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# **Maritime Operations to Detect IUU Fishing**

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**30 November 2022**

**OGS 2022  
Noumea**



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# Introductions + Mission

SQNLDR Geordie Fisher, New Zealand Defence Force

- seconded to the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) as the Surveillance, Planning and Liaison Officer (SPLO), based out of Honiara at the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre (RFSC)

Marsh Maebiru

- Full-time Intelligence Analyst at the RFSC

- **RFSC Mission:** All FFA Members working together to counter Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing across the region.



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# Operations

- ❑ 4 Regional Operations per year and an ongoing Operation called OP365
- ❑ Utilise various assets for Maritime, Control and Surveillance (MCS) activities:
  - ❑ Ships
  - ❑ Aircrafts and
  - ❑ Remote Sensing





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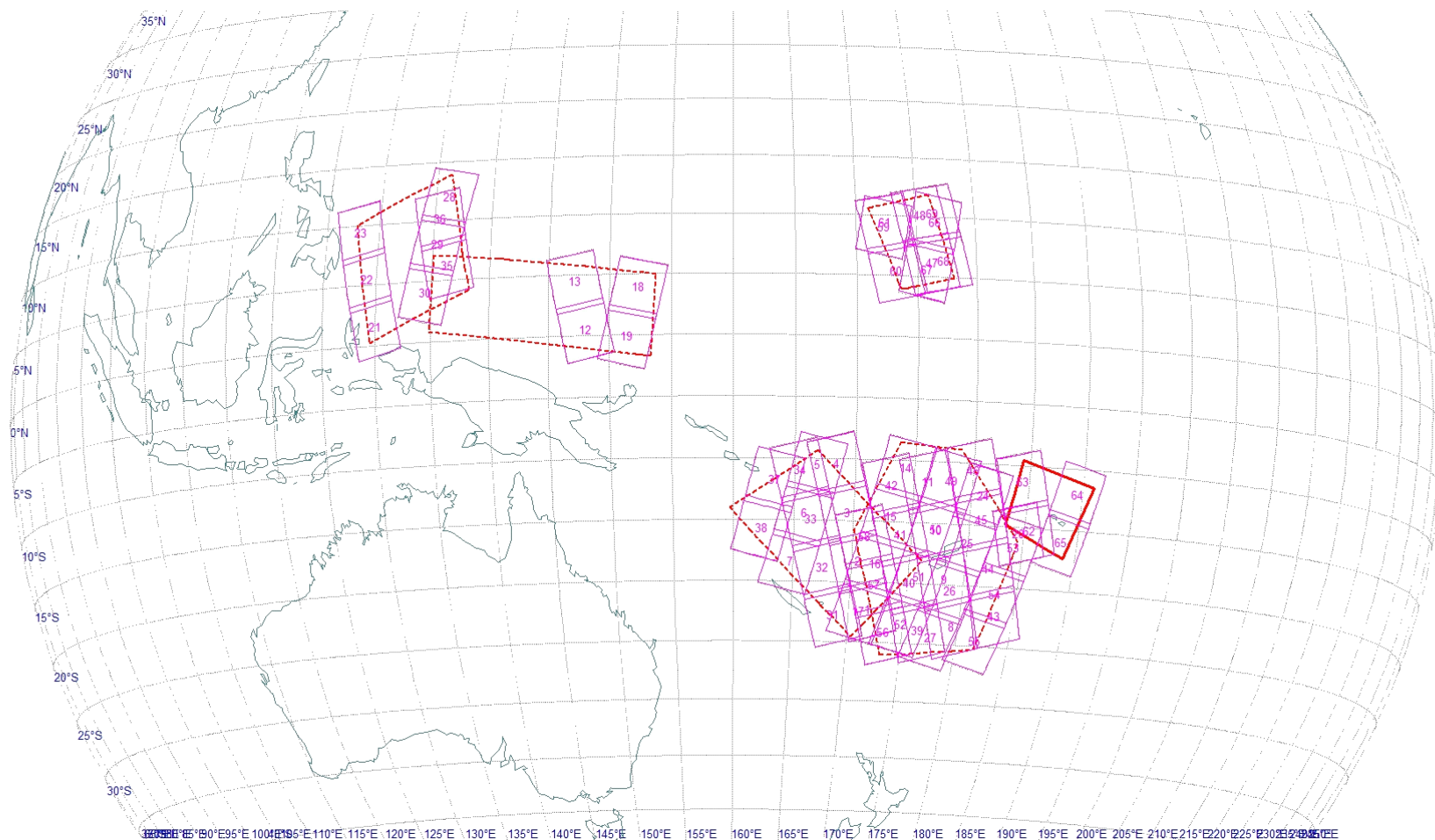
# Assets





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# Remote Sensing

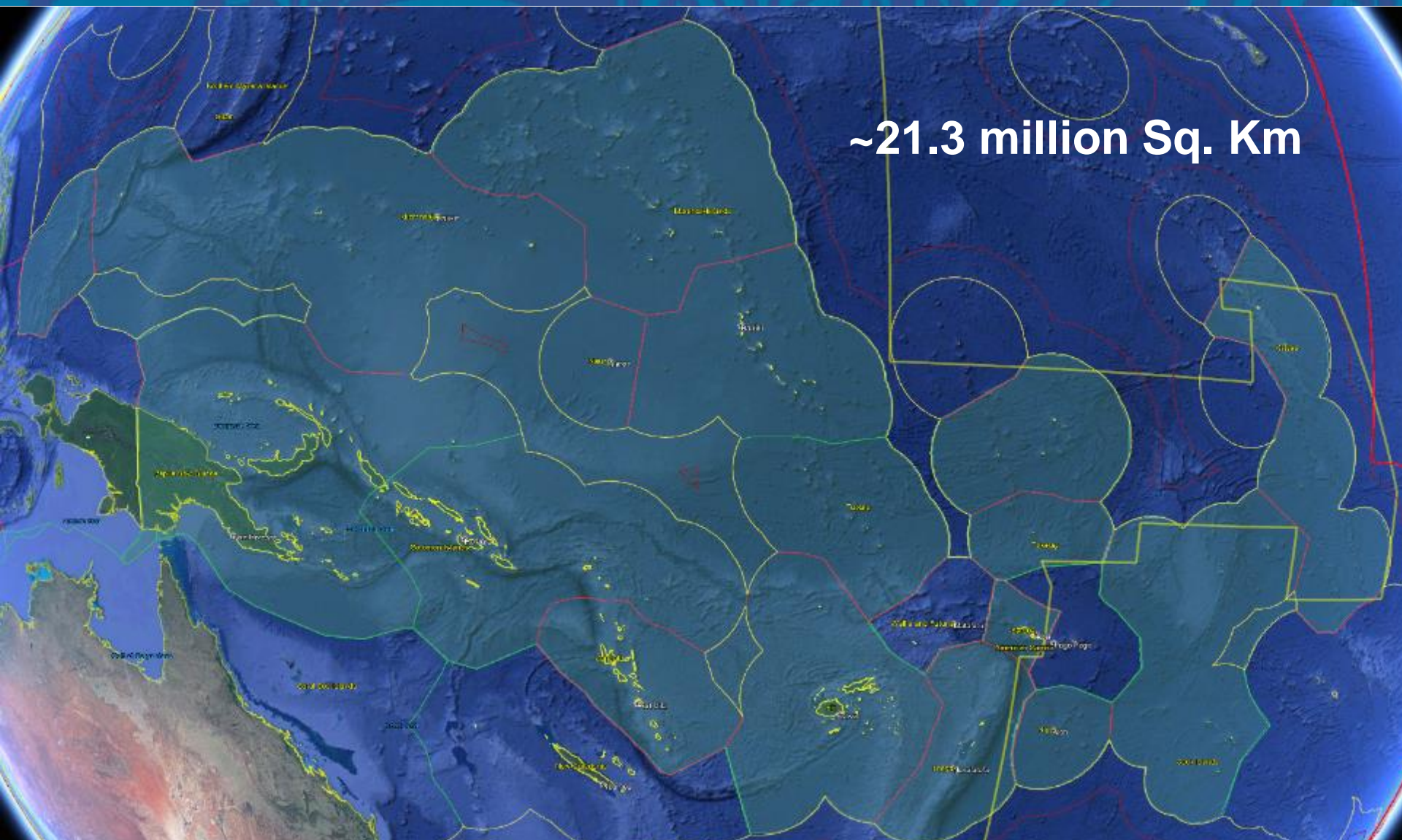






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# Area of Operations





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# Why use?

## ☐ Why do we use Remote Sensing?

- cover areas where we don't have assets
- advance Intel before asset deployment
- random checks of areas







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# IUU Fishing

- ☐ Scan requested for western portion of HSP1
- ☐ Results of scan showed a number of uncorrelated detections
- ☐ Aerial asset coverage of area revealed a number of vessels conducting IUU fishing



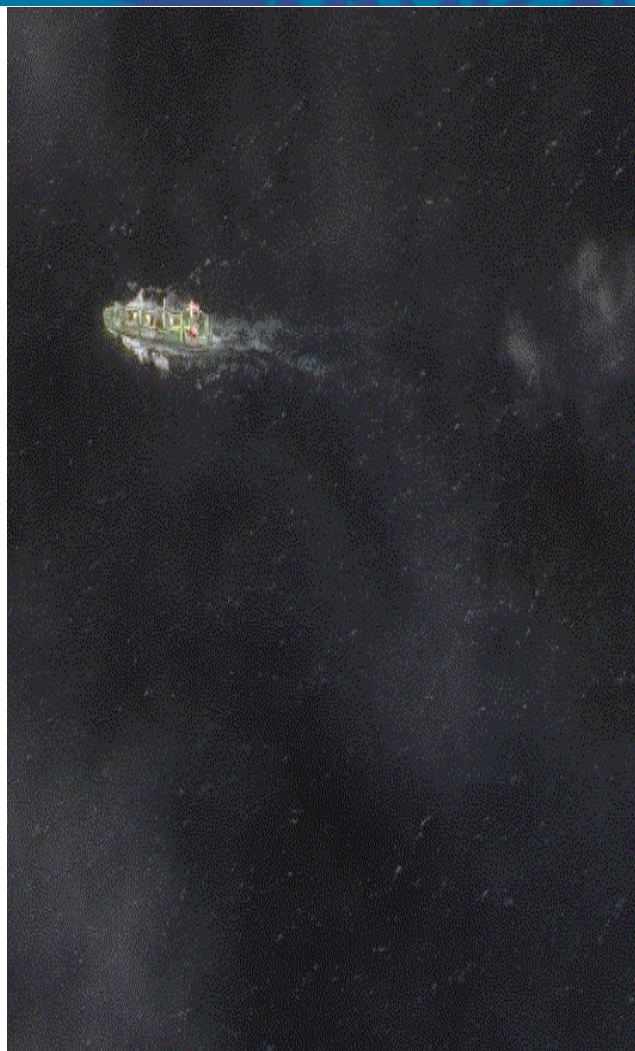
**Legend:**  
Red squares - Uncorrelated detections  
Red circles - Aerial asset sightings.  
Image - dark vessel sighting by Aerial Asset.





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# Satellite Imagery







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# Limitations

- ❑ For IUU fishing, coverage can be complete (remote and aerial) but still need to board and inspect. Number one problem is misreporting.







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# Summary

## ☐ Is Remote Sensing useful for Operations?

- Yes-
  - good for covering remote areas
  - Supports assets and assists with Intelligence led Operations

## ☐ Is it the complete answer?

- No-
  - Still need to board
  - Unlikely to detect everything, like small wooden boats not using VHF or radar



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# QUESTIONS

