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underwater explosions of WW2 ordnances

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World War 2 (WW2) devastated Europe between 1939 and 1945. Unexploded ordnances remaining from this conflict are still found in European harbours. These recovered ordnances are moved to remote locations and destroyed in a controlled way. Some underwater detonations were large enough to be recorded by the International Monitoring System (IMS). Related events were included in the International Data Centre (IDC) bulletins. Position and charge size of WW2 ordnances are well documented in the press as they are of interest to the residents of affected areas. This information may be used to assess location accuracy and estimated magnitude of events recorded by the IMS network.

This presentation will show recordings of events linked to controlled underwater explosions of WW2 ordnances in 2020. Examined events were triggered by devices of different charge size and took place in several locations. There were also other, previously detected WW2 ordnance underwater explosions which could be compared to events in 2020. We present how accurately these relatively small explosions are located by the IMS network. We also relate charge size of explosive material to event magnitude in this special case of well-coupled underwater explosion.

Promotional text

Events triggered by controlled explosions of ordnances remaining from armed conflicts may be used to assess the location accuracy and magnitude estimates provided by the IMS network

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