17th SESSION IOCARIBE

Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions

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Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

Subcomisión para el Caribe y Regiones Adyacentes

Bogotá, Colombia
May 08 - 11, 2023

INTRODUCING COSTA: TRACKING MARINE OIL SPILL USING SATELLITES IN THE AMERICAS

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COMISIÓN COLOMBIANA DEL OCÉANO

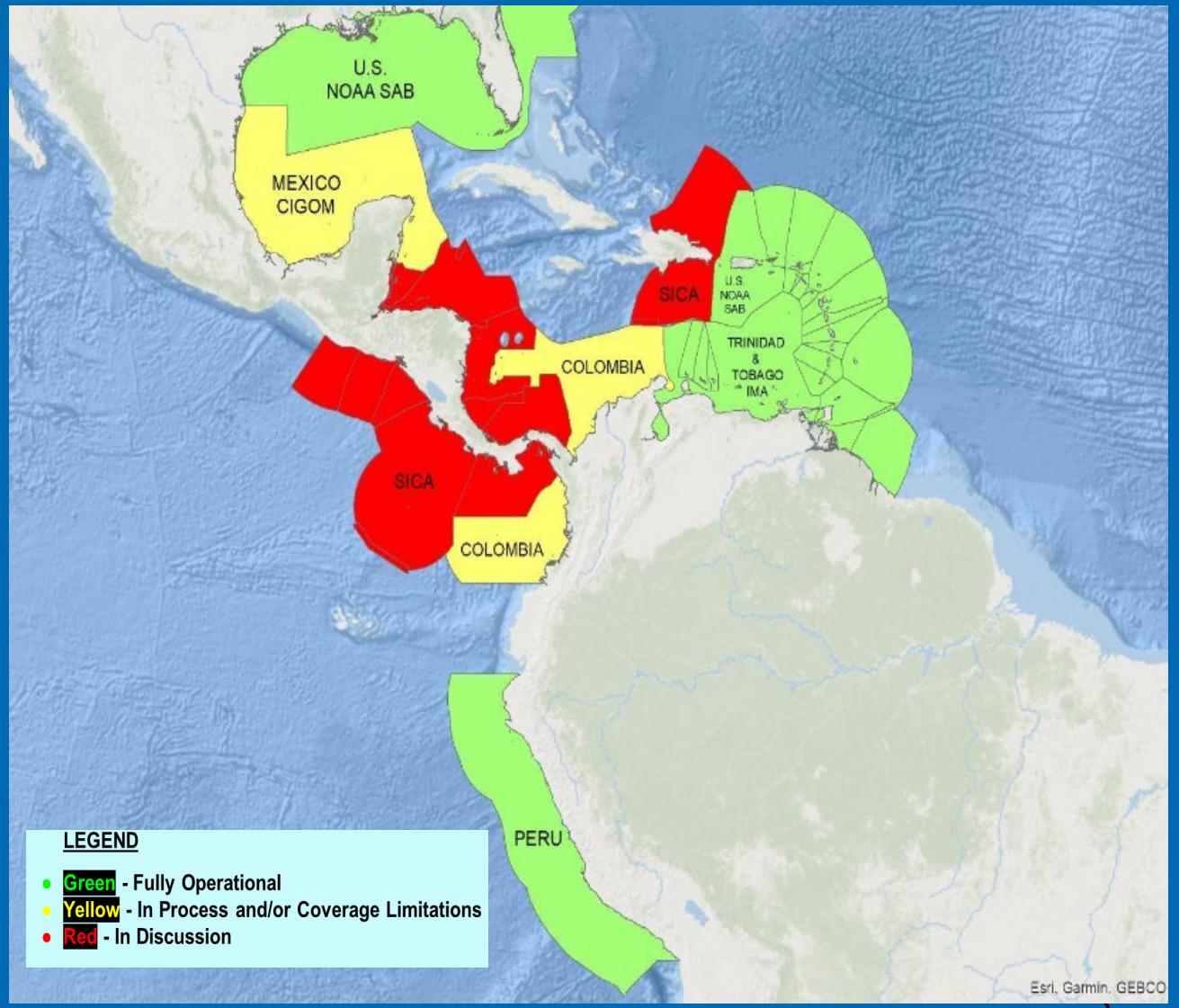
What is COSTA

COSTA (Collaboration for Oil Satellite Tracking in the Americas) is an international effort to enable nations in the Americas to stand up satellite oil monitoring and analysis capabilities in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean and adjacent oceans.

With the availability of high resolution, publicly available satellite imagery, routine oil spill monitoring can provide the first warning of a spill or intentional vessel oil discharge, help inform and direct spill response resources during major spills, and help countries find and target chronic leak sources.

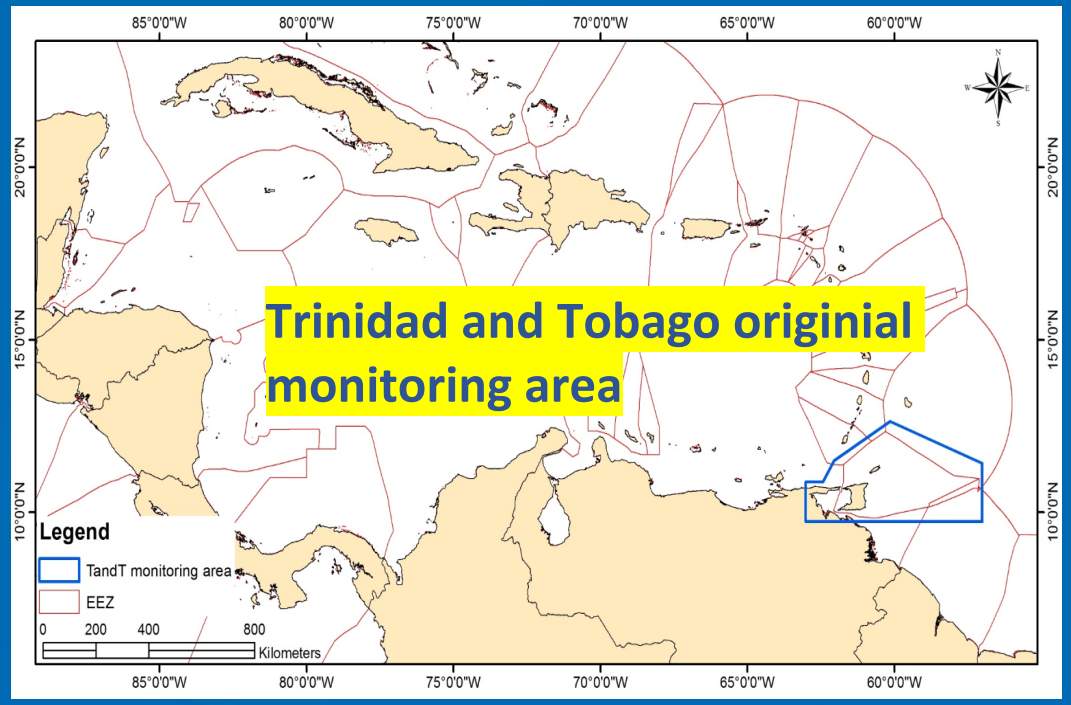
COSTA partners and coverage

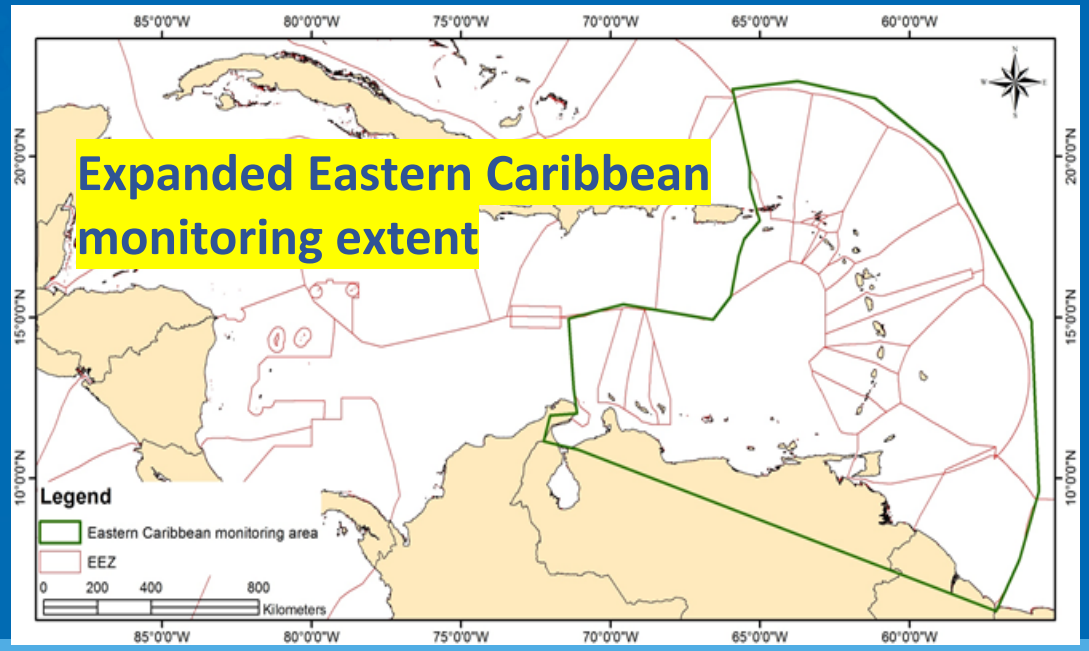
- **US** Since 2009, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Satellite Analysis Branch (SAB) has established a 24/7 satellite marine pollution program to monitoring marine oil spills in the US EEZ in near real time.
- **Trinidad and Tobago.** Connected through IOCaribe and GEO Blue Planet, TT is the first Caribbean country trained by NOAA and has fully establish their operational oil monitoring program since July 2021. They expanded to cover Eastern and Southern Caribbean in March 2023. NOAA, UNEP and RAC-REMPEITC are helping them connect and engage with countries in the newly engaged region for oil spill report distribution and collaboration.
- **Mexico** and **Peru** has finished their training in mid 2022, and have transitioned to near real-time monitoring. Mexico is currently monitoring in Southern GOM.
- **Colombia is the latest country to join COSTA**. Training starts in a week.
- **Central American countries through Central America Integration System (SICA)** has shown interest to join COSTA.



Countries proposed to be included in the IMA monitoring area

Country/territory name
British Virgin Islands
Saint-Martin
Sint Maarten
Saint-Barthélemy
Sint Eustatius
Saba
Anguilla
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Antigua and Barbuda
Montserrat
Guadeloupe
Dominica
Martinique
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Saint Lucia
Barbados
Grenada
Venezuela
Aruba
Bonaire
Curacao
Guyana





COSTA Oil Reports and Notable Oil Spill Events Supports

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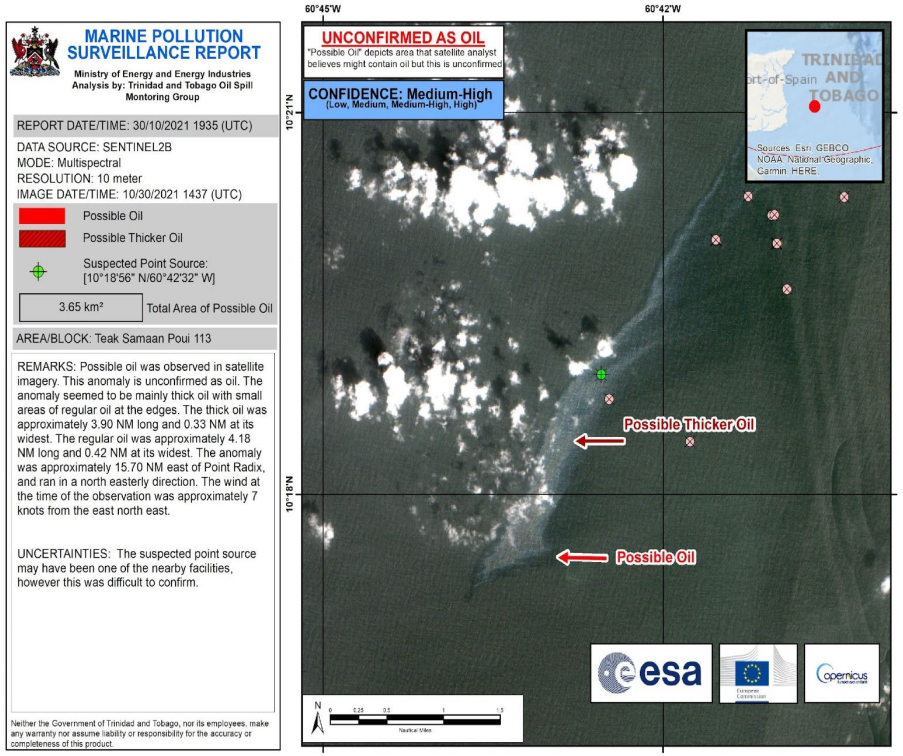
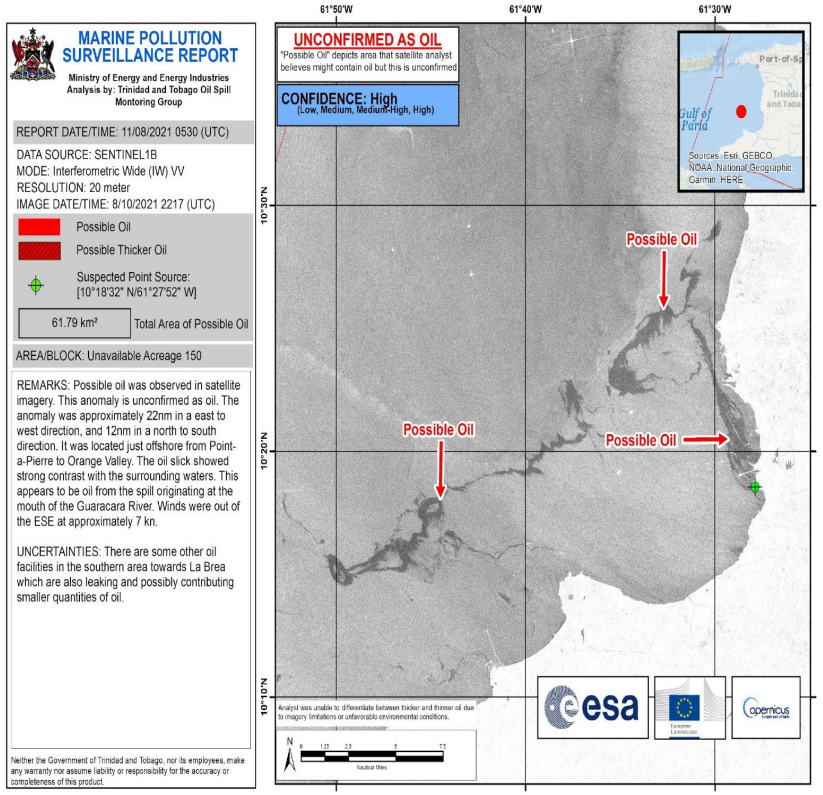
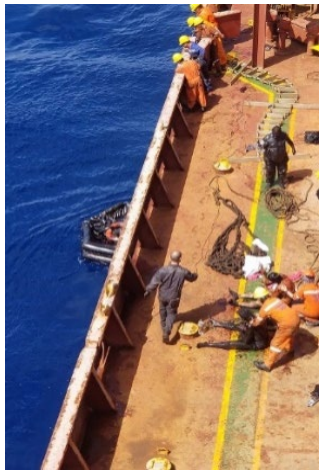
Satellite Oil Spill Report from Trinidad and Tobago



2021 Triniad and Tobago Guaracara oil spill

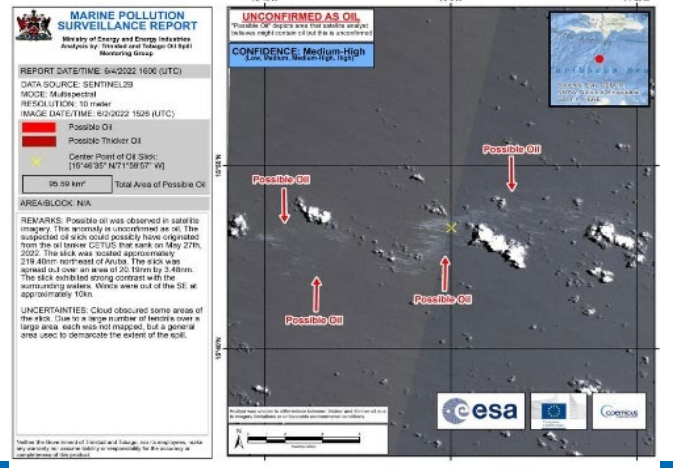


2022 Sunken Tanker M/V CETUS Oi Spill in Aruba



Crews were being rescued, covering in oil

Picture of the oil spill



Recommendations

- We encourage member countries in the Wider Caribbean region(WCR) to support and benefit from the IMA's monitoring effort in the Eastern and Southern Caribbean region.
- COSTA program are interested in partner agencies or regional organizations who can stand up long term oil spill monitoring program, and cover a large geographic area. We also encourage WCR countries and territories to engage with COSTA about establishing a regional oil spill monitoring program where currently there are none (e.g., Bahamas, Turks and Caicos and near the Great Antilles region).
- The COSTA program is also gauging the region's interest in other environmental satellite monitoring such as vessel detection, marine debris, fire and methane detection.

THANK YOU

MUCHAS GRACIAS

MERCI BEAUCOUP