Basking sharks are gentle giants that eat tiny animals called plankton. They used to be abundant off our coast but are now listed as a Species of Concern in the U.S. and as endangered in Canada. Scientists in the U.S., Canada and Mexico are collecting information on basking shark sightings to get a better understanding of their biology and current population size.

Look for large gill slits, a pointed snout and mottled dark gray to brown coloration.

Basking Shark Sightings!

Central California:  (831) 771-4438
  e-mail: baskingshark@MLML.calstate.edu
  Basking Shark c/o PSRC, MLML, 8272 Moss Landing Road, Moss Landing, CA 95039

Southern California:  (858) 334-2884
  e-mail: basking.shark@noaa.gov
  Basking Shark c/o NOAA Fisheries
  8604 La Jolla Shore Dr., La Jolla CA, 92037

Please provide date, time, & location when possible. Photos and video are appreciated.

See: http://swfsc.noaa.gov/baskingshark and http://psrc.mlml.calstate.edu/current-research/basking-shark