

Terms of Reference for the Irish MARSUR Working Group

Introduction:

The Maritime Co-ordination Group of Assistant Secretaries has instructed that the issue of a coordinated approach to maritime surveillance be addressed at National level and has convened an inter-Departmental Maritime Surveillance Coordination Group (MarSur CG) under the Chair of the Department of Transport.

The Maritime Surveillance Co-ordination Group has created a working group to develop the technical and data-sharing framework to enable the creation of a common information-sharing environment for the Irish maritime domain.

It is accepted that the technical capacity to share information is present but requires further development and that there are challenges in the legal frameworks to allow this sharing take place. Each of these communities should be given the possibility to receive and supply information, where appropriate, at national level from international, regional, community, military and internal security systems.

MarSur WG will:

1. Be required to develop common rules and standards at national level to optimise the exchange of information between the different user communities, taking account of work being carried out those at European Commission level.
2. Be required to develop rules and standards at national level to optimise the exchange of information between the different user communities
3. Be guided by procedures adopted at EU level in relation to maritime information exchange

Deliverables up to December 2009

1. Initiate the drafting of an agreement document that specifically outlines the extent of information to be shared.
2. Scope and if possible the most suitable IT platform and resources required to facilitate the development of a system to disseminate data electronically
3. Engage with Data Protection Agency
4. Track ongoing development of marine data acquisition systems
5. Commence discussions with VTS providers in ports and offshore installations and explore fusion possibilities.
6. Create a time based work plan for 2010 with identified KPI's which will include
 - Identify the technical platform and solution that will host the integrated maritime operations picture.
 - Create conceptual and technical frameworks for information sharing with user defined access rights. It is envisaged as a secure environment with all relevant information links allowing quick access to user defined maritime data.
 - Engage with legal entities and Data Protection Agency in order to identify how best to limit the existing legal obstacles for information sharing.
 - Confirm what elements of the marine operations picture are required by each participating organisation and formulate a standard agreement governing the sharing of these elements.
 - Identify potential links to other databases for inclusion
 - Identify other actors or processes that may benefit from access to MarSur
 - Generate user access levels/profiles.