

## Amendments to Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions

### Officers' Recommendations

1. That the existing Category One Mobile Fishing Permits are amended (as set out in the Officers Paper) in relation to:
  - a) the types of Remotely Accessed Electronic Reporting Devices (iVMS/VMS) that can be fitted; and
  - b) the Required Information that must be transmitted.

2. That the changes to Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions become valid on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

### Foreword

Amendments to the existing Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions, should not be confused with work being undertaken to review and re-make the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw (and the associated Permit Conditions). The changes identified for the existing Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions will act as an interim measure until work is complete re-making (implementing) the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw and associated Permit Conditions.

### Background

All commercial fishing vessels below 15.24 metres in overall length<sup>1</sup> that wish to operate mobile fishing gear in the District must have either a Category One (at sea) or a Category Two (Estuary) Permit (or both). The current Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions set out interpretations associated with the fitting of remotely accessed electronic reporting devices (iVMS/VMS) and the required information that must be transmitted.

Nationally, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is about to embark on the rollout of iVMS devices on all under 12m licenced fishing vessels. Elements of the existing Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions (iVMS/VMS) do not harmonise with the national roll out.

In January 2022, Officers identified that amendments to existing Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions would benefit vessel owners and result in the owners of vessels under 12 metres in length having a greater choice of approved iVMS devices to fish within D&S IFCA's District. Vessel owners will also have opportunity to benefit from the available grant funding relating to the National rollout of iVMS devices to all under 12m licenced fishing vessels.

### Outcomes of the Proposed Changes to Permit Conditions

The proposed changes to the current 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*)

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<sup>1</sup> Unless vessels over 15.24 metres in overall length have existing grandfather rights

- 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.**

### The Consultation

To review and potentially change any permit condition, requires consultation as determined by the provisions (permit condition review process) of the overarching Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw. The consultation began on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and ended on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

- *A supporting report (Providing a Choice of Remotely Accessed Electronic Reporting Devices (iVMS/VMS) – Consultation Report - 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022) documents how the consultation was undertaken and its findings.*

The Mail Chimp circular was sent to 97 vessel owners (Permit Holders). 67 of the Mail Chimp emails were opened; however, there were no responses to the consultation. The proposed changes would not impact vessel owners in a negative way, and officers did not expect the response to be large.

### The Text Change for Category One Mobile Fishing Permits

After taking legal advice from the Byelaw Technical Working Group, the interpretations in the current Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions would be amended as follows:

**"Remotely Accessed Electronic Reporting Device"** means any device of a type that is approved by the **Authority** that transmits the **Required Information**.

**"Required Information"** means

- a) a report flag to indicate that the report is the result of the Authority's permit condition requirements and is not made under EU regulations;
- b) the most recent geographical position of the fishing vessel to 5 decimal places (in WGS84);
- c) date and time (in UTC) of the fixing of the most recent position;
- d) the instant speed and course of the vessel (equivalent to 0.1 knots and course expressed in degrees (true not magnetic) to 0.1 degree) at the time of the report;
- e) the unique serial number of transmitting device;
- f) a status code;
- g) an indicator of the strength of the positional report accuracy.

### Other Information

- [A Guide to the Work of the Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee](#)

End.