

## JRC Maritime Research

### *Press briefing*

#### Framework

The mission of JRC is to provide customer driven scientific and technical support for the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of the Community policies. To date, there is no Community Maritime Policy as such; instead, maritime matters are embedded in many of the Community policies. Consequently, JRC research on maritime matters is embedded in different policy themes under various actions: Energy & Transport; Fisheries; Natural resources; Environment; Climate change; Disasters and response; and Global Security. Furthermore, JRC supports directly both the EU Marine Strategy as well as the debate towards a cohesive EU Maritime Policy<sup>1</sup>.

Below is a list of JRC research activities of relevance in this field.

#### JRC maritime research activities

**Harmonization and accessibility of data** related to economic activities and the reporting of items on Community policy relevance, work on satellite image acquisition (including for GMES), development of harmonised geo-referenced data for environmental reporting.

**Fisheries** statistics quality and data management, socio-economic aspects of fisheries, technologies for fisheries monitoring, work on effort monitoring, catch estimation, trade analysis, and monitoring aquaculture to assess compliance with CFP (Common Fisheries Policy) rules.

**Maritime surveillance** to address maritime situational awareness, using satellite data for earth observation, coastal sensors and open source data to detect vessels and their activity. Maintenance of the EU ECCAIRS database including maritime accidents. EU integration of technological means for maritime monitoring and surveillance; assistance

to EMSA, FRONTEX and JLS; technical feasibility of monitoring the Southern EU maritime border.

**Monitoring and assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems** (their status, trends and functioning with a focus on the long-term) in support of the implementation of the European Marine Strategy and plans for an Integrated Maritime Policy for environmental issues.

**Analysis and monitoring of pollutants in aquatic ecosystems** with a focus on the functioning of the aquatic/terrestrial interfaces in transitional systems and the integrated assessment of policy measures on behalf of regional and local authorities. Contribution on the inter-calibration of member states ecological quality assessment systems for inland and marine waters.

**Monitoring of sea-based pollution** (including illicit discharges from vessels and off shore platforms), providing training (on the monitoring of sea based oil pollution), setting up Experts Group (EGEMP) to bridge users (like coast guards) with scientists.

**Container security:** develop, test and demonstrate the use of RFID-based seals (low cost radio frequency identification devices) for the tamper-proofing of containers eventually tracking / tracing shipments. It addresses issues like container integrity, freight logistics, anti-fraud, antiterrorism etc.

**Container traffic:** Web-based technology to gather and analyze data on maritime container movements worldwide enabling the identification of potentially suspicious shipments. The system was tested successfully in the detection of false declarations of origin to circumvent anti-dumping duties and quotas.

**Remotely operated ship inspection:** novel technologies and methods for an efficient maritime vessel inspection / condition assessment, as required under IMO2 and SOLAS3 obligations. And DIFIS (Double Inverted Funnel for the Intervention on Shipwrecks): novel concept for the removal of hydrocarbons trapped in ship wrecks. Post-PRESTIGE activities, in collaboration with DG RTD.

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<sup>1</sup> Green Pare "Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European vision for the oceans and seas", COM (2006) 275 final.

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<sup>2</sup> International Maritime Organisation

<sup>3</sup> Safety of Life at Sea