

Devon and Severn IFCA News

Opportunity to take part in D&S IFCA's REM Project.

D&S IFCA has secured funding to expand its trials of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) technology on board mobile gear vessels in 2023 and is now asking fishers to come forward and get involved.

D&S IFCA has already been trialling the REM technology on board one scallop vessel since 2021 and the project intends to build on the success achieved so far. A D&S IFCA news item was produced in November 2022 to report on the successful trial, which can be read [here](#).

By extending the project, D&S IFCA wants to further demonstrate:

- the robustness of the technology, and how it can be adapted to different vessels and fishing methods;
- how management measures can be changed to provide benefits to fishers;
- how fishers' privacy is protected;
- how fishers can use the technology to potentially improve their businesses – e.g. marketing of catch, security of vessel and health and safety considerations;
- how REM can be used as an effective and cheaper alternative to existing spatial monitoring;
- how the protection of the Marine Protected Areas can be enhanced.

The REM technology, that is placed on board the vessel, consists of two cameras and two sensors (attached to doors or towing plate), an IVMS tracking device (not MMO type approved) and a Digital Video Recorder. The devices will be installed, and if requested by the owner, uninstalled by professional engineers. No permanent fixing to the vessel is required.



Camera



Sensor fitted to towing plate



Digital Video Recording Device

We are looking for owners of nine mobile gear vessels that operate in D&S IFCA's District (with a valid Permit) to be part of the trials.

By taking part you will help ensure that D&S IFCA and fishers are better informed about how REM can benefit the fishing sector and the marine environment in the future.

D&S IFCA is unable to pay fishers for their time or vessel costs, however whilst participating in the trial you will benefit from the following:

- full access to the data generated by the REM technology to explore marketing opportunities, create an electronic fishing diary of where best catches are taken; demonstrate what activity was taking place on board at any given time;
- ability to install further sensors and cameras (at owner's cost) to explore additional benefits such as hatch or door sensors, bilge alarm sensor and engine room cameras;
- in the event that your IVMS device fails, the vessel will be able to continue fishing in the D&S IFCA's District (over 12m vessels would be required to have an operation VMS device on board to meet national requirements);
- ability to use longer tow bars (greater than 5.18m) in the D&S IFCA's District as long as no more than six scallop dredges aside are used;
- ability to stream demersal trawl gear inside prohibited areas providing that the trawl doors are still on board.

If you are interested in taking part in the REM Project then please [contact](#) D&S IFCA for more information by 30th April 2023.

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More Information

A presentation on the current REM Project (PDF) is available to view [here](#).