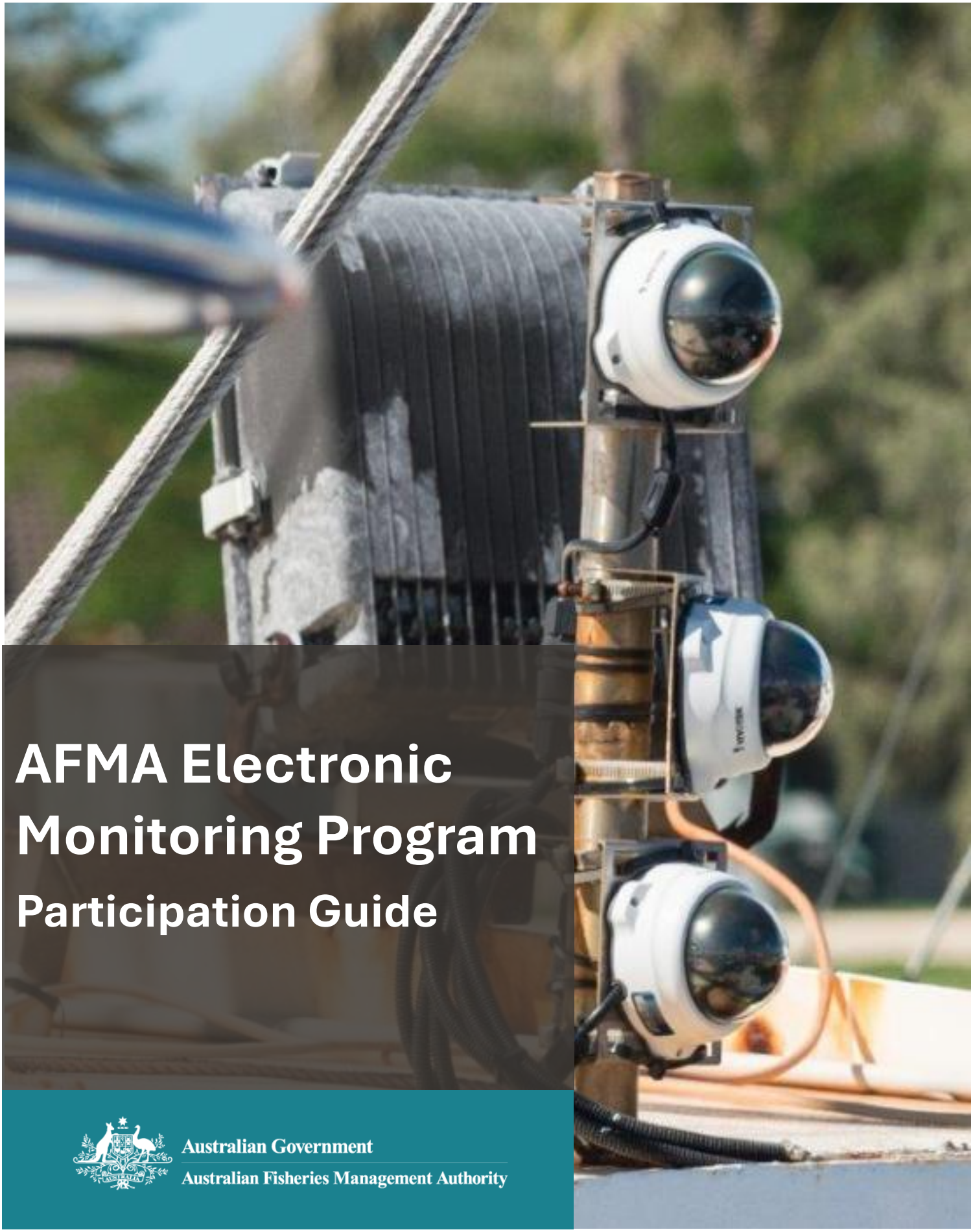


AFMA Electronic Monitoring Program

Participation Guide

Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

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What is Electronic Monitoring (E-monitoring)?

Electronic monitoring (e-monitoring) is a system of video cameras and sensors which monitor and record fishing activities (refer to figure 1). The recorded footage is reviewed to verify the accuracy of information reported by fishers in their logbooks. Accurate logbook data increases confidence in stock assessments, ecosystem management and helps demonstrate fishery sustainability.

During the review process, selected portions of the footage are compared with logbook entries to provide independent verification of fishing activity and promote consistent reporting standards across the fleet. Following the completion of a review, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) provides feedback reports to concession holders, helping them monitor and improve reporting accuracy over time.

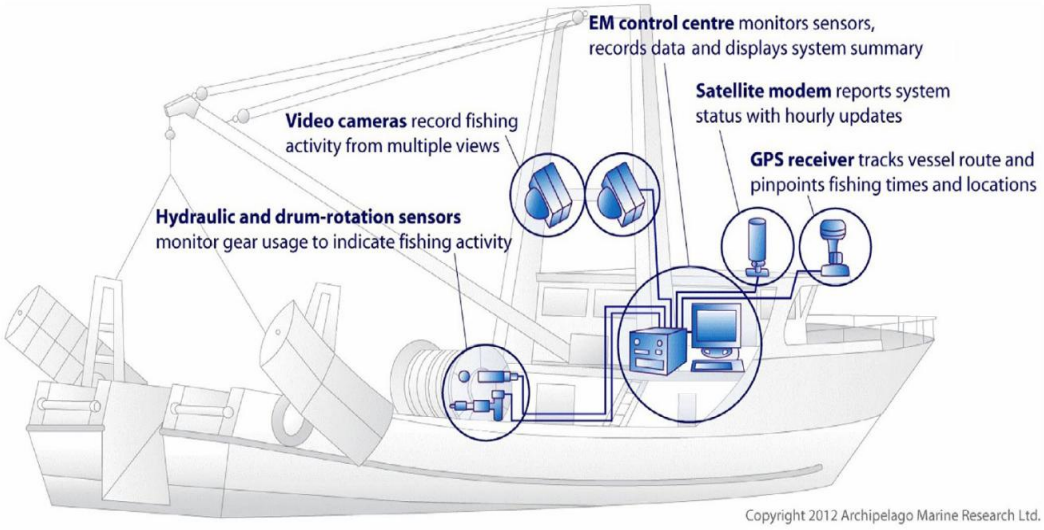


Figure 1. Electronic monitoring (e-monitoring) system installed on a fishing vessel.

How does it work?

An e-monitoring system can include the following components:

- three or more video cameras
- hydraulic pressure sensors
- drum rotation sensors
- a GPS receiver
- a satellite modem
- a control centre, and
- a monitor.

Sensors installed on the drum or integrated with the vessel's hydraulic systems automatically trigger the video cameras to record fishing gear during both setting and hauling operations. The control centre captures and stores video footage of fishing activity, along with positional and sensor data, on onboard data drives. Selected information, including vessel location, is transmitted to AFMA to support real-time monitoring. The monitor enables crew to conduct system checks and provides a live view of all camera feeds.

Use of E-monitoring Data

E-monitoring footage, together with associated sensor and positional data, are collected to support fisheries management, compliance and monitoring activities, scientific assessment, and the verification of fishing operations. Access to e-monitoring data is controlled and managed in accordance with applicable legislation, privacy obligations, and information management requirements.

Who Needs to Install E-monitoring?

E-monitoring is currently mandated in the following Commonwealth fisheries:

- Eastern Tuna and Billfish Pelagic Longline Fishery
- Western Tuna and Billfish Pelagic Longline Fishery
- Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery
- Midwater Trawl Sector of the Small Pelagic Fishery
- North-West Slope Trawl Fishery
- Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery

If your vessel operates in a fishery where e-monitoring is required by AFMA, you must:

- Have an AFMA approved e-monitoring system installed on board the vessel
- Ensure the e-monitoring system remains operational throughout all fishing trips
- Facilitate data collection in accordance with the monitoring requirements of your fishery.

Responsibilities

Unless otherwise stated, the obligations outlined in this guide apply to the fishing concession holder and any person acting on their behalf. Fishing concession holders are responsible for ensuring that all crew members operating the vessel are aware of, and comply with, the applicable e-monitoring requirements.

Choosing an Approved E-monitoring System and Service Provider

The AFMA standards-based approach allows operators to choose from a range of type-approved e-monitoring systems that meet consistent technical and fishery-specific requirements. This approach provides flexibility for operators to select the system and service arrangement that best aligns with the needs of their fishing operation.

What You Should Do

When selecting your e-monitoring system and service provider, you are encouraged to:

1. Review Approved System Options

- Check the list of AFMA type-approved e-monitoring systems on the AFMA Website - List of approved e-monitoring system devices (refer to figure 2)
- Confirm the system is approved for your fishery
- Choose a system that suits your vessel layout, gear type, and operational needs

Model name and number	Image of control centre	Approved Fisheries
Archipelago FishVue Vantage		All Commonwealth managed fisheries
Anchor Lab BlackBox VX52		All Commonwealth managed fisheries
Saltwater Aaeon VPC-3350S-IS-A12-CS-E0002		All Commonwealth managed fisheries
Saltwater Sintrone ABOX-5210P-i3-SWC		All Commonwealth managed fisheries
Satlink SeaTube Nano 20600SEM099		All Commonwealth managed fisheries
Satlink SeaTube Nano+ 20600SEM100		All Commonwealth managed fisheries
Teem Fish AIHUB 11		All Commonwealth managed fisheries EXCLUDING: • Midwater Trawl Section of SPF • GAB Trawl Sector of SESSF • Otter Board Trawl Sector of SESSF • Northern Prawn Fishery

Figure 2. List of approved electronic monitoring (e-monitoring) system types.

2. Engage an E-monitoring Service Provider

Once you have chosen a type-approved system, you will need to engage an e-monitoring service provider to install, maintain, and support the system. Table 1 below lists the contact details for the service providers associated with each type-approved e-monitoring system.

Table 1. Electronic monitoring (e-monitoring) service provider contact information.

E-monitoring Service Provider	E-monitoring System	Contact Details
Archipelago Asia Pacific (AAP)	AAP Vantage	Bryan Bates Bryan.Bates@Archipelago-ap.com.au
Anchor Lab	BlackBox VX	Brian Cowan brian.cowan@anchorlab.net
Saltwater Inc	Saltwater Aaeon	Michael Enzenauer Michael.enzenauer@saltwaterinc.com
Satlink	SeaTube Nano	Manuel Menchaca Paz mmp@satlink.es
Taylor Marine	Teem Fish AIHUB	Tom Halsted thalsted@taylormarine.com.au

3. Consider Key Factors

Before entering a service arrangement, you should consider:

- Installation arrangements and expected timeframes
- The availability of ongoing maintenance and technical support
- Access to support services in regional and remote ports
- Total cost of ownership, including installation, maintenance, and long-term operational costs
- Contract terms and conditions, including warranties, and the scope of services provided

4. Compare and Make an Informed Choice

- Consult with multiple e-monitoring service providers if required, to compare available options
- Ask questions about service delivery, technical support, and expected response times

- Select an e-monitoring service provider that best meets your operational requirements and business needs

For further Information, visit the *Choosing Your E-monitoring Service Provider Guide* available on the AFMA website, under *Approved Systems* in the *Resources* section.

Installation: What to Expect

Before Installation

- Schedule the installation with your chosen e-monitoring service provider
- Ensure the vessel is accessible and safe for installation personnel
- Provide relevant information about the vessel, including its layout and any operational considerations that may affect installation

After Installation

Check that:

- Cameras provide a clear and unobstructed view of fishing
- Cameras are safely accessible for routine cleaning and maintenance
- The system does not interfere with other onboard equipment, and other onboard equipment does not adversely affect the performance of the e-monitoring system
- The system has been fully tested and is functioning correctly
- Your system has been activated on the remote data plan

You will also need to:

- Complete a Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP) and submit it to AFMA for approval at em@afma.gov.au (refer to VMP requirements section below)
- Ensure all crew members are trained in the operation and basic maintenance of the system

Before You Leave Port

Before departing on a fishing trip, ensure that:

- The e-monitoring system is powered on and operating correctly
- All cameras are clean, unobstructed, and functioning as intended
- Camera views clearly capture the required fishing activities in accordance with the approved VMP

- A successful system functionality check has been completed
- Sufficient data storage drives are available for the duration of the trip
- Crew members understand the basic operation of the e-monitoring system, including how to perform routine checks and identify potential issues
- Do not tamper with, disable, obstruct, modify, or intentionally interfere with any component of the e-monitoring system unless authorised by AFMA or your approved e-monitoring service provider

VMP Requirements

A VMP outlines how e-monitoring is implemented on a vessel and demonstrates that the system is configured to collect data that meets the minimum monitoring requirements for the relevant fishery (refer to figure 3).

The VMP documents key elements of the system, including camera placement, sensor configuration, and data collection arrangements. If your e-monitoring service provider does not provide a VMP template, AFMA can supply one upon request. To obtain a template, contact em@afma.gov.au.

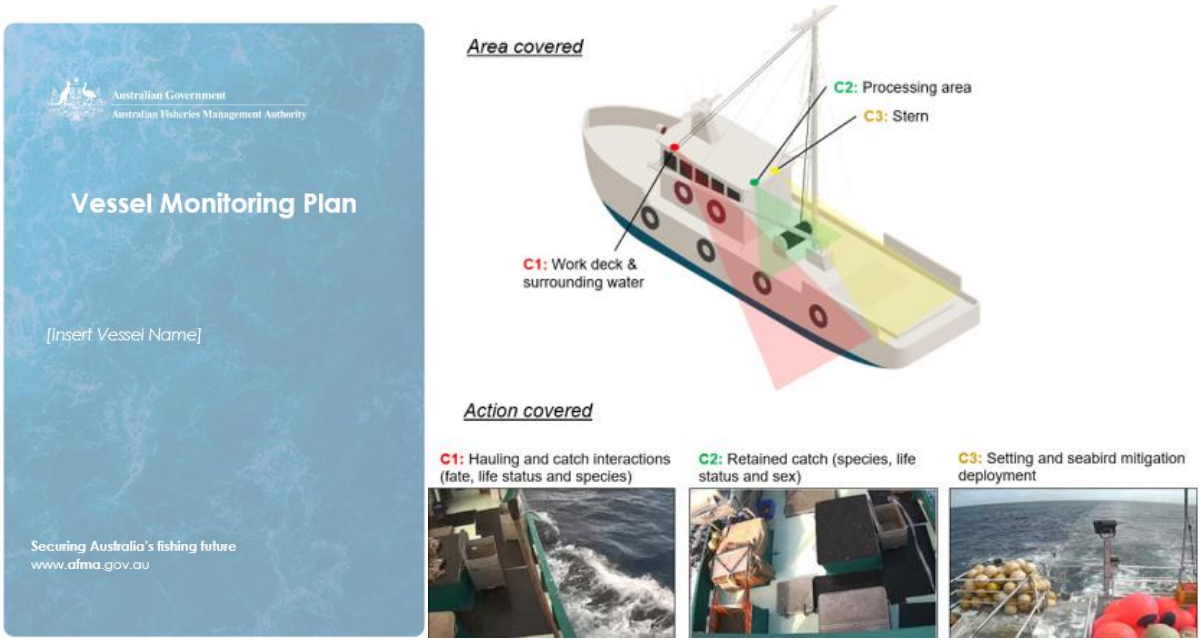


Figure 3. Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP) template and installation guidance.

What You Must Do

- Submit the VMP to AFMA at em@afma.gov.au for assessment and approval
- Obtain provisional approval from AFMA before the vessel departs to undertake any fishing activity
- Provide the first e-monitoring data drive to AFMA to allow a data quality assessment to be completed. Following a successful assessment, full approval may be granted

- Implement any changes required by AFMA, including adjustments to camera placement or angle, camera settings, sensors, or other system configurations, to ensure the effective collection of required fishery data
- Keep a copy of the approved VMP on record and ensure it remains accurate, current and reflective of the vessel's approved e-monitoring arrangements
- Review, update, and resubmit the VMP to AFMA for approval whenever changes are made to the vessel's e-monitoring setup, including camera locations, system configuration, or equipment type

If the E-monitoring System Stops Working

If your e-monitoring system is not functioning correctly:

1. Check for common issues such as power supply issues, loose or failed connections, or obstructed cameras and sensors
2. Follow the troubleshooting procedures provided by your e-monitoring service provider
3. Contact your e-monitoring service provider as soon as possible to seek technical assistance and resolve the issue
4. Record the nature of the fault and any actions taken to diagnose or rectify the problem
5. Arrange for repairs or maintenance if required

Important: If the system cannot be restored to full working order and you are at sea, or preparing to depart on a fishing trip:

- Cease fishing operations immediately if fishing activity is already underway, or delay departure until the issue has been resolved
- If the system cannot be returned to an operational state, notify your AFMA Fishery Manager as soon as possible
- Follow any directions or requirements issued by AFMA before commencing or resuming fishing activities
- Do not undertake fishing operations without a functioning e-monitoring system unless authorised by AFMA. Fishing without an operational system and without consulting your AFMA Fishery Manager may result in non-compliance with fishery requirements

Remote and Extended Trips

For vessels operating in remote areas or undertaking extended trips:

- Ensure at least one crew member is familiar with basic system operation and routine maintenance procedures.
- Conduct regular system checks throughout the trip to confirm that all components are functioning correctly.
- Report any faults, system malfunctions, or performance issues as soon as practical.
- Ensure sufficient data storage drives are available to capture and store all required e-monitoring data for the duration of the trip.

While in Port

The e-monitoring system is generally not required to operate while the vessel is in port. However, before departing on fishing trip, you must ensure the system is fully operational and capable of collecting all required monitoring data. The system must remain operational whenever e-monitoring requirements apply during fishing activities.

Data Drive Submission

AFMA provides vessels taking part in the e-monitoring program with a rotating supply of data drives to support the ongoing collection and return of e-monitoring data (refer to figure 4). Each data drive is supplied with a protective case, a pre-addressed return satchel, and a return slip to facilitate the secure storage, handling, and return of data drives to AFMA.

Fishing concession holders, and anyone acting on their behalf, are responsible for ensuring that data drives are kept secure, protected from loss or damage, and returned to AFMA in accordance with the requirements of the e-monitoring program.



Figure 4. Data drives, satchels, protective cases and return slips used in the electronic monitoring (e-monitoring) program.

What You Must Do

- Ensure you have a sufficient number of data drives (and total storage space) to cover the entire duration of each fishing trip. If additional data drives are required, notify AFMA in advance by emailing em@afma.gov.au to arrange replacement or supplementary drives.
- Exchange the data drive when:
    - it reaches its storage capacity;
    - it fails a system test;
    - the vessel makes its first landing of the month; or
    - AFMA directs you to do so.

- Return the data drive to AFMA within one business day of the vessel being in port by:
    - placing it in its protective case, and securing it within the return box and pre-addressed AFMA return package,
    - sending it via registered post; and
    - emailing the postal tracking number to AFMA.
- Do not damage, alter, or tamper with the data drive in any way

Important: Keep the registered post receipt and tracking number for your records. These serve as evidence that the data drive was returned to AFMA and may be required to verify compliance or assist in resolving any postal loss, delivery delays, or other transport-related issues.

Each data drive is labelled with a unique barcode and the vessel name to facilitate identification, tracking, and the management of data collection and return processes within the e-monitoring program.

Deactivation of E-monitoring Systems

If you permanently leave the fishery, cease fishing activities, or do not intend to fish for an extended period, you should contact your nominated e-monitoring service provider to deactivate your e-monitoring system. Deactivating the system when it is not required can help avoid unnecessary service and data charges.

If you later decide to return to the fishery or resume fishing activities, you must contact your nominated e-monitoring service provider to reactivate the e-monitoring system before commencing fishing operations. It is the responsibility of the concession holder, or a person acting on their behalf, to ensure the e-monitoring system is activated, fully operational, and compliant with all program requirements before and during fishing activities.

Legal Requirements – E-monitoring Directions

To understand and meet your obligations under the e-monitoring program, you should read and familiarise yourself with the directions and requirements that apply to your relevant fishery:

- *Fisheries Management (E-monitoring Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery) Direction 2026* - Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery
- *Fisheries Management (E-monitoring Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery) Direction 2026* - Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

- *Fisheries Management (E-monitoring Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery) Direction 2026* - Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery
- Fisheries Management (E-monitoring Small Pelagic Fishery) Direction 2026 - Small Pelagic Fishery
- *Fisheries Management (E-monitoring North West Slope Trawl Fishery) Direction 2026* - North West Slope Trawl Fishery
- *Fisheries Management (E-monitoring Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery) Direction 2026* - Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery
- *Fisheries Management (Type Approved E-monitoring Systems) Direction 2026* – relevant to all fisheries

Need Help?

If you need assistance with your e-monitoring system or e-monitoring program requirements:

- For technical support, contact your e-monitoring service provider.
- For advice on e-monitoring requirements or obligations contact AFMA on (02) 6225 5555 or email em@afma.gov.au.
- For urgent advice or direction regarding an e-monitoring system malfunction, or any issue that may affect your ability to meet e-monitoring requirements, contact your AFMA Fishery Manager as soon as possible. You can do this by calling (02) 6225 5555 or by emailing the relevant fishery team using the contact details below:
    - TunaandInternational@afma.gov.au for Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery and Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery matters
    - NorthernFisheries2@afma.gov.au for the Northern Prawn Fishery, North West Slope Trawl Fishery and Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery matters
    - GHAT@afma.gov.au for Gillnet, Hook and Trap Sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery matters
    - southerntrawl@afma.gov.au for Trawl Sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery matters
    - spf@afma.gov.au Small Pelagic Fishery matters

Seeking assistance early can help minimise disruption to your fishing operations, support the timely resolution of issues, and help ensure ongoing compliance with e-monitoring program requirements.