



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 JULY, AUGUST, AND
SEPTEMBER 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 ten 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 July, August, and September 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
July 2007					
07/03/2007	Holiday Inn	5264 International BLVD.	North Charleston	SC	29407
07/10/2007	Holiday Inn Select	2001 Martin Luther King Jr. BLVD.	Panama City	FL	32405
07/17/2007	Hilton Garden Inn	189 Midway Avenue	Daytona Beach	FL	32114
07/25/2007	Hilton Garden Inn	10309 Highland Manor Drive	Tampa	FL	33610
August 2007					
08/01/2007	Holiday Inn	55 Ariadne Road	Dedham	MA	02026
08/16/2007	Hawthorn Hotel and Suites	506 Dinwiddie Steet	Portsmouth	VA	23704
08/30/2007	Hilton New Orleans Airport	901 Airline Drive	Kenner	LA	70062
September 2007					



09/05/2007	Hilton Garden Inn	3485 Veterans Memorial Highway	Ronkonkoma	NY	11779
09/11/2007	Holiday Inn	10120 S. Federal Highway	Port Saint Lucie	FL	34952
09/19/2007	Holiday Inn	151 Route 72 East	Manahawkin	NJ	08050

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.

for James P. Burger
 Alan Risenhoover
 Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

JUN - 7 2007

 Date

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