



### **1. Why is I-VMS being introduced?**

- Vessel monitoring is a tool that will enable a better understanding of scale, location, and seasonality of fishing activity. This additional information combined with other fisheries data will grow our understanding of fishing and will assist in quota negotiations and marine spatial planning as well as allowing us to identify and respond more swiftly to new issues.
- Data about the location, scale, and seasonality of fishing effort from the majority of English fishers will also provide industry with more powerful information they can use when presenting their case for example in planning consents for marine development, fisheries management, or resolution of gear conflict issues with other marine users.
- Coupled with the outputs from our fisheries assurance service MMO will also be able to better target our risk-based, intelligence-led assurance and inspections activities. In time, it may enable steps towards a lighter touch for fishers who demonstrate a consistently high level of compliance.
- It will enable more precise delineation between fishing grounds and protected areas meaning a better balance between keeping fishing grounds open and protecting sensitive marine habitats and species can be established.
- It will enable improved control of non-English vessels in English waters as the current requirement is for all under-12m vessels to carry a vessel monitoring device.
- Vessel monitoring could increase safety for smaller vessel operators as it could provide timely and accurate detail to inform search and rescue efforts if necessary.

### **2. Which vessels does I-VMS apply to?**

All UK and non-UK under 12m vessels will be required to transmit I-VMS data when operating in English waters. By 'English waters' this means the English section of the UK EEZ. The legal requirement will be introduced by a Statutory Instrument in 2024.

### **3. Which I-VMS devices are approved?**

MMO commissioned independent tests in 2022 in response to concerns that type approved devices did not meet the agreed specifications. On conclusion of those tests, two devices remain type approved: the Fulcrum NEMO and the Succorfish SC2.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/list-of-i-vms-type-approved-devices-for-under-12-metre-english-vessels>

No other vessel monitoring device should be purchased or installed, and no other vessel monitoring devices will comply with the requirements of the statutory instrument (due in 2024) applying to English waters.

A plan has been developed to support those yet to purchase a device and those that purchased a device that is no longer type approved to obtain their choice of type approved device.

#### **4. I have not yet had a device installed, what should I do?**

You can now research and purchase a type approved device that will best suit your vessel and needs. MMO will contact you with details of when installers will be available for bookings in your port, but you are free to book an installation directly with a supplier at any point. Suppliers can also advise you on the options for your vessel type.

List of type approved devices: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/list-of-i-vms-type-approved-devices-for-under-12-metre-english-vessels>

Details of roll-out plan: [www.gov.uk/mmo/i-vms-england](http://www.gov.uk/mmo/i-vms-england)

#### **5. What should I do if I already have a device fitted to my vessel that is no longer type approved?**

You should not attempt to uninstall the device yourself – the engineer who installs your replacement device will uninstall and safely dispose of your old device.

MMO will contact you with details of when installers will be available for bookings in your port, but you are free to book an installation directly with a supplier at any point. Suppliers can also advise you on the options for your vessel type.

List of type approved devices: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/list-of-i-vms-type-approved-devices-for-under-12-metre-english-vessels>

Details of roll-out plan: [www.gov.uk/mmo/i-vms-england](http://www.gov.uk/mmo/i-vms-england)

#### **6. I have already installed a device with type approval, what should I do?**

If you already have a Fulcrum NEMO or Succorfish SC2 device installed on your vessel, you do not need to do anything at this stage. You will need to make sure your device is active before the Statutory Instrument comes into effect in 2024, and we will write to all fishers in advance of that happening.

If you have not yet applied for your EMFF grant, please do that as soon as possible and before 30 November 2023.

In line with assurances given to fishers, MMO confirms it will cover costs of up to £1,050 to support fishers secure a suitable I-VMS device, meaning fishers can reclaim purchase and installation costs.

Grants are available through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) until 30 November 2023.

The process for claiming EMFF funding has been streamlined and fishers should now claim their grant by providing the invoice and accompanying proof of purchase from their preferred supplier.

EMFF grants: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-maritime-fisheries-fund-emff-i-vms>

## 7. What is the I-VMS roll-out plan?

The current I-VMS roll-out plan focuses on scheduled port visits between 4 September and 30 November 2023.

Installations will be delivered in phases at English home ports starting at those locations with the largest number of registered vessels. By targeting those ports with the greatest concentration of vessels, the installation process will be more efficient for fishers, allowing more time for engineers to reach vessels at smaller ports and, we believe, reducing disruption on fishing activity to best support industry.

MMO will contact you with details of when installers will be available for bookings in your port, and you are free to book an installation directly with a supplier of a type approved device at any point.

Details of roll-out plan: [www.gov.uk/mmo/i-vms-england](http://www.gov.uk/mmo/i-vms-england)

List of type approved devices: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/list-of-i-vms-type-approved-devices-for-under-12-metre-english-vessels>

## 8. When will the roll-out plan be announced?

The roll-out plan was announced in mid-August 2023. MMO has written to fishers setting out the plan and explaining what this means based on their circumstances, and what steps, if any, they need to take. We may contact you again over the coming weeks to make sure you have all the information you need, and you can contact MMO directly using the contact details at the end of this document.

You are free to book an installation directly with a supplier of a type approved device at any point, although if you operate from a port identified in the phased roll-out plan we encourage you to book installation of your device within the specified dates.

Details of roll-out plan: [www.gov.uk/mmo/i-vms-england](http://www.gov.uk/mmo/i-vms-england)

List of type approved devices: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/list-of-i-vms-type-approved-devices-for-under-12-metre-english-vessels>

## 9. What if my home port is not included in the roll-out plan?

By targeting those ports with larger groups of vessels, we expect the installation process to be more efficient and allow more time for engineers to reach vessels at smaller ports like yours. Engineers are available now and throughout the roll-out period to take bookings from any vessel owner.

If your home port is not currently included in the schedule, you can choose to either:

- Contact your preferred supplier to purchase an I-VMS device and agree an installation date at your vessel's home port at the soonest convenient date.
- Book an installation at a nearby port during the scheduled booking dates – details are available at [www.gov.uk/mmo/i-vms-england](http://www.gov.uk/mmo/i-vms-england)

Details of roll-out plan: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/inshore-vessel-monitoring-i-vms-for-under-12m-fishing-vessels-registered-in-england>

List of type approved devices: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/list-of-i-vms-type-approved-devices-for-under-12-metre-english-vessels>

## 10. Is there any funding support available?

In line with assurances given to fishers, MMO confirms it will cover purchase and installation costs of up to £1,050 to support fishers secure a suitable I-VMS device.

The process for claiming EMFF funding has been streamlined and fishers should now claim their grant by providing the invoice and accompanying proof of purchase from their preferred supplier.

Grant applications will be processed within 3-5 working days of receipt of all required information.

To meet EMFF grant payment conditions, devices must be installed within 90 days of purchase and **claims must be made by 30 November 2023**.

If you have any questions about grant funding of a non-type approved device, please contact our grants team by phoning 0330 041 6579 or emailing [ukfisheriessupport@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:ukfisheriessupport@marinemanagement.org.uk).

EMFF grants: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-maritime-fisheries-fund-emff-i-vms>

## 11. Why do I have to pay for the device before I can be reimbursed?

Unfortunately, there are specific rules and legislation on grants from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and there is no provision for upfront payments. A fisher can apply for and claim the grant for an I-VMS device, subject to the fund's terms and conditions. This is no different to other general EMFF funding rules.

The grant cap has been reviewed and increased to cover costs of up to £1,050 per vessel. The process for claiming EMFF funding has been streamlined. Fishers should now claim their grant by providing an invoice and proof of payment for their preferred type approved device. Grant applications will be largely processed and paid within 1-2 working days of receipt of all required information and possibly even sooner. To ensure that payments are made as quickly as possible please follow the guidance and make sure you submit the invoice and proof of payment as well as completing the application form.

For owners with more than one vessel, you can mitigate the upfront financial load by phasing your bookings to one vessel at a time.

To meet EMFF grant payment conditions claims must be made by 30 November 2023. EMFF grants: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-maritime-fisheries-fund-emff-ivms> Advice can be found by contacting the MMO Grants team on 0330 041 6579 or [ukfisheriessupport@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:ukfisheriessupport@marinemanagement.org.uk)

## 12. Why has the grant cap been increased?

The cost of components and manufacture, as well as associated supply chain costs have, like most other things, risen sharply in the past year. We have reassessed the cap and set it at a price to reflect the market as it is today.

### 13. What is included?

In line with assurances given to fishers, MMO confirms it will cover costs of up to £1,050 to support fishers secure a suitable I-VMS device, meaning fishers can reclaim the costs of purchase and installation.

Packages for the purchase and installation of a device are available from both suppliers. You should now research and purchase a device that will best suit your vessel and needs.

Suppliers of a type approved device can advise you on the options for your vessel type.

List of type approved devices: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/list-of-i-vms-type-approved-devices-for-under-12-metre-english-vessels>

### 14. What happens if I paid for a device that has since had its type approval revoked, and I have not received my EMFF grant payment yet?

MMO continues to settle EMFF grant applications for claims submitted before the decision to revoke type approval status from devices. Claims should be made by 30 November 2023.

If you have any questions about grant funding of a non-type approved device, please contact our grants team by phoning 0330 041 6579 or emailing [ukfisheriessupport@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:ukfisheriessupport@marinemanagement.org.uk).

EMFF grants: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-maritime-fisheries-fund-emff-i-vms>

### 15. I cannot afford to buy another device, what can I do?

We understand fishers have been impacted by the I-VMS programme. MMO will continue to actively support industry throughout the duration of the I-VMS programme.

In line with assurances given to fishers, MMO confirms it will cover purchase and installation costs of up to £1,050 to support fishers secure a suitable I-VMS device.

The process for claiming EMFF funding has been streamlined and fishers should now claim their grant by providing the invoice and accompanying proof of purchase from their preferred supplier.

The grant cap has been reviewed and increased to cover costs of up to £1,050 per vessel.

The process for claiming EMFF funding has been streamlined. Fishers should now claim their grant by providing proof of purchase from their preferred supplier. Grant applications will be processed within 3-5 working days of receipt of all required information.

To meet EMFF grant payment conditions, devices must be installed within 90 days of purchase and **claims must be made by 30 November 2023**.

EMFF grants: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-maritime-fisheries-fund-emff-i-vms>

For more information on financial support available, please contact the MMO Grants team on 0330 041 6579 or [ukfisheriessupport@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:ukfisheriessupport@marinemanagement.org.uk).

## **16. How can I access I-VMS funding?**

You should apply for funding using our online application portal. Information about what you need to provide, such as proof of purchase, and a link to the application portal is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-maritime-fisheries-fund-emff-i-vms>

The process for claiming EMFF funding has been streamlined. Fishers should now claim their grant by providing proof of purchase from their preferred supplier. Grant applications will be processed within 3-5 working days of receipt of all required information.

When completing your application online, you will be asked to provide an installation date, or where that is not yet confirmed, the date you purchased your I-VMS device.

To meet EMFF grant payment conditions, devices must be installed within 90 days of purchase and **claims must be made by 30 November 2023**.

If you have any I-VMS funding queries, please contact the MMO Grants team at [ukfisheriessupport@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:ukfisheriessupport@marinemanagement.org.uk) or 0330 041 6579.

## **17. I have purchased a device but I haven't booked an installation date yet – can I apply for funding?**

Yes. The process for claiming EMFF funding has been streamlined. Fishers should now claim their grant by providing proof of purchase from their preferred supplier. Grant applications will be processed within 3-5 working days of receipt of all required information.

When completing your application online, you will be asked to provide an installation date, or where that is not yet confirmed, the date you purchased your I-VMS device.

To meet EMFF grant payment conditions, devices must be installed within 90 days of purchase and **claims must be made by 30 November 2023**.

## **18. I will lose a day's fishing to get my device installed – will I be compensated for that?**

MMO is working to minimise any inconvenience experienced during the installation phase. A schedule of locations where engineers will be on site for set periods has been planned, running from 4 September to 30 November 2023. This is to allow you to plan around your normal routine. We are also giving fishers flexibility to choose an appointment date and time to suit them.

Full details are available at: [www.gov.uk/mmo/i-vms-england](http://www.gov.uk/mmo/i-vms-england)

## **19. Do I have to have an I-VMS device to go fishing now?**

As legislation mandating the use of an I-VMS device in English waters has not yet been introduced, you can continue to fish without one. We are however working with industry to have devices installed on all vessels well in advance of the legislation.

If you are subject to existing legislation requiring the operation of an I-VMS device, either under IFCA or Welsh Government legislation, please take action immediately and notify the supplier that you are affected by I-VMS measures when arranging your installation.

Please note that the Welsh Government has a legal requirement for I-VMS to be operating on boats fishing in Welsh waters. Please contact Welsh Government Fisheries department for further information: [MarineEvidenceandTech@gov.wales](mailto:MarineEvidenceandTech@gov.wales) or telephone 03000 258907 / 03000 258923.

## **20. When will it become a legal requirement to have an I-VMS device installed and transmitting?**

MMO expects the Statutory Instrument to come into force in 2024.

## **21. Do I have to transmit any data before the legal requirement?**

Yes, but only during your installation phase - this is so we can verify your device is installed, operational and able to transmit I-VMS data correctly.

After the installation period there is no legal requirement to transmit I-VMS data to us until the I-VMS regulation comes into force. However, if a fisher wishes to, they can voluntarily send I-VMS data to the MMO via the UK VMS Hub prior to the I-VMS regulation coming into force.

## **22. Do I have to transmit I-VMS data at all times when my vessel is not in use?**

The forthcoming legal requirement will require you to transmit I-VMS data when the vessel is in use and in operation in English waters. You do not have to report when the vessel is moored and not in use.

## **23. What does the I-VMS data contain?**

Positional information. In all cases, device ID, date, time, latitude, longitude, speed, and course. In addition, the device will report changes in events such as battery status and data stored.

Data will transmit at regular intervals (every three minutes) via GPRS which is a mobile phone signal to reduce transmission costs. If the I-VMS device is in an area that has no GPRS coverage, then the device will retain the generated data and transmit it all once a connection has been restored. This complies with the legal requirements.

## **24. Who will have access to my data?**

The data will be accessible to the MMO Fisheries Monitoring Centre and other MMO teams. In addition, data may be shared with:

- Other UK Fisheries Administrations
- IFCA's (Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities)
- CEFAS
- National Maritime Information Centre
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Your personal information including location information will not be accessible to other fishers or the public.

## **25. Can my data be used for enforcement purposes?**

I-VMS data will not solely be collected for compliance and assurance tasks. Data is gathered to allow fishers and regulators to manage fisheries and competing demands for the marine space.

## **26. How can fishers access their own vessel monitoring information?**

Vessel owners, agents or skippers should use a Subject Access Request form to request I-VMS data from MMO for their vessel(s). For further information go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vessel-monitoring-system-data-request>.

## **27. What happens if my I-VMS device has a fault - can I go to sea?**

Prior to legislation coming into force, there is nothing preventing a fisher from being able to go to sea, unless they are operating in an area that already requires an operating I-VMS device e.g. by IFCA or a devolved administration, such as Wales.

Once the legal requirement comes into force, there will be a requirement to transmit I-VMS data when operating at sea, and fishing with a non-functioning device will be an offence. If a fisher's device is not operating correctly, then the fisher must contact their device supplier and report the fault for resolution as soon as possible. The fisher must then inform the MMO by emailing [ivms@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:ivms@marinemanagement.org.uk) of the fault and the vessel it relates to.

Further information about the statutory instrument will be provided before it is expected to come into force in 2024.

## **28. Can I use another tracking device instead of an MMO approved I-VMS device?**

No. All under 12m English vessels must operate with an MMO type approved I-VMS device, once the legislation comes into force.

Vessels from other nationalities are not bound to this requirement, providing their device has been endorsed and recognised by their fisheries authority, and the device must provide the same level of data, accuracy and performance to the UK VMS Hub when operating in English waters. AIS will not be accepted.

## **29. I have a small open boat; how do I keep my I-VMS device powered?**

MMO is collaborating with suppliers and industry to fully understand the practicalities and plan the inclusion of under 6 metre vessels in the roll-out.

If you are subject to existing legislation requiring the operation of an I-VMS device, either under IFCA or Welsh Government legislation, please take action immediately and notify the supplier that you are affected by I-VMS measures when arranging your installation.

Suppliers will be able to advise you on the options for your vessel type.

### Fulcrum:

Website: <https://fulcrum-maritime.groupcls.com/nemo-i-vms-type-approved-device/>

Contact telephone number: +44 (0)1708 788400

### Succorfish:

Website: <http://www.succorfish.com/>

Contact telephone number: +44 (0)1914 476883

## **30. I have further questions, who can I ask?**

- Contact the I-VMS Support & Engagement team for general I-VMS information on [ivms@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:ivms@marinemanagement.org.uk) or 01900 508618 from Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm.
- If your questions are about funding or financial support, please contact the MMO Grants team [ukfisheriessupport@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:ukfisheriessupport@marinemanagement.org.uk) or call 0330 041 6579.
- Speak to your local coastal team
- Find more information online at: <http://www.gov.uk/mmo/i-vms-england>