

SAYA DE MALHA DAILY

A Newsletter by Dominique and François

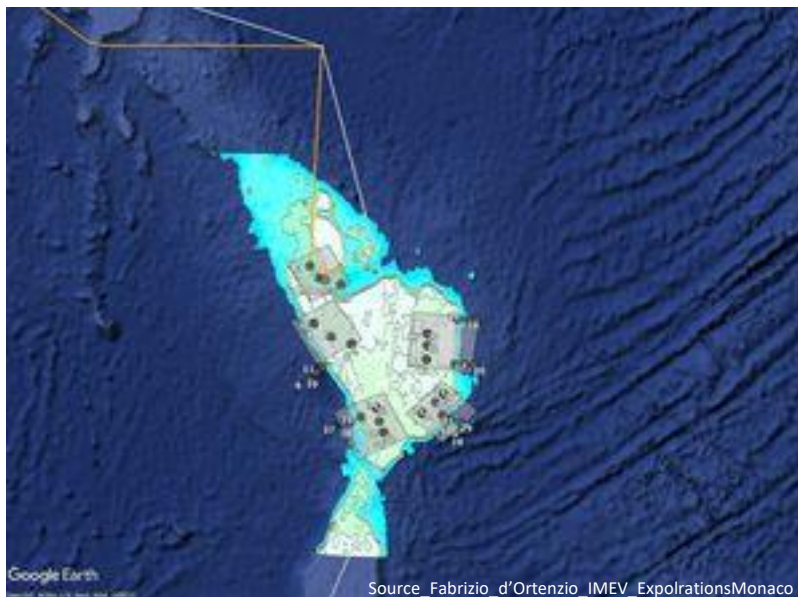


N°5, 4th November 2022

Where are we ?

North Point Saya de Malha
9.41° South 60.03° East
Sunny, choppy seas, Wind 17.11 knots
Air temperature 26.7 Water temperature 26.8

Saya de Malha Expedition Station 2



Saya de Malha

The Saya de Malha is a large, submerged sand bank, the size of Switzerland. Its depth ranges from 7 to 10 m in the shallowest areas to 70 m in its central lagoon.

The expedition will spend 10 days on the Bank and will survey five stations, which includes the Ritchie Bank also called North Saya de Malha.

Qu'est-ce qui se passe ?

Dragging and trawling

Those techniques also used in fishing, are used to collect organisms from the seafloor and the water column above. Dragging scrapes the seafloor to remove bottom dwelling organisms. Trawling collects both swimming and bottom dwelling organisms. The first drag brought shells and sea urchins. The first trawl brought back fish, shrimps and other organisms, which the scientists will proceed to identify and study.



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Le portrait



Stéphane Dugast, journalist, author, film maker

Stéphane was born in 1974 in Nantes, the city of Jules Verne, which predestined him to explorations. Following 15 years in the French Navy as a journalist on military and scientific campaigns, he now is a free-lance exploration journalist. Compulsively curious about wild and unexplored places, his passion has taken him to all corners of the globe on a range of issues, and to this expedition. "To tell the story of an expedition from the inside, communicate the excitement of research and experiencing field work are very important. Despite technology, we need people *in situ* and *in vivo* to give the right mood and emotion to a story". Stéphane has published books and made documentaries and is the Secretary General of France Explorers Society.

Dans les couloirs

Stowaways on board

A ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) is now living on the ship upper deck.

Most likely it embarked with us in Seychelles and forgot to leave. It seems at home though.



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Swimming crabs (*Charybdis* sp.) found their way in the moon pool, in the centre of the boat, probably during the Aldabra stopover. The moon pool is like a well which is used to drop instruments under the ship. Some crabs will be kept for identification.