#### **Technical information sheet**

# **Satellite remote sensing**

The satellite remote sensing service, provided by OSRL in partnership with MDA, offers vital situational awareness during oil spill incidents. Satellite remote sensing, using Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), enables all-weather, day-and-night imagery to guide spill response strategies by detecting oil on water and monitoring offshore conditions.

# **Key Facts**

- Satellite-based RADAR provides wide-area coverage up to 250,000 km<sup>2</sup>
- All-weather, 24/7 operation, including nighttime imaging capabilities
- GIS-ready products, enhancing response coordination and situational awareness
- Access to both historical and current radar and optical satellite imagery



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AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE

DEPENDS ON

Specifications	
Primary satellites	RADARSAT-1 and RADARSAT-2, in polar, sun-synchronous orbits
Coverage	Standard imaging covers 90,000 km²; extended areas up to 250,000 km²
Environmental detection	Ideal in wind conditions from 3-12 m/s for optimal slick detection
Imagery output	SAR detects surface textures and can identify ships, rigs, and oil slicks



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#### **Technical information sheet**

# **Satellite remote sensing**

The satellite remote sensing service is available globally to OSRL members.

### **Mobilisation**

Available 24/7, with rapid tasking and acquisition via OSRL's standardised processes. Contact OSRL for mobilisation, and products are generally delivered in near realtime.

# Applications

Supports tactical decision-making for oil spill response, including slick detection, operational planning, and tasking additional surveillance assets.

### **Benefits**

Provides wide-area coverage, minimises the need for on-site monitoring, and delivers consistent surveillance across varying weather conditions. Widely accepted by regulatory agencies and operational stakeholders.

# Limitations

Optimal slick detection occurs in moderate wind conditions (3-12 m/s). Detection may be challenging in very calm or rough seas, and data may require skilled analysis.

# **Outputs and deliverables**

- GIS-compatible data formats: ArcGIS shapefiles, Google Earth KML/KMZ files, and GeoTIFF imagery
- Wind speed and direction analysis, oil on water detection, and identification of offshore assets
- Detailed satellite imagery reports with location-specific data and confidence levels





Confidence Category

Wind Direction



Oil Analysis of SAR

ld	Latitude	Longitude	Confidence	Area_km	Dist_km
2	25.7129	54.11633	2	0.6	14.98
1	25.80229	55.67153	2	1.4	11.72
3	25.6244	54.20943	2	2.1	14.73
8	25.23177	53.95225	2	8.5	19.91
4	25.70096	54.32707	3	1.4	13.64
6	25.48627	54.12946	3	2	16.96
5	25.59975	54.36366	3	3.3	14.3
7	25.06326	53.88943	3	2	22.79

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