

Fishing strategy in a single package!

FISHERMEN visiting FNI's FISHING 09 show in Glasgow, Scotland, were given demonstrations of Sodena of France's prototype Turbo Tactic package (see Tactical Fishing Software Links with Side Sonar (FNI, June 2009).

The production version will be making its debut at the Vigo fishing exhibition from September 16-19.

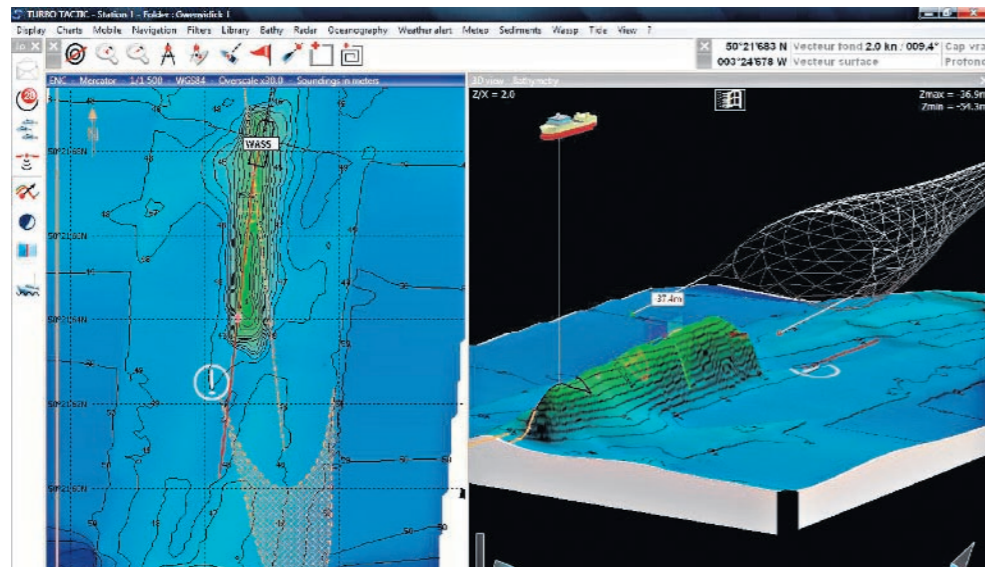
Turbo Tactic is aimed at giving fishing skippers a new range of options by combining information from a variety of sources and presenting this as effectively as possible.

Christophe Corbieres, sales manager, says: "The aim is a tactical strategic console for fishermen. The concept is for a modal system with add-on possibilities.

"This isn't a plotter. That's a market that is already saturated.

"This is designed to help identify and target fish by combining data sources into a much wider concept – a new approach that merges information and the relationship between parameters."

The basis of its cartography is ECDIS, merged with data from sonars,



Above: a Turbo Tactic screenshot of a genuine fishing area in the English Channel and the wreck of a merchant ship that has claimed many sets of fishing gear over the years. Above right: The same

screen image as the one left, with a slightly altered viewpoint, is used to show ground hardness as well as the tidal flow. In addition to real-time ground analysis, shoal mapping is also an option.

sounders, multi-beam equipment, trawl sensors, flow meters, logbook catch data and other sources.

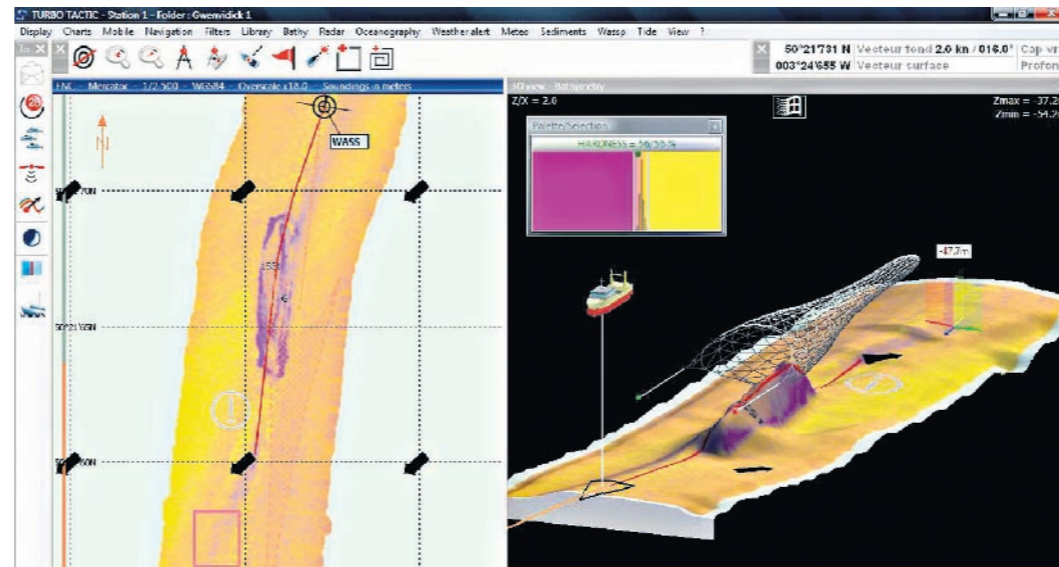
"They are all combined with a viewpoint that can be placed wherever the skipper wants it to be.

"This is designed to use raw data from acoustic devices, which is the best data format use when integrating data sources. Selection is based on recognition methods to identify prime fishing locations," he tells FNI, adding that the user has a range of options available

to set and alter parameters as required.

"It can process and analyse data to give real time ground analysis as well as real time shoal mapping. This provides clear information on where the biomass is strongest, as well as information on identifying the fish.

"We recommend multi-beam sounders for use with this as this gives the full picture, while a conventional sounder just provides a 'slice' image of what is happening below the catching vessel. "This way there is much more precise mapping and a multi-beam sounder provides



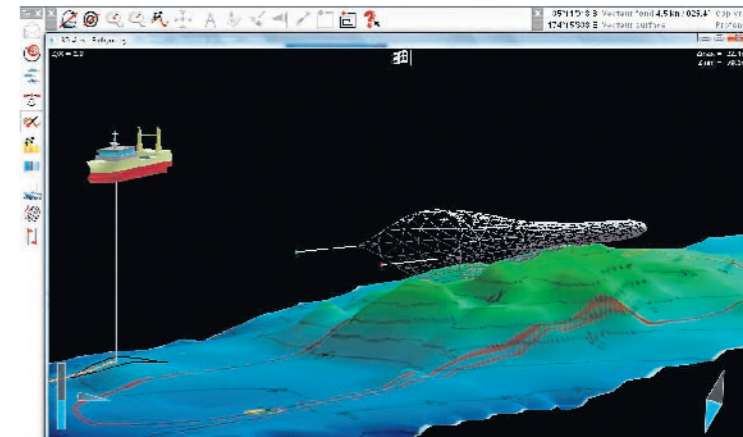
112 points of data for each beam – mapping at a much higher level."

"The result is very accurate bottom mapping with a measure point every metre and accurate classification of bottom hardness and type."

Christophe Corbieres demonstrates how Turbo Tactic has been used to predict where the most likely fishing grounds are off an area of the French coast. Merging environmental and oceanographic data,

ground classification and tidal flow information indicates where shooting a trawl is most likely to show results.

He continues: "But there is a complex set of data filters that make it possible



to refine the data even more to increase the accuracy of the prediction.

"Then we can also merge the echogram with the geographic data and go to any point on a trawler's track to go back and analyse that location."

Sodena also plans to incorporate its electronic logbook system into this and the incorporation of Catsat, as that company's long-term co-operation with Sodena

means that additional layers of data – including predictive mapping, temperature and thermocline depth data – can be overlaid.

"The logbook feature is an important one for the European market, but this has been developed so that it's more than simply filling in information to meet requirements. This is there primarily as a tool that can be used for advance sales before landing."

Interfacing this to a vessel's existing satellite system is simple and it puts a vessel and its logbook data in constant contact with the shore side of the business.

"As with the main Turbo Tactic concept, this is seen as a modular system. This can be linked to a vessel's onboard weighing system and the communications side of it can be set so that it will always choose the most economical communications mode."