Frequently Asked Questions – Fisheries with existing vessel tracking requirements (otter and fin fish trawl and sea cucumber/beche-de-mer)

What is changing?

As of 1 January 2019, Fisheries Queensland will no longer pay the polling costs associated with vessel tracking.

If you are currently required to have a vessel tracking unit on your boat(s) and you wish to continue fishing you will need to ensure you have an approved data plan with a satellite provider in place by 1 January 2019. For further information, refer to the Vessel Tracking Installation and Maintenance Standard.

Which licences are affected?

Trawl (T1, T2, T4 and M1) and sea cucumber/beche-de-mer (B1) licences.

I am a beam trawl or Moreton Bay fisher how am I impacted?

If you only operate under a T5-T9 symbol or an M2 symbol, you are not required to have and operate a vessel tracking unit at this point in time. However, all licenced commercial fishing boats will have to have vessel tracking by 1 January 2020.

I have an existing vessel tracking unit. Am I required to purchase and install a new, approved unit?

No. If your existing unit is operational and is an approved unit for your fishery, you will not be required to purchase a new unit. However, if you choose to purchase and install a new, approved unit between 1 June 2018 and 31 December 2020 you will be eligible for a rebate.

I want to keep my existing unit. How will polling be charged?

You will need to have an approved data plan with a satellite provider in place as of the 1 January 2019. Your satellite provider will charge you directly. For further information, refer to the Vessel Tracking Installation and Maintenance Standard.

Your unit will not function after 1 January 2019 unless you have setup an account with a satellite provider.

Who is eligible for the rebate scheme?

Authority holders who purchase and install an approved unit after 1 June 2018 will be eligible for a rebate. Units purchased prior to this date are not be covered by the rebate. For further information, refer to the Vessel Tracking Installation and Maintenance Standard.

Are Thrane and Thrane units eligible for the rebate scheme?

If you purchased a Thrane and Thrane unit after 1 June 2018 and that unit is approved for the fishery you operate in (eg trawl) and have kept the proof of purchase, you will be eligible for a rebate.
If I purchase a new approved unit after 1 June 2018, will I have to pay the polling costs prior to 1 January 2019?

No. Polling costs during this period will be covered by Fisheries Queensland.

How can I find out how much it will cost per month with my existing unit?

You will need to contact the satellite provider for further information on monthly costs. Please find the contact details for satellite providers in the Vessel Tracking Installation and Maintenance Standard or in the last question.

What is the required polling rate for my unit?

If you are operating under a T1, T2, T4 or M1 symbol, your unit is required to send positions to Fisheries Queensland every 15 minutes.

If you are operating under a B1 symbol your unit on your primary vessel is required to send positions to Fisheries Queensland every 15 minutes. However, final polling rates have not yet been determined and this frequency may change. Tenders boats operating with the primary boat under a B1 symbol will be required to have vessel tracking by 1 January 2020.

Why has the polling rate changed from 1 hour to 15 minutes whilst fishing under a T1, T2, T4 and M1 symbol?

Fisheries Queensland have had the ability to change reporting rates of units to 15 minutes for compliance and investigation purposes. Fisheries Queensland will still need the ability to gain 15 minute reporting from your unit for these purposes.

Are the polling costs on the new units cheaper?

This will depend on the type of unit. For further information, please contact the satellite provider.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YB3i (RockFLEET)</td>
<td>Track Now</td>
<td>Website: commercialfishingtracker.com Phone: 04 3810 5805, 04 5050 0010 or 07 3805 5112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDP690, ST6100 and IDP800</td>
<td>Pole Star</td>
<td>Website: polestarglobal.com Phone: 02 4254 1055</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thrane and Thrane</td>
<td>Pole Star</td>
<td>Website: polestarglobal.com Phone: 02 4254 1055</td>
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