



IMPORTANT Information for VEMCO VR2 Users

NOTE: New VEMCO tags are not compatible with older VR2 receivers

Due to the increase in demand for acoustic telemetry, VEMCO has developed several new tag types to provide vastly more sensor and pinger IDs. These will be **phased in gradually over the next two years** as the current supply of tag IDs are used up. For more information on our new tags, please see our [March 2009 newsletter](#).

The VR2 was first introduced in 1999. The technology available at that time does not allow for changes in the receiver operating system (firmware). This means that the VR2 receivers cannot be changed to detect new tag types as they become available. In 2007 VEMCO introduced the VR2W which has field programmable memory and can be updated to detect new tags. As of 2008, VEMCO was no longer able to repair VR2s due to obsolescent parts. VR2s returned for repair can be upgraded to VR2Ws. There are now more VR2Ws in the field today than VR2s.

Converting to VR2Ws:

VR2 receivers can be converted to a VR2W at a significant discount. When the VR2W was designed in 2006, we purposely maintained a similar case style so that a VR2 black delrin case could be reused for an upgrade. This has reduced our cost for the upgrade and we are passing that on to our customers. Further savings can be had if the VR2 receivers are upgraded in large batches.

The VR2W provides several enhancements over the VR2:

- Field programmable for future upgrades
- Ability to detect new VEMCO transmitters
- Capacity to store over 1 million detections (4 times that of a VR2)
- Bluetooth wireless interface for 20 times faster data upload
- Millisecond time data for fine scale positioning ([VPS](#))

Upgrade incentives are also available for PVC (grey) VR2s and older VR1 receivers.

Please contact your VEMCO Sales representative for more details and pricing on the VR2 to VR2W upgrade program.

Continuing to use VR2s:

The VR2s will continue to detect all current VEMCO tags (A69-1303, A69-1105, A69-1206). We estimate that all currently available unique pinger IDs will be exhausted within 2 years. For those who do not upgrade their VR2s to VR2Ws, we are investigating a variety of contingency plans to ensure that we will continue to have tag IDs available for VR2 users. This includes the reuse of tag IDs from tags that have expired in the field. As more users move to the new tag types, the pressure on the existing block of IDs will ease, and with reuse, we believe that there will be sufficient tag IDs for a smaller group of VR2 users beyond the two years.

For those who wish to maintain global compatibility, we strongly urge that you plan to upgrade your VR2 receivers to VR2Ws over the course of the next 2 years.