swimming near Greenwich, Connecticut, by Ocearch, a research organization that electronically tracks ocean life for scientists. Ocearch named the shark Cabot, after Italian explorer John Cabot, known for a 1497 voyage to North America. “Be advised! The shark was first tagged last fall off Nova Scotia and was seen off the coast of North Carolina days before heading to the Long Island Sound, according to CBS News. According to Ocearch, Cabot has logged nearly 4,000 miles of travel since he was first tagged in October, swimming as far south as Florida, USA Today reported. “For the first time ever, we are tracking a white shark in the Long Island Sound,” the ocean life research group Ocearch said on Twitter. Later, the group clarified its tweet and said it was the first time a shark of Cabot’s size and maturity was tracked there. It detected a juvenile shark in the sound in 2016. Advertisement. Advertise with NZME. But beachgoers panic-stricken over a Memorial Day weekend Jaws scenario should feel fortunate over Cabot’s presence, which indicates cleaner waters full of the sea life that drew him in the first place. He seems to be the northernmost great white tracked by Ocearch. Brunswick and Jane recently pinged from the North Carolina waters, and Lunda was off South Carolina recently. Far northeast is a fitting place for Cabot.