



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE**

**Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary**

991 Marine Dr., The Presidio  
San Francisco, CA 94129

## **2009 RESEARCH PERMIT ISSUED**

**Permittee:** Dr. Michael Domeier, Marine Conservation Science Institute (MCSI)

**Project Title:** Fine scale, long-term tracking of adult white sharks and filming for broadcast for educational purposes

### **Project Description**

Marine Conservation Science Institute (MCSI), led by Dr. Michael Domeier, has received a sanctuary permit to use bait and a decoy to attract white sharks to install satellite tags on up to 10 white sharks for long distance, multi-year tracking of the tagged sharks when the shark is at the surface and the dorsal fin is out of the water. MCSI hooks the white shark, lifts the shark out of the water on a platform (the gills continue to be flushed with seawater), installs a dorsal fin tag, and releases the shark. Consultations regarding this technique were conducted with the California Department of Fish and Game, NOAA, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium before this permit was issued. This technique is used by scientists on sharks and other fish species internationally. MCSI has used this technique on white sharks over the last three years along the West Coast of North America and has caught, tagged, and released 17 white sharks. This data is expected to provide, for the first time, continuous, multi-year data (up to 4-6 years) on white shark life history. Continuous, multi-year data is critical to understanding white shark habitat including breeding and pupping areas. Currently, white shark researchers hypothesize that female white sharks visit the Gulf of the Farallones every other year. This data would enable NOAA to better protect the sharks and engage in international efforts to protect the full range of white shark habitat.