

Drone-Based Surveillance to Identify **IUU (Illegal, Unreported & Unregulated)** Fishing Activities along the 815 km Coast of Maharashtra

Transforming Coastal Fisheries Surveillance Through Unmanned Aerial Technology



CAPTURED BY **SCHNELL DRONE TECHNOLOGIES**

Client
Department of Fisheries, Government of Maharashtra



9

Coastal Locations



18

Months Operational Period

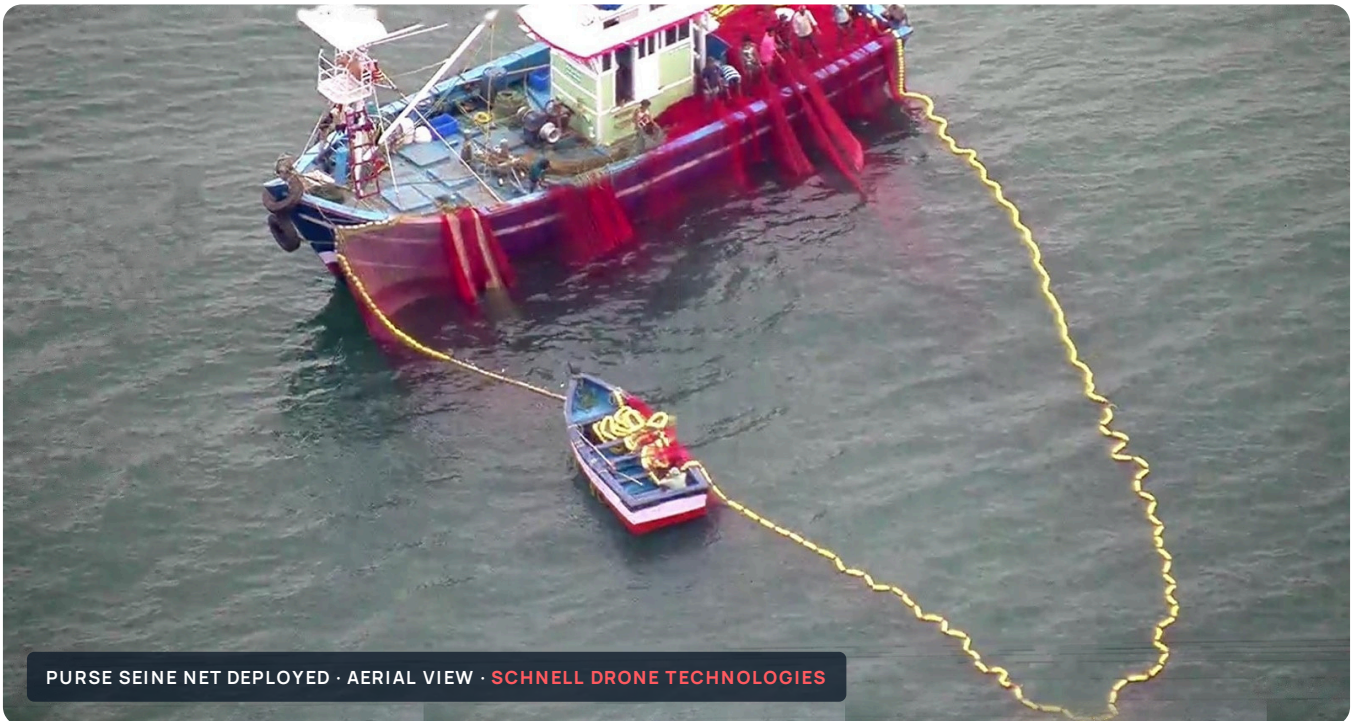


10,000+

Drone Flights

The Challenge

Maharashtra's extensive coastline requires continuous surveillance to monitor fishing activities within its territorial waters up to 12 NM. Purse seine & LED fishing are prohibited within 12 nautical miles of the Maharashtra coast, necessitating effective identification of vessels engaged in prohibited fishing activities.



IUU (Illegal, Unreported & Unregulated) fishing can contribute to:



Overfishing and depletion of marine resources



Capture and depletion of juvenile fish



Increased competition with traditional fishermen



Potential damage to marine ecosystems



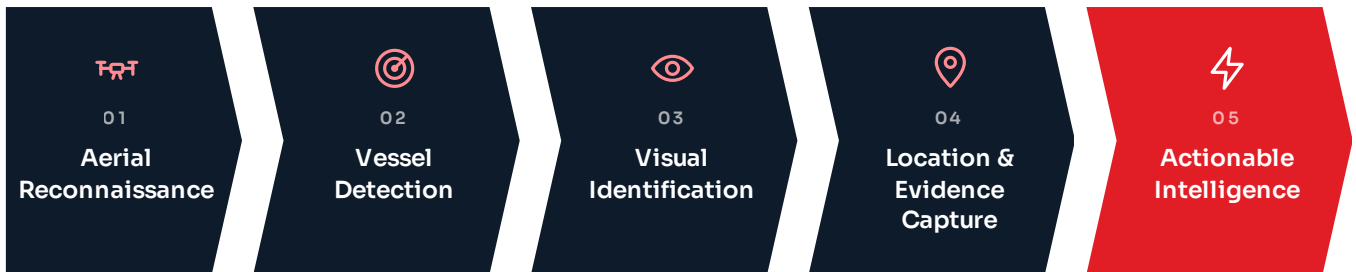
Conflicts among fishing communities

Conventional surveillance methods can be resource-intensive and challenging across large coastal areas, creating a need for faster, scalable and technology-enabled maritime surveillance.

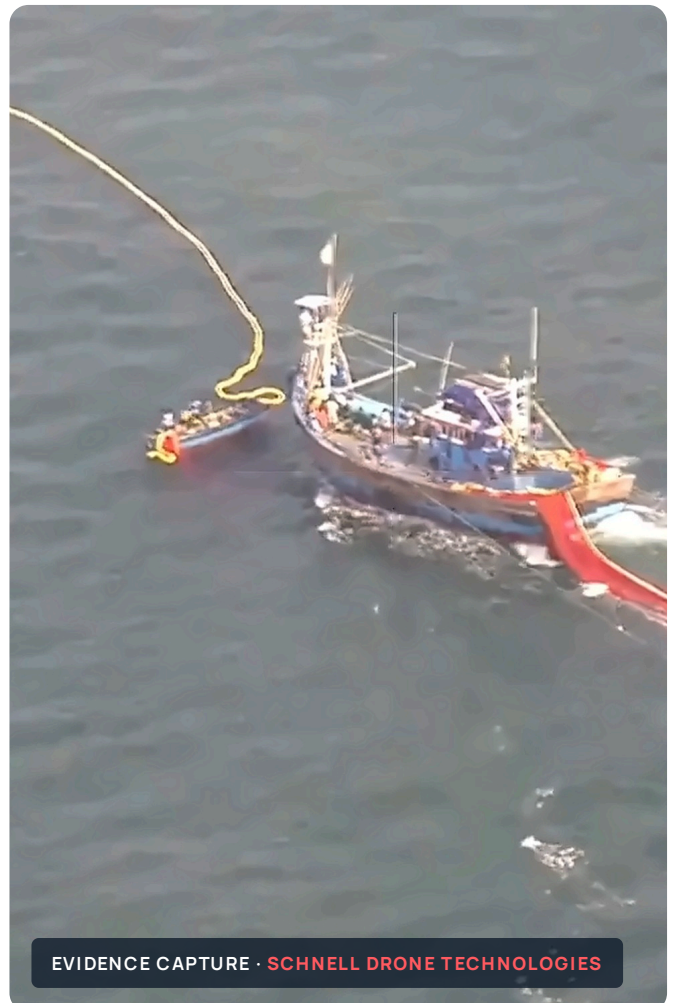
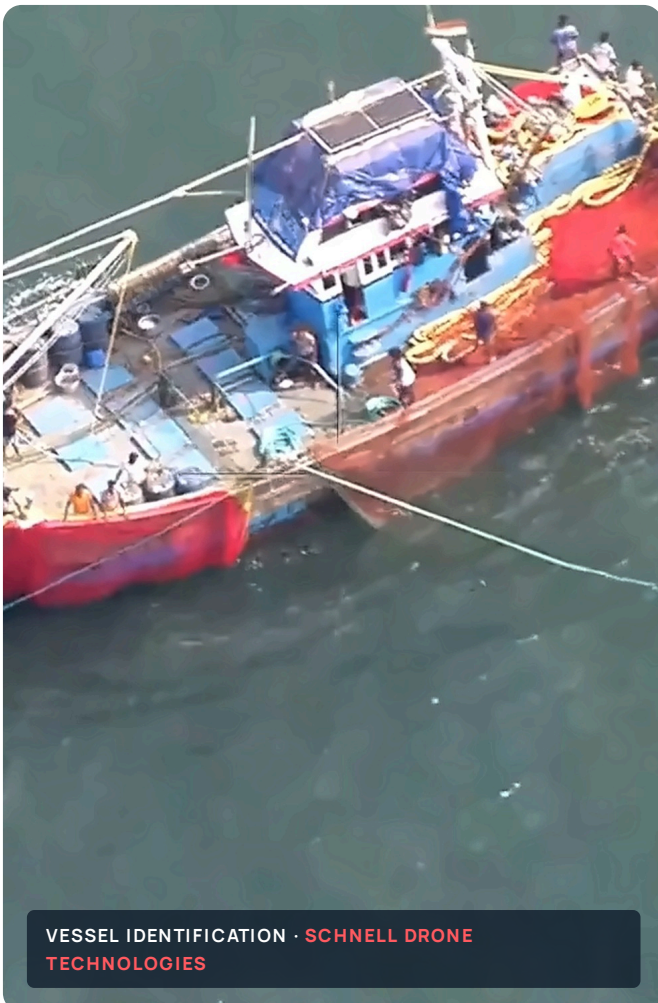
Drone-Based Maritime Surveillance

Schnell Drone Technologies Ltd. (SDTL) has deployed SWITCH UAVs from ideaForge Technology to provide regular aerial surveillance support to the Department of Fisheries.

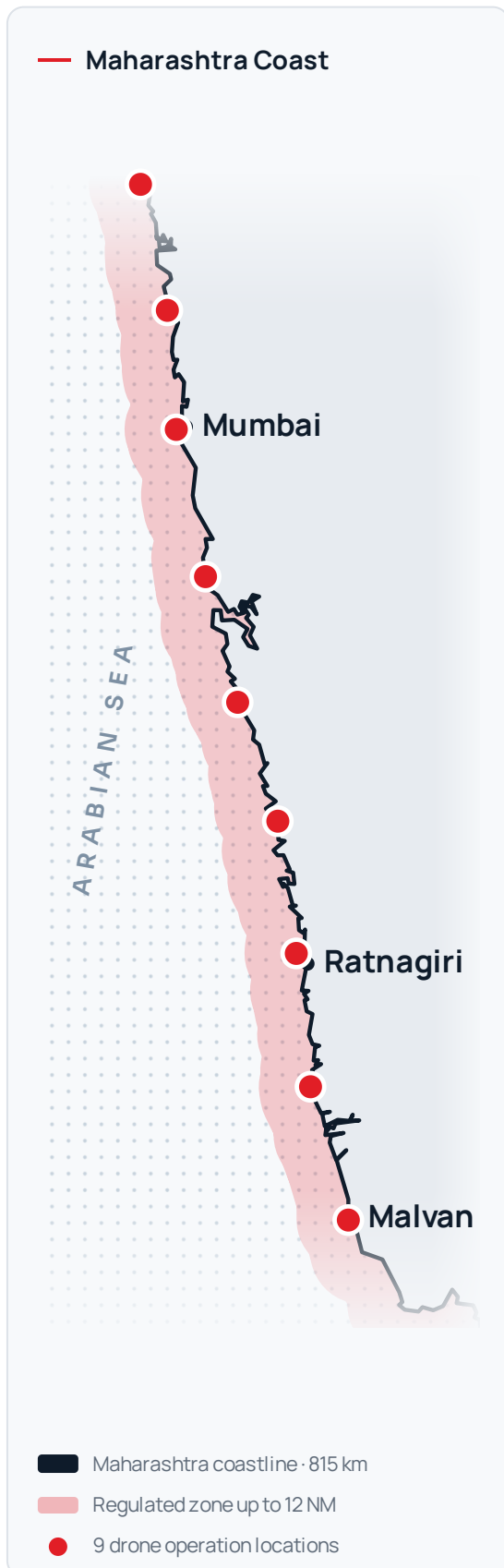
THE DRONE-BASED SYSTEM ENABLES



The UAVs provide an aerial perspective that complements conventional coastal surveillance and enables rapid identification of vessels requiring further verification or enforcement action.



9 UAVs. 9 Strategic Locations. Daily Surveillance.



Schnell Drone Technologies has established drone operations at 9 different locations along the Maharashtra coastline, enabling sustained surveillance coverage.

Over an 18-month operational period, the project has achieved:

10,000+

Drone flights within
Maritime region up to 12
NM

3,300+

IUU fishing vessels
identified

Schnell Drone Technologies carries out multiple flights of each drone every day in the maritime region. The sustained operational deployment demonstrates the scalability of drones as an effective tool for regular fisheries surveillance and coastal enforcement support.



Technology Supporting Sustainable Fisheries & Coastal Governance

The project is helping create a technology-enabled surveillance mechanism for identifying potentially prohibited fishing activity within regulated coastal waters.

Key outcomes include:



Enhanced aerial visibility of fishing activity



Faster identification of suspicious fishing vessels



Technology-enabled support to fisheries enforcement



Improved monitoring of the 12 NM regulated coastal zone



Support for protection of traditional fishing communities



Strengthened coastal fisheries governance



Creation of an operational model for large-scale drone-based surveillance

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND

A Landmark Application of Drones for Fisheries Surveillance

This first-of-its-kind project demonstrates how UAV technology can move beyond conventional mapping and surveying applications to address real-world maritime governance and fisheries-management challenges.



First Prize — Rajiv Gandhi Prashaskiya Gatimanata Abhiyaan 2026



₹10 Lakh

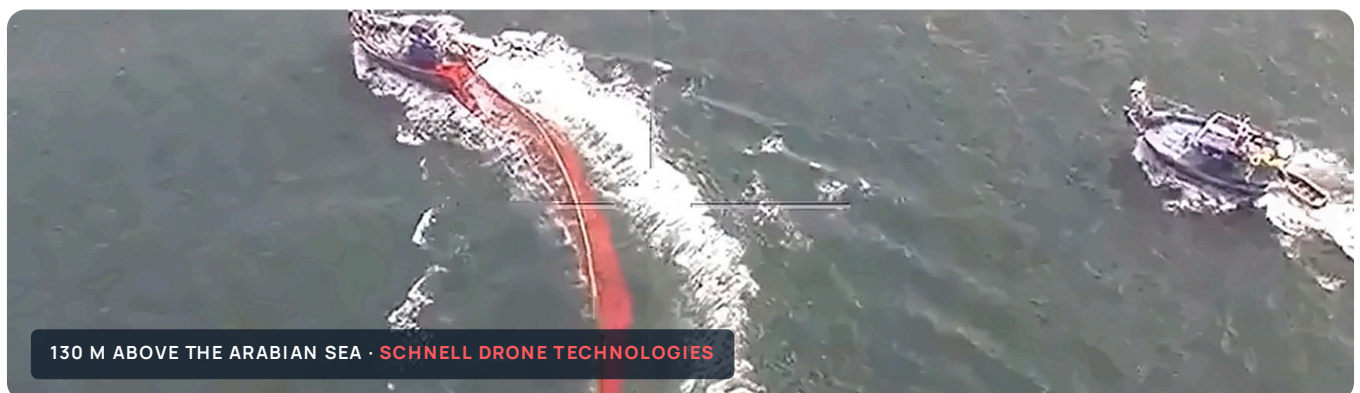
FIRST PRIZE

Government of Maharashtra

The Drone-Based Surveillance Project received the First Prize with an award of ₹10 lakh under the Rajiv Gandhi Prashaskiya Gatimanata Abhiyaan 2026 by Government of Maharashtra, recognizing its contribution to technology-enabled public administration and innovative governance.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

9 UAVs Deployed	9 Coastal Locations Covered	10,000+ Drone Flights Completed
18 Months of Operations Operational	3,300+ IUU Fishing Vessels Identified & evidence created	₹10 Lakh First Prize Award Recognition



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