



If you enjoy wading, swimming or surfing off the beaches of Maine you may not want to read any further. But if you're an angler longing for the chance to battle a fish that could outweigh you and possibly outlast you, read on.

Each summer, as tourists flock to the beaches, the offshore waters attract big, toothy predators, some stretching 7 feet or more and outweighing several men. Taking them on requires a seaworthy boat, stout tackle, a strong back and some degree of familiarity with the species you seek.

Maine regularly hosts 7 shark species, four of which provide some outstanding sportfishing opportunities.





Let's start with the blue shark, the bread and butter species of New England shark fishing. By mid-summer, as waters warm into the 60s and above, blues begin migrating into our waters chasing abundant schools herring, squid and mackerel. A good day's fishing can usually produce three or four fish but double-digit days are not uncommon. Average size is around 5-6 feet with larger blues reaching and sometimes exceeding 10 feet!

The next most common species, and a year-round resident is the porbeagle. The waters outside Casco Bay are a pupping ground for 'beagles and are usually rife with young sharks in the 3-4 foot range, along with their much larger parents, some weighing several hundred pounds.



The blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) is a species of requiem shark, in the family *Carcharhinidae*, that inhabits deep waters in the world's temperate and tropical oceans. Blues are a pelagic species, meaning they roam the open ocean in search of prey.



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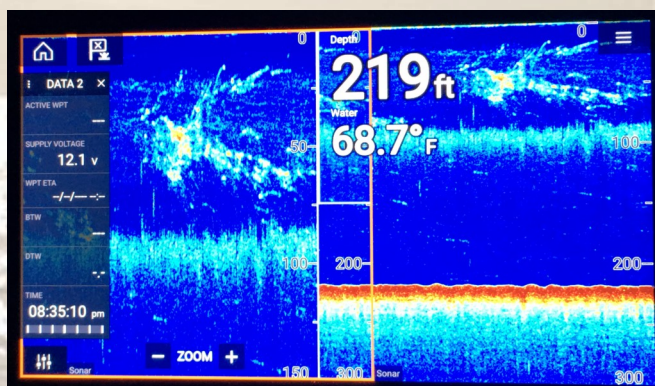
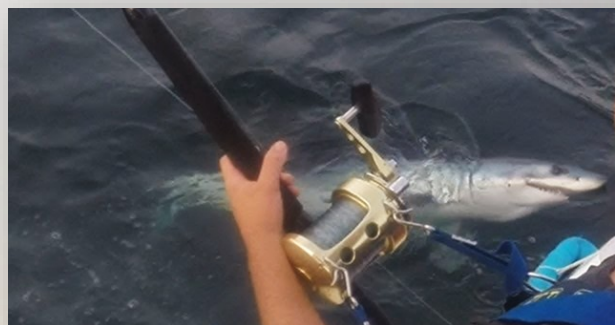




Next on the list, and one of the most unusual looking is the thresher. The top blade of their tail, which they use to stun prey, is often as long as their entire body. Though less common, most specimens caught in our waters are several hundred pounds and five feet or more—not counting the tail. They're also aggressive fighters, challenging the stoutest of anglers as they make long, deep runs stressing all the but the strongest anglers and tackle.



The prize for most shark a-fish-ianados is the mako. Though uncommon, their numbers have been increasing in the Gulf of Maine in recent years and catch rates are on the rise. Makos are known for being extremely aggressive with blistering runs and spectacular leaps when hooked. Average size range is 5-6 feet but larger specimens are caught, or at least hooked and fought. Makos are also valued for their meat, which is similar to swordfish in flavor and texture.



Thresher sharks are known for using their long, bullwhip tails to slash schools of bait, stunning their prey then returning to gobble them up. This thresher breached by our boat shortly after showing up on the screen.

The captain and crew of the Falcon IV annually fish the Spring Point Shootout. To see the exciting action from the past two seasons check out the video on the Sport-Ventures YouTube Channel.

