

FACTSHEET: Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) consultation

What is REM?

REM refers to cameras, gear sensors and other equipment which can capture comprehensive data about fishing activities. It is widely used around the world and has been trialled and used in our waters for several years.

Why are we consulting?

Better data could improve fisheries management in many different ways. It could help inform science, it could help inform management measures and it could improve compliance and enforcement.

What does the consultation propose?

The consultation proposes taking a targeted approach to expanding the use of REM in English waters. The following fisheries are proposed as the priorities for the next five years:

- Pelagic Trawls over 24m in length fishing in all English waters
- Demersal seines (flyseines) fishing in English waters of the Southern North Sea and English Channel
- Demersal trawls using mesh sizes of up to 120mm (targeting *nephrops*) fishing in English waters of the North Sea
- Fixed and drift nets (gill and trammel nets) fishing in English waters of the Celtic Sea and English Channel
- Demersal trawls, including beam trawls, fishing in English waters of the Celtic Sea and English Channel

We propose working with volunteers from the English industry to begin with. Later we would introduce a mandatory requirement for REM across all vessels in the fishery. This includes both domestic and foreign vessels.

There would be a minimum 24-month lead in time before mandatory requirements were introduced. This is to ensure the fishing industry have time to adapt to the change.

Give us your views

Find the consultation online at:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine-and-fisheries/remote-electronic-monitoring/>

or scan the QR code to visit the page.

The consultation is open to 23:59 on 9 October 2023.



What happens next?

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the government website at www.gov.uk/defra

We expect to do this within 12 weeks of the consultation closing date.