



# Observer Trip Scheduling System (OTSS)

*Testing Fall 2023 / Full Rollout Fall 2024*

**Do you fish anchored\* gill nets in the sound and rivers?  
If so, this is important!**

To meet the requirements of the Federally issued Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) for interactions with sea turtles and Atlantic Sturgeon in the estuarine anchored gill-net fishery, the NC Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) must obtain 7-10% observer coverage of large-mesh and 1-2% observer coverage of small-mesh gill-net trips. All participants in these fisheries must hold an Estuarine Gill Net Permit (EGNP). A condition of this permit requires that fishermen allow the DMF to observe fishing trips when requested. To help schedule trips for observation and to ensure compliance with the Federal permits, the DMF is developing a call-in system, the Observer Trip Scheduling System (OTSS).



## Step 1

Fishermen call OTSS weekly to report NEXT week's planned fishing activity



## Step 2



Computer randomly selects fishermen to be observed

## Step 3

OTSS alerts fishermen if they are selected to be observed or not



## Step 4



Selected fisherman calls assigned observer to schedule trip(s)

\*Anchored, set, fixed, stationary nets. Excludes drift and runaround gill nets.