



SKYLIGHT

A product of A12

Impact Report

June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025





Message from the Program Lead

Skylight's mission is to deliver premier data and AI-driven analytics through multiple platforms to under-resourced states to support their enforcement and compliance actions toward reducing IUU fishing.

Providing actionable data that directly supports frontline decision-making is a humble but vital role we play for those tackling this wicked problem. Many of the individuals using Skylight are in uniform and in humble roles themselves in government, not-for-profits, or investigative media, doing their best under challenging conditions, facing limited resources, and navigating complex regulatory landscapes. Yet they persist, day in and day out.

Over the past year, I've been extremely proud to see Skylight enable more real-world impact than ever before. We developed solutions that were too risky for other institutions to try, and we challenged ourselves to build what our users show us they need, even if it has never been done before. The results speak for themselves.

While the oceans remain the least funded Sustainable Development Goal, the partners we collaborate with are the definition of "doing more with less". We will continue delivering AI-powered insights to help our partners stretch their limited resources. We also plan to follow their lead in these coming years by expanding our commitment to other issues impacting marine life and coastal communities without scaling our own costs.

Thank you to everyone who has cared about the ocean in their own way and joined us for the ride,

Namrata Kolla



Impact





By the Numbers



39,000+ kg of illegally caught fish seized



7+ fishing licenses suspended



\$660,000+ USD of fines collected



38+ vessels interdicted and fines issued



28+ human lives rescued



1 RFMO IUU Listing

Source: Solicited surveys and unsolicited, reported feedback

By the Numbers

55+ detections of suspicious or illegal activities

Resources are not always available to act when Skylight surfaces suspicious activities, but the awareness helps our partners with future preparation and deterrence.



Source: May 2025 survey



“Skylight has been very helpful as part of an enforcement or compliance action for the Fiji Police Force's Water Police Unit. Earlier this year, the Unit utilized Skylight to monitor a Vessel of Interest that entered Fiji's Exclusive Economic Zone. This vessel had been flagged by the Pacific Fusion Centre. The platform clearly showed the VOI entering Fiji's EEZ... engaging in rendezvous with multiple other vessels within Fiji's territorial waters.

The Water Police Unit compiled a detailed brief based on Skylight data and provided it to the National Command Center. A dedicated special task force was established to monitor the VOI and its activities within Fiji's waters. The Unit was prepared to intercept and board the VOI. However, the only naval patrol vessel capable of such an operation was undergoing maintenance in Australia at the time, preventing a physical boarding.

While a direct enforcement outcome like an arrest or immediate seizure wasn't possible due to the unavailability of the intercept vessel... This intelligence, obtained through Skylight, is considered highly valuable for future operations and potential enforcement actions involving this or similar Vessels of Interest.”

- Fiji Water Police Unit

Regular recognition of Skylight as a key maritime data source and platform

Source: Unsolicited, reported feedback



Australia National University, National Security College ([Full Report, Publication in The Australian](#)):

Democratisation of information and intelligence: For smaller or less wealthy countries around the Indian Ocean, the proliferation of alternative information-sharing systems can be an important way of democratising maritime information and intelligence, meaning that they are less reliant on large countries. Sri Lanka, for example, is the biggest country user of the privately operated **Skylight** system. Indeed, web-based platforms could allow such countries to leap-frog the older and expensive ‘bricks and mortar’ systems by giving users timely access to high-quality operational intelligence at lower cost.

Bellingcat

International Labour Organization [report](#):



International
Labour
Organization

8.7
Accelerator Lab

Organizations, companies	Technologies used	How does the technology apply to forced labour or other labour rights abuses?	Website
Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Skylight is a maritime monitoring and analysis software using AIS, synthetic aperture radar (satellite radar, or SAR), computer vision, and machine learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Skylight is a tool for surfacing suspicious events (e.g., illegal or unreported transshipments) in the maritime domain. IUU fishing is the primary focus but Skylight can	support@skylight.global skylight.global/

Sea Shepherd Global

The International Monitoring and Control Surveillance Network

United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime



Raising the whole playing field

Changing the paradigm for how remote-sensing
technology is used for enforcement

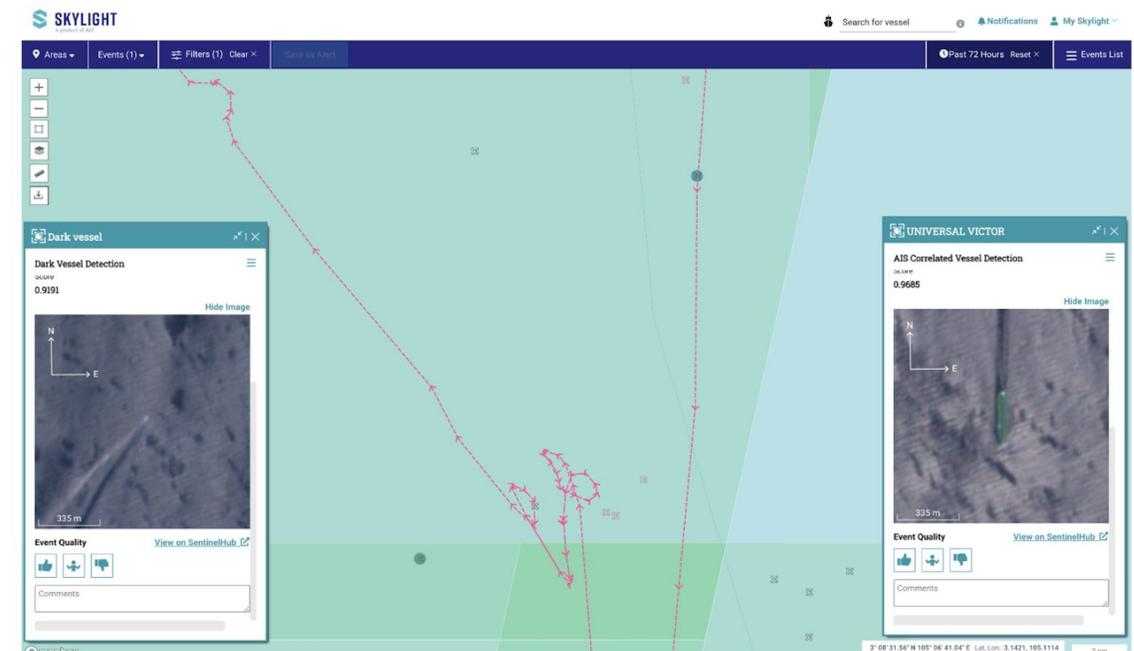


First system to detect vessels at a global-scale from optical imagery in public satellites

Prior to adding Sentinel-2 and Landsat 8/9, the standard public sources were limited to Synthetic Aperture Radar and Night Lights, which provide little information relative to color images.

First Real-Time System for Detecting Ships in Public Optical Imagery Globally

With the new capabilities, the ability to discern details in color provides the information needed to advance how we protect our ocean.



Sentinel-2 optical imagery, as seen in SkyLight.

First system to fully automate cueing optical imagery after AI-generated events

Before this breakthrough, ordering optical imagery over the open ocean was rare due to poor cost-benefit outcomes:

- Image footprints are small, and partners often lack the precise data needed to capture vessels effectively.
- Personnel and legal agreements are rarely available at the right time and place to make urgent orders.
- As a result, the use of high-res imagery was mostly limited to predictable cases like tracking known vessels into ports.

With our breakthrough, imagery can be triggered for dynamic activities like transshipments and illegal fishing—without needing prior knowledge of where, when, or who. Analysts simply set parameters and let the system run, making real-world use far more feasible.



 MONGABAY



Panama conducts large illegal fishing bust in protected Pacific waters



EDWARD CARVER

28 MAR 2025 CENTRAL AMERICA

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Fastest system in the world for detecting fishing and dark vessels with AI

The speed at which we alert on fishing activities and “dark” vessels globally is the fastest in the world as far as we know.* We can detect:

- AI-based fishing within 15 minutes
- Vessels appearing in Night Lights in as little as 2 hours
- Vessels appearing in public optical and satellite radar imagery in as little as 3 hours

*Fact check us, all our models are [public](#)!

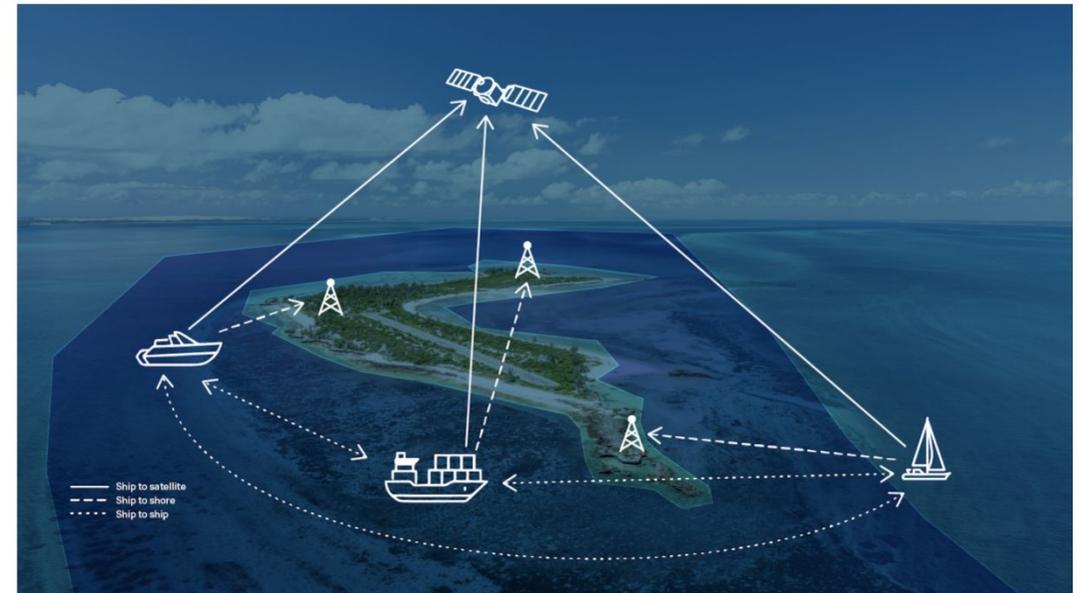


AI Model Offers Conservationists New Tools to Protect Fisheries, Wildlife at Scale

Mar 03, 2025

👍 +6 Like 💬 Discuss (0)

By [Elias Wolfberg](#)





We detect vessels not carrying AIS in 100% of the world's EEZs *



137 M square kilometers of ocean is captured in the world's EEZs



1.3 M vessels detected in our satellite imagery every month



2-4 days – how regularly coastal regions get refreshed data about vessels in their waters

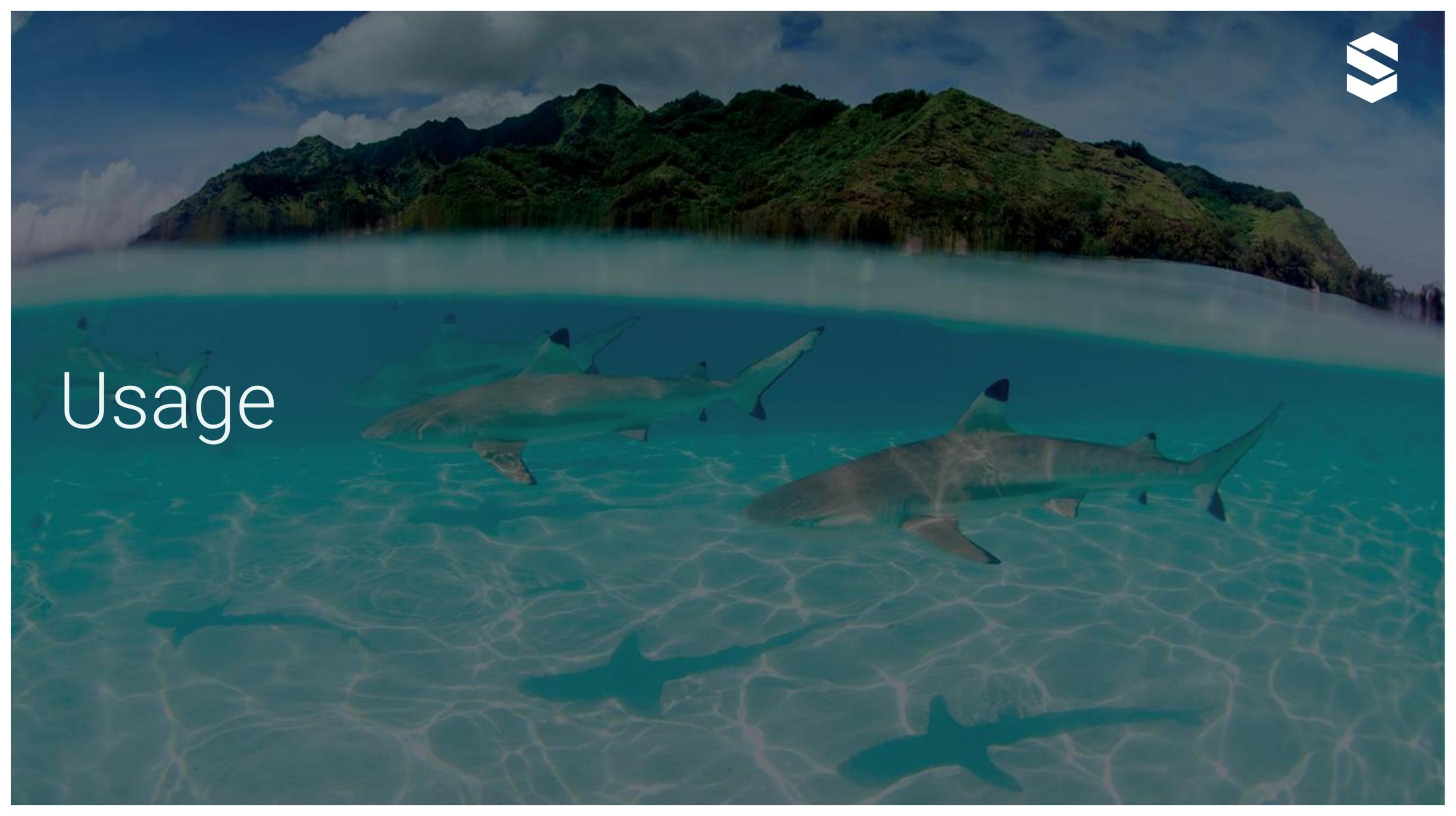


1.9 TB gigabytes of satellite imagery processed daily

* This excludes Night Lights, which provides global coverage on its own



Usage





We are serving organizations globally



170+ organizations actively using our data, primarily in enforcement & compliance



25+ other interfaces displaying our data



1,100+ new account requests fulfilled



10+ government agencies who have fused our data into national systems



Events Investigated by Our Users Each Month



~12,500 vessel detections in satellite imagery



~8,500 vessel entries into areas of interest



~3,500 rendezvous events



~2,100 potential fishing activities

We have grown our community of partners



WILDAID



blue ventures
beyond conservation



OCEANS⁵



MAXAR



What's Next?

Responding to other threats facing our oceans. While combating IUUF remains at the forefront of what we do – we plan to scale the product we have developed to other issues important to the Skylight community.

Enabling others developing AI to monitor and protect our oceans by making accessible the same tools and infrastructure we have used to build Skylight.

