



USE CASE

THE CMS SERVICE SUPPORTS THE SPANISH CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES IN THE INVESTIGATION AND APPREHENSION OF A FISHING VESSEL TRANSPORTING DRUGS

The Spanish Directorate of Customs Surveillance (Departamento de Aduanas e II.EE., AEAT) had longstanding suspicions that the Spanish fishing vessel Gure Leire was transporting drugs to northern Spain. The vessel had been subject to ongoing monitoring in the framework of the ongoing 'Pascal Atlántico 2019' joint air and sea surveillance operation between the French and Spanish customs services, also supported by the CMS service.

At the end of April and beginning of May 2019, intelligence was received that there would be a transshipment of cocaine taking place somewhere in the north Atlantic, between an unknown vessel departing from Suriname, and the Gure Leire.

The Spanish Customs made a short notice request for CMS services, to try and capture the transshipment taking place. The satellite image, delivered on 16 May, showed the encounter between an unknown vessel and the Gure Leire. As a result, it was decided that the Spanish counterdrug special operations vessel Fulmar should be sent to intercept the fishing vessel on its voyage towards Spain.

The Gure Leire was intercepted around 1,000 miles west of Vigo on 27 May 2019. Following a search, the vessel was found to be transporting 84 packages of cocaine weighing approximately 2,500 kilograms which were hidden in the cold storage room of the vessel. The seven crew members were arrested. The fishing vessel was accompanied by the Customs boat to Spain, where it arrived on 3 June. In the meantime, authorities conducted searches in on shore locations linked to the investigation.

The vessel seized, together with the detainees and the drugs, have been brought before the court. The operation and investigations are still ongoing.

More information is available here: https://www.agenciatributaria.es/AEAT.internet/en_gb/Inicio/La_Agencia_Tributaria/Sala_de_prensa/Notas_de_prensa/2019/La_Agencia_Tributaria_intercepta_un_pesquero_espanol_con_2_500_kilos_de_cocaina_que_se_dirigia_a_Galicia.shtml



The CMS satellite images above show the 'Guire Leire' and an unknown vessel in close proximity in the middle of the north Atlantic.



The fishing vessel 'Gure Leire' being towed by the Spanish Customs vessel 'Fulmar'.

Get in touch for more information

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CREDITS

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