



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
ANNOUNCES PROTECTED SPECIES RELEASE, DISENTANGLEMENT, AND
IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS BEING HELD IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND
MARCH 2007**

Beginning January 2007, shark and swordfish limited access permit holders must submit a copy of their Protected Species Release, Disentanglement, and Identification workshop certificate in order to renew either a shark limited access and/or a swordfish limited access permit (71 FR 58057; October 2, 2006). As such, **vessel owners whose permits expire in early 2007 must attend one of the nine free workshops listed below before their permit(s) can be renewed.**

WHO MUST ATTEND

- All new applicants for shark limited access and/or a swordfish limited access permits
- Pelagic longline, bottom longline, and gillnet vessel **owners**
- Pelagic longline, bottom longline, and gillnet vessel **operators**

Following permit renewal in 2007, vessel operators will be required to possess on board the vessel valid workshop certificates for both the vessel owner and operator at all times.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOPS

- To educate longline and gillnet fishermen on the required techniques for safe handling and release of entangled and/or hooked protected species, such as sea turtles, marine mammals, and smalltooth sawfish
- To improve identification of protected species and improve reporting
- To generate a better understanding of the requirements for participating in these fisheries
- To provide participants with the skills needed to reduce the mortality of protected species

SCHEDULE

The following table lists the workshops to take place in January, February, and March 2007. Workshops will begin promptly at **9:00 am** and will conclude at approximately **5:00 pm** that afternoon.

Additional workshops will be scheduled in each region throughout 2007.

Date	Location	Address	City	State	Zip Code
January 2007					
01/08/2007	Hampton Inn, Coconut Grove	2800 SW 28 th Terrace	Coconut Grove	FL	33133
01/12/2007	Town & Country Inn and Conference Center	2008 Savannah Highway	Charleston	SC	29407
01/24/2007	Hotel Providence	311 Westminster Street	Providence	RI	02903
February 2007					
02/01/2007	Hampton Inn & Suites	1985 Reynolds Drive	Ft. Pierce	FL	34945
02/22/2007	Hampton Inn	8620 Airport Blvd.	Houston	TX	77061
02/27/2007	Hilton Garden Inn	1101 U.S. Highway 231	Panama City	FL	32405



March 2007					
03/07/2007	Holiday Inn, Dedham	55 Ariadne Road	Dedham	MA	02026
03/15/2007	Hilton, St. Petersburg Bayfront	333 First Street South	St. Petersburg	FL	33701
03/21/2007	Hilton Garden Inn, Islip MacArthur Airport	3485 Veterans Memorial Highway	Ronkonkoma	NY	11779

WHAT TO BRING

To ensure the workshop certificate is linked to the correct permit, please bring the following items to the workshop.

Individual Vessel Owner:

- Proof of identification
- A copy of the applicable permit(s), and
- A copy of the vessel registration or documentation.

Representative of a Business or Co-Owned Vessel:

- Proof that the individual is an agent (partial owner) of the business
- A copy of the applicable permit(s), and
- Proof of identification

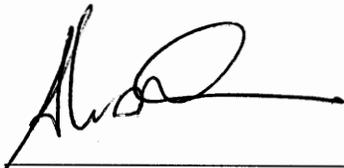
Vessel Operator:

- Proof of identification

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To sign up for a scheduled workshop, please contact Aquatic Release Conservation (877) 411-4272, 1870 Mason Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32117.

For further information regarding workshop requirements please visit the following webpage: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/workshops> or contact Greg Fairclough, (727) 824-5399.



Alan Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

DEC 19 2006

Date

<p>SIGN UP FOR <u>ATLANTIC HMS NEWS</u></p> <p>-- An electronic newsletter informing you of the latest HMS-related actions --</p> <p>http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist/</p>
