12th October 2018

Consultation for the introduction of I-VMS for all under 12 metre licensed British fishing boats

Following on from the initiative by D&S IFCA to introduce the requirement for I-VMS systems on mobile fishing vessels between 6.99 metres and 15.25 metres in the D&S IFCA District, DEFRA have started their consultation for the introduction of I-VMS for all under 12 meter licenced British fishing boats.

The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has launched a consultation seeking public views on the proposal to introduce Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems (I-VMS) for all licensed British fishing boats under 12 metres in length operating in English waters (with English boats also covered outside of English waters).

Vessel monitoring systems using satellite technology have been used by all European fishing vessels over 15 metres in length since 2003. A vessel monitoring system in the UK for vessels of 12 metres and over in length. was introduced in 2013. These systems are widely used as a monitoring and management tool.

I-VMS records the location, speed and heading of a vessel using GPRS technology. Introducing I-VMS to under 12 metre vessels will provide a more accurate picture on fishing location and activity which will better inform fisheries management and help create a more sustainable fishery in the future.

The data will also allow fishermen to potentially market their produce as sustainably caught, providing consumers with a greater awareness of where their fish has come from and helping them to make more informed decisions.

It is proposed that the initial cost and installation of the equipment will be met by the European Maritime Fund in order to minimise cost to industry.

Interested parties are now invited to share their views on proposals outlined in the 6 week consultation closing on the 14th November either online or by post to;

UK Fisheries Control and Enforcement Team
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
2nd Floor Foss House
1 – 2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX.