

The Indian Ocean Commission commitment at the Our Ocean Conference in Malta

Malta 6th October 2017 – The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) is currently attending the Our Ocean Conference in Malta. The commitments related to the expansion of its Fisheries Surveillance zone have been presented there, from 5 to 8 countries, on behalf of the region. The Indian Ocean is the second largest Tuna producer worldwide.

The IOC is presenting the commitment of the eight participating States to the Regional Fisheries Monitoring Plan (Comoros, France/Reunion Island, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Tanzania) known as PRSP. The PRSP, supported by the European Union DG MARE, is a mechanism for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries, which makes it possible to pool the material and human resources of the countries of the region. The eight States in the region, which control a maritime area of 6.4 million square kilometres, reaffirmed last July their commitment to continue and intensify their cooperation in the fight against illegal fishing.

The IOC's SmartFish programme, financed by the European Union, is the largest Fisheries Programme in Africa and will also promote all its activities related to mud-crab post harvest in Madagascar and octopus fisheries closure in Mauritius as well as the Multi Agency Task Team to fight against blast fishing in Tanzania (attached the infography).

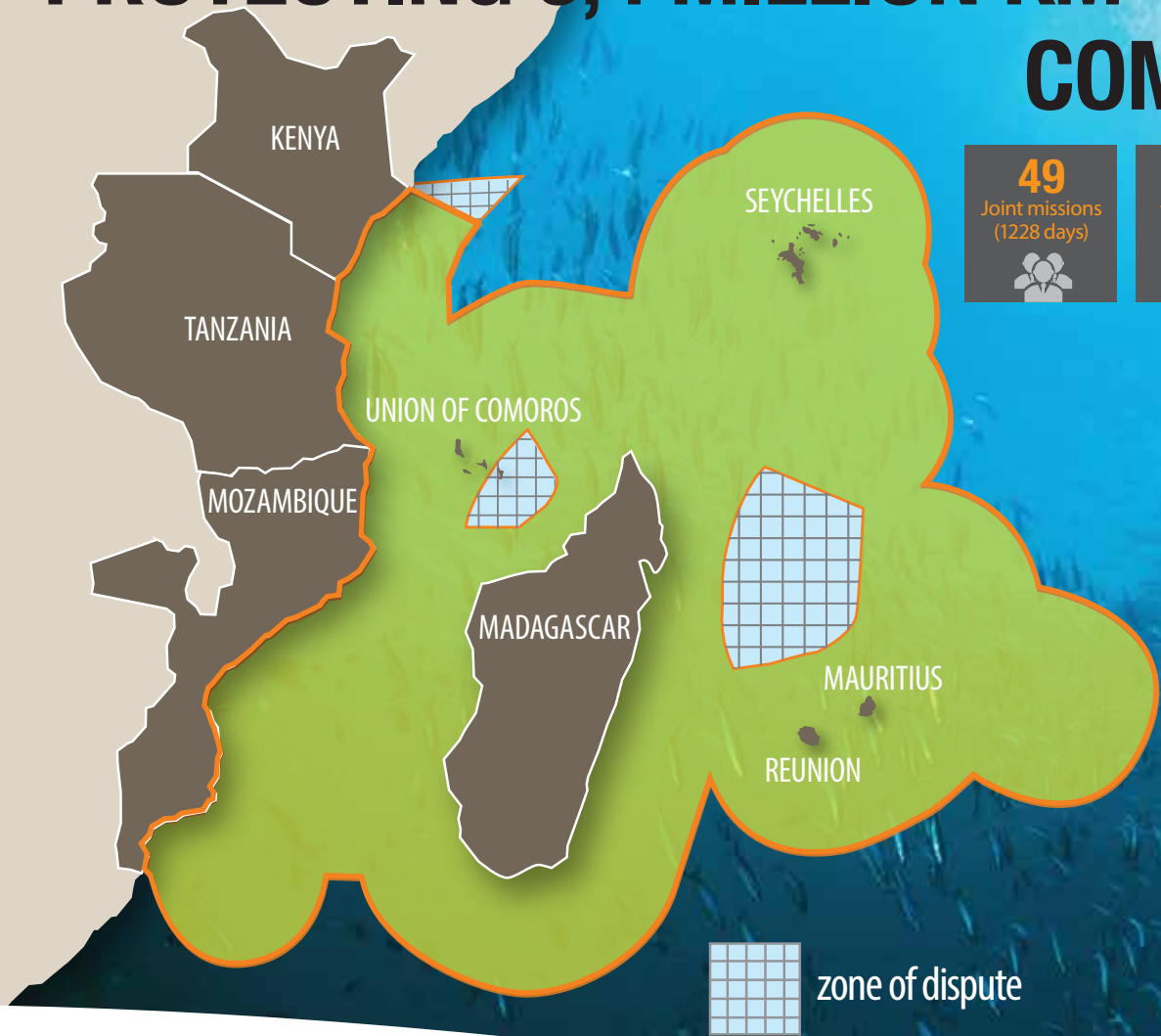
In partnership with the Presidency of the Seychelles-based Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia (CGPCS), IOC also intends to make known the regional contribution to securing maritime areas. The CGPCS, to be chaired by the IOC from January 2018, is mobilizing the international community to combat piracy in the western Indian Ocean basin. In addition, the activities of regional organizations in Eastern and Southern Africa, including the IOC, are part of the European Union-funded Maritime Safety Regional Program (MASE) with, inter alia, a Regional Maritime Information Merger Center in Madagascar and a Regional Center for Coordination of State Action at Sea in Seychelles.

Discover the stunning 7 mn Video which synthetize the PRSP activities http://bit.ly/PRSP_Movie

Follow our [live tweets](#) at @SmartFish_IOC and videos interviews on [Facebook](#) @SMARTFISHIOC

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EIGHT COUNTRIES IN THE SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN PROTECTING 6,4 MILLION KM² AND RENEWED THEIR COMMITMENT THIS YEAR



Since 2007, the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Project (PRSP) is recording significant achievements in the South-West Indian Ocean and the 8 participating states has renewed their commitment by signing a joint Ministerial declaration this year. Implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission and financed by EU and the 8 countries, the PRSP aims to fight against IUU fishing through regional cooperation and *in fine*, provides a framework for sustainable fisheries in the Indian Ocean.

The Indian Ocean is the second largest producer of tuna worldwide.

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TANZANIA : A MULTI-AGENCY TASK TEAM WORKING TOGETHER TO END DESTRUCTIVE BLAST FISHING

300Kg

explosives
confiscated

5

cases
prosecuted

€20,000

fine
issued

Dynamite fishing is a highly destructive, illegal method of catching fish which uses dynamite to send shock-waves through the water, stunning or killing fish & corals which are then collected and sold. Blast fishing can be lucrative: both from the sale of the fish caught and also from the trade of illegal explosives.

Many factors contribute to the prevalence of blast fishing in Tanzania; The best way to tackle the problem was to form a multi-agency task team (MATT) to facilitate resource and information sharing.

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OCTOPUS CLOSURE SEASONS, THE MARITIME FACADE OF THE SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN



Rodrigues fisheries closure

2001: 380T
(before closure)

2012: 570T
(after 1st closure)

Octopuses are among the fastest growing marine species and in three months, they nearly double their weight. The temporary closure of this fishery was initiated in Madagascar and further to the success obtained, it was replicated in Mauritius, Rodrigues and Zanzibar by the SmartFish programme, with EU funds. This initiative aims ultimately to preserve and enhance the value chain/governance of the species. The fishers community ultimately benefit economically and socially.

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CONSERVATION OF MADAGASCAR MUD CRAB

Reduction in post-harvest losses resulted in an annual additional commercial value of

€ 1,8 M

This is work related to unleash the full socio-economic and ecologic issue of mud crab by improving the handling and preservation. However the main initiative was the awareness activity conducted within the fishermen as well as the children. Simple measures taken along the value by the communities has an impact on the final expectations, which is protecting the resource.

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