

Devon and Severn IFCA News

D&S IFCA Introduces Requirements for I-VMS Systems on the Mobile Fishing Fleet

From the 28th August all mobile fishing vessels between 6.99 metres and 15.25 metres must have a fully functioning I-VMS unit to fish within the D&S IFCA District.

The requirement for the introduction of I-VMS is specified in the [Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions](#) that were recently amended via a review process. [Annexes](#) (charts) that accompany the Permit Conditions have also been circulated and demonstrate where IVMS units must transmit the required information and at what time interval.

Fishers may have questions such as:

- What is a fully functioning unit?
- What happens if the unit malfunctions?



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Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw

Policy & clarification for I-VMS¹ systems

Fully functioning I-VMS?

All registered commercial fishing vessels between 6.99 metres and 15.25 metres with a valid Mobile Fishing Permit, when at sea within the District, must have a fully functioning I-VMS unit. The Permit Conditions specify what an I-VMS unit is and what it must achieve in order to constitute a fully functioning unit under the Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions.

What happens if the I-VMS unit fails?

Section 2.6 to 2.7.2 (Gear Restrictions) of the Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions detail the obligations placed upon the Permit Holder and the Master when there is a failure of the Unit. In the event of unit failure, the Permit Holder or Named Representative (Master) has the following options:

Options:

1. The vessel immediately stops fishing and returns to a port within the District. Approved repairs to the I-VMS Unit can then take place.
2. The vessel immediately stops fishing within the District and leaves the District. The vessel may fish in an area outside of the District and return to a port that is not within the District. The vessel cannot sail into the District without a fully functioning unit unless authorised to do so. Approved repairs to the I-VMS Unit can take place within a port that is not within the District.
3. The Permit Holder may surrender their Permit. Once surrendered the vessel can no longer fish within the District but it can move through the District to reach fishing grounds that are not within the District. When the I-VMS Unit is repaired and fully functioning, the Permit can be re-issued at no cost allowing the vessel to fish within the District. A Permit Holder can surrender their Permit by:
 - a) Contacting the Office of D&S IFCA via phone or email;
 - b) Contacting the Duty Officer phone number (07740 175479);
 - c) Contacting a D&S IFCA Officer in person.

¹ In the Mobile Fishing Byelaw, I-VMS is described as a remotely accessed electronic reporting device

D&SIFCA Policy Documentation 2018 (01/08/18) Turn over

D&S IFCA has produced a [Policy and Clarification Document](#) to help fishers with these key questions and explain what options exist if the I-VMS unit fails to transmit the required information.

End.