

DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL VESSELS OF INTEREST DATABASE



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THE VALUE OF A VESSEL OF INTEREST DATABASE

"Information is the oil of the 21st century, and analytics is the combustion engine"

Peter Sondergaard

- Goal: To maintain a structured
 - continually updated record of vessels
 - that may pose a security, safety, or compliance concern.
- A Vol database is not just a static list
 - Dynamic intelligence repository that helps analysts and operators:
 - Detect, classify, and monitor suspect vessels
 - Coordinate interagency responses (navy, coast guard, customs, fisheries)
 - Support legal processes (evidence, prosecutions, IUU tracking)

VOI DATABASE DESIGN PROCESS

Step 1: Devise policies that Govern the Databases

Step 2: Identify what information is required in the Vessel of Interest Database

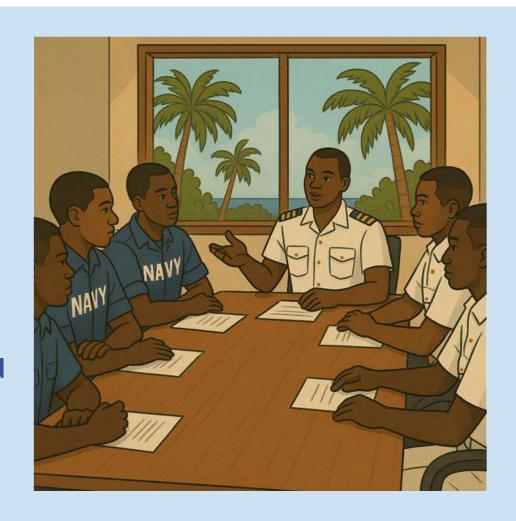
Step 3: Identify Sources of Information

Step 4: Define Strategies to Acquire the Information



VOI DATABASE DESIGN PROCESS Step 1 Policy Decisions

- Where the database is located
- Who is going to administer it
- Who is going to have access to information
- How the system is going to be secured
- Whether the information storage will be cloud-based
- Whether it will be interoperable





VOI DATABASE DESIGN PROCESS Step 2 Data to be Collected 1/3

Vessels Identification Data

- Vessel Name (Current and Former) e.g., FV Al-Hassan, ex-Blue Star
- IMO / MMSI / Call Sign IMO 8901234, MMSI 636011234
- Flag State (Current and History) Liberia → Tanzania
- IMO Registration TypE Fishing, Cargo, Tug, Yacht, etc.
- Owner / Operator / Beneficial Owner
- Registration Port e.g., Mombasa, Port Louis
- Hull / Photo Reference Image or link to satellite imagery





VOI DATABASE DESIGN PROCESS Step 2 Data to be Collected 2/3

Activity / Behavioural Data

- Last Known Position & Track AIS, LRIT, IORIS tracking data
- Voyage Route / Port History Pattern of port calls and unusual deviations
- Communication Behaviour AIS off/on patterns, spoofing, identity swapping
- Cargo / Fishing Gear Declared vs. observed (e.g., trawler carrying containers)
- Encounters Rendezvous, ship-to-ship transfers, meetings with unregistered vessels
- Satellite Observations Dark vessel detections, radar images



VOI DATABASE DESIGN PROCESS Step 2 Data to be Collected 3/3

Legal / Intelligence Information

- Reason for Interest Piracy support, drug trafficking, IUU fishing, sanctions evasion, etc.
- Reporting Source RMIFC alert, INTERPOL notice, coastal state report
- Incident Reports Date, location, summary (e.g., "Observed off Socotra, 17 Sep 2025, AIS off
- Evidence Links Photos, statements, case numbers
- Status Blacklisted



SOURCES OF INFORMATION Step 3

Option 1: International and Regional Information Fusion Centres

- Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (Madagascar)
- Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre (Yemen)
- MSCIO EUNAVFOR ATALANTA
- UKMTO

Option 2: International Organisation Databases

- Fisheries
 - UN FAO Global Information Exchange System
 - Regional Fisheries Management Arrangement
- International Maritime Organisation
 - Global Integrated Shipping Information System
- INTERPOL
 - 124/7 Database and Notices (esp. Purple Notices)





INFORMATION ACQUISITION Step 3

Option 3: MDA Systems

- State Owned Systems
 - SeaVision
 - NISHAR
 - VRMTC
- Not-for-Profit Systems
 - Skytruth
 - Skylight
 - Subscription Systems
 - MAS
 - Windward
 - Starboard

Option 4: Information-Exchange Platforms

- SEAVISION
- MERCURY
- IRIS
- NISHAR
- IORIS

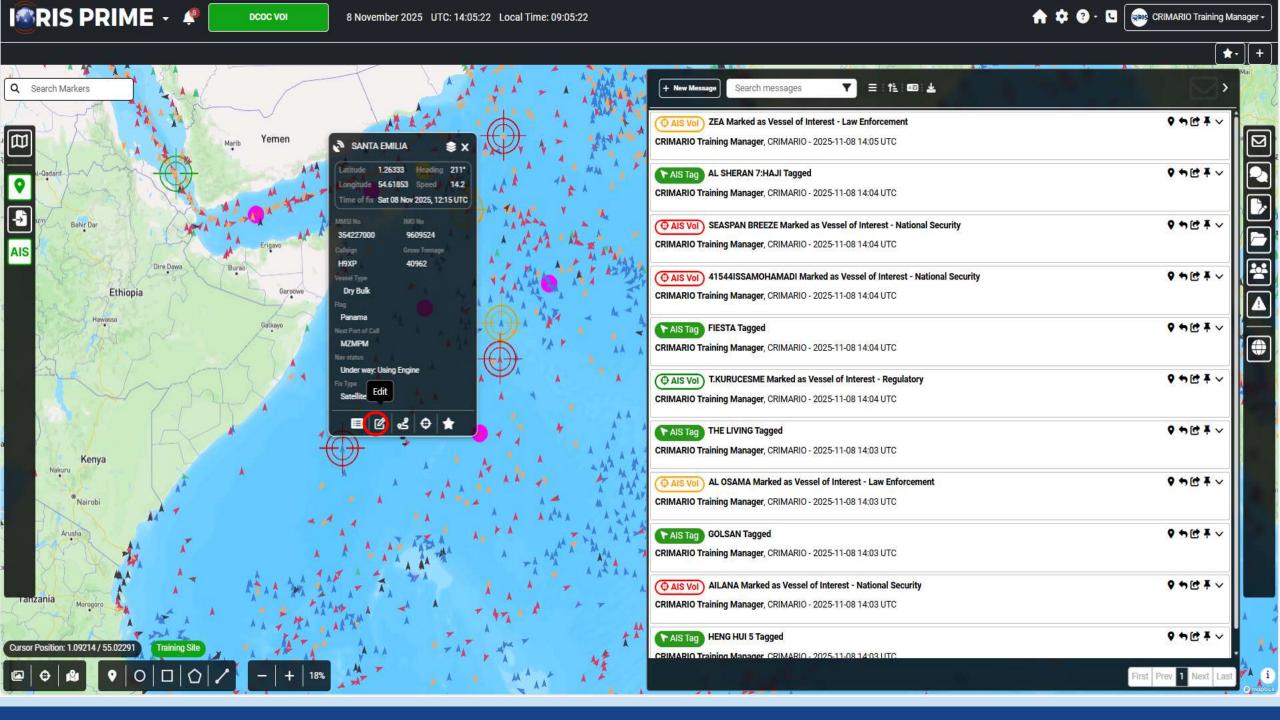


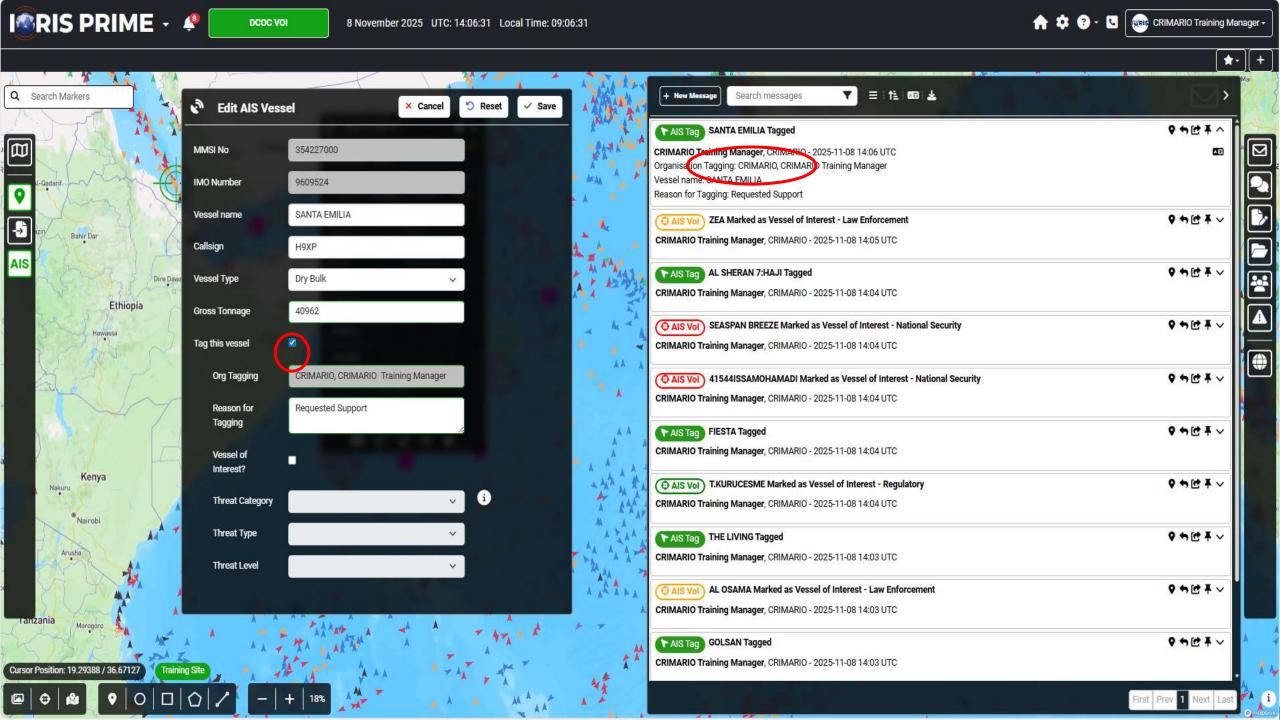


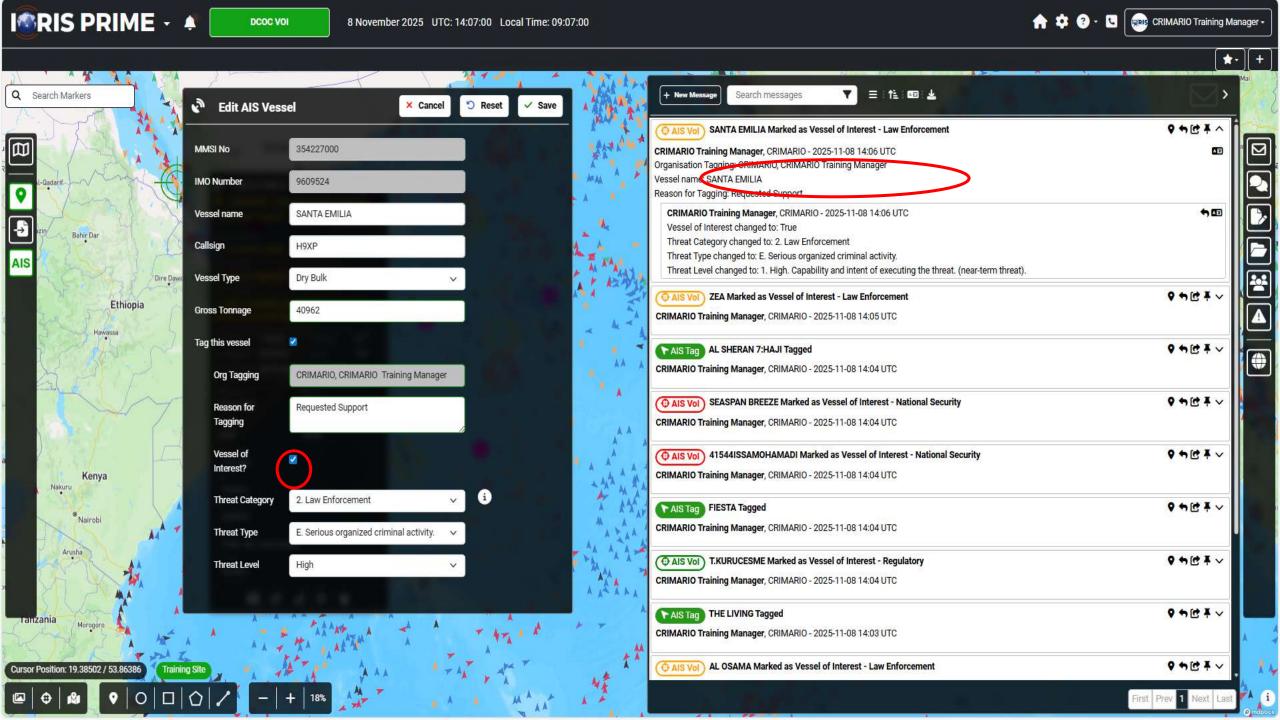
IORIS INFORMATION EXCHANGE TOOL CHARACTERISTICS

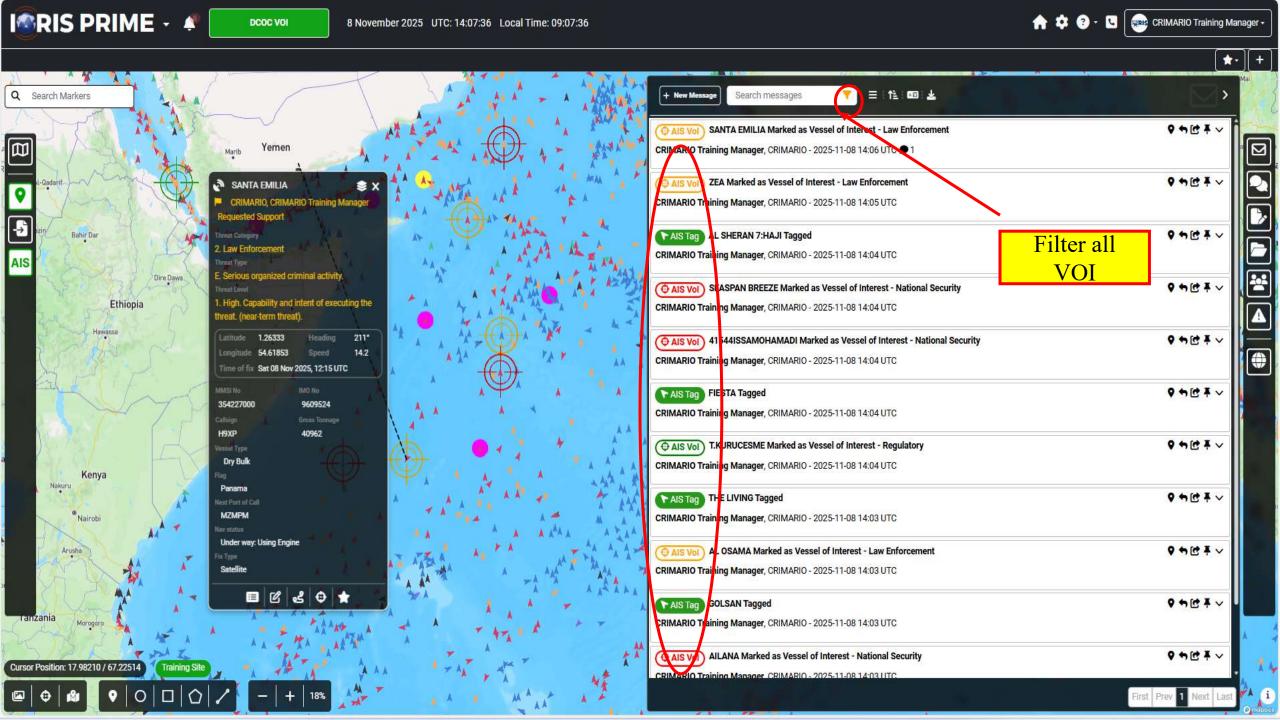
- Neutral and Secure
- Web-based
- Messages and Private Chat
- Connected to an Interactive map (Crisis Response Project)
 - Possibility to tag Vessels of Interest
 - Categorised by threat level
- Compartmentalisation of Information
 - Restricted/autonomous "Community Areas."
 - Access to each Community Area is by designation only.

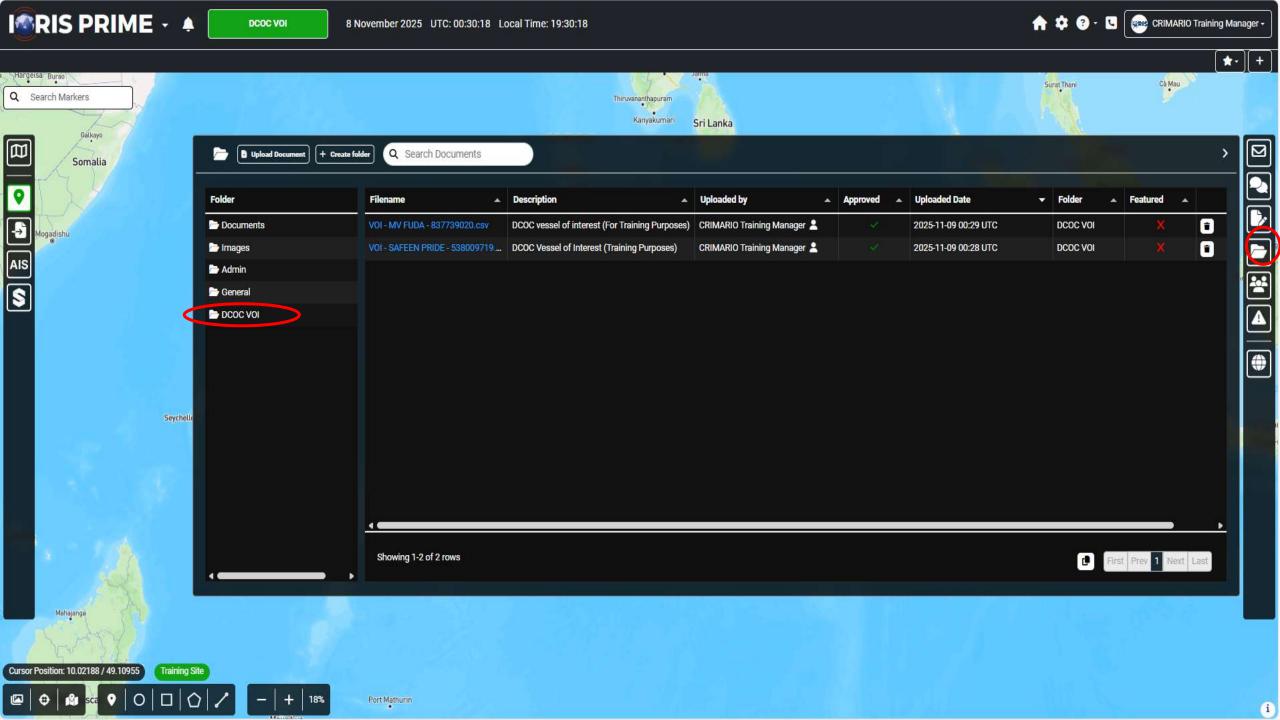














CONCLUDING REMARKS



- Maritime security cannot be achieved in isolation.
- Sound databases must be the backbone of maritime security
 - Turn scattered information into intelligence
 - and intelligence into action.
 - Enabling navies, coast guards and law enforcement agencies
 - to anticipate threats, respond faster

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success" – Henry Ford





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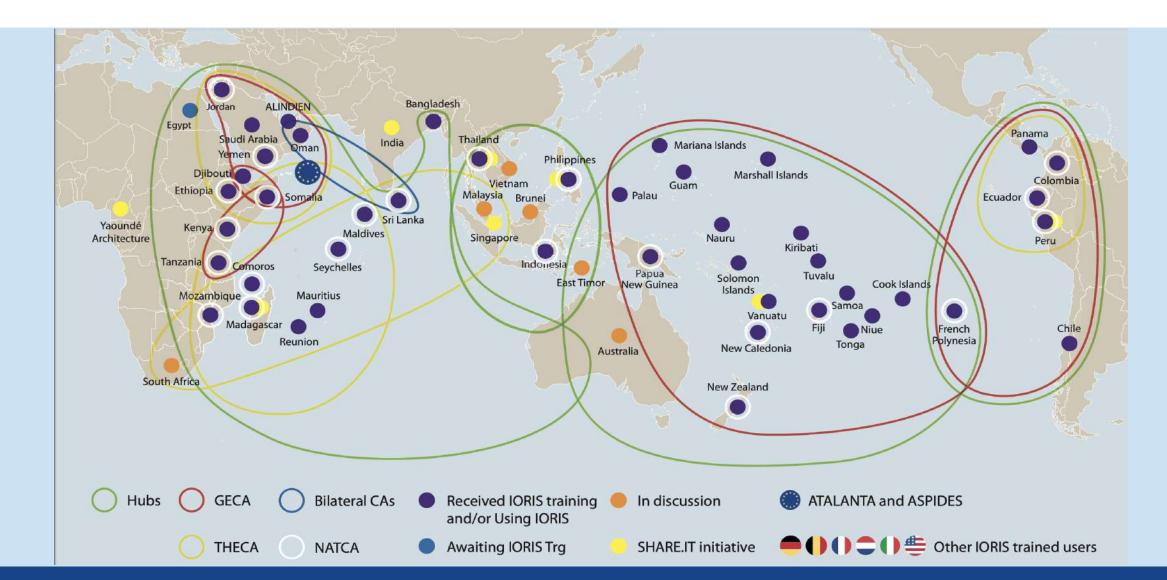






IORIS INSTITUTIONALISATION State-of-Play







THE GOVERNING PRINCIPLES - VESSELS OF INTEREST DATABASE



- Collaboration is Power
 - Regional databases and joint information-sharing platforms are not simply tools
 - Symbols of our shared will
- Transparency and Trust
 - Transparency is not a vulnerability
 - Strategic advantage.
- Information as a Force for Good

"The best way to predict the future is to create it — together." - Peter Drucker