Step by Step Guide to Participate in Electronic Monitoring (EM) on a Small Fixed Gear Vessel

Joining the EM program
Request to join the EM pool between Sept 1 - Nov 1 through the Observer Declare and Deploy System (ODDS), then follow steps 1 – 6. The EM selection pool criteria are specified at § 679.51(f) and described in the Annual Deployment Plan.

Leaving the EM program
Participants in EM are automatically enrolled for the following year. Request to leave the EM program between Sept 1 - Nov 1 through ODDS.

1. After Nov 15, check in ODDS to see if your vessel was selected to participate in the EM program.
2. If selected, work with your EM service provider to develop a Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP).
3. Review and sign your VMP, then return it to EM service provider for submission.
4. Receive email from NMFS with approved VMP and keep it aboard your vessel.
5. Log your trips in ODDS.
6. Follow your approved VMP while fishing.

Staying in the EM program
Participants in EM are automatically enrolled for the following year. Participants must follow steps 2 – 6 every year.

ODDS can be reached through the call center at 1-855-747-6377 or online at: http://odds.afsc.noaa.gov/