

# Guideline: Vessel monitoring system – manual reporting procedures

<b>Document title</b>	Guideline: Vessel monitoring system – manual reporting procedures
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1.0	8 March 2016	Will Bowman	Created
1.1	6 December 2018	Blake Taylor	Revision to include reporting for additional fisheries.
1.2	17 July 2019	Lianos Triantafillos	Revision to streamline approval process.
1.3	19 May 2020	Blake Taylor	Revision to align with AFMA service arrangement.

Acronyms and initialisms	
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
NT	Northern Territory
VMS	Vessel monitoring system

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## Guidelines

### When manual reporting will be permitted

Manual reporting will **only** be permitted where:

- a unit has failed at sea as the result of a mechanical failure
- the Water Police and NT Fisheries consider the level of risk is low.

Approval to manual report will only be granted until the completion of the current trip, until the unit is repaired in the field, or for a reasonable time period determined as part of the risk assessment process.

Additionally, the Director of Fisheries may approve manual reporting under exceptional circumstances.

### When manual reporting is not permitted

If the Water Police and NT Fisheries decide not to grant permission for an operator/boat to manual report and the VMS remains non-operational, you will be ordered to return to port and remain there pending further investigation.

### How to apply to manual report

In most circumstances the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) will contact you when a unit is not reporting. To make an application to manual report, contact NT Fisheries by phone 08 8999 2144 or email [fisheries@nt.gov.au](mailto:fisheries@nt.gov.au).

### Requirements for manual reporting

An operator granted permission to manual report for a unit that has failed must:

- report their position and fishing activity at intervals determined by the Water Police and NT Fisheries
- move to a different area to continue fishing activity if directed to so.

### How to manual report

All manual reports must be made in writing by emailing AFMA at [ausvms@afma.gov.au](mailto:ausvms@afma.gov.au). If email is unavailable, phone AFMA on 02 6225 5542 during business hours.

### Non-compliance with the manual reporting requirements

If an operator is found to have not complied with the manual reporting requirements, the boat will be ordered to return to port immediately and the operator/concession holder may face further enforcement action.

### On return to port

The operator must make immediate arrangements to have the unit repaired or replaced. The operator will not be allowed to depart port again until all vessels have an operational VMS unit and this has been confirmed by the Water Police or NT Fisheries.

## Related legislation

This guideline for VMS Manual Reporting has been developed to ensure operators remain in compliance with the requirements of the *Fisheries Act 1988*.

## Further information

For further information in relation to this guideline, please contact NT Fisheries at [fisheries@nt.gov.au](mailto:fisheries@nt.gov.au) or on 08 8999 2144.