![A logo with a shark head

Description automatically generated]()

For Immediate Release

November 15, 2023

Contact Dr. Craig O’Connell, Executive Director (OCF) at [oseasfdn@gmail.com](mailto:oseasfdn@gmail.com) or 845.702.7087

Contact Heather Doyle, Co-Founder and Chair (CCOC) [heatherine1@gmail.com](mailto:heatherine1@gmail.com) or 978.270.7839

From: O’Seas Conservation Foundation, Inc.

Subject: **O’Seas Conservation Foundation Successfully Tests Novel Shark Exclusion Barrier on Great White Sharks in Cape Cod - Summer 2023**

Today, O’Seas Conservation Foundation (OCF) announced that they successfully deployed and tested a novel barrier, known as the Exclusion Barrier, on great white sharks, along with project partner Cape Cod Ocean Community (CCOC). The results are astonishing and provide promise for the future of an effective swimmer/surfer protective and shark exclusion technology in both the waters of Cape Cod and worldwide.

“In several parts of the world, local communities implement shark culls using shark nets and drumlines to create the illusion of ‘safer beaches’. The nets tend to be indiscriminate killers, often leading to the deaths of large numbers of non-target species (e.g. dolphins, whales, sea turtles) AND they have been demonstrated to lead to the local extinction of several shark species. With that in mind, the present Exclusion Barrier technology shows extreme promise in preventing wildlife conflict without the use of lethal measures”, shared Dr. Craig O’Connell. “Based on the present study, the Exclusion Barrier successfully manipulated the swim patterns of all interacting white sharks, it withstood swells of up to 7ft, breaking waves up to 5ft, and strong currents. This is an illustration that this barrier can be deployed in a variety of high energy coastlines while maintaining the protective measures that provide beachgoers with safety and peace of mind.”

“This marks the third successful test using the Exclusion Barrier and continues to show this barrier technology will be a key ingredient to beachgoer safety and wildlife conservation around the world. With successful exclusion tests on bull sharks in the Bahamas in 2021/2022 and now with white sharks in Cape Cod, we look forward to continued progress and support”, said Dr. Craig O’Connell.

According to OCF, a youth education and shark research nonprofit organization located in Montauk, NY, this technology is a not-for-profit endeavor. As Dr. Craig O’Connell states, “we need to act now if we wish to save the dwindling wildlife populations around the world and therefore, we are raising funds to eliminate the material costs for future Exclusion Barrier deployments. This means should a government decide that they want to protect their beaches with this eco-friendly Exclusion Barrier in replacement of their lethal culling measures, the material costs will be free”, added Dr. Craig O’Connell, executive director of OCF. “To me, nothing matters more than protecting the future of our planet and this is my organization’s way of contributing. I have two of the most beautiful children in the world and I want to ensure that I did everything in my power to make sure that the natural resources that are present when they become my age are the same or better than they are now”, shared Dr. O’Connell.

“Our future goals will be to continue testing the technology, deploying it in replacement of lethal culling measures, and including youth directly in our work to provide them with Marine Biological and Engineering opportunities to help pave a path towards a bright future. We will be relentless in our pursuit in replacing beach nets and drumlines with our Exclusion Barrier technology, in places like South Africa, Australia and Reunion Island and if we can also help in places like Cape Cod, MA or even New York, we will happy to do so”, shared Dr. O’Connell.

OCF can’t wait to continue to make progress in 2024 and we hope to we can all continue working towards a brighter, greener, and positive future.

You can learn more about O’Seas Conservation Foundation and Cape Cod Ocean Community by visiting them at [www.oseasfdn.org](http://www.oseasfdn.org) and [www.capecodoceancommunity.org](http://www.capecodoceancommunity.org), respectively.