

# SAYA DE MALHA DAILY

A Newsletter by Dominique and François



N°9, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## Where are we ?

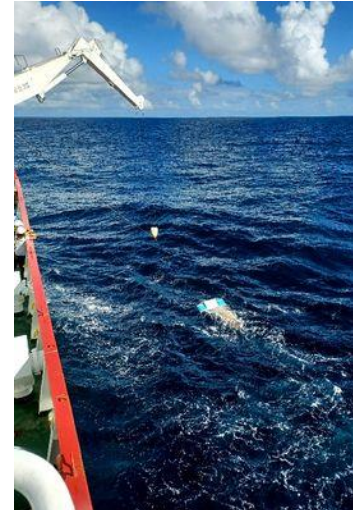
East of Saya de Malha Bank, Box 3  
10.36° South 62.02° East  
Nice Weather, Choppy Seas, Wind 17.1  
Knots  
Air Temperature 26°3,  
Water Temperature 26°7



## What's on ?

### The Manta Net

The manta net is launched from the side of the ship. It surfed on the surface of the ocean in 3 periods of 30mn each. The purpose is to collect floating objects, including microplastics. The litter collected is then preserved and analysed, first to describe polymers found and to identify the origin of plastic particles and second to analyse the DNA of microorganisms (bacteria and virus) carried by microplastics.



### The MADCAPS Project

The objective of this research is to characterise plastic litter carried by surface oceanic currents, potentially inert vectors of pathogenic microorganisms affecting corals, using integrated approaches and new technologies. the MADCAPS programme is a partnership of several organisations, the UMR Entropie of the University of Reunion, the IRD Marseille, The Ocean Clean Up and Best Run.

## Did you know ?

### Insects in the open ocean?

*Halobates* or sea skaters are on the only group of marine insects. Most of them are found in sheltered coastal zones, however a few species are found in the open ocean. They are small, less than a centimetre, have long antennae, long legs which propel them on the water surface and claws to catch their preys. *Halobates* lay eggs on floating debris. Plastic litter offers a new and more robust substrate than floating vegetation.



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## Le portrait



**Dass Bissessur**, Marine Geophysicist, Office of the Prime Minister, Mauritius.

Dass was born in Mauritius in 1980. Following studies in mathematics and physics in Toulouse, he first specialized in information technology and more specifically satellite remote sensing. Thanks to two senior scientists keen to form a new generation able to work in the Indian Ocean, he embarked on a PhD in marine geoscience. His passion is to understand better how the Indian ocean seabed is evolving and to be able to map it. *"The seabed is not easily accessible and so it is a long-term project"*. He has participated in several expeditions and was co leader in the 2018 Nansen expedition, a Mauritius Seychelles initiative funded by FAO. *"Each mission is an opportunity to improve our knowledge of the seabed. This mission is also an opportunity to plan for the next one"*.

## Today's Encounter

A **Hawksbill turtle** (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) was observed on diving fixed cameras. This species is considered endangered on the IUCN red list. Earlier that day, two of our Seychellois colleagues had seen one from the deck. Was it the same one?



## Life on board

