

**AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS)
FOR FISHING VESSELS - PART 1**

If your fishing vessel is 15m or more in length, the law requires you to fit and maintain an AIS...

Always transmit an AIS signal - AIS is important for navigation, helping to keep your vessel, crew and others safe from collisions at sea. It should never be switched off in UK waters for commercial reasons. Though competitors may be able to see your activity, safety always comes first, and the law will always apply without exception.

Don't risk a collision - Failing to transmit an AIS signal has been a contributory factor to a number of collisions and near misses putting lives at risk. In January 2020, a UK skipper received a prison sentence for failing to transmit an AIS signal prior to a collision: **Don't let this be you!**

Don't break the law - Under the Merchant Shipping (Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Reporting Requirements) Regulations 2004 (as amended in 2011), fishing vessels of 15m or more in length overall, UK registered or operating in UK waters, must be fitted with an approved (Class A) AIS (regulation 8A).



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AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS) FOR FISHING VESSELS 15M OR MORE IN LENGTH - PART 2

What this means for owners - If you're an owner of a vessel that requires AIS, you're committing an offence if you don't comply with the regulation and install AIS on your vessel. This could result in a fine or prison sentence if found guilty.

What this means for skippers - If you're a skipper of a vessel fitted with AIS, as required, you must ensure that the system **'is maintained in operation at all times'** (regulation 9). On each occasion you fail to operate and transmit the AIS signal, you're committing an offence. This could result in a fine or prison sentence if found guilty.

Owners and skippers - Even if the offence is committed by the skipper, if a vessel is regularly failing to transmit an AIS signal and the owner has been warned, the owner too could be prosecuted and get the same punishment for aiding and abetting the offence and/or unsafe operation of the vessel.

To find out more, please visit:

www.gov.uk/guidance/fishing-vessel-health-and-safety



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