



Marine
Management
Organisation

Privacy Notice

Date Published: 12 May 2025

The Marine Management Organisation is the controller for the personal data we collect. Our [personal information charter](#) explains more about what you can expect when we process your personal data, your rights, and how to contact us or make a complaint.

INSHORE VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM - PRIVACY NOTICE

This privacy notice tells you what to expect us to do with your data when MMO collects it in relation to the Inshore Vessel Monitoring System.

The [MMO Personal Information Charter](#) is available to view.

Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (I-VMS) is a tool that will help gather more information on the activity of the inshore fleet. I-VMS is a legal requirement for all under 12m fishing vessels that operate in English waters and English vessels that operate outside of English waters.

I-VMS sends positional data (latitude, longitude, course and speed) every 3 minutes to the UK VMS Hub. The system is jointly managed by UK Fisheries Administrations. We will process I-VMS data for a range of purposes including but not limited to providing a more complete picture of all fishing in English waters, to support decisions and assessments around activity in byelaw areas, compliance activities, law enforcement and statistical and scientific analysis.

Purpose for processing – why we are collecting your personal data

The data collected by the Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (I-VMS) will be used for, but not limited to, the below:

Monitoring Compliance: Authorities will use the data to ensure that fishing vessels comply with legal and regulatory requirements, such as fishing within designated areas and adhering to quotas and control regulations.

Sustainable Fishing Practices: The data helps in promoting sustainable fishing by monitoring fishing activities and preventing overfishing.

Marine Conservation: By tracking vessel movements, the data supports efforts to protect marine environments and biodiversity.

Safety and Security: The data can be used to enhance the safety and security of fishing vessels by providing real-time location information, which is crucial in case of emergencies.

Research and Analysis: Researchers can use the data to study fishing patterns, vessel behaviours, and the impact of fishing on marine ecosystems.

Informed Decision-Making: The data enables authorities and stakeholders to make informed decisions regarding fisheries management, policy development, and resource allocation, ensuring that actions are based on accurate and up-to-date information.

How the data will be used: Fishing Vessel Positional Data

I-VMS sends positional data (latitude, longitude, course and speed) every 3 minutes to the UK VMS Hub. The system is jointly managed by UK Fisheries Administrations (UKFAs) consisting of:

- Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
- Marine Scotland
- DEFRA
- Joint Maritime Security Council (JMSC)
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland)
- Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (Isle of Man)
- Welsh Government
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)
- Crown Dependencies: Jersey
- MMO are sharing the I-VMS data with Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) via data sharing agreements.

I-VMS is a tool that will help gather more information on the activity of the inshore fleet and will support the aim of sustainable exploitation of UK commercial activities. Examples of how the I-VMS data will be processed include but are not limited to:

- Accurate spatial and temporal information on fishing effort to provide an evidence base for a responsive and effective fisheries management regime.
- Finer scale management to assist in maximising fishing opportunities, such as zoned management within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
- Accurate information of catch locations which may improve consumer confidence when purchasing local fish.
- Information on important fishing grounds which will inform future planning and development proposals.
- Enable fishermen to demonstrate track record.
- Ability to prove that England is taking appropriate steps to fish more sustainably and as a result the industry can market it as such.
- To monitor fishing vessel activity in relation to adherence to fishery and marine legislation and regulations.

What personal data is collected

MMO collects the following information for the above purposes:

- **Device Serial Number:** Unique serial number of the type approved device.
- **Vessel Location:** Latitude and Longitude, GPS coordinates to monitor the vessel's position and movements.
- **Speed and Heading:** Information on the vessel's speed and direction.
- **Time at Sea:** Duration of time the vessel spends at sea.
- **Compliance Data:** Information to ensure the vessel is adhering to legal and regulatory requirements.
- **Status Code:** Status code of the device

How your personal data has been obtained

Your positional data is transmitted from the MMO Type Approved device to the supplier and subsequently forwarded to UK VMS Hub via secure transmission channel. It is then stored in a government secure database accessible only by official personnel, where there is a legitimate data sharing protocol or agreement.

Why we are able to process your personal data

The lawful basis for processing your personal data is under Article 6(1)(e) of the GDPR - Public Task: the processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller to gather fishing vessel positional data as stipulated in the Licence Condition.

Following the introduction of the licence condition that all English registered vessels under 12m have an I-VMS MMO type approved device (I-VMS device) installed onboard and operational, the MMO will process I-VMS data for purposes including compliance with legal obligations, archiving purposes, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes. MMO generates yearly

statistics providing a broad picture of the English fishing industry and its operations. This publication includes data on the structure, activity and landings of the English fleet alongside additional information on overseas trade, exploitation of stocks and the world fishing industry. Furthermore, where such data relates to the possibility of a criminal offence, this data is further processed under Part 3 of the Data Protection Act 2018 (“the Act”) which states that competent authorities may process personal data for law enforcement purposes, as defined under Section 31 of the Act.

Section 31 defines law enforcement purposes as “the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, including the safeguarding against, and the prevention of threats to public security”.

The Marine Management Organisation is a competent authority as referred to in Part 3 of the Act where its statutory functions are set out in the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009, the Fisheries Act 2020 and associated legislation as referred to in those Acts.

Who we share your personal data with

The MMO may share I-VMS data with other partners, such as departments and agencies where this is necessary to perform a task in the public interest or official functions, this could be where there is a clear basis in law or where for example sharing helps fulfil MMOs functions or those of another Government Department such as the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

As regulators, the MMO follow the Regulators Code. The Code was laid before Parliament in accordance with section 23 of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 (“the Act”). As a regulator whose functions are specified by order under section 24(2) of the Act the MMO will have regard to the code when undertaking activities such as:

- Developing policies and operational procedures that guide our regulatory activities
- Setting standards or giving guidance which will guide regulatory activities of other regulators
- Requesting and sharing information including about compliance and risk from those we regulate – following the principle of “collect once, use many times”
- Where the law allows agreeing secure mechanisms to share information with other regulators about businesses and other bodies we regulate, to help target resources and activities and minimise duplications

Under the Freedom of Information Act, your positional data may be published or disclosed in an anonymous and/or aggregated form, to other organisations, bodies or persons for the purpose of scientific research, stock assessment or academia.

The MMO currently share your data with the following organisations:

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- Devolved Fishing Authorities
- Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs)
- National Maritime Information Centre (NMIC) for the purpose of data gathering and analysis with other locational information such Automatic Identification System (AIS) data
- Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) for the purpose of safety at sea, search & rescue activities and environmental protection.
- Joint Maritime Security Council (JMSC)
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)
- Crown Dependencies: Jersey

In addition, we may share your data upon request with other agencies for law enforcement purposes including but not limited to UK Police, HM Revenue & Customs, UK Border Force and National Crime Agency.

How long we are keeping your personal data

Your personal data will be kept by us to inform activity of the inshore fleet and support the aim of sustainable exploitation of English commercial activities. We shall hold and process personal data only for so long as is necessary for the fulfilment of the stated purpose or when legally required to do so. For example, if a vessel is in service as a fishing vessel we will retain records of current and previous owners to facilitate our work as a regulator.

We review our policies regularly in line with data protection policy and operations retention schedule.

Please refer to our [Personal Information Charter](#) and the section 'How long we will keep data' for information on any potential exceptions.

Use of automated decision-making or profiling

The data you provide is not used for:

- automated decision making (making a decision by automated means without any human involvement)
- profiling (automated processing of personal data to evaluate certain things about an individual)

What happens if you do not provide the personal data

Failure to provide your positional data in contravention of the Licence Condition could result in further action being taken in-line with the MMO's published compliance enforcement strategy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/compliance-and-enforcement-strategy/compliance-and-enforcement-strategy>

Transfer of your personal data outside of the United Kingdom

The only international transfer of data outside of the UK may be to the Government of Jersey, which will be governed by a data sharing agreement between MMO and the Government of Jersey to ensure that the recipients of the data are bound by requirements equivalent to the data protection requirements set out in England's data protection legislation. The data sharing agreement relies on an adequacy assessment, more about which can be found here:

[The UK Government's assessment of adequacy for the Bailiwick of Jersey for the law enforcement processing of personal data | ICO](#)

The address for the Government of Jersey where data may be shared can be found here:

Marine Resources & Fisheries
Howard Davis Farm
Trinity
Jersey
JE3 5JP

Your rights

The UK GDPR provides certain rights for individuals. These rights vary depending on the basis for processing. The MMO are processing I-VMS data in accordance with:

Article 6(1)(e) of the GDPR - Public Task: the processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller to gather fishing vessel positional data as stipulated in the Licence Condition.

Where such data relates to the possibility of a criminal offence, this data is further processed under Part 3 of the Data Protection Act 2018 ("The Act") which states that competent authorities may process personal data for law enforcement purposes, as defined under Section 31 of the Act.

A guide to your individual rights can be found here: [A guide to individual rights | ICO](#)

More information surrounding data subject rights under the UK General Data Protection Regulation, the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018), is accessible at: [Information Commissioner's Office](#).

How to contact us or make a complaint

In the first instance, you can direct queries or complaints to the MMO Data Protection Manager at:

Data Protection Manager,
Marine Management Organisation,
Lancaster House,
Hampshire Court,
Monarch Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7YH

Email: dataprotection@marinemanagement.org.uk

Any questions about how we are using your personal data and your associated rights should be sent to the above contact.

The Data Protection Officer (DPO) for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) group is responsible for checking that MMO complies with legislation. You can contact them at:

Data Protection Officer (DPO) for the Defra group
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Email: DefraGroupDataProtectionOfficer@defra.gov.uk

If you believe that your personal data has been misused or mishandled, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner, who is an independent regulator. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Email: casework@ico.org.uk