



## Digital Monitoring update – August 2020

Kia ora,

This newsletter includes updates and reminders on electronic catch and position reporting.

### Contacting your technology provider when facing problems with your electronic catch and position reporting devices

For issues with either your electronic reporting or GPR device, such as a malfunction, **you must speak to your technology provider in the first instance**. Your respective providers will be able to assist you with any technology difficulties you encounter.

Your provider will now let MPI know that you have contacted them and confirm the details of any issue with your device that cannot be fixed straight away. This confirmation is required for the processing of a Direction request if you need one. If you cannot contact your provider – because the issue occurs outside of their service hours, for example – please let MPI know and we will work with you regarding your Direction request.

Remember, if you would like to request a Direction due to an issue with your device, you will need to contact the National Communications Centre directly on 0800 00 83 33.

### Reminder: completing reports in the required timeframes

Fisheries Compliance is monitoring the timing of reports being submitted. We are pleased to say that the vast majority of permit holders are reporting within the required timeframes; however, a small number are providing fishing information late.

Between now and 30 September 2020, Fisheries Compliance will be in contact with permit holders providing reports late, to help them improve their reporting and to outline potential consequences of not providing reports on time.

From 1 October 2020, Fisheries Compliance will progress a gradual enforcement approach with permit holders that continue to provide late reports.

By late 2020, all commercial fishers and permit holders will have had reasonable time and opportunity to ensure that electronic reports are provided within the timeframes required by *Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017* and associated Circulars. You can also refer to your electronic reporting guidebook.

For fishers that continue to miss the required timeframes for submitting reports, Fisheries Compliance may escalate its response to include infringements or other penalties, as was the case under the paper reporting regime.

### Providing position and Trip Start reports at the right time

Last month, we let you know that we've noticed some instances where fishers are providing position reports but no associated e-logbook reports. Please remember that:

- As soon as you head out on a commercial fishing trip, as well as turning on your position reporting device, you must provide a Trip Start report using your e-logbook.
- Commencing a fishing trip without providing a Trip Start report as required is an infringeable offence.
- If you are operating your vessel for purposes other than commercial fishing (for example, relocating to another port), you do not need to provide any position or e-logbook reports. **Please ensure your GPR device is turned off or switched to port mode (if your device has this option) when you are not fishing. Please remember to turn it back on when you do go fishing.**

If you leave your GPR device on when you are not out on a fishing trip, your device will be sending GPR data unnecessarily, which you may be charged for. While your location data is stored safely at MPI, it is always good practice to minimise the amount of data that you share about your personal movements.

### Reporting requirements for fishing trips with the sole purpose of pot setting only

For fishers who undertake a fishing trip for the sole purpose of setting pots, you are only required to provide a Trip Start and Trip End report. You should use the 'notes' field in the Trip Start report to indicate that you are setting pots only.

You are not required to complete a Fish Catch report. As you are on a fishing trip, your GPR device must still be on at all times.

Ngā mihi,

Kevin Bryant  
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Fisheries New Zealand