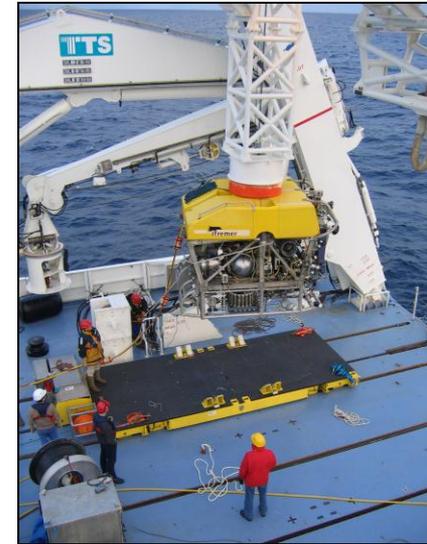




Diplomatic clearance and legal

- Instance: an unfortunate Ifremer experience about dip clear in the European waters
 - Suggestion to ERVO members for a « tool » in order to share ours Dip Clear experiences (good or bad)

Instance: 1) the context



Scientific objective :
Deep cold coral reefs study

2) The facts, consequences and unfortunate results

Facts:

Area : South Italia, 27 NM from the shore (ROV dives).

Divergent legal views : we considered the 12 NM rule (territorial waters). Italian authorities considered we were working in their EEZ (continental shelf). Real legal mismatch.

Consequences :

Intense diplomatic exchanges, « pressure » on naval facilities department.

Results :

Vessel left the area. 6 days lost on that area where were located the most important targets of the cruise. A few days later, a note was sent to the Italian authorities requesting the reference texts and limits of the continental shelf. No reply, it was 6 years ago...

Suggestion to ERVO members about the creation of a « tool » for sharing ours experiences in the European waters (global ?) about diplomatic clearances for an improved efficiency

- Which tool ? « Blog », data base on web site, ...
- A simple and user friendly tool
- The structure : European geographic basins: Black Sea/Marmara Sea, Med Sea, Western Europe/Channel, North Sea, Baltic Sea)
- Limited to ERVO members ? (access code ?)
- In order to be efficient, « strong » invitation to ERVO members to update that data base asap
- During the annual ERVO meeting, a systematic update on this topic (efficiency, possible improvements,...)

Area : Mediterranean basin

Institute -Country - Contact	Dates and synthetic scientific cruise objectives	Vessel and equipment used	EEZ concerned - Exact location	Difficulty encountered	Solution found to solve the issue suggestions / Recommandations/ to IRSO members
Ifremer – France - Olivier Quédec – e- mail - téléphone	Spring 2008 - Deep cold coral reefs study	Ifremer R/V <i>Pourquoi pas ?</i> (flag France) + Ifremer ROV <i>Victor 6000</i>	Italia - 27 NM south Italia	Divergent legal views : Ifremer considered the usual 12 NM rule (territorial waters) in Med and therefore worked at 27NM without clearance. Italian coast guards and Authorities considered that Ifremer worked on their continental shelft. Major legal mismatch.	Unfortunatelu no solution due to the suddenness of the case. Vessel left the area. 6 days lost on that area where were located the most important targets of the cruise. A few days later, a note was sent to the Italian authorities requesting the reference texts and limits of the continental shelft. No reply. Take care in Med. The current situation is complex. The old and usual rule of the 12 NM (territorial waters) is often irrelevant. Many claims unsetteld in Med .
And so on...