



Date: 4th October 2018

Dear Consultee,

Consultation on the introduction of Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems (I-VMS) for British licensed vessels under 12 metres in length fishing in English waters

Start Date: 12:00 on the 4th October 2018

End Date: 17:00 on the 14th November 2018

Defra is seeking your views on proposals to enhance fisheries management measures by introducing a requirement to install Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems (I-VMS) to all British licensed under 12 metre fishing boats operating in English waters (with English boats also covered outside of English waters). Vessel monitoring has been a requirement for vessels of 12 metres and over since 2013 and has contributed to the sustainability of UK fisheries.

We recognise that there is more we can do to improve data gathering and sharing and gain an enhanced understanding of the activities of under 12 metre fishing vessels operating in English waters. We need to create sustainable fisheries for the future through more effective enforcement and better informed management. The installation of vessel monitoring devices on the inshore fleet will help inform the Government and fisheries management authorities by providing a greater understanding of where fishing is taking place.

There will be benefits for industry including finer data on where vessels are operating. This could assist in maximising fishing opportunities, such as zoned management within Marine Protected Areas. This means access may be allowed to certain types of fishing in areas where it was previously prohibited.

The tracking of vessels with I-VMS devices installed could also assist with safety at sea. The data captured could be used to develop business plans and demonstrate a track record for catching certain species of fish. I-VMS will enable England to demonstrate that it is taking appropriate steps to fish more sustainably which the industry will be able to use for marketing.

The Marine Management Organisation and Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities will utilise the data gained from I-VMS to monitor compliance as an aid to enforcement. Natural England is also supportive of the benefits and the contribution it can make in establishing a fully documented fishery.

The legislation will apply to the owners or operators of British licensed under 12 metre fishing boats operating within English waters, in effect British fishery limits but not within the Scottish zone, the Welsh zone or the Northern Irish zone. This proposal will not apply to EU or third country under 12 metre vessels fishing in English waters.

Given the scale of this initiative the proposal is for a staggered roll-out of I-VMS between April 2019 and June 2021. The initial cost and installation of the I-VMS unit is to be met by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Other costs such as reporting requirements, extending warranties and future replacement and maintenance of the equipment will be met by industry. Please see the I-VMS consultation document and regulatory triage assessment on the GOV.UK website for more details.

The consultation period will be for 6 weeks as set out at the top of this letter.

Responses

To submit your consultation response please complete the questionnaire online ([Citizen Space](#)) or alternatively submit your responses via email to:

control.and.enforcement@defra.gsi.gov.uk

These are our preferred methods as they are the fastest and most cost effective way for us to collate and analyse responses. Alternatively, if you prefer to respond in writing you can do so by writing to:

UK Fisheries Control and Enforcement Team
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
2nd Floor Foss House
1 – 2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX

Please send responses by 17:00 on the 14th November 2018.

Consultation criteria

This consultation is in line with the Consultation Principles. These can be found at:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>

Confidentiality and Data Protection

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the Government website at: www.gov.uk/defra. The summary will include a list of organisations that responded but not personal names, addresses or other contact details.

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.

Defra will share the information you provide in response to the consultation, including any personal data, with a third party of contracted external analysts for the purposes of response analysis and provision of a report.

Defra is the data controller in respect of any personal data that you provide, and Defra's Personal Information Charter, which gives details of your rights in respect of the handling of your personal data, can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/about/personal-information-charter>

This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office "Consultation Principles" which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

Defra Consultation Co-ordinator
Nobel House
17 Smith Square,
London
SW1P 3JR

Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider and respond to this consultation, we welcome your views and comments.

UK Fisheries Control and Enforcement Team

Defra