



**North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Marine Fisheries  
RECREATIONAL COMMERCIAL GEAR LICENSE (RCGL) APPLICATION  
INSTRUCTIONS  
(REV 2024-12)**

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 a non-exempt gill net (anchored gill nets) 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 non-exempt gill nets (anchored gill nets).
  - An EGNP is required for gill-net fisheries that are covered by the ITP. Previously, the ITP, EGNP, and other related DMF documents used the term "anchored gill nets", while fisheries exempt from these requirements were termed run-around, strike, or drop gill nets and drift gill nets. With the new ITP, definitions of exempted gill-net fisheries were updated. The revised definitions offer greater consistency with the description of gear in the ITP application, and are as follows:
    - Run-around, strike, or drop gill nets: gill nets that are actively fished by either (1) using the boat to run a net around a school of fish, creating a closed circle, or (2) using the boat after the net is set to herd fish into the net without delay, whereby soak time does not exceed 30 minutes from the end of the set to the beginning of the haul.
    - Drift gill nets: gill nets that are used to capture fish while being moved along by water currents whereby the net stays attached to the vessel from deployment through retrieval.

Non-exempt gill nets are those that do not meet these definitions, and the term "non-exempt" replaces the previously used description of "anchored". As such, they are regulated, in part, by the EGNP.



**North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Marine Fisheries  
RECREATIONAL COMMERCIAL GEAR LICENSE (RCGL) APPLICATION  
INSTRUCTIONS – CONT'D  
(REV 2024-12)**

**Fees:**

- \$70.00 North Carolina Residents + \$1 transaction fee
- \$500.00 Non-Residents + \$1 transaction fee
- Method of payment: Personal check, Money Order, Cashier check, Cash (In person only), or Credit Card (In person only). Make payable to North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. There will be a \$35.00 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 2024-12)

Select One: ☐ New Application ☐ Renew ☐ Update

Will you be using a non-exempt gill net (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 <input type="checkbox"/> Check if same as physical address	
	M / F			
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 non-exempt gill nets (anchored gill nets) in estuarine waters.** This includes the sounds and rivers, but not the ocean. Non-exempt gill nets (anchored gill 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 non-exempt gill nets (anchored gill nets) in the sounds and rivers for a given week.

**If the fisher ONLY fishes drift, runaround, strike, and/or drop gill nets and NOT non-exempt gill nets (anchored gill nets) (set, fixed, stationary), 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.

The Observer Trip Scheduling System (OTSS) is live as of February 2025. Fishermen will use either a call in system (833-487-8747 or 833-ITP-TRIP) or a web portal (<https://dmf.ncdenr.org/OTSSPublic/>) to submit plans to fish for the following week. Fishermen will be required to use the system to declare their fishing plans for the following week (E.g. Report in 2/17-2/19 for their intent to fish 2/24-3/2). All Estuarine Gill Net Permit (EGNP) holders who intend to fish non-exempted gill nets will be required to use this system in order to fish.

The system has a weekly schedule of contacts. On Mondays and Wednesdays, fishermen who hold a current product year EGNP will receive reminders to use OTSS to declare their fishing plans. They will receive these reminders through a phone call, text, and email. On Thursday, selections will occur that will determine whether the fisherman will be selected to be observed by Observer Program or FM staff. After selections have been made, the OTSS will notify fishermen using the same opt in settings that the reminders use. There needs to be at least one opt in checked so that fishermen are receiving their selection message.

If fishermen want more information they can visit, <https://www.deq.nc.gov/OTSS>, or call the observer program's coordinator, Christina Bland, at 252-515-5625.



**North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality**  
**Division of Marine Fisheries**  
**ESTUARINE GILL NET PERMIT APPLICATION**  
**(REV 2024-12)**

An Estuarine Gill Net Permit is required for anyone setting anchored gill nets in estuarine Internal Joint and Coastal (estuarine) waters that are covered by the Division of Marine Fisheries Incidental Take Permit issued by National Marine Fisheries Service under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act. This requirement applies to gill nets used beginning September 1, 2014, whether for commercial or recreational purposes except gill nets that are exempted from the Incidental Take Permit defined as follows.

- Run-around, strike, or drop gill nets: gill nets that are actively fished by either (1) using the boat to run a net around a school of fish, creating a closed circle, or (2) using the boat after the net is set to herd fish into the net without delay, whereby soak time does not exceed 30 minutes from the end of the set to the beginning of the haul.
- Drift gill nets: gill nets that are used to capture fish while being moved along by water currents whereby the net stays attached to the vessel from deployment through retrieval.

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-2-2025 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
<b>Check One:</b> 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Management Units Fished** (A, B, C, D1, D2, E) \*

Fished Most Frequently	_____
Next Most Frequently	_____
Next Most Frequently	_____
Next Most Frequently	_____
Next Most Frequently	_____

\*Refer to attached maps

**Gill Net Mesh Size Fished \***

- ☐ Less than 4 inches stretched (small mesh)
- ☐ Greater than or equal to 5 inches stretched (large mesh)
- ☐ Both

\*As defined by NCDMF's Sea Turtle Incidental Take Permit



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

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.
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 2024-12)**

<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b>	<b>Year</b> _____
PID # _____	
PERMIT # _____	
_____	
_____	
DMF Staff: _____	

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

- I, \_\_\_\_\_ certify that:
1. 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.
  2. 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.
  3. For permits, I certify that:
    - a) 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.
    - b) 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.
    - c) 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.
  4. 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>.
  5. 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 general or 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**

- (a) It shall be unlawful to violate any permit condition.
- (b) The following conditions shall apply to all permits issued by the Fisheries Director:
  - (1) it shall be unlawful to:
    - (A) operate under the permit except in areas, at times, and under conditions specified on the permit.
    - (B) 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.
    - (C) operate under a permit without having a current picture identification in possession and ready at hand for inspection.
    - (D) refuse to allow inspection and sampling of a permitted activity by an agent of the Division of Marine Fisheries.
    - (E) fail to provide complete and accurate information requested by the Division in connection with the permitted activity.
    - (F) provide false information in the application for initial issuance, renewal, or transfer of a permit.
    - (G) 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.
    - (H) fail to provide reports within the timeframe required by the specific permit conditions.
    - (I) 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.
    - (J) assign or transfer permits issued by the Fisheries Director, except for a Pound Net Set Permit as authorized by 15A NCAC 03J .0504.
  - (2) 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:
    - (A) specify time;
    - (B) specify area;
    - (C) specify means and methods;
    - (D) specify record keeping and reporting requirements;
    - (E) specify season;
    - (F) specify species;
    - (G) specify size;
    - (H) specify quantity;
    - (I) specify disposition of resources;
    - (J) specify marking requirements; and
    - (K) specify harvest conditions.
  - (3) 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 2024-12)

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 Permit Conservation Plan.

The Division of Marine Fisheries has received a new Federal Endangered Species Action Section 10 Incidental Take Permit (ITP; Number 27106) from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) authorizing a limited number of incidental takes of threatened or endangered sea turtles, and endangered sturgeon in estuarine gill net fisheries with the exceptions of runaround/strike/drop and drift gill nets as described below:

1. Runaround, strike or drop gill nets – gill nets that are actively fished by either (1) using the boat to run a net around a school of fish, creating a closed circle, or (2) using the boat after the net is set to herd fish into the net without delay, whereby soak time does not exceed 30 minutes from the end of the set to the beginning of the haul.
2. Drift gill nets – gill nets that are used to capture fish while being moved along by water currents whereby the net stays attached to the vessel from deployment through retrieval.

The EGNP meets related permit requirements of the Incidental Take Permit (15A NCAC 03H .0103(a), 03O .0506). The ITP includes a Conservation Plan that outlines measures to monitor, avoid & minimize, and mitigate interactions with these species in gill-net fisheries covered by the ITP. As part of the Conservation Plan, fishermen must apply for and receive an EGNP in order to use commercial or recreational gill nets covered by the ITP.

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 and Joint Waters, except as described above for runaround/strike/drop or drift gills nets. **15A NCAC 03O .0502(a)** (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) 515-5625 or (252) 515-5624 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 Permit to reduce incidental takes of sea turtles and sturgeon in large- or small-mesh gill-net fisheries covered by the ITP. **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 of Marine Fisheries 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(b)(1)** (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)



