

at (301) 713-2322.

### **Marine mammals**

For large whales caught alive and on the line, immediately contact the Atlantic Large Whale Disentanglement Network Hotline at: (866) 755-NOAA.. For small marine mammals, gently bring the mammal alongside the vessel and work the tangle off the mammal as quickly as possible. When a small marine mammal is hooked, if possible, cut off the barb of the hook with long handled bolt cutters, and then cut the line as close to the hook as possible.

### **Smalltooth sawfish**

All smalltooth sawfish must be released in a manner that will ensure maximum probability of survival, but without removing the fish from the water or any research tags from the fish. While attempting to dehook a smalltooth sawfish, the fish should be kept in the water while maintaining water flow over the gills and examined for research tags. The animal should not be dehooked if the hook is in the rostrum; if the animal cannot be dehooked, cut the line as close to the hook as possible.

### **Sea turtles**

Sea turtles must be released using specified gear and safe handling/release guidelines. Owners and operators of all longline and gillnet vessels must attend a Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop and obtain a certificate. A copy of the workshop certificate must be included in the permit application package. Please see Section XIII for more information on workshops.

Both pelagic and bottom longline vessels are also required to carry a Technical Memorandum (NMFS-SEFSC-580) entitled “Careful Release Protocols for Sea Turtle Release with Minimal Injury,” and a plastic placard entitled “Sea Turtle Handling/Release Guidelines: Quick Reference for Atlantic Longline Gear.” The placard must be posted inside the wheelhouse to provide readily accessible information concerning a sea turtle interaction. Additionally, safe handling and release gear must be onboard each pelagic and bottom longline vessel and must be used in compliance with the Safe Handling/Release guidelines. Specifications for the required gear are fully described in a document entitled “NMFS Approved Models for Equipment Needed for The Careful Release of Sea Turtles Caught in Hook and Line Fisheries.” For information regarding these specifications, please contact the HMS Management Division at (301) 427-8503 or visit the this link on the HMS web page:

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/GearGear%20Rule/Sea\\_Turtle\\_Mitigation\\_Gear\\_Approved\\_List\\_9\\_23\\_2008.pdf](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/GearGear%20Rule/Sea_Turtle_Mitigation_Gear_Approved_List_9_23_2008.pdf).

If a sea turtle is dead when gear on the fishing vessel is retrieved, the animal should be removed from the gear as if it were alive and released into the water, preferably away from fishing activities. The mortality must be reported to NMFS (800) 858-0624 within 48 hours of returning to port.

## **VII. COMMERCIAL FISHING PERMITS**

The type of permit(s) required to commercially harvest and sell HMS depends upon three things: 1) the type of fishing being conducted (i.e., commercial or recreational), (2) the species being targeted, and 3) the gear being used. See the table below and the appropriate section(s) in this guide to determine which permit(s) are required. Please note that Federal commercial HMS

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permit holders may also need a state permit in order to sell HMS. For more information, check with the local state marine fisheries or natural resource management office.

Species	Gears	Permits Needed
Swordfish	Handgear* or longline  * Buoy gear may only be possessed or utilized by swordfish directed or swordfish handgear limited access permit holders	1. Shark Limited Access Permit: Directed (allows for targeting of sharks) <b>OR</b> Incidental (limited number of shark allowed per trip) AND 2. Swordfish Limited Access Permit: Directed (allows for targeting of swordfish) <b>OR</b> Incidental (limited number of swordfish allowed per trip) AND 3. Atlantic Tunas Longline category Permit (allows targeting of tunas other than Bluefin. <b>NOTE:</b> An Atlantic Tunas Tunas General category permit may not be substituted for the tuna Longline category permit).
	Handgear only (handline, buoy gear, harpoon, rod and reel, or bandit gear)	Swordfish Handgear Limited Access Permit (allows targeting of swordfish with handgear)
	Trawl	Incidental HMS Squid Trawl Permit (available to all valid <i>Illex</i> squid moratorium permit holders)
Shark	Rod and reel, handline, bandit gear, longline, or gillnet	Shark Limited Access Permit: Directed (allows for targeting of sharks) <b>OR</b> Incidental (limited number of shark allowed per trip)
Bluefin Tuna	Rod & Reel, Handline, and/or Bandit gear	1. Atlantic Tunas General category <b>OR</b> 2. HMS Charter/Headboat Vessel Permit
	Green-stick	1. Atlantic Tunas General category <b>OR</b> 2. HMS Charter/Headboat <b>OR</b> 3. Atlantic Tunas Longline category
	Purse Seine	Atlantic tunas Purse Seine Permit
	Harpoon	1. Atlantic Tunas Harpoon category <b>OR</b> 2. Atlantic Tunas General category
	Pound Net / Fish Weir	Trap – Incidental only
	Pelagic Longline	1. Shark Limited Access Permit: Directed (allows for targeting of sharks within quota or a limited number, depending on the species) <b>OR</b> Incidental (limited number of shark allowed per trip) AND 2. Swordfish Limited Access Permit: Directed (allows for targeting of swordfish) <b>OR</b> Incidental (limited number of swordfish allowed per trip) AND

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Species	Gears	Permits Needed
		3. Atlantic Tunas Longline category Permit (allows for targeting of tunas other than Bluefin. An Atlantic Tunas General category permit is not an acceptable substitute for the tuna Longline category permit).
‘BAYS’ Tunas (Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin, and Skipjack)	Harpoon	1. Atlantic Tunas Harpoon category <b>OR</b> 2. Atlantic Tunas General category
	Green-stick	1. Atlantic Tunas General category <b>OR</b> 2. HMS Charter/Headboat <b>OR</b> 3. Atlantic Tunas Longline category
	Any authorized gear other than Purse Seine, Longline, and Speargun	1. Atlantic Tunas General category <b>OR</b> 2. HMS Charter/Headboat <b>OR</b> 3. Atlantic tunas Harpoon category
	Purse Seine	Atlantic Tunas Purse Seine category
	Longline	1. Shark Limited Access Permit: Directed (allows for targeting of sharks within quota or a limited number, depending on the species) ) <b>OR</b> Incidental (limited number of shark allowed per trip) AND 2. Swordfish Limited Access Permit: Directed (allows for targeting of swordfish) <b>OR</b> Incidental (limited number of swordfish allowed per trip) AND 3. Atlantic Tunas Longline category Permit (allows for targeting of tunas other than Bluefin. An Atlantic tunas General category permit is not an acceptable substitute for the tuna Longline category permit).

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