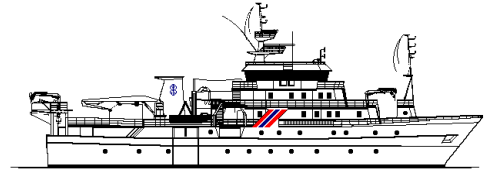


<b>Country:</b> South Africa and Madagascar				
<b>Research vessel:</b> R/V DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN				
<b>Survey number:</b> 2008405				
<b>Number of days:</b> 38				
<b>General objectives:</b> East Madagascar Current Ecosystem Survey				
	<b>Port</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Specific objectives</b>
<b>Departure</b>	Durban, South Africa	24 august 2008	South Africa and Madagascar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To carry out the first multi-disciplinary, quasi-synoptic cruise that encompasses the whole of the East Madagascar Current and the adjacent shelf.</li> <li>To establish the distribution of organisms on a number of trophic levels and how these are affected by the prevailing current system.</li> <li>To establish, as far as possible, the productivity, biodiversity and biomass of the pelagic ecosystem.</li> <li>To determine the nature of the South Equatorial Current as a driving force for the marine ecosystem east of Madagascar and its interaction with the northern branch of the East Madagascar Current.</li> <li>To determine the nature of the termination of the southern branch of the East Madagascar Current south of Madagascar.</li> <li>To undertake preliminary investigations of species diversity in the demersal fish fauna.</li> </ul>
<b>Arrival</b>	Port Luis, Mauritius	1 October 2008		
<b>Cruise leader:</b> Jens-Otto Krakstad (Cruise Leader 1 <sup>st</sup> leg), Sigbjørn Mehl (Cruise Leader 2 <sup>nd</sup> leg)				
<b>Participants:</b>				
<b>ASCLME;</b> Agulas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems project: James Stapley <b>CNRO;</b> Centre National de Recherches Océanographiques : Aboudou Roger, Jacques Philippe, Norosoa M G Bakary <b>IHSM;</b> Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines : John Bemiasa, Irene Rasoamananto, Thomas Razafimanambina, William Rakotoarinivo <b>IMR;</b> Institute of Marine Research, Norway: Einar Osland, Inger Marie Beck, Jan Frode Wilhelmsen, Jens-Otto Krakstad, Kåre Tveit, Magne Olsen, Sigbjørn Mehl <b>ORI;</b> Oceanographic Research Institute, South Africa: Sean Fennessy <b>RU;</b> Rhodes University, South Africa: Jessica Escobar-Porras <b>UCT;</b> University of Cape Town: Raymond Roman (Local Chief Scientist), Arrie Klopper, Carel Oosthuizen <b>UWC;</b> University of Western Cape: Bradley Flynn				
<b>Summary of the results:</b>				
<p>One previous survey has been conducted off the South and East coast of Madagascar with the former <i>Dr. Fridtjof Nansen</i>. That survey took place from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1983 (Sætre <i>et al.</i> 1983) with the main objective of covering the shelf &lt; 200 m depth with a combined swept area and acoustic survey. The area covered is similar to what was covered during the present survey. The echo integration method at that time had a low level of accuracy compared with today's equipment. However, a rough estimate of 85 000 tons</p>				





## NANSEN PROJECT



were estimated for the south and east coast north 17° S combined, which is about the same as the present estimate of 92 000 tons. Carangids were the most common pelagic fish groups in all three areas in both surveys. Also in the 1983 survey *T. delagoa* and *D. macrosoma* were the most common pelagic species in the bottom trawl catches. Leiognathidae had the highest catch rates on the central part of the eastern coast in both surveys.

### Report: status: final References:

J.O. Krakstad, S. Mehl, R. Roman, J. Escobar-Porras, J. Stapley, B. Flynn, M. Olsen and I.M.Beck' CRUISE REPORTS "DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN", **East Madagascar Current Ecosystem Survey, ASCLME / FAO 2008 Cruise 1, 24 August– 01 October 2008**, Preliminary report, Institute of Marine Research, Norway, Department of Oceanography, University of Cape Town, South Africa, Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science, South Africa, ASCLME project, South Africa, Department of Biodiversity and Conservation Biology University of Western Cape, South Africa, Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, 2008.

### Constraints/Comments:

