Automatic Identification System (AIS) is a tracking system that automatically transmits a vessel's identity, speed and GPS location.
WHAT IS AIS USED FOR?

SAFETY
Initially developed to prevent collisions at sea

INFORMATION
Exchange navigational data

MONITORING
Locate and identify vessels, track movements

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Global Fishing Watch provides the first global view of commercial fishing activity in near real-time, for free. Visit globalfishingwatch.org

**HOW DOES AIS WORK?**

AIS devices automatically send a ship’s **direction, speed, location and identification** information to other AIS devices, land-based receivers and satellites as frequently as every...

2-30 SECONDS  
UP TO 43,200x A DAY

**PUBLIC**  
The AIS transmissions are **public and provide data** of vessel locations around the world

**TRANSPARENT**  
Vessels using AIS broadcast their **whereabouts and identity**

**EFFECTIVE**  
Global Fishing Watch uses this data to show the public when and where vessels are likely fishing worldwide

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WHO USES AIS?

Over 300,000 vessels including:

More than 70,000 fishing vessels responsible for most of the world's fish catch
The International Maritime Organization requires large vessels to carry AIS. However, governments can decide if — and to what extent — these requirements apply to fishing vessels.

**The United States** requires its fishing vessels over 65 feet long, or about 20 meters, to have AIS.

**The European Union** requires its fishing vessels over 15 meters, or about 49 feet long, to have AIS.
VULNERABILITIES

Not all vessels are required to use AIS.

A ship's crew can tamper with their AIS, sending false information or even turning the AIS device off.

Without AIS, a vessel is essentially invisible to the public.

ADVANTAGES of AIS

Transparency at sea—view the locations and movements of fishing vessels.

Researchers, advocates, governments and others can use Global Fishing Watch to monitor fishing vessels and fishing activities.

Coastal nations can better monitor their waters.

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A
B
C

OCEANA
WHY

SAFETY
Safeguard vessels at sea

DETER
Discourage illicit behaviors at sea like illegal fishing and human rights abuses

MONITOR
Visibility enables accountability

IS AIS IMPORTANT?
OCEANA’S PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

**REQUIRE**
- Governments require all commercial fishing vessels flying their flag or operating within their national waters to carry and continually broadcast publicly accessible, tamper-resistant AIS.
- All regional fisheries management organizations require AIS usage by any commercial vessel operating in their territories.

**ENFORCE**
Flag states and coastal states enforce existing AIS requirements.

**NOTIFY**
Require vessel owners to notify the flag state and/or coastal state when and why their fishing vessel operator stops transmitting AIS.

Oceana works to help stop illegal fishing, advocate for transparency at sea, and require traceability of all seafood.