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Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw

Policy & clarification for I-VMS¹ systems

Fully functioning I-VMS?

All registered commercial fishing vessels between 6.99 metres and 15.25 metres with a valid Mobile Fishing Permit, when at sea within the District, must have a fully functioning I-VMS unit. The Permit Conditions specify what an I-VMS unit is and what it must achieve in order to constitute a fully functioning unit under the Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions.

What happens if the I-VMS unit fails?

Section 2.6 to 2.7.2 (Gear Restrictions) of the Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions detail the obligations placed upon the Permit Holder and the Master when there is a failure of the Unit. In the event of unit failure, the Permit Holder or Named Representative (Master) has the following options:

Options:

1. **The vessel immediately stops fishing and returns to a port within the District. Approved repairs to the I-VMS Unit can then take place.**
2. **The vessel immediately stops fishing within the District and leaves the District. The vessel may fish in an area outside of the District and return to a port that is not within the District. The vessel cannot sail into the District without a fully functioning unit unless authorised to do so. Approved repairs to the I-VMS Unit can take place within a port that is not within the District.**
3. **The Permit Holder may surrender their Permit. Once surrendered the vessel can no longer fish within the District but it can move through the District to reach fishing grounds that are not within the District. When the I-VMS Unit is repaired and fully functioning, the Permit can be re-issued at no cost allowing the vessel to fish within the District. A Permit Holder can surrender their Permit by:**
 - a) **Contacting the Office of D&S IFCA via phone or email;**
 - b) **Contacting the Duty Officer phone number (07740 175479);**
 - c) **Contacting a D&S IFCA Officer in person.**

¹ In the Mobile Fishing Byelaw, I-VMS is described as a remotely accessed electronic reporting device

If the unit has failed and the vessel has returned to a port within the District, the following additional options exist:

4. The vessel must remain in that port and stay there until an approved repair has taken place to the I-VMS Unit.
5. When in port, the Permit Holder can request an authorisation from D&S IFCA to leave that port, move through the District to another place so an approved repair can be made to the I-VMS Unit. This authorisation removes the need for the Permit to be surrendered by the Permit Holder.
6. The Permit Holder can surrender the Permit as described in Option 3 above.

What is an approved repair?

An approved repair can include the replacement of an I-VMS Unit. Repairs, replacements and installations must be completed by an approved engineer nominated by the manufacturer of the Unit. The approved engineer will complete an Approved Engineer's Installation and Repair Form (D&SIFCA/AEI&RF001V1). This form can only be completed when the repaired, replaced or newly installed I-VMS Unit is able to produce a range of required information that is set out in the form to meet the requirements of the Permit Conditions.

It is the responsibility of the Permit Holder to:

- Arrange a repair by an approved engineer
- After the repair, submit a copy of the (D&SIFCA/AEI&RF001V1) form to D&S IFCA