Department of
Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Consultation on proposals for vessel monitoring systems on all licensed fishing boats under 12 metres in length fishing in Northern Ireland waters.

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CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Subject

This consultation seeks to gain views on the proposal for all fishing vessels under 12 metres in length licensed to fish and operating in Northern Ireland waters (with Northern Ireland vessels also covered outside of Northern Ireland waters) to have installed and operational an Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems (I-VMS). The consultation questions are included at Annex A.

Purpose

This consultation seeks to establish any potential impacts of introducing I-VMS to under 12m vessels.

Prior to this public consultation, DAERA has held discussions with its Inshore Fisheries Partnership Group which includes a range of fishing industry stakeholders such as the Northern Ireland Fishermen's Federation (NIFF), Anglo-North Irish Fish Producers Organisation (ANIFPO), Northern Ireland Fish Producers' Organisation (NIFPO), North Coast Lobster Fishermen's Association (NCLFA), North East Lobster Co-operative (NELCO), Seafish and the Northern Ireland Marine Task Force.

Geographical Scope

The proposal for the requirement for IVMS would apply to all fishing boats under 12 metres in length licensed to fish and operating in Northern Ireland waters (the NI zone) and to Northern Ireland under 12m vessels fishing outside the NI zone. In practice this means Scottish, Welsh and English vessels fishing in the NI zone as well as those of the Crown Dependencies and those vessels registered in EU member States that may have access to fish in the NI zone.

Audience

This consultation will be of particular interest to owners and operators of fishing vessels under 12 metres in length licensed to fish and operating in Northern Ireland waters. The proposed policy would require vessel owners/skippers to have I-VMS installed and operational on board their vessels. An indicative time frame for implementation of the legislation and installation of monitoring devices is set out in Annex B of this document.

However, this public consultation is open to anyone who may wish to contribute their view on the proposed policy. This consultation is the principal means by which DAERA will gather views on the proposal.

Duration

This consultation will run for a period of ten weeks from 24 March 2022 until 6 June 2022.

How to Respond

Citizen Space is the recommended tool for all NI Government Consultations and is an online platform that is safe for use in terms of the General Data Protection Regulations.

You can view this consultation on line at the Northern Ireland Hub - Citizen Space. This includes a facility to respond on-line.

Alternatively, you may also send written responses to;

U-12 metre Fishing Vessel Monitoring Systems Consultation
Sea Fisheries Policy Branch
Rathkeltair House
Market Street
Downpatrick
Co Down
BT30 6AJ

You may also respond to the consultation by email to seafisheries@daera-ni.gov.uk with the subject “I-VMS Consultation”

Enquiries

If you have any enquiries, or wish to receive hard copies of the consultation documents, please contact us by using the details shown above.

Confidentiality of Responses and Sharing of Information

DAERA will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. DAERA is unable to reply individually to the points you may raise as part of your reply.

Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and this will provide you with guidance on the legal position about any information submitted by you in response to this consultation.

Section 8(e) of the Data Protection Act 2018 permits processing of personal data when necessary for an activity that supports or promotes democratic engagement. Information provided by respondents to this stakeholder engagement exercise will be held and used for the purposes of the administration of this current exercise and subsequently disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation. For more information view the DAERA Privacy Statement

The FOI Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential, information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public please include an explanation in your response including any harm you believe such a disclosure might cause.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the FOI Act provides that:

- The Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- The Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature, acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office, or visit the ICO website

Introduction

1. The United Kingdom is an independent coastal state and its fisheries administrations (including the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)) have the scope to determine the best fisheries management strategies to support a sustainable and profitable industry for future generations while conserving its vital marine environment.

2. The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the requirement for Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) to be installed and operational on all vessels under 12 metres in length that are licensed to fish and are operating in Northern Ireland waters (the NI zone) and to Northern Ireland registered vessels operating outside the NI zone.

3. The policy intention behind this proposal is that DAERA recognises there is more that can be done to improve data on inshore vessel activity. This is essential to, managing fisheries sustainably for the future, protecting the marine environment, providing evidence to inform marine planning decisions more effective monitoring control and enforcement.

What is VMS and what are we proposing to do?

4. VMS records the location, speed and heading of a vessel using a secure tamper resistant system. It sends this information to an established national centre using mobile telephone technology. Once the VMS device is fitted, it works automatically when powered, meaning fishers do not have to spend time turning it on and setting it up each time they put to sea.

5. The signals sent by each VMS device on a fishing vessel registered in Northern Ireland is only seen by DAERA, or if that Northern Ireland registered vessel entered the English, Welsh or Scottish zones, the respective fisheries policy authorities in those administrations.

6. Other fishers and the public cannot see fishers' locations and the data feed is protected. Information is only shared with organisations that require it as part of regulating and managing the marine environment.

7. Vessel monitoring systems using satellite technology have been used by all European fishing vessels over 15 metres in length since 2003. In 2013, a vessel monitoring system using satellite and mobile phone options was introduced in the UK for vessels 12 metres and over in length. These systems are widely used for monitoring and managing fishing activity, protecting the marine environment, and providing evidence of important fishing areas for marine planning purposes. For example, this evidence has been important to help minimise the impacts on fishing activity when choosing sites for marine protected areas and wind farms.

8. Of the 293 Northern Ireland registered fishing vessels only 86 are currently being tracked using VMS in accordance with retained EU law that continues to apply in the UK. These vessels are 12 metres and over in length and tend to operate further offshore and catch a larger proportion of total fish caught (93% of the total tonnage caught in 2019, 95% in 2020), hence they were initially prioritised for VMS.

9. DAERA proposes to extend the use of VMS to the under 12 metre fishing fleet, bringing it into alignment with the larger fleet to provide a fuller picture of where fishing is taking place and the value of the inshore area for fishing.

10. The Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (IVMS) will differ from VMS because it will transmit data through General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) rather than satellite technology and will be simpler, and thus lower cost, than the system used by larger vessels. GPRS is a packet oriented mobile data service on cellular communication system's Global System for Mobile communications (GSM).

11. IVMS units are lower cost than VMS units and utilise high frequency reporting, which typically may range from every 3 minutes up to every 10 minutes. The units receive messages using mobile signals (GPRS) on board vessels, and transmit the data onwards. If there is no mobile signal the device will store reports and transmit when in range.

Objectives for the installation of IVMS for the under 12m fleet

12. The policy objective of this IVMS proposal is to gain better information on fishing activity in the inshore region (0-12 nautical miles). This will improve understanding of the location, volume and value of fishing activity of that fleet, informing a number of key areas necessary to managing fisheries more fairly and efficiently and providing information on fishing activity for use in marine planning.

13. IVMS will also provide a range of benefits to industry including for example:

    - Utilise finer scale management to assist in maximising fishing opportunities, such as zoned management within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) without excessive buffer zones, and creating a more responsive management system. This means access may be allowed to certain types of fishing in areas where it would otherwise have to be prohibited.
    - Provide consumers with accurate information of catch locations which may improve consumer confidence and traceability when purchasing local fish.
    - There are also safety at sea implications, and the tracking functionality may assist with recovery and swifter payment of insurance claims in case of loss or damage of vessel at sea.

- Providing assurance that we are taking appropriate steps to fish more sustainably and as a result the industry is able to market it as such, use this to support environmental accreditation of fisheries.
- Enable the data captured to be used by fishermen to develop their business plans.
- Enable fishermen to demonstrate they have a track record of fishing in specific areas, avoiding disputes and ensuring that fishermen who are genuinely active in an area have their interests protected.
- Provide fishermen with data with which they can use to engage in marine spatial planning and consultations relating to MPAs, marine renewable energy and other infrastructure projects.
- Achieve a culture of compliance within the fishing industry leading to more sustainable fishing, healthier fish stocks and long term profitability.

Who will be affected by the changes?

14. The policy to have IVMS installed would apply to the owners or operators of all fishing vessels under 12 metres in length that are licensed to fish and operating in Northern Ireland waters (the NI zone) and Northern Ireland under 12m vessels fishing outside the Northern Ireland zone.

15. Northern Ireland waters in this instance means the NI zone which is British Fishery Limits adjacent to NI and excluding the English, Scottish and Welsh zones and waters around the Isle of Man.

Current developments elsewhere in the UK

16. In regard to fishing vessels under 12 metres in length operating in English waters, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is phasing in the installation of type-approved devices from early in 2022 and expects to complete the installations by the end of 2022.

17. Fishers in England will be able to claim up to £650 per vessel through the MMO grant reclaim process that goes towards purchasing a device and the installation costs. The timelines for enforcement of new VMS measures in England are partly contingent on the impact on vessels registered in EU member States and related notification obligations to the European commission in accordance with the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

18. In 2019 the MMO introduced a catch recording system in 2019 for the English under 10 metre fleet and this system provides data promptly on what species of fish is being caught by the inshore fleet and where it is caught. These two

initiatives combined will give a more complete picture of current fishing levels in English waters and whether they are sustainable.

19. In Wales where over 90% of the fishing fleet are vessels under 12 metres in length, the Welsh Government has introduced the Sea Fishing Operations (Monitoring Devices) (Wales) Order 2022 that requires any fishing vessel under 12 metres in length operating in Welsh waters to have an IVMS. This legislation came into force on 15 February 2022 and requires fishing vessels to have a monitoring device on board, to notify the Welsh authorities of the required information and for that information to be transmitted to the Welsh authorities at least once in every ten minute period. This requirement will supplement the catch recording system that the Welsh Government introduced for vessels under 10 metres in length in 2020.

20. The Welsh Government has offered to supply and fit an iVMS device for free to all current Welsh registered under 12m fishing vessels to assist with the implementation of the new requirements. Welsh Government is fully funding the cost and installation of the device including a 3 year warranty and paying the data charges for the first year. Three types of the one iVMS device (fixed, solar or rechargeable) are being offered to suit the range of vessels in the Welsh under 12 metre fleet.

21. The Scottish Government has not committed to IVMS yet.

22. The Isle of Man Government previously consulted on proposals to introduce iVMS in 2019, which received broad support providing that the costs were partially met by the Department in respect of Isle of Man registered vessels. DAERA understands that the Isle of Man Government is planning a short follow up 4 week consultation in March 2022 on the introduction of iVMS in-line with the MMO arrangements that apply in England. ,

Funding

23. It would be the intention of the Department to fund (subject to funding through the Department's 2022/23 Maritime and Fisheries Fund budget allocation for sea fisheries control and enforcement activities) the cost of first installation of IVMS units and an initial warranty. Costs of transmitting data, and replacement of devices outside the initial warranty period would be borne by the industry. This approach has previously been followed for the introduction of VMS for larger vessels.

24. The typical costs associated with the purchase, installation and recurring costs of IVMS devices are included with the draft Regulatory Impact Assessment at Annex B. These are indicative of the type-approved options which the Marine Management Organisation is implementing in England

25. Subject to the outcome of this consultation, DAERA would arrange for the supply of suitable IVMS devices and the intention would be to make devices available that can be fitted across the range of inshore vessel types within the Northern Ireland fishing fleet. The responses to this consultation will enable DAERA to do further work on:

- fitting and powering devices
- assessing the quality and reliability of the equipment required
- fishers accessing their own data
- understanding costs maintenance and repair services
- whether to provide vessels with a specific device from a single supplier or provide funding to permit vessels to purchase "type approved" devices from a range of suppliers

Phased Roll-out

26. DAERA would intend to use a risk based approach to phase the roll-out of any requirement to have IVMS installed, starting with the larger vessels in the under 12 metre fleet and those who have a track record of fishing in the vicinity of the Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland zone.

27. An indicative schedule of the installation plan is attached at Annex D

How and when are we going to make these changes?

28. Subject to the outcome of the consultation exercise, and if a final decision is taken to introduce the requirement for IVMS on fishing vessels under 12 metres operating in Northern Ireland waters (and NI fishing vessels operating elsewhere) it would be implemented through legislation to make it a statutory requirement to fit IVMS and have it operating during fishing trips.

29. Installation of devices would begin as soon as possible after devices are made available. It is expected that the legislation for the mandatory requirement for vessel monitoring systems would come into operation after the installation phase for all under 12 metre vessels has been completed.

30. To help manage the process, DAERA would intend to conduct a phased rollout of the installation of devices.

31. Officials in DAERA would contact owners/skippers of the fishing vessels in each of the installation plan and explain the next steps.

Equality Impact

32. DAERA has carried out an equality screening exercise in regard to this proposal for all under 12 metre fishing vessels operating in the Northern Ireland zone to

have IVMS installed and operational. The proposal has been screened out as DAERA considers that it has no additional differential or adverse impact on any of the section 75 classifications. However we would welcome views on this assessment.

Rural Needs

33. The fishing industry is an integral part of the many rural coastal communities in Northern Ireland. The Department has carried out a rural needs impact assessment on the policy proposal for the requirement for IVMS on the under 12 metre fishing vessels and considers that the introduction of this proposal would be of benefit to commercial inshore fishers which are mainly based in and around the rural fishing harbours and small ports in Northern Ireland.

ANNEX A

Consultee information

1. What is your name?

2. What is your email address?

3. What category best describes your interest in this consultation? e.g. producer organisation, skipper/owner fishing vessel, fisherman (state main species targeted), registered buyer or seller of fish, environmental group, inshore fishing association, individual etc.

4. If applicable what is the name of your organisation?

5. What is your role in the organisation?

6. Would you like your response to be confidential? If so, please state you reasons.

Consultation questions

1. Do you agree with the proposal to require I-VMS on under 12m vessels?

Yes / No / Unsure, please provide comments below in support of your view.

1A. If you are the owner of a registered fishing vessel under 12 metres and you answered yes to Question 1, please indicate whether you would prefer a bespoke Northern Ireland iVMS product from a single supplier or a “type-approved” product which might offer vessel owners a number of options to choose from?

The pros and cons for each approach are included at Annex B.

☐ single bespoke NI product

☐ “type approved” product

Please give your reasons:

2. What alternative approaches could be taken to achieve the same policy objectives for the introduction of vessel monitoring systems on under 12 metre fishing vessels?

3. What are your views on the costs and benefits as set out in the draft Regulatory Impact Assessment, do you agree with them? Yes / No, please provide comments below in support of your view.

5. Are there any costs or benefits that have not been identified in the draft Regulatory Impact Assessment? What evidence do you have to support this?

6. Are there any further comments you would like to make on the impact of the proposal?

ANNEX B

PROS AND CONS OF A TYPE APPROVED ARRANGEMENT (MULTIPLE SUPPLIERS OFFER DEVICES TO A MINIMUM REQUIRED SPECIFICATION AND DAERA MAKES A CONTRIBUTION TO THE COST AND INSTALLATION UP TO A BUDGETED LEVEL)	
PROS	**CONS**
No procurement process for authorities to procure devices, may result in faster roll out. DAERA proposes to use devices already type approved by DEFRA/Marine Management Organisation	Less certainty for DAERA and industry about cost of device and installation – DAERA would need to apply a funding cap if more expensive devices are chosen that would exceed budget. Possible criticism from industry if more expensive devices were preferred but not 100% funded.
Less risk of criticism of Department for creating a monopoly, restricting choice and possibly tying industry into higher operating costs.	No contractual control – support contracts will be needed between DAERA and all of the suppliers to ensure a minimum quality standard and level of service – potential for variable performance between devices and reduced consistency in reporting and monitoring.
Provides competition which should lead to lower cost for government in supply of initial devices and for industry in on-going operating and maintenance costs as potential less cost	Roll - out of installation likely to be more difficult to administer with several suppliers. Industry will have to review products available and arrange to procure an approved device.
More choice for industry to select most appropriate device for their vessel and business.	Arguably less incentive for suppliers to participate as they have no guarantee of number of devices but may have to develop new device, market their own services and finance their own roll out. Devices offered may be less developed or less devices may be offered.

PROS AND CONS OF A SINGLE TENDER FOR SINGLE DEVICE (DAERA PROCURES A SINGLE DEVICE AND FUNDS INSTALLATION AT 100%)	
PROS	**CONS**
More contractual control over quality and service provision when working with a single supplier.	No choice for industry – monopoly created which may result in higher operating costs in the long term.
Consistent standard of reporting and monitoring across all vessels.	No competition between suppliers that might drive competitive pricing, better service standards and product improvements.
More certainty for the Department and industry over costs of procurement and installation	Potential criticism of DAERA for creating monopoly marketplace, may not address Government commitments to provide opportunities for small and medium enterprises.
Roll-out of installation likely to be easier to administer with single supplier – industry does not have compare suppliers and arrange purchase.	Procurement process for single device may delay roll-out relative to offering choice of type approved devices already available in England
Guaranteed market should make tender attractive and promote more development of the product offered.	

ANNEX C

REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This Regulatory Impact Assessment relates to the introduction of new legislation to make it a statutory requirement to have a functioning Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) on all licensed fishing vessels under 12 metres in length operating in Northern Ireland waters, and all Northern Ireland fishing vessels under 12 metres wherever they are operating (including outside of Northern Ireland waters). It is recognised that there is more that the Department can do to improve data gathering and create sustainable fisheries for the future through more effective enforcement and informed management.

The intended effect of intervention is to:

- Provide scientific and operational data that will assist in making future policy, regulation and enforcement decisions more effective and proportionate;
- Improve the understanding of commercial fishing activities taking place in Northern Ireland waters.
- Provide evidence for marine planning.
- Improve intelligence, collaboration and sharing of information between Northern Ireland and UK fisheries operational staff.

Vessel monitoring systems record the accurate location, speed and heading of vessels using a secure tamper resistant system. It sends this information using mobile telephone technology, utilising the existing monitoring infrastructure that is in place for the 12 metre and over vessels.

Option 1 – Do Nothing

Currently, the majority of under 12 metre vessels (do not need to have a vessel monitoring system on board and therefore our understanding of the activities of under 12 metre fishing vessels operating in Northern Ireland waters and Northern Ireland fishing boats under 12 metres (wherever they are operating) is limited. Some information on location of catch for this sector of the fleet is gathered retrospectively through sales notes and monthly catch returns.

However, the information provided is of limited value with no means of verifying its accuracy and there can also be delays in its receipt meaning that it is difficult to use effectively that information for fisheries and marine environment management.

Of the Northern Ireland fishing fleet almost 70% of vessels are under 12 metre and therefore, if there is no change, future management decisions will have to be made using limited and incomplete information.

Doing nothing is the baseline option and as such there are no additional costs and benefits associated with this option. This option would not deliver the policy goals of the Marine and Fisheries Division and, consequently, this is not the preferred option.

Option 2 –Voluntary Scheme

Introducing a voluntary scheme would likely result in a partial uptake of the use of VMS devices which may be enhanced by the financial incentives available through the provision of equipment via the Marine and Fisheries Fund (MFF).

That financial incentive would not apply to vessels from other UK administrations therefore it is less likely that they would adhere to any voluntary scheme.

Considering these points, the outcome of following this option would be a limited uptake of IVMS resulting in an incomplete picture of fishing operations in Northern Ireland waters. This option would not deliver the policy goals of the Marine and Fisheries Division and, consequently, this is not the preferred option.

Option 3 – Introduce through license condition

This option would involve the introduction of a licence condition which would require Northern Ireland fishing vessels to carry a functioning IVMS. For this to apply to other UK vessels there would need to be agreement with other UK administrations to include a

similar license condition. If this agreement could not be reached there would be a risk of adversely affecting Northern Ireland fishing vessels. The detail that would be required within a license condition would also make this option unwieldy.

Whilst this option could, in theory, deliver the policy goals of the Marine and Fisheries Division the obstacles described above are significant and, consequently, this is not the preferred option.

Option 4 – Introduce a Northern Ireland Statutory Rule

This option involves the introduction of a Statutory Rule which will require all licensed fishing vessels operating in Northern Ireland waters and all Northern Ireland fishing vessels under 12 metres wherever they are fishing, to carry a functioning IVMS.

At this stage, it is thought that the Statutory Rule would be introduced using powers available under section 5 of the Sea Fisheries Act 1968, however, that enabling power will be kept under review as the proposals develop.

Similar legislation is already in force in Wales and is being developed in England.

A Statutory Rule is considered to be the only option that will entirely and most effectively meet the policy objective **and is, consequently, the preferred option.**

Cost to the Department

The total cost to DAERA would depend on the outcome of the consultation and the approach taken on whether a device is provided by a single supplier or there is an option to select a device from a range of type approved devices.

This could cost up to £300,000 to cover purchase and installation of devices, the first year of data plans and licence costs. Budget cover for such fisheries control and enforcement measures is provided for in DAERA's allocation from the Maritime and Fisheries Fund (MFF). These costs include:-

- Supplying and fitting approximately 200 VMS devices to all current Northern Ireland under 12 metre fishing vessels.
- Annual data plan and software license costs for the first 12 months for approximately 200 vessels.

- Software development including database configuration, hosting, security, governance and integration with the UK VMS Hub
- Future post-release development

Benefits to the Department

There are a number of benefits for the Department which are outlined below:-

- Provide scientific and operational data that will assist in making future policy, and effectively managing Northern Ireland's marine resources.
- Improve the understanding of commercial fishing activities taking place in Northern Ireland waters.
- Provide evidence for marine planning.
- Improve intelligence, collaboration and sharing of information between Northern Ireland and UK fisheries operational staff.

Cost to fishing industry

After the first 12 months owners/masters would be responsible for the annual data charge of the VMS device. This would be approximately. £120 - £150

Benefits to fishing industry

There are a number of benefits for Industry for having a VMS installed which are outlined below:-

- Enable fishermen to demonstrate evidence of fishing activity which can be used to respond to proposed developments in the marine environment that may have an impact their business.
- The tracking functionality could assist with recovery and swifter payment of insurance claims in case of loss or damage of vessel at sea.

- The provision of additional safety features aimed to provide protection for single handed fishers.

Summary of the preferred option

The preferred option is to introduce a Statutory Rule which would make it mandatory for all fishing vessels under 12 metres in length operating in Northern Ireland waters and all Northern Ireland fishing vessels under 12 metres wherever they are fishing to carry a functioning vessel monitoring system on-board.

MMO TYPE APPROVED PRODUCTS (INDICATIVE COSTS)

The devices set out below were identified as part of the procurement exercise by the Marine Management Organisation for its type approval process. They are included to give fishers an illustration of some of the costs identified with a range of iVMS devices. The supplier name has not been included in the list of devices.

Indicative costs (exc. VAT) of MMO type approved options

Product	Device	Installation	Additional Kit	Total (exc VAT)	Total (inc VAT)
Product A	£499	£0	£0	£499	£599
Product B	£475	Included	£0	£475	£570
Product C	£1300	£300	£170	£1170	£2124
Product D	£1300	£300	£0	£1600	£1920

Product E	£650	£200	£60	£910	£1092
Product F	£650	£200	£60	£910	£1092

ANNEX D

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE FOR INSTALLATION AND SET UP OF VMS ON UNDER 12 METRE FISHING VESSELS

DAERA anticipates that the staggered rollout of installations would commence with Northern Ireland registered fishing vessels 9m to 11.99m in length and those vessels that fish in NI marine protected areas.

MONTH 1-2

All licensed fishing vessels of 9m to 11.99m in length to have an I-VMS device installed.

There are around 59 fishing vessels within this length range.

MONTH 3-5

All licensed fishing vessels 6m to 8.99m in length to have an I-VMS device installed.

There are around 102 fishing vessels within this length range.

MONTH 6-7

All licensed fishing vessels up to 5.99m in length to have an I-VMS device installed.

There are around 46 vessels in this length range.

Note:

Owners or masters may be required to have I-VMS fitted in advance of the schedule above if they fish in other waters (outside of Northern Ireland zone) where it is an existing requirement to have a vessel monitoring system operational.