

## 30 years of Belgian North Sea aerial surveillance: evolution, trends, and developments

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This poster describes the various missions and results, trends and developments of the Belgian program for aerial surveillance over the North Sea over a period of 30 years, from its start in 1991 up to and including 2021. These facts and figures outline that the substantive challenges of aerial surveillance above the sea are and will remain innumerable in the years to come: continuing the fight against sea and air pollution from ships in one of the busiest shipping areas in the world (including accidental pollution), ensuring dedicated airborne support in maritime emergency situations in the framework of the emergency and intervention plans for the North Sea, contributing to the sustainable management of the North Sea and sustainable use of living and non-living natural marine resources, the protection and conservation of marine biodiversity and ecosystems, the monitoring of human activities under a permit regime and/or organized within the framework of the new marine spatial plan, the efficient enforcement of a new European external border (post-BREXIT), promoting maritime security, offering support to search and rescue operations, and much more. The medium-term need for renewal of the remote sensing aircraft offers a unique opportunity for the Belgian Coast Guard structure to renew its strategic vision and increase its cooperation on airborne surveillance, and to modernise and expand its surveillance capacity with the aim to effectively deal with current and future needs at sea, in support of the various Coast Guard functions.

### **Keywords**

Aerial Surveillance; MARPOL; Coast Guard