



**North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Marine Fisheries
RECREATIONAL COMMERCIAL GEAR LICENSE (RCGL) APPLICATION
INSTRUCTIONS
(REV 2023-12)**

This application is to be completed and signed by individuals applying for a Recreational Commercial Gear license. Individuals applying for a license for another under the authority of Power of Attorney must submit a **PHOTOCOPY** of the Power of Attorney and current picture identification.

Provide a **PHOTOCOPY** of one of the following current picture identifications:

- Driver's License; or
- State Identification (issued by DMV); or
- Military Identification; or
- Passport; or
- Resident Alien Card (green card)

A Recreational Commercial Gear License Application:

- If you have moved to the state of North Carolina and have resided within the state for 60 days to six months and consider North Carolina as your permanent residence, you are required to complete the Certification of Eligibility for North Carolina Residency/Domicile.
- Sign and date the RCGL application.
- If you set an anchored gill net with this license you will also need to fill out the EGNP application and sign, date, and notarize (new applications only), the Permit Application Certification & General Permit Conditions Form and sign, date, and notarize (new applications only), and the Estuarine Gill Net Permit Specific Conditions Form. Mail all forms back with application(s) and current pictured identification.
- Check corresponding box on application for use of anchored gill nets.

Fees:

- \$70.00 North Carolina Residents + \$1 transaction fee
- \$500.00 Non-Residents + \$1 transaction fee
- Method of payment: Personal check, money order or Cashier check. Make payable to **North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries**. There will be a \$25.00 service charge for returned checks.

You are required to notify the Division of Marine Fisheries of any address or residency changes within 30 days. Incomplete applications submitted without required documentation will be deemed incomplete and returned to you unprocessed.

Mail to: North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
License Office
PO Box 769
Morehead City, NC 28557



**North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Marine Fisheries
RECREATIONAL COMMERCIAL GEAR LICENSE (RCGL) APPLICATION
(REV 2023-12)**

Select One: New Application Renew Update

Will you be using an anchored gill net: Yes No

Existing Recreational Commercial Gear License Number	
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Select One: North Carolina Resident
 Non-Resident – less than 60 days
 Military stationed in North Carolina**
 Student in NC School**
**** Must provide documentation as proof of residency.**

Individual Participant Information

WRC I.D. # (If renewing)		First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix
Check One:					
Driver's License <input type="checkbox"/>		State I.D. <input type="checkbox"/>	Military I.D. <input type="checkbox"/>	Resident Alien I.D. <input type="checkbox"/>	Passport <input type="checkbox"/>
No.		Expire Date / /			
Date of Birth		Primary Residence (State)		E-mail Address	
____ / ____ / ____					
Race	Gender:	Physical Address		Mailing Address	
	M / F			<input type="checkbox"/> Check if same as physical address	
Height	Weight	Address 1:		Address 1:	
		Address 2:		Address 2:	
Eye Color	Hair Color	City:	State:	Zip:	City: State: Zip:
		County:	Country:	County:	Country:

Home Phone:	Business Phone:	Fax:	Cellular Phone:
() -	() -	() -	() -

Applicant signature **Must be signed to be valid** _____ Date

For those individuals applying for a Recreational Commercial Gear license (RCGL):

As of June 2023, an Estuarine Gill Net Permit will be required for anyone who plans to fish anchored gill nets in estuarine waters. This includes the sounds and rivers, but not the ocean. Anchored nets, also known as fixed or stationary gill nets, are defined as nets anchored or staked to the bottom, or some structure attached to the bottom, on both ends. To ensure compliance with the Federally issued Incidental Take Permits for sea turtles and sturgeon in the estuarine anchored gill net fishery, a condition of this permit is that the fisher agrees to be observed by the DMF's Observer Program.

To help schedule these observed fishing trips, the DMF developed a "call-in system" called the Observer Trip Scheduling System (**OTSS**) that EGNP holders will have to use if they plan on fishing anchored gill nets in the sounds and rivers for a given week. This system will be piloted in the Fall of 2023; with official use of the system by 2024.

If the fisher ONLY fishes drift, runaround, strike, and/or drop gill nets and NOT anchored (set, fixed, stationary) gill nets, then they do not need an EGNP. Drift nets are defined as nets used to capture fish while being moved along by water current and the net is being actively fished and attended from deployment through retrieval, and runaround nets, including strike and drop nets are defined as nets that are set and then immediately retrieved.



**North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
 Division of Marine Fisheries
 ESTUARINE GILL NET PERMIT APPLICATION
 (REV 2023-12)**

An Estuarine Gill Net Permit will be required for anyone setting anchored gill nets in estuarine waters beginning September 1, 2014, whether for commercial or recreational purposes. The permit is free of charge. The application is available at any division license office, on our website, or by calling a division office and requesting an application. Refer to proclamation number M-24-2014 and the attached list of Frequently Asked Questions for more information.

Select One: New* Renewal Replace Update

*If you have not previously held an Estuarine Gill Net Permit, then this is a new application. New applications require the signature to be notarized.

Individual or Business Agent Participant Information

Participant I.D.	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix
Check One: Driver's License <input type="checkbox"/>	State I.D. <input type="checkbox"/>	Military I.D. <input type="checkbox"/>	Resident Alien I.D. <input type="checkbox"/>	Passport <input type="checkbox"/>
No. _____		Expire Date / /		
Date of Birth ____/____/____	Primary Residence (State)		E-mail Address	
Home Phone: () - - -	Business Phone: () - - -	Fax: () - - -	Cellular Phone: () - - -	
Primary contact phone number where you can be reached (check one-required): <input type="checkbox"/> home; <input type="checkbox"/> cell; <input type="checkbox"/> business				

Commercial Use of Gill Nets (check box) *must have a valid Standard Commercial Fishing License or Retired SCFL*

P-Number Vessel #1: _____ Length: _____
 P-Number Vessel #2: _____ Length: _____
 P-Number Vessel #3: _____ Length: _____

Recreational Use of Gill Nets (check box) *must have a valid Recreational Commercial Gear License*

Vessel Length: _____

<p>Management Units Fished (A,B,C,D1,D2,E) *</p> <p>Fished Most Frequently _____ Next Most Frequently _____ Next Most Frequently _____ Next Most Frequently _____ Next Most Frequently _____</p> <p><small>*Refer to attached map</small></p>	<p>Gill Net Mesh Size Fished *</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 inches stretched (small mesh) <input type="checkbox"/> Greater than or equal to 4 inches stretched (large mesh) <input type="checkbox"/> Both</p> <p><small>*as defined by NCDMF's Sea Turtle Incidental Take Permit</small></p>
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Please sign and date the following permit certification:

1. All the information provided, and any supporting documentation provided is true, accurate, and complete. For renewals, any changes in information or supporting documents have been provided at the time of renewal.
2. I, and all listed designees, currently have no marine fisheries licenses, permits, endorsements, or registrations under suspension or revocation, and the privilege to hold such licenses, permits, endorsements, or registrations is not revoked or suspended.
3. I, and all listed designees, have not been convicted of four or more violations in any jurisdiction related to state or federal law or regulations involving or related to marine or estuarine resources.



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Marine Fisheries
ESTUARINE GILL NET PERMIT APPLICATION

- 4. I have been provided a copy of the NC Rules for Coastal Fishing Waters containing the rules and conditions that apply to this permit and/or a copy of the Permit Condition Form for permits whose conditions are stated in proclamation.
- 5. I understand that as a condition of accepting this permit from the Division of Marine Fisheries, I agree to abide by all conditions of this permit and agree, that if specific conditions of this permit as identified for this permit are violated, or if false information was provided in the application for initial issuance, renewal or transfer, this permit may be suspended or revoked by the Fisheries Director.

I understand that any false information or fraudulent disclosures may result in termination of this permit and possible criminal prosecution.

You are required to notify the Division of Marine Fisheries of any address changes within 30 days. Incomplete applications submitted without required documentation will be deemed incomplete and returned to you unprocessed.

Mail to: North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
License Office
PO Box 769
Morehead City, NC 28557

Signature: _____ Date _____
Applicant signature
Must be signed to be valid

Date Signed: _____

Signature of Permittee: _____

NOTARY (for NEW permit applications only)

State: _____

County: _____

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this _____ day of _____

Notary Public: _____ My Commission expires: _____



**North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Marine Fisheries
PERMIT APPLICATION CERTIFICATION & GENERAL PERMIT
CONDITIONS FORM
(REV 2023-12)**

OFFICE USE ONLY	Year _____
PID # _____	
PERMIT # _____	
DMF Staff: _____	

Certification Statement *(This section must be completed by applicant)*

- I, _____ certify that:
- All the information provided on this application and any supporting documentation provided is true, accurate, and complete. And further, for renewals, any changes in information or supporting documents have been provided at the time of renewal. I understand that any false information or fraudulent disclosures may result in termination of appropriate licenses, permits and related documents, revocation or suspension of marine fisheries licensing and other privileges, and in possible criminal prosecution.
 - I am a resident of the State of: _____
If claiming resident status in North Carolina, I certify further that (check one):
 I have been a legal resident for more than six months, or
 If domiciled in North Carolina between 60 days and six months, I have completed and submitted with this application a notarized Certificate of Eligibility for North Carolina Residency.
 - For permits, I certify that:
 - I currently have no marine fisheries licenses, permits, endorsements, or registrations under suspension or revocation and the privilege to hold such licenses, permits, endorsements, or registrations is not revoked or suspended.
 - I have not been convicted of four or more violations in any jurisdiction related to state or federal law or regulations involving or related to marine or estuarine resources during the previous three years.
 - I understand that as a condition of accepting a permit from the Division of Marine Fisheries, I agree to abide by all conditions of the permit and agree, that if conditions of the permit as identified for the permit are violated, or if false information was provided in the application for initial issuance, renewal or transfer, the permit may be suspended or revoked by the Fisheries Director.
 - NC General Statute §113-221 requires the NC Division of Marine Fisheries to provide a current copy of the rules governing activities authorized by the license you are purchasing. You have the right to request a current rulebook in hardbound. The document is available on the Division of Marine Fisheries website on the "Rules and Regulations" webpage at <http://deq.nc.gov/dmf-rules>.
 - I have been provided a copy of the permit rules and conditions that apply. I acknowledge failure to abide by all permit rules as well as conditions may result in suspension or revocation of the permit. For violation of specific permit conditions, permits may be suspended or revoked for 10 days, 30 days, or up to 6 months depending on the 3-year history of violations.

15A NCAC 03O .0502 Permit Conditions: General

- It shall be unlawful to violate any permit condition.
- The following conditions shall apply to all permits issued by the Fisheries Director:
 - it shall be unlawful to:
 - operate under the permit except in areas, at times, and under conditions specified on the permit.
 - operate under a permit without having the permit or copy thereof in possession of the permittee or the permittee's designees at all times of operation and the permit or copy thereof shall be ready at hand for inspection, except for a Pound Net Set Permit.
 - operate under a permit without having a current picture identification in possession and ready at hand for inspection.
 - refuse to allow inspection and sampling of a permitted activity by an agent of the Division of Marine Fisheries.
 - fail to provide complete and accurate information requested by the Division in connection with the permitted activity.
 - provide false information in the application for initial issuance, renewal, or transfer of a permit.
 - hold a permit issued by the Fisheries Director if not eligible to hold any license required as a condition for that permit as stated in Rule .0501 of this Section.
 - fail to provide reports within the timeframe required by the specific permit conditions.
 - fail to keep such records and accounts as required by the rules in this Chapter for determination of conservation policy, equitable and efficient administration and enforcement, or promotion of commercial or recreational fisheries.
 - assign or transfer permits issued by the Fisheries Director, except for a Pound Net Set Permit as authorized by 15A NCAC 03J .0504.
 - the Fisheries Director or the Fisheries Director's agent may, by conditions of the permit, impose on a commercial fishing operation and for recreational purposes any of the following restrictions for the permitted purposes:
 - specify time;
 - specify area;
 - specify means and methods;
 - specify record keeping and reporting requirements;
 - specify season;
 - specify species;
 - specify size;
 - specify quantity;
 - specify disposition of resources;
 - specify marking requirements; and
 - specify harvest conditions.
 - unless specifically stated as a condition on the permit, all statutes, rules, and proclamations shall apply to the permittee and the permittee's designees.

I understand that any violation of permit conditions may result in suspension or revocation of the permit.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

NOTARY

State: _____ County: _____

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this _____ day and year of _____, _____

Notary Public: _____ My Commission expires: _____



**North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
ESTUARINE GILL NET PERMIT SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FORM
(REV 2023-12)**

OFFICE USE ONLY	Year _____
PID # _____	
PERMIT # _____	
DMF Staff: _____	

The Estuarine Gill Net Permit (EGNP) serves as a certificate of your inclusion in the Incidental Take Permits' Conservation Plans.

The Division of Marine Fisheries has received Federal Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) for certain threatened or endangered sea turtles, and endangered Atlantic Sturgeon. The ITPs allow legal continuation of estuarine gill-net fisheries in North Carolina, subject to permit conditions. The permit conditions are designed to avoid, minimize, and mitigate interactions with these species. Fishermen must apply for and receive an EGNP in order to use commercial or recreational anchored (set/stationary) gill nets in estuarine waters.

The Fisheries Director may, by proclamation, require individuals taking marine and estuarine resources regulated by the Marine Fisheries Commission, to obtain a special permit.

For violation of specific permit conditions (as specified on this form), permits may be suspended or revoked in accordance with 15A NCAC 03O .0504.

Legal Authority:

Authority for Estuarine Gill Net Permit is specified in G.S. 113-169.1, G.S. 113-221.1, 15A NCAC 03O .0501, 03O .0502, and 03O .0506.

Specific Permit Conditions:

An EGNP is required for holders of a Standard Commercial Fishing License (SCFL), Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License (RSCFL), or Recreational Commercial Gear License (RCGL) who deploy gill nets in Internal Coastal Waters, except for the following types of gill nets: run around, strike, drop or drift gill nets. These exempted gill nets must meet the description found on the division's website (<http://deq.nc.gov/fisheries-management-proclamations>). The EGNP meets the permit requirements of the Incidental Take Permit Numbers 16230 and 18102 from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). **15A NCAC 03H .0103(a) to wit M-24-2014** (15A NCAC 03O .0506)

Permits are non-transferable (see General Permit conditions). An individual who is assigned a SCFL shall hold an EGNP in their own name. The master designated on the single vessel corporation SCFL is the individual eligible to receive the EGNP. **15A NCAC 03O .0502(a)** (15A NCAC 03O .0506)

EGNP holders whose permit has been suspended or revoked shall contact the Division of Marine Fisheries Protected Resources staff at (252) 808-8067 or (252) 808-8088 within 5 calendar days of reinstatement of the EGNP to arrange an observer trip. **15A NCAC 03O .0502(a)** (15A NCAC 03O .0506)

It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any rules or proclamations issued in regards to the conditions set out in the federally issued ESA Section 10 Incidental Take Permits to reduce incidental takes in large- or small-mesh gill-net fisheries. **15A NCAC 03O .0502(a)** (15A NCAC 03O .0506)

It is unlawful for an EGNP holder to refuse or deny Division of Marine Fisheries observers a trip aboard their vessel to collect data or a trip using alternative platform to collect data. **15A NCAC 03O .0502(a)** (15A NCAC 03O .0506)

It is unlawful for an EGNP holder, as well as the master and crew members of the boat, to interfere with, or obstruct the observer in the course of collecting data or samples, which shall include refusal or failure to provide information on fishing gear parameters or to provide any captured finfish or sea turtle to division staff. **15A NCAC 03O .0502(a)** (15A NCAC 03O .0506)

It is unlawful for an EGNP holder, as well as the master and crew members of the boat, to harass the observer in the course of setting up trips, collecting data and samples, or during any other type of communication. Harassment shall be defined consistent with the federal regulations, 50 CFR §600.725(o), (t), and (u), and may be verbal or physical including, but not limited to, sexual connotations, intimidating, resisting, impeding, threatening, bribing, and coercion of observers. **15A NCAC 03O .0502(a)** (15A NCAC 03O .0506)

It is unlawful for an EGNP holder to avoid or mislead observers including but not limited to failure to return phone calls (regardless of whether or not the EGNP holder is actively fishing or not), failure to notify the Division of Marine Fisheries of a phone number change within 14 calendar days of such change, and providing incorrect information on fishing activity. **15A NCAC 03O .0502(a)** (15A NCAC 03O .0506)

It is unlawful to fail to provide a phone number that the EGNP holder can be reached. **15A NCAC 03O .0502(a)** (15A NCAC 03O .0506)

When the Division of Marine Fisheries determines an EGNP holder's boat does not meet the safety requirements to carry an observer, the EGNP holder will be notified and shall contact the Division of Marine Fisheries Protected Resources staff at (252) 808-8067 or (252) 808-8088 within 5 calendar days to make arrangements for an alternative platform observer trip. **15A NCAC 03O.0502(a)** (15A NCAC 03O .0506)

It is unlawful to fail to comply with all observer notification system or call-in requirements set out by permit conditions, proclamations, and/or rule. **15A NCAC 03O.0502(a)** (15A NCAC 03O .0506)

It is unlawful to fail to report any sea turtle or sturgeon captured. Reports shall be made within 24 hours of the capture to the Division of Marine Fisheries at (252) 726-7021 or (800) 682-2632. Self-reported takes of sea turtles and sturgeon by fishermen fishing without an observer do not count toward the allowable takes in the Incidental Take Permits. **15A NCAC 03O.0502(a)** (15A NCAC 03O .0506)

I understand that any violation of permit conditions may result in suspension or revocation of the permit.

Signature: _____
 Permittee signature (**must be signed to be valid**) _____ Date _____