

Information to the Participants to the 14th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Regional Fisheries Monitoring Plan for the South-western Indian Ocean

General presentation

In partnership with IOTC, the Indian Ocean Commission (COI) has been implementing, since 2005, several actions aiming at a sustainable management of fisheries resources:

- **The Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Project (MCS), completed in 2008.**
- **The Regional Tuna Tagging Project (RTTP), completed in 2009.**

The COI has also produced a policy for the development of fisheries, involving, amongst others, IOTC. The implementation of this strategy will be significantly supported by funds under the 10th FED.

IOTC is also informed by this note of the implementation, since 2007, of the Regional Fisheries Monitoring Plan for the South-western Indian Ocean.

This fisheries monitoring framework is implemented in the waters of the 5 Member States of COI:

- Comoros
- France – Réunion
- Madagascar
- Maurice
- Seychelles

- There also exists a possibility to extend the project to cover the EEZ of Mozambique in 2010.

The area covered represents roughly 5.5 million km², in one of the main tuna and tuna-like species fishing area in the Indian Ocean.

This project is funded at a level of 80% by the European Union and 20% by COI.

The aim of the project is to fight against IUU fishing but, as well, to promote responsible fisheries to guarantee the sustainable management of marine fisheries resources.

In this regard, through the presence in this area of means and resources for at-sea inspections, the Regional Fisheries Monitoring Plan can contribute to the effective implementation of fishing practices complying with the conservation and management measures adopted nationally or regionally.

Activities

- Joint Maritime Patrols for Fisheries Monitoring
- Aerial Patrols
- Remote Satellite Monitoring. **Anyone can be detected in the monitoring zone, wherever they are and without them being aware of it.**
- Fisheries Inspectors training
- Exchange of information between the Fisheries Monitoring Centres
- On-board observers pilot project: implementation of Resolution 09/04 by the Member States of COI
- Specific support to the creation and operation of the National Fisheries Control and Monitoring Centre in Comoros, which is now equipped with a VMS data collection system for the vessels licensed to fish in their waters
- Extension of the Project to Mozambique



Objectives

Fighting IUU fishing

General management of fishing activities

Promotion of responsible fisheries so that Coastal States and their fishermen can benefit from fishing activities in the area in a sustainable way

Mutualisation of resources in order to limit the costs of monitoring marine fisheries

Resources

- 7 patrol vessels

- 4 maritime patrol planes

- satellites

- Regional Coordination Unit: a decision-making structure, collaborative and reactive, composed of the Directors of the various operational services in charge of fisheries monitoring in the Member States of IOC. The Unit meets roughly every two month.

Results as of 1 March 2010:

- 18 monitoring missions (average duration: 20 days) in 26 month.
 - 144 vessels inspected at sea.
 - 158 vessels identified by plane.
 - 12 infringement reports.
 - 2 vessels arrested.
 - Several dubious situations reported to the Port States.
 - 146 trips of on-board fisheries inspectors.
 - 554 days of at-sea patrol.
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- A complete dedication to fighting IUU fishing.
 - The Fisheries Inspectors are familiar with the environment and the profession they are in charge of monitoring.
 - The fishing masters are often surprised by the inspections, but are at the same time comforted by the presence of the patrol vessels and planes.
 - The monitoring of this maritime area is almost permanent, be it through the resources of the Regional Fisheries Monitoring Plan or through the regular national resources.

We wish to thank the Honourable Delegations of IOTC Members for their attention extended to the activities and results of this project, which is implemented to guarantee the sustainability of the tuna resources in the Indian Ocean through a cooperation with IOTC and its Members.

