



Digital Monitoring update – November 2019

Important information about electronic reporting and on-board cameras

Kia ora

From 1 December, everyone must be using electronic catch and position reporting devices. If you're transitioning in this final stage, make sure you have taken all the right steps to get ready.

It's important to note that some new changes to the electronic catch and position reporting circulars came into effect on 26 November.

This newsletter includes more information on both of these things, as well as providing you with an update on the on-board camera roll-out.

Electronic catch and position reporting

If you're in Stage 8, your 'must report' date is 1 December. For those of you who are about to start electronic reporting in this last stage, you should already have purchased the best devices for you. Speak to your technology provider if you have any questions about your new equipment.

If you don't intend to go fishing for some time after 1 December, please make sure you order your gear at least a month before you intend to start, to ensure the equipment is available and can be installed before you want to start fishing.

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.

If you're facing any technical difficulty meeting this date and intend to go fishing, please contact the digital monitoring team at digital.monitoring@mpi.govt.nz.

For more information about electronic reporting, visit our website: www.fisheries.govt.nz/ereporting.

Changes to electronic catch and position reporting circulars following consultation

In October, we consulted on proposed changes to the electronic catch and position reporting circulars. In case you missed our email a few weeks ago, we wanted to let you know that all of the proposed changes set out in the consultation document have been accepted.

The changes are intended to smooth the transition from paper reporting and reduce confusion. Here's a reminder of what the changes are:

- a. Clarifying what triggers a new fishing event for a number of fishing methods (e.g. ling potting and set netting);

- b. Removing the need to report customary catch which is reported under customary regulations;
- c. Clarifying the use of some landing and disposal codes;
- d. Clarifying how data is to be reported for undefined methods, such as ring netting;
- e. General housekeeping (removal of redundant attributes);
- f. The addition of a new non-fish species or protected fish species (NFPS) capture code for recording deck strikes;
- g. The addition of a new landing code for reporting fish or fish products taken under section 81A of the Animal Products Act 1999 for biotoxin sampling;
- h. Removing the vessel size limit for a 'mobile' GPR device, so devices can be transferred between vessels that will not be on a fishing trip at the same time; and
- i. Clarifying how potential cellular based GPR Apps are to be registered.

The [Fisheries \(E-Logbook Users Instructions and Codes\) Circular 2019](#) and [Fisheries \(Geospatial Position Reporting Devices\) Circular 2019](#) came into effect on 26 November 2019.

Please make sure that you understand what the changes mean for you. If you have any questions, please email digital.monitoring@mpi.govt.nz.

Consultation on proposed circular for electronic reporting of MHR and LFR returns

We emailed you on 13 November to let you know that we were consulting on a proposed circular for electronic reporting of returns.

The consultation closed at 5pm on Wednesday 27 November 2019. You can read the final circular on our website: www.fisheries.govt.nz/protection-and-response/sustainable-fisheries/strengthening-fisheries-management/fisheries-change-programme/digital-monitoring-resources.

The circular outlines the requirements for commercial fishing permit holders and Licensed Fish Receivers (LFRs) to complete electronic monthly harvest returns and LFR returns, and replaces the current Fisheries (Monthly Harvest Returns) Circular 2017.

Please remember, although many fishers and all LFRs are already submitting their returns electronically, it will be mandatory from 1 December 2019.

Common reporting errors

We have acknowledged that it may be easier and more convenient to supply landings to different LFRs as separate landing events, so we've turned off the rule that checks for multiple landing reports for a single trip. This will reduce errors notified to fishers that report in this way.

Remember to complete and provide your Trip End report, and to update your Landing report with LFR greenweights when you receive them. Forgetting to complete these tasks are two of the most common errors that fishers are making.

Please take care when estimating your catch. Double check you have set up your container weights correctly and make sure that partial bins are not entered as whole bins – they should be entered as partial. In most situations, your estimates should be as close as possible to what the LFR weights are likely to be.

On-board cameras

On-board camera regulations apply to vessels that reported fishing in a defined west coast North Island area during the 2017/18 fishing year, and are trawlers 29 metres or less or set netters of 8 metres or more.

From 1 November 2019, these vessels must have cameras operating if they trawl or set net in this area (General Fisheries Statistical Fishing Areas 40-42, 45 and 46).

If you have a camera system on-board your vessel and have fished the designated area since 1 November, please remember that your data drive(s) must be provided to us by 15 December.

If you drop a data drive off at a NZ Couriers Branch, it will be scanned immediately. If you drop it with a NZ Couriers Agent, you must do this at least one business day before 15 December deadline for submitting footage, to allow time for the courier to arrive, collect and scan the bag.

If you realise you're running out of data drives, protective cases or courier bags, please call 0800 00 83 33 or email onboardcameras@mpi.govt.nz to request more.

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

Seafood Sustainability Awards 2020 – nomination closing date extended to 1 December 2019

In response to a number of requests, entries for the Seafood Sustainability Awards have been extended to Sunday 1 December 2019. This gives you extra time to nominate any sustainable superstars in the seafood sector.

The Awards recognise and celebrate industry, tangata whenua and communities who demonstrate outstanding dedication and innovation towards sustainability.

If you know someone making significant contributions to seafood sustainability, it's easy to nominate them online and it doesn't take long. Find out more at www.fisheries.govt.nz/awards2020.

Ngā mihi,

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