

ENHANCED CAPABILITIES TO PROTECT AMERICA AND ITS COASTLINES

The United States has over 95,471 miles of coastline. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is responsible for the safety, security, and stewardship of the coastline's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). The USCG is also responsible for Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), which is the effective understanding of anything associated with the global maritime domain that could influence the security, safety, economy, or environment. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Air and Marine Operations (AMO) and the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) require MDA to achieve maritime border security. Numerous threats exist potentially endangering American citizens and their coastlines, from drug and human traffic smuggling to piracy and illegal fishing. USCG and CBP mitigate these threats to Americans and enhance their safety and security, and law enforcement operations through MDA.

By enhancing unrelenting maritime surveillance capabilities in U.S. ports and along coastlines, and improving dark (illegal) vessel detection, tracking and interdiction capabilities, the USCG and CBP will be able to achieve greater security of our ports and coastlines.

LEVERAGING SOLUTIONS TO ACHIEVE MDA FOR USCG AND CBP AMO

Improvements in sensor technologies are constant, introducing opportunities to improve maritime surveillance for USCG and CBP. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) established the new MDA Sensors and Research activity to leverage advances in sensor technology to increase Department and DHS component MDA capabilities.

The MDA Sensors and Research activity will use Southern California and the Puget Sound region of Washington State as proving grounds to identify and assess sensors and systems and share data appropriate for the full spectrum of maritime operations. This testing will focus on technologies that should be applicable to various regions across the U.S.

US-CAN Maritime Information Sharing (Puget Sound)



SoCal Maritime Surveillance (USCG Sector San Diego)



The MDA Sensors and Research activity will also explore commercially available, persistent maritime surveillance technologies and assess their utility as part of a system-of-systems approach to MDA within DHS.

The capabilities identified and assessed through the MDA Sensors and Research activity will provide DHS customers with new maritime surveillance capabilities that enhance MDA in the Southern California and the Puget Sound.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Initial Requirements Development Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Fourth Quarter (Q4).
- MDA Sensors Technology Survey Results Report delivery to DHS and interagency stakeholders (FY21 Q1).

UPCOMING MILESTONES

- Technology Demonstrations and Assessments (FY22, FY23).
- Long-Range Broad Agency Announcement (LRBAA) Technology Testing Event in SoCal and/or Puget Sound areas (FY23).