

27 March 2018

Tēnā koutou katoa

As announced by the Minister of Fisheries, the continued roll out of digital monitoring of commercial fishing has been deferred. The extra time will be used to continue discussions with industry and fishers to make sure we get the programme right.

In the meantime, it is important you continue to report as you currently do until further notice.

Exemptions from regulations

As you may be aware, the regulations are due to come into effect for all commercial fishers on 1 April 2018. While the regulations will stay in place, MPI has issued legal exemptions for all commercial fishers as set out below. Copies of these exemptions are available on the MPI website.

Exemptions for all commercial fishers (other than trawlers over 28 metres)

Exemptions for all commercial fishers (other than trawlers over 28 metres) mean it is not possible to further implement geospatial position reporting and electronic reporting until advised otherwise.

The key information for these fishers is that:

- you must continue to complete your paper reporting
- it is not possible to start using electronic reporting or geospatial position reporting yet.

Limited exemption for trawlers over 28 metres

A limited exemption under regulation 46 of the Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017, from certain electronic reporting requirements, has been extended to trawlers over 28 metres.

MPI's next steps

- We are working to finalise the specific requirements for electronic reporting and geospatial position reporting for all fishing types.
- We will then reissue the circulars (the legal document that sets out the specific requirements). We expect to finalise this shortly and will let you know the timing soon.
- We will continue working with fishers to prepare for the changes.

Thank you for your patience as we work to ensure we get these changes right. You will hear from us again soon on next steps.

Nga mihi,

Kevin McEvoy
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