



Agenda item B7

By: Chief IFC Officer
To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – 30 November 2018
Subject: Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems (IVMS) update
Classification Unrestricted

Summary:

To update Members on the installation of vessel monitoring systems on under 12m vessels

Recommendations:

This report is for **NOTING, DISCUSSION** and **COMMENT**.

Background

Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) are required to be fitted and operated on all licensed fishing vessels over 12m in overall length. These units have a two hourly reporting rate and communicate via satellite telephones, which reflects the fact that such vessels primarily work offshore.

In December 2012 Defra asked the MMO to lead a project to co-ordinate the development of IVMS as a potential management solution for inshore fisheries and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The project was developed in partnership with the ten IFCAs and its scope included achieving type approved devices for installation on under 12m overall length licensed fishing vessels and exploring funding opportunities to achieve the same. In August 2016 devices from three suppliers achieved 'type approved' status for their IVMS units, namely AST, Succorfish and Marine Instruments. All three devices communicate via mobile telephone (GSM/GPRS).

On 4th October 2018 Defra started a six-week consultation (Appendix 1) to gain public views on the proposal to introduce Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems (IVMS) for all licensed British fishing boats under 12 metres in length operating in English waters (with English boats also covered outside of English waters). After considering the feedback from the consultation the likely intent of Defra will be to make this a legislative requirement by means of a statutory instrument.

Developing a programme to limit the cost of IVMS introduction on the industry

A joint IFCA/MMO project has been formally established to manage the roll-out of IVMS units under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in an effort to reduce the financial burden on the industry. The EMFF control fund rules provide that applications must be from public bodies. At the quarterly authority meeting in May 2018 Members approved KEIFCA's involvement in this project and authorised the use of IFCA reserves to initially fund the installation of IVMS units within the District for the under 12m fleet. Officers subsequently submitted a bid to the EMFF for the required overall funding.

After going through a due diligence process and getting specific legal advice through the Association of IFCAs, a decision was made by the project board to identify an alternative funding model and to withdraw the EMFF bids made by each IFCA. After significant discussion, the MMO Board have approved the change to the funding model for the project. This means that the MMO will now become the applicant and the project roll-out plans and actions can gather pace. Although the funding mechanism for the project has changed, there is still a significant commitment from all IFCAs, in time, resource and expertise that is being fed into the project and IFCAs will continue to lead on the local engagement aspect of the roll-out.

Using IVMS on KEIFCA patrol vessels

As part of the IVMS roll-out project, EMFF money has been allocated to support the IFCAs in the installation of IVMS units on their patrol vessels so that the location of our vessels can be seen in real time by other government enforcement agencies (MMO, Border Force, Royal Navy etc). This will significantly help national coordination of UK marine assets and help us work more efficiently with other agencies. It will also mean that KEIFCA officers get real world experience of the IVMS systems and their use to aid their knowledge of the system being used by the industry.

Recommendations:

This report is for **NOTING, DISCUSSION** and **COMMENT**.