



JuliaEO - Global Workshop on Earth Observation with Julia 2024

**SESSION:**

**POS2IDON: PIPELINE FOR OCEAN FEATURES  
DETECTION WITH SENTINEL-2**

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# What is Marine Debris

Marine debris is defined as any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the **marine** environment



Kikai et al., 2020 Photos: Careline Power



Plastics, metals, rubber, paper, textiles, and other lost or discarded items enter the ocean daily

One of today's greatest's pollution problems





Marine debris are a strongly related to the **problem of plastic pollution**, since most debris are made of plastic.

They are a threat to the Environment, Navigation safety, Economy and Human health.

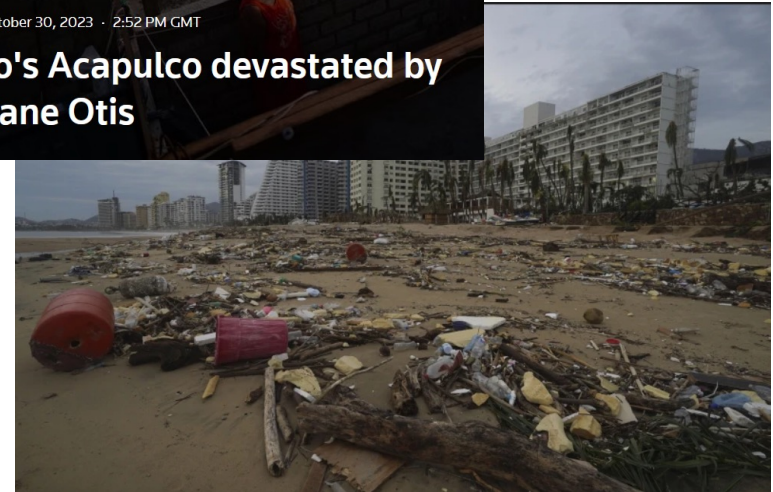
Flood events and other catastrophes can lead to great inputs into the ocean.



Pictures

33 Photos · October 30, 2023 · 2:52 PM GMT

## Mexico's Acapulco devastated by Hurricane Otis



## Spain declares environmental emergency over plastic pellets spillage from ship



## Video. Thousands of plastic bottles litter beach following catastrophic flood



AFP

# Satellite Technologies: Sentinel-2

Sentinel 2 provides a revolutionary way to study this...

- free-of-charge
- provides a trade between spatial resolution (10–20 m) and
- revisit frequency (5 days) for most coastal waters.
- has a global coverage.
- Multi-Spectral Instrument covers wavelengths of vis-NIR-SWIR, suitable for detecting and differentiating small floating matters.

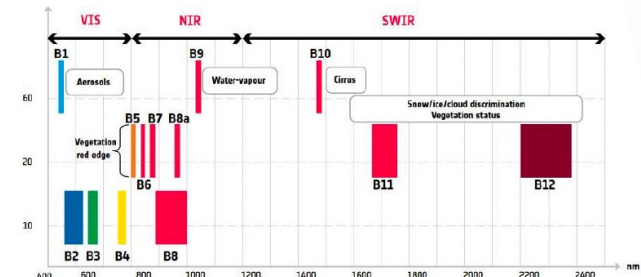
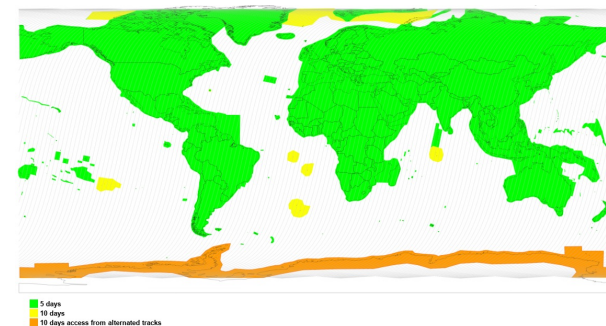
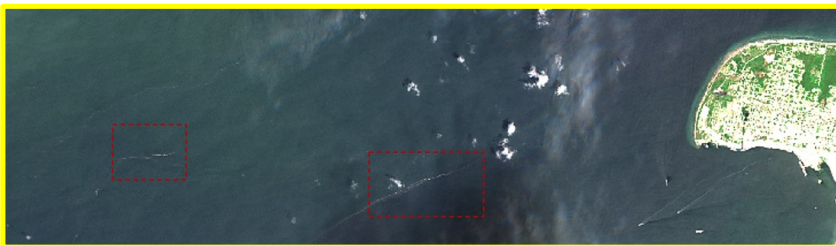
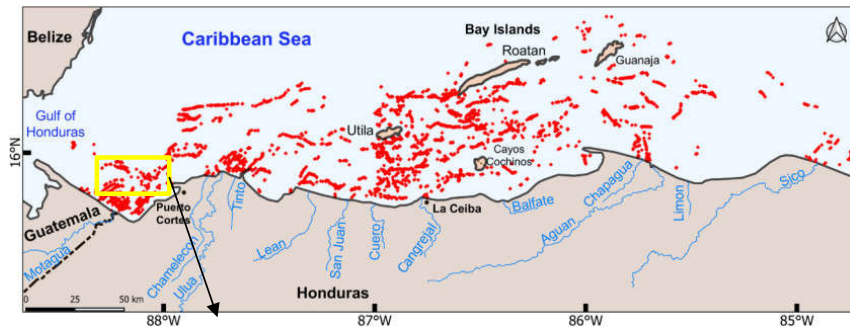
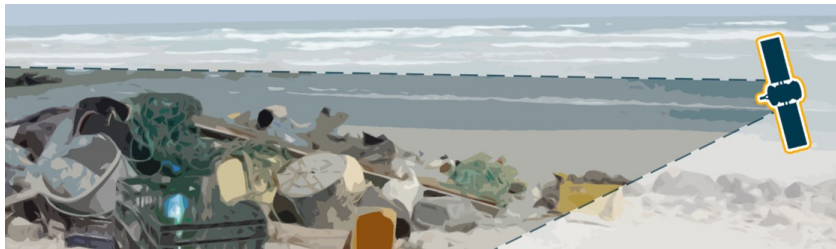


Image Credits: ESA







- monitor larger areas, as well as remotely, hard-to-reach areas
- provide uniform coverage, regular and longer temporal coverage and harmonized data collection
- support **effective monitoring** for management and remediation policies.
- be a cost-effective and replicable solution

Image Credits: European Space Agency, Katerina Kikaki et.al,2020







Marine Debris



Macroalgae  
Sargassum



Macroalgae  
Ulva



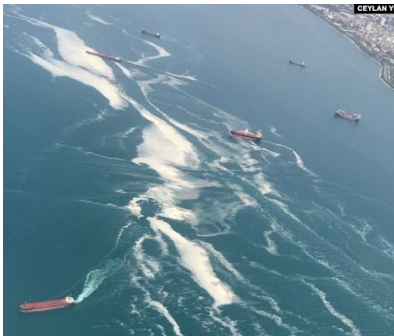
Microalgae  
Noctiluca



Microalgae  
Cyanobacteria



Sea Snot



Jellyfish



Sea Pumice



Shrimp Eggs



Tree Pollen



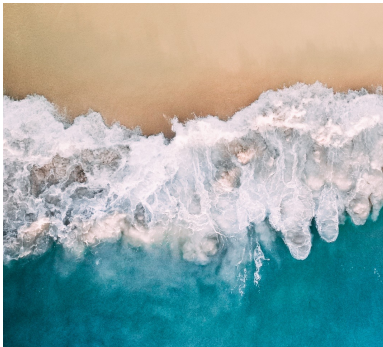
But there are various other "floating features"...







and more other features in Sentinel-2...







## MARIDA - Marine Debris Archive

dataset based on the multispectral Sentinel-2 (S2) satellite data, which distinguishes Marine Debris from various marine features that co-exist, including Sargassum macroalgae, Ships, Natural Organic Material, Waves, Wakes, Foam, dissimilar water types (i.e., Clear, Turbid Water, Sediment-Laden Water, Shallow Water), and Clouds.



MARIDA: Marine Debris reports across different countries and continents for the period 2015–2021.

<https://marine-debris.github.io/>

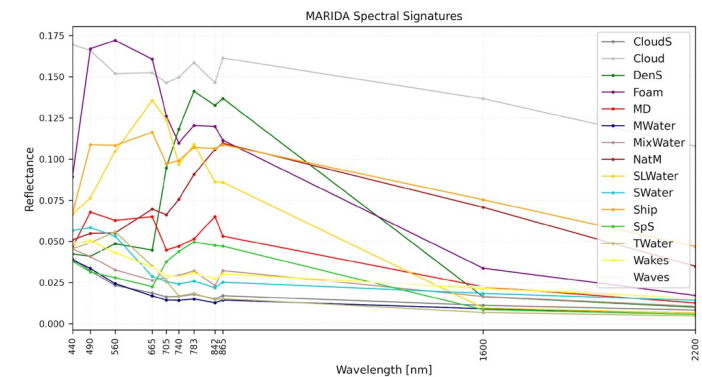
RESEARCH ARTICLE

## MARIDA: A benchmark for Marine Debris detection from Sentinel-2 remote sensing data

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- <sup>3</sup> Department of Biology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Zografou, Greece,
- <sup>4</sup> Athena Research Center, Athens, Greece

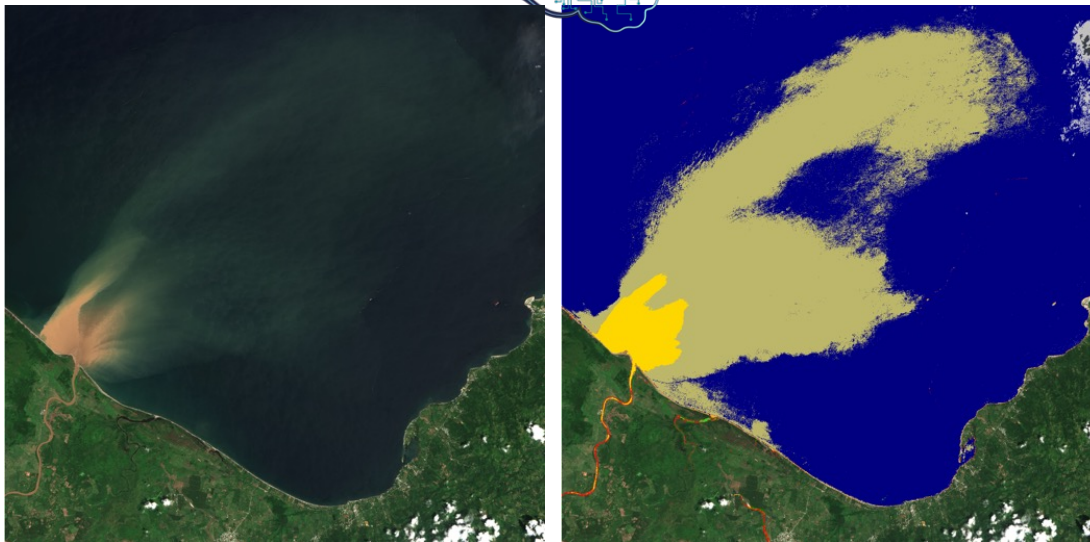
\* [akikakh@central.ntua.gr](mailto:akikakh@central.ntua.gr)



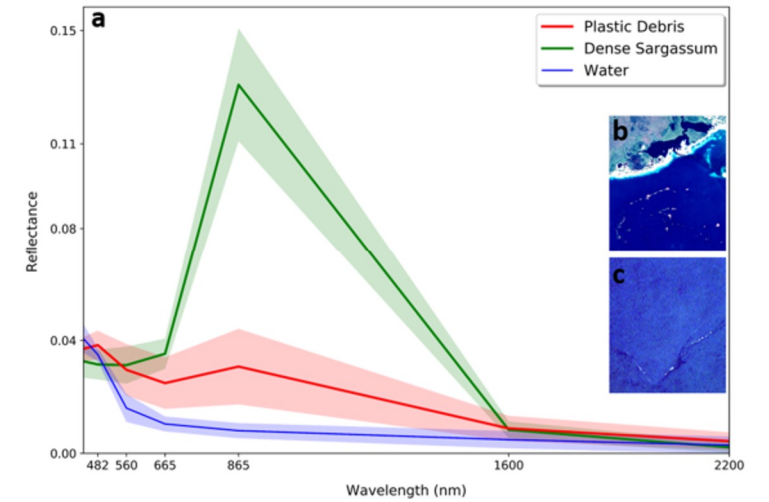


Different spectral signatures for ocean water, floating vegetation (e.g., sargassum, organic matter), floating plastics.

Machine learning techniques can help the discrimination of floating plastic debris from other features.



- 0- Masked Data
- 1- Marine Debris
- 2- Dense Sargassum
- 3- Sparse Sargassum
- 4- Natural Organic Material
- 5- Ship
- 6- Clouds
- 7- Marine Water SC
- 8- Sediment-Laden Water
- 9- Foam
- 10- Turbid Water
- 11- Shallow Water



**Ocean water** – low reflectance  
**Floating Plastics** – high reflectance w/ flat spectrum  
**Floating Vegetation** – high reflectance w/ red edge

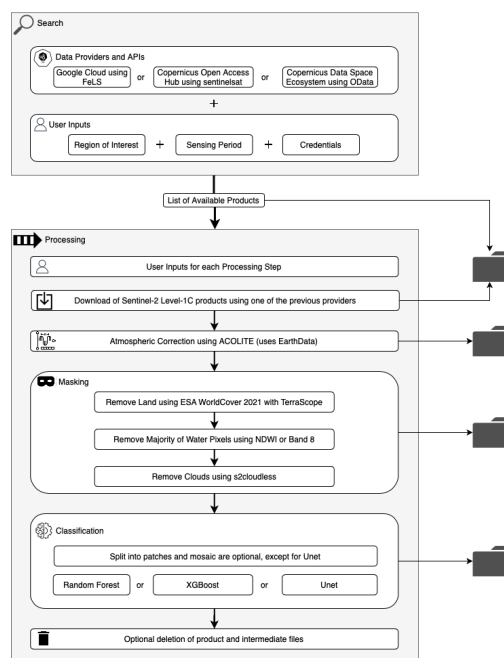




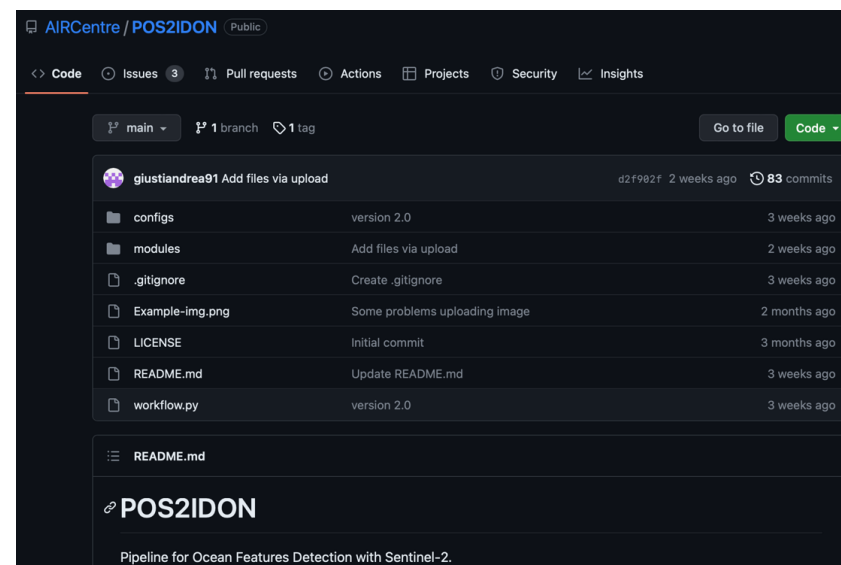
# POS2IDON: Description

POS2IDON is an open-source data pipeline based on Sentinel-2, developed by AIR Centre, for long-term analyses and monitoring of suspected marine debris accumulations (>10 m) and other ocean features, such as floating organic material.

POS2IDON - Pipeline for Ocean Features Detection with Sentinel-2



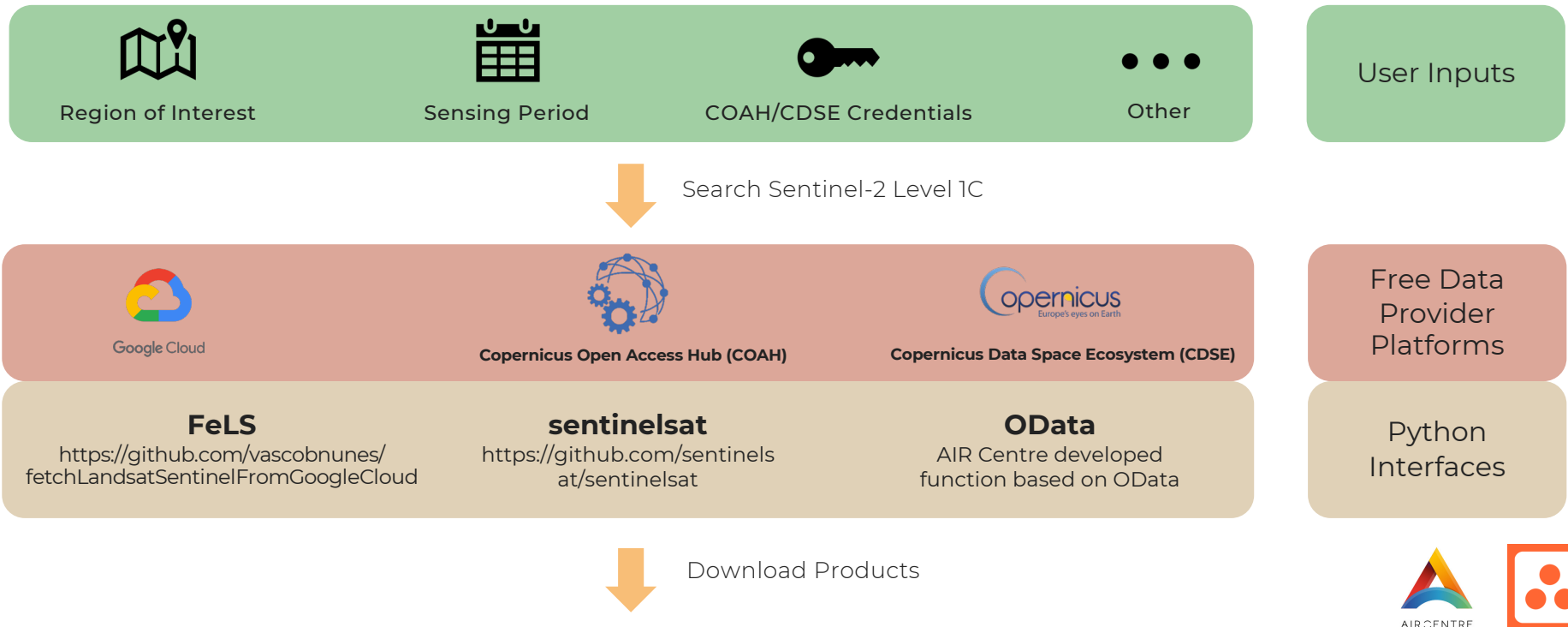
<https://github.com/AIRCentre/POS2IDON>





# POS2IDON: Description

## Search and Download





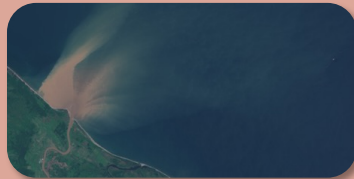


# POS2IDON: Description

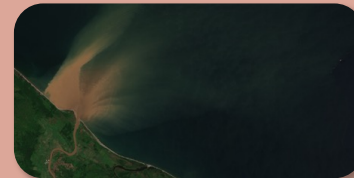
## Atmospheric Correction



Top of Atmosphere



Rayleigh Atmospheric Corrected



**ACOLITE**

<https://github.com/acolite/acolite>

Includes specific inputs that can be changed by more advanced users inside the workflow .py file





# POS2IDON: Description

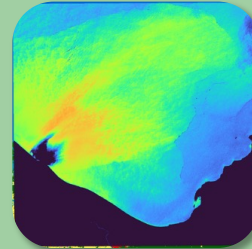
## Land, Water Masking



Remove Land and leave Water where the classification will be performed. Uses ESA WorldCover 2021.



Remove some water pixels depending on thresholds to improve classification time. Uses Band 8 or Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI).



**MASKS**





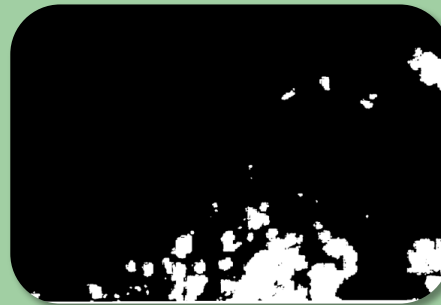


# POS2IDON: Description

## Cloud Masking



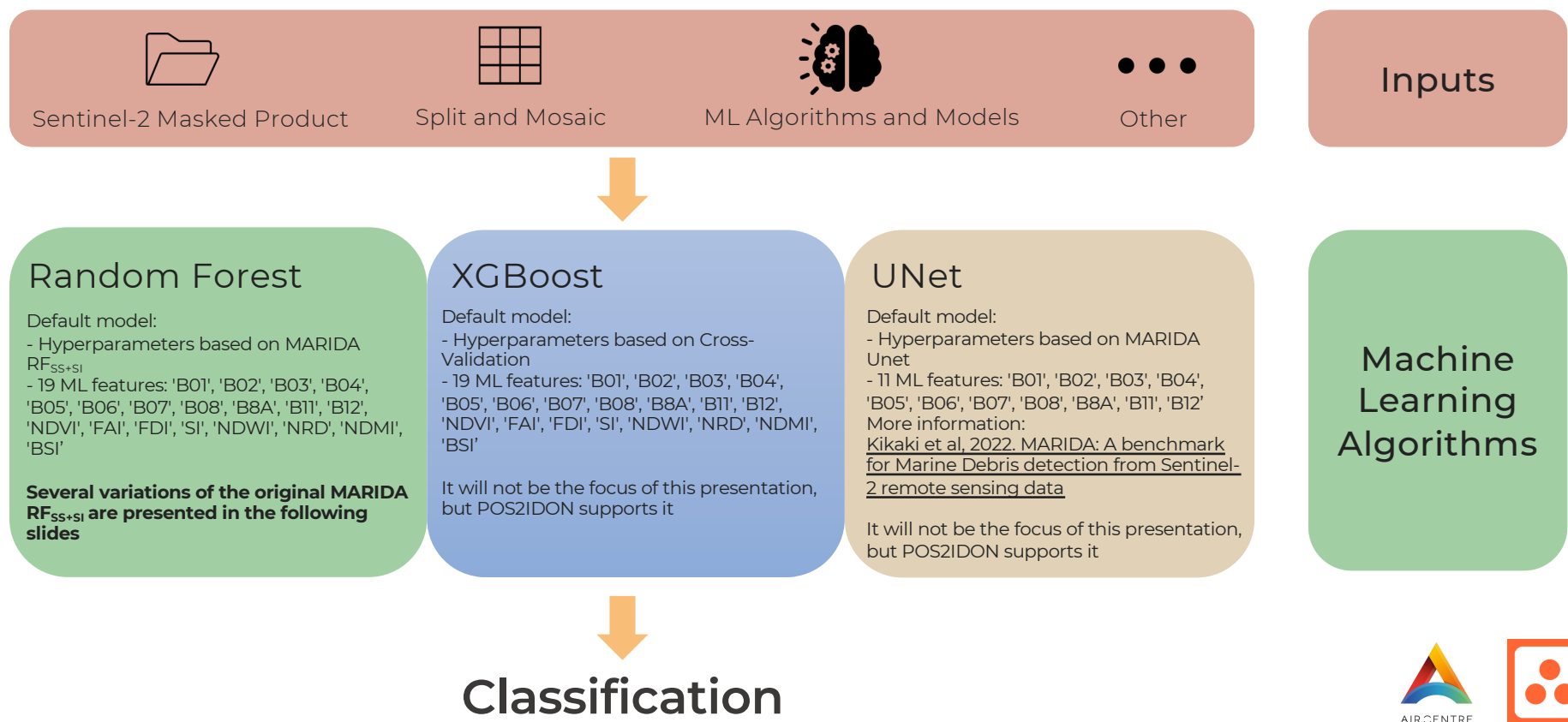
Remove Clouds using s2cloudless (<https://github.com/sentinel-hub/sentinel2-cloud-detector>).



**MASKS**



# POS2IDON: Description





# POS2IDON: Models

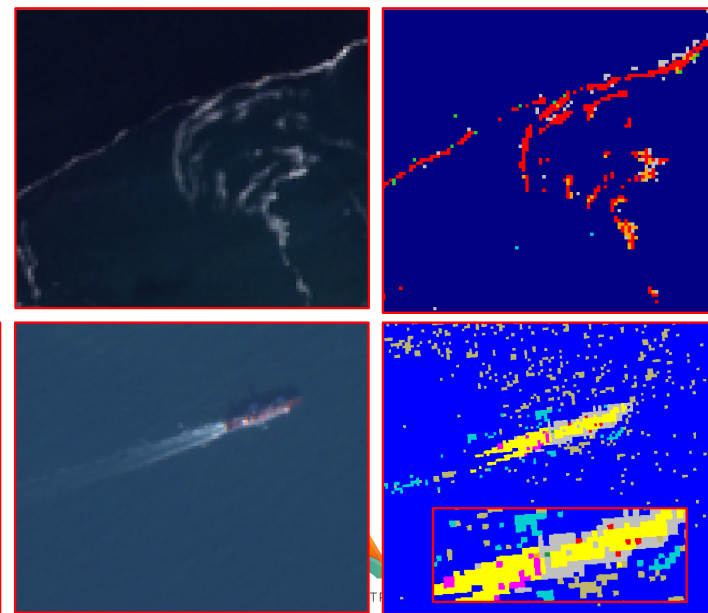
Class	RF			XGBoost		
	IoU	Rec	F1	IoU	Rec	F1
MD	0.68	0.83	0.81	0.73	0.84	0.84
DenseS	0.92	0.95	0.96	0.93	0.96	0.96
SpS	0.82	0.90	0.90	0.85	0.90	0.92
NatM	0.73	0.80	0.85	0.75	0.81	0.86
Ship	0.69	0.75	0.82	0.76	0.81	0.86
Clouds	0.93	0.96	0.96	0.97	0.98	0.98
MWater	0.94	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.99	0.98
SLWater	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Foam	0.59	0.74	0.74	0.66	0.78	0.80
TWater	0.99	1.00	1.00	0.99	1.00	1.00
SWater	0.93	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.97	0.98
Cyanob	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Noctil	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	1.00	1.00
Phaeoc	0.86	0.94	0.92	0.91	0.96	0.95
Average	0.86	0.91	0.92	0.89	0.93	0.94

Random Forest and XGBoost ML models show satisfactory metrics. An improved U-NET model is under testing.

Models were trained with an extended version of the MARIDA spectral library, totalizing 14 classes, including Marine Debris, Floating Macroalgae, Ships, Foam, Clear and Turbid Water and Phytoplankton Blooms.

However, challenges are always present in unseen data...

Many other reflective/bright features like plastics exist, foam, clouds, ships. Difficult to differentiate between these features



- Marine Debris
- Dense Sargassum
- Sparse Sargassum
- Natural Organic Material
- Ship
- Clouds
- Foam



# Julia UNET integration into Python

- The UNET model was developed with the Flux.jl package.
- The integration of the model structure into POS2IDON main code in Python is assured by JuliaCall from PythonCall.jl.
- This allows the POS2IDON user to have more machine learning model options and take advantage of Julia's processing capabilities.

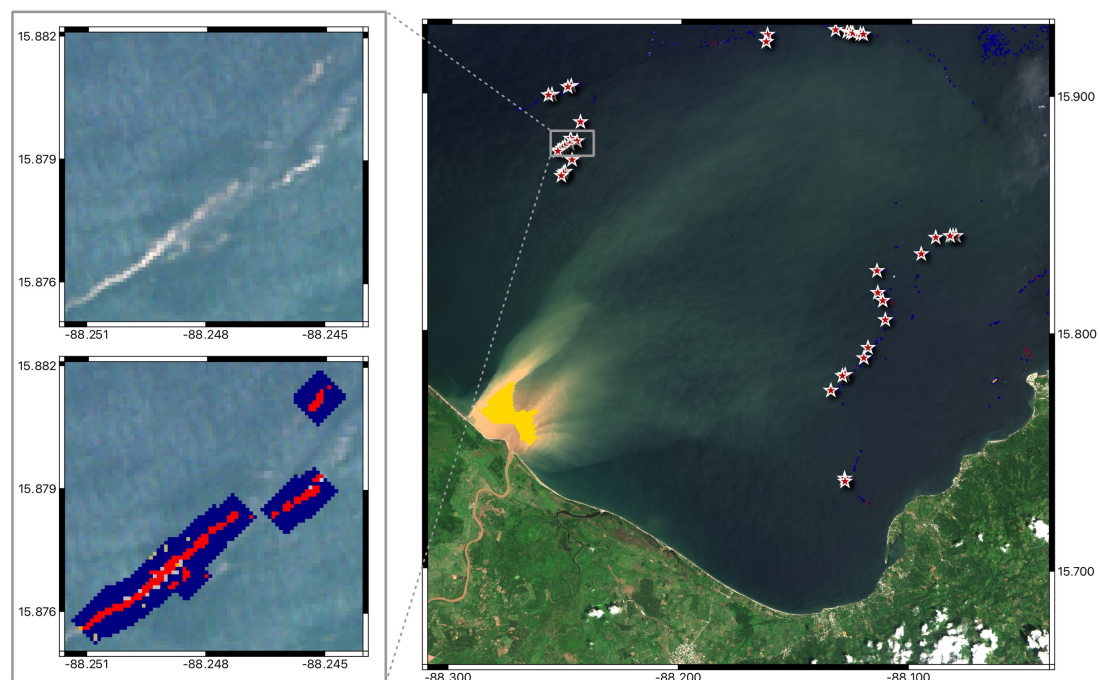




# POS2IDON: Applications (1)

**Post-disaster management** after flooding events in heavily polluted regions to direct clean-up activities and assess the input of debris into the ocean. Next figure shows POS2IDON applied to a major plastic debris event in Honduras Gulf in 2020/09/18.

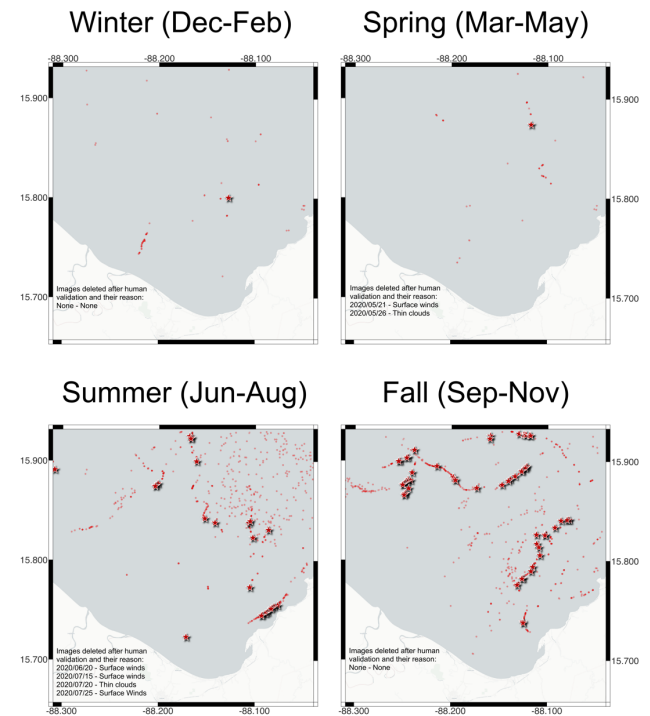
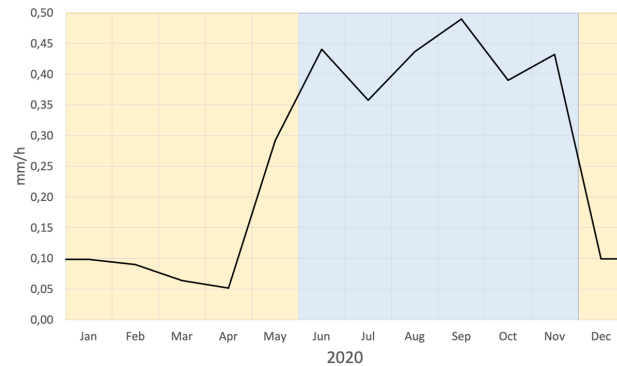
Likely presence of MD (red pixels and dots) detected along the river front. Red stars with white borders are clusters of at least 10 MD pixels at 100 meters distance.



# POS2IDON: Applications (2)

**Long-term seasonal analysis** taking advantage of regular Sentinel-2 imagery (5 days) since 2018, useful to better understand patterns and trends in marine debris. POS2IDON is used to analyse Honduras Gulf for all 2020 (72 images).

Dryer seasons (winter and spring) have less debris detection, in agreement with rivers being the major source of pollution.

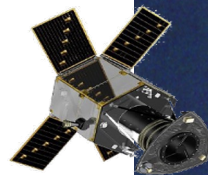




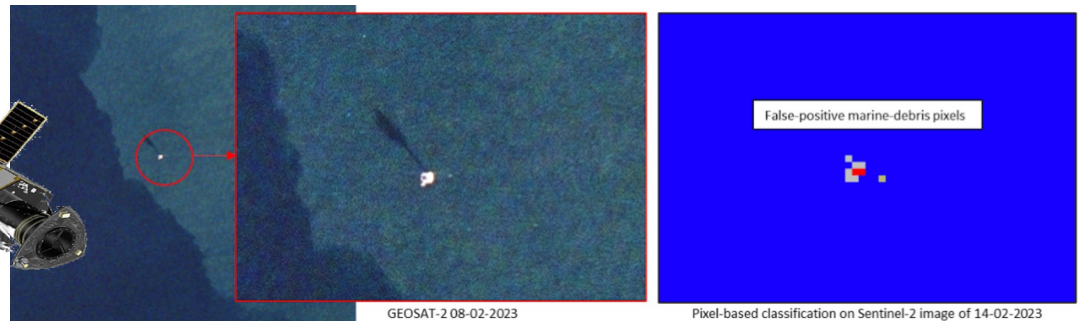
# Improvements since last JuliaEO



Events in Literature and News



GEOSAT-2 very-high resolution



GEOSAT-2 08-02-2023

Pixel-based classification on Sentinel-2 image of 14-02-2023

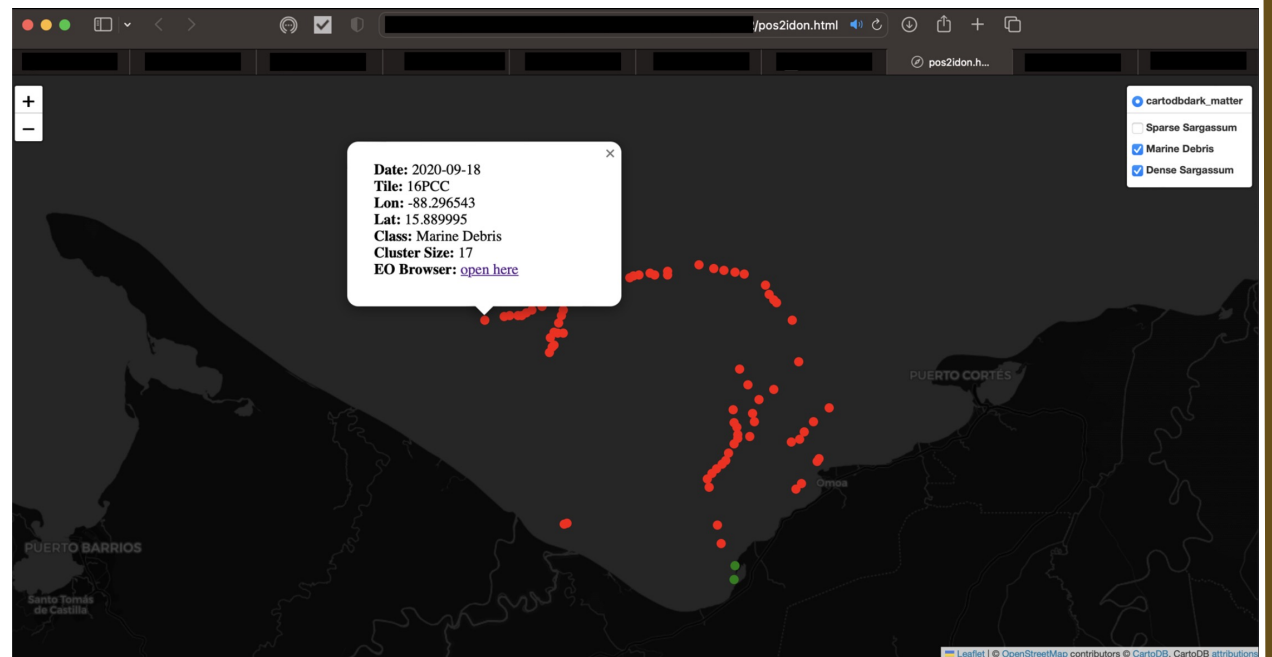


Field Campaign June 2023 (LABPLAS project)



# Improvements since last JuliaEO

- Support for the new Copernicus Data Space Ecosystem for downloading Sentinel-2 products.
- From JuliaEO23 a collaboration start to train a UNET model in Julia to improve GPU classification speed.
- Integration of the UNET model developed in Julia into the POS2IDON source code in Python;
- Web app prototype to show POS2IDON results (using Python folium, **how can Julia facilitate this web development?**);

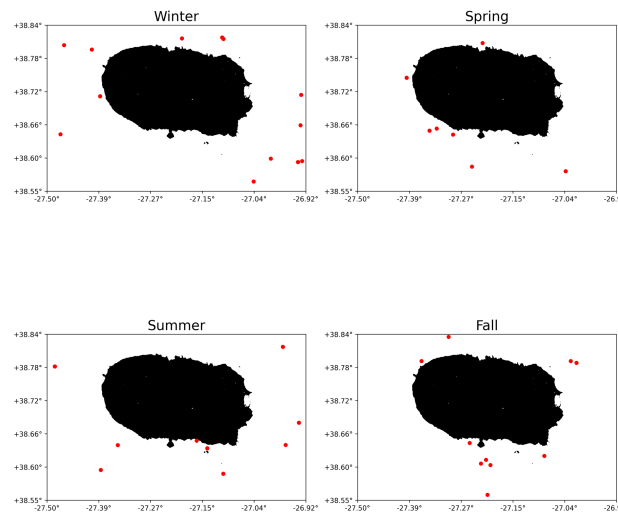




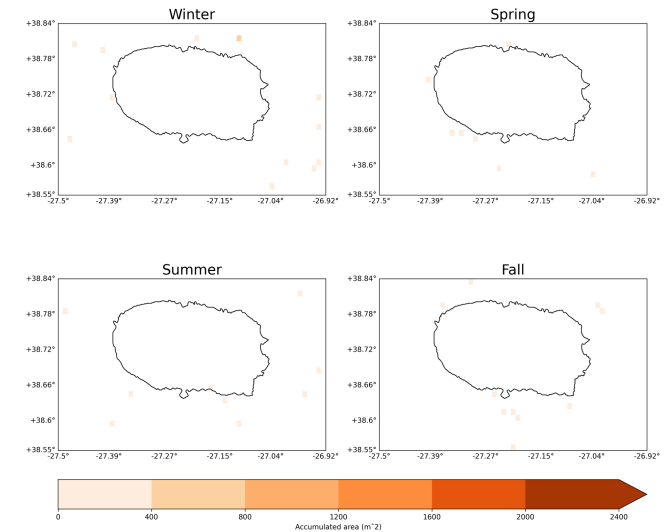
# Improvements since last JuliaEO

- Visualization and analysis of long-term data with density and occurrence maps.
- GEOTIF may not be the most efficient way to save POS2IDON results during long-term analysis (**alternative formats?**).
- Training new models with an expanded spectral library containing more classes such as algae blooms. However, there is still a problem of lack of in-situ data.

Occurrence Map - Marine Debris



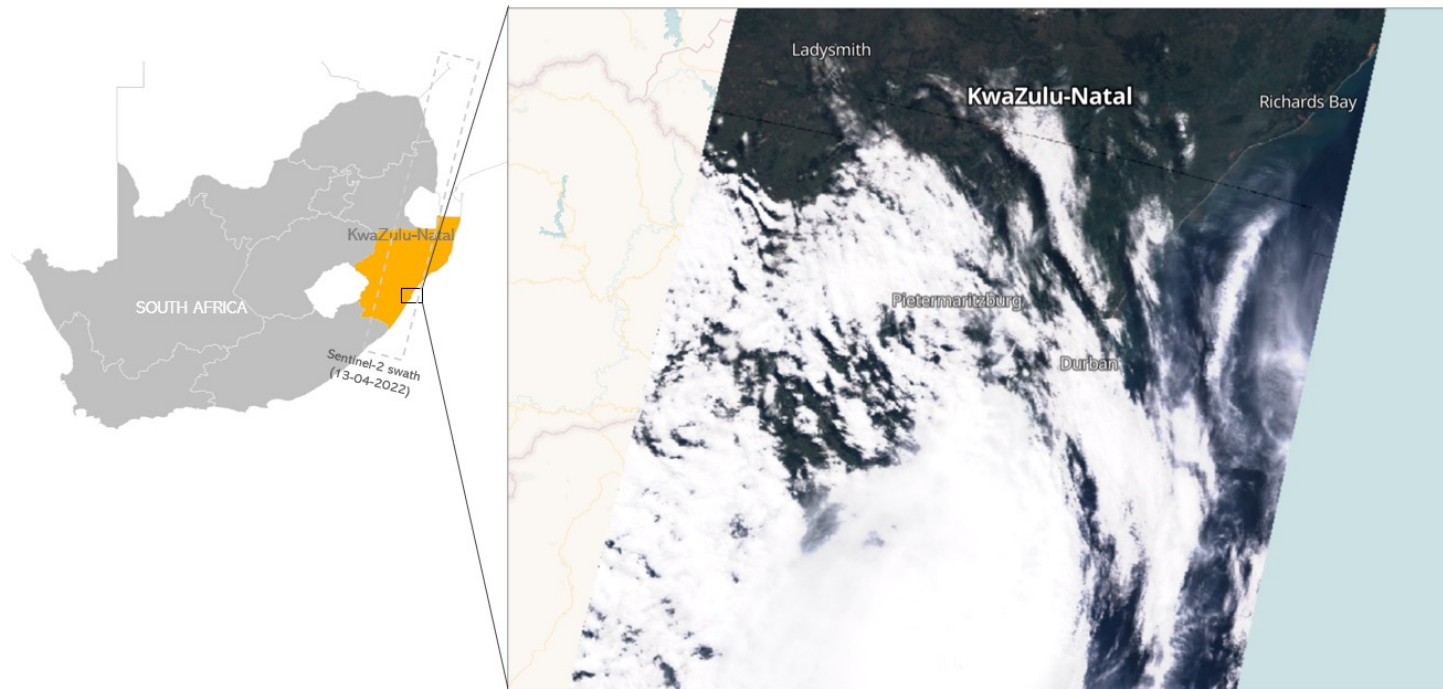
Accumulation Map - Marine Debris





# Introduction to Case Study – South Africa Floods 2022

Our case study is an event of litter discharged to the sea following the April 2022 catastrophic floods in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.



Sentinel-2 RGB image on 13-04-2022



Plastic pollution left behind on Durban's beaches after the April 2022 floods.



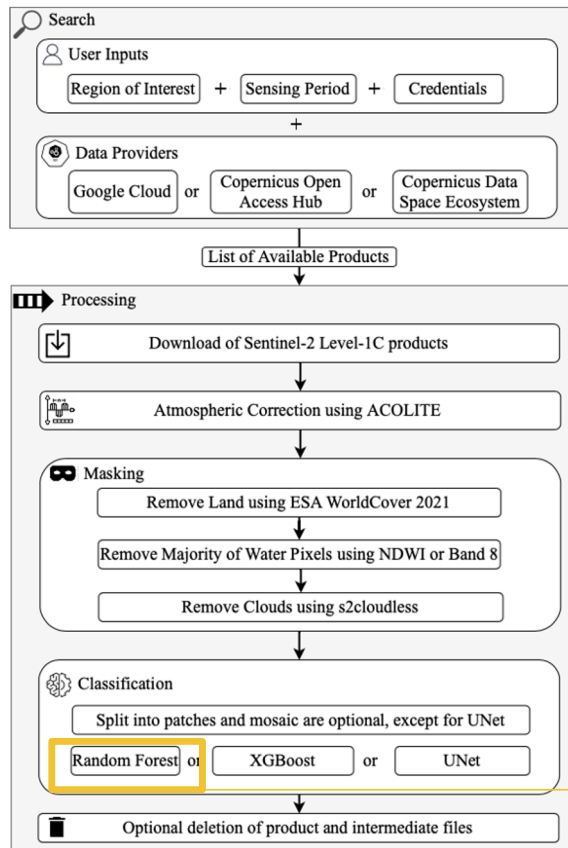
# What will be covered?

The Hands-on session is a simplified version of POS2IDON.

You can access the training material and instructions at:

AIRCentre > JuliaEO24 > notebooks > **pos2idon\_results\_demo**

In addition, a document with basic instructions was sent to you.



POS2IDON architecture.

Focus on this Hands-on session

Visualization



Classification with RF

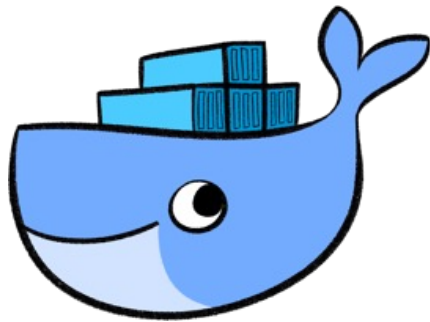


# Some questions you might have

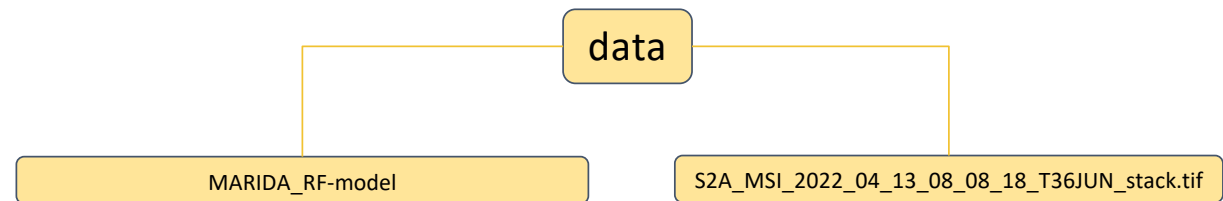
Before we start the Hands-on session, here are some important questions answered:

## What is Docker?

Docker enables the creation of lightweight, isolated containers for applications and their dependencies. This is valuable because it ensures **consistent environments** and **offers portability**. It streamlines this kind of hands-on sessions by ensuring all participants have a uniform and manageable environment to run a specific project.



## Where does the data used in the exercise come from?



Previous trained Random Forest model based on the MARIDA spectral signatures library.

Recall for Marine Debris: **91%**

Measures how good your model finds all the positives.

$$Recall = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

Stack processed and outputted by **POS2IDON**.

Includes:

- 11 Sentinel-2 bands atmospherically corrected with ACOLITE and resampled to 10 meters.
- 8 Spectral Indices calculated from the previous bands.





**Let's go!**

