



LAGON BLEU

Newsletter November 2013

"Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries." — Jimmy Carter

Lagoon Monitoring

We have continued our monitoring of the marine park and the lagoon, checking the health of the coral and identifying the fish species we see in order to get a better overall picture of the species living within the coral reef ecosystem. This month a total of 97 species have been seen.

When doing the surveys there are often species that are extremely common and dominant at most sites, this includes the Dusky Farmerfish and the Three Striped Damselfish (seen 16/16 lagoon monitoring days this month). Rarer species include the Blue Spotted Tamarin and the 2 Tone Chromis (both seen just once this month).



Dusky Farmerfish – Very common



2 Tone Chromis – Rarely seen

This month there has been much more illegal fishing activity being reported and the Mahebourg coastguard has been actively involved in confiscating equipment and apprehending any illegal fishermen. In the coming month we hope to increase our presence on the beach and to report any further illegal fishing that is observed to really put pressure on both the fishermen involved and to assist the coastguard.

We hope that by stopping the illegal fishing in the area we can help to restore this delicate ecosystem and protect it for future generations.

Introducing: New Team Member

This is Ari Panjanadam, one of the teachers of the Mauritius Marine Guide Programme. Ari is living in Pointe d'Esny since 1990. He is a professional primary school teacher working in a French school. His qualifications are British Sub Aquatic Club (BS-AC) Advanced Diver, Advanced Scuba Diving Instructor, and Advanced Snorkelling Instructor. He also teaches in Instructor courses. Beside, Ari is a member of the Mauritius Underwater Group (MUG) and also a member of the Mauritius Marine Conservation Society (MMCS). Ari is very involved in marine conservation and teaching ecology and history to young and older persons.



Illegal fishing: Nine men from Mahebourg apprehended

In the fight against illegal fishing, an operation lead by officers of the National Coast Guard in the Blue Bay lagoon resulted in nine arrests. Fish and other seafood valued at RS 25,000 were seized along with underwater fishing equipment. The nine fishermen, of which three are under-aged, received a warning for illegal fishing. The fishermen were also suspects in other unrelated offenses.

Illegal fishing

Fishing on too small fish is forbidden. A bigger fish lays more eggs than small fish: up to 100 times! Fishing for turtles and mammals is always prohibited, fishing for oysters is always prohibited between 1 October till 31 March.

Beside, fishing with small hooks is illegal. The minimum opening allowed for a hook is 5 millimetres. Fishing line is permissible in a controlled way part of the marine park of Blue Bay, after obtaining a permit. Pot fishery is allowed if the fisherman has a license, the trap must have a mesh of 4 centimetres in diameter to a minimum and be used by a registered angler.

Spear fishing is strictly prohibited. In the reserve, net fishing is prohibited throughout the year.

You are welcome to visit the Lagon Bleu team if you need more information about the Marine Park regulations.

Upcoming event: Mangrove cleanup

In January, it is time to conduct a mangrove cleanup again. The mangrove cleanup will take place on 12 January 2014, at the same mangrove area as on the 27 October in front of London Way Supermarket. On the cleaning day, we will remove waste from the mangrove site and afterwards the waste will be segregated by size and type of materials.

We hope we can count on your help! Everybody is welcome to join, please bring your family and friends and help us to spread the word so that together we can contribute to the preservation of Mauritius' natural resources. Let's make a new challenge and try to remove more than 500 kilograms of rubbish as we did last time, because a lot of work need to be conducted. We will keep you informed and provide further details via Facebook.



November: Activity Overview

7th of November: Fourth lecture 'Mauritius Marine Guide'

14th of November: Fifth lecture 'Mauritius Marine Guide'

12th of November: Lagon Bleu attended to a talk by the French underwater film maker Mr René Heuzey in Phoenix. The team was invited by Mauritius Marine Conservation Society

19th of November: Meeting with Shandrani Beach Resort

25th of November: Sixth lecture 'Mauritius Marine Guide'

Stay in Touch

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/lagonbleuMU>

Read our newsletters:

<http://www.ecosud.mu/lagonbleu/news-eng.htm#News>

For support, please donate to:

NAME: ECO-SUD

Acc Number: 000040033457

Bank: Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd, Mahebourg, Republic of Mauritius

Acc Currency: MUR

IBAN: MU25MCBL090400000033457000MUR

Registration number NGO: 6118

CSR Registration number: N/1153

You also can send a email to ecosud@intnet.mu or send directly a cheque to:
ECOSUD

Casa do Sol, 40 Rue des Bonites,
Blue Bay, Republic of Mauritius

