



# **Space-based surveillance tools for fisheries control**

## **Overview and JRC work**

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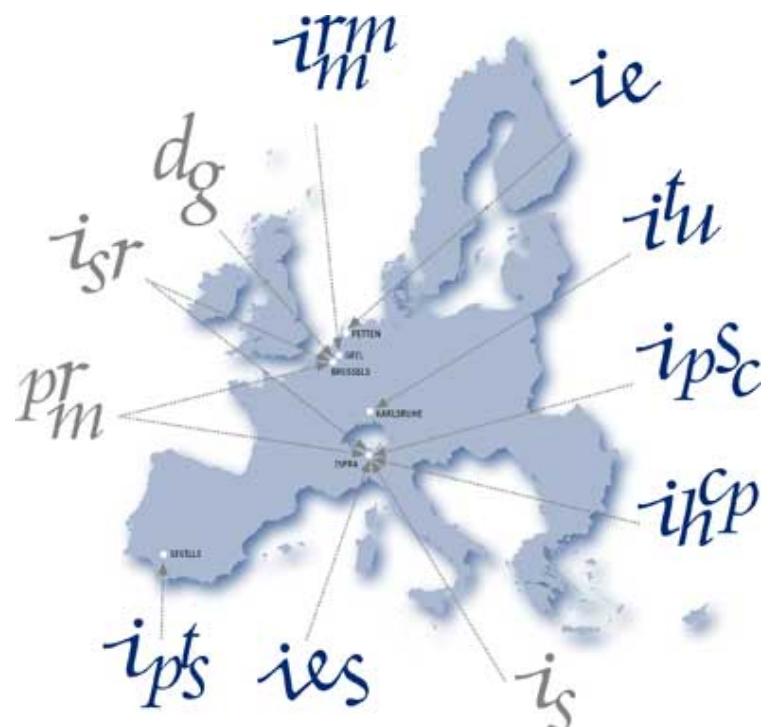
# Contents

- **Possibilities with space-based surveillance**
  - Finding ships
    - (a) Ship reporting data and (b) Imaging
  - Finding fish
    - Habitat mapping
- **Status of the technologies**
- **Limitations of space-based surveillance**
- **Conclusions**



# Joint Research Centre (JRC)

- Internal science service of the European Commission
- Scientific and technical support for European Union policies
  - Conception, development, implementation, monitoring
- Reference centre of science and technology for the EU
- Serves the common interest of the Member States
- 7 Institutes, 5 sites



# Space-based surveillance possibilities

## (a) AIS reception by satellite: Get AIS data far from the coast



Coastal AIS ([marinetrack.com](http://marinetrack.com))

- **Ship reporting data: VMS, AIS, LRIT, ...**
  - AIS: short messages with ship info on VHF
- **AIS on merchant ships under IMO regulations (global), possibly extended with national ones**
  - Reefers, tows, some larger fishing vessels, ...
  - EU regulation 2011/15/EU: fishing vessels > 15 m (2014+)
- **Coastal AIS receivers give local picture**
  - to 40 nm, sometimes to several 100 nm
- **Sharing networks → wider coastal picture**
  - Government, commercial
- **Satellites give global picture**

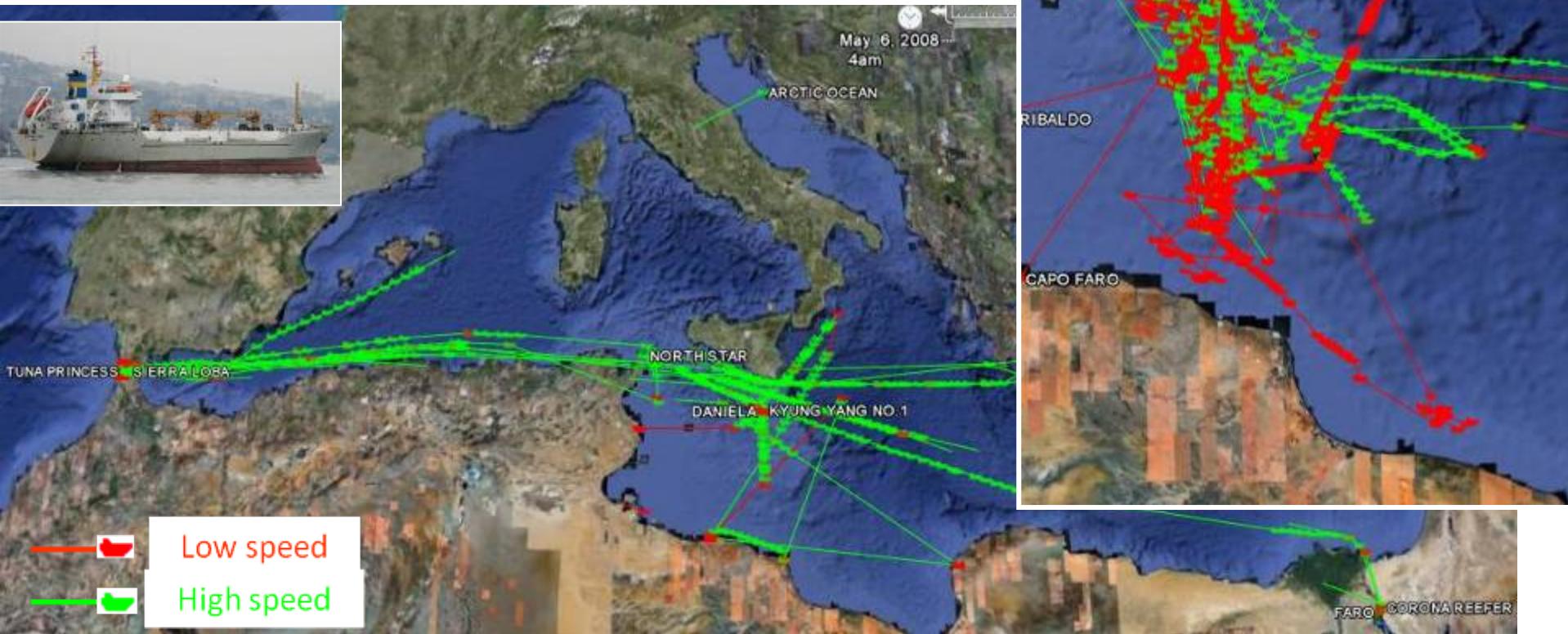


# AIS for monitoring

## Monitoring farming vessels

*Done in 2008 with coastal AIS*

## Monitoring reefers



# LuxSpace VesselSat-1 (Oct 2011 - )



Three consecutive overpasses

Courtesy

**LUXSPACE**  
An OHB Company

25 Apr 2012

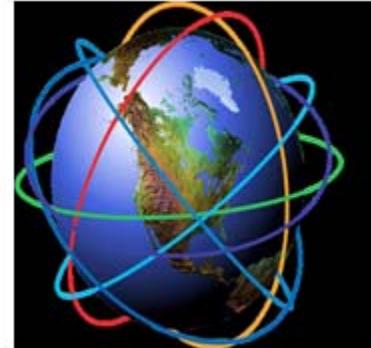
GFCM Expert meeting VMS



# Satellite AIS systems



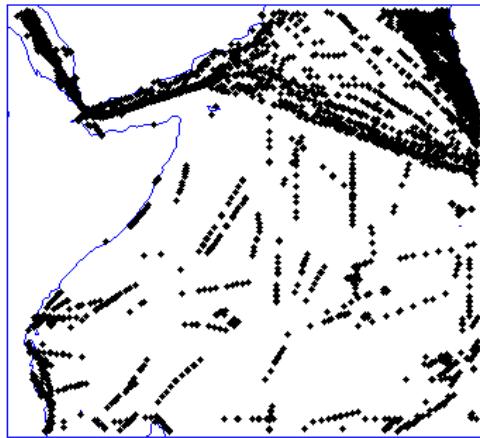
- **OrbComm**
  - First to implement in space
  - Plans for large constellation
- **LuxSpace**
  - Fly own missions and build for OrbComm
- **exactEarth**
  - Including SpaceQuest
- **Norway-FFI**
  - AISSat-1, and NOR AIS on ISS
- **ESA-EMSA**
  - Discussed
- **Experimental systems**
  - From universities, ...



# Example: LuxSpace Sat-AIS



LuxSpace 1 day (20 Dec 2011)



**1 day**

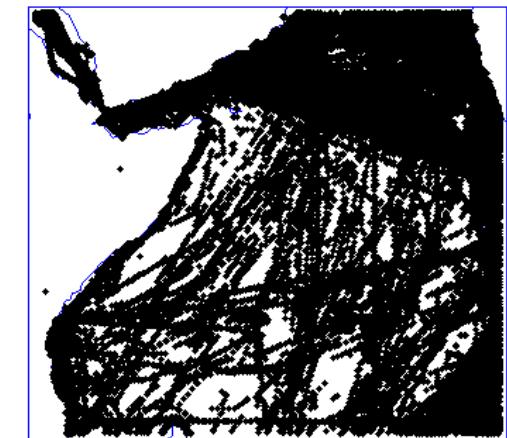
**1 week**

LuxSpace 1 week (20-26 Dec 2011)



**1 month**

LuxSpace 1 month (Dec 2011)



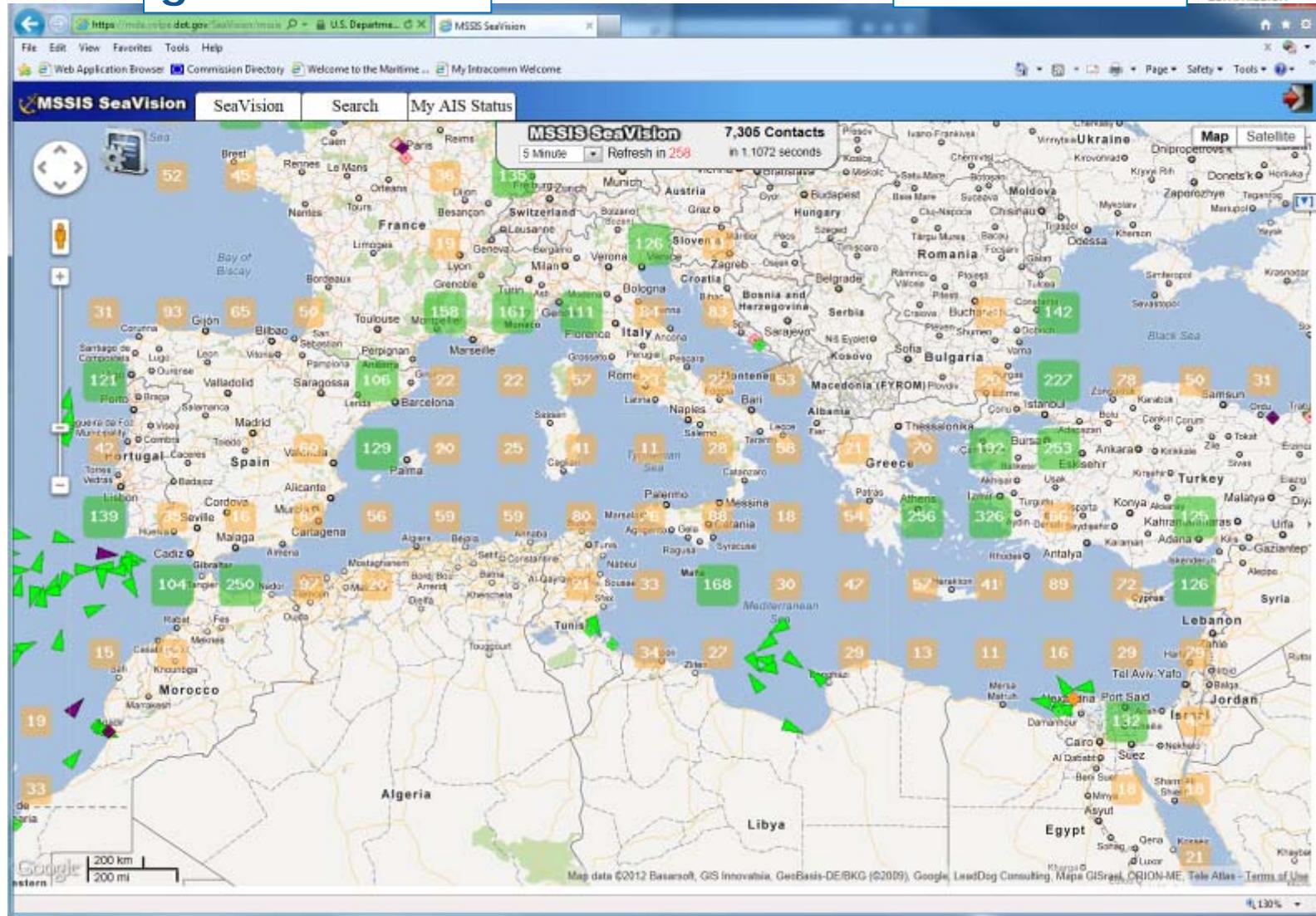
*Collected in “PMAR” project on maritime surveillance for counter-piracy*

# AIS network: MSSIS / SeaVision

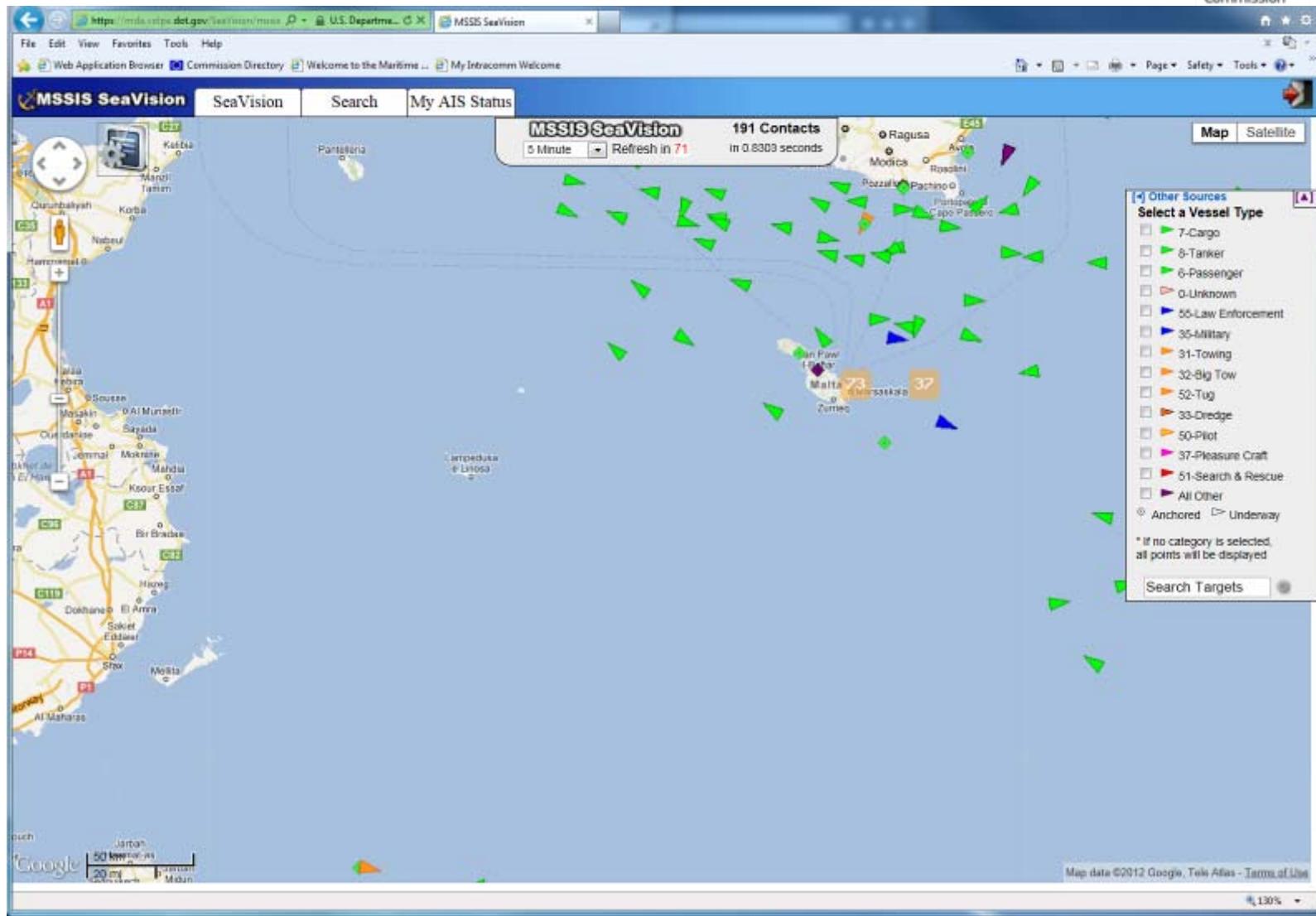


governmental

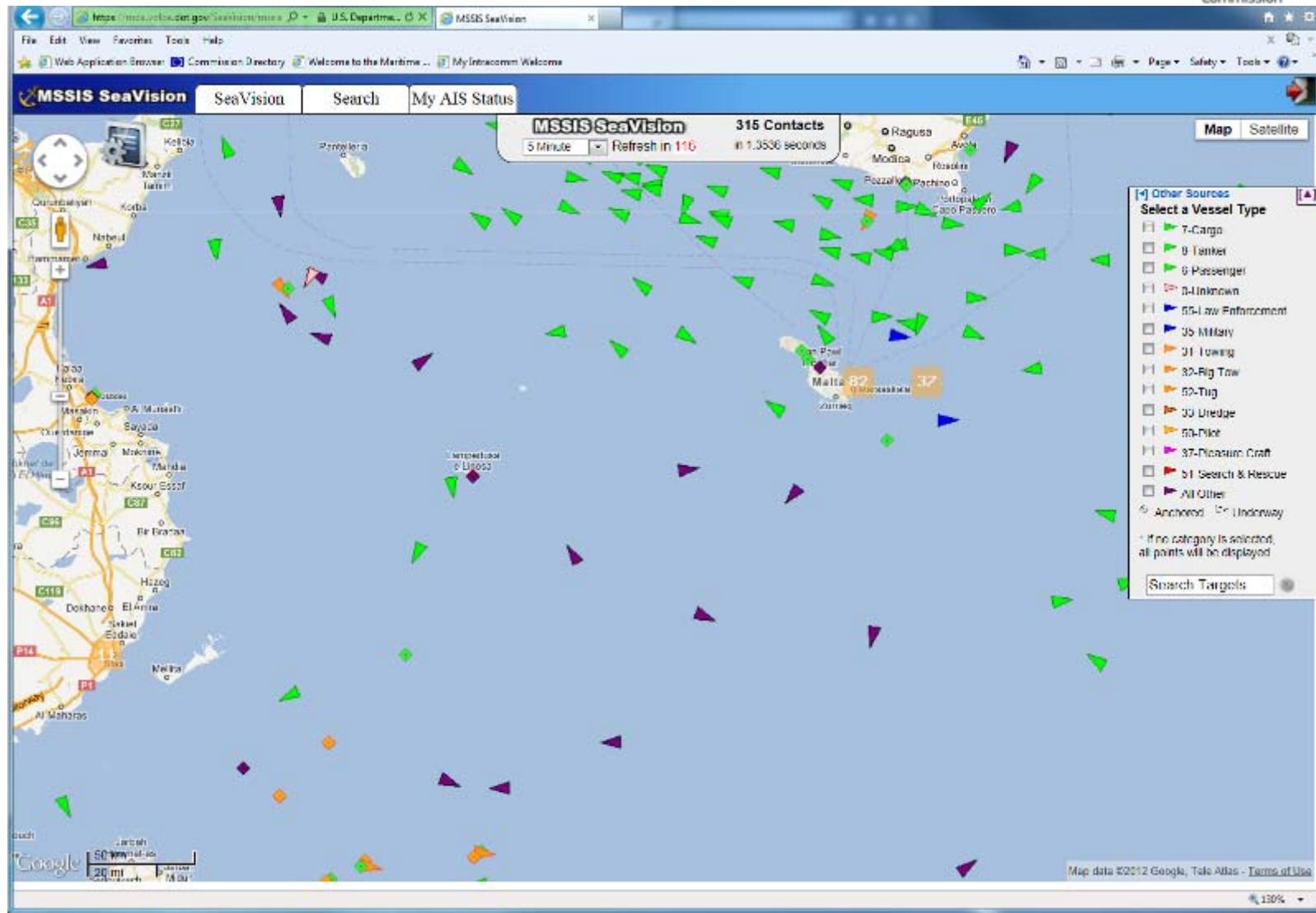
web viewer



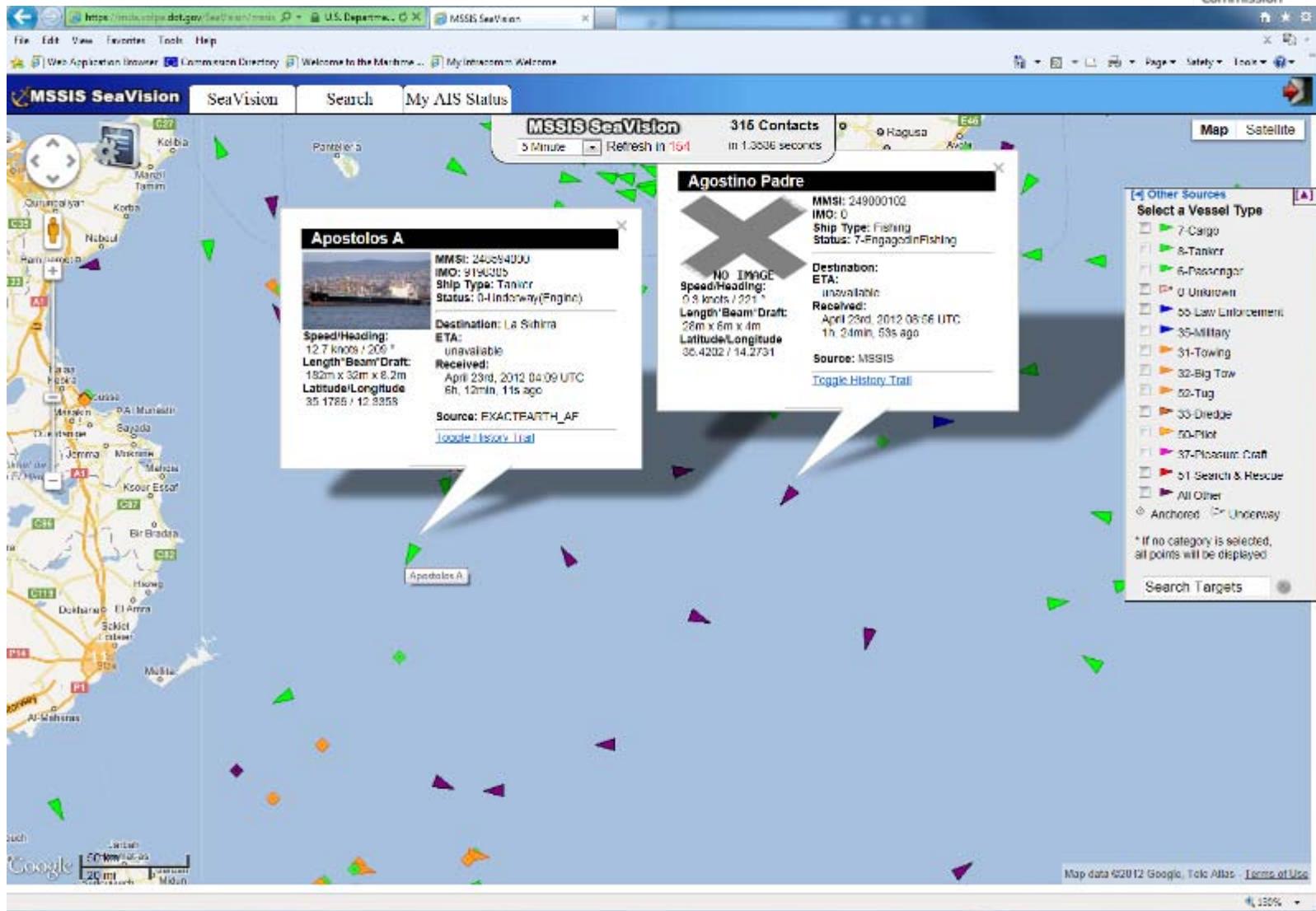
# MSSIS SeaVision – <1 hr



# MSSIS SeaVision – <12 hr Incl. Sat-AIS (exactEarth)



# MSSIS SeaVision – <12 hr



# Space-based surveillance possibilities



## (b) Satellite imaging

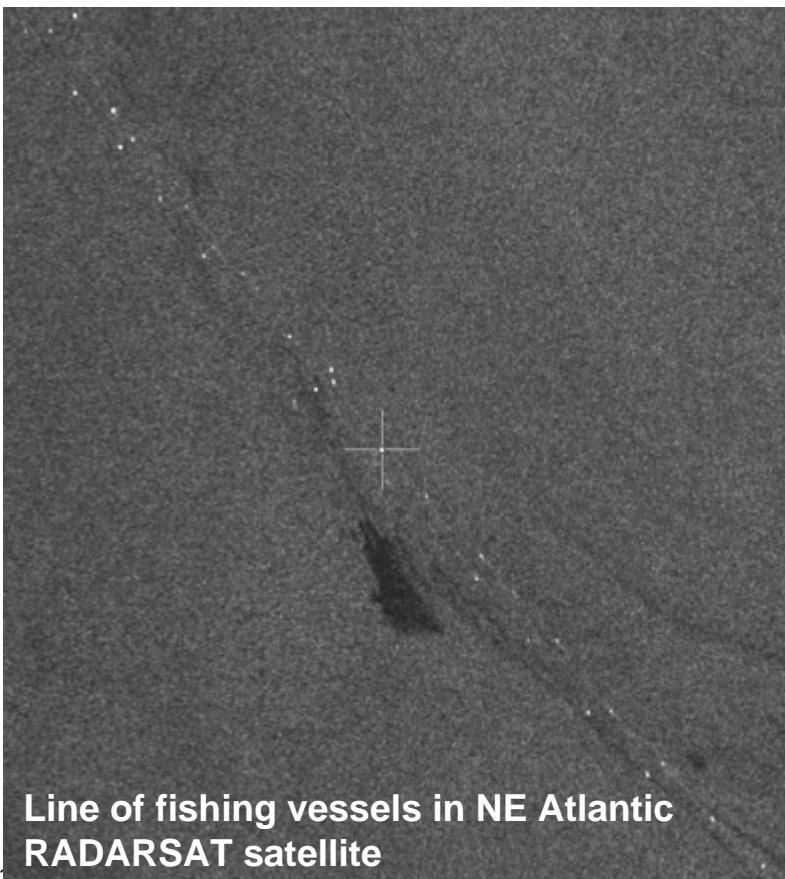
- Find ships anywhere
- Also if not reporting (on VMS, AIS, ...)
- Also with clouds, at night, by using radar
- Combine with simultaneous reporting data to pin-point non-reporting ships

# Satellite images



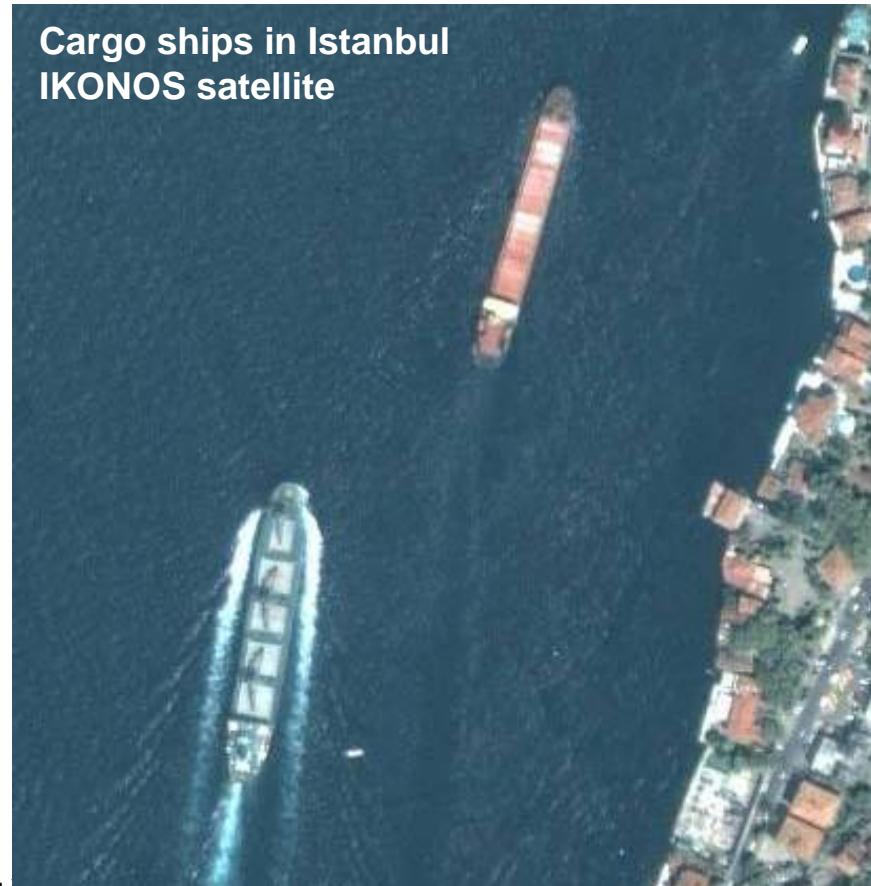
## Radar

- Independent clouds, night
- Better for wide areas
- Use for detection

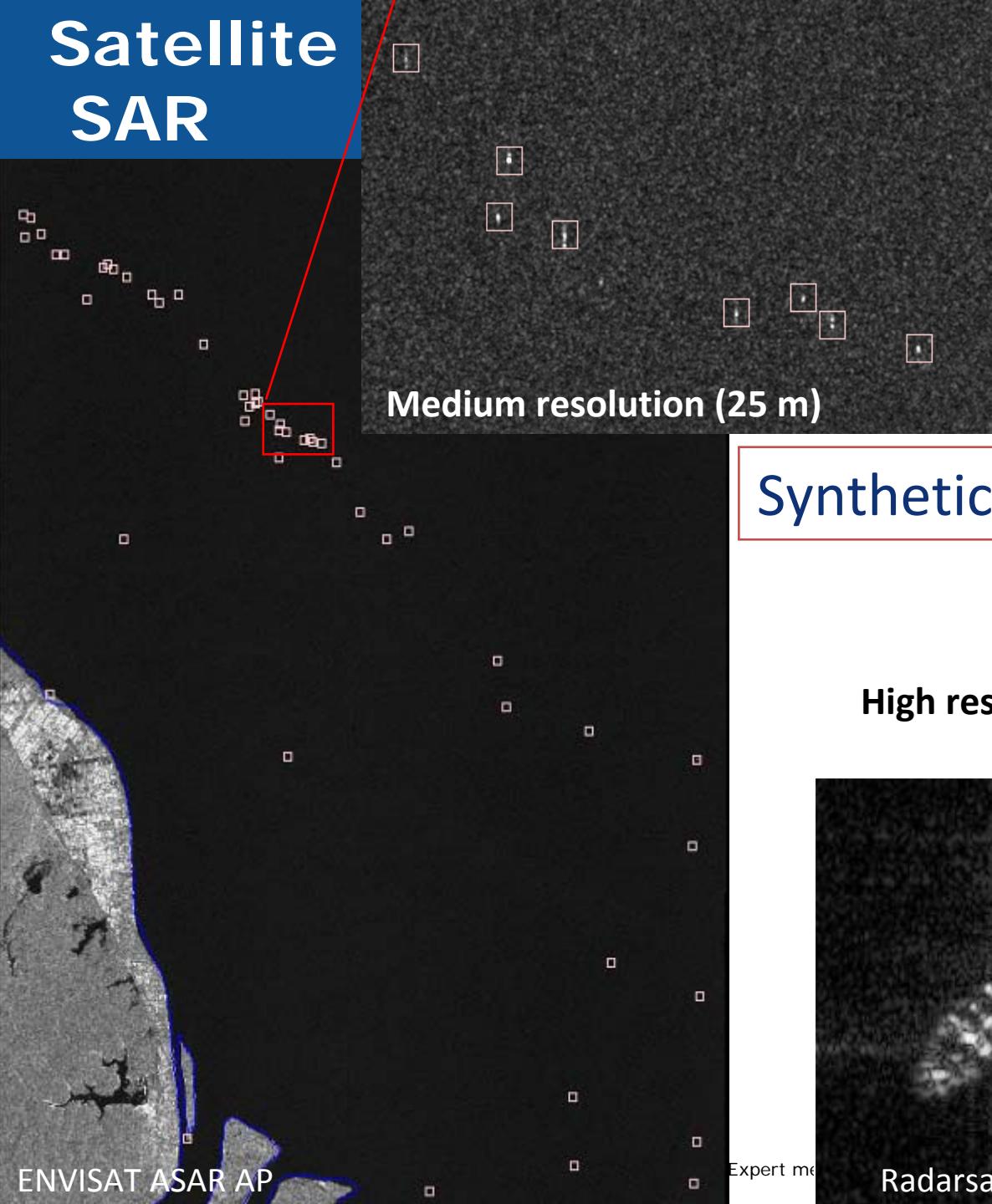


## Optical

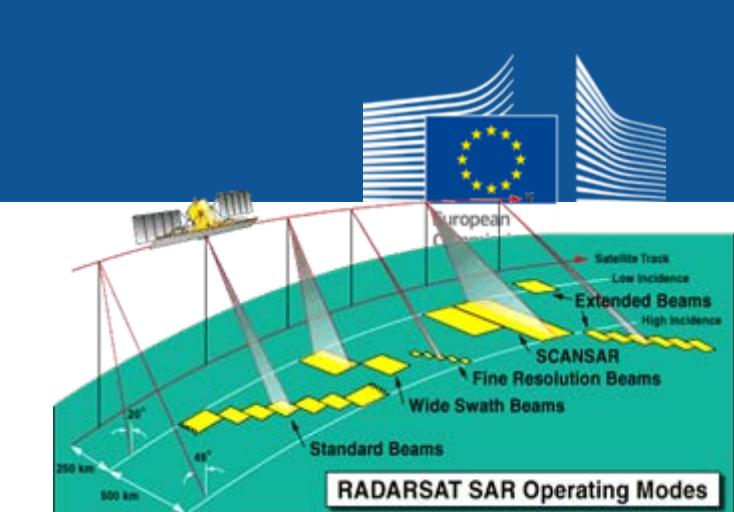
- Only daytime, clear skies
- Better for details
- Use for recognition



# Satellite SAR



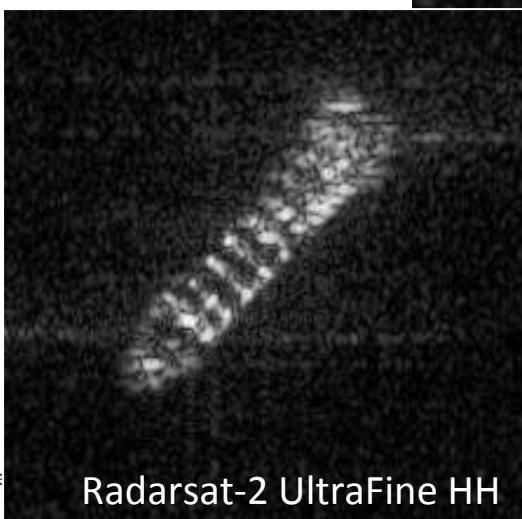
Medium resolution (25 m)



## Synthetic Aperture Radar images

TerraSAR-X Stripmap

High resolution  
(1-3 m)

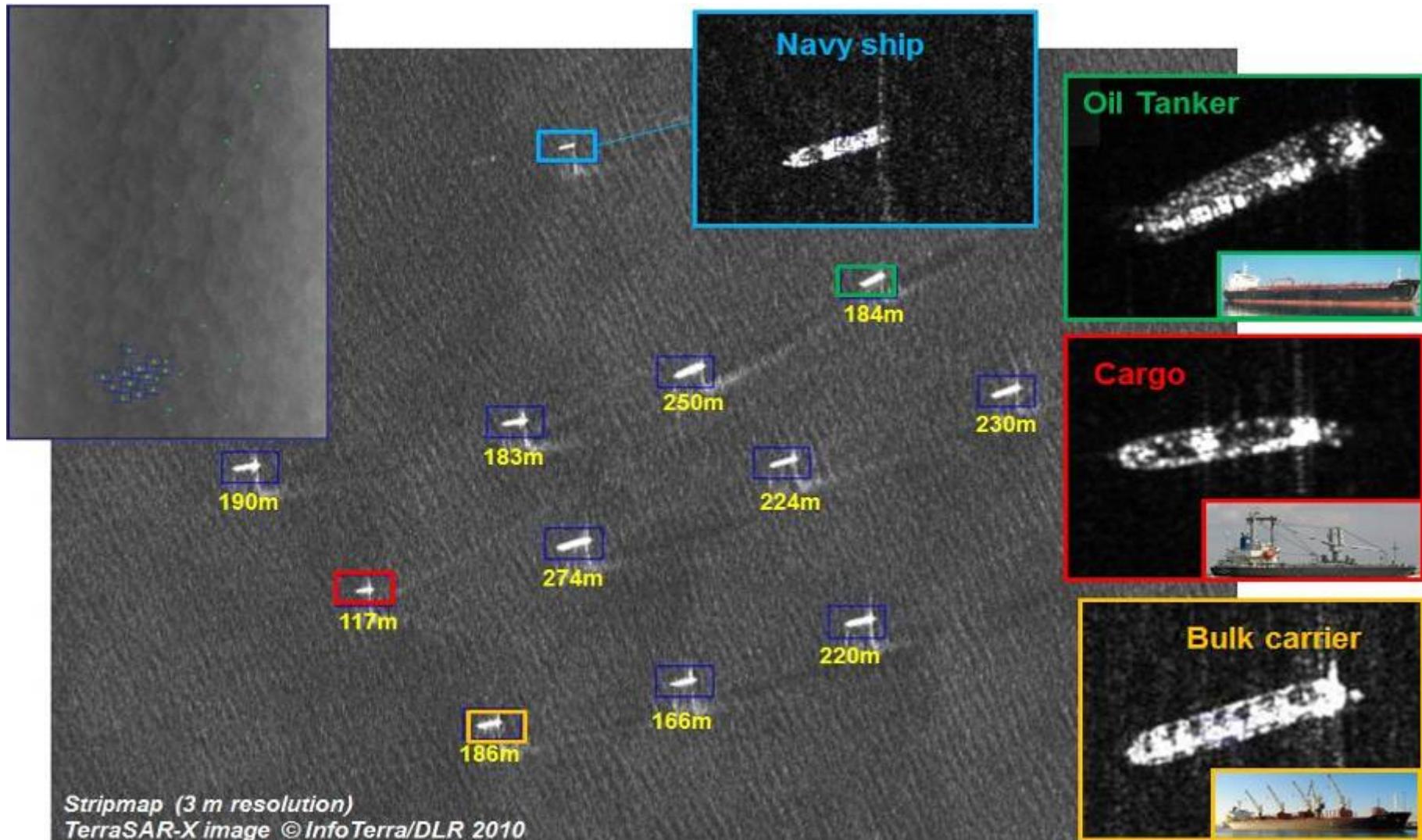


Radarsat-2 UltraFine HH

# Recent SAR satellites have <3 m resolution Radarsat-2, TerraSAR-X, CosmoSkymed



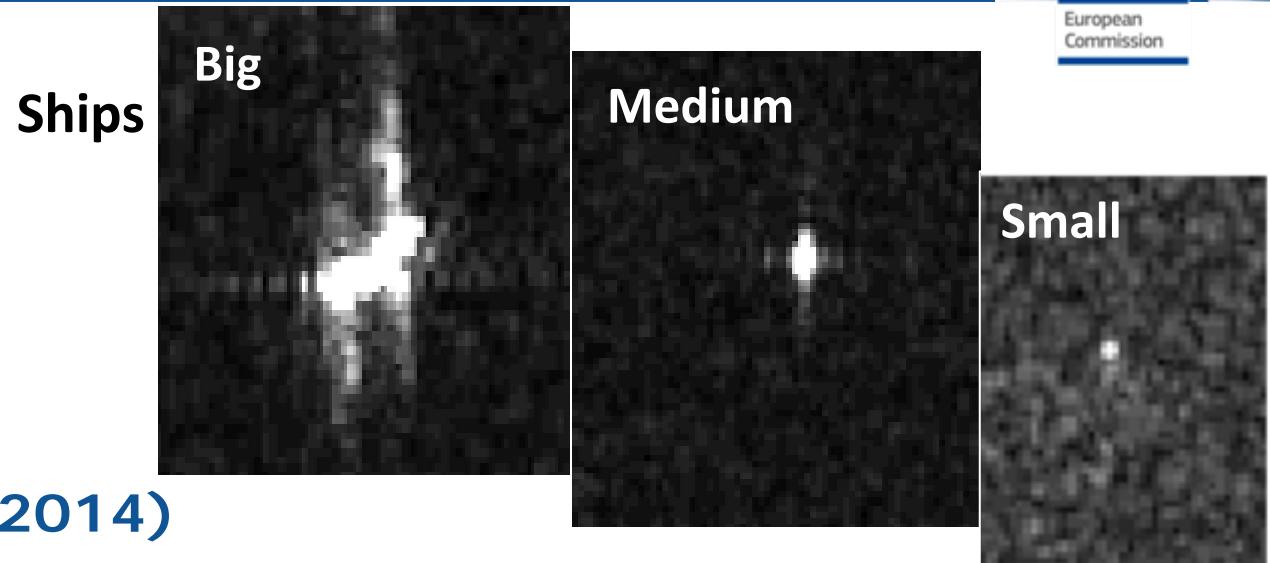
Example: Gulf of Aden, 5 Dec 2010



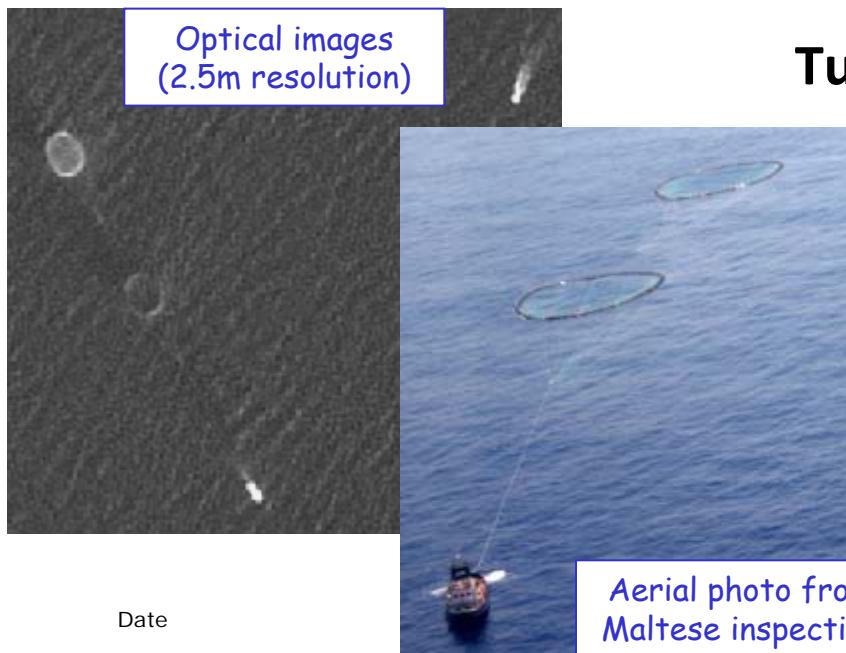
# Detecting ships and cages



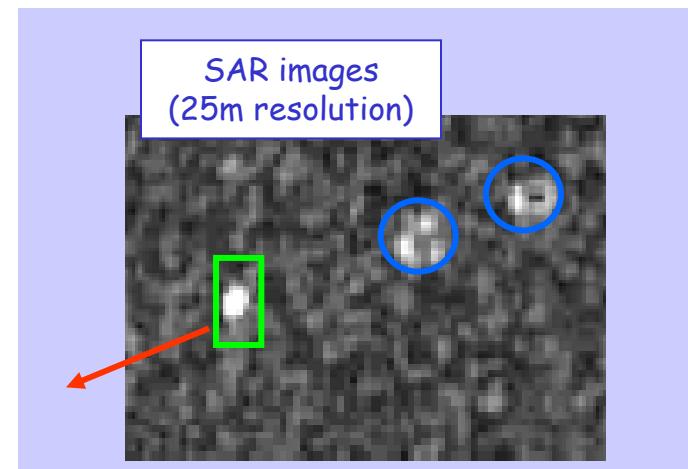
But medium resolution (15-25 m) has wider swath and may be good enough



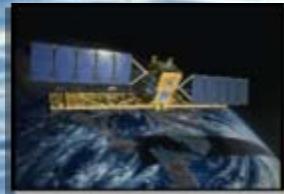
ESA: Sentinel-1 (2014)



Tuna cages



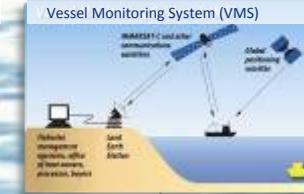
# VDS (Vessel Detection System)



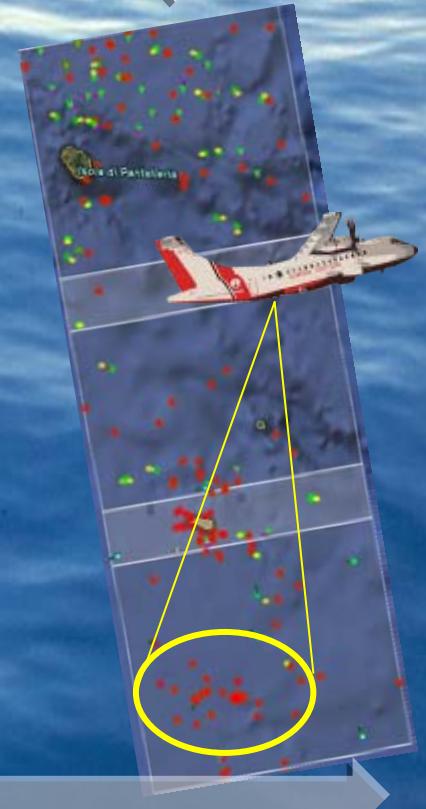
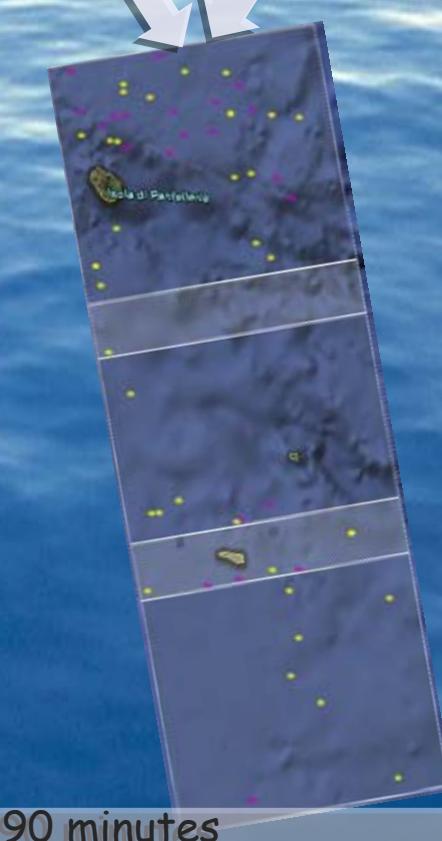
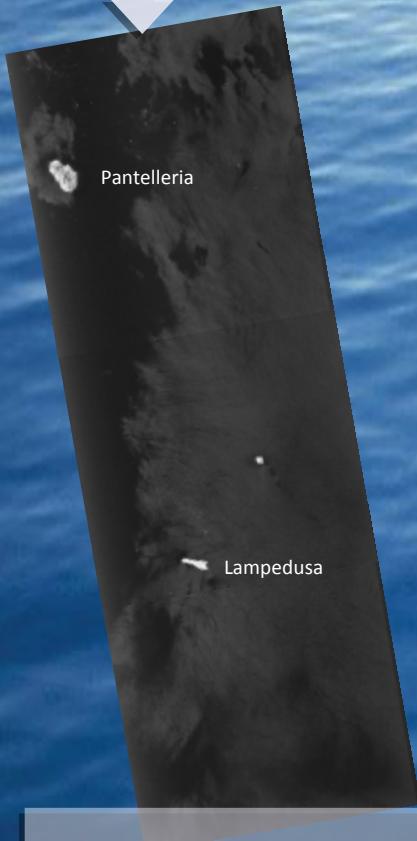
Satellite image acquisition



JRC's vessel detection software



Data fusion and reporting to inspectors

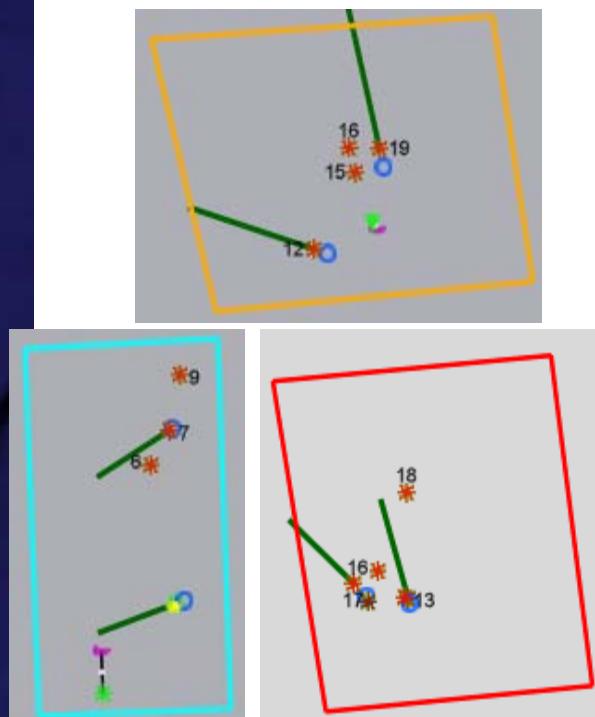


Total: 15-90 minutes

# Identifying fishing and towing activity



Areas of interest



Can help to target inspection



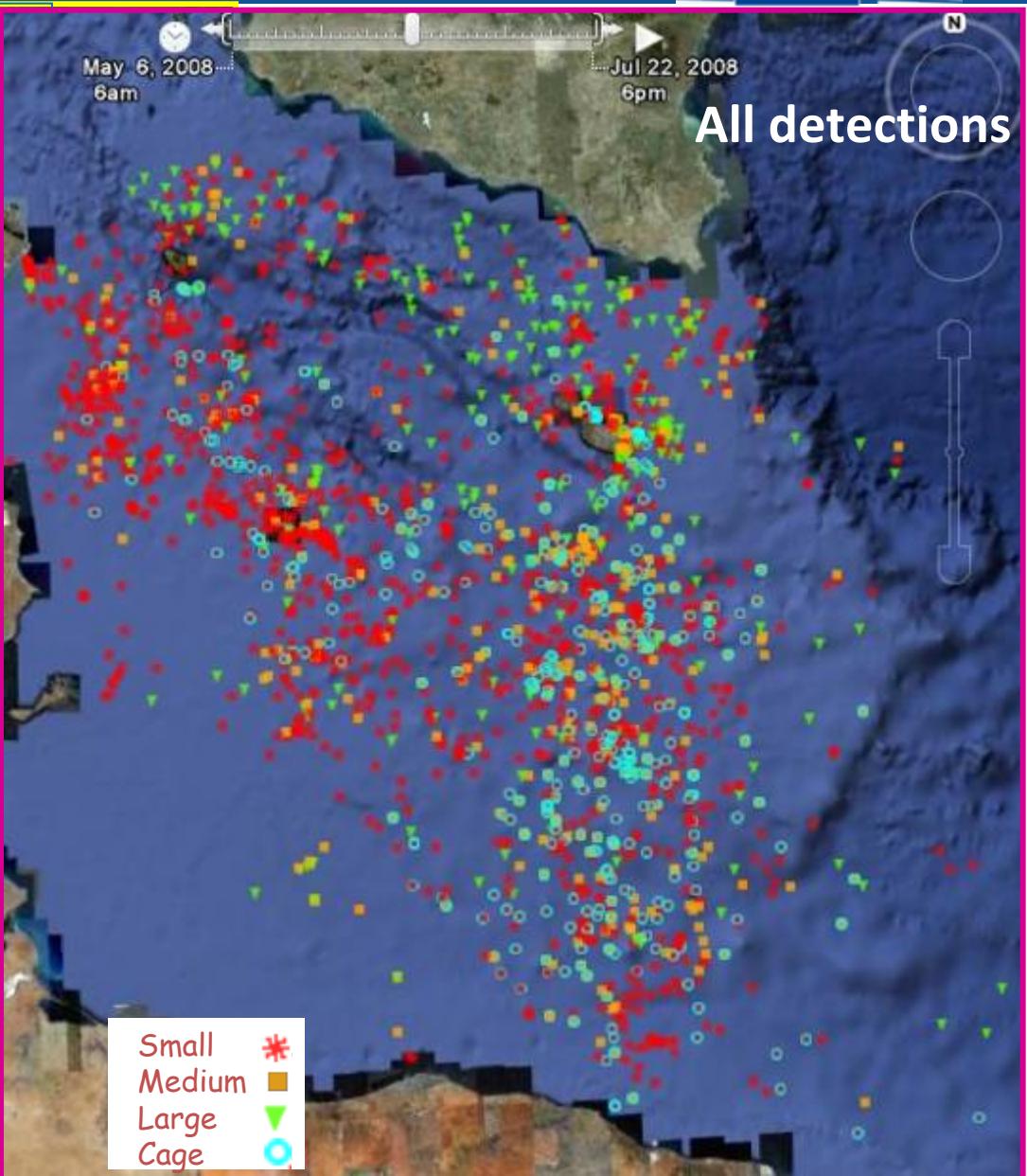
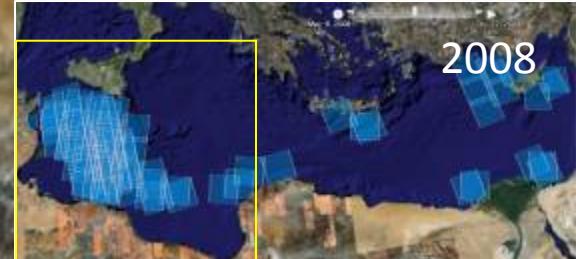
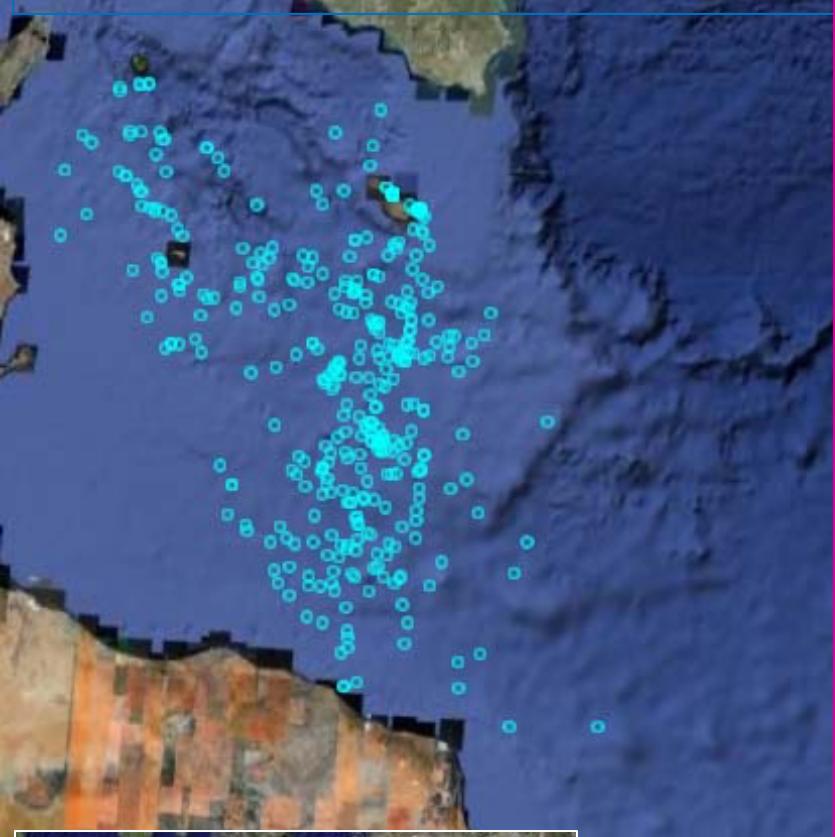
Detection of vessels towing can help to estimate future positions, as:

- the direction of towing can be estimated
- towing of cages is done very slowly (around 1 knots).

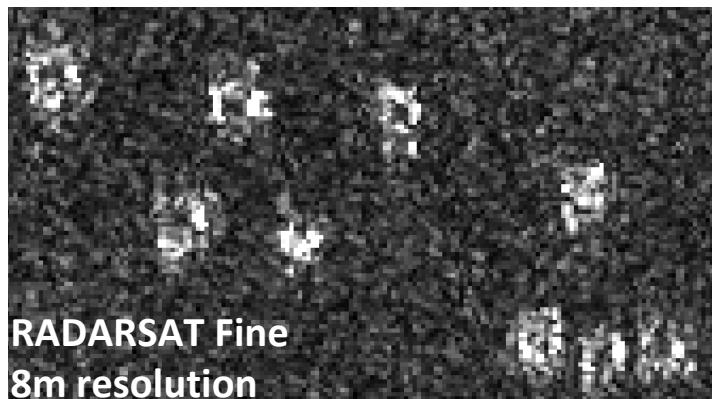
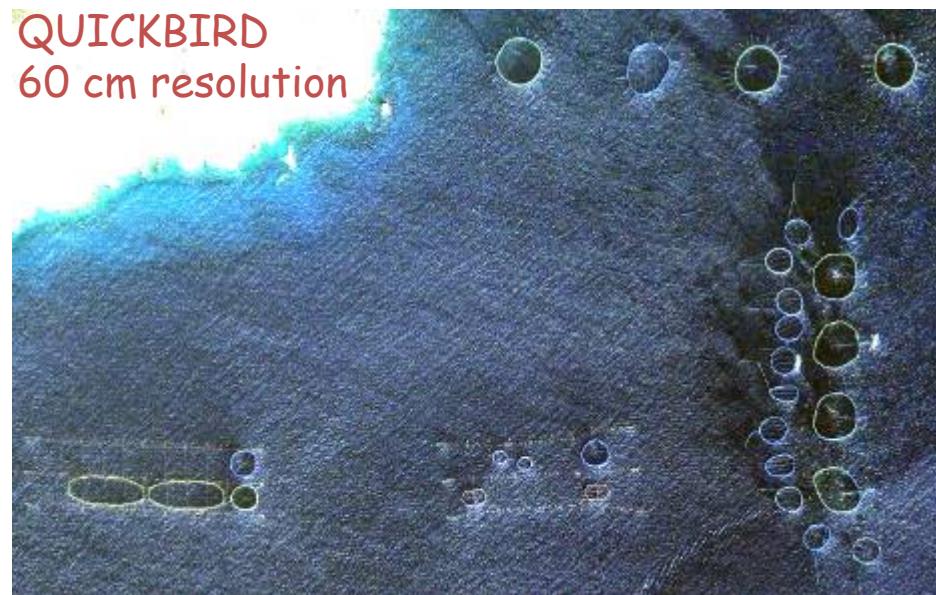
# JRC 2008 Med BFT campaign



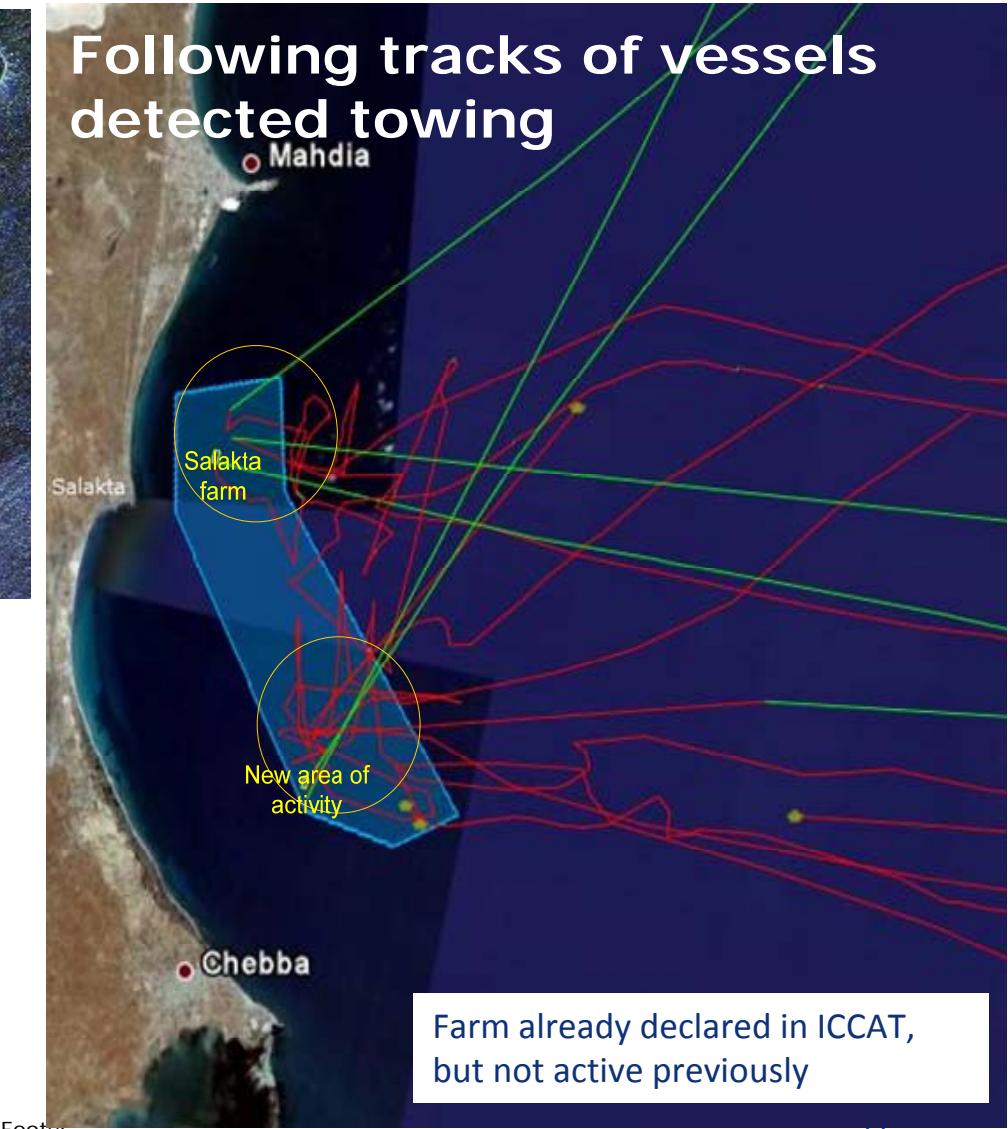
377 cages detected to be towed  
in 95 images / 54 satellite passes



# Identifying activity in BFT farms

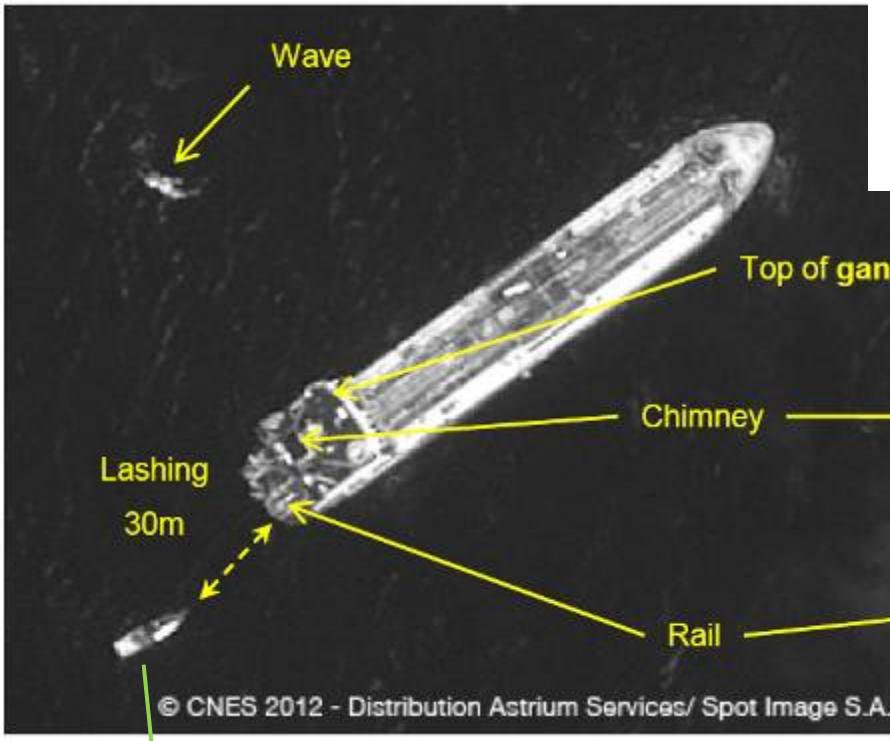


RADARSAT Fine  
8m resolution



# Pleiades-1 new optical satellite

launched Dec 2011



**10 x 20 km swath  
50 cm resolution**

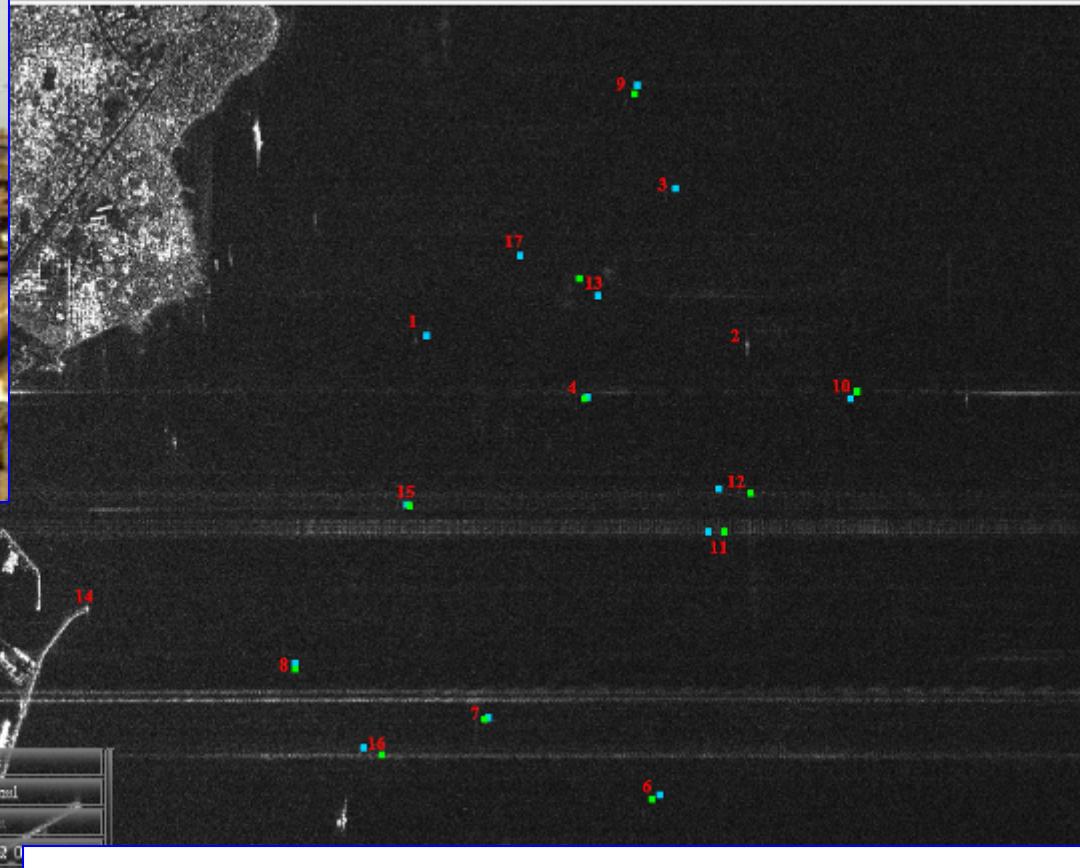


*...but there are also optical satellites with  
600 km swath and 22 m resolution (DEIMOS-1)*

# Trial for canoes monitoring



SUMO Application - Vessel Detection Software from the European Commission Joint Research Centre  
System Help Analysis Import Tools



## USN SPAWAR + University of Ghana

- Class B AIS: to track from coastal
- Radar reflector: to detect in satellite SAR
- GPS logger: to know position afterward

# Space-based surveillance limitations



- **No continuous monitoring possible, only periodic updates**
  - Sat-AIS: roughly every 6 hr now, will go down to sub-hourly
  - Sat images: roughly daily, but have to select area
- **Data are available with a delay**
  - Need to be downloaded to Ground Station, processed, sent to user
  - 2 hour – 15 min
- **Data have a cost**
  - Considering the information content, images are more expensive than AIS



# Space-based surveillance limitations (II)



## Sat imaging only:

- Need to plan data request days in advance
  - Select from available satellite overpass times
- Choose between
  - Wide area (300 km) – big ships (> 35 m)
    - ...
  - Small area (10 km) – small boats (> 5 m)
- Ship identification not possible
  - Detection, classification
  - Classification much easier with optical images (but clouds-limited)

## Sat-AIS only:

- Don't find not-reporting vessels

- *Low-resolution multispectral imagers on satellites*
- *Daily coverage but limited by cloud cover*



### Potential feeding habitat

- *Identified with the simultaneous occurrence of oceanic fronts of temperature [SST] and chlorophyll [CHL-a], based on literature*

### Potential spawning habitat

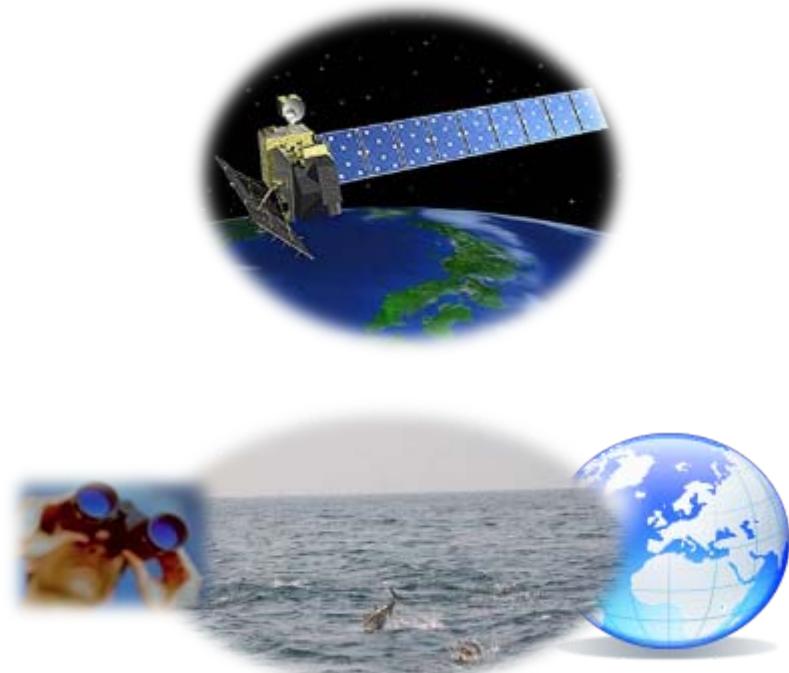
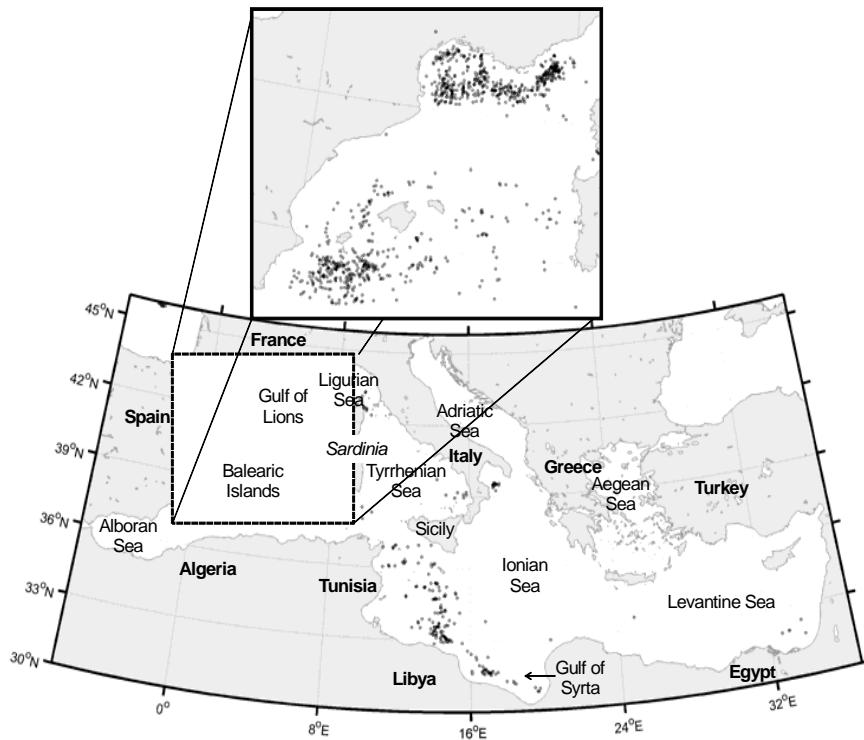
- *Revealed from a mean surface temperature increase over 30 days*
- *Almost no relevant literature except minimum temperature threshold*
- *Known spawning grounds are retrieved*

# ABFT Habitat How?

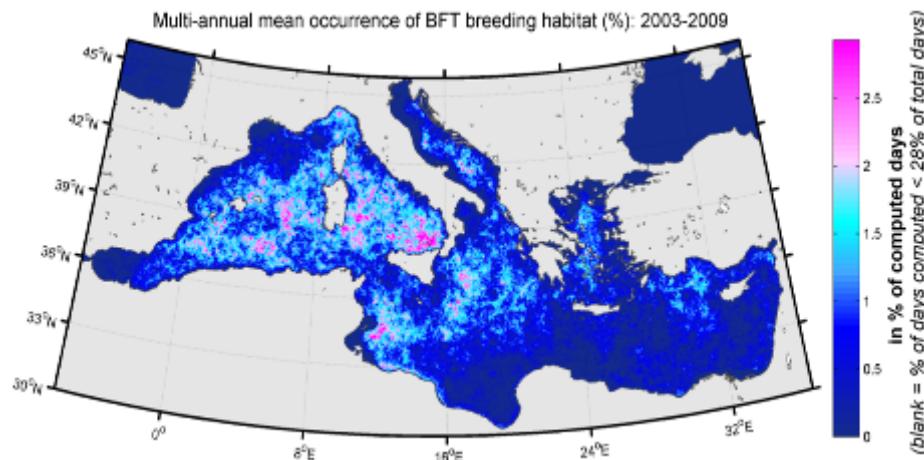


*Daily data of SST and CHL-a from MODIS-AQUA (2002-now), MODIS-TERRA and SeaWiFS (2000-2010) (4.6 km)*

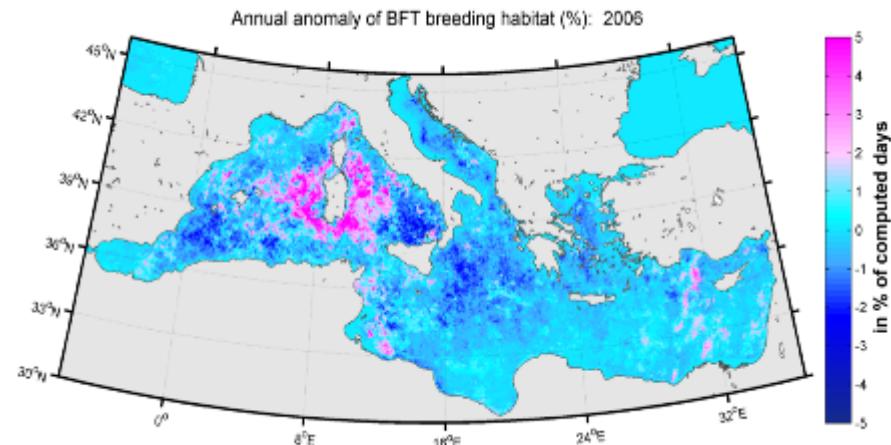
*Precisely located observations (presence data) of ABFT a priori in both habitats for the calibration/validation.*



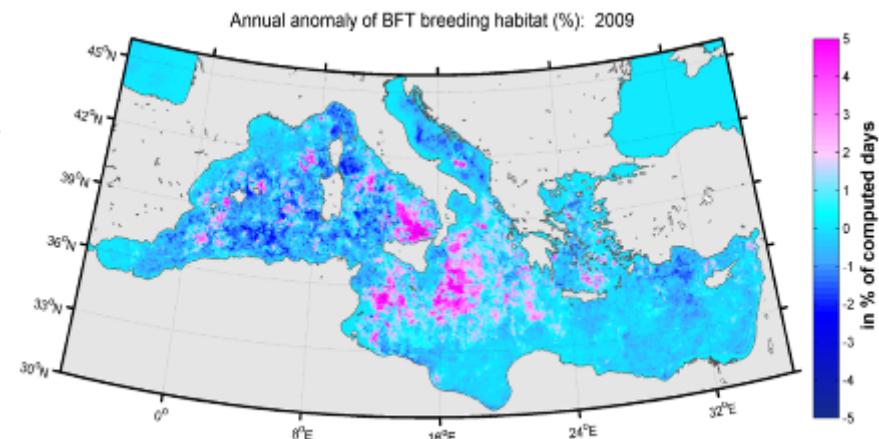
# Multi-annual spawning habitat & anomalies



*2009: Spawning anomaly in the Central Mediterranean Sea*



*Main potential spawning grounds of bluefin tuna (2003-2009)*

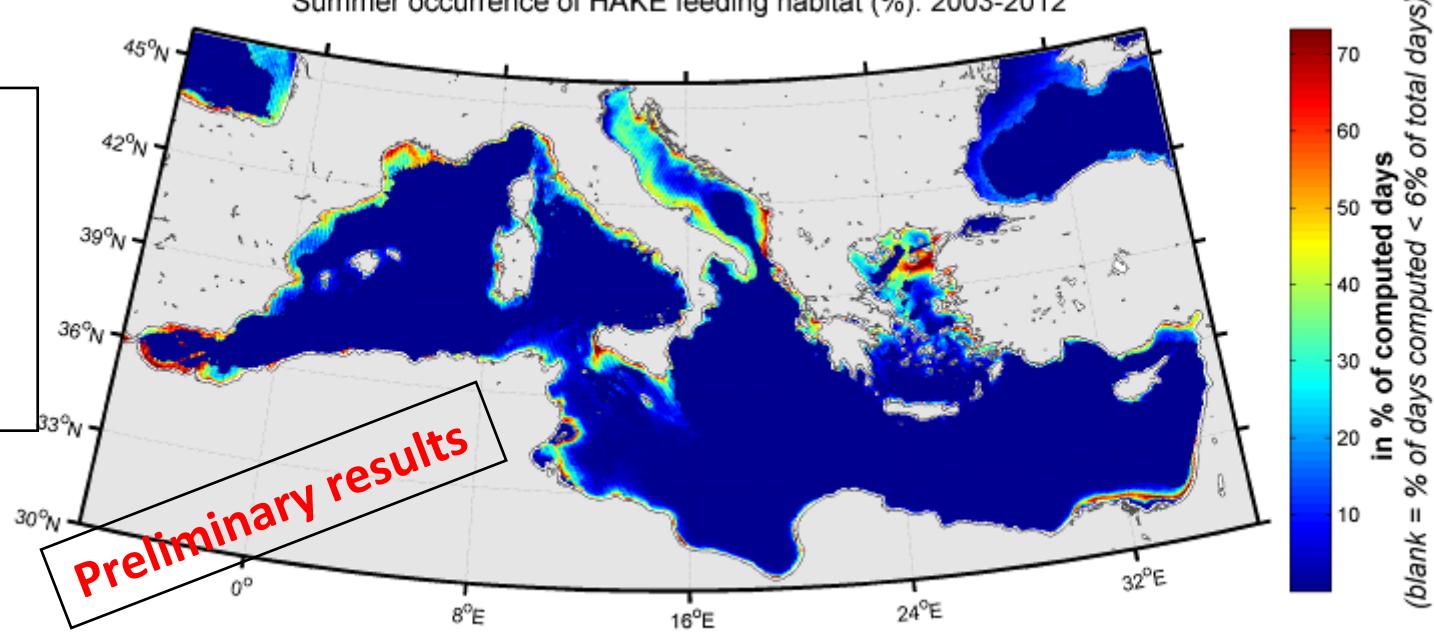


*2006: Spawning anomaly around Sardinia*

*Hake potential  
habitat (feeding) –  
Mediterranean Sea*



Summer occurrence of HAKE feeding habitat (%): 2003-2012

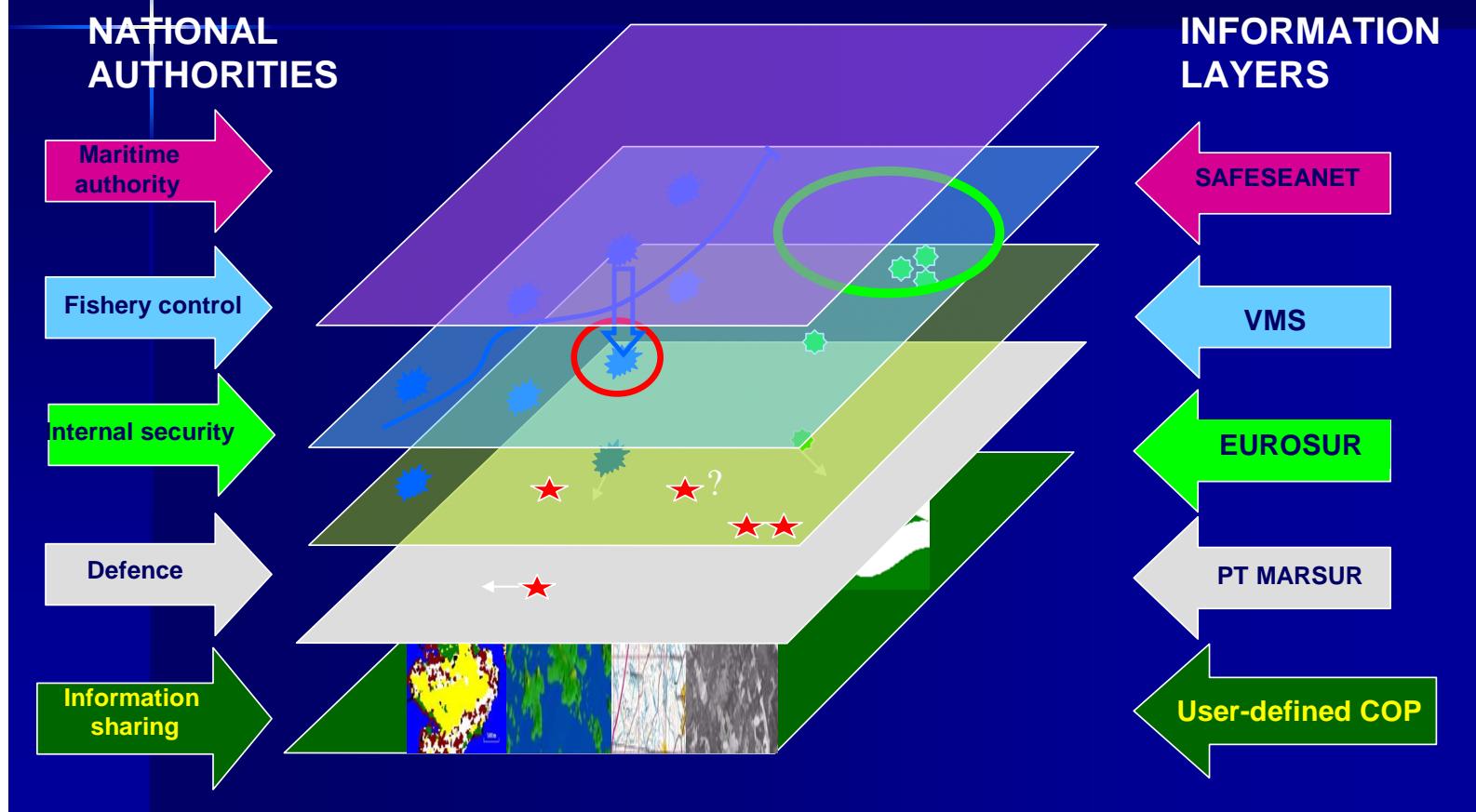


**Essential Habitat  
for hake  
(de Juan 2010)**



## Part of EU's Integrated Maritime Policy

### COMMON INFORMATION SHARING ENVIRONMENT



# Conclusions



- **In addition to VMS, also AIS is useful**
    - Tugs, reefers, fishing vessels
    - International sharing networks
    - Satellite-AIS away from coast (many new sats)
  - **Satellite images to find non-reporting ships**
    - Match image size / detail to fisheries type (radar)
    - Optical for high resolution and farms
    - Combine sat images with reporting data (many sats)
  - **Ocean colour and SST for habitat mapping**
    - Feeding areas, spawning areas
- **Plan control measures and control campaigns considering using these possibilities**



# Joint Research Centre (JRC)

[www.jrc.ec.europa.eu](http://www.jrc.ec.europa.eu)

Contact: [jrc-info@jrc.ec.europa.eu](mailto:jrc-info@jrc.ec.europa.eu)

*Serving society  
Stimulating innovation  
Supporting legislation*

