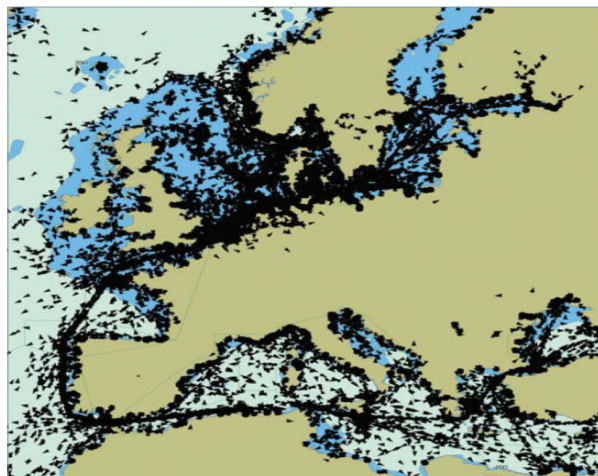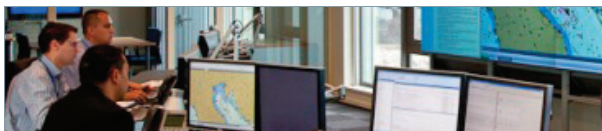## ABOUT SAFESEANET

SafeSeaNet (SSN) is the European Community maritime information and exchange system. It provides information such as:

- estimated or actual arrival and departure times in ports;

- details of dangerous or hazardous goods being carried;

- information on accidents and incidents; the number of people on board and;

- vessel positions acquired by the Automatic Identification System (AIS).

This information can be displayed on nautical charts through the SafeSeaNet graphical interface, making it easy for users such as ports, Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres, port state control officers, Vessel Traffic Services and other users to get the information they need. It also provides full zooming capabilities, from global to dock level. Typically, SafeSeaNet tracks up to 17,000 vessels at any one time.
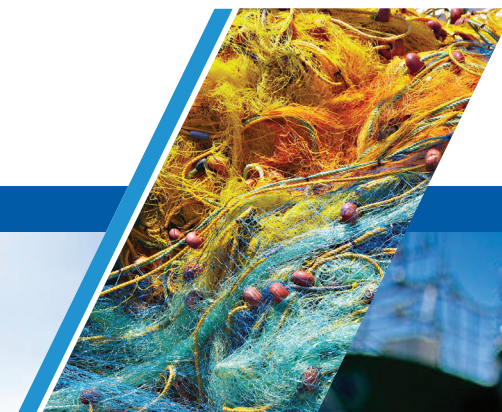

Screenshot from the SafeSeaNet system.

ABOUT THE SSN/VMS PILOT PROJECT LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The initiative to investigate synergies between SSN and VMS is linked to Directive 2009/17/EU. This set in place a rolling program which culminates in fishing vessels above 15 m length being fitted with AIS by 31 May 2014.

In addition, Art. 10 of Council Regulation 1224/2009/EU, establishing a Community Control System for ensuring compliance with the Common fisheries policy, fosters the use of AIS in order to cross-check with other available data.

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SAFESEANET / VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM SYNERGIES PILOT PROJECT

PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROMOTING BEST PRACTICES

THE SSN/VMS SYNERGIES PILOT PROJECT

The aim of this pilot project is to explore the benefits for participating Fisheries Monitoring Centres (FMCs) that result from the integration of VMS and AIS data using the SafeSeaNet system.

The operational phase begins in October 2011, and lasts 6 months.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

Each participating FMC will nominate at least 5 fishing vessels which have been fitted with 'blue box' and AIS systems. SafeSeaNet will receive AIS data from the vessels and distribute it to the FMCs.

The vessel positions and associated VMS/AIS information is then made available using a web-based graphical interface. In order to ensure confidentiality, this will only be accessible to the participating authorities.

BENEFITS

The benefits to fishing vessel monitoring users will be as follows:

a) A substantially improved vessel position monitoring capability (every 6 minutes, instead of 2 hours);

b) An increased level of confidence thanks to the ability to correlate two different types of information;

c) No requirement for technical or organisational intervention by FMCs;

d) Information provided on a free of charge basis;

e) Potentially significant cost reductions in comparison to the present VMS system.

AS AN FMC, WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

As the SafeSeaNet system and graphical interface are accessible via the web, the only requirement is to comply with the security requirements and procedures agreed by the pilot project participants.

WHAT DO I DO IF THERE IS A TECHNICAL PROBLEM?

The helpdesk facilities offered to Member States via the 24/7 EMSA Maritime Support Services will be made available to participating FMCs.