



Frequently Asked Questions

The wider rollout of on-board cameras

Ownership

Who will own the on-board camera systems?

Depending on the technology solution and service provider chosen, the on-board camera systems will be owned either by MPI or the selected service provider(s).

Who will own the footage and data?

Both the footage and the data will be owned by MPI and securely held to meet the New Zealand Government information security and privacy requirements.

Will I be able to choose which camera system is installed on my vessel?

No. We will approach the market and select the most suitable service provider(s). This approach is necessary because of a lack of interoperability between most on-board camera systems and to reduce the costs of the wider rollout.

All fishers that fall within the scope of the wider rollout will be required to use the on-board camera system provided and installed by Fisheries New Zealand's selected service provider(s). We and the chosen service provider(s) will work with you to ensure that the camera system is suitable for your vessel.

I already have an existing camera on my vessel, can I use this one?

To ensure consistency and compatibility of the technology all vessels will need to have the same operating system.

Access and privacy

Will I be able to access footage recorded from my vessel?

Under the Privacy Act 2020, any person can ask to access whatever personal information is held about them. A person can also ask us to correct any information about them if they consider it is inaccurate, misleading, incomplete, or out-of-date.

Fishers can request any information we hold about them, or request a correction, by emailing privacyrequests@mpi.govt.nz

Will footage be subject to the Official Information Act?

Yes. However, when deciding whether to release footage, we will weigh the public interest against withholding grounds in the Official Information Act (OIA) such as commercial sensitivity and personal privacy.

What will the footage and data be used for?

MPI is permitted to use footage and data for any lawful purpose related to the purpose of the Fisheries Act. This includes:



- Verifying that the information provided by fishers under fisheries legislation is accurate;
- Research purposes (e.g. to better understand protected species captures); and
- For compliance investigations and enforcement.

Sometimes we need to share information to fulfil obligations of government accountability and transparency and to uphold the law. Any information will only be shared with government agencies for limited and specific purposes. For example, law enforcement and conservation.

How will my privacy be protected?

We understand that your privacy is extremely important, and we have well-tested systems in place to protect private information. These include:

- Securely storing all footage to Government Information Security standards;
- Managing access to footage in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020, OIA and Public Records Act;
- Automatically encrypting footage so that nobody can access it without a digital 'key';
- Restricting access to footage to those MPI personnel with a lawful purpose;
- Ensuring any personal information¹ in footage and data is only shared with other government agencies or organisations in accordance with information sharing agreements or applicable provisions of the Privacy Act;
- Obscuring the personal identity of individuals, or identifying features of vessels if footage is released to other agencies or organisations (unless required for criminal or regulatory investigative purposes or as permitted by the Privacy Act);

Why isn't footage made publicly available?

The footage captured from on-board cameras isn't made publicly available because it contains personal information that is protected under the Privacy Act 2020 and commercially sensitive information.

Installation

How will the cameras be installed on my vessel?

The on-board camera system will be installed by qualified technicians approved by the service provider(s).

You will need to be in port for the camera system to be installed. The length of time you will need to spend in port will vary depending on the technology solution selected, the amount of preparation required prior to installation and the number of cameras required for your vessel.

Once the service provider(s) is selected, and dates for implementation have been determined, information on how to arrange for installation will be provided to fishers (including the expected timeframes for installation).

¹ Personal information is information about identifiable individuals e.g. footage of fishers



On-board cameras placement and footage

How many cameras and where will they be placed?

The on-board cameras will be positioned to capture / view fishing and catch transportation activity. They are not intended to see all areas of the deck, or areas of a vessel unrelated to fishing, such as the bridge, crew quarters, messes, heads, or the engine room.

Camera placement will be driven by the footage needed to achieve the monitoring objectives. Cameras will only be placed in those areas of a vessel associated with fishing related activity and, are anticipated to provide reviewers with footage of:

- Fishing gear deployment and retrieval
- Any protected species mitigation measures and devices used.

If I am using my vessel for recreational purposes do I have to switch it on?

No.

If I am using my vessel for customary fishing do I have to switch it on?

No.

How do I send my footage to MPI?

The process to send footage to MPI will depend on the chosen solution. More information on how to send footage to MPI will be provided when available.

Will I be provided with training?

Training material and guidance will be provided to all fishers as part of the wider rollout.

Review

How will footage be reviewed?

How footage is reviewed, and what data is collected will vary depending on the objective of the review and the specific monitoring objectives in that fishery. For example, when the objective of the review is verifying protected species captures, reviewers will watch footage at a faster speed when compared to reviewing footage with the objective of determining catch composition.

Exemptions

What will happen if the system fails?

Fishers may be able to request exemptions from operating on-board camera systems where the Director-General of MPI is satisfied that it is impractical or unreasonable for the person to comply with the legal requirements. The protocol for requesting exemptions will be developed once a technology provider has been selected and will be communicated to fishers before implementation.



Fisheries New Zealand

Tini a Tangaroa

Miscellaneous

[Will I still need to carry an observer?](#)

The placement of observers on vessels operating on-board camera systems will be considered on a case-by-case basis. However, as the monitoring objectives for on-board cameras mirror the objectives of observer coverage on in-scope vessels, observer coverage levels can be expected to decrease in many inshore fisheries.