

Abstract

The French maritime territory is extremely large and scattered around the globe and it is the responsibility of the state to provide rescue at sea. The « Société Nationale de Sauvetage en Mer » (SNSM) is a key player in the accomplishment of this mission. This thesis will recall the beginnings of sea rescue and the importance of the SNSM and its volunteers on the French coast. This thesis will also deal with the intrinsic economic and social model of the association and its repercussions for the future. Finally, as these are crucial pivotal years, avenues of reflection will be explored to ensure the sustainability of the SNSM model.