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AIS
WHAT IS IT?

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

AIS

Automatic Identification System

WHAT IS AIS USED FOR?

SAFETY
Initially developed to **prevent** collisions at sea
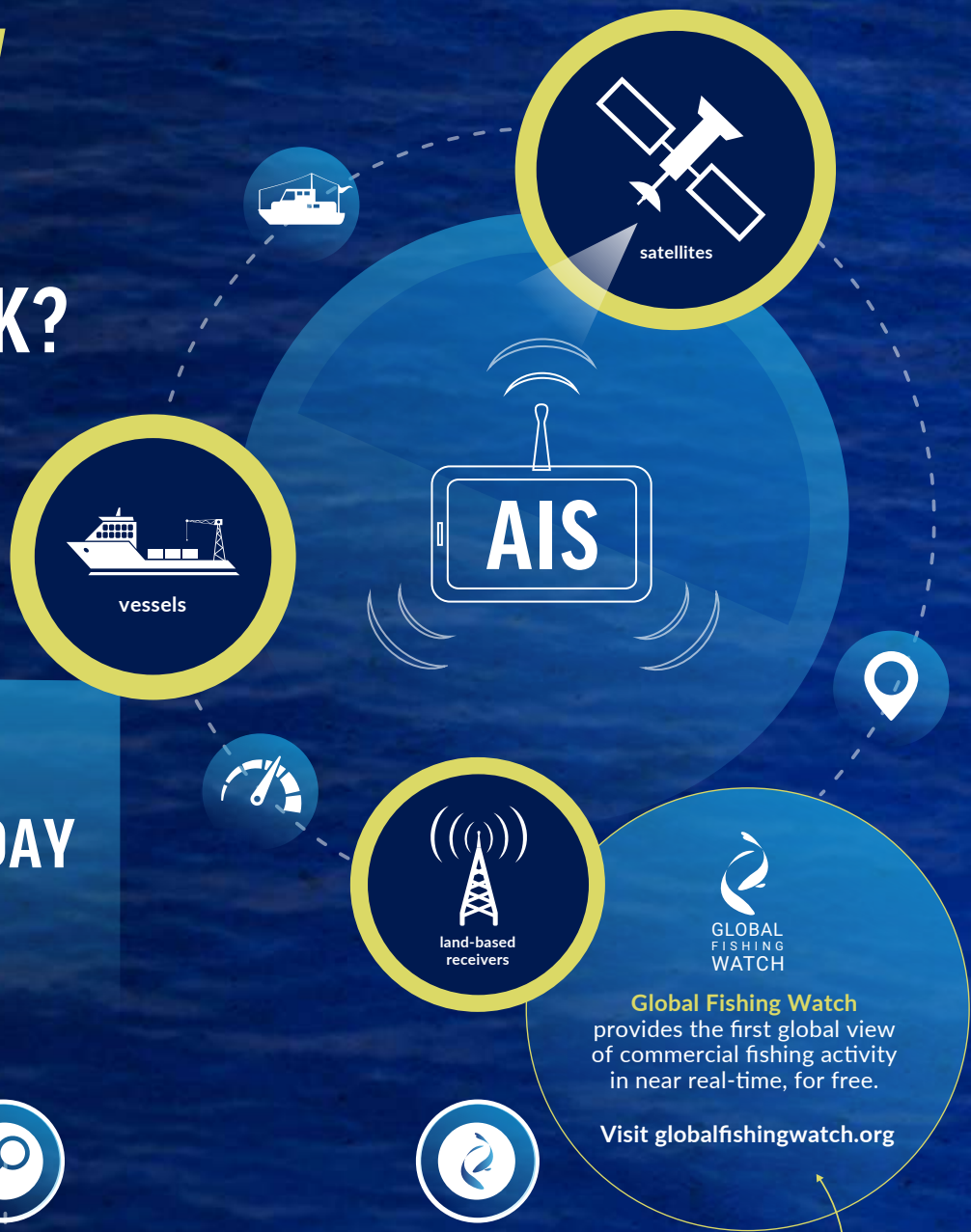
INFORMATION
Exchange navigational data

MONITORING
Locate and identify vessels, track movements

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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**

satellites

AIS

vessels

land-based receivers

GLOBAL FISHING WATCH

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

Visit globalfishingwatch.org

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

WHERE IS AIS REQUIRED?

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

AIS

65'/20m

49'/15m

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.

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

VULNERABILITIES
associated with AIS

A

Not all vessels are **required to use AIS**

B

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

C

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

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WHY IS AIS IMPORTANT?

SAFETY

Safeguard vessels at sea

DETER

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

MONITOR

Visibility enables accountability

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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.

AIS

ENFORCE

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

POLICE

Flag State: The country under which a vessel is registered

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.

OCEANA *Protecting the World's Oceans*