



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)  
1315 East West Highway, Suite 3301  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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](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](mailto:ole.helpdesk@noaa.gov) or (888) 219-9228, or to Kelly Spalding at [Kelly.spalding@noaa.gov](mailto: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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)  
1315 East West Highway, Suite 3301  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

May 26, 2015

**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](mailto:ole.helpdesk@noaa.gov), or contact me directly at [Kelly.spalding@noaa.gov](mailto:Kelly.spalding@noaa.gov).

Respectfully,



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



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1315 East West Highway, Suite 3301  
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May 26, 2015

**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 Orbcomm 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](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.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact the VMS Support Center at 888-219-9228 or [ole.helpdesk@noaa.gov](mailto:ole.helpdesk@noaa.gov), or contact me directly at [Kelly.spalding@noaa.gov](mailto:Kelly.spalding@noaa.gov).

Respectfully,



Kelly Spalding

VMS Analyst

Headquarters, NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement



**PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION**  
 205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100  
 Portland, OR 97202  
 Tel: (503) 595-3100 Fax: (503) 595-3444  
 www.psmfc.org



## 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](http://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):	<input type="checkbox"/> Alaska (AK)	<input type="checkbox"/> Northeast (NE)	<input type="checkbox"/> Northwest (NW)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islands (PI)	<input type="checkbox"/> 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:



**PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION**  
 205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100  
 Portland, OR 97202  
 Tel: (503) 595-3100 Fax: (503) 595-3444  
 www.psmfc.org



### VMS REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST FORM

#### IV. VMS TRANSMITTER INFORMATION

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

Transmitter ID/Serial Number:		Vessel Email Address:	
VMS Brand:		VMS Model:	
Installation Date:		Installed By:	
Electronics Dealer:			
Dealer Contact:		Dealer Phone:	

#### 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.*

<b>Applicant:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Vessel Owner		<input type="checkbox"/> Vessel Operator			
<b>Vendor:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Boatracs Inc.	<input type="checkbox"/> CLS America Inc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Paria Watchdog Inc.	<input type="checkbox"/> GMPCS Personal Communications, Inc.	<input type="checkbox"/> SkyMate Inc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Thrane & Thrane Inc.

#### 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.*

<b>Applicant:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Vessel Owner		<input type="checkbox"/> Vessel Operator			
<b>First Name:</b>		<b>MI:</b>		<b>Last Name:</b>		
<b>Business Name:</b>						
<b>Mailing Address:</b>						
<b>Phone Number:</b>		<b>Email Address:</b>				

#### 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.

<b>Applicant First Name:</b>		<b>MI:</b>		<b>Last Name:</b>	
<b>Business Name:</b>					
<b>Applicant Signature:</b>				<b>Date:</b>	

**DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS POINT - PSMFC OFFICE USE ONLY**

DATE RECEIVED	DATE APPROVED	CONFIRM DATE	UNIT TYPE	APPROVED AMT	PAY TO	INVOICE DATE	INVOICE NUMBER



# NOAA FISHERIES

Office of Law Enforcement

## NOAA Fisheries Service Type-Approved VMS Units

### Fisheries of the Greater Atlantic Region of the United States

Boatrac FMCT/G

CLS America Thorium TST *Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015*

CLS America Thorium LEO A2.0

Network Innovations - Sailor VMS Gold<sup>1</sup>

Metocean (Approved only for the Canadian Herring Transshipment Vessels)

SkyMate – Stellar ST2500G (with Messaging Terminal) *Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015*

### **Pending Greater Atlantic approval:**

Faria WatchDog 750VMS

Skymate I1500 VMS

### Fisheries of the West Coast of the United States

Boatrac 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<sup>1</sup>

Network Innovations – Sailor VMS Gold Plus

SkyMate – Stellar ST2500G (with closed Dell Laptop) *Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015*

*Thrane & Thrane Sailor VMS Silver (no new installs approved)<sup>2</sup>*

### **Pending West Coast approval:**

Skymate I1500 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<sup>1</sup>

Network Innovations – Sailor VMS Gold Plus

SkyMate – Stellar ST2500G (with closed Dell Laptop) *Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015*

*Metocean (no new installs approved)<sup>2</sup>*

*Thrane & Thrane Sailor VMS Silver (no new installs approved)<sup>2</sup>*

### **Pending Alaska approval:**

Skymate I1500 VMS

### US Fisheries of the Western and Central Pacific (PI)

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<sup>1</sup>

Network Innovations – Sailor VMS Gold Plus

*Thrane & Thrane Sailor VMS Silver (no new installs approved)<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Formerly GMPCS – Thrane & Thrane Sailor TT-3026D VMS Gold

<sup>2</sup> Units no longer approved for new purchase/install



**Pending PI approval:**  
Skymate 11500 VMS

**Papahānaumokuākea 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 Gold<sup>1</sup>  
Network Innovations – Sailor VMS Gold Plus

**Pending Monument approval:**  
Skymate 11500 VMS

**United States Rock Shrimp Fishery**

Boatrac 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<sup>3</sup>  
Network Innovations – Sailor VMS Gold Plus  
SkyMate – Stellar ST2500G (with closed Dell Laptop) *Type-Approval expires September 30, 2015*  
*Thrane & Thrane Sailor VMS Silver (no new installs approved)<sup>2</sup>*

**Pending Rock Shrimp approval:**  
Skymate 11500 VMS

**United States Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery**

Boatrac 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 Gold<sup>1</sup>  
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**

Boatrac 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<sup>1</sup>  
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

<sup>1</sup> Formerly GMPCS – Thrane & Thrane Sailor TT-3026D VMS Gold

<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>1</sup>  
Network Innovations – Sailor VMS Gold Plus  
CLS America Thorium TST A2.0  
CLS America Thorium LEO A2.0

**Pending IATTC approval:**  
Skymate 11500 VMS

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**VMS Equipment Provider Contacts**

**Boatrac**

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

<sup>1</sup> Formerly GMPCS – Thrane & Thrane Sailor TT-3026D VMS Gold

<sup>2</sup> Units no longer approved for new purchase/install

