



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Fisheries data and remote electronic monitoring: The government and legislative position

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# Big Picture

- The world is becoming more data driven
- Government is becoming more data driven
- Fishing, fisheries management and the management of our marine environment has always been data driven, but is becoming even more so



# International direction of travel

- Technological monitoring solutions for scientific research and fisheries management are the international direction of travel
- The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) agreed at CBD COP15 includes global targets to ensure the sustainable and legal use of wild species, and sustainable management of fisheries, by 2030
- Effective monitoring and sufficient data will be essential to track global and national progress towards the GBF targets
- Many coastal states are investing in and improving their monitoring approaches, often through REM

# UK legislative position

- The [Fisheries Act 2020](#) provides the framework to manage UK fisheries as an independent coastal state, outside of the EU Common Fisheries Policy
- As required under the Act, the UK fisheries policy authorities (Defra, and the devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) produced a Joint Fisheries Statement (published November 2022).
- The JFS commits the fisheries policy authorities to working with the fishing industry and interested organisations to develop and implement fisheries management. New policies will be subject to consultation and developed with stakeholder engagement
- As outlined in the JFS, we are exploring the use of technologies such as Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) for scientific purposes and to aid the sustainable management and control of fisheries

# Filling data gaps with technology in the UK

- In England and other parts of the UK VMS, iVMS and catch app are already enhancing our understanding of fishing activity
- We are reforming our monitoring programmes to better meet UK needs
- There is a wealth of scientific research and management initiatives taking place using innovative techniques and technologies, many using REM
- REM is the clear next step for evidence-based fisheries management, but it's a big next step



# Defra's plans

- Defra have been developing proposals for the use of REM in English waters and plan to consult June 2023
- Key proposals are to set up REM programmes that are:
  - Targeted – tailoring data collection to the monitoring needs of different fisheries
  - Phased – starting with priority fisheries, and introducing REM to further fisheries over time
  - Staged – working with early adopters to start with, but moving to mandatory phases later for ALL vessels in the fishery
- Following consultation we plan to hold implementation workshops with stakeholders to shape and then set up early adopter projects
- We are also working with Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Crown Dependencies to ensure that future plans for REM are coordinated across the UK

# The future of fisheries management

- REM can provide data to support improvements to fisheries management across many areas
- What creates better management?
  - Responsive management structures
  - Better science and evidence
  - Compliance by design
- With new opportunities there are also new challenges, it will take time to get this right
- Collaboration, trust and engagement are the keys to success

