

DSIFCA 04_25 – Non-Functioning IVMS Device

Between 20th January 2025 and 13th February 2025, D&S IFCA officers investigated a fishing vessel operating within the District with a non-functioning IVMS device. The device had ceased transmitting valid positional data in September 2024, as such the vessel failed to satisfy requirements of the vessel's Mobile Fishing Permit.

Initial checks using the UK VMS hub confirmed the date on which the unit stopped reporting. Formal correspondence, including a Notice of Investigation and a Non-Functioning IVMS letter, were issued to the vessel's owner and master. Officers also contacted the equipment supplier to confirm the transmission frequency and determine whether the device met regulatory standards.

The supplier advised that the device had been reporting at a two-hour frequency, which did not comply with D&S IFCA permit conditions. The vessel's owner was instructed to suspend fishing activity within the District until the device could be repaired and verified as fully operational. The owner subsequently contacted the supplier, and a report was received confirming that the unit had been reconfigured to transmit positional data at three-minute intervals, thereby restoring compliance.

Following receipt of this confirmation, the investigation was concluded. In light of the vessel owner's prompt compliance and the swift resolution of the matter, and having considered the public interest, the Authority determined that the case did not meet the public interest threshold to pursue regulatory action. A No Further Action letter was issued.