


# AIS

## WHAT IS IT?

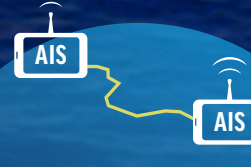
Automatic Identification System (AIS) is a tracking system that automatically transmits a vessel's identity, speed and GPS location.




## WHAT IS AIS USED FOR?



**SAFETY**  
Initially developed to prevent collisions at sea



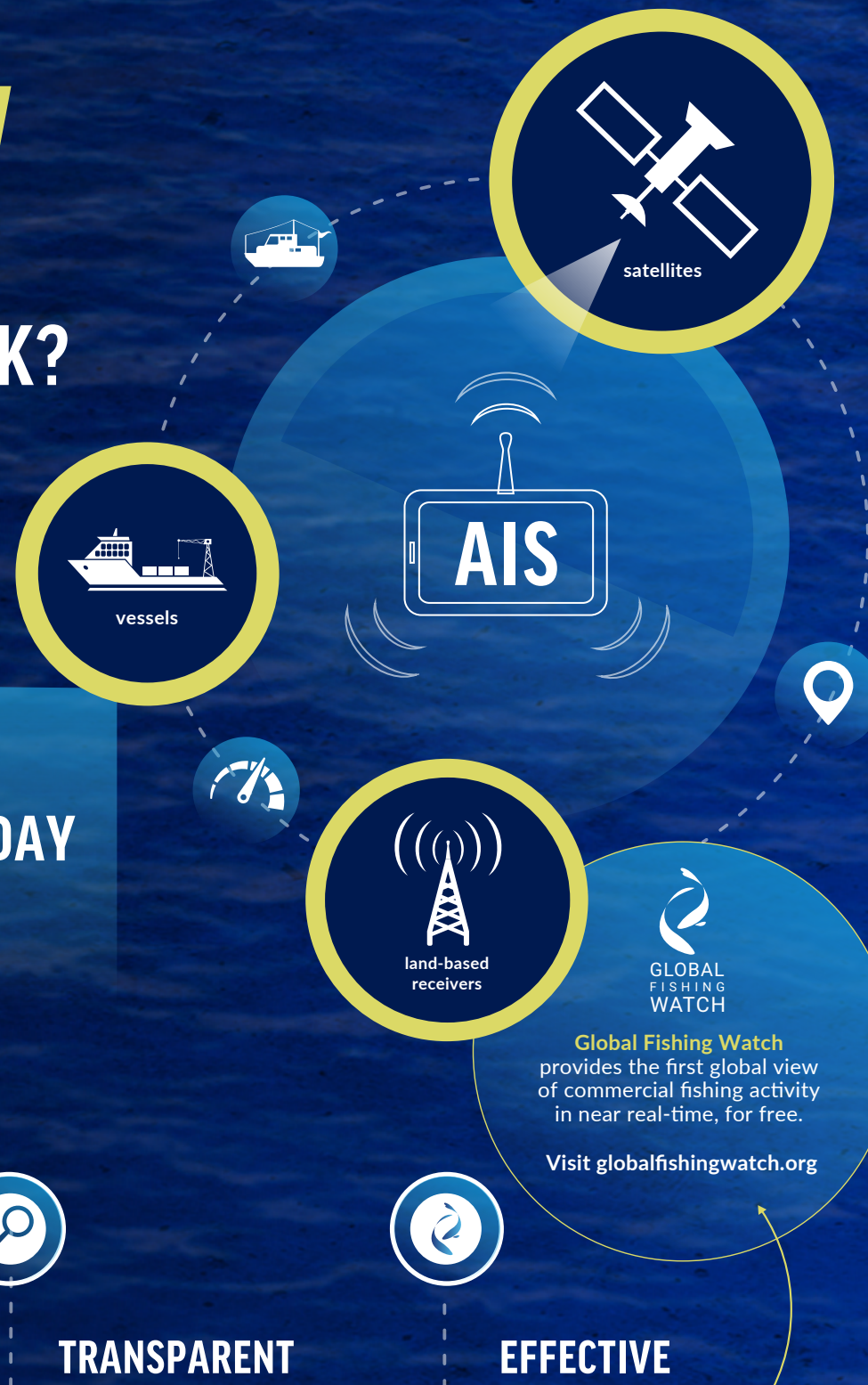
**INFORMATION**  
Exchange navigational data



**MONITORING**  
Locate and identify vessels, track movements

## 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

## 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.

- 65'/20m**: The United States requires its fishing vessels over 65 feet long, or about 20 meters, to have AIS.
- 49'/15m**: 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

- 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

## 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

## 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.