



Development of the Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions

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

Consultation Report

(Consultation: 20th January 2022 to 7th February 2022)

10th February 2022

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Version Control

Version & Date	Comments
Version 0.1 8 th February 2022	1 st draft prepared for D&S IFCA's Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee for use at their meeting on 24 th February 2022 – Internal review.
Version 1.0 10 th February 2022	Report finalised for presentation to the Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee for use at their meeting on 24 th February 2022.

1. Aim of Report

This report (10th February 2022) has been prepared for members of the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority's (D&S IFCA's) Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC) and for all stakeholders to examine via its publication on the D&S IFCA website. The report demonstrates how the consultation (Providing a Choice of Remotely Accessed Electronic Reporting Devices (iVMS/VMS) - Changes to Category One – at sea - Mobile Fishing Permits - Have Your Say) was conducted and summarises the responses received that relate to the topic as set out within the consultation.

This report includes embedded information (Hyperlinks) that give readers access to additional information. All additional information embedded in this report is freely accessible within different sections of [D&S IFCA's Website Resource Library](#).

Process

The opportunity to amend 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.

This report provides information that will inform the B&PSC regarding changes, recommended by Officers, to the existing Category One (at sea) Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions. Any changes to D&S IFCA Permit Conditions requires consultation and subsequent decision making of the B&PSC. If the B&PSC agree that the changes to the Permit Conditions are appropriate (at their meeting on 24th February 2022), the Permit Conditions will be amended and re-issued free of charge to permit holders. It has been recommended by Officers that the amended Permit Conditions become valid from 1st March 2022.

Executive Summary of the Consultation and its Findings

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. Changes to the Permit Conditions will benefit vessel owners and result in the owners of vessels under 12 metres in length having a greater choice of approved iVMS devices.

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.

The consultation began on 20th January 2022 and ended on 7th February 2022. Information was directly circulated to all vessel owners that hold a current Category One Mobile Fishing Permit. This included 97 email (Mail Chimp) circulars, which were opened by 67 of the recipients. The proposed changes would not impact vessel owners in a negative way, and officers did not expect the response to be large.

- **No responses to the consultation were received by the closing date of 7th February 2022.**

2. Background Information

All commercial fishing vessels below 15.24 metres in overall length¹, 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. This is set out within the Permit Conditions as follows:

“remotely accessed electronic reporting device” means one of the following devices that transmits the required information;

- a) *Blue Tracker I-VMS manufactured by AST Marine Services*
- b) *SC2 manufactured by Succorfish*
- c) *VMS + manufactured by AST Marine Services*

“required information is”;

- 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) *a Geofence reference number*

National Requirements

Nationally, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is about to embark on the rollout of iVMS devices on all under 12m licenced fishing vessels. To harmonise with the national roll out, changes to Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions, as proposed, 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.**

¹ Unless vessels over 15.24 metres in overall length have existing grandfather rights

- 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 text changes to the Permit Conditions were proposed?

It was explained that the interpretations in the current Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions would be amended as follows and shown in **red**.

- “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.**

The changes would extend the scope of which devices can be fitted to vessels that wish to fish with mobile fishing gear within the District. There were no other changes proposed in the consultation relating to the Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions.

Officer Comment – Wording in the Permit Conditions

During the consultation, Officers have taken advice from the D&S IFCA’s Byelaw Technical Working Group. Although the consultation circular highlighted the expected changes to the Category One Mobile Fishing Permits (interpretation wording) as shown above, it is now envisaged that the wording relating to “Required Information” will be different.

The change in wording does not make any material difference as all the approved devices are capable of transmitting the “Required Information” as set out.

“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

3. How the Pre-Consultation was Conducted



The consultation (Providing a Choice of Remotely Accessed Electronic Reporting Devices (iVMS/VMS) - Changes to Category One – at sea - Mobile Fishing Permits - Have Your Say) began on 20th January 2022 and ended on 7th February 2022. A Mail Chimp platform was used for direct circulation.²

Hard copy information was sent to Category One Mobile Fishing Permit holders with no email. The Mail Chimp circular explained the purpose of the information gathering exercise and how the collected information would be used.

The theme of the consultation was simple, and therefore a questionnaire was not included within the circulated information. As well as the use of Mail Chimp (direct email circulation), information was made available as a news item on the D&S IFCA website (latest news/news scroll) and Facebook. Information was also posted on the website’s Have Your Say/Consultation page.

Links to supporting communication

- [Pdf of the Mail Chimp Circular](#)
- [News Item \(pdf version\) posted on the Website & Facebook](#)
- [Website Consultation/Engagement & Have Your Say Page](#)

Options were provided for engagement as follows:

1. Contact us via email – consultation@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk
2. Write to us

Ideally the option for one-to-one surgery sessions would have provided another option for stakeholders to express their views. Due to Covid-19 and a change in working practices, this option was not available for this information gathering exercise.

4. Responses

The proposed change would not impact vessel owners in a negative way, and officers did not expect the response to be large. The consultation information (Mail Chimp) was sent to 97 vessel owners, and 67 of the Mail Chimp email circulars were opened by the recipients. No responses to the consultation were received by the closing date of 7th February 2022.

5. Further Information/Hyperlinks

- [Pdf of the Mail Chimp Circular - \(Providing a Choice of Remotely Accessed Electronic Reporting Devices \(iVMS/VMS\)\)](#)
- [News Item \(pdf version\) posted on the Website & Facebook](#)
- [Website Consultation/Engagement & Have Your Say Page](#)
- [Guide to the Work of the Byelaw & Permitting sub-Committee](#)

End.

² Direct circulation to all Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Holders