



# Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM): What Does It Mean?

## Background

Fishermen sometimes catch and discard animals they do not want, cannot sell, or are not allowed to keep, creating what we know as bycatch. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires that all federally managed fisheries have a standardized bycatch reporting methodology (SBRM) to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in each fishery.

The 2015 SBRM Omnibus Amendment states: “Generally, an SBRM can be viewed as the combination of sampling design, data collection procedures, and analyses used to estimate bycatch in multiple fisheries. The SBRM provides a structured approach for evaluating the effectiveness of the allocation of fisheries observer effort across multiple fisheries to monitor a large number of species.”

## How do we monitor bycatch?

NOAA Fisheries collects commercial fisheries bycatch information in several ways: human observers on fishing vessels, electronic technologies that record and transmit data, logbook information that fishermen are required to record, and voluntary surveys of fishermen.

The Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) trains and deploys fishery observers who are our eyes and ears on the water. They collect data on kept and discarded catch from commercial fishing and processing vessels. Observers are professionally trained biological scientists who collect economic and biological data on fish caught onboard commercial fishing vessels in the Northeast region from Maine to North Carolina.

## Why does coverage vary across fleets?

Without an observer on every trip, we need to use information from observed trips to estimate the discards on unobserved trips. If the amount discarded by trips of a certain fleet is highly variable, discard estimates on unobserved trips will be more uncertain within that fleet. Therefore, a higher observer coverage rate may be required for that fleet. In order to have confidence in our total estimated bycatch of each federally managed species, there needs to be sufficient levels of observer coverage. Generally, more observer coverage yields a more precise estimate of total discards.

## How does the SBRM factor into how monitoring coverage is assigned?

Each year the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) uses the data collected by the NEFOP and Industry-Funded Scallop (IFS) Program to complete the annual SBRM analyses that estimate bycatch. These analyses are also used to determine the amount of observer coverage needed to monitor the Northeast’s 14 federally managed fish species groups and sea turtles.

Across the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions, the SBRM process partitions commercial trips into fleets based on the type of fishing gear, access area, trip category, mesh size, and port region. Based on the SBRM analyses and available funding, we assign observer coverage that will help estimate bycatch in commercial fisheries as precisely as possible.

## Are there different monitoring programs?

The federally funded NEFOP comprehensively collects bycatch data broadly across fleets. There are also fishery-specific industry-funded programs that are more focused, such as the groundfish sectors At-Sea Monitoring and IFS Programs. Sampling design and requirements differ between each program based on their specific data collection goals.

## Questions?

For questions and concerns, please contact [ne.observerprogram@noaa.gov](mailto:ne.observerprogram@noaa.gov).

# Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) Limited Trips



## NOAA FISHERIES

National Marine Fisheries Service

Northeast Fisheries Science Center



Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), all Category I, Category II, or Annual Determination (AD) fishery participants must carry an observer on fishing trips when requested (16 USC §1387 (c)(3)(B) and 50 CFR §222.402). The MMPA categories, called the List of Fisheries (LOF), are determined annually based on the level of incidental injury or mortality of marine mammals. The AD fishery listings last for 5 years and are based on the potential interactions with sea turtle species.

Observer programs are a vital component of the fishery management process because they are one of the best ways to gather information on the status of marine resources.

### Observer Data Are Used To:

- Track the effectiveness of gear modifications.
- Determine whether appropriate conservation measures are in place for commercial fisheries to reduce bycatch of marine mammals and sea turtles.
- Identify fishing patterns.
- Identify ways for fishermen to efficiently reduce unwanted bycatch.
- Document interactions between marine mammals, sea birds, and sea turtles to determine severity of injuries.

### Categorization of Observed Fisheries In The Northeast (2023 List of Fisheries):

<u>Category I Fisheries</u>	<u>Category II Fisheries</u>	<u>AD Fisheries</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-Atlantic gillnet</li> <li>• Northeast sink gillnet</li> <li>• Northeast/ Mid-Atlantic American lobster trap/pot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chesapeake Bay inshore gillnet</li> <li>• North Carolina inshore gillnet</li> <li>• Northeast anchored float gillnet</li> <li>• Northeast drift gillnet</li> <li>• Mid-Atlantic mid-water trawl</li> <li>• Mid-Atlantic bottom trawl</li> <li>• Northeast mid-water trawl (including pair trawl)</li> <li>• Northeast bottom trawl</li> <li>• Mid-Atlantic mixed species trap/pot</li> <li>• Mid-Atlantic blue crab trap/pot</li> <li>• Mid-Atlantic menhaden purse seine</li> <li>• Mid-Atlantic haul/beach seine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-Atlantic gillnet (2023-2027)</li> <li>• Chesapeake Bay inshore gillnet (2020-2025)</li> <li>• Long Island inshore gillnet (2020-2025)</li> <li>• Gulf of Mexico menhaden purse seine (2023-2027)</li> <li>• Southeastern U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl (2020-2025)</li> <li>• Gulf of Mexico mixed species fish trawl (2020-2025)</li> </ul>

For a complete list of ALL MMPA Category I, II, and III fisheries, visit:

[https://](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-protection-act-list-fisheries)

[www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-protection-act-list-fisheries](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-protection-act-list-fisheries)

For more information on the Annual Determination, visit:

[https://](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/bycatch/sea-turtle-observer-requirement-annual-determination)

[www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/bycatch/sea-turtle-observer-requirement-annual-determination](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/bycatch/sea-turtle-observer-requirement-annual-determination)

### Limited Observer Trips

- Monitor for protected species interactions while the net is in the water.
- Observers weigh and take lengths on kept catch after the last haul of the day is completed.
- Only protected species interactions, tagged fish, sharks, sturgeons, and other large pelagic species are accounted for and sampled on all hauls.

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### Complete Observer Trips

- Observed gillnet trips monitor and account for all catch.
- Kept and discarded catch is weighed and lengthed on most hauls.
- Protected species sampling still occurs on all hauls.



As a fishery participant, your cooperation is important to help NOAA Fisheries collect the most complete, unbiased, and relevant data possible. Good data prevent over-regulation and ensure the sustainability of our fisheries and the conservation of protected species populations.



[Federal Requirements for Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels](#)



[Commercial Fishing Vessel Checklist Generator](#)

June 2023

### How Will I Be Notified to Carry an Observer?

Fishermen and fishing industry representatives will be notified in advance, whenever possible, that observer coverage will be required. Fishermen may be notified that they have been selected for observer coverage either by letter, phone, or in person by NOAA Fisheries personnel or a designated certified observer service provider. Northeast Multispecies permit holders with a pre-trip notification requirement will be selected for observer coverage through the PTNS.

If selected to carry an observer, a vessel may not engage in any Category I, II, or AD fishing operations unless the observer is aboard. Doing so may result in the assessment of civil penalties, per 50 CFR § 648.14 and 50 CFR § 229.7.

### What are My Responsibilities When Carrying an Observer?

- Provide the observer with living quarters, meals, and amenities comparable to a crew member.
- Allow the observer access to areas of the vessel and gear necessary to conduct sampling and collect required data.
  - Allow the observer access to communication equipment and view of navigation equipment as necessary to perform their duties.
- Allow the observer to sample, retain and store marine mammal specimens, other protected species, and/or target and non-target species specimens.
- Provide true vessel locations by latitude and longitude upon request by the observer.
- Provide the observer with vessel trip report serial numbers and vessel monitoring system fishing activity codes, if requested.
- Notify the observer when commercial fishing operations are to begin and end.
- Allow for the safe embarking and disembarking of the observer.

### What are the Safety Requirements for Carrying an Observer?

Observers are required to review emergency protocols with the vessel operator and complete a pre-trip safety check of the vessel's emergency equipment to ensure compliance. Observers must verify that the equipment, registrations, and certificates meet the requirements before departing on a trip.

- All vessels MUST have a current U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination decal, regardless of vessel size. An observer may not depart on a trip selected for coverage until the decal is up to date. Visit [www.fishsafe.info](http://www.fishsafe.info) for more information regarding the USCG decal and maritime safety for commercial fishing vessels.
- Observers also check for personal floatation devices/immersion suits, ring buoys or other allowable floatation, distress signals, and when required, check for fire extinguishing equipment and emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB).
- If your vessel requires a survival craft, there must be adequate room to accommodate an observer.

For more information or questions regarding observer coverage requirements, visit <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/fisheries-observers/fisheries-monitoring-operations-northeast> or email: [ne.observerprogram@noaa.gov](mailto:ne.observerprogram@noaa.gov)



# NOAA FISHERIES

## Federal permits requiring observer coverage:

- Atlantic sea scallops
- Northeast multispecies
- Monkfish
- Skates
- Atlantic mackerel
- Squid
- Butterfish
- Scup
- Black seabass
- Bluefish
- Spiny dogfish
- Atlantic herring
- Tilefish
- Atlantic deep-sea red crab
- Summer flounder (moratorium permit)
- American lobster
- Atlantic surfclam
- Ocean quahog

Any questions about the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program or these requirements should be directed to Katherine McArdle, Branch Chief, Fisheries Monitoring Operations Branch (774) 392-5308

## Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) Vessel Selection

### If selected to carry an observer am I required to take one?

**Yes, as a federal fishery permit holder (see list of permits to left) or Category I or II fishery participant, you are required to take an observer when selected.**

Depending on your permits, category or fishing location this requirement is mandated under one of the following Acts: the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) or the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

### Is there a limit to how many times a month I can be selected to carry an observer?

**No, there are no laws or regulations that limit or specify the number of times a single vessel may be selected for observer coverage within a given month\*.**

However, the goal is to collect representative data without overburdening an individual vessel. Every effort is made to spread coverage out evenly among all vessels actively fishing in the same fleet (for the purpose of this sea day schedule the fleet you fish in is defined by the gear type and mesh size you are using as well as the region you are fishing in i.e. Large mesh (>5.5") Otter Trawl in New York).

*\* With the exception of LAGC IFQ vessels (See (50 CFR 648.11(g)(2)(ii))*

### How does the observer service provider decide how many times a month to select a vessel for observer coverage?

The NOAA Fisheries, Northeast Fisheries Science Center generates a yearly sea day schedule for the NEFOP with a given number of days at sea that need to be observed every month in active fishing fleets. NOAA Fisheries partners with an observer service provider to complete this sea day schedule. The NEFOP provider attempts to achieve the days at sea tasked, while still spreading coverage throughout the fleet. For some fleets, it is not possible to accomplish the number of days at sea the NEFOP is tasked with without covering vessels multiple times per month. An example:

- *The NEFOP sea day schedule requires 30 sea days for the month of March on trawl vessels that are using mesh < 5" (small mesh) in a given region.*
- *There are only 10 day trip vessels in March that are using small mesh trawl in that region.*
- *Each vessel will have to be covered 3X to get the 30 days of coverage needed.*

Additionally, if a vessel fishes in multiple fleets on different trips (such as a small mesh trawl and a large mesh trawl trip) they may be selected for coverage for both fleets.

### How many days are tasked to the fleets I fish in each month?

The NEFOP sea day schedule shows the breakdown of all of the days tasked for each fleet throughout the year and can be found at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/data/annual-discard-reports-northeast>. The NEFOP can provide a summary of sea days tasked to the fleets you participate in upon request.

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Your cooperation and assistance in this program is greatly appreciated.  
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### If I'm fishing in state waters am I required to take a federal observer?

Yes, if you hold any of the federal permits listed to the left or are a Category I or II fishery participant, you are required (under the MSA and MMPA) to take an observer, once selected, if you are fishing within waters of the United States (defined in the MSA as "all the States thereof"). It does not matter whether you are fishing in state or federal waters.

### How will I be notified of my selection?

You will be contacted by a NMFS employee, designated contractor or observer acting on behalf of the Regional Administrator, in person, by telephone, or in writing and notified that your vessel has been selected to carry an observer. In some situations you may be selected dockside shortly in advance of a fishing trip.

### What authority does NOAA have to place observers on my vessel?

NOAA's authority to place observers on your vessel is found in a number of federal statutes, including the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act, and their implementing regulations. For example, federal Magnuson-Stevens Act regulations at 50 CFR § 648.14 (e) state that:

It is unlawful for any person to do any of the following:

- (2) **Refuse to carry onboard a vessel an observer or sea sampler if requested to do so** by the Regional Administrator or the Regional Administrator's designee.
- (3) Fail to provide information, notification, accommodations, access, or reasonable assistance to either a NMFS-approved observer or sea sampler conducting his or her duties aboard a vessel as specified in § 648.11.

Similar requirements are found in regulations implemented under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (see language below) and the Endangered Species Act. In addition, as a condition of your federal fishing permit, you must carry an observer when contacted by a NOAA employee or designated contractor.

### 50 CFR § 229.7 (c) (1)

(c) *Observer requirements for participants in Category I and II fisheries.*

- (1) If requested by NMFS or by a designated contractor providing observer services to NMFS, a vessel owner/operator must take aboard an observer to accompany the vessel on fishing trips.

### For a complete list of Category I or II fisheries visit:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-protection-act-list-fisheries#lists-of-fisheries>

**It is a violation of federal regulations to fail to carry an observer on any fishing trip when the vessel has been selected. A violation may result in the assessment of civil penalties.**

**For more information on the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program please visit our website at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/fisheries-observers/fisheries-monitoring-operations-northeast>**

For the full text of these regulations visit:

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**Magnuson Stevens Act:**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/laws-policies#magnuson-stevens-act>  
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**Marine Mammal Protection Act:**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/laws-policies#marine-mammal-protection-act>  
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**Endangered Species Act:**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/laws-policies#endangered-species-act>  
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Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) Sea Day Schedule, April 2023 - March 2024 - Version 1

Ref #	Source	Fishery Description	Region	Geographic Area	Quarter 2 - 2023			Quarter 3 - 2023			Quarter 4 - 2023			Quarter 1 - 2024			Total Tasked
					APR 2023 Tasked	MAY 2023 Tasked	JUN 2023 Tasked	JUL 2023 Tasked	AUG 2023 Tasked	SEP 2023 Tasked	OCT 2023 Tasked	NOV 2023 Tasked	DEC 2023 Tasked	JAN 2024 Tasked	FEB 2024 Tasked	MAR 2024 Tasked	
0087	SBRM	Longline, Mid-Atlantic Mix*	MA	Mid-Atlantic		23			23			23			23	92	
0083	SBRM	Longline, New England Mix*	NE	New England		3			5			4			0	12	
0623	SBRM	Handline, Mid-Atlantic Mix*	MA	Mid-Atlantic		3			4			4			3	14	
0624	SBRM	Handline, New England Mix*	NE	New England		4			7			4			0	15	
0506	SBRM	Otter Trawl Small/Medium Mesh (<5.5"), Mid-Atlantic Mix	MA	Mid-Atlantic		325			524			432			202	1483	
0508	SBRM	Otter Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5"), Mid-Atlantic Mix	MA	Mid-Atlantic		55			99			55			35	244	
0505	SBRM	Otter Trawl Small/Medium Mesh (<5.5"), New England Mix	NE	New England		110			138			111			48	407	
0507	SBRM	Otter Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5"), New England Mix	NE	New England		14			33			18			12	77	
0753	SBRM	Otter Trawl, Large Mesh Belly Panel, Small/Medium Mesh (<5.5"), New England Mix	NE	New England		16			19			10			6	51	
0754	SBRM	Otter Trawl, Large Mesh Belly Panel, Large Mesh, (>=5.5"), New England Mix	NE	New England		0			11			0			0	11	
0715	SBRM	Twin Trawl Small/Medium Mesh (<5.5"), Mid-Atlantic Mix*	MA	Mid-Atlantic		10			10			9			11	40	
0755	SBRM	Twin Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5"), Mid-Atlantic Mix	MA	Mid-Atlantic		14			0			12			14	40	
0756	SBRM	Twin Trawl Small/Medium Mesh (<5.5"), New England Mix	NE	New England		0			0			19			25	44	
0082	SBRM	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5.5") (complete), Mid-Atlantic Mix*	MA	Mid-Atlantic		3			3			4			3	13	
0037	SBRM	Gillnet Large Mesh (5.5-7.99") (complete), Mid-Atlantic Mix	MA	Mid-Atlantic		26			10			40			17	93	
0031	SBRM	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (complete), Mid-Atlantic Mix*	MA	Mid-Atlantic		3			3			3			4	13	
0736	SBRM	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5.5") (complete), New England Mix	NE	New England		3			4			0			0	7	
0562	SBRM	Gillnet Large Mesh (5.5-7.99") (complete), New England Mix*	NE	New England		0			4			0			0	4	
0563	SBRM	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (complete), New England Mix	NE	New England		8			4			5			6	23	
0069	SBRM	Purse Seine, New England Mix*	NE	New England		3			4			3			0	10	
0569	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Fish, Mid-Atlantic Mix*	MA	Mid-Atlantic		3			4			3			3	13	
0565	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Fish, New England Mix*	NE	New England		3			6			4			0	13	
0566	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Conch, Mid-Atlantic Mix*	MA	Mid-Atlantic		3			3			3			3	12	
0518	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Conch, New England Mix*	NE	New England		4			4			4			0	12	
0567	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Lobster, Mid-Atlantic Mix*	MA	Mid-Atlantic		5			6			5			4	20	
0572	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Lobster, New England Mix*	NE	New England		4			6			5			3	18	
0575	SBRM	Pot & Trap, Crab, New England Mix	NE	New England		26			26			26			27	105	
0713	SBRM	Ocean Quahog/Surfclam Dredge, Mid-Atlantic Mix	MA	Mid-Atlantic		13			13			11			10	47	
0757	SBRM	Ocean Quahog/Surfclam Dredge, New England Mix*	NE	New England		5			6			4			4	19	
<b>SBRM Subtotal</b>						<b>689</b>			<b>979</b>			<b>821</b>			<b>463</b>	<b>2952</b>	

Ref #	Source	Fishery Description	Region	Geographic Area	Quarter 2 - 2023			Quarter 3 - 2023			Quarter 4 - 2023			Quarter 1 - 2024			Total Tasked
					APR 2023 Tasked	MAY 2023 Tasked	JUN 2023 Tasked	JUL 2023 Tasked	AUG 2023 Tasked	SEP 2023 Tasked	OCT 2023 Tasked	NOV 2023 Tasked	DEC 2023 Tasked	JAN 2024 Tasked	FEB 2024 Tasked	MAR 2024 Tasked	
0763	MMPA	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (limited), New England Mix	NE	New England	23	20	20	3	1	1	1	3	10	6	6	18	112
0764	MMPA	Gillnet Large Mesh (5-7.99") (limited), New England Mix	NE	New England	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	8
0758	MMPA	Gillnet Large Mesh (5.5-7.99") (limited), NJ, DE, or MD, Ocean 0-200nm	MA	New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland	1	2	2	0	0	1	2	3	2	1	0	0	14
0759	MMPA	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (limited), NJ, DE, or MD, Ocean 0-200nm	MA	New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	7
0717	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Accomack County, VA, Bay	MA	Accomack County, VA	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
0744	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Accomack County, VA, Ocean	MA	Accomack County, VA	6	2	2	5	9	13	8	1	1	1	0	0	48
0760	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Charles City, VA, Bay	MA	Charles City, VA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
0719	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), City of Hampton, VA, Bay	MA	City of Hampton, VA	2	3	2	2	2	4	3	1	1	0	1	1	22
0714	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), City of Hampton, VA, Ocean	MA	City of Hampton, VA	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
0761	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Lancaster County, VA, Bay	MA	City of Hampton, VA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
0720	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Mathews County, VA, Bay	MA	Mathews County, VA	1	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	2	10
0721	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Northhampton County, VA, Bay	MA	Northhampton County, VA	0	1	1	1	1	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
0737	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Poquoson County, VA, Bay	MA	Poquoson County, VA	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
0738	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Poquoson County, VA, Ocean	MA	Poquoson County, VA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
0762	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), Suffolk City, VA, Bay	MA	City of Suffolk, VA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
0723	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), City of Virginia Beach, VA, Bay	MA	City of Virginia Beach, VA	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	4
0746	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), City of Virginia Beach, Ocean	MA	City of Virginia Beach, VA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
0725	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), York County, VA, Bay	MA	York County, VA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
0747	MMPA	Gillnet (limited), York County, VA, Ocean	MA	York County, VA	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
0727	MMPA	Gillnet Large Mesh (>=5") (limited), Dare County, NC, Ocean 0-3nm	MA	Dare County, NC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	4
0728	MMPA	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5") (limited), Dare County, NC, Ocean 3-200nm	MA	Dare County, NC	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	5
0729	MMPA	Gillnet Small Mesh (<5") (limited), Dare County, NC, Ocean 0-3nm	MA	Dare County, NC	2	2	3	3	2	5	6	2	2	1	0	1	29
<b>MMPA Subtotal</b>					<b>37</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>295</b>
0807	ESA	Gillnet Large/Extra Large (>=5") (limited), Ocean 0-3nm	MA	New Jersey	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	15
0808	ESA	Gillnet Large/Extra Large (>=5") (limited), Ocean 0-3nm	MA	Delaware	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	15
0809	ESA	Gillnet Large/Extra Large (>=5") (limited), Ocean 0-3nm	MA	Maryland	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	15
<b>ESA Subtotal</b>					<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Total</b>					<b>798</b>			<b>1077</b>			<b>903</b>			<b>514</b>			<b>3292</b>

\* Fleets with Pilot / Minimum Pilot coverage: provider should select ~ 1 trip per month when effort exists

Version 1 released on August 9, 2023

SBRM and MMPA allocated days tasked through PTNS, April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024					
1001	SBRM PTNS	Longline, New England Mix	NE	New England	2
1010	SBRM PTNS	Otter Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5"), Mid-Atlantic Mix	MA	Mid-Atlantic	12
1017	SBRM PTNS	Otter Trawl Small/Medium Mesh (<5.5"), New England Mix	NE	New England	18
1011	SBRM PTNS	Otter Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5"), New England Mix	NE	New England	199
1016	SBRM PTNS	Haddock Separator Trawl Large Mesh (>=5.5"), New England Mix	NE	New England	94
1024	SBRM PTNS	Gillnet Large Mesh (5.5-7.99") (complete), New England Mix	NE	New England	14
1025	SBRM PTNS	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (complete), New England Mix	NE	New England	59
1077	SBRM PTNS	Mid-Water Trawl, Paired/Single, New England Mix	NE	New England	23
<b>SBRM Subtotal</b>					<b>421</b>
1078	MMPA PTNS	Gillnet Large Mesh (5-7.99") (limited), New England Mix	NE	New England	20
1079	MMPA PTNS	Gillnet Extra Large Mesh (>=8") (limited), New England Mix	NE	New England	35
<b>MMPA Subtotal</b>					<b>55</b>
<b>Total</b>					<b>476</b>

Region	States in Region
New England Region (NE)	ME, NH, MA, RI
Mid-Atlantic Region (MA)	CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, NC

# Mid-Atlantic Gillnet Vessels

## 2023 NEFOP Observer Coverage Information

This informational sheet conveys Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) observer coverage information for federally permitted vessels fishing with gillnet gear in the states of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina for the 2023 NEFOP Sea Day Schedule year spanning from April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024.

### How much observer coverage can you expect each calendar quarter in 2023?

In 2023, there are 119 combined sea days tasked to the federal gillnet fleet in the Mid-Atlantic on the NEFOP Sea Day Schedule. NEFOP Sea Day Schedule observer coverage is tasked and achieved based on calendar quarter. The following graph illustrates the anticipated observer coverage on individual fishing vessels within the gillnet fleet in Mid-Atlantic states for each calendar quarter (2023 Apr-Jun, Jul-Sep, Oct-Nov & 2024 Jan-Mar). The estimated observer coverage is based on the number of days an individual vessel spends fishing within a calendar quarter using gillnet gear. The more days an individual vessel spends at sea, the higher the estimated expected observer coverage will be. If a vessel fishes in multiple gillnet fleets, they may be subject to additional observer coverage.

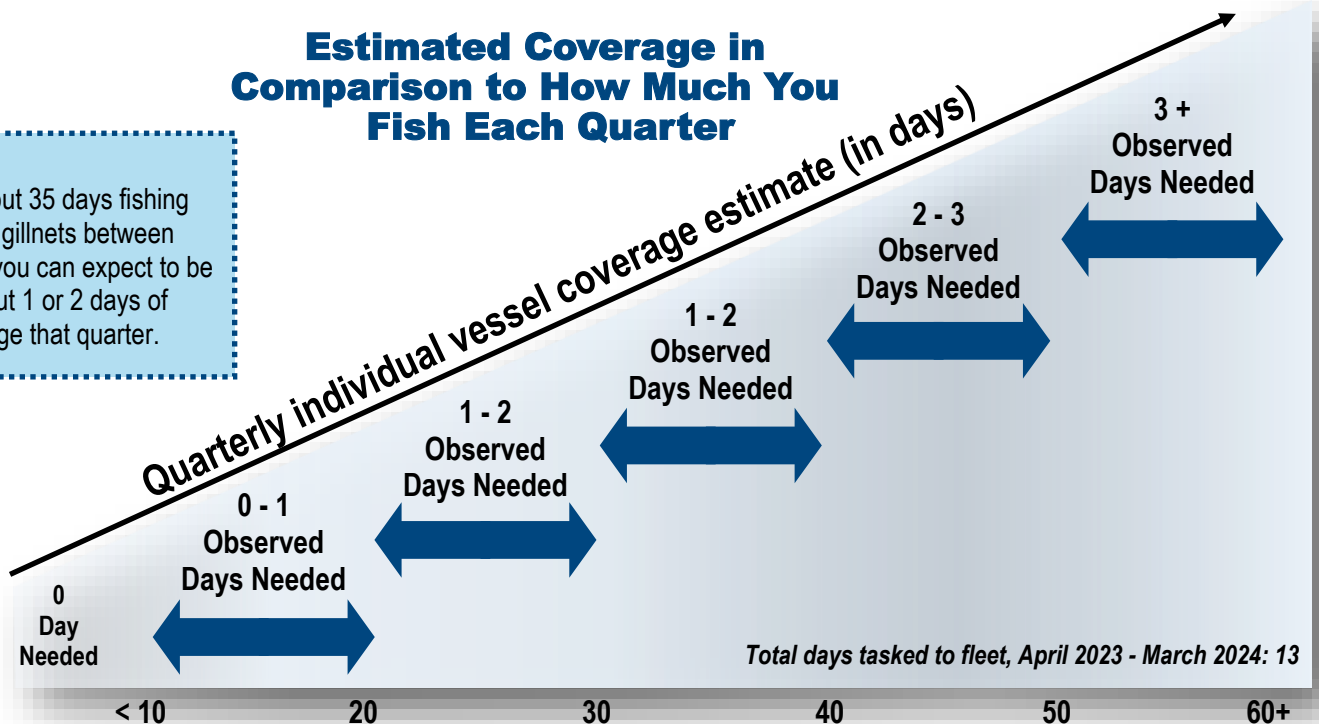
Gillnet vessels fishing in the states of NJ, MD, VA, and NC may be subject to additional "Limited" sampling trips where observers collect only limited data on the discarded catch. The 220 days tasked can be completed on both state and federally permitted gillnet vessels under authority of the MMPA and ESA.

## Small Mesh (< 5.5 inches) Gillnet

### Estimated Coverage in Comparison to How Much You Fish Each Quarter

#### For example:

If you spend about 35 days fishing with small mesh gillnets between April and June, you can expect to be selected for about 1 or 2 days of observer coverage that quarter.



Number of days you fish with small mesh gillnet gear in a calendar quarter

Estimates may change based on realized industry effort in 2023/2024

For questions on individual vessel coverage please contact :

Mid-Atlantic Operations Specialist, Bridget St.Amand, [Bridget.St.Amand@noaa.gov](mailto:Bridget.St.Amand@noaa.gov) or (508) 274-4859

\*These graphs depict an estimate of observer coverage needed to achieve NEFOP's total tasked number of SBRM funded sea days for the Mid-Atlantic gillnet fleets, it is based on an estimate of fleet activity from the previous calendar year and is subject to change depending on changes in industry effort.

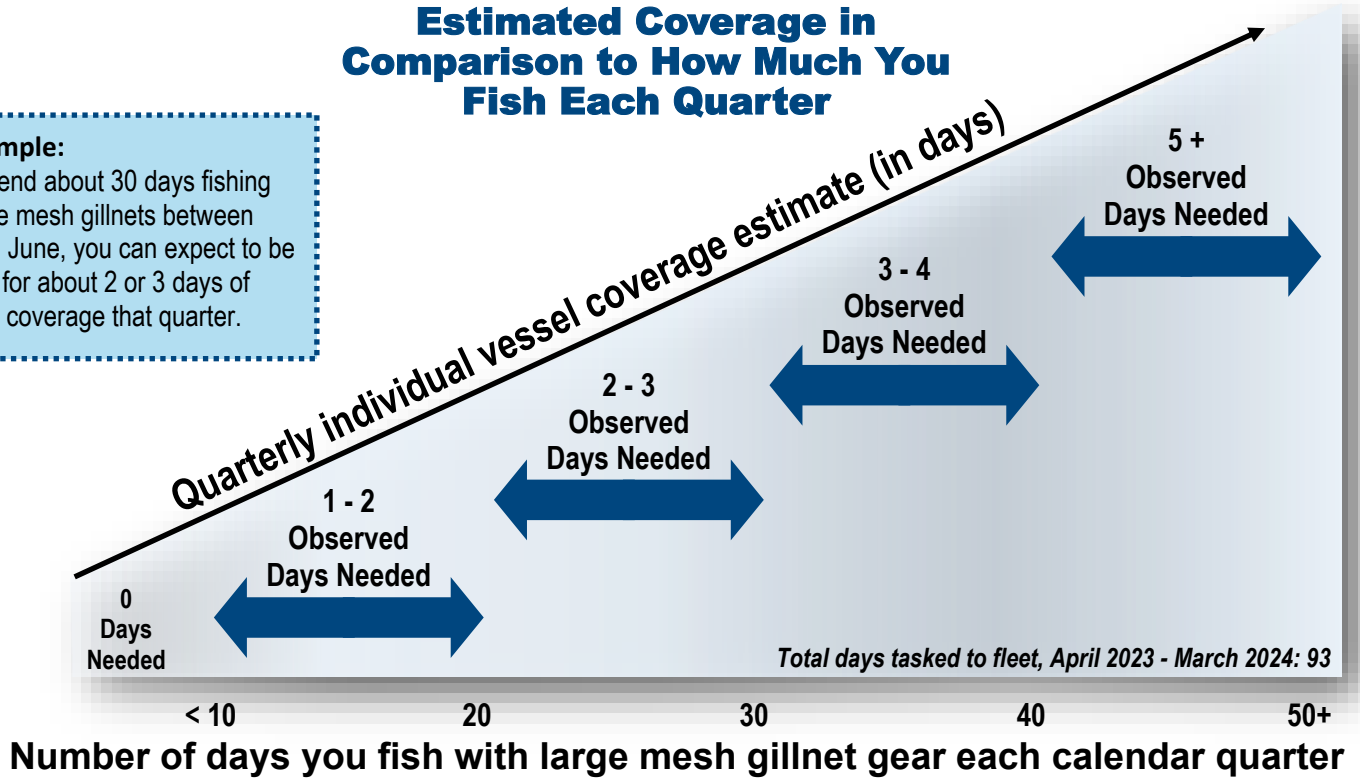


# Large Mesh (5.5 - 7.99 inches) Gillnet

## Estimated Coverage in Comparison to How Much You Fish Each Quarter

**For example:**

If you spend about 30 days fishing with large mesh gillnets between April and June, you can expect to be selected for about 2 or 3 days of observer coverage that quarter.

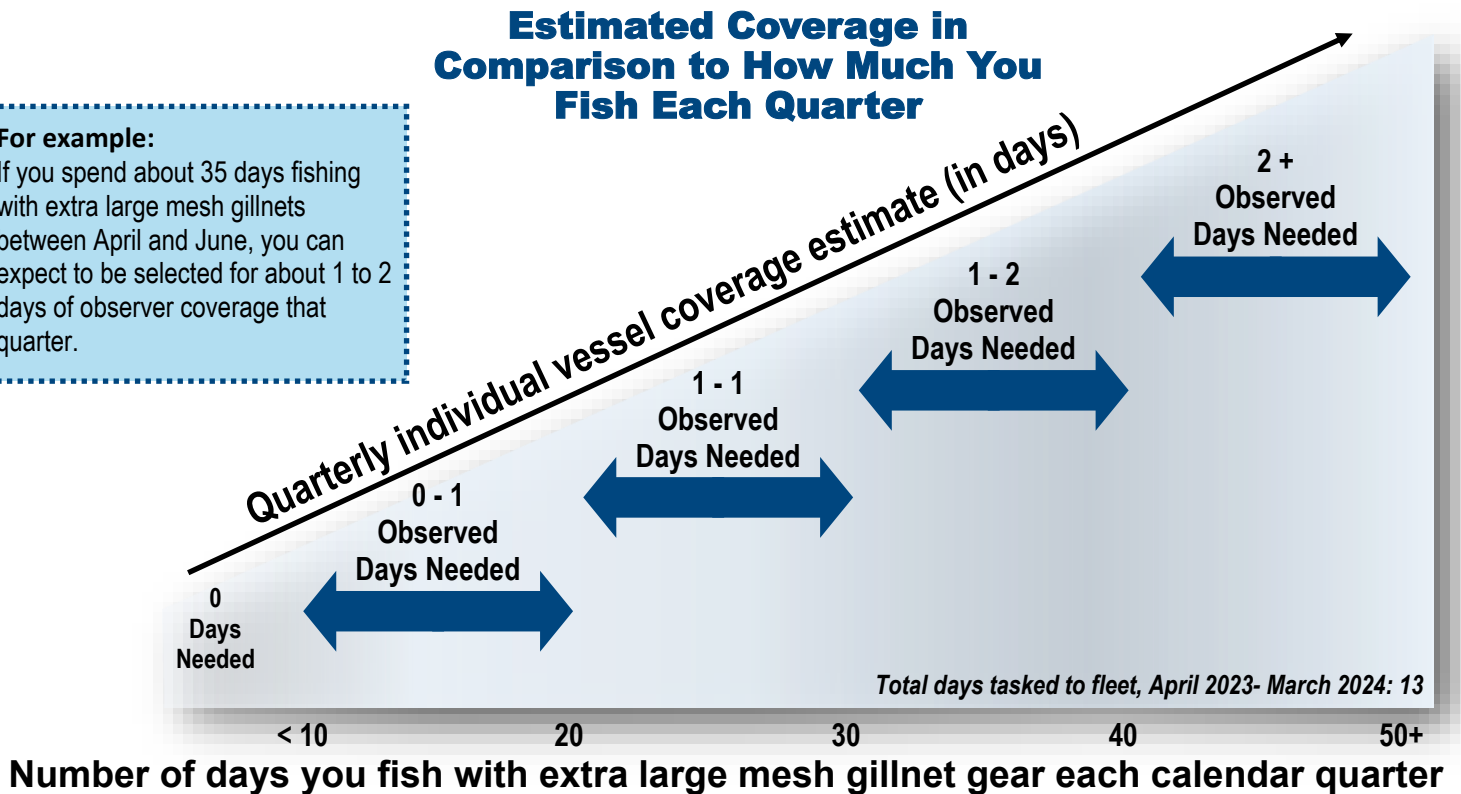


# Extra Large Mesh (>= 8.0 inches) Gillnet

## Estimated Coverage in Comparison to How Much You Fish Each Quarter

**For example:**

If you spend about 35 days fishing with extra large mesh gillnets between April and June, you can expect to be selected for about 1 to 2 days of observer coverage that quarter.



Estimates may change based on realized industry effort in 2023/2024

# Mid-Atlantic Large Mesh Trawl Vessels

## 2023 NEFOP Observer Coverage Information

This informational sheet conveys Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) observer coverage information for federally permitted vessels fishing with bottom trawl gear using mesh 5.5 inches or greater landing in the states of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina for the 2023 NEFOP Sea Day Schedule year spanning from April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024.

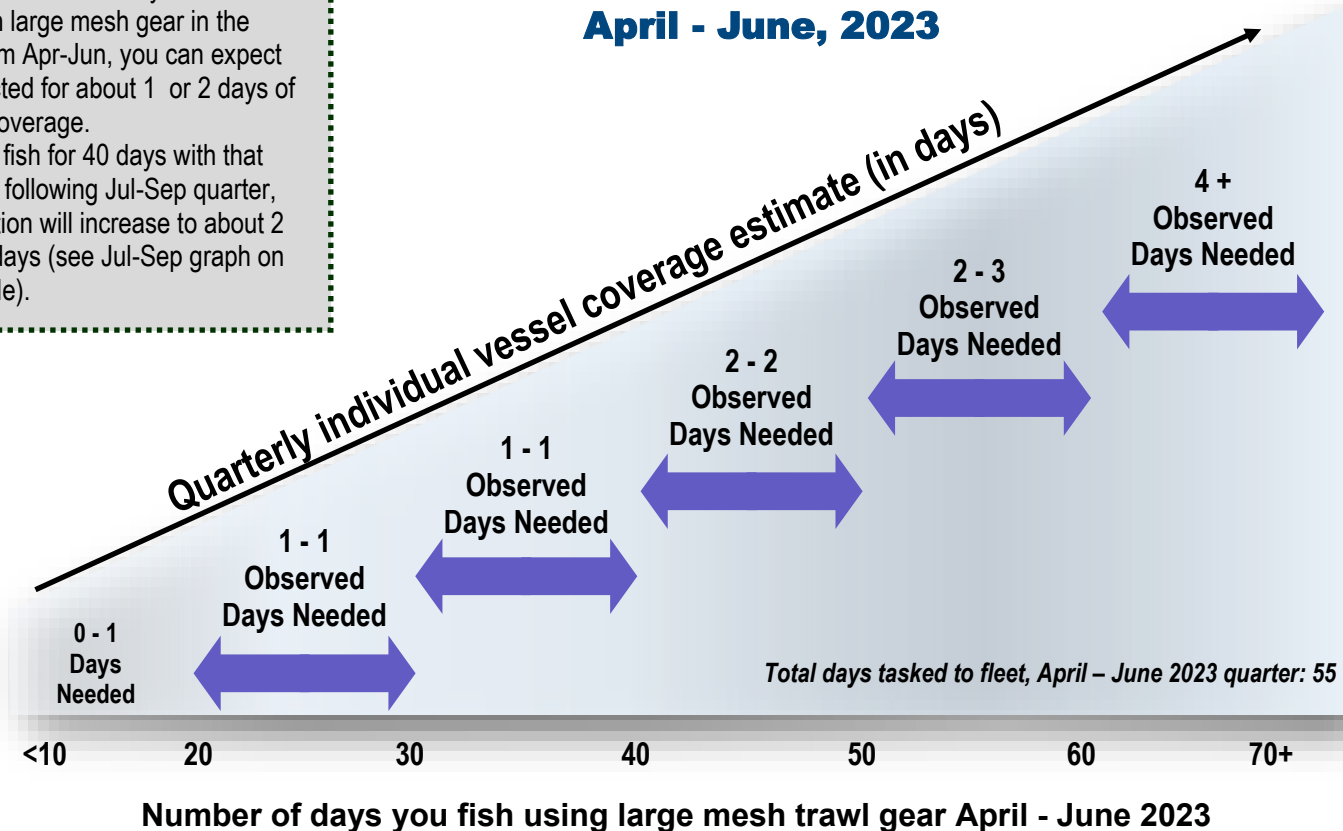
### How much observer coverage can you expect each calendar quarter in 2023?

In 2023, there are 244 sea days tasked to large mesh ( $\geq 5.5$  inches) bottom trawl fleets in the Mid-Atlantic on the NEFOP Sea Day Schedule. NEFOP Sea Day Schedule observer coverage is tasked and achieved based on calendar quarter. The following graph illustrates the anticipated observer coverage on individual fishing vessels within the large mesh trawl fleet in Mid-Atlantic states for each calendar quarter (2023 Apr-Jun, Jul-Sep, Oct-Nov & 2024 Jan-Mar). The estimated observer coverage is based on the number of days an individual vessel spends fishing within a calendar quarter using small mesh trawl gear. The more days an individual vessel spends at sea, the higher the estimated expected observer coverage will be.

#### For example:

If you spend about 40 days trawl fishing with large mesh gear in the quarter from Apr-Jun, you can expect to be selected for about 1 or 2 days of observer coverage. If you then fish for 40 days with that gear in the following Jul-Sep quarter, your selection will increase to about 2 observed days (see Jul-Sep graph on reverse side).

### Estimated Coverage in Comparison to How Much You Fish April - June, 2023



**Estimates may change based on realized industry effort in 2023/2024**

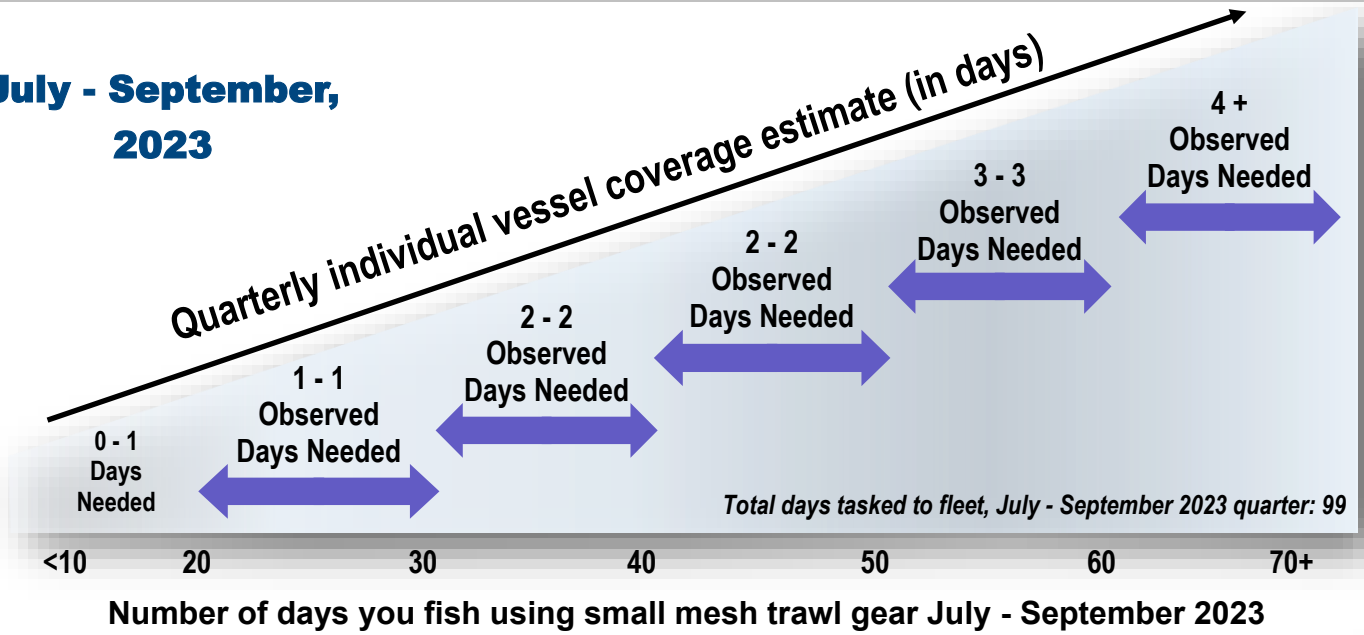
For questions on individual vessel coverage please contact:

Mid-Atlantic Operations Specialist, Bridget St.Amand, [Bridget.St.Amand@noaa.gov](mailto:Bridget.St.Amand@noaa.gov) or (508) 274-4859

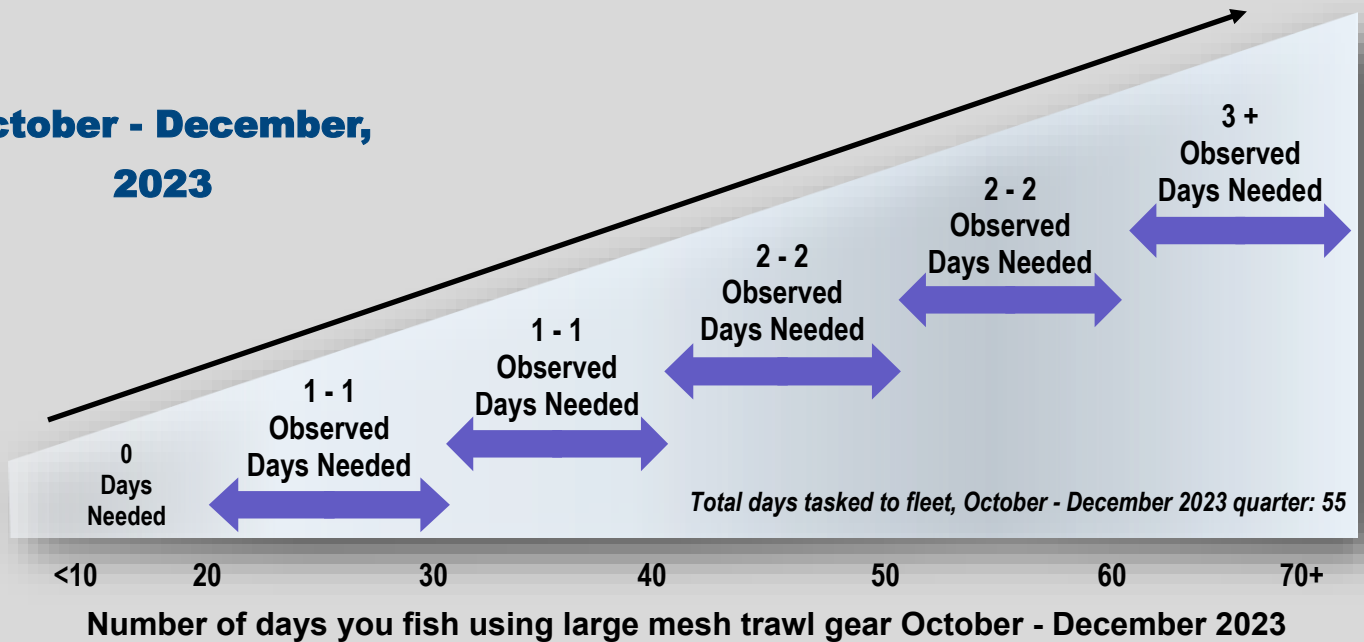
\*These graphs depict an estimate of observer coverage needed to achieve NEFOP's total tasked number of SBRM funded sea days for the Mid-Atlantic large mesh trawl fleet, it is based on an estimate of fleet activity from the previous calendar year and is subject to change depending on changes in industry effort. If a vessel fishes in multiple trawl fleets, they may be subject to additional observer coverage.

# Mid-Atlantic Large Mesh Trawl Estimated Quarterly Observer Coverage

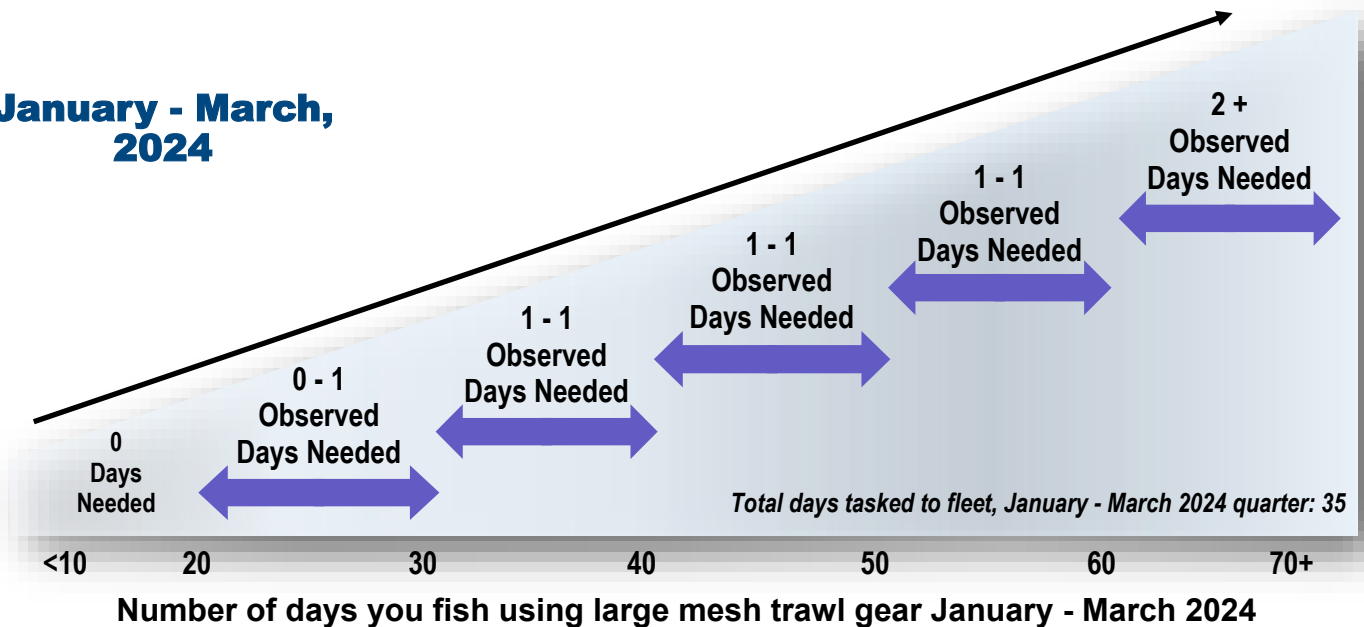
## July - September, 2023



## October - December, 2023



## January - March, 2024



**Estimates may change based on realized industry effort in 2023/2024**

# Mid-Atlantic Small Mesh Trawl Vessels

## 2023 NEFOP Observer Coverage Information

This informational sheet conveys Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) observer coverage information for federally permitted vessels fishing with bottom trawl gear using mesh less than 5.5 inches landing in the states of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina for the 2023 NEFOP Sea Day Schedule year spanning from April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024.

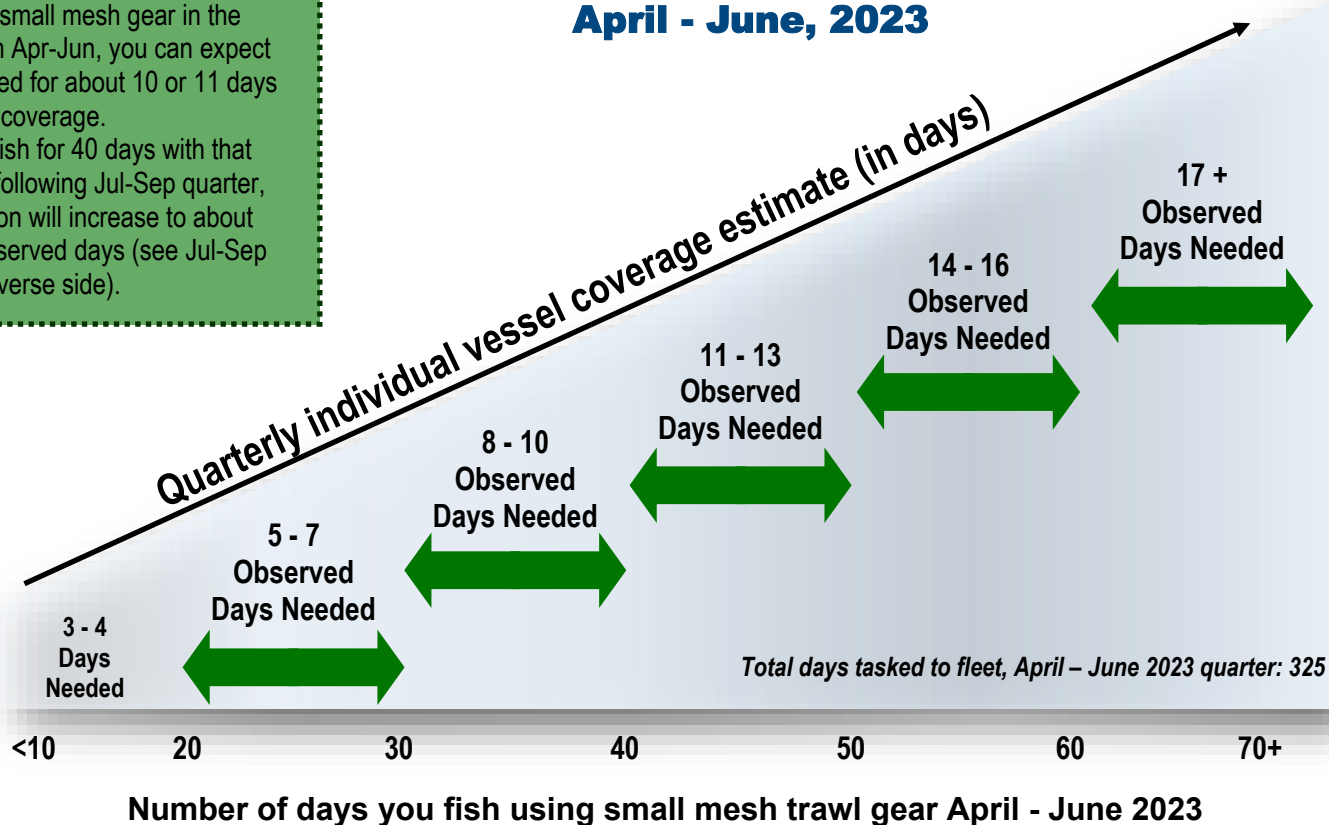
### How much observer coverage can you expect each calendar quarter in 2023?

In 2023, there are 1,483 sea days tasked to small mesh (< 5.5 inches) bottom trawl fleets in the Mid-Atlantic on the NEFOP Sea Day Schedule. NEFOP Sea Day Schedule observer coverage is tasked and achieved based on calendar quarter. The following graph illustrates the anticipated observer coverage on individual fishing vessels within the small mesh trawl fleet in Mid-Atlantic states for each calendar quarter (2023 Apr-Jun, Jul-Sep, Oct-Nov & 2024 Jan-Mar). The estimated observer coverage is based on the number of days an individual vessel spends fishing within a calendar quarter using small mesh trawl gear. The more days an individual vessel spends at sea, the higher the estimated expected observer coverage will be.

#### For example:

If you spend about 40 days trawl fishing with small mesh gear in the quarter from Apr-Jun, you can expect to be selected for about 10 or 11 days of observer coverage. If you then fish for 40 days with that gear in the following Jul-Sep quarter, your selection will increase to about 15 or 18 observed days (see Jul-Sep graph on reverse side).

### Estimated Coverage in Comparison to How Much You Fish April - June, 2023



**Estimates may change based on realized industry effort in 2023/2024**

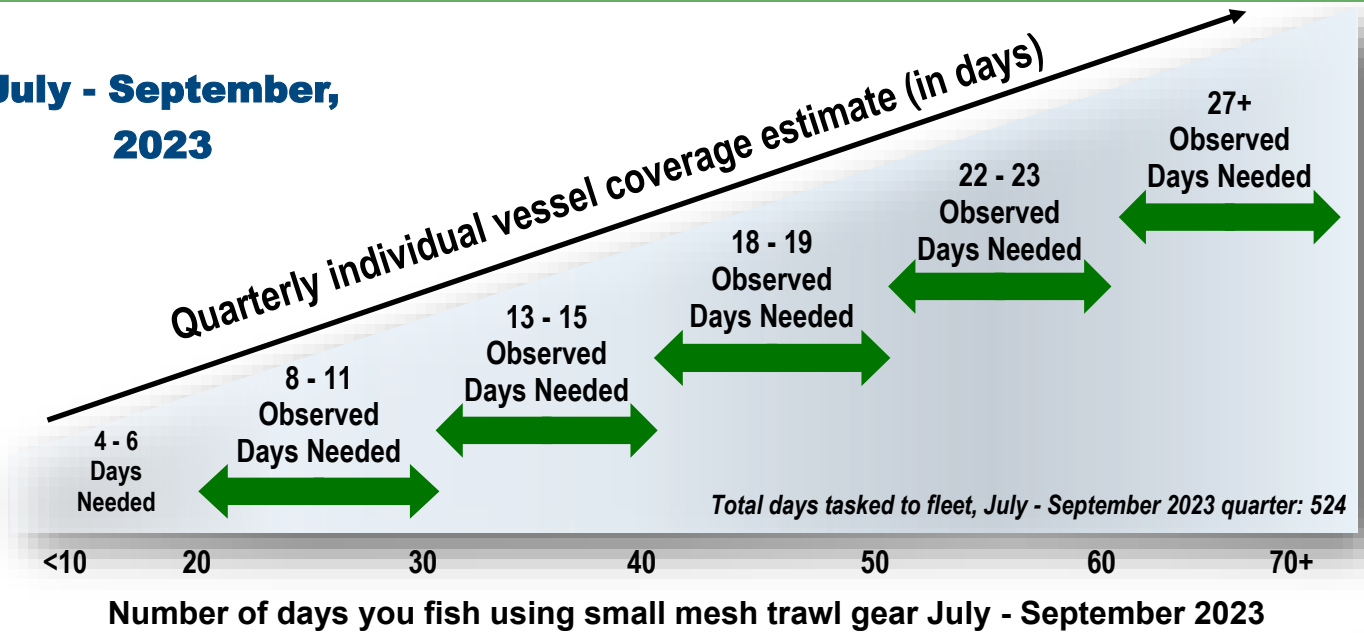
For questions on individual vessel coverage please contact:

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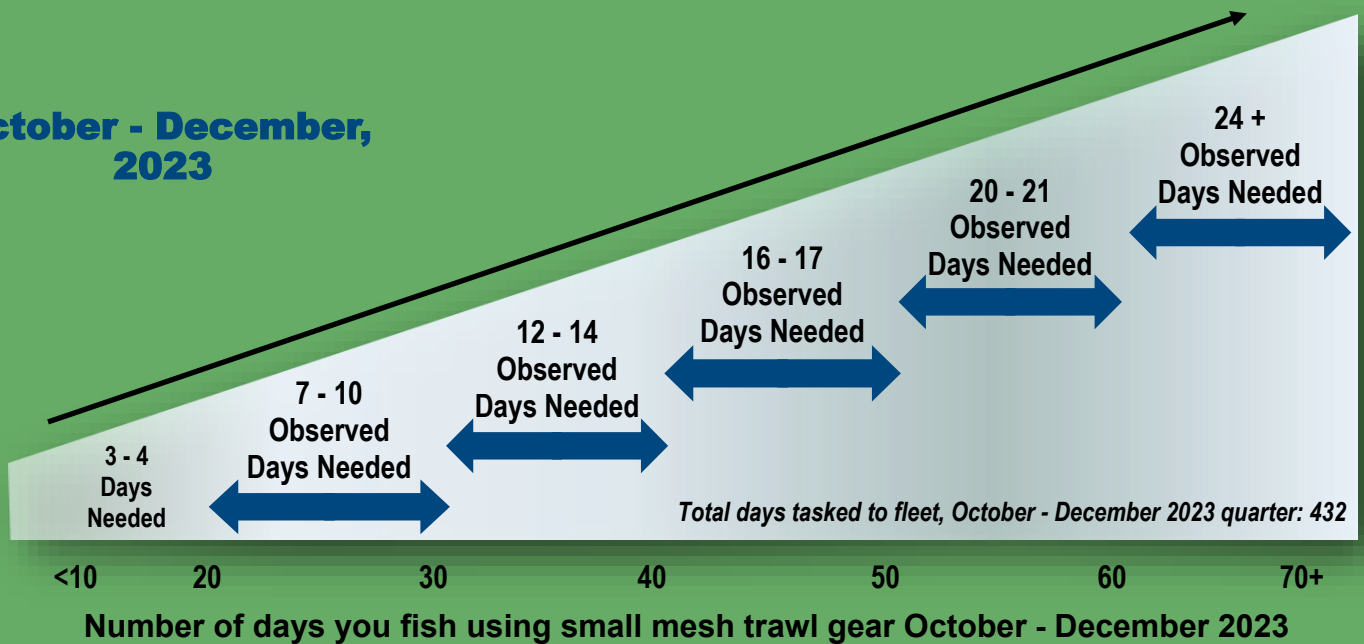
\*These graphs depict an estimate of observer coverage needed to achieve NEFOP's total tasked number of SBRM funded sea days for the Mid-Atlantic small mesh trawl fleet, it is based on an estimate of fleet activity from the previous calendar year and is subject to change depending on changes in industry effort. If a vessel fishes in multiple trawl fleets, they may be subject to additional observer coverage.

# Mid-Atlantic Small Mesh Trawl Estimated Quarterly Observer Coverage

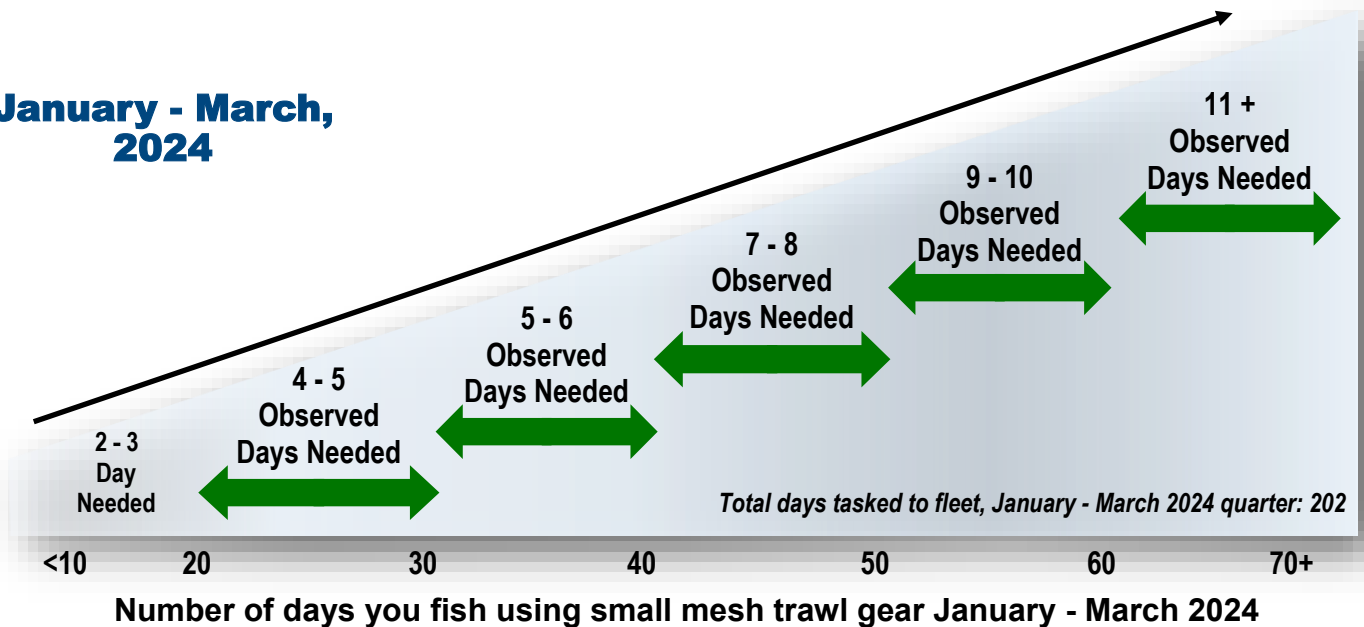
## July - September, 2023



## October - December, 2023



## January - March, 2024



**Estimates may change based on realized industry effort in 2023/2024**

# SASH Prevention Roadmap

