



**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 APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE 2007**

Beginning January 2007, shark and swordfish limited access permit holders and applicants for permit transfers must submit a copy of their Protected Species Release, Disentanglement, and Identification workshop certificate in order to renew or transfer 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 mid-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 April, May, and June 2007. Workshops will begin promptly at **9:00 am** and will conclude at approximately **5:00 pm**.

**Additional workshops will be scheduled in each region throughout 2007.**

Date	Location	Address	City	State	Zip Code
<b>April 2007</b>					
04/11/2007	Holiday Inn	6600 Coastal Highway	Ocean City	MD	21842
04/18/2007	Hilton Norfolk Airport	1500 North Military Highway	Norfolk	VA	23502
04/25/2007	Hilton Garden Inn at Mayfaire	6745 Rock Spring Road	Wilmington	NC	28405
<b>May 2007</b>					
05/02/2007	Sombrero Cay Club Resort & Marina	19 Sombrero Blvd.	Marathon	FL	33050
05/22/2007	Hotel Monteleone	214 Royal Street	New Orleans	LA	70130
05/23/2007	Pelican Landing Conference & Convention Center	6217 Highway 613	Moss Point	MS	39563



June 2007					
06/06/2007	Doubletree Guest Suites Naples	12200 Tamiami Trail North	Naples	FL	34110
06/20/2007	Holiday Inn	151 Route 72 East	Manahawkin	NJ	08050
06/28/2007	The Shores Resort & Spa	2637 South Atlantic Avenue	Daytona Beach	FL	32118

**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

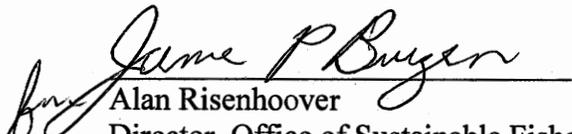
**Vessel Operator:**

- 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

*March 13, 2007*  
 Date

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