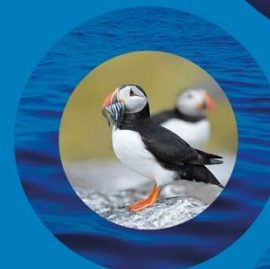
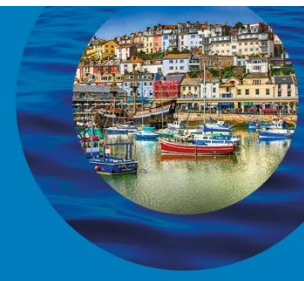




Marine  
Management  
Organisation

# ONE STOP SHOP FOR VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEMS FOR UNDER-12M VESSELS



...ambitious for our seas and coasts

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## DEVICES

MMO has concluded its 'type approval' process and has now published the [list of 1-VMS devices](#) approved for use by England-registered under 12m vessels.

This is the outcome of several months of research with suppliers and consultation with the owners and skippers of under-12m vessels.

Fishers' feedback was taken into account in the type approval process which was designed to meet MMO's requirements for accuracy, durability and functionality from approved devices, and provide fishers with their choice of size, power supply and cost.

MMO has announced the devices now to allow fishers to familiarise themselves with the products' dimensions, features and suitability for individual vessels. Further important information on grant funding, the confirmed rollout timetable, and the compliance schedule will be available in December, ahead of when fishers are expected to buy their device.

At this stage (November 2021) we recommend fishers consider the suitability of each device for the vessel and their business, including any warranties, support services, costs and payment plans that suppliers may offer. When the time comes to purchase a device the contract will be between the fisher and supplier.

## Cost considerations

MMO's 'type approval' process was designed to bring as many suppliers into the marketplace as possible to offer fishers a choice of products at a range of prices. Find out more about the products and current prices [here](#).

On transmission costs, MMO has specified the devices must use mobile phone signals to keep the costs down, rather than more expensive satellite signals that over 12m vessels currently use. At the moment, we estimate the data costs will be a flat rate of about £120-£180 per year.

A grant towards the initial cost of buying and installing the device will be made.

## Contracts

There is such a diverse range of specifications for vessels in the under 12m fleet - for example in terms of powering and housing the devices - that vessel owners are best placed, with the right support from suppliers, to decide which device and service package suits them.

A single contract with one supplier would not provide the choice fishers have consistently told us they want.

## Device malfunctions

We know fishers do not want to have to spend a lot of time checking if their device is working properly or to be prevented from fishing if their monitoring device malfunctions or flattens the vessel's batteries.

The devices approved for use by vessels all have a feature to make it simple to check the product is working and transmitting before leaving port.

In terms of devices breaking down, MMO is working on a procedure to assist fishers should this eventuality arise. We are finalising details of this process and expect to be able to provide a full overview of how it will work in December 2021.

In our engagement with potential suppliers, we have already stressed what fishers have told us – that each supplier should provide a range of flexible warranties and repair-or-replace services.

## Mobile blackspots

We know there are areas of English waters where it won't be possible to send a signal to demonstrate a vessel's location in real time. So, to pass our type approval process devices have had to demonstrate they can store a cache of data and then transmit the stored information once the vessel returns to an area with strong signal. This will ensure that whilst it might not always be in real time, the devices will provide a continuous location history.

## Privacy

The signals sent by each device can be seen only by the fisher's device supplier, the MMO and legally authorised partners such as IFCA's, and devolved fisheries administrations should a vessel enter their waters.

Other fishers and the public cannot see fishers' locations and the data feed is protected by a secure system. MMO will only share the information with organisations that require it as part of regulating and managing the marine environment, and they will be governed by strict data sharing principles, regulations and agreements.

It is likely that MMO would share positional information with the coastguard in an emergency.

## Timescales

Below we have set out a provisional timetable for installations of I-VMS devices which we encourage fishers to work with in order to make it smoother for all vessels in the fleet to be fitted with a device ahead of it becoming a legal requirement.

The expected timetable is:

Vessel size	Expected dates
<b>10 to 11.99m</b>	From Jan to Feb 2022
<b>8 to 9.99m</b>	Feb to April 2022
<b>6 to 7.99m</b>	April to July 2022
<b>Below 6m</b>	July to November 2022

The MMO will continue to engage with fishers over their concerns and requirements to support them through the process.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Why is it being introduced?

- Vessel monitoring is a tool that will enable a better understanding of scale, location and seasonality of fishing activity. This additional information combined with other fisheries data will aid our understanding of fishing and will allow us to respond more swiftly to any emerging issues.
- Coupled with the outputs from our fisheries assurance service we will be able to better target our risk-based, intelligence-led visits and inspections. In time, it may enable steps towards self-regulation for fishers who demonstrate a consistently high level of compliance.
- Data about the location, scale and seasonality of fishing effort from the majority of English fishers will give the industry powerful information they can use when presenting their case in for example, planning consents for marine development, fisheries management or resolution of gear conflict issues with other marine users.
- Vessel monitoring could increase safety for smaller vessel operators as it could provide timely and accurate detail to inform search and rescue efforts if necessary.
- It will enable more precise delineation between fishing grounds and protected areas meaning a better balance between keeping fishing grounds open and protecting sensitive marine habitats and species can be established.
- It will enable improved control of non-English vessels in English waters as the current requirement is for all under-12m vessels to carry a vessel monitoring device.

## **Who does it apply to?**

The policy will apply to all under-12m fishing vessels transiting or fishing in England's water, regardless of where they're registered.

## **Where will it apply?**

Throughout England's Exclusive Economic Zone.

## **Why do fishers have to pay?**

Fishers will not have to pay the full cost - MMO will contribute towards the initial cost through a grant providing fishers meet the funding terms and conditions. The amount of contribution is currently being worked out and will be communicated to fishers in the near future. There is now a range of approved devices at differing prices for fishers to choose to match their own needs and budgets.

## **Would an app on a mobile phone not be a cheaper solution?**

The feasibility of a mobile phone-based app was considered, but the evidence demonstrated that an app would not meet the technical requirements of consistently and accurately reporting the location, heading and speed of fishing vessels. From the technology currently available only a hardware device can satisfy the technical objectives of the project to deliver a clearer picture of all fishing activity in England's seas.

## **Why can't MMO use the data from the under-10m catch app?**

The positional information fishers supply via the catch app is needed to support understanding of where fishers are catching which species of fish. However, it does not provide a precise track of each fishing trip and does not provide the real-time positional data, which is the key objective of vessel monitoring in order to develop a clearer picture of all fishing activity in England's seas. Data from the catch app can be combined with vessel monitoring data to provide a much more accurate understanding of all fishing activity.

## **How can I access my own vessel monitoring information?**

There are two ways.

Fishers can access their own vessel monitoring information from their chosen supplier. This may be offered as an app for example and will provide fishers the functionality to check whether their device is operational and reporting positional information.

Currently fishers who have vessel monitoring devices can also request their own Vessel Monitoring System data using a Subject Access Request sent the MMO.

