

## The Fisheries Bill:

### The case for Fully Documented Fisheries

**An inclusive, transparent and robust governance framework is required to deliver fully documented and accountable fisheries.**

#### Achieving Fully Documented Fisheries (FDF)

In 2016, the New Zealand government consulted on ways to introduce new fisheries monitoring regulations and has since introduced new legislation which will come into effect by the end of 2018, on the basis that the introduction of an integrated electronic monitoring and reporting system (IEMRS) on commercial fishing vessels would:

- enable a substantial improvement in the monitoring of catch effort reporting, to support the integrity of the Quota Management System (QMS) and management of protected species;
- provide more accurate information for decision making by the commercial sector and government; and
- provide improved information to support sustainability certification and traceability for market development.

The introduction of IEMRS will increase public confidence in New Zealand's fisheries and fisheries management system, strengthen the nation's international reputation and help minimise the impact of commercial fishing on the aquatic environment. All of the anticipated benefits that New Zealand identifies would apply equally to the UK.

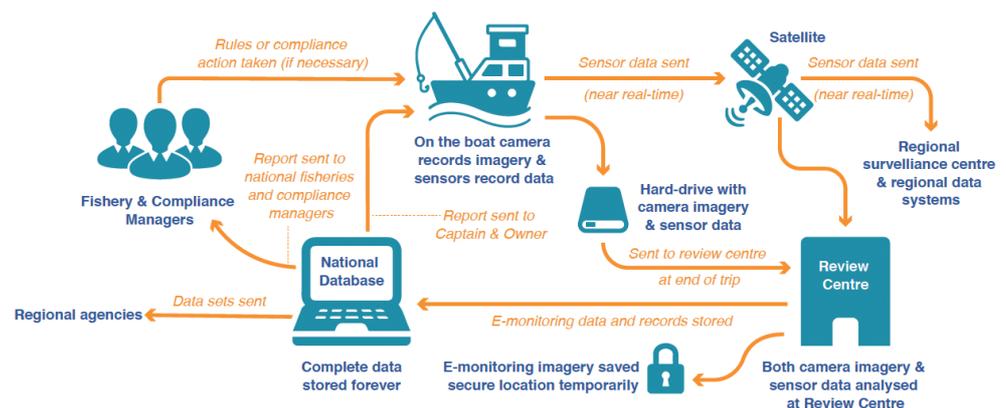


Figure 1 documenting how a fully documented fishery is managed © WWF New Zealand

#### FDF in the UK

The UK will have the right, as an independent coastal state, to consult on and implement a proposal similar to New Zealand and, in doing so, establish UK seafood as among the most sustainable in the world.

The benefits of using Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) with cameras to monitor and manage fisheries include:

- effective monitoring at sea of target and non-target capture species, incentivising selectivity;
- improved compliance and transparency;
- improved data collection to support stock assessments and to inform non-target species capture;
- an ability to demonstrate that a vessel is operating in accordance with best practice;
- ability to ground truth and support management revisions;
- a reduced need for human observers to go to sea;
- a cost effective alternative to traditional monitoring and control methods;
- round the clock monitoring of fishing activity.

### Current FDF schemes in the UK

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO), on behalf of the Defra has been running three voluntary FDF schemes with industry since 2011 (one in the North Sea and two in the Western English Channel). Fishing vessels taking part land all of the commercial species of fish that they catch so they all count against their quota. That is, they are 'Fully Documenting' their catch. If they use up their entire quota for these species they would have to stop fishing altogether, rather than continue and discard over-quota catch. REM equipment is used to record the catch as it comes on board and the MMO can check that the no-discard rules are complied with. They also gather data on the discards of other non-target fish species in the trials. As well as addressing fish removals, FDF and REM can help improve information on captures of non-target species such as marine mammals and seabirds. Indeed, ICES recommends that remote electronic video recording is an economic method for such future bycatch evaluation. It is Greener UK's view that FDF should become part of standard operational practice and a condition of fishing in UK waters in support of a more environmentally sustainable fisheries management regime.

### Risk

**If we fail to achieve full documentation of UK fisheries we will not be able to ensure effective management of the shared stocks in UK waters.** This is a particular concern considering the landing obligation is coming into effect in January 2019.

Contact: Rhona Kent, Fisheries policy officer, WWF-UK  
e. [rkent@wwf.org.uk](mailto:rkent@wwf.org.uk)

