

TEAM APEX PURSUIT

SHARK WATCH | 2026 Gulf Coast catch report

Issue 02 | October 13, 2026 | Reporting period: January 1–October 13, 2026

Bottom line: Public reports document substantial 2026 land-based shark fishing activity along the Texas Gulf Coast. Tournament-wide numbers and location-specific catches are shown separately to prevent double counting. This is an evidence-based historical report, not a live bite forecast.

TEXAS SHARK RODEO | 2026 STATEWIDE CONTEXT

Previously retrieved standings listed **745 sharks caught, 505 tagged, and 558 fin samples**. These figures have not been refreshed for this PDF and should not be described as live totals. Tournament entries may include beaches, jetties, and channels. [1]

Team	Reported sharks
Team JackWagon	312
Gulf Gear	177
Just Bitten Shark Fishing Team	70
Team Breakaway	64
Shark at the Moon	30
South Texas Shark Stewards	20
Sharkaholics	16

DOCUMENTED TEXAS CATCH ACTIVITY

Bolivar Peninsula / Crystal Beach | September 2026. Bolivar Beatdown reports include Matthew Jones, 80-inch bull shark; Robert Santora, three-shark stringer totaling 175.5 inches; Steven Calloway, three totaling 144.75 inches; Chris Skotidas, three totaling 137 inches; and Hunter Tarrant, 39.5-inch shark. Tournament results do not establish precise individual catch positions. [2]

Galveston / Surfside / Freeport. August public reports described three bull sharks and two blacktips from a Galveston-area beach session, plus another upper-coast blacktip. A 5-foot-9-inch bull shark was reported from Surfside on June 13. Individual reports remain subject to their source documentation.

Sargent / Matagorda. June 6 reports described bull and blacktip catches at Sargent; a June 29 report described six sharks in one Sargent session. A firsthand September Matagorda report described three blacktips from approximately 18 miles down the beach; September 19 is a probable rather than confirmed catch date. [3]

Port O'Connor. A 5-foot blacktip attributed to Jason Villarreal appeared in a 2026 Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine catch gallery; exact catch date not established. [4]

Corpus Christi / Padre Island / Port Aransas. A roughly 8-foot shark was reported from a Corpus-area beach in September; June Port Aransas posts showed shark catches without consistently confirmed species or precise dates.

NOTABLE LARGE SHARK REPORTS

Summer 2026 Texas dusky reports: Eric Ozolins was associated with an 11-foot-2-inch dusky shark estimated near 700 pounds; Connor Hickey with a photographed dusky catch. A Texas beach-charter report described a 13-foot-5-inch great

hammerhead. Exact beaches were not publicly disclosed and are not inferred here. [5]

EASTERN GULF COAST

Florida Panhandle: An October 7 published report from Panhandle Pursuit Shark Fishing described a large sandbar shark in the Destin-area region. The precise catch date, length, and beach remain unconfirmed. [6]

Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama: Insufficient individually verified land-based 2026 catches in the present research set to publish comparable totals. This is not evidence that shark activity was absent.

BEACH WATCH STATUS

Area	Evidence assessment
Bolivar / Crystal Beach	Strong documented September tournament activity
Sargent / Matagorda	Repeated bull and blacktip catch reports
Galveston / Surfside	Multiple bull and blacktip reports
Corpus / Padre Island	Large-shark reports; limited location-level detail
Port O'Connor	One documented gallery catch
Florida Panhandle	One documented sandbar report
LA / MS / AL	Insufficient verified location-specific records

HOTSPOT ASSESSMENT

Bolivar and Sargent/Matagorda have the strongest **documented reporting signals** in this research set; Galveston/Surfside also has multiple reports. This is not a scientific ranking of shark abundance or a prediction of the next bite. Different reporting rates, tournament participation, and duplicated posts can distort comparisons.

RESEARCH METHOD & SUBMISSIONS

Shark Watch compares tournament records with public angler/team posts using species, length, date, and photographs. Same-shark matches must be verified before assigning general beach locations; no additional social-media matches are claimed as confirmed in this issue. Exact private fishing spots and protected GPS coordinates are not disclosed.

Anglers may submit a species, general beach area, date, length, bait, and photo to Team Apex Pursuit. Exact coordinates are not required. **SCREAMING DRAG!**

SOURCES (PUBLIC URLS)

[1] <https://www.texassharkrodeo.com/Standings>

[2] <https://crystalbeach.com/news/reeling-in-success-248-anglers-compete-at-the-labor-day-bolivar-beatdown/>

[3] https://www.reddit.com/r/SurfFishing/comments/1wlmvda/update_to_last_post_about_whether_im_stupid_or/

[4] <https://www.texassaltwaterfishingmagazine.com/october-2026>

[5] <https://www.texassaltwaterfishingmagazine.com/fishing/the-great-dusky-run-of-2026>

[6] <https://fishingbooker.com/reports/view/130894>

Editorial note: This issue summarizes previously collected public reports; individual claims were not all independently reverified for this PDF. Catch dates, species, and locations are qualified where uncertain. Tournament totals must not be added to the individual catch descriptions.