

Clean Seas: marine pollution monitoring from space

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Abstract

Integration of satellite remote sensing into the routine monitoring of European coastal waters has been identified by the European Commission as an issue of strategic importance. Clean Seas is a methodological research project which started on December 1, 1996 and is part funded under Framework IV by DG XII. Clean Seas is addressing the problem of reliable identification of marine pollutants using data from space borne sensors. The project makes extensive use of ERS SAR and ATSR data to investigate the correlation of observed pollution features not just from these instruments in isolation, but in conjunction with the NOAA AVHRR and ADEOS OCTS data sets as well. The project has brought together Satellite Observing Systems and the Southampton Oceanography Centre in the UK, ACRI and Ecole des Mines de Paris in France as well as the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, Ispra in Italy, and the Universities of Hamburg (Germany), Stockholm (Sweden) and Catalunya (Spain). The ultimate aim of the programme is to assess the overall contribution that the complete Earth observing system can make to the routine monitoring of marine pollution