

SAYA DE MALHA DAILY

A Newsletter by Dominique and François



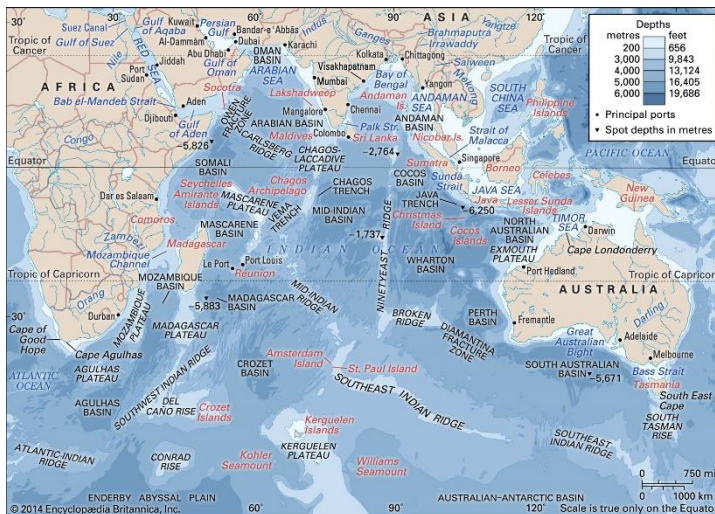
N°3, 2nd November 2022

Where are we ?

Open Sea
7.37 South, 57 East

Overcast, choppy seas, wind 9.14 knots
Air temperature 27.4
Water temperature 27.5

Speed 14 knots



The Indian Ocean

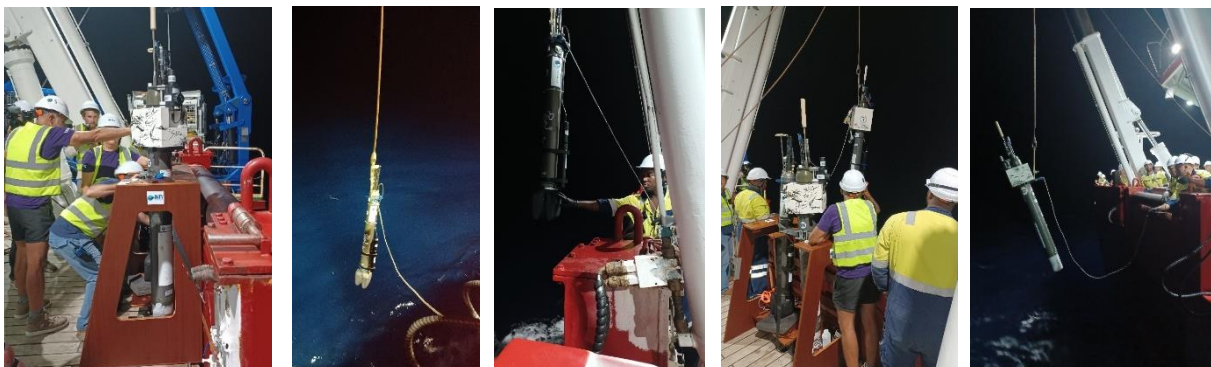
The Indian Ocean is the third largest ocean. It covers 70,560,000km² and represents 19.8% of the earth water. It is bordered by Asia to the North, Africa to the West and Australia to the East. To the south, it connects to the Southern Ocean and Antarctica. The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) is 22.3 million km² and includes 3 large marine ecosystems: the Agulhas current, the Somalia Current and the Mascarene Plateau.

What Happened ?

Launching of the water profiling floaters

The launching of the 3 floaters BGC-argo took place today from 1.15 in the morning for a couple of hours. One by one, they were carefully released in the ocean and quickly disappeared into the night. For several years, they will collect data on temperature, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll a, suspended particles and light. Equipped with a small engine allowing vertical movements, they will take measurements at depths of 1000 to 2000 meters which will be relayed by satellite to laboratories for analysis each time they come to the surface. The international BGC-argo programme aims to develop a fleet of 1000 of these robots in the Indian Ocean.

One of the floaters has been decorated by Remi, the expedition artist in residence, and offered by the expedition to the Seychellois scientists.





The Portrait



Brendan Quinn, Expedition Doctor

Brendan was born in Pretoria 28 years ago. He studied medicine in Pretoria and specializes in maritime emergency and aviation medicine. His role on the Aghulas is to look after the passengers' and the crew's health. It ranges from passengers' seasickness to risks of injuries around heavy machineries and operations of cranes and boats. it also entails taking care of the divers including rebreather deep sea divers. A hyperbaric doctor is on call 24 hours a day and the ship is equipped with an decompressions chamber. During the first leg of the expedition, he helped arrange an uplift of an injured scientist from the Comoros to Nairobi for treatment.

In the corridors

From the Seychelles team

Nuette has been lecturing at the University of Seychelles for 4 years. The expedition is an opportunity for her students to be exposed to multidisciplinary oceanographic research. Her own interest is in phytoplankton taxonomy. "I am interested in collecting and identifying potential species of concern for both biosecurity and food security. For a small island whose population depends on food from the sea, this is important."

Sheena is from Seychelles is an independent scientist. Her area of expertise is genetics and connectivity with a focus on deep sea biodiversity. As a small country Seychelles does not have the capacity finance large expeditions. Her research uses accessible technology that can be deployed from small boats. "I will be deploying our prototype camera and participate in the visual surveys especially the deep ocean. it will enable us to compare data with other places in the region and build research capacity".

Terry is a free-lance fishing technician and a diver with 20 years' experience in sea cucumber fishing. he is an observer on the expedition and is assist the diving teams. "I am interested to find out if there are sea cucumbers on the Saya de Malha seabed and what the ROV will show"

ERRATUM: April is not called April but Damaris!!!! apologies for the mistake

