June 5, 2015

Regional Fishery Management Councils

RE: VMS EMT non-renewed type-approvals

Dear Council Members,

Changes have been made within the U.S. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Program that will affect many vessel owners. Affected vessel owners will be required to replace their VMS unit with another type-approved VMS unit.

Affected VMS Units
One of the requirements set out in the new regulation, Vessel Monitoring Systems; Requirements for Enhanced Mobile Transceiver Unit and Mobile Communication Service Type-Approval (50 CFR 600 Subpart Q, see also 79 FR 77399 (Dec. 24, 2014)), is a type-approval renewal process. Under the type-approval renewal process, VMS vendors are required to apply for a renewal of their type-approved VMS units/services every three years. SkyMate, Inc. did not submit a complete application for renewal of their bundled VMS products, and CLS America did not submit for renewal of their Thorium TST EMTU (type-approvals for the Thorium TST A2.0 and the Thorium LEO A2.0 are unaffected). As a result, these units will no longer be type-approved for compliance with vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirements in United States federal fisheries.

To continue fishing in U.S. federal fisheries that require use of VMS, affected vessel owners must replace their affected units with a currently type-approved unit by September 30, 2015. The new type-approved VMS unit must be installed, operational, and registered with OLE by that time.

Attached is a copy of the notification letters sent to your regions’ vessel owners by certified mail. In the letter we provided notice of the September 30, 2015 deadline, we provided them with a list of type-approved VMS EMTUs from which they may choose a replacement, and we provided them with guidance on requesting reimbursement for the cost of their replacement VMS EMTU. Also attached is a complete list of type approved vendors and units that are currently approved and pending approval (note that this list has been updated since it was sent to the affected fishermen). The always up-to-date list is kept at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/about/our_programs/vessel_monitoring.html, “Approved VMS Units” link.

If you receive questions regarding this issue, please direct them to the VMS Help Desk at ole.helpdesk@noaa.gov or (888) 219-9228, or to Kelly Spalding at Kelly.spalding@noaa.gov or (301) 427-8269.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (301) 427-2300.

Respectfully,

Logan Gregory
Acting Deputy Director, Office of Law Enforcement
RE: CLS Thorium TST VMS units

Dear fishing vessel owner/operator:

This letter serves as notification that after **September 30, 2015**, your CLS America Thorium TST mobile transceiver unit will no longer be type-approved for compliance with vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirements in United States federal fisheries.

In December 2014, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published in the Federal Register a final regulation governing the technical requirements for, and NMFS’ approval of VMS units used in U.S. federal fisheries (50 CFR 600 Subpart Q, see also 79 FR 77399 (Dec. 24, 2014)). One of the requirements set out in the regulation is a type-approval renewal process. Under the type-approval renewal process, VMS vendors are required to apply for a renewal of their type-approved VMS units/services every three years. CLS America did not apply for renewal of their Thorium TST unit. As a result, the type-approval for the CLS America Thorium TST, originally type-approved in YEAR, will expire on September 30, 2015. The CLS Thorium TST A2.0 and Thorium LEO A2.0 are unaffected by this notice and will continue to be type-approved for use in compliance with VMS requirements in U.S. federal fisheries.

To continue fishing in U.S. federal fisheries that require use of VMS, you must replace your Thorium TST unit(s) with a currently type-approved VMS unit no later than 11:59pm (local time) on September 30, 2015. The new type-approved VMS unit must be installed, operational, and registered by OLE by that time. You may choose from the units in the attached list, “Type-Approved VMS Units.” Please be certain that the unit of your choice is type-approved for the fisheries/areas in which you fish.

Please check our website prior to your purchase for the most up to date list of type-approved units by going to [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/about/our_programs/vessel_monitoring.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/about/our_programs/vessel_monitoring.html), and clicking on the “Approved VMS Units” link.

All CLS America Thorium TST units that are replaced as a direct result of this type-approval status change and as necessary to maintain compliance with the U.S. VMS regulations will fall within the scope of NOAA’s National VMS Reimbursement Program. Please see the attached reimbursement request form, and contact the VMS Support Center at 888-219-9228 for reimbursement inquiries.
If you have questions, please feel free to contact the VMS Support Center at 888-219-9228 or ole.helpdesk@noaa.gov, or contact me directly at Kelly.spalding@noaa.gov.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Kelly Spalding
VMS Analyst
Headquarters, NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement

cc: Vincent Dabney, Mikael Gronfeldt
Attachments: List of type-approved VMS units; Reimbursement form
RE: SkyMate VMS units

Dear fishing vessel owner/operator:

This letter serves as notification that after September 30, 2015, your SkyMate mobile transceiver unit will no longer be type-approved for compliance with vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirements in United States federal fisheries.

In December 2014, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published in the Federal Register a final regulation governing the technical requirements for, and NMFS’ approval of VMS units used in U.S. federal fisheries (50 CFR 600 Subpart Q; see also 79 FR 77399 (Dec. 24, 2014)). One of the requirements set out in the regulation is a type-approval renewal process. Under the type-approval renewal process, VMS vendors are required to apply for a renewal of their type-approved VMS units/services every three years. SkyMate did not submit a complete application for renewal of their bundled VMS product, which consists of the Stellar VMS unit together with the Orbcocom satellite communications service. As a result, SkyMate’s type-approval will expire on September 30, 2015.

To continue fishing in U.S. federal fisheries that require use of VMS, you must replace your SkyMate VMS unit(s) with a currently type-approved VMS unit no later than 11:59pm (local time) on September 30, 2015. The new type-approved VMS unit must be installed, operational, and registered with OLE by that time. You may choose from the units in the attached list, “Type-Approved VMS Units.” Please be certain that the unit of your choice is type-approved for the fisheries/areas in which you fish.

Please check our website prior to your purchase for the most up to date list of type-approved units by going to http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/about/our_programs/vessel_monitoring.html, and clicking on the “Approved VMS Units” link.

All SkyMate Stellar units that are replaced as a direct result of this type-approval status change and as necessary to maintain compliance with the U.S. VMS regulations will fall within the scope of NOAA’s National VMS Reimbursement Program. Please see the attached reimbursement request form, and contact the VMS Support Center at 888-219-9228 for reimbursement inquiries.

cc: Vincent Dabney, Mikael Gronfeldt
Att: List of type-approved VMS units; Reimbursement form
If you have questions, please feel free to contact the VMS Support Center at 888-219-9228 or ole.helpdesk@noaa.gov, or contact me directly at Kelly.spalding@noaa.gov.

Respectfully,

Kelly Spalding  
VMS Analyst  
Headquarters, NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement
VMS REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST FORM

This reimbursement opportunity is available to fishing vessel owners and/or operators that have purchased an approved E-MTU device order to comply with fishery management regulations. For units purchased on or after 2.1.2008, the reimbursable expense is the purchase price of a type-approved E-MTU for which the owner and/or operator holds a valid commercial fishing permit or license, not to exceed a maximum of $3,100.00. For units purchased prior to 2.1.2008, the reimbursable expense is the purchase price of a type-approved MTU/E-MTU for which the owner and/or operator holds a valid commercial fishing permit or license and associated freight, not to exceed maximum reimbursement amount by fishery (AK $1,750; NE $2,995; NW $3,070; PI $1,750; PI Groundfish $3,100).

Units purchased prior to July 5, 2006 are no longer eligible for reimbursement per NMFS Directive 06-102.

HOW TO REQUEST REIMBURSEMENT FOR VMS:

1. Purchase, install, and activate a NOAA OLE Type-Approved VMS unit.
2. Contact NOAA OLE VMS Helpdesk at 1.888.219.9228 to obtain four-digit reimbursement confirmation number.
3. Complete and sign this reimbursement request form or visit www.psmfc.org for web form.
4. Mail or fax the reimbursement request form, a copy of the Itemized sales invoice, and a copy of the vessel’s Certificate of Documentation and/or Federal Fisheries Permit and/or State Registration to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission 205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100, Portland, OR 97202 or 503.595.3444.

For additional help with completing this form, consult the VMS Request Form Instructions or contact PSMFC at 503.595.3100.

I. VESSEL INFORMATION

Vessel Name:

Region (select one): □ Alaska (AK) □ Northeast (NE) □ Northwest (NW) □ Pacific Islands (PI) □ Southeast (SE)

Permit Number:    Fishery/Permit Type:

USCG Documentation Number:    State Registration Number:

License Number:    Other:

II. VESSEL OWNER INFORMATION

As it appears on permit, title, license, registration, etc. If under business ownership, provide business name and owner name.

First Name:    MI:    Last Name:

Business Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:    Email Address:

III. NOAA OLE COMPLIANCE AND REIMBURSEMENT CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

NOAA OLE Issued Confirmation Number:    Date Confirmation Issued:

PSMFC Form VMS-2009-2.1

Form Effective Date 6.2009 (Previous Versions Obsolete)

Mail or Fax to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
### VMS TRANSMITTER INFORMATION

VMS Transmitter ID and/or serial number must be on itemized sales invoice in order for processing of reimbursement request.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transmitter ID/Serial Number:</th>
<th>Vessel Email Address:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VMS Brand:</td>
<td>VMS Model:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation Date:</td>
<td>Installed By:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics Dealer:</td>
<td>Dealer Contact:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dealer Phone:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VMS REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST FORM

#### V. REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENT INFORMATION

Make reimbursement check payable to:

- Check one of the following selections: If approved, a reimbursement check will be sent to the person/entity specified in this section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant:</th>
<th>Vessel Owner</th>
<th>Vessel Operator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vendor:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sostrac Inc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CLS America Inc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Faris Watchdog Inc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GMPCS Personal Communications, Inc.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Skyfire Inc.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thrane &amp; Thrane Inc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Applicant Information:**

Applicant information required for reimbursements to be made to applicant or vendor as specified above. The applicant is the Vessel Owner or Operator responsible for purchasing the installed VMS transmitter unit, and completing and signing this form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant:</th>
<th>Vessel Owner</th>
<th>Vessel Operator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Name:</td>
<td>MI:</td>
<td>Last Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Name:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone Number:</td>
<td>Email Address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### VI. APPLICANT SIGNATURE

Under penalties of perjury, I hereby declare that I, the undersigned, completed this application and the information contained herein is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I also declare that the VMS transmitter described above has been installed on board the vessel listed above and is intended for use only on this vessel.

| Applicant First Name: | MI:       | Last Name: |
| Business Name:        |           |            |
| Applicant Signature:  | Date:     |            |

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PSMFC Form VMS-2009-2.1  Form Effective Date 6.2009 (Previous Versions Obsolete)  Page 2 of 2

Mail or Fax to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
NOAA Fisheries Service Type-Approved VMS Units

Fisheries of the Greater Atlantic Region of the United States
Boatracs FMCT/G
CLS America Thorium TST Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015
CLS America Thorium LEO A2.0
Network Innovations - Sailor VMS Gold

SkyMate – Stellar ST2500G (with Messaging Terminal) Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015
Pending Greater Atlantic approval:
Faria WatchDog 750VMS
Skymate 11500 VMS

Fisheries of the West Coast of the United States
Boatracs FMCT/G
CLS America Thorium TST Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015
CLS America Thorium TST A2.0
CLS America Thorium LEO A2.0
Faria WatchDog 750VMS (with Messaging Terminal)
Network Innovations - Sailor VMS Gold
Network Innovations – Sailor VMS Gold Plus
SkyMate – Stellar ST2500G (with closed Dell Laptop) Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015
Throne & Thrane Sailor VMS Silver (no new installs approved)

Pending West Coast approval:
Skymate 11500 VMS

Fisheries of Alaska
CLS America Thorium TST Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015
CLS America Thorium TST A2.0
CLS America Thorium LEO A2.0
Faria WatchDog 750VMS (with Messaging Terminal)
Network Innovations - Sailor VMS Gold
Network Innovations – Sailor VMS Gold Plus
SkyMate – Stellar ST2500G (with closed Dell Laptop) Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015
Metoccean (no new installs approved)
Throne & Thrane Sailor VMS Silver (no new installs approved)

Pending Alaska approval:
Skymate 11500 VMS

US Fisheries of the Western and Central Pacific (PAC)
CLS America Thorium TST Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015
CLS America Thorium TST A2.0
CLS America Thorium LEO A2.0
Faria WatchDog 750VMS (with Messaging Terminal)
Network Innovations - Sailor VMS Gold
Network Innovations – Sailor VMS Gold Plus
Throne & Thrane Sailor VMS Silver (no new installs approved)

1 Formerly GMPCS – Throne & Thrane Sailor TT-30260 VMS Gold
2 Units no longer approved for new purchase/install
Pending PI approval:
Skymate 11500 VMS

**Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument**
CLS America Thorium TST Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015
CLS America Thorium TST A2.0
CLS America Thorium LEO A2.0
Faria WatchDog 750VMS (with Messaging Terminal)
Network Innovations - Sailor VMS Gold¹
Network Innovations – Sailor VMS Gold Plus

Pending Monument approval:
Skymate 11500 VMS

**United States Rock Shrimp Fishery**
Boatrace FMCT/G
CLS America Thorium TST Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015
CLS America Thorium TST A2.0
CLS America Thorium LEO A2.0
Faria WatchDog 750VMS (with Messaging Terminal)
Network Innovations - Sailor VMS Gold¹
Network Innovations – Sailor VMS Gold Plus
SkyMate – Stellar ST2500G (with closed Dell Laptop) Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015
Thrace & Thrane Sailor VMS Silver (no new installs approved)²

Pending Rock Shrimp approval:
Skymate 11500 VMS

**United States Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery**
Boatrace FMCT/G – In the area of Gulf of Mexico only.
CLS America Thorium TST Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015
CLS America Thorium TST A2.0
CLS America Thorium LEO A2.0
Faria WatchDog 750VMS (with Messaging Terminal)
Network Innovations - Sailor VMS Gold¹
Network Innovations – Sailor VMS Gold Plus
SkyMate – Stellar ST2500G (with closed Dell Laptop) Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015

Pending HMS approval:
Skymate 11500 VMS

**Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico**
Boatrace FMCT/G
CLS America Thorium TST Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015
CLS America Thorium TST A2.0
CLS America Thorium LEO A2.0
Faria WatchDog 750VMS (with Messaging Terminal)
Network Innovations - Sailor VMS Gold¹
Network Innovations – Sailor VMS Gold Plus
SkyMate – Stellar ST2500G (with closed Dell Laptop) Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015

Pending Reef Fish approval:
Skymate 11500 VMS

¹ Formerly GMPCS – Thrane & Thrane Sailor TT-3026D VMS Gold
² Units no longer approved for new purchase/install
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission's Convention Area
Faria WatchDog 750VMS (with Messaging Terminal)
Network Innovations - Sailor VMS Gold
Network Innovations – Sailor VMS Gold Plus
CLS America Thorium TST A2.0
CLS America Thorium LEO A2.0

Pending IATTC approval:
Skymate 11500 VMS

VMS Equipment Provider Contacts

**Bostrace**
800-262-8722
858-458-8116 fax

**CLS America**
301-925-4411
301-925-8995 fax

**Network Innovations (Formerly GMPCS)**
support@networkinv.com
888-664-6727
954-973-4800 fax

**Faria Marine Instruments**
877-888-5569
860-848-2704 fax

**METOCEAN Data Systems**
902-468-2505
902-468-4442 fax

**SkyMate**
703-961-5800
866-759-6283
703-814-8585 fax

**OLE VMS Support**
888-219-9228
301-427-0049 fax
Hours of Operation: 7:00AM to 11:00PM (EST) Monday – Friday

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1 Formerly GMPCS – Thrane & Thrane Sailor TT-3026D VMS Gold
2 Units no longer approved for new purchase/install

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Last updated 5 June 2015