Biodiversity: is innovation the cure?

13 June 2014
Bibliothèque nationale de France
Grand auditorium
Quai François-Mauriac
75013 Paris
Technologies for Surveillance and Enforcement in Marine Areas

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Maritime Areas vary by:

- Size (some are thousands of km\(^2\))
- Jurisdiction – state vs. high seas
- Distance from shore
- Types of regulations
- Primary challenges – fisheries, pollution, IUU
- Quantity and type of vessel traffic
- Access to assets and funds
Surveillance approaches

- Cooperative vs. non cooperative
- Classified vs. civilian
- Ground, sea, air or space-based
- Continuous vs. periodic
- Manned vs. unmanned
Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS)

- Device on vessel sends signal to satellite showing vessel heading and speed in real time
- Ground stations alert enforcement about suspicious activities
- Enforcement can choose to investigate
- VMS in common use in many States

BUT – VMS is not tamper-proof
Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS)

• Video cameras on board monitor fishing activities, catch handling, etc.
• Sensors may also be placed on winches etc.
• Video analysis is labor intensive and ‘after the fact’
• Less expensive than observers
• Can be tampered with

Technology used in BC longline and crab fisheries, in NZ to monitor cetacean interactions and pilot projects underway elsewhere
Automatic Identification Systems (AIS)

• Uses shipboard VHF broadcasting system
• Designed for vessel tracking and identification, but additional channels for other data streams
• Not generally used for fisheries monitoring

Why?
• IMO rule: only vessels >300 GT are required to carry class A AIS
• Land or sea-based systems have limited range (20-100 nm)

But
• There is potential for expansion of AIS for maritime surveillance
• Space-based AIS expands coverage capabilities
Non Cooperative surveillance

Platforms

- Space-based – satellites
- Aircraft – manned and unmanned
- Vessels - manned and unmanned
  - Land or buoy-based

Sensors

- Visual imaging systems
- Radar systems
- Acoustics

Surveillance systems use a combination of platforms and sensors to fulfill specific requirements
Satellite-based surveillance

Satellite technologies capture information from a target on earth and relay data back to a control centre

**Advantages:** Large scale, high resolution images

**Disadvantages:** Surveillance not continuous, images are expensive and some systems are sensitive to weather and light

Types of sensors

- Visual imaging
- Optical and IR cameras
- Radar
- Synthetic aperture radar
- Space-based AIS
Manned aircraft

Surveillance of remote or large marine areas requires long range aircraft

Expensive to purchase, maintain and operate - cost sharing between agencies can offset costs

Canada and UK use commercial contractor on per mission basis.

Aircraft can be equipped with a great variety of sensors including radar, SAR, visual and/or IR cameras, and more specialized sensors for pollutants
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

Payloads can include visual and/or IR cameras, biological or chemical sensors, and radar

UAVs can fly extended missions (8 to >48 hours)

Most are currently operated by military

Problem with operating UAVs in national airspace
Manned Patrol Vessels

Most common approach to maritime surveillance and enforcement

- Range of vessels limited to line of sight, even with radar
- Coverage of large areas not practical or cost effective

Use other technologies for broader surveillance and manned vessels for interdiction
Land or buoy based platforms

Airships, aerostats and helikites
Can be deployed from land, ships or vehicles
Can be tethered or untethered, very small or very large
Used for visual sensors and transceivers, including AIS

Moorings and buoys
Seabed underwater mooring systems
Buoys with acoustic packages
Some systems can relay data in near real-time
Cannot identify individual vessels, but may identify activity
Crowdsourcing

- Cell phones – can capture geo-referenced images and transmit messages to LE or intermediate coordinator
- Tip-lines used by enforcement agencies, often with reward
- MPA Guardian and EPIC 805 programs are crowdsourcing efforts that use cell phone apps to enable volunteers to document and report MPA violations in California USA
- Cell phones were issued to local people in Senegal to report MPA violations.
Data Fusion

Most surveillance systems consist of multiple data sources

Examples:
Satellite SAR, VMS and AIS

Airborne visual imagery, VMS, acoustic data

Data streams have to be integrated into a usable and visually intuitive format for use by LE personnel.
The following document contains more details on surveillance technologies:


Funding for this work was provided by United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)