

VMS UPDATE FOR SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

At the June 17 - 21, 2002 Council meeting the Enforcement Consultants (EC) presented Council Members with a list of VMS requirement questions. Upon review, the Council asked the EC to review and respond to the VMS requirement questions for presentation at the September Council meeting in Portland. The EC met on July 16, 2002 and produced the document Exhibit C.3.e, titled "Supplemental Enforcement Consultants Report, Vessel Monitoring Systems - Issues, Questions, and Requirements" which was an initial analysis of VMS options.

The EC presented information from Exhibit C.3.e to the Ad Hoc Allocation Sub Committee in Portland on August 29, 2002. After considering the information provided, the EC representatives were asked by the Council Chairman to refine their VMS proposal and provide the Council with a basic, no frills VMS / regulatory package for consideration at the September meeting.

In response to that request, the EC proposes a VMS / regulatory package for 2003 to include:

1. VMS required on all Limited Entry vessels
2. VMS Unit Requirements (minimum)
 - a. one way GPS-generated position data compatible with the National VMS Program
 - b. hourly reporting
 - c. tamper proof
 - d. type approved by NOAA Fisheries, Office for Law Enforcement (OLE) – see attached document titled "Mobile Transceiver Unit Specification of Requirements"
 - e. costs:
 - i. estimated at \$2000.00 per unit or less
 - ii. transmittal costs, \$0.04 per position report x 24 hours = \$0.96 a day.
3. Regulatory requirements
 - a. faxed declaration of intent to fish in the restricted zone prior to leaving port
 - b. only one gear type/net type allowed on board per trip
 - c. restricted to fishing either inside or outside of restricted zone on a trip. Prohibited from fishing both areas on an individual trip.

Note: NOAA Fisheries OLE has funded the infrastructure for the National VMS Program which includes the hardware and software to enable the Northwest Division of OLE to monitor up to 10,000 vessels. However, funding is not available at this time to purchase, install and maintain VMS shipboard units, nor is the funding available to pay for the costs of transmitting position reports. Therefore, the EC assumes that proceeding with VMS at this time will require these costs be borne by the industry.

Electrical Power Requirements:

Variable. For example, specifications for an INMARSAT C transmitter are 10.5 - 32 VDC floating, Receive 1.8W, Transmit 23W, Sleep mode function (while in port and not moving) 30mW. Experience indicates that these units operate reliably using a well-maintained, fully charged 12 volt system, operate reliably using a 32 volt system and have demonstrated optimum performance using a 24 volt system.

This proposal represents the minimum VMS / regulatory package monitor compliance with depth-based restrictions , and does not preclude nor eliminate the need for at-sea surveillance by surface and air assets or a shore-based enforcement capability.