

# Vessel Monitoring Systems Installation and Activation Report for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fisheries

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Installation and Activation report for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery is provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) pursuant to the regulatory requirements of 50 C.F.R.660.359 (d). The vessel owner or operator must follow the indicated procedures when installing or re-installing a type-approved VMS transceiver unit. At least 72 hours prior to leaving port on a trip in which VMS is required, the vessel must send the Installation and Activation Report.

This VMS installation and Certification Report is applicable for the VMS transceiver units and communications service providers currently approved for use in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery. As additional VMS transceiver units and communication service providers are approved, revised instructions will be posted on the NMFS, Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) web site [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/nw\\_vms.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/nw_vms.html) and on the Northwest Region's web site at [www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Vessel-Monitoring-System/Index.cfm](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Vessel-Monitoring-System/Index.cfm)

Follow the steps for the particular transceiver unit selected by the vessel owner. The vessel owner is responsible for all installation and activation costs. After the installation is complete and unit is activated, the owner must mail or fax the Installation and Activation Certification Report to NMFS, OLE, Northwest Division, 7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-6349. Fax (206) 526-6528.

## **INSTALLATION AND ACTIVATION**

Begin by consulting the "Vessel Monitoring System, List of Approved Mobile Transceiver Units and Communications Service Providers for the Pacific Coast groundfish Fishery". This list of type-approved transceiver units and communications service providers, which consolidates information published in the Federal Register, will be posted on the NMFS Northwest Region web site. The list is also available from NMFS OLE by calling (206) 526-4850.

**A. If you already have an INMARSAT-C transceiver unit:** If you already have an INMARSAT-C transceiver unit that is the same make and model as one of the approved units, you can qualify the unit for use in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery if the unit is functionally equivalent to an approved unit. This may require you to upgrade the version of software and firmware for the unit, and/or reconfigure the message settings (unit parameters and menu options). If you are not currently using your unit, you will need to contact the INMARSAT-C service provider to establish communications service. This includes applying for subscriber services, establishing credit, and setting up a billing account for ongoing communications charges.

Contact the VMS provider for your make and model and request an upgrade for your unit. After the provider performs the upgrade, go to Section C, Step 9. If you cannot get an upgrade, you will need to purchase new equipment and services for VMS.

**B. If you already have an ARGOS MAR GE transceiver unit:**

If you already have an ARGOS MAR GE transceiver unit that is the same make and model as one of the approved units, you can qualify the unit for use in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery if the unit is functionally equivalent to an approved unit. If you are not currently using your unit, you will need to contact the Argos provider to establish communications service. This includes applying for subscriber services, establishing credit, and setting up a billing account for ongoing communications charges. If you are using your VMS for fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska or for other purposes, you will need to complete the VMS Installation and Activation Certification report. Please contact NMSF OLE, VMS Program Coordinator during business hours at (206) 526-4850, go to Section C, Step 9.

**C. Purchasing a new VMS transceiver unit:**

Step 1 Contact the entities identified in the Federal Register Notice under "**VMS Provider Addresses**". Indicate to the providers that you will be using the VMS transceiver unit for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery and you would like to obtain purchase and installation information on the units they provide. Determine the transceiver unit and communications service provider that best suits your needs. Select

which satellite system to use for the fishing vessel's VMS. If you select INMARSAT-C, go to Step 2, if you select INMARSAT-D+, go to Step 7 and if you choose ORBCOMM, go to Step 8.

Step 2 Choose INMARSAT-C providers: one for the transceiver unit, and one for the communications service providers. The VMS program is designed so that the fisherman has free choice of any combination of approved INMARSAT-C options. Do the next two steps, Steps 3 and 4, in any order.

Step 3 Choose the INMARSAT-C communications service provider you prefer and establish a service contract. This includes applying for subscriber services, establishing credit, and setting up a billing account for ongoing communications charges. If applicable, record the important identifying information, such as a user name and password to access your private position information and your transceiver unit, and the INMARSAT-C email address of your unit.

Step 4 Choose the INMARSAT-C transceiver unit you prefer. If you purchase a Thrane & Thrane TT3022D, request part number "NMFS" before the unit is mailed out. The Thrane & Thrane provider will initially mail you only the form known as the INMARSAT Service Activation Request Form (SARF). Go to Step 5.

Step 5 Register your transceiver unit for INMARSAT-C by using the following steps.

- Fill out the SARF form referred to in Step 4 above.
- Fax or mail the SARF to the "routing organization" indicated on the form for U.S.-flagged vessels.
- Include proof of the fishing vessels "ship radio license" (copy of FCC Form 506) with the SARF.

When the SARF is processed, you will be given an "INMARSAT Number" (also known as "IMN" or "INMARSAT Mobile Number"). This number uniquely identifies your unit within the INMARSAT system, similar to a telephone number. Record this number. Go to Step 6.

Step 6 Contact your Thrane & Thrane provider and inform them of your INMARSAT Mobile Number (INM) and the communications service provider company you have chosen. The Thrane & Thrane provider will configure the unit to be ready for VMS (VMS message settings and satellite operations), and will then ship the unit. Go to Step 9.

Step 7 The INMARSAT D+ transceiver that meets the minimum technical requirements for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery is the Satamatics SAT-101 (Model Number SAT-101 NMFS/PCG). Satamatics provides both the transceiver unit for sale, and the communications service. To activate your INMARSAT-D+ transceiver, you must establish a service contract with the INMARSAT-D+ vendor. This includes applying for subscriber services, establishing credit, and setting up a billing account for ongoing communications charges. Go to Step 9.

Step 8 The ORBCOMM transceiver that meets the minimum technical requirements for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery is the Stellar ST2500G (Part Number ST2500G-NMFS). To activate your ORBCOMM transceiver, you must establish a service contract with the ORBCOMM vendor. This includes applying for subscriber services, establishing credit, and setting up a billing account for ongoing communications charges. Go to Step 9.

Step 9 Install the VMS transceiver unit and antenna according to the installation instructions contained in the manual supplied by the manufacturer, or contact a marine electronics specialist or dealer to install the unit. Also see Step 10.

Step 10 Run the cable connecting the unit in the wheelhouse to the antenna mounted outside, through a solid, immovable and permanent part of the vessel such as a bulkhead, deck, or console. Go to Step 11.

Step 11 Turn on the power to the vessel transceiver. Go to Step 12

Step 12 Confirm, by phone, with your communications service provider's Customer Service that periodic position reports are now automatically being sent to NOAA OLE. Go to Step 13

Step 13 Once your transceiver unit is installed and activated and you have confirmed with your customer service provider that the unit is operational, fill out the "VMS Installation and Certification Report" and mail or fax it to NMFS.

# VMS INSTALLATION AND ACTIVATION CERTIFICATION REPORT

OMB Control No.: 0648-xxxx  
Expiration Date: xx/xx/xxxx

The vessel owner must sign this statement certifying compliance with the installation procedures defined for VMS transceiver unit, then submit this certification to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NMFS, Office for Law Enforcement (OLE), Northwest Division, 7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-6349. Fax (206) 526-6528. At least 72 hours before participating in a fishery requiring VMS transmissions, you must obtain a confirmation from NMFS OLE that the VMS transmissions are being received without error.

Vessel Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Documentation number: \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Groundfish Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

VMS Unit Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_ VMS Unit serial number: \_\_\_\_\_

INMARSAT Serial number (ISN): \_\_\_\_\_ INMARSAT mobile number (INM): \_\_\_\_\_

BOATRACS MCT#: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this VMS unit a primary or back-up unit?  Primary  Back-up

VMS Communications Service Provider: \_\_\_\_\_

(The information listed above should have been provided by the VMS unit manufacture)

Ownership of the VMS transceiver unit may be transferred from one vessel owner to another vessel owner only when all of the correct documents have been submitted to NMFS OLE

Has the VMS Transceiver Unit you are registering been previously registered to another vessel that operated in marine waters off the coast of Washington, Oregon or California? Yes  No

**Note:** Registering a VMS transceiver unit to more than one vessel at the same time is prohibited. If this VMS Transceiver Unit was previously registered to another vessel that operated in marine waters off the coast of Washington, Oregon or California, you must submit with this activation report and proof of ownership of the VMS transceiver unit or proof of service termination from the communication service provider.

Certification: In accordance with 50 C.F.R. 660.359 (d)(2), as the owner of a vessel participating in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery, I hereby certify that the VMS system on my vessel has been installed in compliance with the applicable procedures and the manufactures instructions.

Vessel Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Owner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PL 104-13) and the Privacy Act of 1974 (PL 93-579), you are advised that disclosure of the information requested in this Vessel Monitoring System (VMS ) installation and activation report is mandatory for the purpose of managing the Pacific Coast Groundfish fishery. The VMS installation and Certification Report information is used to ensure proper operation of the VMS unit. Reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 4 hours per installation, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing and reviewing the information. The burden for submission of this VMS installation and Certification Report is estimated at 5 minutes per response. Confidentiality of the information provided will be treated in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100. It is the policy of the National Marine Fisheries Service not to release confidential data to the public or unauthorized users, other than in aggregate form, as the Magnuson Act protects (in perpetuity) the confidentiality of those submitting data. Whenever data are requested, the NMFS ensures that information identifying the business activity of a particular individual is not identified. Because you have been provided with a currently valid OMB control number for a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, you are required to respond to, or be subject to penalty for failing to comply with, this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or suggestions for reducing this burden to: NMFS, Office of Law Enforcement, Northwest Division 7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-6349.

**Declaration Report Worksheet**  
 OMB Control No.: 0648-xxxx; Expiration Date: xx/xx/xxxx

This worksheet is for your own use and is intended to help you organize information submitted in a declaration report. Do not submit this worksheet to NMFS.

1) Enter a Declaration Report. If you are calling this system for the first time and or if you have lost your vessel number or passcode select the option to talk to a NMFS representative (Call should be forwarded to a live person or a message that reminds them to call during business hours and identifies the hour)

2) Enter your 6 digit vessel number.

Vessel Number					

3) Enter your 5 digit vessel passcode.

Vessel Passcode				

4) Enter the type of report you are making.

- \*1 Enter a new declaration report-
- \* 2 Enter an Exemption Report

Type of report

D1) Enter your 2 digit gear code.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 10 - Limited entry fixed gear                    | 60 - Spot and ridgeback prawns pot gear                          |
| 20 - Limited entry midwater trawl gear           | 61 - Dungeness crab gear   |
| 30 - Limited entry bottom trawl gear             | 62 - Pacific Halibut gear  |
| 31- Limited entry demersal trawl gear            | 63 - Salmon troll gear   |
| 41 - Pink shrimp trawl gear                      | 64 - California halibut line gear                                |
| 42 - California halibut trawl gear               | 65 - California Sheephead trap or pot gear                       |
| 43 - Sea cucumber trawl gear                     | 66 - Gear used to take Highly Migratory Species                  |
| 44 - Ridgeback prawn trawl gear                  | 67 - Gear used to take Coastal Pelagic Species                   |
| 50 - Tribal trawl gear                           | 68 - Gear used to take species in the California gillnet complex |
| 57 - Open access longline gear for groundfish    | 69 - A gear that is not listed above                             |
| 58 - Open access pot or trap gear for groundfish |  |
| 59 - Open access line gear for groundfish        |  |

Gear Code

D2) Enter your 2 digit VMS Exemption code.

- 10 - Haul Out
- 20 - Outside of Area
- 30 - Long-term departure exemption
- 40 - Permit transfer exemption
- 50 - Emergency exemption

Exemption Code

D3) For your records, record the confirmation number provided by this system.

Confirmation Number					