



NMFS ANNOUNCES PROTECTED SPECIES RELEASE, DISENTANGLEMENT, AND IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS TO BE HELD IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND MARCH 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

The following table lists the workshops that are scheduled to occur in January, February, and March of 2012. 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
January 2012					
1/11/2012	Hilton Garden Inn	5353 N. Virginia Dare Trail	Kitty Hawk	NC	27949
1/25/2012	Holiday Inn	151 Route 72 East	Manahawkin	NJ	08020
February 2012					
2/8/2012	Holiday Inn	9515 Highway 49	Gulfport	MS	39503
2/22/2012	Holiday Inn	88 Spring Street	Portland	ME	04101



Date	Location	Address	City	State	Zip Code
March 2012					
3/14/2012	Hotel Galvez	2024 Seawall Boulevard	Galveston	TX	77550
3/21/2012	Holiday Inn	2620 W. International Speedway Blvd.	Daytona Beach	FL	32114

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.

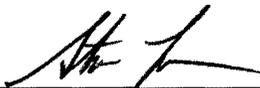
Vessel Operator:

- 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
 Alan Risenhoover
 Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

DEC 12 2011

Date

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