

Meeting: 6th SSN / LRIT Group Meeting

Place and date: Lisbon, 31 October 2019

Agenda item: Sharing of additional AIS data sources

Document number: SSN/LRIT 6.6.4

Submitted by EMSA

Summary	The document presents EMSA activities related to the acquisition of AIS data streams from additional sources in key areas outside the coverage of the SSN infrastructure. These data streams will be made available to the Member States via the SEG as from the beginning of 2020. The document also presents the status of AIS data exchange with 3rd countries.
Action to be taken	As per paragraph 4.
Related documents	N/A

1 Terrestrial AIS data (North Africa, Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea)

EMSA supports the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) via a Service Level Agreement (SLA) that was initially established in 2013 and extended for an indefinite period in August 2018. Within the framework of the SLA, several services are provided by EMSA to Frontex. One of these is the provision of vessel position data from SSN, satellite AIS data from EMSA's commercial provider, Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) data and the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), which is provided in collaboration with the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

With the objective of further augmenting the extensive maritime picture already provided through the fusion of terrestrial AIS, satellite AIS, LRIT and VMS, Frontex requested EMSA to acquire additional terrestrial AIS data in key areas outside of the coverage of the SSN infrastructure. These areas are North Africa, the eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea¹.

The data to be acquired from the commercial market will also be provided via the system-to-system interface, as well as existing EMSA user interfaces such as the SSN Ecosystem Graphical User Interface (SEG). The areas identified as priority by Frontex are covered by the global satellite AIS feed provided by EMSA. However, due to known limitations associated with satellite AIS technology, such as saturation and lower power AIS transponders (e.g. Class B equipment), additional terrestrial AIS coverage outside of the range of the SSN infrastructure will provide a more complete maritime picture.

¹ The coastlines included are: Libya, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Georgia, Russia (Black Sea only) and Ukraine.

The utilisation of this additional terrestrial AIS data, together with other products provided via EMSA, such as Automated Behaviour Monitoring (ABMs), will also bring added value for Member States without any additional cost.

Quality controls on this data will be put in place, and care will be taken when integrating the data into EMSA interfaces in order to ensure that it can be readily distinguished from terrestrial AIS data provided by Member States.

2 AIS data exchange with 3rd countries

Within the framework of the SAFEMED IV and BCSEA projects, EMSA is implementing a pilot project on “sharing Terrestrial AIS information.” The pilot project consists of the following three phases:

- Phase 1: T-AIS data exchange between the SAFEMED/BCSEA beneficiary countries, and the provision of S-AIS and CSN data to the beneficiary countries.
- Phase 2: Exchange of T-AIS data between SAFEMED/BCSEA beneficiary countries and EU Member States.
- Phase 3: Involvement of SAFEMED/BCSEA beneficiary countries in SSN.

Georgia, Ukraine, Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan have signed the associated SLA for the service to be used for pollution detection and preparedness (phase 1).

Following the HLSG 4 decision, EMSA invited SAFEMED/BCSEA countries to express their interest in sharing their T-AIS data in phase 2 of the project.

3 Current status

3.1 AIS data from additional sources

EMSA is progressing with a Call for Tender to acquire the requested data, with the goal of agreeing a contract valid for a period of two years. Following the selection of a successful tender, EMSA will conduct the necessary technical work to stream the data to the Agency's interfaces, with the first live data expected to be available in the EMSA interfaces at the beginning of 2020.

3.2 AIS data exchange with 3rd countries

Positive feedback on the EMSA proposal to share T-AIS data with EU Member States was received from Georgia, Jordan and Ukraine, which expressed their interest in sharing data with EU Member States participating in the Mediterranean regional AIS server (MAREΣ). Also, Morocco and Tunisia indicated that they are willing to participate, but that they need more time to be prepared.

The outcome was presented at the HLSG 5 meeting (Brussels, 2 July 2019), where Member States were invited to provide their feedback on whether they agree that Georgia, Jordan and Ukraine should participate in MAREΣ and share their AIS data in accordance with the conditions set at the HLSG DM 4 meeting. Participation of other beneficiaries in MAREΣ could be discussed after receiving their positive feedback.

HLSG DM 5 also authorised EMSA to draft a document consolidating the conditions of service for the beneficiaries and MAREΣ Member States (defined at the HLSG DM 4), which would replace the initially proposed procedure which required signing a bilateral or multilateral agreement between the participants. The document will be presented for discussion and agreement at the next MAREΣ Expert Working group (EWG) meeting.

4 Actions required

Member States are invited to note the information. The existing EMSA infrastructure and interfaces will be used for streaming and integrating this data.