

## Attachment 1: Responses to requests

### Scope of malfunctions

On average, there are approximately 1400 vessel tracking units actively polling on commercial boats in Queensland, comprising approximately 43% of RockFleet (also known as YB3i) units, 29% of IDP690/ST6100/IDP800 units, 21% of Spot Trace units, 6% Inmarsat C units and less than 1% of CLS units.

As stated in the vessel tracking working group, Fisheries Queensland did not have complete information of unit malfunction rates. This is because fishers are required to liaise with the providers directly to troubleshoot malfunctioned units and progress the necessary warranty claim/repair. Therefore, not all malfunction cases were made known to Fisheries Queensland. Fisheries Queensland has recently gathered malfunction information from the providers (Pivotel and Polestar). This is presented in the tables below. Note the period during which the data applies to:

- For Spot Trace units, after the mass replacement program of Spot Trace i.e. from May 2020 until end 2021
- For Rockfleet (Pivotel), since Pivotel became the provider in June 2019 until end 2021
- For Rockfleet (Pole Star), since Pole Star became the provider in April 2019 until end 2021
- For IDP/ST units (Pole Star), since 1 Jan 2019 until end 2021

**Table 1:** Malfunction rate by vessel tracking unit type

Provider	Unit type	Number of units dispatched	Number of malfunctioned units <sup>1</sup>	Malfunction rate (%)
Pivotel	Rockfleet	880	137	16%
	Spot Trace	643	36	6%
Pole Star	Rockfleet	38	0	0%
	IDP690	53	0	0%
	ST6100	629	12	2%
	IDP800 (with internal antenna)	25	0	0%
	IDP800 (unit only without antenna)	43	1	2%
	External antenna for IDP 800	56	3	5%

<sup>1</sup> Units that were assessed by the providers and a fault was found

**Table 2:** Causes of unit malfunctions

Provider	Unit type	Number of malfunctioned units	Unit failure <sup>2</sup>	Customer caused failure <sup>3</sup>	Option Audio installation issues
Pivotel	Rockfleet	137	76%	2%	22%
	Spot Trace	36	50%	50%	N/A
Pole Star	Rockfleet	0	0%	0%	N/A
	IDP690	0	0%	0%	N/A
	ST6100	12	83%	17%	N/A
	IDP800 (with internal antenna)	0	0%	0%	N/A
	IDP800 (unit only without antenna)	1	0%	100%	N/A
	External antenna for IDP 800	3	0%	100%	N/A
<sup>2</sup> Failure with internal parts or configuration <sup>3</sup> Damage caused by customer, improper installation, customer caused water ingress, incorrect use of AAA batteries for Spot Trace					

From August 2019 to July 2020, Fisheries Queensland has provided consideration to fishers whose units malfunctioned and were returned to the providers for assessment/repair. A total of 45 malfunctioned units were registered with Fisheries Queensland during this period. This consisted of 67% Rockfleet units, 29% Spot Trace units and 4% IDP800 and ST6100 units.

### Quantifiable data for compliance and validation

Quantitative and qualitative benefits of the regulation will be discussed in detail in the Consultation PIR Report. Co-relating a benefit/impact on time and money solely with the introduction of vessel tracking has not been straightforward as there are other factors in play, such as the implementation of other fisheries reform items and COVID.

Vessel tracking provides data which is superior to earlier data capture prior to the vessel tracking regulation being introduced (i.e logbooks), specifically data which includes/is:

- Spatial location by longitude and latitude
- Real time data at a high frequency.

The data is also independently generated removing any potential for error in reporting. The data provides a significantly more precise measure of activity by commercial fishers and consequently, improves the evidence base available to inform management strategies with respect to harvest/access controls.

Vessel tracking has assisted QBFP implement intelligence-based compliance activities. Vessel tracking has certainly changed the way QBFP plans patrols and targets inspections.

To provide some examples, vessel tracking has provided visibility to assist QBFP identify high risk fishing areas or fishers, thus facilitating more efficient planning of inspections. Without vessel tracking data, QBFP would have to rely on other sources of information that may not be as accurate/reliable, and would have much lower chance of successfully intercepting/inspecting vessels. Vessel tracking has assisted QBFP in substantiating or unsubstantiating FishWatch complaints. For straightforward complaints, vessel tracking has helped reduce time spent in assessing them. The complexity of each compliance case varies, making quantifying benefits difficult.

## Review of units

Fisheries Queensland has not been able to significantly demonstrate that the Spot Trace and Rockfleet units are not fit for purpose, as indicated by some industry members. Whilst Fisheries Queensland acknowledged the unit reliability concerns raised by industry members in the working group, Fisheries Queensland has also heard positives about the units from other industry members.

The malfunction information that we have recently collated from the vessel tracking providers should provide better clarity on the malfunction issue and its prevalence. This will facilitate the review of all approved units, as committed by Fisheries Queensland.

Fisheries Queensland has reviewed several different vessel tracking units as part of the initial market scan and ongoing market scan. Fisheries Queensland has also added units to the approved unit list since implementation i.e. CLS Triton. A list of units previously reviewed by Fisheries Queensland is below. These units were not considered further as they did not meet the minimum requirements determined by Fisheries Queensland.

As technology evolves, these units may be reviewed again during the approved units review to determine their suitability.

- Hali
- Succorfish
- AP3
- SmartOne C
- SmartOne Solar
- Various Zunibal vessel tracers
- Q Tanium
- Faria FWI 400
- Bluetracker
- SolarVMS
- Iridium Edge Solar
- Skywave ST9100 D
- Vessel Tracer MK2
- ZuniSOS
- Vessel Tracer GPRS/GSM
- G62 4G Cellular

## Trial data

A total of 11 industry members participated in the vessel tracking unit trial. All trial participants were sent a survey form at the end of the trial. A template of the trial participant survey is attached in Attachment 2. Written survey responses were received from 6 participants. Verbatim responses have not been included here to respect the privacy of trial participants. However the feedback was summarised in the Results of Vessel Tracking Units Trial June 2018 report (<https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/vessel-tracking/resource/5339089f-4e66-4f03-83fd-80431d2d241d>).

## Data request:

***How many vessels both commercial and recreational, have been caught, suspected or convicted of being in a no fishing zone in the last 5 years? (to help determine the scope of the problem).***

Fisheries Queensland regulates areas and times in which commercial fishing may occur. Regulated waters are outlined in Chapter 2 of the Fisheries Declaration 2019. Examples of regulated waters include but are not limited to scallop replenishment areas and barramundi closed season.

The following figures represent all regulated waters offences including freshwater for the last 5 years.

Contravene a regulated waters declaration by a recreational fisher:

- FIN: 295
- Caution: 349
- Prosecutions: 9

Contravene a regulated waters declaration by a commercial fisher:

- FIN: 54
- Caution: 96
- Prosecutions: 1

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Department of Environment and Science may be able to provide further information on the number of offences recorded in Federal and State marine parks over the last 5 years.

Fisheries Queensland has been collecting information from partner agencies in which vessel tracking information is shared under an Information Sharing Agreement. The information collected illustrates the number of times vessel tracking information has been used by partner agencies to assist with compliance actions. The information we have collected to date is presented below.

## Department of Environment and Science (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service)

- Number of matters with compliance actions (Nov 2020 – Jun 2021) = 4

## Parks Australia

- Number of matters with compliance actions (2021) = 1

## Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)

**Table 4:** Outcomes of matters detected using vessel tracking information by GBRMPA

Year	Outcome			
	Prosecution Action/Fine	Infringement Notice	Advisory Letter	Under investigation/ pending court case
2019	22	0	24	0
2020	21	5	54	3
2021	4	0	29	27
2022 (as at 21 Feb)	0	0	0	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>38</b>

*Note: Where matters have multiple offences recorded, these are counted as a single outcome, with the higher penalty shown in the table.*