



**THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
ANNOUNCES PROTECTED SPECIES RELEASE, DISENTANGLEMENT, AND
IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS BEING HELD IN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER,
DECEMBER 2008**

Beginning January 2007, 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).

WHO MUST ATTEND

- All new applicants for shark limited access and/or a swordfish limited access permits
- Pelagic longline, bottom longline, and gillnet vessel **owners**
- Pelagic longline, bottom longline, and gillnet vessel **operators**

Vessel operators are required to possess on board the vessel valid workshop certificates for both the vessel owner and operator at all times.

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 generate a better understanding of the requirements for participating in these fisheries
- To provide participants with the skills needed to reduce the mortality of protected species

SCHEDULE

The following table lists the workshops to take place in October, November, and December 2008. All workshops will begin promptly at **9:00 am** and will conclude at approximately **5:00 pm**. Additional workshops will be scheduled in each region throughout 2009.

Date	Location	Address	City	State	Zip Code
October 2008					
10/14/2008	Hilton New Orleans Airport	901 Airline Drive	Kenner	LA	70062
November 2008					
11/19/2008	Hilton Garden Inn	5353 North Virginia Dare Trail	Kitty Hawk	NC	27949
11/25/2008	Holiday Inn Habourside	401 2 nd Street	Indian Rocks Beach	FL	33785
December 2008					
12/17/2008	Hilton Boston/Dedham	25 Allied Drive	Dedham	MA	02026

WHAT TO BRING

To ensure 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 sign up for a scheduled workshop, please contact Aquatic Release Conservation (877) 411-4272), 1640 Mason Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32117.

For further information regarding workshop requirements please visit the following webpage: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/workshops> or contact Greg Fairclough, (727) 824-5399.

for Emily Menashes

Alan Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

SEP 03 2008

Date

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