



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

NMFS ANNOUNCES PROTECTED SPECIES RELEASE, DISENTANGLEMENT, AND IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS BEING HELD IN APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE 2009

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.

Please note that workshop certificates that were initially issued in 2006 and 2007 may be expiring in 2009. Vessel owners and operators whose certificates are expiring in 2009 must attend a workshop and obtain a new certificate prior to permit renewal.

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 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 that are scheduled to occur in April, May, and June 2009. All workshops will begin promptly at **9:00 am** and will conclude at approximately **5:00 pm**. Please refer to <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/workshops> for a list of other workshop locations in 2009.

Date	Location	Address	City	State	Zip Code
April 2009					
4/22/2009	Holiday Inn	151 Route 72 East	Manahawkin	NJ	08050
4/29/2009	Hilton Garden Inn	1101 N. Highway 231	Panama City	FL	32405
May 2009					
5/6/2009	Hilton Garden Inn	5353 N. Virginia Dare Trail	Kitty Hawk	NC	27949
5/20/2009	Princess Bayside Hotel	4801 Coastal Highway	Ocean City	MD	21842
June 2009					



6/17/2009	Holiday Inn	99701 Overseas Highway	Key Largo	FL	33037
6/24/2009	Holiday Inn (Airport)	8611 Airport Boulevard	Houston	TX	77061

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 sign up for a scheduled workshop, please contact Angler Conservation Education at (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 Rick Pearson at (727) 824-5399.

Emily Menashes
 Alan Risenhoover
 Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

FEB 27 2009
 Date

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