

All enquiries should be directed to:
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Our ref: NEIFCA/DM/Byelaw0616
Date: 13 June 2016

Dear Stakeholders,

Proposed Requirement for Mandatory Vessel Automatic Identification Systems (AIS)

For sometime the Authority has been consulting on the mandatory use of AIS onboard all commercial fishing vessels operating within its district. During December 2015 such a mandatory requirement was introduced for all scallop dredgers operating or transiting through the Authority's district. In relation to AIS, the following key considerations have formed part of the decision making process thus far:

- The Authority needs to strengthen its current capabilities in relation to monitoring the levels and distribution of fishing effort occurring within its district, particularly regarding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Some fishing areas with existing MPAs have been closed due to the lack of such data.
- AIS, already mandatory in the UK for all fishing vessels exceeding 15 metres overall length, represents a suitable and cost effective platform which is common across the majority of commercial vessels.
- Installation is relatively simple, straightforward and cost effective with a 'one off' capital investment and no 'on costs' or data charges for the operator. There are a wide range of tailored AIS systems and equipment suitable for all types of vessels.
- AIS data can be readily captured, stored and analysed.
- Utilising an AIS platform will significantly improve local vessel safety and potentially reduce gear conflicting issues.

The Authority's Executive Committee met on 27 April 2016 and supported the making of a new byelaw regulation which would require all commercial fishing vessels to maintain and operate a fully functioning Class A or Class B AIS system whilst fishing or transiting through the Authority's district.

At this stage I am seeking informal views from all affected stakeholders. You should ensure that these are submitted in writing to ensure that they are fully recorded and documented:

Comments and submissions can be emailed to the following address:

ne-ifca@eastriding.gov.uk

Please title as: 'AIS'

Comments and submissions can also be submitted by post as follows:

**Chief Officer
NEIFCA
Town Hall
Quay Road
Bridlington
YO16 4LP**

Please can you ensure that all comments are submitted by Friday 22 July 2016.

Yours sincerely



David McCandless
Chief Officer