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The Presence Of Large Numbers Of Probable Chinese Ships Near Whitsun Reef Started In December 2020

Whitsun Reef, a completely submerged structure, is 42 nautical miles from Philippine-held Kota (Loaita) Island

Analysis By Simularity In Collaboration With AllSource Analysis

March, 25, 2021

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ALLSOURCE ANALYSIS

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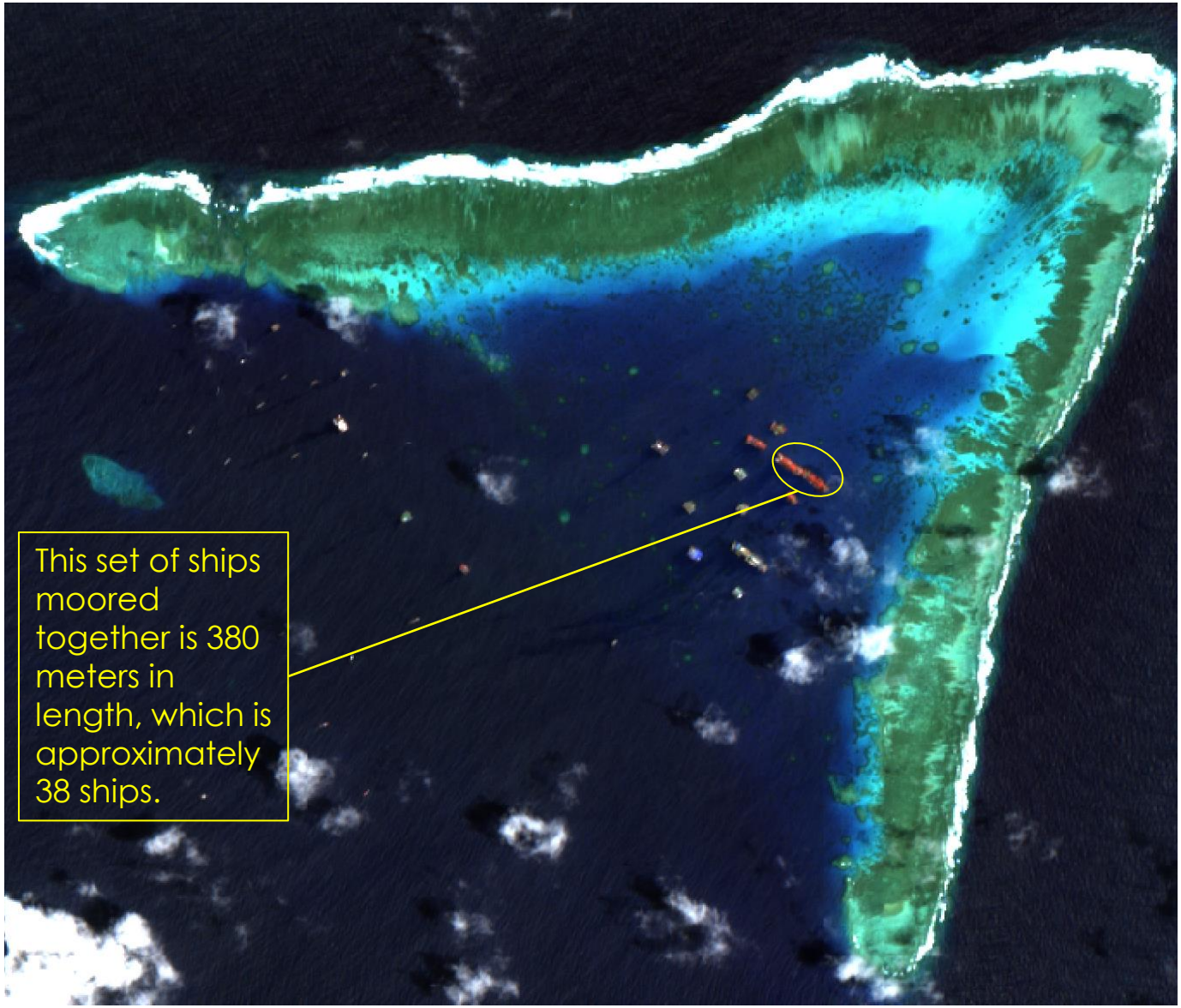
Whitsun Reef

March 24, 2021

Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348



Imagery credit: European Space Agency – produced from ESA remote sensing data

Between March 23-24, 2021, Simularity counted approximately **200 vessels at Whitsun Reef**, of which most are probable Chinese fishing vessels, and a few are probable Chinese Coast Guard vessels.

Of this group, **one** vessel was seen with its fishing nets out in late March.

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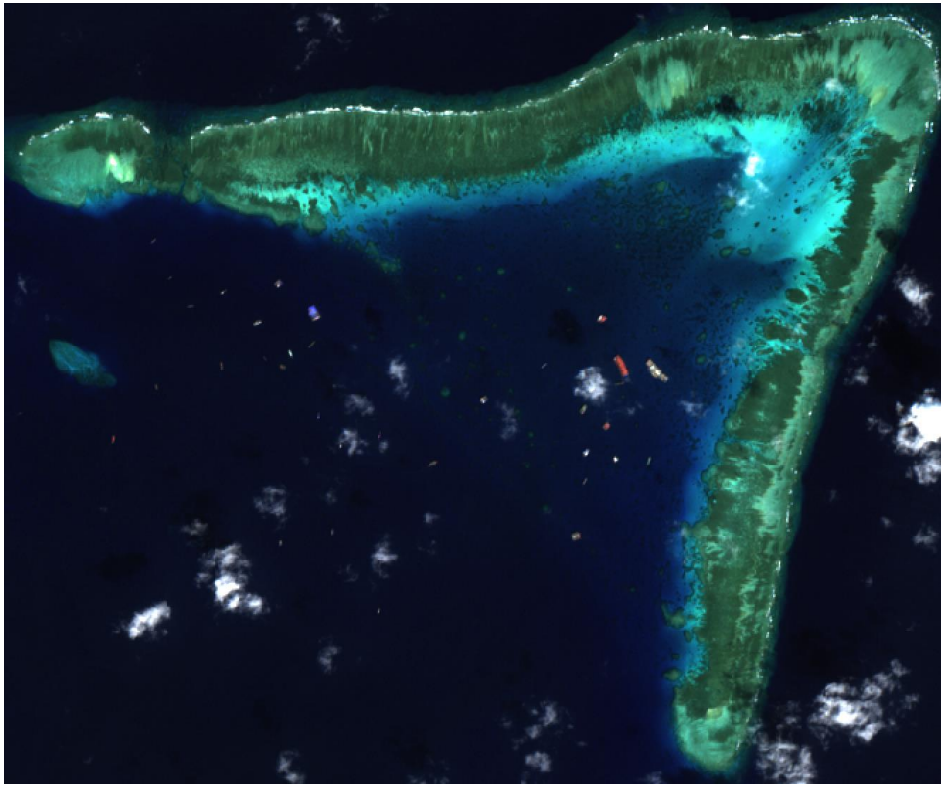
Whitsun Reef

Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348



December 14, 2020

March 19, 2021

A large number of probable Chinese ships have been mooring, arriving, and departing at Whitsun Reef since mid-December 2020. In the images that follow, we document their presence back to November 2020. The number of moored ships dips briefly in early February, but the number of ships arriving and departing is still substantial. Due to the amount of time this activity at Whitsun Reef has been happening, it is not considered an anomaly by our AIADS software.

Imagery credit: European Space Agency – produced from ESA remote sensing data

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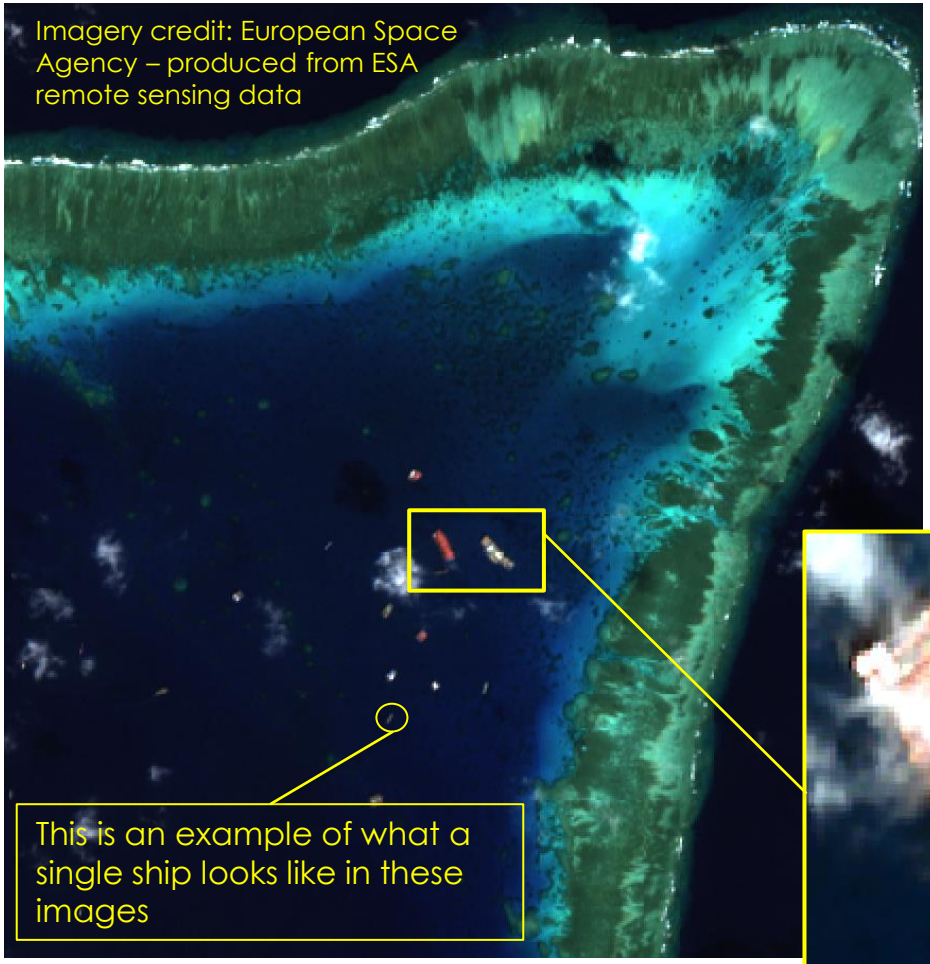
Whitsun Reef

Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348



December 13-14, 2020

In these images from December 2020, we see fishing ships moored together, with a width of up to 200 meters. At an average width of 10 meters per ship, that's a collection of 20 ships.

In this configuration, fishing is impossible.

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Whitsun Reef

Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348

The following series of images illustrates the history of this activity at Whitsun Reef

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Whitsun Reef

March 19, 2021

Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348

Imagery credit: European Space Agency – produced from ESA remote sensing data

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Whitsun Reef

March 9, 2021

Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348

Imagery credit: European Space Agency – produced from ESA remote sensing data

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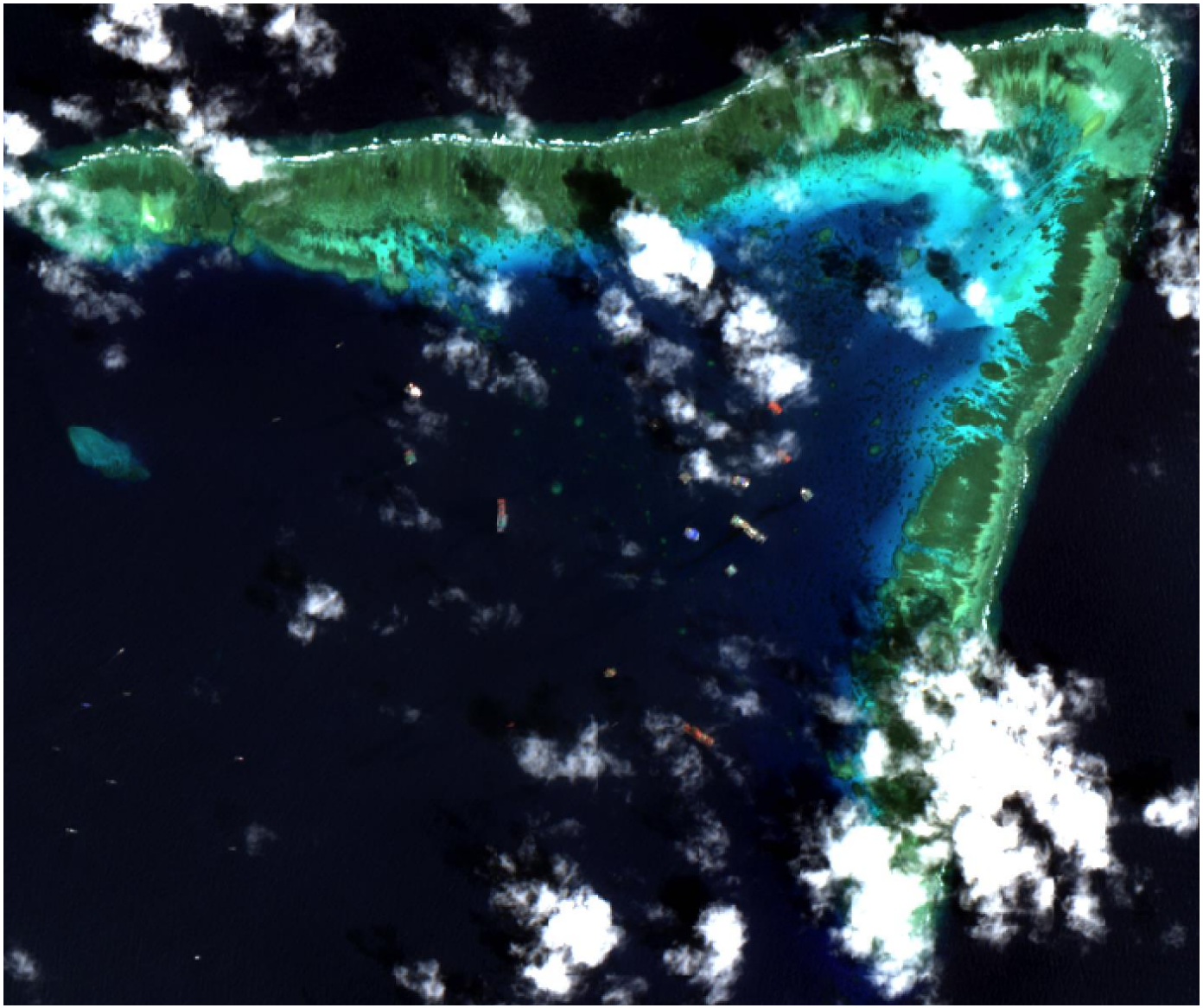
Whitsun Reef

March 4, 2021

Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348



Imagery credit: European Space Agency – produced from ESA remote sensing data

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Whitsun Reef

February 7, 2021

Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348

Imagery credit: European Space Agency – produced from ESA remote sensing data

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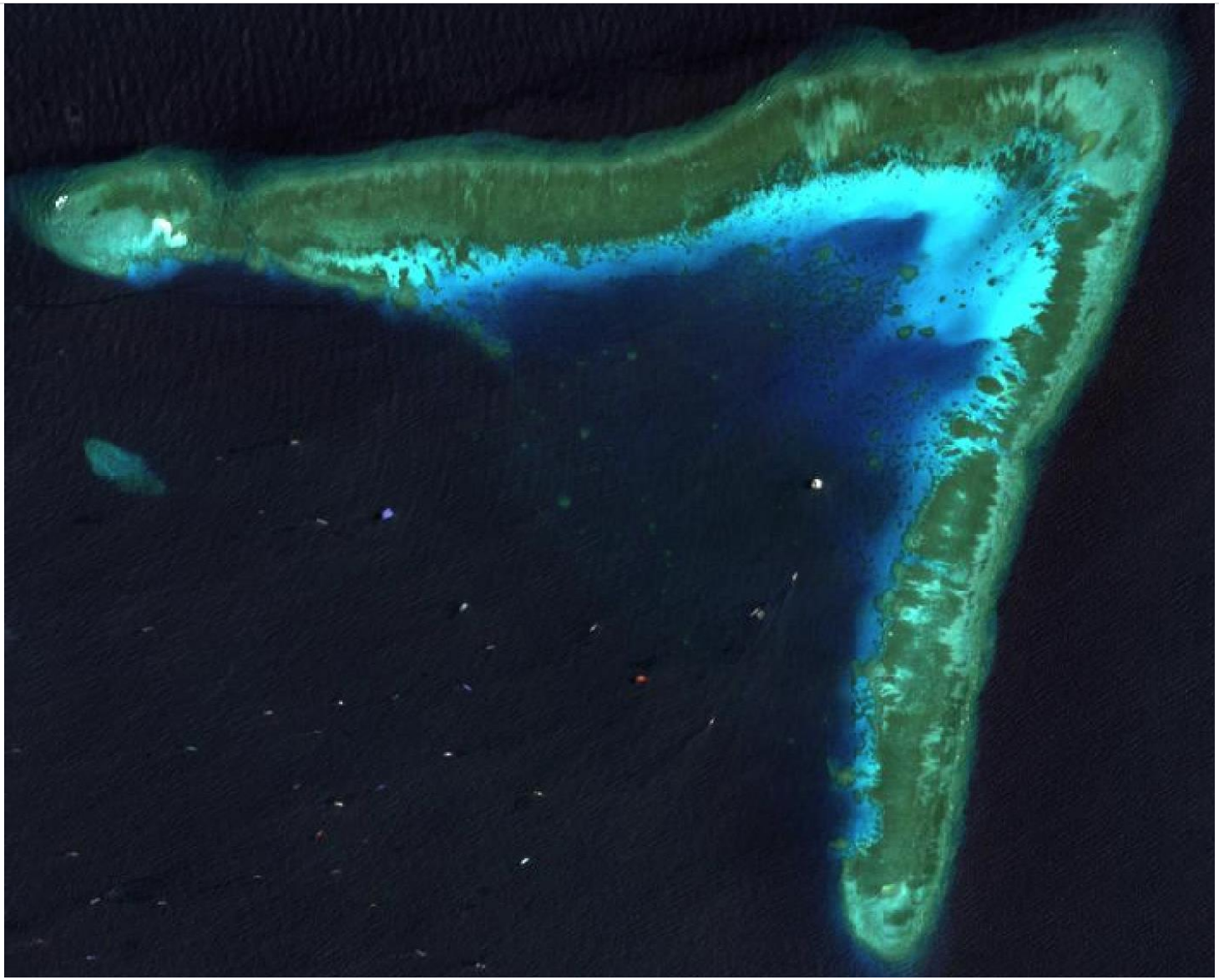
Whitsun Reef

February 2, 2021

Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348



Imagery credit: European Space Agency – produced from ESA remote sensing data

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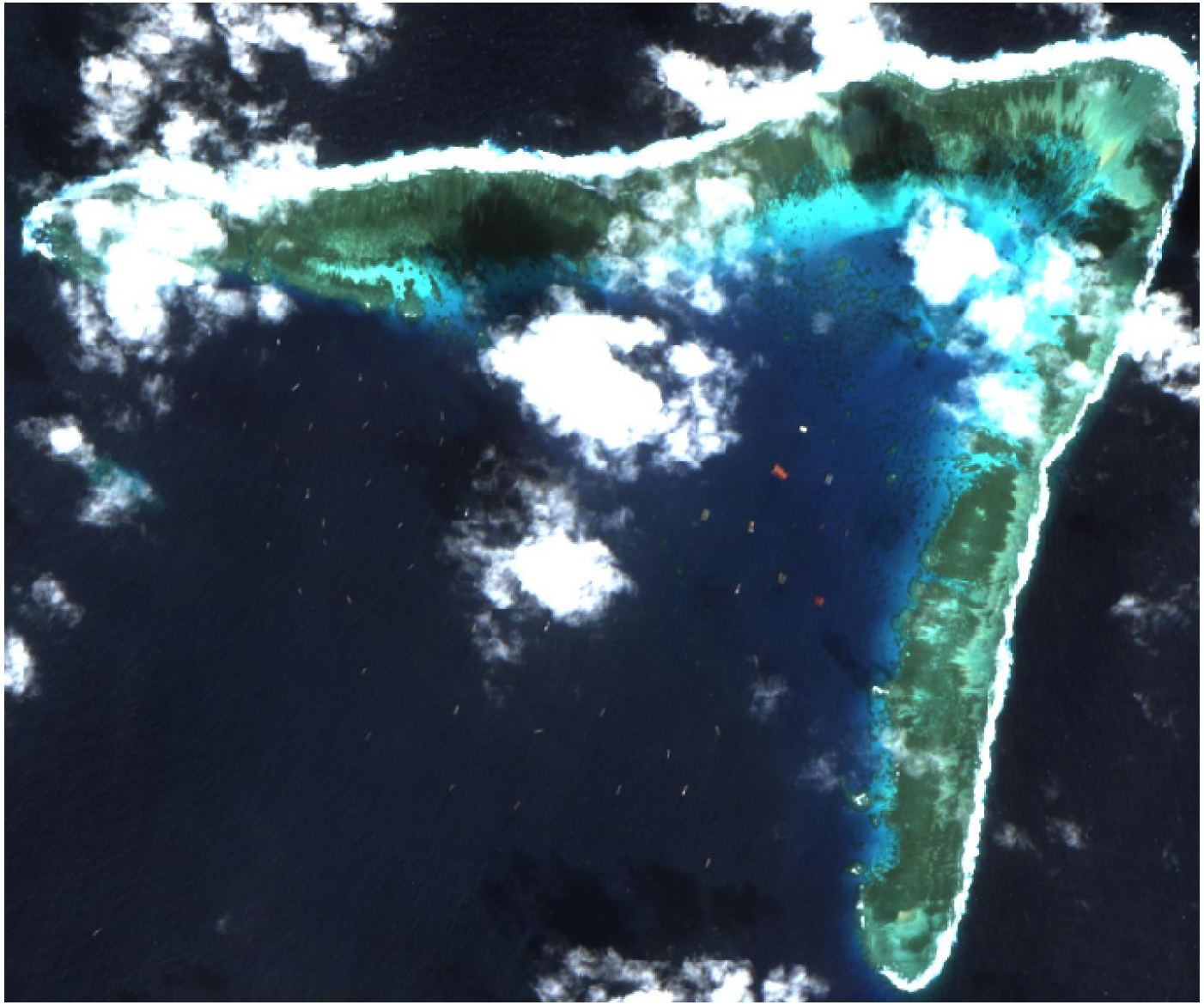
Whitsun Reef

January 13, 2021

Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348



Imagery credit: European Space Agency – produced from ESA remote sensing data

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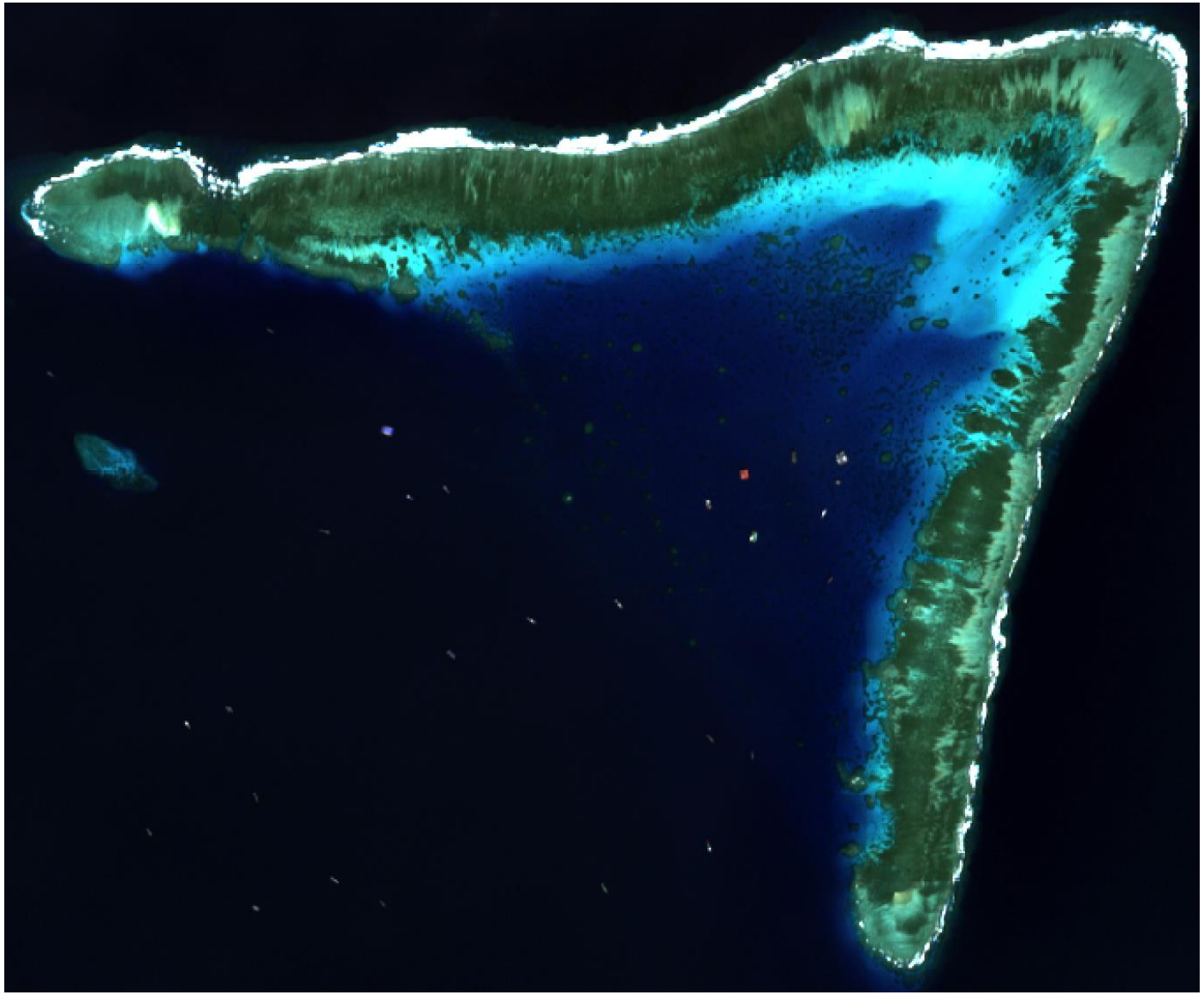
Whitsun Reef

December 24, 2020 Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348



Imagery credit: European Space Agency – produced from ESA remote sensing data

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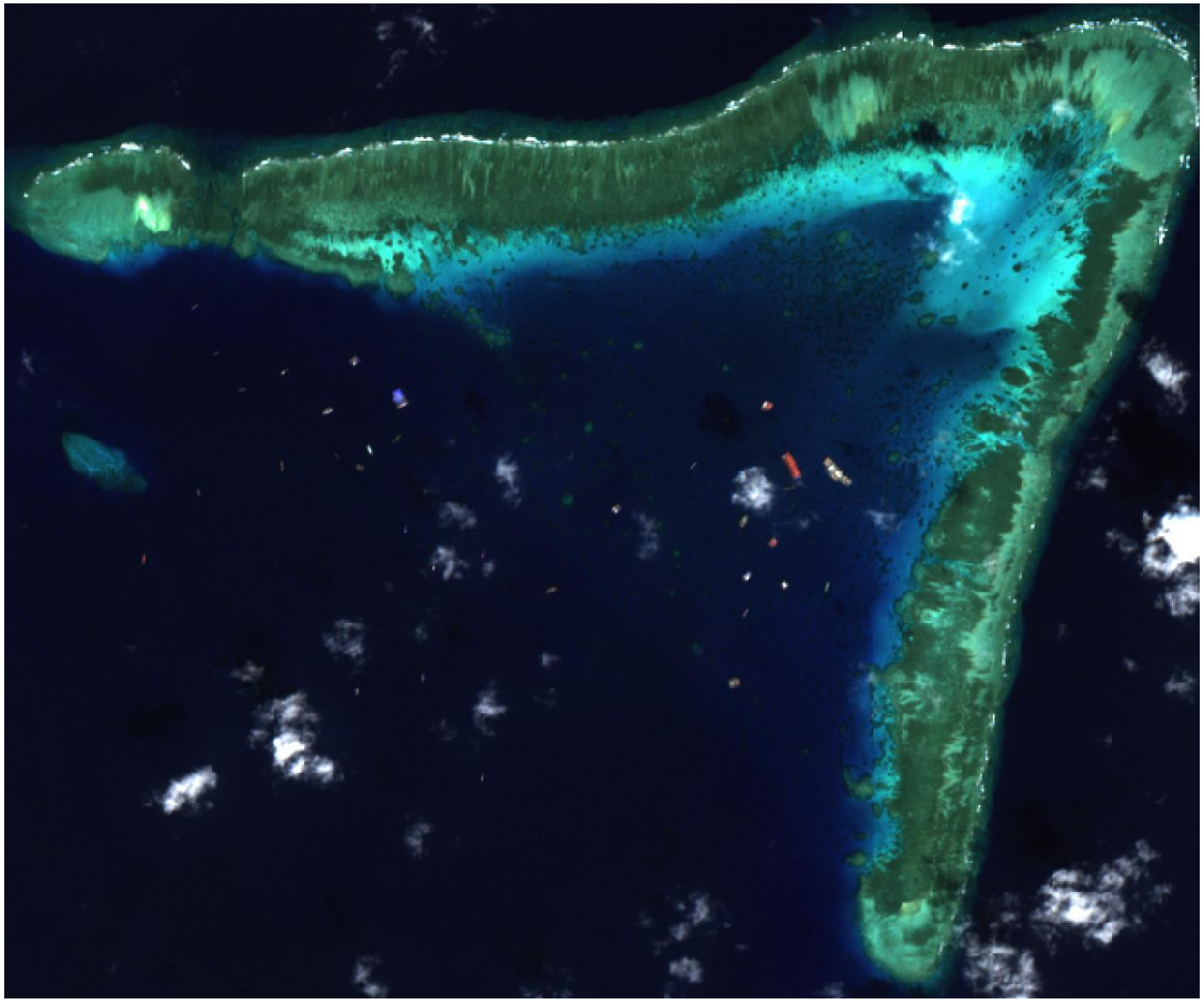
Whitsun Reef

December 14, 2020 Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348



Imagery credit: European Space Agency – produced from ESA remote sensing data

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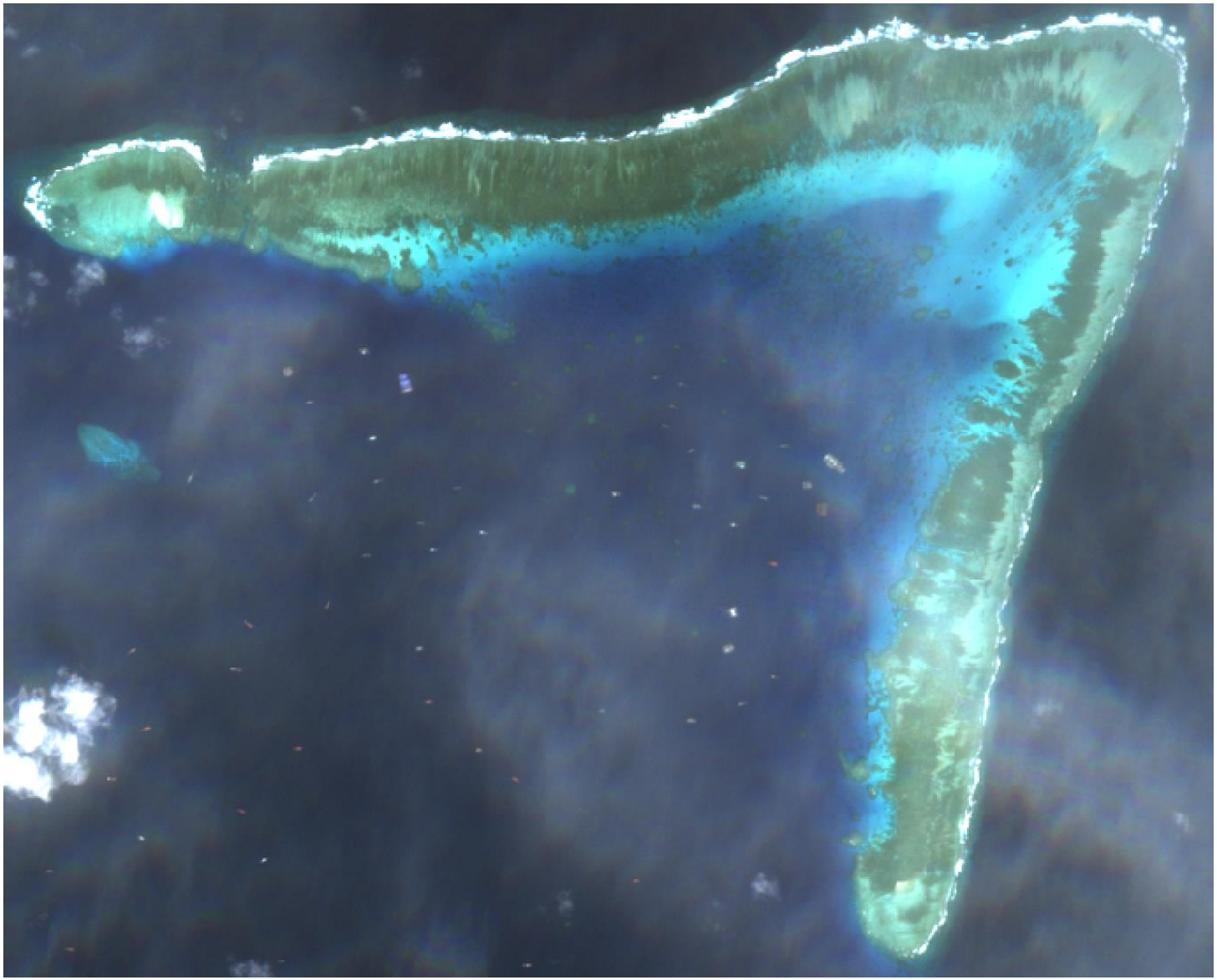
Whitsun Reef

December 9, 2020

Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348



Imagery credit: European Space Agency – produced from ESA remote sensing data

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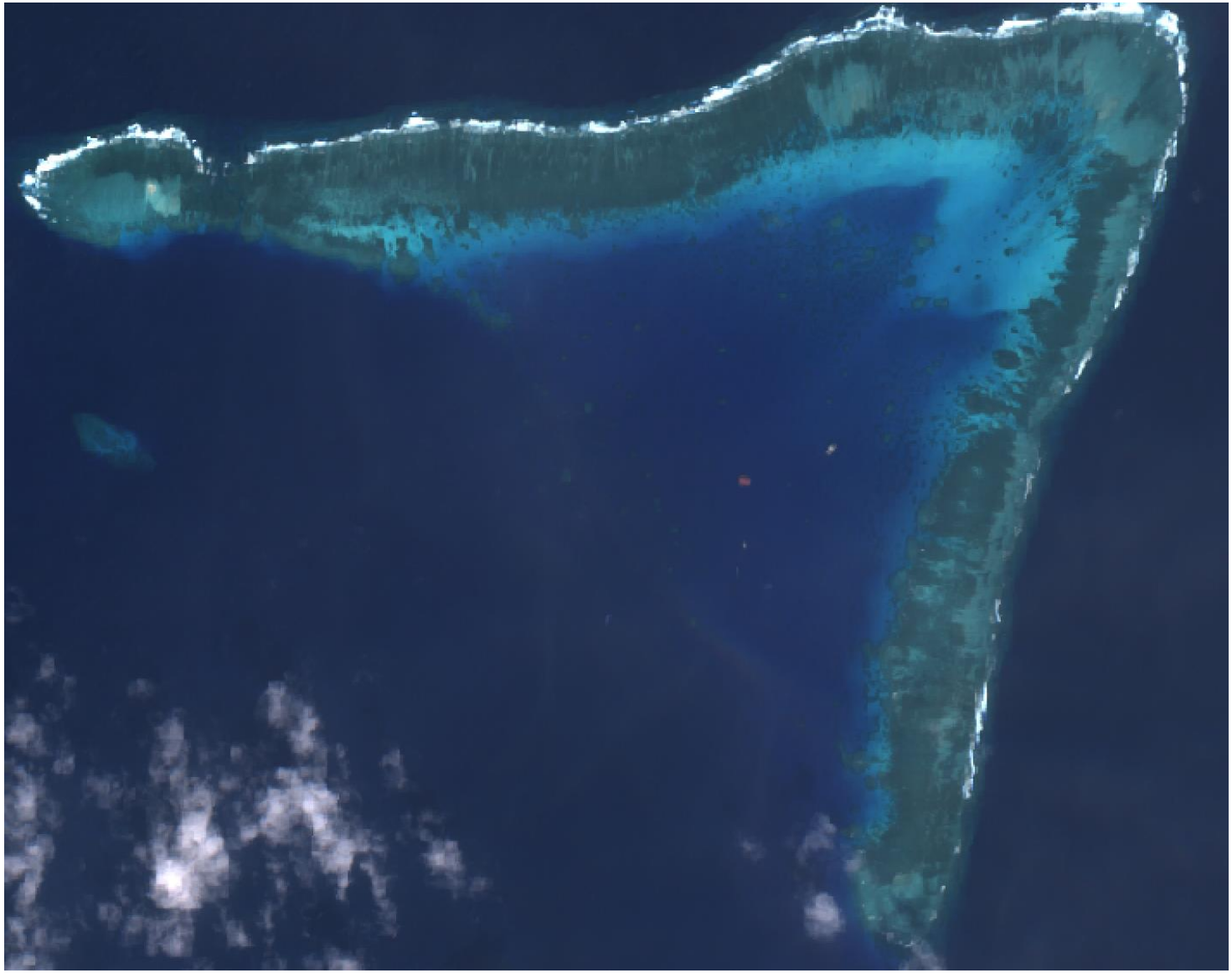
Whitsun Reef

November 14, 2020

Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348



Imagery credit: European Space Agency – produced from ESA remote sensing data

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Whitsun Reef

November 9, 2020

Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348

Imagery credit: European Space Agency – produced from ESA remote sensing data

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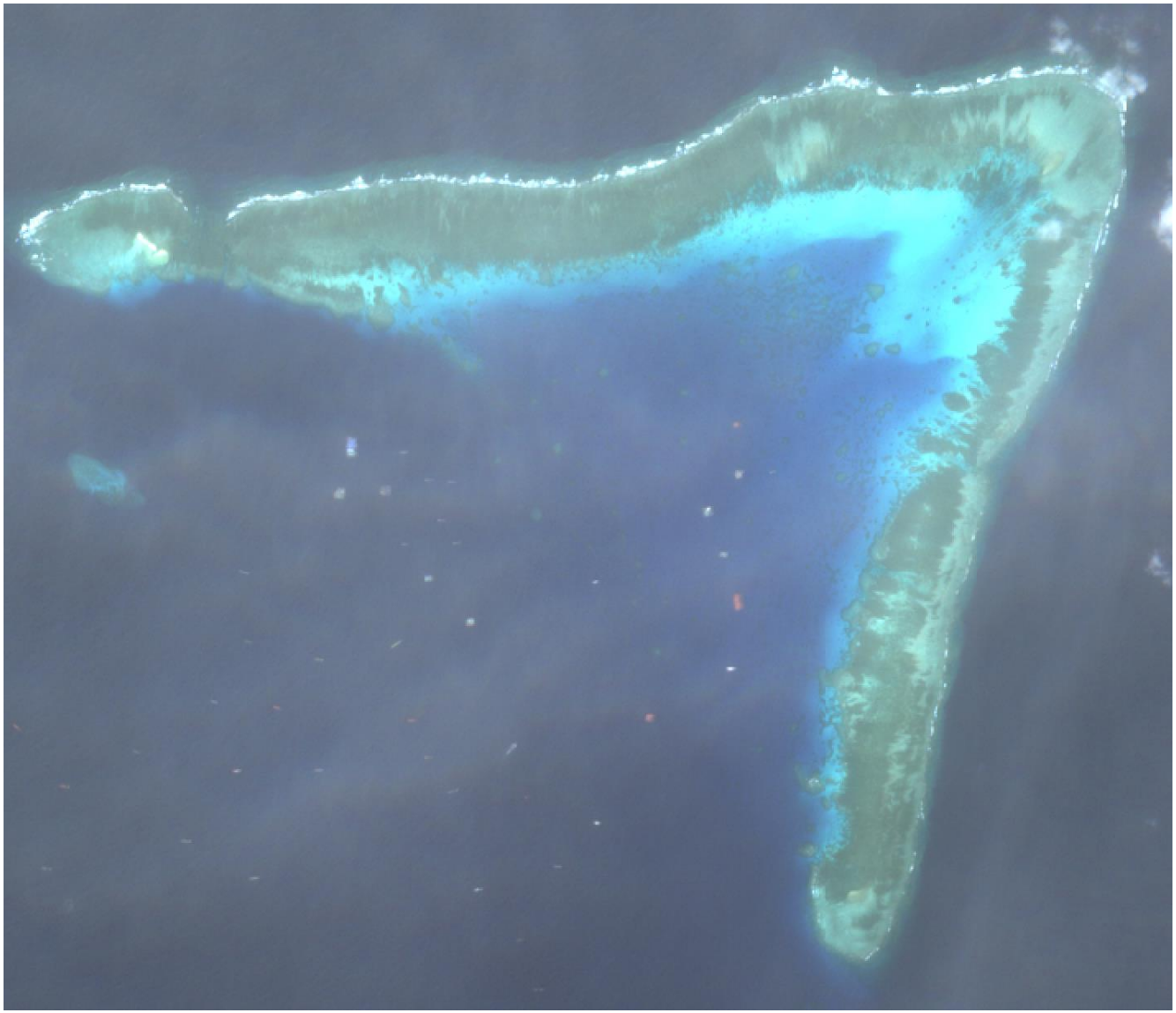
Whitsun Reef

November 4, 2020

Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348



Imagery credit: European Space Agency – produced from ESA remote sensing data

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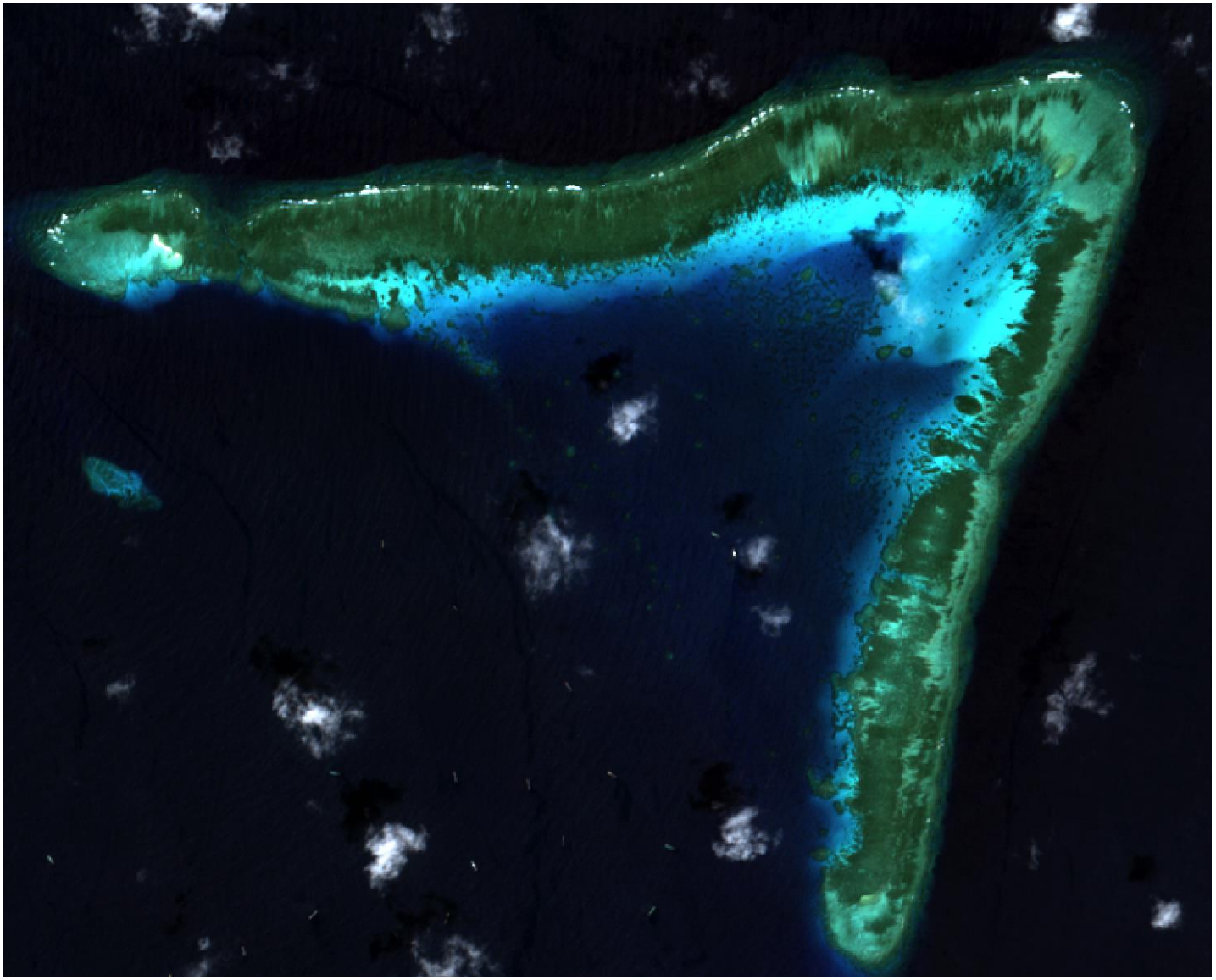
Whitsun Reef

October 30, 2020

Location: 9.98476874, 114.64942348



Imagery credit: European Space Agency – produced from ESA remote sensing data

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Simularity's AI-driven Monitoring Process

This anomaly heat map was generated by AIADS. It is shown overlaid onto a European Space Agency Sentinel 2 image. The anomalies are the red squares. After reviewing the imagery, our analyst then drew the pink polygons around the areas that need further investigation.

High resolution imagery was obtained for these areas, and Allsource Analysis helped interpret what those high resolution images revealed.

Please contact us at info@simularity.com to chat about your monitoring project.

Simularity is a software company that uses AI and Geospatial data to determine when significant changes have happened to an area. Our software, Automated Image Anomaly Detection System (AIADS), enables us to automate the scanning of large areas, such as the South China Sea, for unusual activity.

Our South China Sea monitoring project helps us demonstrate the value of our software. We check for new Sentinel 2 imagery of the South China Sea every week. When new images arrive, they are automatically downloaded and analyzed by AIADS.

A human analyst then reviews the results of the AIADS analysis, an "anomaly heat map" that highlights significant changes in red. By looking at the new image, the anomaly heat map, and historical images, our human analyst determines where there are changes that deserve a closer look. Those are indicated in this report with the red polygons.

It takes less than a day for our analyst to review all the anomaly images generated each week. Running AIADS on free Sentinel 2 imagery makes it possible for us to inexpensively monitor a very large area.

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