



Great White Shark Weighing 1,700 Pounds Heads for Vacation Spot

Description

The largest great white shark ever tagged in the Atlantic is once again attracting scientists' attention. Named Contender, it is over 13 feet long and weighs nearly 1,700 pounds. After months of silence, the shark sent a new signal from its satellite tag.

Contender is the largest male great white tagged by the research group OCEARCH in January 2026 near Georgia. The biggest great whites recorded can reach around 20 feet and weigh over 4,000 pounds. Although researchers do not know Contender's exact location, they believe it is migrating north, possibly heading towards popular East Coast summer spots.

The last confirmed sighting of Contender was in April, near Pamlico Sound in North Carolina. On July 10, a single transmission confirmed that the shark was still active, but it did not provide a precise location. To track the shark accurately, scientists need at least three signals in a row.

Currently, Contender may be swimming deep underwater, where satellites cannot track its movements. The latest signal matches a typical migration pattern for great whites in the North Atlantic, moving towards cooler waters with more food. Cape Cod, Massachusetts, is a common destination during summer and falls, attracting many visitors each year. However, experts remind everyone that Contender's presence does not pose an immediate threat to beachgoers. Tracking such sharks helps scientists learn more about their migration routes and behaviour in the Atlantic Ocean.

Vocabulary List:

1. **tagged** //tægd// (verb): marked with a small device to follow movement
2. **satellite** //ˈsætəlaɪt// (noun): a machine sent into space to send signals
3. **transmission** //trænsˈmɪʃən// (noun): a message or signal sent by a machine
4. **migrating** //ˈmaɪɡreɪtɪŋ// (verb): moving from one place to another to survive
5. **precise** //prɪˈsaɪs// (adjective): exact and very clear, not vague
6. **behaviour** //bɪˈheɪvjə// (noun): the way a person or animal acts

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What is the name of the largest great white shark tagged in the Atlantic?

- Option: Titan
- Option: Contender
- Option: Jaws
- Option: Moby

2. How long is Contender?

- Option: 10 feet
- Option: 12 feet
- Option: 13 feet
- Option: 15 feet

3. In what year was Contender tagged?

- Option: 2024
- Option: 2025
- Option: 2026
- Option: 2027

4. Where was Contender tagged?

- Option: Florida
- Option: Georgia
- Option: North Carolina
- Option: South Carolina

5. What is the weight of Contender?

- Option: 1,200 pounds
- Option: 1,500 pounds
- Option: 1,700 pounds
- Option: 2,000 pounds

6. What is a common destination for great whites during summer?

- Option: California
- Option: Cape Cod
- Option: New York
- Option: Miami



True-False

7. Contender is the largest female great white tagged.
8. The last confirmed sighting of Contender was in October.
9. Tracking sharks like Contender helps scientists learn about their behavior.
10. Contender's presence poses an immediate threat to beachgoers.
11. Contender may be swimming deep underwater, where satellites cannot track its movements.
12. The biggest great whites can weigh over 5,000 pounds.

Gap-Fill

13. Contender weighs nearly _____ pounds.
14. The last confirmed sighting of Contender was near Pamlico Sound in _____ Carolina.
15. Contender was tagged by OCEARCH in _____ 2026.
16. The largest great whites can reach around _____ feet.
17. Cape Cod is a destination that attracts many visitors during _____ and fall.
18. To track the shark accurately, scientists need at least _____ signals in a row.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Contender 2. 13 feet 3. 2026 4. Georgia 5. 1,700 pounds 6. Cape Cod

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. 1,700 14. North 15. January 16. 20 17. summer 18. three

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL3

POST TAG

1. Atlantic



2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. great white shark
5. Level 3
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Date Created

2026/07/28

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