Knowing the Sea
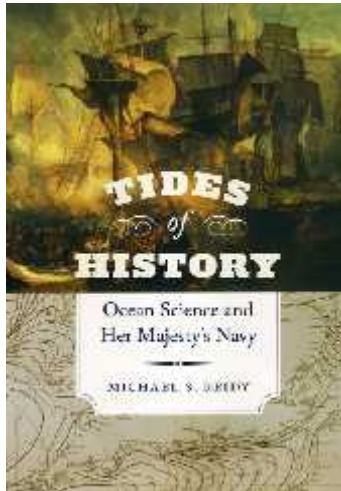*Enhancing MDA – A Global Perspective*

Dr. Christian Bueger

Overview: Knowing the Sea

- MDA – a very short history
- Current MDA architectures
- Does MDA enhance cooperation?
- The case of the Western Indian Ocean region
- Conclusion: Hurdles for sharing MDA

MDA – a very short history I

1st Revolution
from navigation and 'routes',
to control over 'zones'

Knowing as a geopolitical tool
Power projection

"The dominance of Her Majesty's navy was due in no small part to collaboration between the British Admiralty, the maritime community, and the scientific elite. Together, they transformed the vast emptiness of the ocean into an ordered and bounded grid."
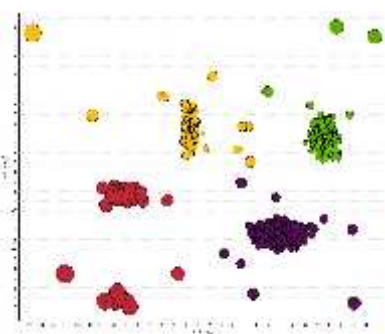
MDA – a very short history II

2nd Revolution
Tracking vessels
AIS, LRIT, Fishing VMS
Marine Safety & Environmental Management

A-political task, serving the common good

MDA – a very short history III

3rd Revolution
Surveillance & detecting anomalies
Data fusion, algorithms
Intelligence led law enforcement

Securitized tool for tackling transnational threats (pirates, smugglers, terrorists)

Global MDA architectures

- Traffic monitoring and global Search and Rescue provision (IMO)
- Fisheries monitoring (FAO and NGOs)
- An emerging global maritime security network?

→ Regional example (WIO)

WIO: Cooperation or Competition?

Overlapping architectures:
Counter-piracy (MSCHoA, CMF, Mercury)
Djibouti Code of Conduct (IMO, Saudi Arabia)
Seavision (US)
MASE and IORIS (EU)
Indian Ocean Radar Network (India)
SADC MSS (South Africa)

Fisheries (EU, FAO, NGOs)
SAR (IMO)

→ **Complexity, geopolitical drivers**

WIO: Cooperation or Competition?

Communities of professionals
Shared Capacity Building activities
Naval Exercises
Conferences and Conclaves (CGPCS, Galle Dialogue, IONS)
Indian Ocean Maritime Crime Forum
Indian Ocean Naval Symposium
Indian Ocean Rim Association

→ **Security Communities are being build**

Conclusion: What hinders MDA?

- Complexity and overlap of architectures
- (Hidden) geopolitical interests
- Lack of trust between agencies (domestic, bilateral, multilateral) as well as between states
- Technological fantasies instead of pragmatic low tech attitude

Literature and Contact

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http://piracy-studies.org

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