



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
SW1P 4DF

T: 03459 335577
helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Date: 17 July 2023

Dear Consultee,

Consultation on Remote Electronic Monitoring

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) invites your views on this consultation, which launches Defra's vision for expanding the use of remote electronic monitoring (REM) in English waters in support of data-led fisheries management decisions. The consultation is being carried out by Defra and will be open from 17 July to 09 October 2023. It should be read alongside the parallel consultations on discards reform, and on the first draft Fisheries Management Plans.

These proposals will affect fishing industry stakeholders with vessels fishing in English waters. There will be more specific impacts for fishers with vessels in the fisheries that are prioritised for remote electronic monitoring. The proposals are also likely to be of interest to retailers and other stakeholders in the seafood supply chain, consumers, NGOs, remote electronic monitoring service providers and other fishing technology companies.

This consultation is an opportunity for you to help shape and influence the future of remote electronic monitoring policy in England and builds upon an ongoing programme of engagement.

The following documents may be found on Defra's website:

- Consultation document
- Annexes

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals.

You can view the consultation documents on GOV.UK

If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation, please email: rem-policy@defra.gov.uk

Responses

To submit your consultation response please:

- complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an online consultation tool);
- or send additional information or documents to the Defra REM policy team by email to rem-policy@defra.gov.uk;
- or respond by post to the REM policy team using the address below.

Written responses can be submitted to:

Remote electronic monitoring team
Marine & Fisheries Directorate
Defra
2 Marsham Street
Seacole Building
1st Floor
SW1P 4DF

Responses should be received before the consultation closes on 09 October 2022.

Consultation criteria

This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office Consultation Principles: [Consultation principles: guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultation-principles)

Confidentiality and data protection

Please find the Consultations Privacy Notice uploaded alongside this consultation.

This consultation document and consultation process have been planned to adhere to the Consultation Principles issued by the Cabinet Office.

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA).

We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the Department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide.

In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential.

If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to the Consultation Coordinator at: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

After the end of the consultation period we will summarise the responses and place this summary on gov.uk.

Copies of responses will be made available to the public on request. If you do not want your response – including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation.

If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours sincerely,

Remote electronic monitoring team

Defra