



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS Announces a Public Meeting For Selected Participants of the 2012 Shark Research Fishery

NMFS announces the date and time of a mandatory conference call to discuss with selected participants the terms and conditions for the 2012 shark research fishery. Other interested parties may also call in and listen to the discussion.

Shark research fishery permits are issued annually and authorize participation in the shark research fishery and the collection of sandbar, non-sandbar large coastal sharks (LCS), small coastal shark (SCS), and pelagic sharks from federal waters in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea, for the purposes of scientific data collection, subject to 100 percent observer coverage. Interested shark fishermen can apply to participate in the research fishery each year.

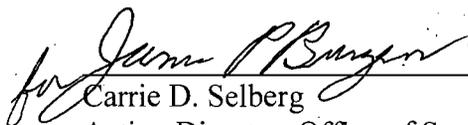
On October 31, 2011 (76 FR 67149), NMFS published a notice inviting qualified commercial shark permit holders to submit an application to participate in the 2012 shark research fishery. NMFS received 19 applications of which 16 applicants were determined to meet all the qualifications. From the 16 qualified applicants, NMFS randomly selected 5 participants after considering how to meet research objectives in particular regions.

Every year, the permit terms and permitted activities (e.g., number of hooks and trip, retention limits) specifically authorized for selected participants in the shark research fishery are designated depending on the scientific and research needs of the Agency as well as the number of NMFS-approved observers available. In order to inform selected participants of this year's specific permit requirements and ensure all terms and conditions of the permit are met, NMFS is holding a mandatory meeting with selected participants. **The conference call will be held on February 17, 2012, from 3 to 5 p.m. Participants and interested parties should call 800-857-3903 and use the passcode 9425509. Selected participants who do not attend will not be allowed to participate in the shark research fishery.** While the conference call is mandatory for selected participants, other interested parties may call in and listen to the discussion.

This notice is a courtesy to individuals interested in HMS fisheries activities to keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz or Delisse Ortiz at (301) 427-8503.

FEB 14 2012

Date


Carrie D. Selberg

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

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