



NMFS ANNOUNCES PROTECTED SPECIES RELEASE, DISENTANGLEMENT, AND IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, AND DECEMBER OF 2011

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 2008 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

The following table lists the workshops that are scheduled to occur in July, August, and September of 2011. Workshops will begin promptly at **9:00 a.m.** and will conclude at approximately **5:00 p.m.**

Date	Location	Address	City	State	Zip Code
October 2011					
10/12/2011	Holiday Inn	3535 Ulmerton Road	Clearwater	FL	33762
10/19/2011	Town & Country Inn	2008 Savannah Highway	Charleston	SC	29401
November 2011					
11/9/2011	Princess Royale Oceanside	9100 Coastal Highway	Ocean City	MD	21842
11/15/2011	Hilton Inn	901 Airline Drive	Kenner	LA	70062

Date	Location	Address	City	State	Zip Code
December 2011					
12/14/2011	Holiday Inn	3845 Veterans Memorial Highway	Ronkonkoma	NY	11779
12/21/2011	Holiday Inn	99701 Overseas Highway	Key Largo	FL	33037

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 Emily Menashes
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

SEP 27 2011

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Date

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