

Enforcement Policy: Wash Cockle Fishery 2022 – Licence Condition 7 (Vessel Monitoring Systems)



Date issued: 22 July 2022

This policy sets out how we will enforce the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements within the Wash cockle fishery 2022, specifically in relation to non-reporting devices. These policies are intended to apply to the 2022 fishery only.

What we want to achieve

The VMS requirements are intended to reduce the risk of impacts on future fisheries by enabling better monitoring of management measures. We intend to take a proportionate approach to enforcing the requirement recognising that some of the technology used is relatively new and in the process of being rolled out and the unique circumstances of fishing in the hand-work cockle fishery. We aim to minimise the loss of fishing opportunity as a result of non-reporting devices while ensuring that the measures are complied with.

If your device is not reporting, we can provide authorisation to continue fishing, and may attach conditions to this. This may include manual reporting of your position or the use of an alternative device on a temporary basis (which would be provided by Eastern IFCA).

Installation Requirement (I-VMS)

For vessels under 12m, we will not enforce the requirement to have I-VMS installed in accordance with the timeline in the Licence Condition if you can provide evidence that:

- You have applied for a device to be installed within the timeline; and
- That the device has not yet been fitted through no fault of your own (i.e. because engineers have arranged to fit the device on a date after that set out in the Licence Condition); and
- You have notified us of the above at the earliest opportunity

Reporting requirement

We will not enforce the requirement for **VMS+ devices** (i.e. devices on vessel 12m and over) to report once in every three minutes **until 1 August 2022**. This is to avoid a further additional cost which would apply if the devices started reporting sooner. AST have been made aware of this.

We advise that if you intend to operate in the fishery, you notify your supplier at the earliest opportunity to ensure that your device is ready to report once in every three minutes and avoid delays in entering into the fishery or additional costs.

What to do if your device is not operational

Before you go to sea

- Please check devices are operational before you intend to go to sea to ensure there is sufficient time for us to consider providing authorisation and avoid unnecessary delays which may result in the loss of fishing activity.
- You can check whether your device is operational through your supplier e.g. through an App or similar.
- Contact the supplier and Eastern IFCA at the earliest opportunity
- Do not go fishing until we have provided authorisation

Whilst fishing

- Contact Eastern IFCA at the earliest opportunity
- Do not continue to fish until we have provided authorisation

Non-operational devices out of office hours

- Office hours are 09:00 to 16:30 Mon to Thur and 09:00 to 16:00 on Fri
- If you intend to leave port and/or fish outside of these hours and the device is not reporting you may leave to fish and / or continue fishing activity if you report the following to Eastern IFCA:
 - The date / time and location (latitude and longitude) of the vessel at the point you identified the device had not been reporting;
 - The date / time and location of the vessel immediately prior to starting prop-washing activity
 - The date / time and location of the vessel when the vessel has dried out on the sands.

Application of this policy

This policy is intended to be proportionate by providing flexibility to avoid people being unnecessarily prevented from fishing and will apply to all vessels operating in the 2022 WFO cockle fishery unless otherwise notified as a consequence of suspected poor behaviours. Such notification will be made in writing to the persons named on the WFO licence associated with the vessel.

Such notification may be given in the following circumstances:

- Where the Authority has reasonable grounds to suspect that the vessel has been used to fish in a manner not in keeping with the WFO Regulations, Licence Conditions or code of best practice
- Where the Authority has reasonable grounds to suspect that the VMS device is not reporting as a result of tampering.

Contacting us about non-reporting devices

Please use the following contact details to contact us in relation to non-reporting devices:

Mobile (which will receive texts outside of office hours): **07748182025**

Email: enforcement@eastern-ifca.gov.uk