



Digital Monitoring update – May 2019

Top tips and important information you need to know about electronic reporting.

Tēnā koutou

Electronic reporting is well underway. As of 21 May 2019 there are 38 stage 1 and 2 vessels reporting electronically.

We've a lot to update you on this month, so please take the time to read through to ensure your electronic reporting experience is as smooth and trouble free as possible. We're also here to help if you have any questions.

Get ready early

Our top tip is to prepare for electronic reporting well ahead of time. Our experience from these early months has shown that it pays to have your technology set up earlier rather than later in case issues arise. We'd encourage you to contact your technology provider and/or marine technician, well before you need to start reporting, to check the hardware you need is in stock and that a marine tech is available to do the installation in time. This will save you last minute stress.

Do you have the right GPR device?

It's important that the geospatial position reporting (GPR) device you choose suits all your fishing circumstances; that is, whether you can use cellular coverage to transmit reports or need satellite.

It's a legal requirement for your GPR device to operate continuously from immediately before the start of your fishing trip to the end. So, if you're outside of cellular range at any time, you'll need to transmit your GPR reports via satellite.

We acknowledge that cellular coverage can be sporadic and you may find yourself outside coverage in areas where you previously had good coverage. Sporadic gaps in coverage can be due to the mobile operator dynamically adjusting the signal power at the mobile site, or atmospheric conditions, for example.

We also understand that in these early stages, systems purchased in good faith may not be the best option for you when put to use. MPI's compliance team will use discretion in responding to issues case by case. Our approach will be to work with fishers facing any issues, to help you comply with the regulations.

Before you make a purchasing decision, we recommend that you talk to your technology provider about options to upgrade your GPR device to a satellite-capable device in case a cellular-only GPR device proves to be unsuitable for your fishing operation.

Direct charging for GPR transmission costs

From 1 July this year, the cost of transmitting your electronic position reports will no longer be paid for by MPI. Instead, this cost will be paid directly by vessel operators to their service provider.

MPI agreed to absorb (and not cost recover) the GPR transmissions costs from 1 October 2018 to 30 June 2019, to help smooth the transition process.

We encourage vessel operators to talk to their GPR service provider about new charging arrangements, or if you haven't chosen a provider, factor this into your decision making.

We are aware that some sector representative entities (SREs) are working on a plan for bulk purchase and invoicing of data, so if you have an SRE talk to them about what's happening.

Historically, the cost associated with the vessel monitoring system (VMS), for commercial fishers transmitting position reports, has been recovered from industry. This approach is also the same for the cost of transmitting electronic catch reports.

A few checks before you leave port

Our staff in the National Communications Centre (NCC) are on call and ready to help if you strike problems with electronic reporting and call our 0800 number. They're noticing a couple of problems cropping up regularly, so before you head off fishing with your new electronic reporting technology please make sure:

- You have a manual means of recording catch and position, in case you need it.
- You have completed all the start-up steps on your FishServe dashboard, including registering your GPR device and confirming authorised users who can complete catch reports.
- You are completing and providing your trip start and trip end reports when your vessel is in port (to comply with legislation).
- If you're testing your electronic catch reporting equipment before your must report date, make sure you're not sending **live** reports to FishServe. Ask your tech provider for test environment advice.

And please remember, our NCC staff are not fishery officers so don't have detailed knowledge of commercial fishing. If you have direct operational reporting questions discuss them with your fishing company, permit holder, local fishery office or the digital monitoring team.

Our NCC staff are here to try and work through issues as they arise so you can keep on fishing. Please refrain from using obscene language or abusing the operators. Your call is being recorded and could be forwarded to police for further action.

Electronic reporting – error notices

FishServe now makes automated checks of all new electronic trip and catch reports shortly after each report has been provided. Where checks show errors, you'll receive a message notifying you of them, with a request that you review and correct them as necessary.

Essentially, this is the same process that happens with historical electronic and paper reporting, but it is now automated.

We're collecting information about the common errors being made in reports, and how to avoid them. We're sharing this information with some fishers as our staff attend meetings, and will provide guidance online for all fishers shortly. The aim is to minimise the need for you to check and correct reports after they've been provided, and to improve the quality of data that comes to MPI when reports are first provided.

LFR involvement in your landing reports

Remember, you can update your landing report with the actual greenweight of your landed catch before you receive an LFR invoice. LFRs must provide you with greenweight information within 15 days, but they can send the associated invoice later.

Continuing roll-out of electronic catch and position reporting

We appreciate that many of you are close to making the switch to electronic catch and position reporting. If any aspects are unclear, look through the information on our [website](#) or in the guidance materials you received at the recent workshops. If you have any questions, email us at digitalmonitoring@mpi.govt.nz or call our main contact centre on 0800 00 83 33 (select option 3 for general enquiries).

Ngā mihi

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