



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

Shark Dealer and Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and ID Workshops:

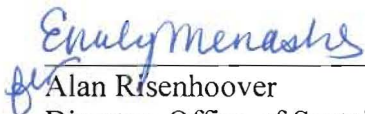
CERTIFICATION RENEWAL REMINDER

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requires that all federally-permitted Atlantic shark dealers or their proxies attend and become certified at an Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop. Additionally, all vessel owners and operators of HMS-permitted vessels using pelagic longline, bottom longline, or gillnet gear are required to attend and become certified at a Protected Species Safe Handling, Release and Identification Workshop. A copy of the appropriate workshop certificate must be submitted to NMFS annually in order to obtain, or renew, an Atlantic shark dealer permit and certain limited access permits for swordfish and sharks. Vessel operators are required to possess on board the vessel valid Protected Species Safe Handling, Release and Identification Workshop certificates for both the vessel owner and operator at all times. These requirements first became effective in 2008 and 2007, respectively.

This is a reminder that all workshop certificates are valid for approximately three years. **As such, workshop certificates that were issued to shark dealers, vessel owners, and vessel operators in 2006 and 2007 are expired, or will expire, in 2010.** Shark dealers and vessel owners whose certificates are expiring must attend a workshop and obtain a new certificate prior to renewing their permits. Vessel operators may not conduct a fishing trip with an expired workshop certificate.

For further information regarding workshop requirements and a list of upcoming workshops, please visit the following webpage: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/workshops> or contact Rick Pearson at (727) 824-5399.

To pre-register for a scheduled Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop, please contact Eric Sander at esander@peoplepc.com or by phone at (386) 852-8588. To pre-register for a scheduled Protected Species Safe Handling, Release and Identification workshop, please contact Angler Conservation Education at (386) 852-9137.


Alan Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

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Date

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