



# NOAA FISHERIES

## Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

# NMFS Announces Protected Species Release, Disentanglement, and Identification Workshops to be Held in January, February, and March of 2014

December 6, 2013

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 2011 will 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

All workshops will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Date	Location	Address	City	State	Zip Code
1/8/2014	Holiday Inn	9515 U.S. Highway 49	Gulfport	MS	39503
1/22/2014	Holiday Inn	300 Woodbury Avenue	Portsmouth	NH	03801
2/4/2014	Hilton Garden Inn	6745 Rock Spring Road	Wilmington	NC	28405
2/6/2014	Holiday Inn Express	2580 Gulf to Bay Boulevard	Clearwater	FL	33765
3/19/2014	Holiday Inn Express	8080 South Main Street	Houston	TX	77025
3/20/2014	Holiday Inn	10120 Northwest Federal Highway	Port St. Lucie	FL	34952

## 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. Pre-registration is highly recommended but is not required. 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.

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