


BASKING SHARKS IN

Photo: Nigel Motyer,
Irish Basking Shark Group

THE SALISH SEA AND BEYOND

Expanding and Defining a “Basking Shark Enthusiasts Club”

WORKSHOP SUMMARY / 2024



**SALISH SEA
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Ocean Decade
Collaborative Center
Northeast Pacific

How do we “turn the tide” for the Basking Shark in the Northeast Pacific Ocean Region?

Now almost forgotten, the Basking Shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) - the 2nd largest fish on the planet and the largest in our shared waters - used to be abundant from British Columbia, Canada to Baja California, Mexico. Hunted and persecuted for decades, they have since virtually disappeared from the coastal waters of the Northeast Pacific Ocean. Today, most residents are unaware that this fascinating, gentle giant ever graced our waters, making the Basking Shark a sad “poster fish” for the “shifting baseline syndrome”.

How do we make up for this lack of human experience and memory? Can this enigmatic wonder of our ocean world that has survived as a species for at least 30 million years recover here in the Northeast Pacific Ocean? How has our treatment of them shifted and what might we do to better understand them and their habitat, and “turn the tide” for them, and for us?

- The Northeast Pacific Ocean Region includes the Northeast Pacific Ocean sub-basin and adjacent coastlines of Canada, the USA (California to Alaska inclusive), and Baja California.
- The term “shifting baseline syndrome” refers to the way in which each new generation perceives the environmental conditions in which they grew up as ‘normal’, measuring any significant changes to an ecosystem against previous baseline states which themselves are significantly different from the original state of the system. In this way, people’s standards for acceptable environmental conditions are steadily declining. See Pauly 1995.
- “Transboundary” meaning across international, State, and Provincial borders (Alaska through to Baja, California), as well as across jurisdictional and colonial borders and boundaries



March 2024

On March 14th, 2024, a 2-hour workshop was held alongside the Northeast Pacific Shark Symposium VI (NEPSS) at the Seattle Aquarium. The aim of the session was to bring together members of a budding “Basking Shark Enthusiasts Club” that had convened virtually a number of times since the summer of 2023 under the encouragement of the Salish Sea Institute to spur greater discussion and collaboration on Basking Sharks in the Salish Sea. Also invited to the workshop were Basking Shark scientists from outside the Salish Sea working on the species in other areas of the Northeast Pacific population’s range, namely Oregon, California, and Baja California. This expanded “enthusiasts club”, with both in-person and virtual participants, was encouraged to think about what the vision, goal(s), objectives, outcomes, and structure of a transboundary Basking Shark group might be.

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Acknowledgements

The idea of a “Salish Sea Basking Shark enthusiasts club” was first raised by the [Salish Sea Institute](#) in the Summer of 2023, in response to the passion of a Salish Sea resident who pleaded that efforts be made to keep the memory of the Basking Shark in the Salish Sea alive. A small ad hoc group of enthusiasts from the following diverse organizations on both sides of the Canada - US border was brought together to begin thinking about potential collaborative, transboundary work on Basking Sharks: the [Tula Foundation’s Ocean Decade Collaborative Center](#) for the Northeast Pacific, the [Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society’s BC Chapter](#), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Species at Risk Program, the [Seattle Aquarium](#), [Oregon State University’s Hatfield Marine Science Center](#), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and [SR3](#). The biennial [NEPSS](#) seemed like a prime opportunity to convene this group in-person, “piggy-backing” off of the larger Symposium, and to invite broader scientific representation from throughout the Northeast Pacific Ocean region. Workshop participants are listed in Appendix I.

The original members of the “Salish Sea Basking Shark enthusiasts club” organized this workshop, with support and technical assistance from the Seattle Aquarium. All participants are thanked for sharing their time, and of course, enthusiasm.

This workshop was held on the traditional and contemporary territories of the Coast Salish people who have stewarded the lands and waters of what is now called the Salish Sea since time immemorial.

The contents of this report are being shared for information purposes only and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the authors or their affiliate organizations.

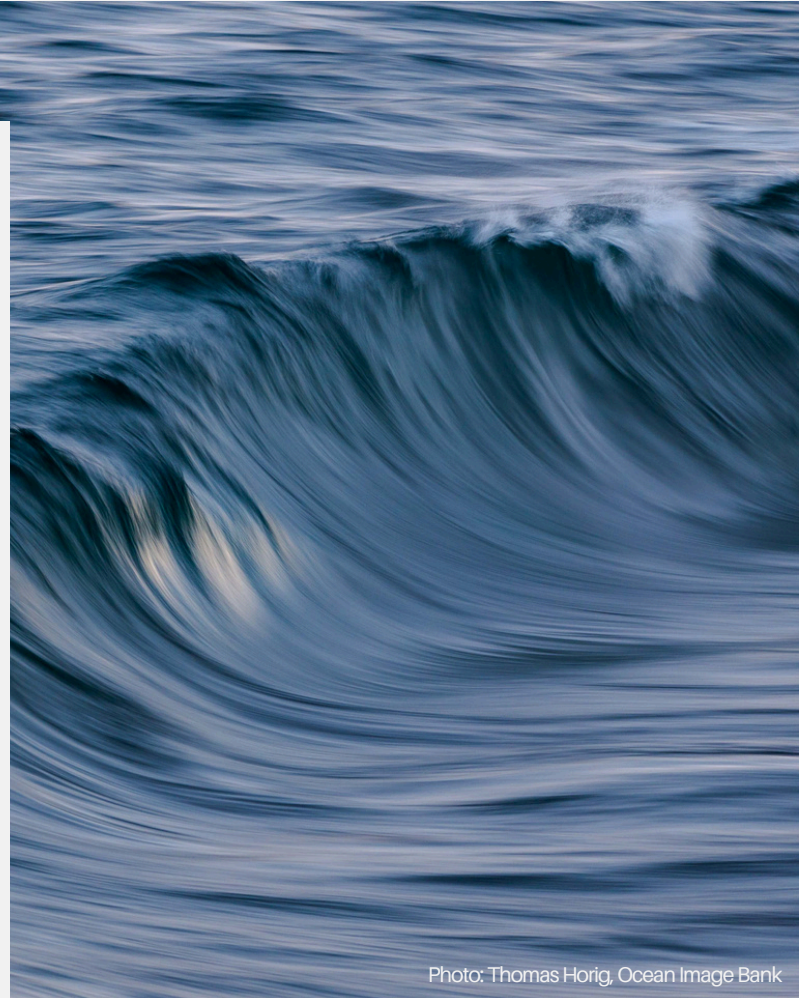


Photo: Thomas Horig, Ocean Image Bank

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Goal & Objectives of the Workshop



Photo: Irish Basking Shark Group

Goal

Greater clarity amongst potential coordinators and members of a Northeast Pacific Basking Shark Group of the vision, goal(s), objectives, outcomes, and structure of such a group, such that next steps can be undertaken in 2024 and beyond.

Objectives

1. Start/ continue to collectively learn from each other about the current state of knowledge/ status of Basking Sharks in the Salish Sea (and beyond), through a series of short presentations
2. Begin defining the vision, goal(s), and objectives of this transboundary group
 - a. *What is this group for?*
 - b. *What do we want to accomplish together?*
 - c. *How might this group nest or mesh with a broader Northeast Pacific Shark Knowledge-to-Action Working Group (Shark K2A)?*
3. Begin strategizing about how to get collective knowledge together about Basking Sharks in the Salish Sea (and beyond), and discuss potential collaborative outcomes/ outputs
4. Discuss the structure and function of the group, including roles/responsibilities
 - a. *Who is/ can be a member? Who will coordinate the group?*
 - b. *How often do we want to meet?*

Session 1: Current Knowledge & Status

Objective: Collectively begin learning from each other about the current state of knowledge and status of Basking Sharks in the Salish Sea (and beyond), through a series of short presentations.

Following a brief introduction to how a Northeast Pacific Basking Shark Group might nest within a broader Northeast Pacific Shark "Knowledge to Action" Working Group (Shark K2A) and the Ocean Decade, a session consisting of a number of short presentations and informal questions and answers was held. Short summaries of the information provided by the presenters are provided on pages 4 and 5.

British Columbia

Madeline Cashion,
Senior Biologist/
Recovery Planner,
Fisheries and Oceans
Canada (DFO), Species
at Risk Program

Basking Sharks In Canada

A brief timeline of Basking Shark exploitation and protection in Pacific Canada was provided, including information on their high historical abundances, directed fishing, sportfishing, salmon fisheries interactions (entanglement and net fouling), government declaration as a “destructive pest” (1949), targeted eradication program, and eventual listing as Endangered under the Canadian *Species At Risk Act* (SARA) in 2010. The Species At Risk Program at Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is now undertaking recovery activities, including supporting the [Shark Sightings Network](#). The last confirmed sighting of a Basking Shark in Canada was in 2020.

Washington

John Rupp, Retired
Aquatic Animal
Curator, Point Defiance
Zoo & Aquarium

Basking Sharks in Washington

In Washington waters, sightings of Basking Sharks have been reported through word-of-mouth over the years. Sightings have been reported to the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, as well as to the Seattle Aquarium. Accounts were (and are) largely anecdotal and infrequent, with more sightings reported in the Summer when more people are recreating (e.g., kayaking, canoeing, diving) and plankton are more abundant. No geographic “hot spots” have been identified to date.

There is no real database of sightings at this time, nor a public sightings network specific to Washington waters, given a lack of funding. Currently, sightings reported to the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium consist of miscellaneous, year-to-year sightings detailing when, where, and how many Basking Sharks were seen. Whether these are still accessible and could be digitized is unknown.

Oregon/ California

Dr. Alexandra McInturf,
Research Associate,
Oregon State
University, Coastal
Oregon Marine
Experiment Station, Big
Fish Lab; Coordinator
of the Irish Shark
Basking Group

Basking Sharks: The Oregon/California Story

Basking Sharks were historically observed throughout the California Current Ecosystem, typically down south in California during the winter months and up into Canadian waters during the summer. As such, individuals here were thought to represent one single migratory population. However, recent work has shown dramatic declines in sightings since the 1980s as well as small shifts in distribution and seasonality, the latter of which are thought to be indicative of a response to environmental variables. However, the prevailing mechanism of decreasing sightings has been proposed to be a decrease in population size, perhaps due to an Allee effect following local eradication and fishing pressures throughout the Northeast Pacific. Now, Basking Sharks are quite rare in California, and ongoing shark monitoring at Oregon State University also suggests that they are extremely rare in Oregon; in fact, no sightings have been reported in recent memory.

**Baja California,
Mexico**

Dr. Luz E. Saldaña-Ruiz,
Postdoctoral Scientist,
Ensenada Center for
Scientific Research and
Higher Education
(CICESE), Department
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Oceanography

Basking Sharks in the Mexican Northeast Pacific

In the Mexican Northeast Pacific Ocean, we have confirmed sightings of Basking Sharks in 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2019. A historical analysis of the shark catches in the Mexican Northeast Pacific Ocean shows high shark catches in the 1930s focused on species with high liver oil content, highlighting the need to dig more into historical records to identify possible interactions of Basking Sharks with Mexican shark fisheries in this region. Despite the rare occurrences in this region over the years, there are other anecdotal and unconfirmed sightings from fishers and divers in the region; thus, a constant follow-up to the sightings is needed to provide more details of Basking Sharks in Mexican waters. Furthermore, Basking Shark samples in this region for DNA or stable isotope analysis are needed along with future collaborative projects to start exploring the population status in the broader Northeast Pacific.

The presentations generated some discussion around the following topics...

Sightings

- Given the rarity of Basking Sharks in the Northeast Pacific, sightings (reported by members of the public) are currently the main means by which we can gain information about presence/ absence and distribution; in other words, we are dependent on sightings to gain information
- There are noted limitations to sightings as a means of collecting information, including:
 - Basking Sharks spend an unknown amount of time at the surface (relative to at depth); the time they are visible to us represents one part of their life cycle
 - Our coastline (especially in British Columbia) is vast and remote, limiting sightings opportunities; for example, recent sightings in Canada occurred on the Central Coast, which is a very sparsely populated area
 - Misidentification remains an issue (for example, with species such as whales, other sharks, sunfish)
 - It can be difficult to get photos to confirm sightings
 - Conditions affect sightings - for example, Basking Sharks are statistically more likely to surface if there is sunshine (a problem on our coast?)
- Historical sightings in the Salish Sea were largely in the Summer months, when more people are on the water engaging in aquatic activities and when there are plankton surges (for example, late summer in the south Sound)
- Compiling/ digitizing historical sightings data from Washington waters could be a way of obtaining more information on “hot spots” and habitat use. Sources of information might include:
 - Sightings reports compiled by John Rupp
 - [Friday Harbor Whale Museum Whale Hotline/ Sightings Network](#)
 - [Pacific Whale Watch Association](#)
 - Float plane companies (such as [Kenmore Air](#))
 - [Cascadia Research Collective](#) (John Calambokidis) aerial surveys for Harbor Porpoise
 - [University of Washington Special Collections](#)
 - [Seattle Public Library Archives](#)
- Social media is another relatively “untapped” source of sightings information (see Baskytastic (@baskytastic)/ Twitter)

Indigenous Cultural Significance

- To help ensure that our collective understanding of Basking Sharks and their importance to coastal habitats and communities is more fulsome and includes multiple ways of knowing, efforts should be made to reach out to First Nations and Tribes throughout the range of the Basking Shark in the Northeast Pacific
- The book *Basking Sharks: The Slaughter of BC's Gentle Giants* by Scott Wallace and Brian Gisborne includes information on the Indigenous importance of and/or interactions with Basking Sharks, from a historical context, and could be a start-point for Nations/Tribes and contacts
- The book *Tulalip from My Heart: An Autobiographical of a Reservation Community* by Harriette Shleton Dover includes account(s) of Basking Sharks
- *Could Basking Shark parts (baleen, teeth?) be recoverable from middens?*
- *Who is the data for?* When pursuing knowledge pertaining to cultural significance, non-extractive relationships should be the focus, whereby the knowledge is prioritized by and benefits the knowledge-holders and communities providing it

Global Perspective

- In other areas of the world (for example, Ireland), the Basking Shark appears to be recovering despite the scale of the historical commercial fishery being much larger (see [The Irish Basking Shark Group](#))
- A continued comparison of areas will be critical when thinking about recovery of the species in the Northeast Pacific (*What might differ between areas? What threats are they facing in different parts of the world?*)
 - *For example, are shark-eating orca whales affecting recovery in the Northeast Pacific?*



Future Efforts

- In the future, we can hopefully supplement sightings with methods of detection such as acoustic arrays (this will require tagging sharks with acoustic transmitters)
- A continued focus should be gaining more information on movement patterns/ migration through satellite tagging (see Dewar *et al.* 2018)
- With respect to sightings, we should always be thinking: *What will we do with this information? What's next?* In other words, if we build our sightings network(s) and start obtaining more sightings than are currently being reported annually, *how can we use the information to build more complete research programs benefiting the population?*
- Group size is important for recovery (McInturf *et al.* 2022), and should be included in sightings networks and other research programs
- *Can we think about how Basking Sharks might fit into Nature-Climate solutions? What roles do these planktivores play in the ecosystem?*
- *Could Basking Sharks be rewilded in the Northeast Pacific?* (see [Re:Wild](#))



Session 2: Interactive Session

Objectives:

1. Begin defining the vision, goal(s) and objectives of this transboundary group
2. Brainstorm some options for outcomes/ outputs:
 - a. *Will there be an ultimate product(s) from this group? (for example, white paper, open database, etc.)*
3. Strategize how to get collective knowledge, including Indigenous knowledge together about Basking Sharks in the Salish Sea (and beyond)
 - a. *How will this happen? (for example, development of a procedure, document/ template, lead?)*
 - i. Possible option: one person from each region is responsible for gathering the information for that area, then all that is compiled into a central database/ form.
 - b. Discuss how a Salish Sea Institute (SSI) Fellow might contribute to this work
 - i. *Did anyone from this group apply for a SSI fellowship and/or how can the group be a resource for someone outside of the group who applied (if applicable)?*

In the interest of time, the planned interactive sessions were merged into a single session. The participants were prompted to use sticky notes and/ or raise points of discussion for the group with the following questions:

- *What would we like to see for the Basking Shark in our shared waters? (Vision)*
- *What might this group be for? (Goals)*
- *What, more specifically, might we want to accomplish together? (Objectives)*
- *What are some collaborative outcomes/ outputs that we would like to see come from this group?*
- *How do we start bringing our knowledge together?*



Photo: Irish Basking Shark Group

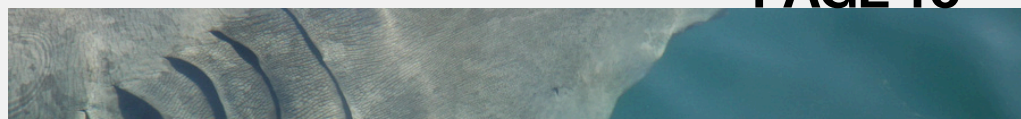
There was wide consensus that, in terms of a **broad vision**, we would like to see:

“A return of Basking Sharks to the Northeast Pacific Ocean Region

to numbers where sightings are not infrequent.”

Some high level **goals** or **objectives** of the network, as proposed by Workshop attendees, included:

1. The development and/ or standardization of sightings network(s) and online reporting system(s) for the public, including social media presence, to increase the number of sightings of Basking Sharks throughout the range of the Northeast Pacific population and to support the development of focused research programs;
2. Increased outreach and education targeting a wide audience, including managers and members of the public, to raise awareness of Basking Sharks (past and present) and counteract the shifted baseline, and to encourage sightings reports; and,
3. Regular communication amongst Basking Shark “enthusiasts” throughout the Northeast Pacific, to encourage collaboration and partnership in support of Basking Shark recovery.



Some interesting collaborative outcomes & outputs were suggested...

*Ideas that were deemed more feasible in the short-term and more cost-effective (i.e., "low-hanging fruit") are listed at the top, and those deemed more challenging (financially and otherwise) and/or more longer-term are listed below.

- Sightings Database Template
 - With, for example, common metadata columns, so that data collected on sightings is consistent across the Region and sightings can be brought together on a regular basis for public reporting (etc.)
- State of Knowledge Report (for example, Salish Sea Emerging Issues series) and/ or peer-reviewed journal article summarizing the state of knowledge (and gaps) for the Northeast Pacific population of Basking Sharks
- Compilation/ database of historical sightings and recent accounts from Salish Sea/ Washington waters, as well as from Oregon/ California (including accounts from social media, fisheries)
- Compilation/ database of historical and current sightings and accounts from Baja, California (including accounts from social media)
- Standardized educational messaging and materials to support sightings networks and general awareness raising efforts
- Pop-up Basking Shark exhibit (for example, based on "State of Knowledge" work)
- Website dedicated to Basking Sharks of the Northeast Pacific to encourage people to report their sightings and to generally educate, engage, and excite
- ArcGIS StoryMap, to be hosted on the dedicated website
- Northeast Pacific coastwide public sightings scheme or network and database with an engaging online presence (see website idea). Examples of existing public schemes specific to sharks and/ or tools for identifying and reporting sightings include:
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada [Shark Sightings Network](#) (see [here](#) and [here](#))
 - [Big Fish Lab "Have You Seen Sharks"?](#)
 - Pacific Shark Research Center [Spot of Basking Shark Project](#)
 - [eOceans](#)
 - [iNaturalist](#)
 - [iNaturalist Seek App](#)

The following themes and points were raised and discussed by the group...

Sightings etc.

- There are a number of existing public sightings schemes or networks in the Northeast Pacific (see above for a list), some of which are active and relatively well-utilized. *Should we be trying to create a new all-encompassing network, or should we focus on building out the existing networks and on bringing our data together regularly?*
- One option is to have “Nodes” for each area (BC, WA, OR, CAL, Mex), coordinated via dedicate person(s)
- Should we maintain individual networks, but create a common website, messaging/ information must be made clear and accessible on “how to report a sighting” (for example, the Irish Basking Shark group encourages sightings of Basking Sharks through the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, and created a [video](#) on how to report sightings for clarity)
- When it comes to sightings, we should all be aiming towards:
 - Simplicity of reporting for members of the public
 - Data transparency and accessibility
- Sightings should be supplemented, where possible, with other forms of detection/ research, for example,
 - Satellite tags - continue to put money in budgets in the eventuality that we can tag shark(s)
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI) (for example, being used to detect whale sharks; see [The Galápagos Whale Shark Project](#), [Sharkbook](#), and [Wild Me](#))
 - Very-high resolution satellite detection (see Gendall *et al.* 2022 and Tulloch *et al.* 2023)



Education/ Outreach

- This is a critical element alongside a public sightings scheme(s), and should be increased throughout the range of the Basking Shark in the Northeast Pacific
- *How do we build a groundswell of enthusiasm for Basking Sharks in the Northeast Pacific?*
- Connecting with marine centers operating up-and-down the coast might be a way to provide consistent educational opportunities throughout the Region. Many of these centers/ organizations have speaker series, and might be willing to run educational programs and/or seasonal exhibits. See these resources:
 - [Community Marine Centers of the Salish Sea](#)
 - [Community Aquarium Collaborative](#)
 - [SEA Discovery Center](#)
 - [Puget Sound Estuarium](#)
 - [MaST Center](#)
 - [FEIRO Marine Life Center](#)
 - [Langley Whale Center](#)
 - See this [article](#) for some other links
- A pop-up/ rotating Basking Shark exhibit could be a way to engage local communities on both sides of the border
- A systematic search for sightings in Mexico reported through social media (etc.) should be carried out, to increase our understanding of Basking Shark in the Baja; this could be completed in concert with increased education/outreach in this area targeting groups such as the dive community, with results reported in a report/ journal article
- Education/ outreach materials should be translated into Spanish



Capacity

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has funding to support recovery of species at risk through Grants and Contributions programs ([Habitat Stewardship Fund for Species at Risk \(HSP\)](#), [Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk \(CNFASAR\)](#))
- Communicating/ partnering with the [Association of Zoos and Aquariums \(AZA\)](#) - [Saving Animals from Extinction \(SAFE\)](#) Program might provide a means of funding
- The [Commission for Environmental Cooperation \(CEC\)](#) may be a source of coordination and/ or funding support
- Collaborating with (or learning from) other organizations or initiatives working on other large planktivores could be helpful (for example, [Save the North Pacific Right Whale](#))

Bigger Picture

- *What is our overall intention? What would justify this group receiving funding to advance common goals/objectives related to education & outreach, for example, if the species is already protected?*
- The Basking Shark is protected via:
 - Canada's [Species at Risk Act \(SARA\)](#): "Endangered". The [Recovery Strategy \(2011\)](#) and [Action Plan \(2020\)](#) contain population and distribution objectives for the Northeast Pacific population
 - Appendix II of [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species \(CITES\)](#)
- The Basking Shark is also listed on the:
 - International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s [Red List of Threatened Species](#): "[Endangered](#)"
- Despite it being protected, the Basking Shark still faces threats including ship strikes and entanglement (for example, in Ireland, 3-4 entanglements per season)
- Before we can mitigate threats through dynamic ocean management, MPAs, international cooperation (including w/ Northwest Pacific), etc., we need a basic understanding of the Basking Shark in our waters (for example, distribution, "hot spots", population structure); this understanding will also allow us to assess whether the population is recovering
- Gaining this basic understanding requires a swell of understanding and enthusiasm amongst members of the public (to counteract the "shifting baseline")
- Recovery will be slow (see McFarlane *et al.* 2009), but this should not be a deterrent
- Other areas of the world (for example, Ireland) provide hope

“Boat Dock”

A final session was planned, with the objective of discussing the structure and function of the group, including membership and roles/ responsibilities. However, there was insufficient time to delve into these points. Given what we are hoping to accomplish together as a group, a future meeting(s) should focus on addressing the following questions:

- *Who is/can be a member of this group? Who will coordinate the group?*
- *How do we ensure Indigenous participation, from both sides of the border?*
- *How often do we want to meet?*
- *How might we mesh with other proposed projects (for example, a broader Northeast Pacific Shark ‘Knowledge 2 Action’ Working Group)?*





Photo: Doug Perrine

Key Takeaways

- Enhanced education and outreach are needed to encourage sightings (our main source of information at this time). Education & outreach should take many forms, and where possible, should be developed collaboratively.
- Efforts should be made to better understand historical & current sightings throughout the Basking Shark's Northeast Pacific range.
- We should all be aiming for data transparency and accessibility when it comes to public sightings.
- Continued communication across areas and organizations will encourage efficiencies and synergies.
- The continuation of this group and advancement of desired outcomes/ outputs requires dedicated coordination support as well as additional funding, ideally long-term.
- We should explore existing transboundary organizations as potential mechanisms for collaboration, coordination, and funding.
- Indigenous perspectives and knowledge should be sought in collaboration with First Nations and Tribes, ensuring benefit to their communities.
- Baja California, Mexico, is an understudied area with respect to Basking Sharks, and should be the focus of studies including on presence/ absence, abundance, distribution, and habitat suitability, through - for example - sightings compilations and AI. Collaborative work to generate momentum in the south should be one focus of this group.



Photo: Irish Basking Shark Group

Recommended Next Steps

- Create Google Drive; schedule recurring meeting of this group and other identified Basking Shark “enthusiasts”
- Share resources, especially those pertaining to existing Sightings Networks. For example,
 - Informational materials for floatplane pilots
- Reach out to “Baskytastic” and explore collaboration/ coordination with them and any other social media accounts/ platforms gathering sightings information
- Reach out to marine centers (in the Salish Sea and beyond) to explore outreach/ education opportunities
- Hold subsequent meetings focused on specific topics including (but not necessarily limited to):
 - Sightings
 - Funding opportunities
 - Education/ outreach material development
 - Recommendations outlined in McInturf *et al.* 2022
 - Generating momentum in the south
- Explore how we might fund a coordinator(s) to continue the momentum and potentially start addressing some of the “low-hanging fruit” outcomes/ outputs
 - *How might a Salish Sea Fellow support our work?*
- Create merchandise to generate more enthusiasm!

In Closing

The story of the Basking Shark in the Northeast Pacific Ocean transcends the Basking Shark; it is a compelling story of human misunderstanding and folly, making the Basking Shark an ambassador for the ocean and all its diversity and complexity. By bringing together “Basking Shark enthusiasts” from across the range of the Northeast Pacific Basking Shark population, there is renewed hope that increased communication, awareness, understanding, and enthusiasm will bring us one step closer to the recovery of the Basking Shark in our shared waters.

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Appendices

Appendix I: Workshop Participants

*Listed alphabetically by last name

First Name	Last Name	Organization/ Affiliation
Ginny	Broadhurst	The Salish Sea Institute
Madeline	Cashion	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Species at Risk Program
Taylor	Chapple	Oregon State University Big Fish Lab
Cindy	Elliser	The Salish Sea Institute
Meghan	Holst	University of California, Davis
Patrick	Hutchings	SR3
Shawn	Larson	The Seattle Aquarium
Dan	Lomax	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Meaghen	McCord	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) BC Chapter
Alexandra	McInturf	Oregon State University Big Fish Lab; Irish Basking Shark group
Romney	McPhie	The Tula Foundation's Ocean Decade Collaborative Center for the Northeast Pacific

Appendices

Sebastian	Pardo	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Science
John	Rupp	Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium (Retired)
Luz E.	Saldaña-Ruiz	Ensenada Center for Scientific Research and Higher Education (CICESE), Department of Biological Oceanography

Appendix II: Workshop Agenda

Time	Item	Who
10:00 AM 10 min	Welcome/ Introductions/ Icebreaker <i>What is your favorite thing about Basking Sharks?</i>	Welcome/ Context - Ginny Broadhurst Facilitation - Romney McPhie
10:10 AM 20 min	Basking Sharks: Current Knowledge/Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>What do we know about Basking Sharks in the Salish Sea (and beyond)?</i> <i>What don't we know?</i> <p>Objective: Collectively begin learning from each other about the current state of knowledge/ status of Basking Sharks in the Salish Sea (and beyond), through a series of short presentations</p> <p>Presentation 1 (5 min): Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tri-national Basking Shark Recovery Group Recovery measures underway <p>Presentation 2 (5 min): Washington</p> <p>Presentation 3 (5 min): Oregon/California</p> <p>Presentation 4 (5 min): Mexico</p>	Presentations - Canada - Madeline Cashion Washington - John Rupp US West Coast (Oregon/ California) - Alexandra McInturf Mexico - Luz E. Saldaña-Ruiz

Appendices

<p>10:30 AM 30 min</p>	<p>General Discussion/Sticky-Note Session: What Might a Transboundary Basking Shark Group Accomplish?</p> <p>Given what we know and what we don't know about Basking Sharks in the Northeast Pacific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What would we like to see for the Basking Shark in our shared waters? (Vision)</i> ****Recognizing that in some areas of the Northeast Pacific, Basking Sharks may never return/recover**** • <i>What might this group be for? (Goals)</i> • <i>What, more specifically, might we want to accomplish together? (Objectives)</i> <p>Objective: Begin defining the vision, goal(s) and objectives of this transboundary group</p>	<p>Facilitation - Romney McPhie</p> <p>All</p>
<p>11:00 AM 10 min</p>	<p>Break</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>11:10 AM 30 min</p>	<p>General Discussion/ Sticky-Note Session: Bringing Our Knowledge Together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are some collaborative outcomes/outputs that we would like to see come from this group?</i> • <i>How do we start bringing our knowledge together?</i> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>Brainstorm some options for outcomes/ outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Will there be an ultimate product(s) from this group? (e.g. white paper, open database, etc.)</i> <p>Strategize how to get collective knowledge, including Indigenous knowledge together about Basking Sharks in the Salish Sea (and beyond)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How will this happen?</i> • Discuss how a Salish Sea Institute (SSI) Fellow might contribute to this work 	<p>Facilitation - Romney McPhie</p> <p>All</p>

Appendices

<p>11:40 AM 15 min</p>	<p>General Discussion: <i>Where to From Here?</i></p> <p>Given what we would like to accomplish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Who is/can be a member of this group? Who will coordinate the group?</i>• <i>How do we ensure Indigenous participation, from both sides of the border?</i>• <i>How often do we want to meet?</i>• <i>How might we mesh with other proposed projects (e.g.. broader Northeast Pacific Shark 'Knowledge 2 Action' Working Group)?</i> <p>Objective: Discuss the structure and function of the group, including membership, roles/responsibilities</p>	<p>Facilitation - Romney McPhie</p> <p>All</p>
<p>11:55 AM 5 min</p>	<p>Next Steps and Closing</p> <p>Discuss how/ who to advance the initiation/ implementation of the Group in 2024.</p> <p>Recap any shorter-term (immediate) Action Items.</p> <p>Closing - <i>What emotions are you feeling, coming away from today's meeting? What are you most excited about?</i></p>	<p>Facilitation - Romney McPhie</p> <p>All</p>

