

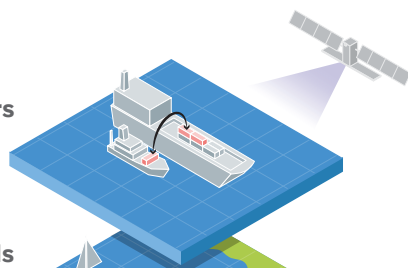


The Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (CMS) service supports coastal state authorities operating in the law enforcement domain with a wide range of near real time earth observation information to help them detect and identify unlawful activities.

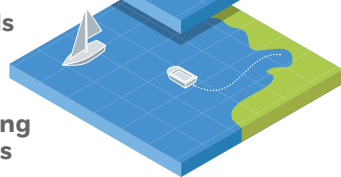
CMS SUPPORTS LAW ENFORCEMENT THROUGH:

- the detection and tracking of suspicious targets
- monitoring of shorelines
- identification of vessels carrying out suspicious activities.

Ship-to-ship transfers



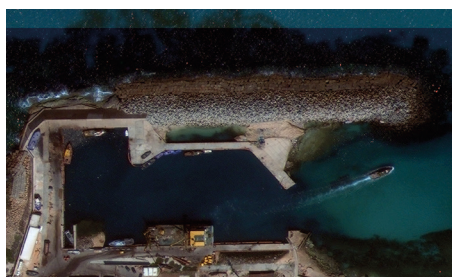
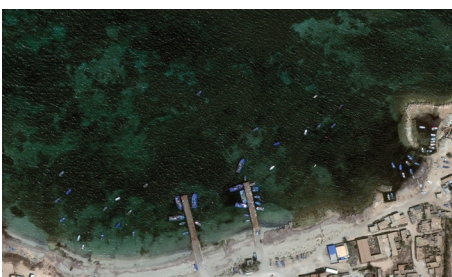
Non-reporting vessels



Small vessels departing from remote locations

Maritime law enforcement encompasses a wide range of functions, including measures against trafficking and smuggling of contraband (e.g. narcotics, arms or other goods); piracy and armed robbery, illegal pollution (e.g. oil discharges from ships) and other environmental crimes. Coastal state authorities can use earth observation data to detect and identify unlawful activities, which often occur in locations that are difficult to monitor and involve either small vessels which do not send position alerts, or larger vessels which have switched off their position reporting systems.

If intelligence information indicates that an illegal activity may be taking place in an area, law enforcement officials might want to identify particular types of vessel behaviour, for example a rendezvous-at-sea by two vessels or a vessel falsifying its' reported position. Satellite-based vessel detection integrated with other vessel data, provided by the CMS service, enables authorities to identify suspicious activities and potential threats. High resolution optical images can provide valuable insight into what kinds of vessels are operating from uncontrolled areas, such as desert beaches. These are potential launching and landing sites for a wide range of illegal activities. These images can also help provide vessel identities and information, such as objects on deck.



USE CASE: ANTI-DRUG TRAFFICKING OPERATIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC(N)), provides a forum for multi-lateral international cooperation to suppress illicit drug trafficking by sea and air, in the Atlantic and Mediterranean maritime domain.¹

In May 2017, MAOC(N) believed that a known vessel had been involved in a transshipment of heroin. The location of the transshipment was not known, but although the vessel was not reporting its position, it was believed that it was somewhere in the Suez Bay. In support of live operational activity, MAOC(N) requested EMSA's support to provide optical imagery. The CMS products allowed operators to confirm that the vessel was no longer in the Suez bay and it was heading north. This information was shared immediately with the Turkish authorities, who intercepted the vessel, arrested nine crew members and seized more than 1 tonne of heroin.²



Copernicus, the European Union's Earth Observation Programme, delivers operational data and information services to support a broad range of environmental and security applications. The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) is responsible for implementing the Copernicus Maritime Surveillance Service.

emsa.europa.eu/copernicus.html

Get in touch for more information

Copernicus Maritime Surveillance

Twitter CopernicusCMS / copernicus@emsa.europa.eu

Copernicus

Twitter CopernicusEU / Facebook Copernicus EU

European Maritime Safety Agency

Praça Europa 4

1249-206 Lisboa Portugal

Tel +351 21 1209 200 / Fax +351 21 1209 210

emsa.europa.eu / Twitter EMSA_Lisbon

REFERENCES

¹ https://maoc.eu/?page_id=9

² <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-drugs/turkey-seizes-tonne-of-heroin-in-congo-flagged-ship-raid-police-idUSKBN18YORI>

CREDITS

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