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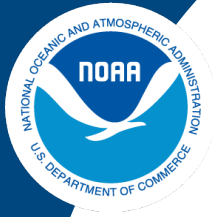
Changes to Scallop Observer Notification Requirements for Fishing Year 2024

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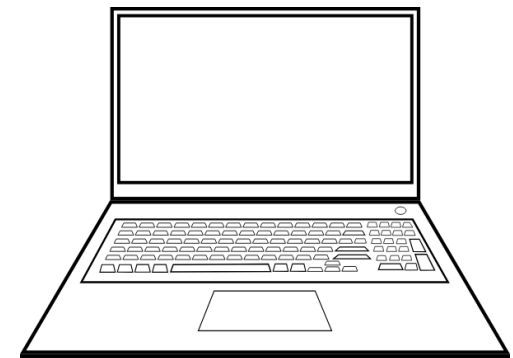
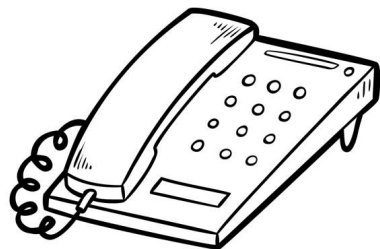
Maine Fishermen's Forum, Mar 2024



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IVR to PTNS

- Observer Program's automated phone call system (IVR) is being retired
- Scallop vessels will notify for observers via the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) for Fishing Year 2024 trips
- PTNS is a web-based application with phone and email as backup notification methods
- Log into the PTNS website using your Fish Online username and password

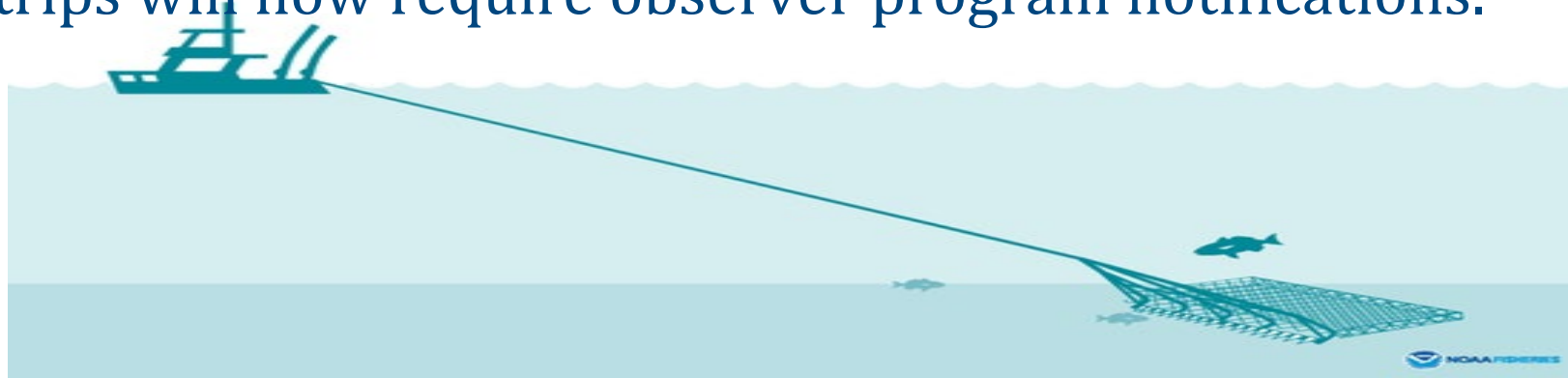




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Main Changes

- The Observer Program notification requirement will be decreased from 72 to 48 hours ahead of the anticipated sail time
- PTNS will offer trips to providers automatically. Vessels will only need to coordinate trip details with assigned observer provider.
- For General Category vessels, notifications will still be submitted in batches, but will be assigned an observer on a per-trip basis, rather than weekly. GC can be selected for multiple trips per week.
- RSA trips will now require observer program notifications.





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Not Changing

- Observer coverage eligibility and compensation **will not** be affected
- Vessels indicate their provider preferences for IFS coverage
- Other scallop reporting requirements, like VMS and eVTR, will remain in place





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What is PTNS?

- Implemented in 2010 for Northeast Multispecies fishery
- Atlantic Herring added in 2020
- Modern, maintainable system
- Sophisticated, self-adjusting, probability-based selection algorithm



**OBSERVER PRE-TRIP
NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**
A real-time, responsive, observer deployment system



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Project Timeline

Phase 1 - Development

- Began in 2022 and continues
- Development focused on regulatory priorities
- Includes thorough testing of new features in a dedicated testing environment

Phase 2 - Outreach

- Announced Summer 2023
- Intensive outreach planned for early 2024
 - In person at meetings, events, or ports
 - Vessel-specific phone calls and emails
 - Instructional documents
 - Video walkthrough

Phase 3 - Implementation

- PTNS will replace the IVR April 1, 2024
- Observer Program staff will be available to assist vessels in using the new system
- PTNS notification & help line will be available 24/7 with an after-hours answering service



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Questions?

- PTNS webpage with existing help documentation
 - <https://apps-nefsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/PTNS/>
 - *Scallop-specific instructions will be added later*
- Main Announcement landing page updated periodically
 - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/fisheries-observers/scallop-vessels-transition-pre-trip-notification>
- Contacts
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