



NMFS ANNOUNCES PROTECTED SPECIES RELEASE, DISENTANGLEMENT, AND IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS BEING HELD IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND MARCH 2009

Shark and swordfish limited access permit holders and applicants for permit transfers who fish with longline or gillnet gear, 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). Vessel operators are required to possess on board the vessel valid workshop certificates for both the vessel owner and operator at all times.

Please note that workshop certificates that were initially issued in 2006 and 2007 may be expiring in 2009. Vessel owners and operators whose certificates are expiring in 2009 must attend a workshop and obtain a new certificate prior to permit renewal.

WHO MUST ATTEND

Vessel owners and operators using longline or gillnet gear and holding, or applying for, one or more of the following permits:

- Shark Directed Limited Access Permit;
- Shark Incidental Limited Access Permit;
- Swordfish Directed Limited Access Permit; and/or
- Swordfish Incidental Limited access permit

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 that will take place in January, February, and March 2009. All 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 2009.

Date	Location	Address	City	State	Zip Code
January 2009					
1/13/2009	Hilton Garden Inn at Mayfaire	6745 Rock Spring Road	Wilmington	NC	28405
February 2009					
2/25/2009	Hilton Garden Inn (Airport)	1 Thurber Street	Warwick	RI	02886
March 2009					
3/11/2009	Hilton Garden Inn	6717 South Padre Island Drive	Corpus Christi	TX	78412
3/18/2009	Hampton Inn & Suites	1985 Reynolds Drive	Fort Pierce	FL	34945



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 Angler Conservation Education at (877) 411-4272, 1640 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 Rick Pearson at (727) 824-5399.



Alan Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

DEC - 1 2008

Date

SIGN UP FOR ATLANTIC HMS NEWS

-- An electronic newsletter informing you of the latest HMS-related actions --
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist/>