



**THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
ANNOUNCES PROTECTED SPECIES RELEASE, DISENTANGLEMENT, AND  
IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS BEING HELD IN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, AND  
DECEMBER 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 late 2007 must attend one of the 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 October, November, and December 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 2008.

Date	Location	Address	City	State	Zip Code
<b>October 2007</b>					
10/23/2007	Hilton Garden Inn Outer Banks	5353 North Virginia Dare Trail	Kitty Hawk	NC	27949
10/25/2007	Crowne Plaza Hotel	801 Greenwich Avenue	Warwick	RI	02886
<b>November 2007</b>					
11/07/2007	Hilton New Orleans Airport	901 Airline Drive	Kenner	LA	70062
11/20/2007	Holiday Inn Harborside & Gulfview Beach Resort	401 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street	Indian Rocks Beach	FL	33795
<b>December 2007</b>					
12/06/2007	Embassy Suites	661 NW 53 <sup>rd</sup> Street	Boca Raton	FL	33487
12/11/2007	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 Emily Menachies*  
Alan Risenhoover  
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

SEP 14 2007

Date

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