

## TESTS ACCEPTED FOR THAMES FISHER AND MERSEY FISHER

The tankers *Thames Fisher* and *Mersey Fisher* owned by James Fisher Everard Ltd entered into operational service with EMSA on 14 August after passing the acceptance tests held in Sunderland, United Kingdom. While the *Mersey Fisher* was already part of EMSA's network of standby-oil spill response vessels as part of a contract in the Atlantic that expired early this year, the *Thames Fisher* has undergone a pre-fitting phase in order to be adapted for oil spill response duties. The *Thames Fisher* and *Mersey Fisher* comprise a pool of two vessels of which one can be mobilised as necessary. The equipment set for both vessels includes rigid sweeping arms, skimmer and ocean oil boom, as well as an oil slick detection system. The arrangement brings an additional 4,450m<sup>3</sup> of storage capacity to the Northern North Sea, where maritime traffic is heavy and offshore installations plentiful.



Both vessels are fitted with specialised oil recovery equipment

## NEW CONTRACTS FOR SATELLITE RADAR IMAGES

In August EMSA signed five new framework contracts of a maximum value of €24 M for the provision of satellite radar images and oil spill and vessel detection services. Contracts have been signed with Kongsberg Satellite Services AS (KSAT) Norway, Collecte Localisation Satellites (CLS), France, e-GEOS S.p.A, Italy, Edisoft S.A. Portugal and MDA Geospatial Services Inc. Canada. These contracts will supply CleanSeaNet, and other EMSA integrated maritime services, with worldwide near real time delivery of radar satellite images and state-of-the-art vessel detection and oil spill detection.

## INTEGRATED MARITIME SERVICES TO SUPPORT SEARCH AND RESCUE

Since August 2014 a new feature in EMSA's integrated maritime services is available to existing users. Enhanced SAR SURPIC can be used by Maritime Search & Rescue Authorities during their operations to gain a better picture of the ships present in any ocean region, worldwide. The closest ships may then be diverted and come to the rescue of seafarers in distress. The new feature makes it possible to collect ship position information from all available sources, including Satellite-AIS and LRIT. The system is also ready to include the position of fishing vessels from VMS. This is the first time so much information is available in a single tool for the safety of seafarers all over, even in remote areas.



## ITALIAN CADETS AND OFFICERS VISIT THE AGENCY

On 31 July a group of 30 cadets and officers of the Italian Navy Ship *Durand de La Penne* visited EMSA. The ship was in Lisbon as part of a training course for Italian Naval Academy cadets. Lisbon is a frequent port of call during Italian Navy training. The *Amerigo Vespucci* sailing ship recently berthed in Lisbon. Its crew wore the historical uniform with a traditional small sword, symbolising fidelity and responsibility. The majority of those visiting EMSA were cadets of the Coast Guard corps, at the end of their first year of a five-year course at the Naval Academy to become a Naval Officer.



## EQUASIS ANNUAL REPORT: NUMBERS AND FIGURES OF THE WORLD FLEET

The new [Equasis Annual Report](#) released in August, provides a picture of the world's merchant fleet derived from data contained in the Equasis database. The report looks at the make-up of the fleet and its performance. The statistics are grouped into themes which are of interest to industry and regulators. The report is divided into themes: the fleet population; classification societies; P&I clubs; Port State Control; trade associations and industry vetting programmes. EMSA has been hosting the Equasis management unit since 2008.

## MULTIANNUAL FUNDING REGULATION ON POLLUTION RESPONSE JUST PUBLISHED

The Multiannual Funding (MAF) Regulation governing EMSA's activities in the field of response to marine pollution caused by ships and oil and gas installations was published on 28 August in the Official Journal of the European Union. [Regulation \(EU\) No 911/2014](#) takes effect from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2020 (OJ L 257, 28.8.2014, p. 115–120).

[emsa.europa.eu](http://emsa.europa.eu)

### PROCUREMENT:

Training on Flag State Responsibilities & Authorisation of Recognised Organisations for SAFEMED beneficiaries (deadline: 22/09/2014) / Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) Training (15/09/2014) / Provision of consultancy services to draft or revise the written agreements SAFEMED beneficiaries have in place with their Recognised Organisations and the related authorisation(s) to act on behalf of the Flag State (12/09/2014)

### PUBLICATIONS:

The CleanSeaNet service: taking measures to detect and deter marine pollution