



Digital Monitoring update – October 2019

Important information about electronic reporting and on-board cameras

Kia ora

We're fast approaching the time when everyone must be using electronic catch and position reporting devices. Make sure you're ready for this and leave plenty of time to order the equipment you need well before you want to go fishing.

Also, from 1 November, on-board cameras will be operating on some trawl and set net vessels fishing off the North Island's west coast.

This newsletter includes updates on both these things, as well as giving you some tips about reporting errors we are noticing, and the recent circular consultations.

On-board cameras

From 1 November, a number of trawl and set net vessels must operate on-board cameras in a defined West Coast North Island fishing area. These vessels have been identified as having the highest chance of encountering the critically endangered Māui dolphin.

The camera footage of fishing in this area will be reviewed by authorised MPI staff. They'll review all this footage for protected species interactions (including for encounters with Māui dolphin), and will check samples of the footage to verify fishers' catch reports.

Those fishers directly impacted by this roll-out will be sent all of the information they need for 1 November to make sure everything runs smoothly. This will include information on who to contact for support.

For more information on this camera roll-out, please visit www.fisheries.govt.nz/camerasWCNI.

Please note, this camera roll-out does not remove or alter other current TMP requirements for fishers intending to fish in statistical areas 40-42, 45, and 46. If this relates to you, you may require an observer. Contact observer@mpi.govt.nz if you are unsure if you need an observer.

Electronic catch and position reporting

We're now into Stage 6, which had a 'must report' date of 1 October, with Stage 7 just around the corner. You should already have checked out the best devices for you and purchased these. Just a reminder that if you're facing any technical difficulty meeting this date and intend to go fishing, please contact the digital monitoring team: digitalmonitoring@mpi.govt.nz.

Please remember that you need to register your GPR devices through FishServe. Your dashboard on your FishServe account will tell you what you need to do before you start your new reporting.

Find out what stage you're in through your FishServe online account. For more information about changing over to electronic reporting, visit our website: www.fisheries.govt.nz/ereporting.

Improved catch reporting

Many of you who are already reporting electronically are making good use of the ability to report catch of more than just the 8 species required. This is providing very useful information, including for our lower-knowledge stocks, which was not feasible to capture on the old paper returns.

Get ready before Christmas

Get set up and ready to go with your new e-logbook and position reporting devices well before you want to go fishing, as delivery can take time – especially in the lead-up to Christmas.

Errors in manual location reporting

We are noticing errors in manual location reporting where fishers forget to enter a (-) or (E) for the latitude and longitude. This results in a location report in the Northern Hemisphere or other side of the International Date Line that then has to be corrected. Please make sure you are entering the information correctly.

Consultation on circulars

In September, we let you know that we were seeking feedback on proposed amendments to two documents:

- Fisheries (E-logbook Users Instructions and Codes) Circular (No.2) 2018;
- Fisheries (Geospatial Position Reporting Devices) Circular (No.2) 2018.

At the same time we asked for feedback on the

- Fisheries (Electronic Monitoring on Vessels) Circular 2019.

Consultation has now closed, and we received 23 submissions in total. Thank you to everyone who provided their comments.

The finalised Fisheries (Electronic Monitoring on Vessels) Circular 2019 is on our website: <https://www.fisheries.govt.nz/dmsdocument/37682-fisheries-electronic-monitoring-on-vessels-circular-2019>.

We're currently analysing all remaining submissions for the Fisheries (E-logbook Users Instructions and Codes) Circular (No.2) 2018 and the Fisheries (Geospatial Position Reporting Devices) Circular (No.2) 2018 to develop proposals for change.

We'll be responding to everyone who provided feedback by letter and have contacted a few people who made submissions to clarify some points raised. We will also be sending a link and copy of the final circulars to all fishers.

Sustainability Awards 2020

The New Zealand Seafood Sustainability Awards have recently been established to recognise and celebrate industry, tangata whenua and communities who demonstrate outstanding dedication and innovation towards sustainability.

Entries are now open and close on 24 November 2019. The award categories include:

- Operation Innovation Award
- Market Innovation and Value-added Award
- Katiakitanga Award
- Supreme Sustainability Award
- Emerging Leader Award
- Minister of Fisheries' Award.

More information can be found at www.fisheries.govt.nz/awards2020.

Ngā mihi,

Kevin Bryant
Director Digital Monitoring
Fisheries New Zealand