

Maritime Surveillance in support of immigration control

Earth Observation Support to Maritime Surveillance: immigration domain

Users: Guardia Civil (SP), Frontex (EC)

Need: Survey specific areas with EO imagery to complement the operational missions of in-situ means

Challenge: Detect small, non-metallic and rapid ships with a resolution 3 or 2 times lower than target length

Initiative: Operational campaign executed in the INDALO mission with the support of the SAGRES project

Results: A 3m resolution RADARSAT-2 image was processed reporting a potential target of interest 11 m long. Authorities received the ship detection report 2h 30' after image acquisition (20140916T1813Z). A patrol ship confirmed that the detected spot was a small ship with 38 in-distress immigrants on-board. EO imagery contributed to notably reduce the searching area allowing an efficient usage of the resources

Service provider: Gmv Aerospace and Defence S.A.U.



Fig 1. Immigrants rescued on Almería



Fig 2. America waters and small boats @almeria360