



Providing a Choice of Remotely Accessed Electronic Reporting Devices (iVMS/VMS)

Changes to Category One – at sea - Mobile Fishing Permits Have Your Say

What's the purpose of this information circular?

D&S IFCA is directly contacting all Category One Mobile Fishing Gear Permit Holders to inform them about the Authority's intention to amend the Category One (at sea) Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions. The changes only relate to what remotely accessed electronic reporting devices (VMS/iVMS) may be fitted and the transmitted positional information. The changes being proposed will allow owners of vessels under 12 metres in length a greater choice of which device to have fitted to their vessel.

The suggested changes will not impact any fisher operating under a D&S IFCA Potting, Netting or Diving Permit. This is not a questionnaire; however, your view is important, and this circular explains how you and others can participate in the process and have your say if you choose to do so.

Why do D&S IFCA want to change the Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions – what are the benefits?

Nationally, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is about to embark on the rollout of iVMS devices on all under 12m licenced fishing vessels. D&S IFCA supports owners of vessels under 12 metres in length having a greater choice of approved iVMS devices and to have the opportunity to benefit from the available grant funding. The purpose of the permit changes is to allow for that choice.

The proposed changes to Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions will mean that:

- a) **Vessels under 12 metres in length, that do not have an iVMS device fitted, will be able fish in D&S IFCA's District under a Category One Permit, provided that the vessel has fitted an approved and fully operational iVMS device.** (*Owners of such vessels will be able to obtain a type approved iVMS device through the national rollout*)
- b) **Vessels under 12 metres in length, issued with a valid Category One Permit, can continue to fish in D&S IFCA's District if the already fitted iVMS device is fully operational.**
- c) **When vessels under 12 metres in length have new type approved devices fitted, they will be able to fish in D&S IFCA's District if the new device is fully operational.**
- d) **Vessels over 12 metres in length (up to 15.24 metres) do not need to replace their current devices and can continue to fish (under a permit) within D&S IFCA's District provided that the device is fully operational.**

What changes are being proposed in the Permit Conditions?

The interpretations in the current Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions provide a list of iVMS and VMS devices that can be fitted and sets out the required information that needs to be transmitted. This will change as follows:

Amended Permits:

Changes (as shown in red) will be made to the Permit Conditions

- “Remotely Accessed Electronic Reporting Device” means **any device approved by the Authority** that transmits the Required Information.
- “Required Information” **means the transmission of positional data set out in the nationally type approved specifications.**

There will be no other changes to the Category One Permit Conditions.

The process for making the changes & the timeline

To change permit conditions a process must be followed as set out in D&S IFCA’s Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw. This opportunity for engagement is part of that process. The responses to this Have Your Say information gathering exercise will be collated and considered by D&S IFCA’s Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee. If changes are agreed by the Members, amended Permit Conditions will be circulated with no charge to any existing permit holder.

Date	Action
20th January 2022	Start of the consultation on changes to Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions.
7th February 2022	This consultation ends.
24th February 2022	A meeting of D&S IFCA’s Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee to discuss the change to the Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions.
1st March 2022	If agreed - New Permit Conditions implemented and circulated to current permit holders. A list of type approved units will be published on the Authority’s website.

How you can have your say

Please provide your full name in your response and confirm if you are the holder of a D&S IFCA Category One Permit or have another interest.

Contact us:

- via email – consultation@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk
- Write to us at Devon and Severn IFCA, Brixham Laboratory, Freshwater Quarry, Brixham, TQ5 8BA.

This information gathering exercise will end on 7th February 2022.

VMS for England - Registered Fishing Vessels - Under 12 Metres

The Marine Management Organisation have produced a guide about VMS for England - Registered Fishing Vessels - Under 12 Metres. The guide can be viewed [here](#).

If you have questions about the national roll out of VMS, please [contact](#) the MMO.

Email: IVMS@marinemanagement.org.uk

Further Information

Further detail about our byelaw review work and the work conducted by our Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee can be found in a [guide](#) that is posted on D&S IFCA's website or available upon request.

Reports presented to and discussed by the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee can be found on the D&S IFCA website in the [Resource Library](#) or are available upon request.

Minutes of Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee meetings can be found on the D&S IFCA website in the [Resource Library](#) or available upon request.

How to follow our work?

If you are not already on our electronic mailing list, then you can get yourself added by [contacting](#) D&S IFCA or by using this [link](#). Providing an email address helps us better communicate with you. You will also be able to receive our free e-newsletter.

Keep an eye on our [consultation page](#) on our website to read about other work being done and how you can get involved and have your say.

Follow our [latest news items](#) displayed on our website or our Facebook page.

Explore our website [Resource Library](#) for an extensive range of our information and publications. It's all free.

What do we do with your information – Privacy Policy

We protect any personal data that you may provide. Personal data submitted in this information collecting process will be securely stored and may be shared with other organisations including Defra and the Marine Management Organisation. The content of responses will be summarised and anonymised where appropriate for documenting in reports that will be presented to the Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee and published on our website.

D&S IFCA has a privacy policy which can be found by visiting our website (home page) www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk

- You can change your preferences at any time.
- We have a duty to consult with D&S IFCA Permit Holders.

You can manage your preferences by contacting D&S IFCA.

End.