

Ecuador's Navy Deploys Canadian Dark-Vessel-Detection AI to Guard the Galápagos From Illegal Fishing

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Ecuador

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Since 2021, Ecuador's navy has used MDA's Dark Vessel Detection - a Canadian-funded satellite platform combining RADARSAT-2 and RF analysis - to find vessels hiding near the Galápagos Marine Reserve, detecting 180 Chinese-flagged boats in one June 2022 sweep.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	1/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-19

[Armada del Ecuador / Galápagos National Park Directorate, with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and MDA](#) — accessed 2026-08-19

[MDA Dark Vessel Detection](#) — accessed 2026-08-19

[National Observer: Canada launches satellite program to track illegal fishing abroad](#) — accessed 2026-08-19

[WildAid Marine: Ecuador shares location of domestic fishing fleet](#) — accessed 2026-08-19

[IP Defense Forum: Ecuador combats Chinese fleet's illegal fishing with Canadian satellite technology](#) — accessed 2026-08-19

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