



## Digital Monitoring update – August 2019

Important information you need to know about on-board cameras and electronic reporting

Kia ora

We have recently reached a milestone with over a quarter of all commercial vessels having transitioned to electronic catch and position reporting. Thanks to everyone who has worked hard to get us to this point.

### Electronic reporting – key things to know

It's really important to start planning early so you can register and install devices in time to go fishing ahead of your 'must report' date.

Leaving your decision too late means you may not be able to go fishing; please do not plan on an exemption or a direction as those are subject to both lead time and a case-by-case analysis (just because somebody else got one doesn't necessarily mean you will).

We're now heading into Stage 5, which has a 'must report' date of 1 September. If you are facing any technical difficulty meeting this date please contact the digital monitoring team at [digitalmonitoring@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:digitalmonitoring@mpi.govt.nz).

Find out what stage you're in and information about how to make the switch to electronic reporting on our website at [www.fisheries.govt.nz/ereporting](http://www.fisheries.govt.nz/ereporting) or through your FishServe online account.

At the end of this update you can read our responses to some of the pressing or common queries we have received. We will provide similar information in all monthly updates from now on but note that the section of our website at this [link](#) is devoted to answers to your queries, and we update it regularly.

### Stage One on-board cameras

There has been good progress in the preparations for installing cameras on board key vessels that fish in areas off the west coast of the North Island where there is a higher risk of catching Māui dolphins. Many thanks to everyone for their cooperation in enabling vessel assessments and other preliminary work.

We will be seeking feedback on the circulars for Stage One from mid-August and will send out more details about this consultation shortly. You can find out more about the on-board cameras programme on our website at [www.fisheries.govt.nz/cameras](http://www.fisheries.govt.nz/cameras).

The government has not yet made any decision about a wider roll-out and we'll keep you updated as necessary.

## **Hector's and Māui dolphins consultation – deadline for submissions extended**

Don't forget to have your say on the plan to protect Hector's and Māui dolphins. Due to a large response, the deadline for submissions has been extended to **10am on Monday 19 August 2019**. The public meetings were well attended and valuable feedback was gathered by the team from Fisheries New Zealand and the Department of Conservation.

Go to the website at [www.fisheries.govt.nz/dolphintmp](http://www.fisheries.govt.nz/dolphintmp) to find more information, the consultation document, where to send your submissions, and maps showing the possible impacts of the proposed options, including for commercial and recreational fishing.

If you have any questions or need further information regarding this process please contact [dolphintmp@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:dolphintmp@mpi.govt.nz).

## **Support for fishers**

Fisheries New Zealand has updated the information on support and advice services available to fishers who are facing challenges as a result of industry changes. You'll find this new information on the national and regional services that can give help and advice on health, wellbeing, and making business decisions at [www.fisheries.govt.nz/support](http://www.fisheries.govt.nz/support).

Ngā mihi,

Kevin McEvoy  
Director Digital Monitoring  
Fisheries New Zealand

## **Query corner – electronic catch and position reporting**

1. **Set net soak time** – We have been asked to clarify soak time now we have event-based catch reporting. Soak time applies when fishers 'leave' set nets in the water after they have finished setting (and leave them). The soak time requirement in regulations starts when the set is finished. Fishers must then return to haul the nets within e.g. 18 hours. This means that if a fisher finishes deploying nets in a fishing event at midnight, for example, they must be back by 6pm to begin hauling to comply with a maximum soak time of 18 hours. Make sure you are familiar with the soak time that applies to you as this varies between regions.
2. **Paua codes** – There has been some confusion around the use of the code PAU. This code can be used to record 'target species', but in the diver catch record part of your fish catch event report, you must give the species code PAA (yellowfoot) or PAI (blackfoot). There has been a suggestion we remove the PAU code for the target species; we'll let you know if this changes. If people do use the species code instead, this will still be accepted when you provide your report.
3. **Authorised users** – Also relating to Client Services, you should login and check your dashboard before you start reporting electronically to make sure you have completed all the steps necessary before you start. One in particular catching some fishers by surprise is the need to **ensure your GPR device is registered**. This can be done online. You need to send in your supplier declaration as well. Without it, we will have position reports coming through but not know which vessel those reports are originating from.