

Digital Monitoring of Commercial Fishing – draft circulars summary

Please note:

- The introductions have been written to provide users with some background and broad purpose on the content of the actual draft circulars. The circulars are to be referenced for specific requirements.
- These are draft circulars and you have the opportunity to provide feedback on how geospatial position reporting and e-logbooks will work in practice. Please mail your feedback before 5pm on 21 August 2017 to futurefourfisheriesprogramme@mpi.govt.nz
- Further information can be found at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz> > Consultation > Draft Circulars on Digital Monitoring of Commercial Fishing

Fisheries (Geospatial Position Reporting Devices) Circular 2017

Overview

This circular sets out the minimum legal requirements for the devices and systems used to provide position reports, and specifies the content of position reports.

The Fisheries (Geospatial Position Reporting) Regulations 2017 outlines new requirements on commercial fishers to provide information to MPI about their position while fishing. These requirements apply from 1 October 2017 for trawl vessels over 28 m, and all other vessels and fishers need to comply by 1 April 2018.

The key requirement of this circular is that position reports must be transmitted to MPI in real time during all commercial fishing trips.

Fisheries (Event Reporting) Circular 2017

Overview

This circular sets out the technical requirements for electronic reporting and the information required in each report.

The Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017 outlines new requirements on commercial fishers to provide MPI with electronic data relating to fish catches, catches of non-fish and protected fish species, processing, disposal, and landing. This will largely replace the existing paper-based reporting system. It will apply from 1 October 2017 for trawl vessels over 28 m, and all other vessels and fishers need to comply by 1 April 2018.

This circular sets out the technical requirements for the new “e-logbooks” that commercial fishers will need to use to provide the required information. It also prescribes exactly what information must be provided, and how that information is to be transmitted to MPI. A key purpose of this circular is to provide developers of e-logbooks with the detail they need to design e-logbooks that will meet MPI’s requirements and the needs of fishers.

The codes to be used when completing e-logbooks, and instructions on how to complete the different types of reports, are set out in the Fisheries (Codes and Information) Circular.

Fisheries (Codes and Information) Circular 2017

Overview

This circular contains the codes used for reporting and explanatory notes for how to complete an electronic return (e-logbook). Key changes between the old paper-based system and the new electronic reporting system include:

- A different structure – the electronic system is based around the 5 types of event (fish catch, NFPS catch, processing, disposal, and landing) specified in the Regulations
- Some new fields are added to fish catch reports, and some are removed
- Start time, end time and location must be reported for each fishing event
- Use of mitigation devices must be recorded
- Estimated catch extends to the top 10 species caught, whether QMS or non-QMS
- All position information must be in the form of co-ordinates accurate to 4 decimal places
- Disposal reports are used to record all fish not on the vessel or with the fisher at the end of the trip
- Landing reports record only fish on a vessel or with the fisher at the end of the trip
- All fish is required to be reported. This includes some fish that are not currently required to be reported.

Fisheries (Monthly Harvest Returns) Circular 2017

Overview

This circular confirms the current requirements to provide a MHR in the same way you currently do so.

The Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017 have replaced the Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2001. The 2001 Regulations, (now revoked), set out the forms used for various paper-based reports, including monthly harvest returns. Under the 2017 Regulations, most reports will be provided electronically. Monthly harvest returns may still be provided on paper. The Fisheries (Monthly Harvest Returns) Circular 2017 sets out the forms to be used for monthly harvest returns. These, are the same as they were under the 2001 Regulations but are now prescribed under this circular.

No Change to status quo