



## World Oceans Day:

**Nets, Traps, Lines – Connecting Fishing Gear by Satellites to Limit Plastic Pollution and help fishermen in their daily activities**

## Press Release June 8, 2020

With the celebration of World Oceans Day on 8 June, CLS, supported by IFREMER and CNES, is deploying fishing nets connected by satellite for the first time in the Mediterranean and in French overseas territories. This solution from space will limit plastic pollution and help fishermen in their daily activities. In European waters, more than a third of plastic pollution comes from fishing equipment (source: International Maritime Organization).



### Fishing gear: a major source of plastic pollution

Every year, 640,000 tonnes of nets, lines, life jackets and other ropes are lost or abandoned in the oceans by the fishing industry. Most of this plastic debris is in addition to the millions of tonnes of waste dumped into the sea each year. This "ghost gear" accounts for 10% of the plastic pollution in the oceans.

### A Connected Ocean: an ecosystem of actors committed to sustainable seas

Environmental pollution, threat to biodiversity, and an economic loss for the fishing industry: How to fight against this scourge? As part of the European Connected Ocean initiatives to map and digitize all of our seas and its activities, CLS, supported by IFREMER and CNES, is launching a groundbreaking program to track fishing gear by satellite in partnership with a fishing association specializing in the circular economy and recycling. With more than 30 years of experience in the sustainable management of marine resources, over 35 national fisheries monitoring centers equipped and more than 15,000 active satellite terminals on fishing boats, CLS (a subsidiary of the French Space Agency and CNP) is innovating and bringing together players who want to change the world.



### Tracking fishing gear: a win-win

This system has been well received by the fishing industry, which is increasingly eager to adopt environmentally friendly practices to protect the future of the oceans that sustain them. Such monitoring will make it possible to limit the loss of fishing equipment and reduce operating costs at sea. Knowing the location of their equipment will save fishermen time searching for it and thus save fuel. They will also reduce their carbon footprint, the time spent at sea, and the risks associated with operating in isolated and sometimes hostile environments.



### Located, recovered, recycled plastic pollution: a virtuous circular economy

After fishing vessels, the granularity of the monitoring of fishing effort is becoming more refined and allows administrations and scientists to continuously improve the sustainable management of marine resources. Monitoring fishing gear will not only encourage the industry to adopt more environmentally friendly practices, but will also start a virtuous circle of waste collection and recycling of marine plastic debris in accordance with the guidelines of the International Maritime Organisation Convention (MARPOL Appendix V).



## 8 June - World Oceans Day - Connected fishing gear, a symbolic launch



“This program is a further demonstration of the value of space technologies in preserving and managing the maritime space. We are looking forward to starting the tests this week in the Mediterranean, then this summer in French overseas territories, and to moving forward in close collaboration with all the players in the fishing industry.” —Gaetan Fabritius, CLS Director of Innovation

### CLS

CLS, a subsidiary of CNES and CNP, is an international company and pioneer in providing Earth observation and monitoring solutions since 1986. Its vision is to imagine and deploy innovative solutions to understand and protect our Planet and manage our resources sustainably. CLS employs 750 people at its headquarters in Toulouse and at its 25 other sites around the world. The company operates in 5 strategic business areas: sustainable fisheries management, environmental monitoring & climate, maritime safety, fleet management, and energy & mining. In particular, the company provides satellite services based on the location and collection of environmental data (100,000 beacons are processed every month, drifting buoys, beacons equipping animals, fishing or commercial fleets, etc.), observation of oceans and continental waters (more than 20 instruments on board satellites deliver daily information to CLS on the world's seas and oceans), and surveillance of land and sea activities (more than 10,000 radar images are processed and several hundred hours of flight time by UAVs are analyzed each year). The CLS Group generated revenues of nearly 135 million in 2019. Committed to a sustainable planet, the company works daily for the Earth from space.

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### IFREMER

Recognized worldwide as one of the leading institutes in marine science and technology, Ifremer works for sustainable development and open science. It conducts research, innovates and produces expertise to protect and restore the ocean, to exploit its resources responsibly, and to share marine knowledge and data in order to create new opportunities for economic growth that respects the marine environment.

Ifremer operates the French Oceanographic Fleet for the benefit of the national scientific community. It designs its own state-of-the-art gear and equipment to explore and observe the ocean, from the coastline to the open sea and from the abyss to the interface with the atmosphere. Its 1,500 researchers, engineers and technicians are advancing knowledge on one of the last unexplored frontiers of our planet, helping to inform public policy and innovation for a sustainable blue economy. Their mission is also to raise public awareness of maritime issues. Founded in 1984, Ifremer is a public establishment of an industrial and commercial nature (EPIC), with an annual budget of around €240 million.

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### CNES

CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales) is the public agency responsible for proposing French space policy to the Government and implementing it within Europe. It designs and puts satellites into orbit and invents the space systems of tomorrow; it promotes the emergence of new services, useful on a daily basis. The CNES, created in 1961, is at the origin of major space projects, launchers and satellites and is the natural partner of industry to push innovation. The CNES has nearly 2,500 employees, men and women who are passionate about space, which opens up infinite, innovative fields of application and operates in five areas: Ariane, science, observation, telecommunications and defense. CNES is a major player in technological innovation, economic development and France's industrial policy. It also establishes scientific partnerships and is involved in numerous international cooperation projects. France, represented by CNES, is the main contributor to the European Space Agency (ESA).

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### CNP

Founded by Mr Albert Frère and owned by members of his family, CNP is one of the two pillars of the Frère Group. Backed by a family shareholder base that provides stability and support, CNP favors the creation of long-term value by actively working alongside the management teams of the companies in which it is the majority or leading shareholder. Through its two pillars, CNP and GBL, the Frère Group manages revalued net assets of around €5.5 billion through a diversified portfolio of global companies that are leaders in their industries.

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