



A guide to the use of AIS to mark small fishing buoys

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EM-TRAK MARINE ELECTRONICS LTD

BUOY-Tracker enables you to electronically mark any type of fishing buoy. BUOY-tracker uses internationally certified AIS technology to continuously transmit its exact GPS location to your existing navigation display as well as warn off other shipping in the area.

- BUOY-Tracker is a high quality professional grade buoy marker that will withstand the harshest environments thereby ensuring lower overall lifetime cost
- BUOY-Tracker's superior antenna properties deliver proven improved range performance compared with comparable similar products
- BUOY-Tracker's innovative battery management system ensures better longevity between charges compared with comparable similar products
- BUOY-Tracker is internationally certified to operate as an AIS AtoN thereby correctly marking the buoy as an AtoN and not incorrectly as a vessel like all the other competition

Over the past few years, the advantages of AIS such as cost effective transceivers and free over the air transmissions have been utilised by fishermen around the world to mark fishing buoys and nets. However, in many cases the use of ultra low cost, uncertified AIS Class B devices rather than using a certified AIS AtoN transceiver is compromising the AIS network and therefore, ultimately safety.

There are three major issues with using low cost uncertified Class B AIS devices to mark small fishing buoys. Firstly, the AIS Class B standard was developed for AIS transponders used by smaller vessels and leisure craft. Therefore, the transmission from the AIS device on the buoy is misleadingly shown on an electronic chart display as a vessel rather than a buoy.

Secondly, the use of uncertified transponders that do not correctly work within the AIS framework of transmission slots can lead to message collision so disrupting legitimate AIS transmissions. This can have safety implications if vessels in distress or commercial vessels have their messages blocked. Thirdly, the quality and published specifications of many devices, does not correspond to their actual performance and feedback from many suppliers globally indicates that the transceivers do not work or do not work for long.

The only reliable, cost effective and SAFE way to mark these fishing buoys is to use high quality certified AIS transceivers, which transmit the correct AIS AtoN message and work correctly within the AIS network. Only then will the transmissions correctly depict buoys on electronic chart displays.



Correct depiction of an AIS AtoN marking a buoy on an electronic chart display

Purchasing a proven quality product from a reputable manufacturer will also ensure the longevity and performance of a device that will help protect valuable fishing catches.