

STATUTORY MEETING

21st October 2009

**AGENDA ITEM
No. 7**

To receive the Clerk's report updating developments in the Vessel Monitoring System for Wash Fishery Order licensed vessels.

At the Statutory Meeting in January this year, members agreed to Officers continuing to progress the Wash Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) project. It was envisaged that the project would deliver a system by which all fishing vessels, operating under a Wash Fishery Order licence or Several Order lease conditions, would be remotely tracked via satellites.

Officers had identified that the cost of the VMS project would be met through a combination of European (EU), Natural England (NE) and Joint Committee funding. NE were the main funding partners and it was clear that the future of the VMS project would be determined by NE's ability to release the funds to the project with sufficient time to allow for the purchase and installation of the units by 31st December 2009. Unfortunately NE confirmed that it was not possible to provide the necessary funding from this year's first financial quarter. The Clerk wrote to the EU Commission confirming that the project could not proceed due to insufficient funding.

At the same time, the Joint Committee was informed that there was sufficient funding remaining from the 2009 EU Control Programme to invite the submission of additional project proposals. Most important to note was the fact that up to 95% EC funding was available. If successful this would mean that the Joint Committee would not be reliant on any other external funding partners to deliver the VMS project. Officers took the opportunity to resubmit the original VMS proposal. Officers are aware that the EU Commission's assessing panel has considered the proposal and Officers await confirmation from Defra as to the outcome.

The Joint Committee is asked to receive the report.

Matthew Mander
Clerk & Chief Fishery Officer
12th October 2009

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

List of Background Papers

- 1) Minutes of the Statutory Meeting, held on 28th January 2009.
- 2) Deputy Clerk's VMS report to January 2009 Statutory Meeting.
- 3) Minutes of the Statutory Meeting, held on 29th April 2009
- 4) Deputy Clerk's VMS report to April 2009 Statutory Meeting.
- 5) Clerk's letter to Natural England requesting VMS funding, dated 4th March
- 6) EC Control Fund Application Form, July 2009.
- 7) Clerk's decommittal letter to EC Control Fund, dated 28th July 2009.