

09 LOVE PLANET EARTH™

AQUA

We are always looking for it on faraway planets, but somehow fail to protect it on our own. One person in eight has no access to water. The shortage takes many forms: water is wasted, poisoned and stolen, while even the glaciers, the most ancient of reservoirs, are retreating. Meanwhile, the eyes of the Earth, our lakes, are narrowing, dried out by a changing climate. According to the United Nations, by 2025 some two-thirds of the world's population will be facing water shortages. Telespazio has been monitoring the emergency for several years now with its satellite images, contributing valuable data to those planning to tackle this most difficult of challenges - a challenge that prompted John F. Kennedy to say, almost half a century ago: "Anyone who can solve the problems of water will be worthy of two Nobel Prizes - one for peace and one for science."



Baltoro Glacier, Pakistan

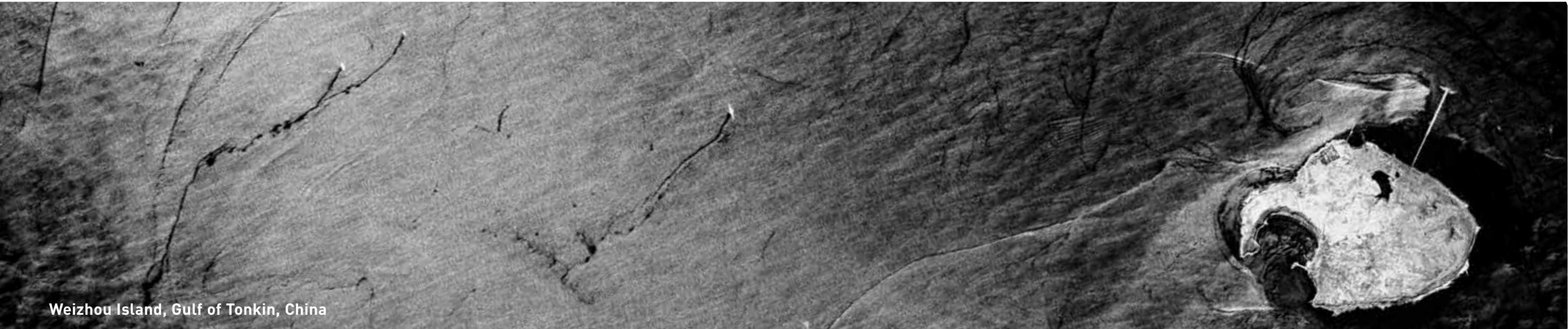
The glaciers of Himalaya-Karakorum are retreating. Less water for a billion people.

01_JAN

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02_FEB

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Weizhou Island, Gulf of Tonkin, China

Oil spill in the sea: 65,000 tons per year are dispersed into the Mediterranean Sea alone.

03_MAR

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04_APR

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Aral Lake, border between Uzbekistan and Kazakistan

The Aral Sea has lost 75% of its water. Fifty years ago it was the world's fourth largest lake.

05_MAY

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06_JUN

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Barents Sea, North Cape, Norway

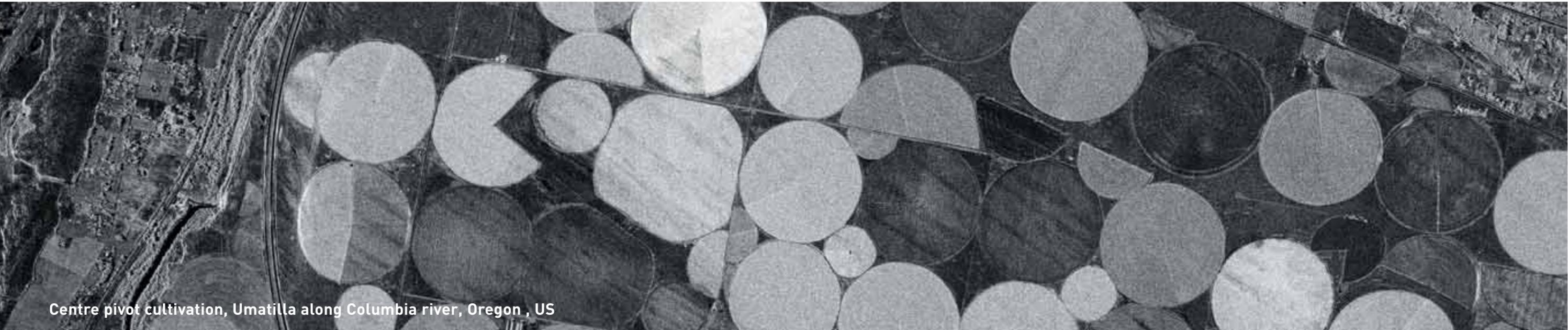
5,000 species of phytoplankton are being affected by ocean warming and pollution.

07_JUL

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08_AUG

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Centre pivot cultivation, Umatilla along Columbia river, Oregon , US

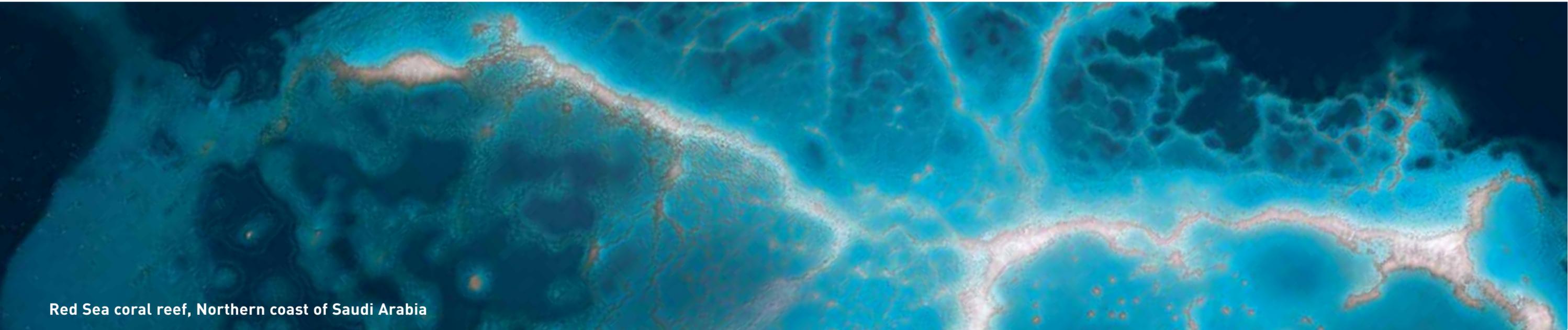
70% of freshwater is used for agriculture. Irrigated land has increased fivefold in one century.

09_SEP

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10_OCT

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Red Sea coral reef, Northern coast of Saudi Arabia

Global warming: coral bleaching is one of the first warning signs.

11_NOV

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12_DEC

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Telespazio, a Finmeccanica / Thales company, is a leading worldwide operator in satellite services. For over 40 years Telespazio has been serving an ever-changing world: from satellite navigation to broadband multimedia telecommunications, from Earth observation to satellite and control centre management.

We are constantly looking out to space in search of innovative solutions for a better life here on Earth.

Telespazio, with its headquarters in Italy, is also present in France, Germany and Spain, and has space centres and operational sites around the world.



Baltoro Glacier, Pakistan
35° 45' N, 76° 25' E
<http://www.telespazio.com/calendar09/baltoro.html>
Landsat-7 © NASA/USGS, EarthSat, courtesy GLCF



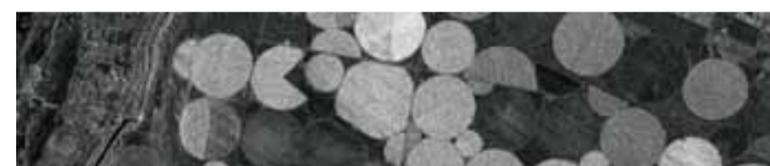
Weizhou Island, Gulf of Tonkin, China
20° 57' N, 109° 02' E
<http://www.telespazio.com/calendar09/weizhou.html>
COSMO-SkyMed © ASI/Italian MoD



Aral Lake, border between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan
45° 15' N, 59° 19' E
<http://www.telespazio.com/calendar09/aral.html>
Terra MODIS © NASA, courtesy NASA/GSFC



Barents Sea, North Cape, Norway
71° 12' N, 25° 45' E
<http://www.telespazio.com/calendar09/barents.html>
Terra MODIS © NASA, courtesy NASA/GSFC



Centre pivot cultivation, Umatilla along Columbia river, Oregon, US
45° 54' N, 119° 23' W
<http://www.telespazio.com/calendar09/oregon.html>
COSMO-SkyMed © ASI/Italian MoD



Red Sea coral reef, Northern coast of Saudi Arabia
27° 50' N, 35° 18' E
<http://www.telespazio.com/calendar09/redsea.html>
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