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Press Release



**CLS:
satellites
to fight against illegal,
unregulated and unreported
fishing**

In order to fight against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, the IOC (Indian Ocean Commission) chose CLS, worldwide leader of satellite-based environmental data collection, location and ocean observations, to install a Fishing Monitoring Centre in Moroni, Comoros.*

Tuna and tuna-like resources are either fully or over-exploited (annual captures of 1.5 million tonnes with associated value of €3 billion), with foreign fishing nations as the predominant actors. IUU (Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported) fishing accounts for approximately 10% of large pelagic captures (tuna and tuna-like fish species). Meanwhile revenue generation, employment and food security are of critical importance to the coastal states which would also like to take a much more active role in the fishery industry.

The IOC decided to start a pilot project for tracking, controlling and monitoring large migratory pelagics in the Indian Ocean.

In this context, the European Union and the Comoros Islands signed a bilateral fishery agreement authorizing access to the Comorian seas for European fleets. This exploitation protocol for halieutic resources will allow 40 European tuna boats and 17 European long-liners to fish in the Comorian maritime area.

In the spirit of sustainable development and exploitation of marine resources, IOC appoints CLS for the delivery of a turnkey VMS (Vessel Monitoring System) solution. This project will permit the Comoros Islands to monitor the activity of foreign fishing vessels operating in Comorian exclusive economic zone and national vessels operating under licence in Mozambique.

This solution includes a Fishing Monitoring Centre (infrastructure, administration and fisheries monitoring software, communication network by satellites, training of the Comorian team etc.), Argos transmitters for Comorian vessels, and complementary services.

CLS already equips 8,000 fishing vessels of all size all over the world (1,500 vessels in Indonesia, 900 in Peru, 500 in Japan, etc.). CLS is the only satellite operator in the world able to master/operate/control all the components of the system. The French company specifies and certifies Argos transmitters. CLS has been the exclusive Argos system operator since 1978 without any interruption. CLS has already developed and installed numerous Fishing Monitoring Centres in France, Peru, Seychelles, Madagascar, Russia, Mauritania and more recently in Chile.

*IOC: Indian Ocean Commission – Members States: Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar and France (Reunion).

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