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## Sending off Ceromony of the Saya de Malha Vessel

### – FADs Expedition

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This year's FAD Watch Expedition begins its one-month journey to make the Seychelles waters a safer place by recovering drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (dFADs) that are stranded in the outer islands.

The crew of 20 will focus on the Seychelles' southern atolls, including Providence, Cerf, Cosmoledo, and Aldabra. The crew comprises one SFA scientist, one SFA observer, one representative of the Island Conservation Society Seychelles (ICS), four Seychelles Maritime Academy students, and a Lecturer.

A Memorandum of Understanding for the latest iteration of FAD Watch was signed in August 2023, which consolidated the partnership involving SFA, the Sustainable Indian Ocean Tuna Initiative (SIOTI), and the Spanish Association of Tuna Freezers (AGAC).

The FADs collected will be used for further data analysis and will be disposed of with proper measures to protect the environment.

The Saya de Malha left the Coast Guard base at 3 pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023. They will return on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Let us give all our support our SFA staff and SMA students.



Minister Ferrari speaking to some of the sponsor of the expedition



Calling out crew members before the official departure of the vessel



Saya de Malha close up