



The Malagasy patrol vessel Dalkanner (now re-named Tendromaso) during an exercise with the French patrol vessel Albatros in Mozambican channel waters.

CO-OPERATIVE links have been maintained between the French and Malagasy fisheries services for about two years. Now, this method of working could be extended to other countries in the region.

The sharing of operational information by protected means now happens almost daily, and this is proving constructive and profitable.

Mutual visits by both fisheries services, plus training courses on shore or aboard French ships, are organised whenever an opportunity arises.

French-Madagascan air and maritime patrol services can easily combine to carry out monitoring and patrols of these waters.

Madagascar operates the fisheries patrol ship *Tendromaso* (formerly *Dalkanner*), which carries her own boarding team. In addition, another patrol vessel is under construction and she will be available to start her patrol duties next year.

Also available is a small civil aircraft with a good operational range and great availability.

France has a wide range of surveillance vessels in French waters off Réunion Island and Mozambican Channel Islands; helicopter capable frigates; the 32 metre patrol ships *La Rieuse* and *La Roussine*; and the Southern Ocean patrol ship *Albatros*.

The French fisheries service also provides special patrol instructions each time a French warship is

Growing links to beat Indian Ocean poaching

CO-OPERATION by Indian Ocean countries is being stepped up in a bid to stamp out illegal fishing. **Tiana Ramdriambola**, who is in charge of operational and communications services at the

Madagascan Fishing Service, and **Tegia Gaillard**, manager of CROSS Reunion, the French authority responsible for co-ordinating fisheries surveillance, report on progress.

expected to sail inside the Mozambican strait.

On board all vessels is a specially trained team for boarding operations. This year, the maritime affairs patrol vessel *Ostris* will also conduct regular surveillance patrols in Mozambican channel.

A navy jet aircraft type Falcon 50 is available for patrols and it is well suited for this role.

Operational co-operation has led to the interception of vessels fishing illegally several times. The rapid exchange of information obtained mainly by patrol plane, and information supplied by authorised fishing vessels, enable an excellent response by patrol vessels.

For example, on May 24, 2005, the Southern Ocean patrol vessel *Albatros* was on a mission when she identified at night a drifting fishing vessel in the Glorieuses Island EEZ. She was *New Fortune* sailing under the Taiwanese flag. This ship is a Malagasy zone licence holder which had not declared to fish in French waters.

The fisheries monitoring service in Madagascar communicated the last positions of this ship in the Malagasy EEZ. This proved *New Fortune* was fishing in the French zone, which was confirmed by the discovery of her longline buoys.

New Fortune was directed towards the island of Mayotte to pay a fine totalling €45,000.



Madagascar and France have common interests in the fight against IUU fishing in their adjacent fishing zones. So, the working relationship between the French regional operational monitoring and rescue centre Réunion and Malagasy fishing service is to be formalised by a co-operation agreement.

Then, in the short to medium term, we are also working to extend our surveillance effort in co-operation with the Seychelles and Comoros Islands, which have adjacent fishing zones in the Mozambique Channel.

Training ship project

A PROJECT to establish a ship school or training ship is being studied with European community help.

This development could ensure the training of fisheries officers of the various countries bordering the channel of Mozambique. The ship would enable the practical application of knowledge attained in training and this could be supplemented by specialised conferences at stopovers in various countries.



Above: Taiwanese fishing vessel *New Fortune* is arrested by the French patrol ship *Albatros*.

Left: the Malagasy fishing monitoring service is based at Antananarivo.