

## IVMS and Remote Electronic Monitoring

### Officers' Recommendation

<b>That Members note the content of the Officers' Report.</b>
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### Background

#### Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (IVMS)

On 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025, Succorfish, one of the two remaining suppliers of type approved IVMS devices, stopped sending data to the UK VMS Hub. At the Authority meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Members agreed to allocate funding from reserves to install REWIRE IVMS devices on those mobile gear vessels with Succorfish devices that continued to fish in D&S IFCA's District.

#### Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM)

D&S IFCA has been trialling REM systems on up to five mobile gear vessels since 2022. The REM system uses a tracking system (REWIRE IVMS device) and two cameras and two gear sensors to monitor fishing activity.

### Updates

#### Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (IVMS)

D&S IFCA with the support of Tecmarine-UK and the owners of the mobile fishing vessels have completed all the necessary installations of 35 REWIRE devices. The total cost is estimated to have been £7,100. The owners of some vessels, originally earmarked for installations, indicated that the vessels were not currently fishing in the District. The owners would be offered the opportunity to have a REWIRE device fitted if the issues with Succorfish continue beyond when they wish to resume fishing in the District.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025, the MMO confirmed to Officers that the matter with Succorfish remained unresolved despite considering efforts.

#### Remote Electronic Monitoring

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025, the AIFCA, at the Members Forum, approved the IFCAs' Remote Electronic Monitoring & Artificial Intelligence Strategy (Annex A). This National Strategy, supported by all IFCAs and reviewed by Defra, will aid the further development of REM and AI in English inshore waters.

IFCAs are well placed to lead on the development of REM and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for inshore fisheries. The IFCA National Strategy is designed so that IFCAs' development of REM and AI will help inform and support the delivery of national ambitions set out in the Joint Fisheries Statement.

The Strategy intends to support the development of REM and AI in a co-ordinated way so that interoperability of the hardware and data are prioritised. However, in the first instance it is envisaged that IFCAs will be exploring applications of REM and AI through projects that deliver low-cost solutions. The value of the projects will be the development of our collective

understanding of the potential benefits and challenges that REM and AI present. The low-cost approach means that it is not essential that the installed REM systems have a legacy value and it is accepted that the trialled technology may become redundant and replaced if moving from trials to formal implementation.

On 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025, D&S IFCA installed a REM system on an additional mobile gear vessel to further assess the robustness of the on-board hardware and capture further video data necessary for the development of AI, including counting the number of scallop dredges in use.

Defra has indicated that D&S IFCA's Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw 2022 may be confirmed by the Secretary of State this month. The Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw 2022 includes the provisions to require REM to be installed on mobile gear vessels if necessary.

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

### **Background Papers**

- Agenda item 9 Authority meeting 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025
- REM presentation to Defra 2024