

5. Water bodies

5.1. Inland waters

5.2. Marine waters

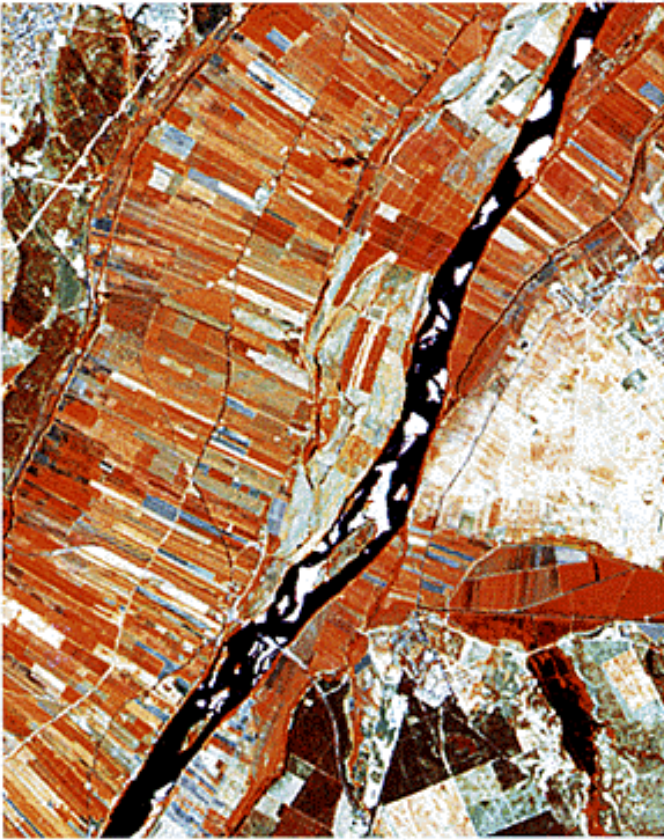
5.1. Inland waters

5.1.1. Water courses

5.1.2. Water bodies

5.1.1. Water courses

Natural or artificial water courses serving as water drainage channels. Includes canals. Minimum width for inclusion: 100 m.



5.1.1. Portugal/Area: Cavtasco
Landsat TM 4.5.3. 1:100 000, August 1985

Attention must be given to the minimum width without creating too much discontinuity (interruptions) in the linear elements of the landscape.

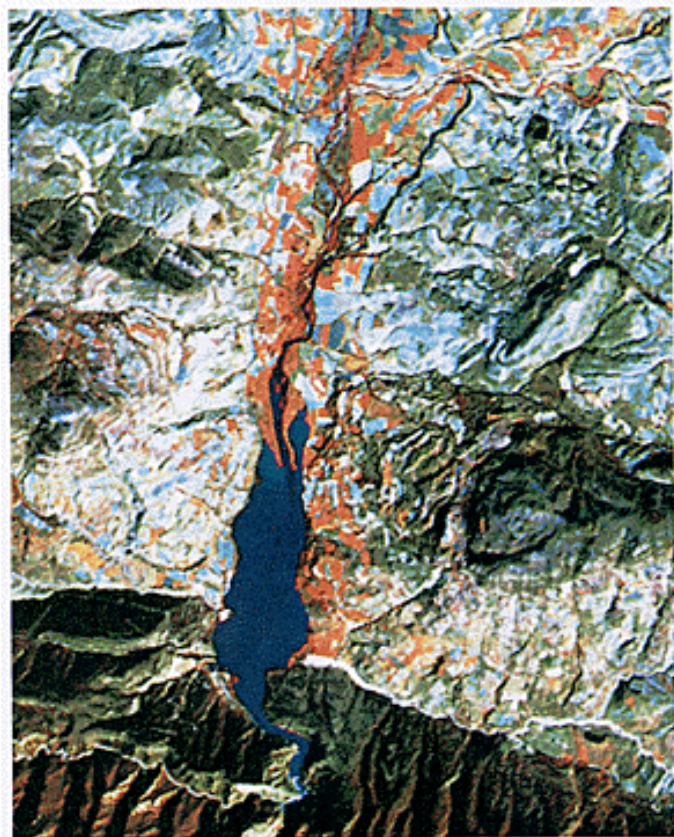
Interpretation



Topographic (scale 1:100 000)

5.1.2. Water bodies

Natural or artificial stretches of water.



5.1.2. Spain/Area: Tresp
Landsat TM 4.5.3. 1:100 000, September 1987

Interpretation

This heading includes the water surfaces of dams which are empty on the images analysed (exceptional state). Islands in water bodies and water courses should be singled out only if they cover more than 25 ha. This rule also applies to marine environments.



Automatic classification

5.2. Marine waters

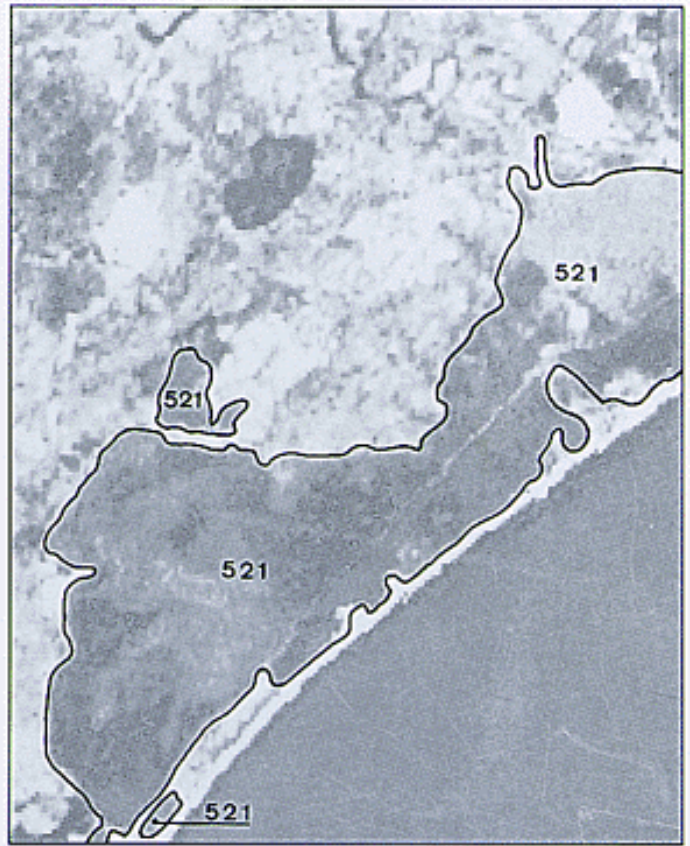
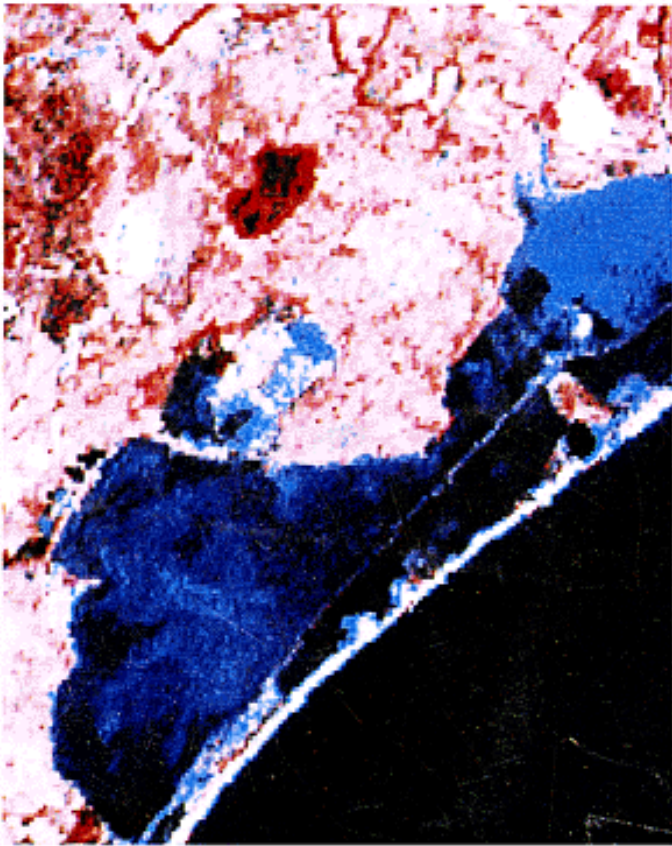
5.2.1. Coastal lagoons

5.2.2. Estuaries

5.2.3. Sea and ocean

5.2.1. Coastal lagoons

Stretches of salt or brackish water in coastal areas which are separated from the sea by a tongue of land or other similar topography. These water bodies can be connected to the sea at limited points, either permanently or for parts of the year only.



5.2.1. France/Area: Montpellier
Landsat MSS 4.2.1. 1:100 000, July 1988

Interpretation

Lagoons are classified as land surfaces. As a matter of convention and to ensure that there is always a coastline separating the land area from the marine area, the interpretation will always show a shoreline separating the lagoon from the sea (e.g. the lagoon on the Giens peninsula).

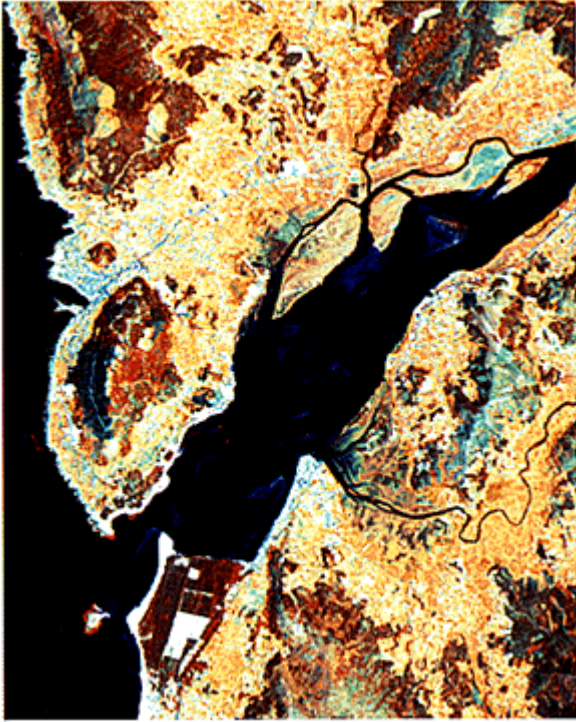
Estuarine lagoons belong to this category.



Panchromatic aerial photograph

5.2.2. Estuaries

The mouth of a river, within which the tide ebbs and flows.



Portugal/Area: Caminha
Landsat TM 4.5.3. 1:100 000, July 1987

Interpretation

The definition of category 5.2.2 should not be seen as an exercise in distinguishing fresh water from salt water at low tide, since this cannot be achieved by examining any single image recording a single tide level (although to establish such a limit is consistent with and complementary to the definition of intertidal flats). Estuaries are usually connected to the land area.

The limit of inland waters and estuarine waters (furthest point reached by salt water) should be determined on a case-by-case basis for each river by reference to existing maps.

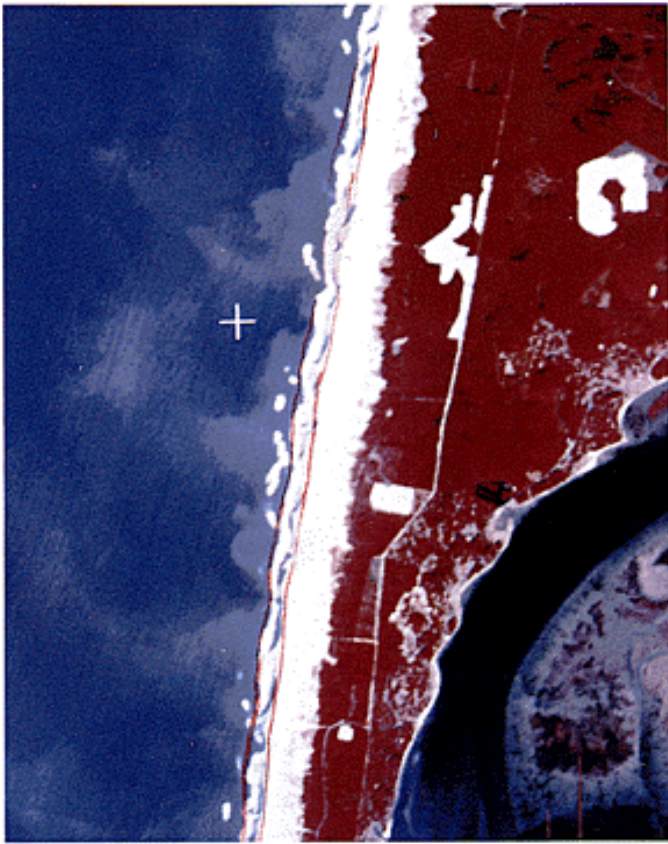
The limit between estuarine waters and the sea is more difficult to establish. To do so, we use information obtained from interpretation of the image and indications on existing maps (marine maps), or we follow a simple rule: join the ends of the two river banks or select the waters downstream of the first bridge.



Topographic map (scale 1:100 000)

5.2.3. Sea and ocean

Zones seaward of the lowest tide limit.



5.2.3. France/Area: Arcachon
SPOT 3.2.1. 1:100 000, March 1989

Interpretation

As with the delineation of the coastline and owing to the variability of the tides, it is important to define this heading on the basis of information (0 contour) appearing on topographic maps.



Topographic (scale 1:50 000) reduced to 1:70 000