



## NMFS ANNOUNCES PROTECTED SPECIES RELEASE, DISENTANGLEMENT, AND IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS TO BE HELD IN APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE OF 2012

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.

**IMPORTANT NOTE** - Workshop certificates that were initially issued in 2009 and 2010 may be expiring. Vessel owners whose certificates are expiring must attend a workshop and obtain a new certificate prior to permit renewal. Vessel operators must possess valid workshop certificates on board for both the vessel owner and operator.

### 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 gain a better understanding of the requirements for participating in these fisheries, and
- To provide participants with skills needed to reduce the mortality of protected species.

### SCHEDULE

Workshops will be held from **9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Date	Location	Address	City	State	Zip Code
4/3/2012	Hilton Garden Inn	6745 Rock Spring Road	Wilmington	NC	28405
4/5/2012	Holiday Inn Select	2001 Florida 77	Panama City	FL	32405
5/9/2012	Hilton Inn (at Logan airport)	1 Hotel Drive	Boston	MA	02128
5/16/2012	Hilton Inn (at Armstrong airport)	901 Airline Drive	Kenner	LA	70062
6/6/2012	Holiday Inn	10120 Northwest Federal Highway	Port St. Lucie	FL	34952
6/20/2012	Holiday Inn	3845 Veterans Memorial Highway	Ronkonkoma	NY	11779



**WHAT TO BRING**

To ensure that 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 pre-register for a scheduled workshop, please contact Angler Conservation Education at (386) 682-0158.

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.



*FOR* Carrie Selberg  
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

03/01/12  
Date

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