

providers include supporting information which would demonstrate that the VMS could meet the minimum specifications established by NMFS OLE. The submitted supporting information was used as the basis for approving the mobile transceiver units and communications service providers specified in this document.

This document lists each currently approved VMS and sets forth the features of each VMS. The list of VMS mobile transceiver units and communications service providers approved by NOAA will be updated and revised as others are approved. The list will be posted on the NMFS OLE website and will contain revisions when required.

As noted above, implementation of required VMS usage in the HMS fisheries was delayed until a court recently upheld the HMS VMS requirement. NMFS will issue a separate notice in the **Federal Register** specifying the effective date of the requirement to have a working VMS unit installed onboard a vessel that has left port and that has HMS permits and pelagic longline gear. However, fishing vessel owners and operators should not delay their purchase and installation of a VMS mobile transceiver unit until the last day. Vendors may require extended periods of time to deliver a mobile transceiver unit and to complete its installation.

## II. VMS Mobile Transceiver Units

### A. INMARSAT-C Transceivers

The Inmarsat-C satellite communications VMS transmitting units that meet the minimum technical requirements for the HMS Fisheries are as follows: Thrane & Thrane Fishery "Capsat" (part number TT-3022D-NMFS); Trimble Galaxy TNL7005 (part number 17760-45) with software v5.1; and Trimble Galaxy Courier TNL8005 (part number 30090-45) with software v5.1. Both Trimble units use antenna part number 25132-01 and must run software version 5.1, or later. Those vessels using earlier versions of Trimble software (5.0, and earlier) must contact their Trimble-Authorized Support Dealer to perform an upgrade to firmware version 5.10 or 5.10a, and set the parameters equivalent to software version 5.1, or later. The addresses for the Thrane & Thrane distributor (LandSea Systems) and the Trimble dealer contact are provided under the heading VMS Provider Addresses. Though both Trimble units are approved for use, they are no longer being manufactured. Units still may be available at Trimble-authorized dealers.

Pursuant to 50 CFR 635.69(d), the NMFS will provide an installation and activation checklist for the below listed units which the vessel owner must follow. The vessel owner must sign a statement on the checklist certifying compliance with the installation procedures and return the checklist to NMFS. Installation can be performed by experienced crew or by an electronics specialist, and the installation cost is paid by the owner.

The owner may confirm that automated position reports are being received by calling the NMFS Office for Law Enforcement in St. Petersburg, FL at 727-570-5344.

Thrane & Thrane TT-3022D-NMFS features: The transceiver consists of an integrated GPS/Inmarsat-C unit in the wheelhouse and an antenna mounted atop the vessel. The unit is factory pre-configured for NMFS VMS operations (non-Global Maritime Distress & Safety System (non-GMDSS)). Satellite commissioning services are provided by LandSea Systems personnel.

Automatic GPS position reporting starts after transceiver installation and power activation onboard the vessel. The unit is a car-radio-sized transceiver using a floating 10 to 32 VDC power supply. The unit is configured for automatic reduced position transmissions when the vessel is stationary (i.e., in port). It allows for port stays without power drain or power shut down. The unit restarts normal position transmission automatically when the vessel goes to sea.

The outside antenna, model TT-3005M, is a compact omni-directional Inmarsat-C/GPS antenna, providing operation down to -15 deg. angles. Although the unit contains push buttons to request emergency assistance from United States search and rescue authorities, search and rescue authorities can use the transceiver to communicate with the vessel only when additional equipment not required by NMFS is purchased (i.e., a message terminal display).

A configuration option is available to automatically send position reports to a private address, such as a fleet management company. Another available option is the ability to send and receive private e-mail and other messages with the purchase and installation of an input device such as a laptop or personal computer.

A vessel owner wishing to purchase this system may contact the entity identified under the heading VMS Provider Addresses for Thrane & Thrane TT-3022D-NMFS. The owner should identify himself or herself as a vessel owner in the "United States HMS

Fishery." The Thrane & Thrane transceiver and antenna the vessel owner purchases will be configured for the HMS Fisheries.

To use this transceiver, the vessel owner will need to establish an Inmarsat-C system use contract with an approved Inmarsat-C communications service provider. The owner will be required to complete the Inmarsat-C "Registration for Service Activation for Maritime Mobile Earth Station." The owner should consult with LandSea when completing this form.

LandSea Systems personnel will perform the following before shipment: (a) configure the TT-3022D-NMFS according to NMFS OLE specifications for the HMS Fisheries; (b) download the predetermined NMFS position reporting and broadcast command identification numbers into the transceiver; (c) test the transceiver to ensure operation when installation has been completed on the vessel; and (d) forward the Inmarsat service provider and transceiver identifying information to the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement.

Trimble Galaxy TNL7005 part number 17760-45, Software v5.1, features: The transceiver consists of an integrated GPS/Inmarsat-C unit in the wheelhouse and an antenna mounted atop the vessel. The unit is factory pre-configured for NMFS VMS operations (non-GMDSS). The installation will be performed by Trimble-authorized support dealers and must be paid for by the owner.

Automatic GPS position reporting starts after coordination with the communications service provider. Although the unit contains push buttons to request emergency assistance from United States search and rescue authorities, search and rescue authorities can use the transceiver to communicate with the vessel only when additional equipment not required by NMFS is purchased (i.e., a message terminal display).

A configuration option is available to automatically send position reports to a private address, such as a fleet management company. Another available option is the ability to send/receive private e-mail and other messages with the purchase and installation of an input device, such as a laptop or personal computer.

Trimble Galaxy Courier TNL8005 part number 30090-45, Software v5.1 features: The Trimble Galaxy Courier TNL8005 transceiver has the same features as the Trimble Galaxy TNL7005, except that it also includes an integrated computer for messaging, including Internet e-mail. The unit is