

E€OFISH

Enhancing equitable economic growth by promoting sustainable fisheries in the EA-SA-IO region



CONCEPT NOTE

StarFISH | Dashboard

Registered Vessels: **1248** (All Vessels >)

High Risky Vessels: **65** (Show Vessels >)

Registered Licenses: **1892** (Show Licenses >)

Inspections And Sightings: **281** (More Details >)

Current Month infractions: **0** (Show Infractions >)

VESSEL STATISTICS > | **LICENSE STATISTICS** >

INSPECTION STATISTICS > | **INFRACTION STATISTICS** >

Latest activities [VIEW COMPLETE LIST](#)

ACTIVITY	DATE
Passage d'entrée/sortie #1 edited by Super Admin	2023-12-08 06:31
Caractéristique de l'unité de pêche #9981 created by Super Admin	2023-11-30 11:08
Caractéristique de l'unité de pêche #9980 created by Super Admin	2023-11-30 11:07
Caractéristique de l'unité de pêche #9979 created by Super Admin	2023-11-30 11:06
Inspection initial catch #1507 created by Super Admin	2023-11-27 11:17
Inspection location #547 created by Super Admin	2023-11-27 11:09
Inspection location #546 created by Super Admin	2023-11-27 10:56
Port inspection #547 created by Super Admin	2023-11-27 10:56
Port inspection #546 created by Super Admin	2023-11-27 09:27

Standardized Real-time Fisheries Information Sharing Hub (StarFISH)

Promoted and Funded by



Implementing partners



INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION



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1. Definition:

StaRFISH: **S**tandardized **R**real-time **F**isheries **I**nformation **S**haring **H**ub.

StaRFISH is a name adopted by the members of the Indian ocean Commission (IOC) to develop a Web base information exchange software under the aegis of the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Plan (RFSP in English or PRSP in French).

2. Legal basis:

- Ministerial declaration at the conference to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, signed on January 24th 2007, within which the ministers signed their commitment to promote the exchange of fisheries data;;
- Administrative arrangement signed between the IOC secretariat and participating states of the PRSP in 2007 and 2015 – to be superseded by 2024 Agreement on an Administrative Arrangement between the IOC and the participating states of the PRSP for the management and operationalisation of the PRSP
- Regional protocol on the exchange of VMS data signed in 2014, to be superseded by *a 2024 Agreement among the participating states of the IOC PRSP for the establishment of regional mechanisms for the exchange of fisheries information for the purpose of Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) and observation.*
- 2024 MOU for the Certification and Coordination of Coastal State Scientific observers at Sub-Regional Level and the Exchange of observer Information and Data.

3. Objective:

Establish a common centralised database for the IOC-PRSP under the auspices of the IOC, with the aim of maintaining of proper record of PRSP operational activities and sharing of fisheries information for the purpose of MCS and improving compliance to IOTC CMM including that on a Regional Observer Scheme

4. Why StaRFISH :

The member states of the IOC-PRSP are already sharing information for operational action on as per the 2014 administrative arrangement, by electronic means.

The development of StaRFISH aims to simplify the management and sharing of these fisheries data at national and regional level. In doing so to rapidly identify anomalies and incoherent that may be linked to illegal, underreporting and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities. It will also result in the harmonisation of information between the participating states.

Example : These entry / exit reports are sent by vessels a few hours before entry and exit stating their expected point of entry or exit, and the catch on board. This data is sent from various formats and not fully standardized, requiring manual processing of information by the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC).

With StaRFISH the region will have an entry / exit data base for the entire zone of cooperation, easily accessible and harmonized and are to be associated and verified with VMS reporting.

A link will be created between "Système d'information Géo maritime (SIGMA)" regional VMS and the Web database StaRFISH.

The **Advantages** are:

- Sharing of information ;
- Cumulative enrichment of information ;
- Centralise information system ;
- List of infractions and high-risk vessels;
- Unique central Maintenance at lower cost
- Rapid deployment of information
- No compatibility problem (Web base system)
- A necessary tool for risk analysis

The **only Constraint** is to have a good quality internet connection.

5. Scope:

5.1 Geographic parameters– Zone of cooperation and beyond

Applicable the EEZ that appears in the present fisheries legislations of the member states of the IOC and Kenya and Tanzania, plus the fisheries zone specified in existing fisheries agreements that constitute the zone of cooperation for the exchange of information on fisheries activities.

Also applicable to data obtain beyond the zone of cooperation from regional and international partners.

5.2 Fishing vessels concerned

- fishing activities involved in data sharing concern foreign fishing vessels licensed in at least one of the participating countries;
- local vessels fishing outside the EEZ of their flag State,
- non licence fishing vessels that fish on the high seas and call into port or request innocent passage in the zone of cooperation, and
- any other vessel inspected at sea that does not fall in the above category.
- Flag less fishing vessels

Does not concern local vessel whose activities are solely in the EEZ of their flag state.

5.3 Management of the shared data:

The data to be shared:

- EEZ Entry / exit reports
- Innocent passage in EEZ
- Inspection report at sea and port
- Sighting information
- Vessel Registry: registration no., contact ect....
- Infractions
- List of licensed vessel
- Observer report (Access only within their EEZ)

-
- Directory of all fisheries stakeholders

Potential regional architecture

- Regional Computer Server
- Client workstation to connect to the server
- Database: Starfish
- HTTPS connections

Any other data as may be agreed by participating states

5.4 Securing data during communication on the Internet and their safe guarding

Data access is via a secure Internet connection, permanently available.

- *HTTPS Protocol and data sharing*: this protocol enables a secure permanent location between a client and a server. It offers a relatively good reliability, as guaranteeing the identity of the server that supports the encryption of information in transit. An established HTTPS connection has the advantage of being almost synchronous. The firm establishment of a HTTPS server does not require additional hardware.

It is largely more than enough usage for exchanging data between national FMC and the IOC server HTTPS links.

- *Storage of data on server*: the security of data stored on the server based on the quality / reliability of the storage medium and the quality / reliability of access control to that server.
- *Access to the server*: For access, the user name with sufficiently long passwords brings a high level of security.

5.5 Location of the regional server

The server is installed at the headquarters of the Indian Ocean Commission, Mauritius which benefits the privileges and immunities protection provided to the headquarters establishment agreement signed in 1989.

6. Financial provision:

There will be no additional cost for the participating states.

The IOC will support the cost, with the support of cooperative programs in marine fisheries:

- Provides an air-conditioned computer room, connected to electrical networks and reliable internet ;
- ensure maintenance of the server and the room ;
- ensure maintenance of the computer system ;
- manages the database and its regular maintenance ;
- takes all the local protective measure against intrusions and restrictions on access control measures ; and
- supports
 - o the development of the StaRFISH Software ;
 - o the acquisition of the server ;
 - o the cost liaise to HTTPS for the securing data sharing; and
 - o ***administrators and users training***

7. Operation:

7.1 Applicable users:

- The national FMC: They are the authorized members of staff of the FMC.
- The managers of observers programs

The system relies on the governance of the PRSP: Technical unit, Regional coordination unit.

7.2 Access Restriction:

Access to the shared data and their use are strictly reserved for persons authorized to know and used these data, relevant to National Authorities of participating States, in charge of the fisheries MCS.

7.3 Users

The users have access to the fisheries data (vessel registry, licences, inspections, etc....) to view or input data depending on their rights.

7.4 Administrators

The administrators also have access to the technical data and can also make use of the **administrative module**. The latter allow;

- the management of the users and groups, modify;
- improve the codes list;
- manage the fish species; and
- manage the respective country list and other associated elements (ports, fisheries zones ect.);

7.5 Confidentiality:

Shared data relating is confidential and may only be used in connection with the management of fisheries MCS and observation. At no time shall the data be accessible to the public and commercial domain, ie, they can in no way be freely accessible.

All participating states must sign the 2024 Agreement *among the participating states of the IOC PRSP for the establishment of regional mechanisms for the exchange of fisheries information for the purpose of MCS and observation*. The agreement include confidentiality certificate to be signed by users and administrators

8 Responsibility of participating states:

Each State shall take all necessary technical measures to protect such data against unauthorized disclosure or access.



ECOFISH INTEGRATED PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT UNIT

BLUE TOWER | 4th FLOOR | RUE DE L'INSTITUT | EBÈNE 72201 | MAURITIUS | TEL: +230 402 6100

info@ecofish-programme.org

www.ecofish-programme.org