



E-monitoring Program Internalising Footage Review



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

AFMA's New E-Monitoring Review Model: What's Changing and Why It Matters

AFMA is updating its e-monitoring program to improve the cost-effectiveness of data collection/validation, reduce regulatory burden and improve data used in fisheries management decisions. A key part of this change is bringing the footage review process in-house at AFMA, rather than outsourcing it to a single contractor. This shift allows AFMA to more effectively manage how footage is reviewed and opens the door to a more flexible, competitive service model for fishers.

Footage Review Now Managed by AFMA

AFMA will now review e-monitoring footage internally, using trained staff. This replaces the previous model where footage was reviewed by a single external provider. The benefits of this change include:

- Enables the program to accommodate multiple e-monitoring service providers allowing fishers to select equipment and support services that best suit their vessel and operations
- Encourages competition between service providers, promoting better value for money
- Improves connectivity with fishery management, supporting more timely responses and greater flexibility in both review and decision-making processes
- With more oversight, AFMA can provide more timely and effective support to industry
- Improves the transparency of review costs establishing a system where steps can be taken in the future to reduce review costs

Purpose-built Review Software

To support this transition, AFMA developed review software tailored to the needs of Commonwealth fisheries, offering several key advantages:

- Designed with direct input from the analysts who will be conducting the review – many of whom are former observers or reviewers familiar with the fisheries and onboard operations
- Ensures the system is intuitive, efficient, and fit-for-purpose, helping reduce review time and improve accuracy
- Software is data-agnostic, meaning it can process footage and sensor data from any approved service provider – supports AFMA's move to a multi-provider model
- Meets strict government security and privacy standards, guaranteeing robust control over data, protecting e-monitoring footage from unauthorized access, misuse, or compromise

Future-ready Technology

AFMA's review software is built to evolve with the program, supporting Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning tools and ensuring long-term sustainability. Future-proofing the review platform will:

- Speed up footage analysis
- Potentially improve species identification and event detection
- Deliver e-monitoring review services in a more cost-effective way

What's Next?

AFMA has launched the internal review platform and started adding fisheries new to the program, while transitioning fisheries from the existing program. Enhancements to the review software will be made continuously in the background to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of e-monitoring data analysis.

Further Assistance

If you require additional information or support with the transition, please contact AFMA:

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