



# Seychelles' Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

Calendar year: 2023

## Detailed Section

**Report by the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder  
Group (MSG) Seychelles**

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This report was prepared by [Mrs Daniella Larue](#) from August to December 2024. Mrs Larue was appointed by Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group as the Report Compiler for the 2023 FiTI reporting process. The report was reviewed and approved by [Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group](#) on 24 December 2024.

This is Seychelles' fourth report to the FiTI, covering information relevant for the calendar year 2023. This report, hereafter referred to as Seychelles' 2023 FiTI Report, has been divided into **two distinct sections**: a 'Summary Section', which provides a high-level overview of the transparency assessment's key findings, and this present 'Detailed Section', which delves into greater detail according to each of the FiTI Standard's 12 transparency requirements. This detailed section also includes information relevant for 2023 which has only been published as part of this FiTI Report.

The production of this report was funded by the [Fisheries International Transparency Initiative \(FiTI\) Secretariat](#).



## Detailed findings on the requirements for fisheries transparency in Seychelles [2023]

The need for governments to share information on fisheries is already described in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the FAO's subsequent Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Since then, the importance of collating and sharing information with all stakeholders has been a message conveyed in other landmark documents on fisheries reforms.<sup>1</sup>

The FiTI provides a unique global framework (i.e. the FiTI Standard) to help coastal countries to increase the credibility and quality of national fisheries information and demonstrate their commitment to improving fisheries governance.

The FiTI Standard covers 12 thematic areas of fisheries management (also referred to as transparency requirements) and is applicable to all countries.

The FiTI does not intend to replace or duplicate existing government websites, but rather supports the continued development and maintenance of these public resources.

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<sup>1</sup> Such as the 2012 Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests and the 2015 Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

## 1.1 Public Registry of National Fisheries Laws, Regulations and Official Policy Documents

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must provide an online, up-to-date registry of:</b>			
<b>All national legislation related to the marine fisheries sector.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
<b>All official policy documents related to the marine fisheries sector.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes

### Major legislations and policies for Seychelles' fisheries sector:

The major legislations and policies governing the Seychelles' fisheries sector remain available on the SFA and the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MFBE) websites. They include the *Fisheries Act (2014)*, the *Fisheries Regulations (1987)*, the *Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy (2019)*, the *Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (2019)* and two pieces of legislation enacted, in 2021: the *Fisheries (Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery) Regulations (2021)* and the *Fisheries (Aquaculture) Regulations (2020)*.

The *Seychelles National Aquaculture Policy 2023 -2027*<sup>2</sup> which replaces the 2018-2022 policy, was launched in 2023. No new fisheries legislation was enacted or came into force in 2023.

*The National MSG is of the view that the Government of Seychelles has met all of the requirements of FiTI concerning the publication of an online and up-to date registry of national legislations, policy documents related to the marine fisheries sector. The national authorities are encouraged to keep this information up to date and frequently raise awareness of the public and operators in the fisheries sector on the policies and legal requirements in place for different fisheries sub-sectors.*

➔ **Fisheries laws and regulations:** Both the SFA and the MFBE websites publish key pieces of fisheries legislation<sup>3</sup> and the section of the MFBE's website dedicated to fisheries laws and regulations remains updated<sup>4</sup>. All documents relevant for year 2023 are published on the SFA and MFBE websites and this document list is *seen as complete*.

The process to review and update the *Fisheries Act 2014* and the *Fisheries Regulations 1987* started in 2022 and the first draft of the new pieces of legislation were discussed with stakeholders in 2022 and 2023. The *Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill 2023* and the *Fisheries Regulations 2023* were approved by Cabinet in December 2023 and published in

<sup>2</sup> <https://sfa.sc/legislation-other-fisheries-related-documents/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/47-fisheries-act-regulations>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.MFBE.gov.sc/resources/>

the Official Gazette <sup>5</sup> and on the National Assembly <sup>6</sup> websites. They are still being discussed with stakeholders and the outcome of stakeholder consultations so far has not been published. The *Seychelles Fisheries Authority Bill 2023* was also approved by Cabinet in 2023 and it will replace the *Seychelles Fishing Authority Establishment Act 1984*. It was tabled in the National Assembly in June 2024 and enacted in July 2024. The exercise to review the different pieces of legislation was supported under the SWIOFish3 programme.

In 2022, work also started on the development of a regulatory framework for joint ventures in the fisheries sector and regulations will be included as part of the reviewed Fisheries Act and Fisheries Regulations.

- **Fisheries policy documents:** The section of both the MFBE and SFA websites dedicated to fisheries policy documents and management plans, remained updated.<sup>7</sup> The fisheries policies published by the government that are publicly available online for the year 2023 are *seen to be complete*. In 2023, the *Harvest Strategy Policy and Management Standards for Seychelles' Fisheries*, was published. The policy provides for the development of a harvest strategy for all fisheries both commercial and non-commercial and in addition to regular stock assessments, it provides for the establishment of fisheries management units using a co-management approach. The Harvest Strategy Policy is published on both the SFA and the MFBE websites <sup>8</sup>.

The report on the *Review of Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy 2019-2023* <sup>9</sup> was published in 2023 and is available on the MFBE website. The review qualifies the successful implementation of the policy goals as impressive and attributes this in part to a more inclusive and transparent approach by the MFBE and the SFA. It states that the achievements throughout the policy implementation period has put Seychelles on an irrevocable path towards responsible, transparent and sustainable management of its fisheries resources. It further states that the work on the different fisheries management plans and the reinvigoration of the MCS activities, lay a foundation for possible certification of certain fisheries in Seychelles in future. It adds that initiatives to modernise its regulatory framework coupled with infrastructural development, access to finance and development of the aquaculture sector sets the Seychelles apart from its neighbours in the Southwest Indian Ocean (SWIO) region. The shortcomings identified include inadequate investment in human resources and the absence of a concerted research programme on climate modelling

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gazette.sc/sites/default/files/2023-11/Bill%2023%202023%20-%20Fisheries%20and%20Aquaculture%20Bill%202023.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nationalassembly.sc/bills>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.MFBE.gov.sc/resources/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.MFBE.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Harvest-Strategy-Policy-and-Management-Standards-2023.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://mofbe.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Review-of-Seychelles-Fisheries-Policy-and-Strategy.pdf>

to understand the implications of climate change on fisheries resources and the absence of mitigation and adaptation strategies in that area.

In 2023, extensive stakeholder consultations were held to support the development of the Seychelles' first National Tuna Fishery Management and Tuna Industry Development Plans. This is expected to be completed in 2024. No records of the discussions are published.

- **Online registry of national laws and regulations:** Access to copies of laws and regulations on the website of the Office of the Attorney General and the Official Gazette<sup>10</sup> as detailed in Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report, remains unchanged in 2023. At the time of preparation of this report, the online publication of the Official Gazette contained Gazettes only for the years 2019 onwards. The eDoc Repository on the eGovernment Portal<sup>11</sup> has a dedicated section for 'Acts and Regulations' and could represent an additional avenue to provide access to laws and regulations. However, it appears that this facility is not used systematically by government departments and agencies and no fisheries related legislations feature on there.
- **National Assembly documents:** The National Assembly of Seychelles (NAS) official website<sup>12</sup> provides access to bills that are introduced to the NAS along with videos of all sittings of the NAS and public hearings of certain assembly committees, starting from 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and verbatim transcriptions of all sittings from March 2020. These allow for verification of issues raised during debates concerning introduction and amendments to fisheries laws and regulations.
- **International treaties, policy instruments and best practices:** The list of major international fisheries and fisheries-related instruments and treaties that Seychelles is party to or abiding to, is published on both the MFBE and SFA websites.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** The details of stakeholder consultation conducted as part of the review process of laws, policies and plans are yet to be systematically published.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gazette.sc/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://gov.sc/edoc/pubs/pub.aspx>. The eDoc Repository has sections dedicated to: Acts & Regulations, Annual Financial Audited Reports, Annual Reports, Guidelines, Plans, Policies, Quarterly Reports, Strategic Plans and White Papers.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.nationalassembly.sc/bills>

## 1.2 Fisheries Tenure Arrangements

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish a summary description of laws and decrees on fisheries tenure arrangements, including the following information:</b>			
<b>i. A description of the rights and authorisations applicable by law or decree, including those based on an individual or collective quota system, for commercial, recreational, scientific or exploratory fisheries or for cultural use, and for access to and use of traditional sites, for landing fish, for temporary fish camps, for fish processing, or for other traditional use;</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
<b>ii. The fees, duration, transferability and divisibility of such rights and authorisations;</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
<b>iii. The persons that are legally entitled to issue access rights and fishing authorisations, the mandatory administrative procedures required to determine their issue, and the nature of any oversight or public consultation processes involved;</b>	Yes	No	Partially
<b>iv. The conditions applied to fishing authorisations including those relating to fishing effort and ecosystem impact, landings, transshipping and catch reporting;</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
<b>v. The procedures and rules for authorising a Seychelles-flagged vessel to fish in a third country or on the High Seas, including information on the fees paid to the national government for providing this authorisation, reporting requirements and the provisions for terminating such authorisations.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes

### ➔ Description of rights and authorisations applicable by law or decree, etc:

SFA has both a webpage<sup>13</sup> and a downloadable document labelled Frequently Asked

<sup>13</sup> <https://sfa.sc/faq-recreational-fisheries/>

Questions (FAQs) on its website on fisheries tenure arrangements <sup>14</sup>. They both summarise the types of fisheries that exist in Seychelles and their corresponding licence arrangements and have been updated for 2023. The reasons for the lack of publicly available information on the processes and procedures for joining the sea cucumber fishery, is now published as part of the FAQ on fisheries tenure arrangements. In 2023, work started on a licensing framework for the spanner crab fishery following concerns on the stock status in this fishery.

The information on fisheries tenure arrangement is *seen as complete* by the National MSG.

- **Fees, duration, transferability and divisibility of such rights and authorisations:** A summary of local and foreign fishing licence arrangements containing information on fees, duration, transferability and divisibility of all licences <sup>15</sup> is published on the SFA website. It reflects the recent changes in fee structure and the new fisheries agreements negotiated in 2022 and 2023. It also indicates the source of the information, which is either a policy, a regulation or an agreement.
- **The persons legally entitled to issue access rights and fishing authorisations:** The post titles/designations of officers within SFA who are authorised to issue fishing licenses, have been published on the SFA website. It states that: *Authorizations, licenses, and permits are authorized by the Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Head and Manager of the Monitoring Control and Surveillance Department, and the Section's Assistant Manager.* The Fisheries Act does not provide for the names of the persons legally authorised to issue licences and permits to be published <sup>16</sup>. The National MSG considers this a good arrangement in view of the constant staff turnover and the lack of any provision in the present legislation to gazette the names of the officers concerned.
- **Other conditions applicable to commercial fishing rights:** The conditions applicable to fishing rights are prescribed in Part III of the Fisheries Act (2014), as well as under the Standard Requirements of the Fisheries Regulations (1987). The conditions relating to transshipment and catch reporting, fishing effort, landings and ecosystems impact of fishing, are elaborated in the Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report. An environment management fee for purse seiners, dedicated to environmental management and observation of marine ecosystems was introduced in 2022. No new changes were introduced in 2023.

<sup>14</sup> <https://sfa.sc/faq-recreational-fisheries/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/fisheries-report-other-document?task=download.send&id=145&catid=33&m=0>

<sup>16</sup> SFA indicated that it will publish the names of Authorised Officers legally authorised to issue licences and permits in 2022 to reduce possible risks of licencing frauds. This list will not be gazetted as it is not a requirement under the Fisheries Act applicable in 2022.



For the small-scale fisheries (i.e. artisanal and small-scale longline), the relevant licensing conditions are published in the *Fisheries Comprehensive Plan*. The Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fisheries Co-management Plan was implemented as from October 2022 and implements management measures provided in the *Fisheries (Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery) Regulations 2021*. The measures are reflected in the FAQ on fisheries tenure arrangements on SFA's website.

- ➔ **Procedures and rules for authorising a nationally flagged vessel to fish in a third country, or the High Seas:** On the SFA website, it states that The Certificate of Authorisation permits “*fishing vessels that are larger than 24 metres in length overall or in case of vessels less than 24 meters, those operating in waters outside the Economic Exclusive Zone of the Flag State, to fish for tuna and tuna-like species, managed by the IOTC in the IOTC area of competence*”<sup>17</sup>. It further states that *The Flag state needs to ensure that their vessels are able to comply with all the relevant IOTC Conservation and Management Measures*, and an application form is also provided. A sample of the Sustainable Fisheries Agreements for both purse seiners and longliners, signed with management companies of Seychelles-flagged industrial vessels and which came into effect in 2023, is published on the SFA website<sup>18 19</sup>. The agreements provide a framework for the oversight of Seychelles-flagged industrial vessels fishing in third country waters or on the High Seas and their reporting requirements as part of Seychelles' obligations as a flag State.
- ➔ **Oversight and public consultation processes:** The oversight requirements as provided in the Fisheries Act for the fisheries tenure arrangements regarding the *local commercial fishing licences* (as well as *sport fishing licences*) and *foreign commercial fishing licences*, were detailed in the 2020 FiTI Report and they remained the same. In 2023, a licensing framework was developed for spanner crab fishery in order to address increasing fisheries pressure and declining catches.
- ➔ There were some instances of public consultation in 2023 which had a bearing on fisheries tenure arrangements, namely:
  - Preliminary results of a spanner crab fishery independent survey to assess the abundance and distribution of the spanner crab on the Mahe Plateau, were presented to stakeholders in August 2023.

<sup>17</sup> <https://sfa.sc/certificate-of-authorisation/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://mofbe.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Framework-Agreement-for-Seychelles-Flagged-Purse-Seiners-5.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> <https://mofbe.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Framework-Agreement-for-Seychelles-Flagged-Industrial-Longliners-1-3.pdf>

- Several workshops were held to obtain stakeholder inputs into the Tuna Fishery Management Plan and the Tuna industry development plan, although the details of these are not published on any government websites.

### 1.3 Foreign Fishing Access Agreements

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish the contracts of all foreign fishing access agreements (including their associated protocol(s)),</b>			
that allow access for foreign vessels to fish in Seychelles' marine jurisdictional waters <sup>20</sup>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
that allow Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish in a third country or the High Seas <sup>21</sup>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
<b>Seychelles must publish studies or reports undertaken by national authorities or foreign parties to an agreement providing evaluation or oversight of the agreement, if available, including those that describe the number of fishing authorisations issued, the reported catch of these vessels and any assessment of compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes (only for EU agreements)
<b>Documentation derived from any national stakeholder consultation undertaken with respect to the preparation, negotiation or monitoring of the agreements must be published, if available.</b>	No		

- ➔ **Foreign fishing access agreements:** In 2023, Seychelles had *four agreements allowing foreign vessels to fish in its waters*, and *two agreements allowing Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish in third country's waters*. The MFBE has negotiated an agreement with Dongwon Industries Co Ltd in 2023 which came into effect in 2024<sup>22</sup>. In 2023, foreign fishing vessels from Dongwon Industries Co. Ltd (South Korea) fished in Seychelles' waters through the payment of a licence<sup>23</sup>. There are no agreements currently active that allow Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish on the High Seas.

All foreign fishing agreements have been published on the SFA or the MFBE websites; notably those with the European Union<sup>24</sup> and Mauritius which were valid in 2023. The Seychelles-Mauritius fishing access agreements expired in February 2023 and the

<sup>20</sup> It should be noted that foreign fishing access agreements do not grant access to Seychelles' territorial sea at all.

<sup>21</sup> There are no agreements currently active that allow Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish on the High Seas.

<sup>22</sup> <https://mofbe.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Non-bilateral-Framework-Agreement-for-Foreign-Flagged-Purse-Seiners-5.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> Section 11(4)(b) of the Fisheries Act (2014) makes provisions for foreign fishing vessels not falling under any fishing agreement to access Seychelles' waters, stating: "A licence under subsection (3) shall in the absence of an agreement under section 12, be granted on payment of the prescribed fee."

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/57-eu-sey-fishing-agreement>

agreement was extended for until December 2024 on the same terms as the 2022 interim agreement <sup>25</sup> .

New agreements with Taiwan Deep-sea Tuna Longline Boat Owners and Exporters Association (TTA) and Top Fortune International (TFI), took effect in 2023. The confidentiality clauses have been removed and both agreements <sup>26 27</sup> have been published on the MFBE and SFA websites. All agreements provide for an environment and research fee of EUR 2.25 per Gross Tonnage (GT) per purse seiner vessel per year. There is no such provision for longliners. A summary of all foreign fishing agreements granting access to fish in Seychelles waters, valid in 2023, is published on the SFA website <sup>28</sup> .

As from January 2024, all foreign fishing vessels, licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters, will do so under an officially signed agreement.

- ➔ **Evaluation reports:** The three evaluation reports which were published in 2020 pertaining to the EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement remained available in 2022 <sup>29</sup> . No new evaluation reports have been published. MFBE commissioned an evaluation of the implementation of the Mauritius/Seychelles and EU/Seychelles fishing agreements in 2022, which include looking at the benefits and impacts of these agreements. The Consultant's contract was terminated and the evaluation was not completed.
  
- ➔ **Stakeholder consultation:** No documentation derived from national stakeholder consultations regarding the preparation, negotiation or monitoring of foreign fishing agreements was collated or published by the government of Seychelles in 2023.

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<sup>25</sup> <https://mofbe.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Extension-Agreement-of-the-Reciprocal-Fishing-Agreement-with-Mauritius.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/top-fortune-marine-international-ltd/category/63-top-fortune-marine-international-ltd>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/62-taiwan-deepsea-tuna-longline-agreement>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/division/monitoring-control-and-surveillance/foreign-fishing-agreement-and-illegal-fishing?task=download.send&id=227&catid=64&m=0>

<sup>29</sup> The evaluation reports can be accessed here: <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/22-eu-sey-performance-audit>

Signatory party	Agreement published online by Seychelles' government?	Evaluation of agreement conducted?	Evaluation published online by Seychelles' government?
<b>Access agreements for foreign-flagged vessels to fish in Seychelles' waters</b>			
European Union	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>30</sup>
Mauritius	Yes	No	
Taiwan Deep-sea Tuna Longline Boat Owners and Exporters Association (TTA)	Yes	No	
Top Fortune International (TFI)	Yes	No	
<b>Access agreements for Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish in third countries' waters</b>			
Mayotte (EU)	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>31</sup>
Mauritius	Yes	No	Yes

[Best available information] The National MSG found no instances relating to the assessments of the impact of these foreign fishing access agreements, where information used by national authorities is clearly misleading, or could be improved by considering alternative sources of information, such as studies by non-governmental organisations, the private sector or academic institutions.

<sup>30</sup> The following evaluations and assessments of the EU/Seychelles Fisheries Partnership Agreement have been published on the SFA website:

- *Performance audit evaluation of the implementation of the sectoral support provided under the 2014-2020 protocol of the EU/Seychelles Fisheries Partnership Agreement (2020)*; commissioned by SFA. This report focused primarily on the implementation of Seychelles' activities financed through the sectoral support under the 2014-2019 agreement, with a strong emphasis on the impacts generated by funded infrastructure projects and on budget execution.
- *Performance audit evaluation of the implementation of the sectoral support provided for the years 2018 and 2019 under the 2014-2020 protocol of the EU/Seychelles Fisheries Partnership Agreement (2020)*; commissioned by SFA.

It is emphasised that neither of these reports (nor any other known report) have assessed the compliance levels with the terms and conditions of the fisheries agreements.

A more detailed report, namely the *'Ex-post and ex-ante evaluation study of the fisheries partnership agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles and of its implementing protocol* was commissioned by the European Union in 2019. The report provides an analysis of Seychelles' fisheries sector and financial analysis of various aspects of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement. During the process of preparing this FiTI report, this report was published on the website of the SFA.

The evaluations can be accessed at: <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/22-eu-sey-performance-audit>

<sup>31</sup> The evaluation forms part of the above mentioned report: *Ex-post and ex-ante evaluation study of the fisheries partnership agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles and of its implementing protocol*.

## 1.4 The State of the Fisheries Resources

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish the most recent national reports on the state of fish stocks</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Including any information on trends in the state of stocks and conclusions on the reasons for change.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Studies or reports undertaken by national authorities that assess the sustainability of fishing.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Information on the methods and data used to assess fish stocks must be described.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Information on ongoing or planned efforts to update and expand fish stock assessments must be described.	Yes	Yes	Yes

*Acknowledging the importance of information on stock status, the National MSG once again, noted with satisfaction that copies of all stock assessment reports produced by SFA since 2017, are published on its website, in addition to a stock status summary<sup>32</sup>.*

The stock status summary, updated to reflect stock assessment information available in 2020 and 2021, is published on the SFA website. It provides the status of fish species assessed from 2018 and contains hyperlinks to individual stock assessment reports for all of the species concerned. Details of the methods used to undertake the stock assessments are available as part of these more comprehensive reports. For species under the IOTC mandate<sup>33</sup>, the stock status information presented in that summary, relates to 2022 but the hyperlinks are to the 2023 stock assessment reports on the IOTC website.

The National MSG notes that SFA's work programme for future stock assessments up to the year 2024, is still available on its website. It provides a link to the IOTC schedule of future stock assessments up to 2023<sup>34</sup>. SFA published its *5-Year Research Plan (2021-2025)*<sup>35</sup> which fulfills recommendation [2020-4\\_2](#) which states that *SFA should establish a research plan to collect required data on vulnerable species for stock assessment purposes*.

In its stock assessment programme up to the year 2024, published on its website<sup>36</sup>, SFA planned to undertake two stock assessments in 2023: demersal species of importance in the artisanal handline fishery and spanner crab. In 2023, SFA produced five stock assessment

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report?task=download.send&id=153&catid=53&m=0>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.iotc.org/node/3379>

<sup>34</sup> This information is also available on the IOTC website on the following link:

[https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/science/Schedule\\_of\\_stock\\_assessments\\_for\\_IOTC\\_species.pdf](https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/science/Schedule_of_stock_assessments_for_IOTC_species.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> <https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Summary-report-Sea-cucumber-fishery.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> <https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Future-stock-assessment-programmes.pdf>

reports: *Stock Assessments of three Key Demersal Species in the Artisanal Fishery*<sup>37</sup> (reported in the 2022 FITI report), the *Spanner Crab Sampling Programme Report 2021-2022*<sup>38</sup>, the *Report on Spiny Lobster Fishery for the 2021-2022 Season*<sup>39</sup> (reported in the 2022 FITI Report), *Report on the Spiny Lobster Fishery for the 2023 fishing season*<sup>40</sup> and the *Seychelles Small-scale Octopus Fishery: Baseline Report*<sup>41</sup>. All published stock assessment reports detail the methods used to assess the stocks in each case.

The results of a stock assessment survey of the mud crab (*Scylla serrata*) as well as an assessment of the mangrove fishery on Mahe, Praslin and Silhouette, launched in 2022, are being finalised. In 2023, a 12-month assessment of artisanal and semi-industrial shark and ray fishery was conducted, and the results are yet to be published.

In 2023, stock assessment information was available for 39 species and species groups. A graphical overview of this is provided in the summary section of this 2023 FITI Report. In short, of the 39 species for which stock status updates were available in 2023, 12 were considered *overfished*, of which 10 were also classified as *subject to overfishing* and one had *uncertain* fishing mortality status. One species was classified as *overfished* but *not subject to overfishing*. Out of the 12 species and species groups of importance in the artisanal fisheries for which stock assessment results are available, 9 were determined to have *uncertain* biomass of which 6 also had *uncertain* fish mortality status and 2 other species were *not subject to overfishing*. Information on the sea cucumber stocks indicate that of the 12 species for which information is available, the two species of importance in the fishery (white teatfish and flower teatfish) were both *overfished* and *subject to overfishing*. Nine species have *uncertain* mortality status of which 3 also had *uncertain* biomass stock status whilst the other 6 were *not overfished* and one species was *not subject to overfishing* and *not overfished*.

To facilitate public understanding, the National MSG details the stock status of species which were updated via new assessments conducted in 2023:

- ➔ **Artisanal fisheries:** The Artisanal Fisheries Stock Assessment report presents the stock status of 3 key indicator species of the demersal handline fishery namely *Aprion virescens* (green jobfish), *Epinephelus chorostigma* (brown spotted grouper) and *Lutjanus sebaie* (Emperor red snapper) and was reported in the 2022 FITI report. It suggests that there is indication of high fishing pressure for *Aprion virescens* whereas for *Epinephelus chorostigma*, results were inconclusive. For *Lutjanus sebaie*, the report concluded that despite a reduction in fishing pressure, there is a possibility that this species remains overexploited.

<sup>37</sup> [2023-Stock-Assessment-for-key-demersal-species-in-the-artisanal-fishery.pdf \(sfa.sc\)](https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/2023-Stock-Assessment-for-key-demersal-species-in-the-artisanal-fishery.pdf)

<sup>38</sup> [Spanner-crab-sampling-Report-2021-2022-Final.pdf \(sfa.sc\)](https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Spanner-crab-sampling-Report-2021-2022-Final.pdf)

<sup>39</sup> <https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Report-on-Spiny-Lobster-Tech.087.pdf>

<sup>40</sup> [https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Lobster-fishing-season-2023-summary-report\\_Final.pdf](https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Lobster-fishing-season-2023-summary-report_Final.pdf)

<sup>41</sup> [https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/20231102\\_Octopus-Baseline-report\\_vFinal.pdf](https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/20231102_Octopus-Baseline-report_vFinal.pdf)

- **Sea Cucumber:** SFA published a summary report comparing the sea cucumber fishery for the 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 seasons<sup>42</sup>. One of its conclusions is that quota utilisation rates have declined overall starting at 89% in 2020/2021, decreasing slightly to 85% in 2021/2022, and dropping further to 70% and 60% by 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 respectively.
- **Lobster:** The summary report of the 2023 lobster fishing season<sup>43</sup> is published on the SFA website and the contents further summarised as a Lobster Flyer 2023<sup>44</sup> also available on the SFA website. The 2023 season opened for 2 months only as was the case in 2022, as a precautionary measure due to a noticeable decrease in CPUE compared to previous seasons. Results show an increase in both the total catch (3.33 metric tonnes) and the number of fishing trips (135 trips) compared to the 2 previous seasons. The report recommends closure of the 2024 lobster fishing season as a precautionary measure after remaining open for 4 consecutive seasons and to allow the conduct of an extensive fishery independent assessment from being influenced by ongoing extraction by fishers.
- **Spanner crab:** The Spanner Crab Sampling Programme Report 2021-2022<sup>45</sup> presents analyses of the fisheries dependent data, collected during the sampling period 2021/2022 and was reported in the 2022 FiTI report. Following the concerns identified in this report, work started on a licensing framework for spanner crab fishery in 2023.
- **Octopus:** The Octopus Baseline Report published in 2023 indicates that the initial reports on the fishery in 1996 already raised concerns in the 1990s of decreasing octopus stocks due to considerable fishing pressure. It points out that octopus stock has not been studied in the last two stock assessments of the artisanal fisheries resources and it has never been part of any other assessment in the last decades. The current status of octopus is therefore unknown, although total annual landings show a downward trend.
- **Tuna and tuna-like species:** Stock assessment of tuna and tuna-like species targeted by the industrial longline and purse seine fishery and the small-scale industrial fishery are undertaken by the IOTC. Seychelles contributes by providing sampling data collected during landings and transshipments. The results of the 2023 stock assessments do not indicate any marked changes in the stock levels of the four main tuna species exploited by large-scale industrial fisheries and to a lesser extent, artisanal fisheries, compared to 2022. The 2023 stock determination indicates a very high probability that the stock of Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) and Big eye (*Thunnus obesus*) are *overfished* and are *subject to overfishing*, while the stock of Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) and Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) are neither *overfished* nor *subject to overfishing*.

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<sup>42</sup> <https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Summary-report-Sea-cucumber-fishery.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> [https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Lobster-fishing-season-2023-summary-report\\_Final.pdf](https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Lobster-fishing-season-2023-summary-report_Final.pdf)

<sup>44</sup> [https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Lobster-flyer\\_A4\\_2023.pdf](https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Lobster-flyer_A4_2023.pdf)

<sup>45</sup> [https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Spanner-crab-sampling-Report-2021\\_2022-Final.pdf](https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Spanner-crab-sampling-Report-2021_2022-Final.pdf)



For Billfish, the IOTC 2023 stock status determination, indicated that stocks of Blue Marlin (*Makaira nigricans*) and Striped Marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*) are *overfished* and *subject to overfishing*. In 2023, the stock status of the Black Marlin (*Makaira indica*) could not be assessed whilst Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) and Indo-Pacific sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*) stocks are *not overfished* and *not subject to overfishing*.

For neritic tunas and mackerels, stocks of longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) and narrow-barred spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) were determined to be *overfished* and *subject to overfishing*, stocks of Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*) and Indo-Pacific king mackerel (*Scomberomorus guttatus*) were determined to be *not overfished* and *not subject to overfishing*.

For sharks, the stock status of six out of seven species, could not be assessed. They are Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), Scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), bigeye thresher shark (*Alopias superciliosus*) and pelagic thresher shark (*Alopias pelagicus*). The stock status of the blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) was determined to be *not overfished* and *not subject to overfishing*.

**[Best available information]** The National MSG found no instances relating to the state of fisheries resources, where information used by national authorities is clearly misleading, or could be improved by considering alternative sources of information, such as studies by non-governmental organisations, the private sector or academic institutions.

## 1.5 Large-Scale Fisheries

### 1.5.1 Vessel Registry

Transparency requirement	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must provide an online, up-to-date registry of all Seychelles-flagged and foreign-flagged large-scale vessels authorised to fish in the country's marine jurisdictional waters, and of all Seychelles-flagged large-scale vessels authorised to fish in third countries' marine jurisdictional waters and on the High Seas, including the following information:</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
i. <b>The name of the vessel</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
ii. <b>The legal owner of the vessel, including their address and nationality</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
iii. <b>The registered port of the vessel</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
iv. <b>The flag State of the vessel</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
v. <b>The vessel's unique identification number(s)</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
vi. <b>The type of vessel, according to fishing gear or fishing method, following the definition set in the country's legislation</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
vii. <b>The physical characteristics of the vessel, e.g. length, beam, tonnage, engine power</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
viii. <b>The name of the vessel's agent, if applicable</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
ix. <b>The access agreement under which the vessel is granted authorisation to fish, if applicable</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
x. <b>The type of fishing authorisation held by the vessel</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
xi. <b>The quantity and names of target species, permissible by-catch and discards that the vessel is authorised to fish, if specified in the vessel's fishing authorisation</b>	Yes	Yes	Unknown
xii. <b>The duration of the fishing authorisation, indicating start and end date</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
xiii. <b>The rights holder for whom the vessel is fishing, if applicable, including the name and nationality of the rights holder</b>	Yes	Yes	Unknown
xiv. <b>The country and/or regions of the High Seas where the vessel is authorised to fish (applicable to Seychelles-flagged vessels operating in third countries or on the High Seas)</b>	Yes	Yes	Unknown

The 2023 industrial vessel registry <sup>46</sup> in Excel format is by far the most comprehensive source of information on industrial vessels operating in Seychelles' waters, with fields for all vessel attributes as required by the FiTI Standard as well as information on licence payments made by vessel operators or their agents. The number and types of industrial vessels from the registry is summarised in the table below according to flag State.

Other sources of information on the industrial fishing vessels that were operating in Seychelles waters in 2023 are the 2023 Fisheries Statistical Report <sup>47</sup> and Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) <sup>48</sup>. On FIMS, different information is provided for foreign-flagged versus Seychelles-flagged vessels: for foreign-flagged vessels, in addition to licence start and end dates, vessel name, flag state and type, the radio call-sign, registration number, SFA number and the initials of the local agent are also provided. Whereas for Seychelles-flagged vessels, information on registered port, access agreement and 2 licence numbers are provided but not the radio call-sign, registration number, SFA number or local agent. Therefore, the information on industrial vessels on FIMS does not meet the FiTI standard.

Table 5.1: Large-scale vessels licensed to fish in Seychelles' waters in 2023

Flag State	Longline	Purse seiner	Supply vessel	Grand Total
Taiwan (POC)	71	0	0	71
Seychelles	30	13	3	46
China	0	0	0	0
Spain	0	14	4	18
France	0	11	2	13
Mauritius	12	1	0	13
Korea	0	2	1	3
Italy	0	1	0	1
Portugal	0	0	0	0
Oman	2	1	0	3
Tanzania, United Republic of	0	1	1	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>170</b>

Source: 2023 large-scale vessel registry

<sup>47</sup> <https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/SFA-FISHERIES-BULLETIN-2023-1.pdf>

<sup>48</sup> <https://sfa-fims.traseable.com/public/licence>

Following verification of the 2023 industrial vessel registry, the National MSG made the following additional observations:

The number of industrial fishing vessels decreased from 187 in 2022 to 170 in 2023 as a result of a number of shifts as follows: a decrease in the number of industrial vessels by flag states: Taiwan (POC) – 12; Spain – 2; and Mauritius-, 9, whereas the Seychelles and French fleets increased by 5 and 1 vessel respectively. The industrial fishing vessel fleet saw a reduction of 9 industrial longliners, 6 purse seiners and 2 supply vessels in 2023. To note that there has been a steady decrease in the number of industrial longliners from 158 in 2021 to 115 in 2023.

- i. *The legal owner of the vessel and their address and nationality:* Information on legal owners and their addresses is available for all vessels and as pointed out in earlier FITI reports, most of legal owners are corporates with a Seychelles business address <sup>49</sup>. The issue of beneficial ownership information is addressed in section 1.12 – Beneficial Ownership.
- ii. *Physical characteristics:* The capture of the physical characteristics of vessels is complete and information was available for all vessels. Details of the physical characteristics were available for the following number of vessels :
  - Vessel length: 170
  - Vessel width: 170
  - Gross tonnage: 170
  - Engine (type) and power: (170) 170
- iii. *Fishing agents:* All 170 licenced vessels, whether foreign-owned or locally-owned, had record of their local agent, although there is no legal obligation for locally owned vessels to do so, the Fisheries Act requires all foreign owned vessels to have a local agent.
- iv. *Quantity and names of target species, permissible by-catch and discards:* All licenced vessels were authorised to target tuna and tuna-like species and the quota for Yellow fin tuna for the Seychelles fleet in 2023 was 37,782 Mt. The allocation was as follows: each purse seiner was assigned 2,500 metric tons, amounting to a total of 32,500 metric tons. A global quota of 3,000 metric tons was divided equally among the Seychelles-flagged industrial longliners and the small-scale longliners. The remaining 2,387 metric tons were reserved for potential new entrants in the tuna fishing industry.
- v. *Country and/or regions of the High Seas where fishing is authorised:* This information is relevant only for Seychelles-flagged vessels. In 2023, 12 Seychelles-flagged large-scale vessels were granted authorisation to fish on the High Seas and in other countries' EEZs.

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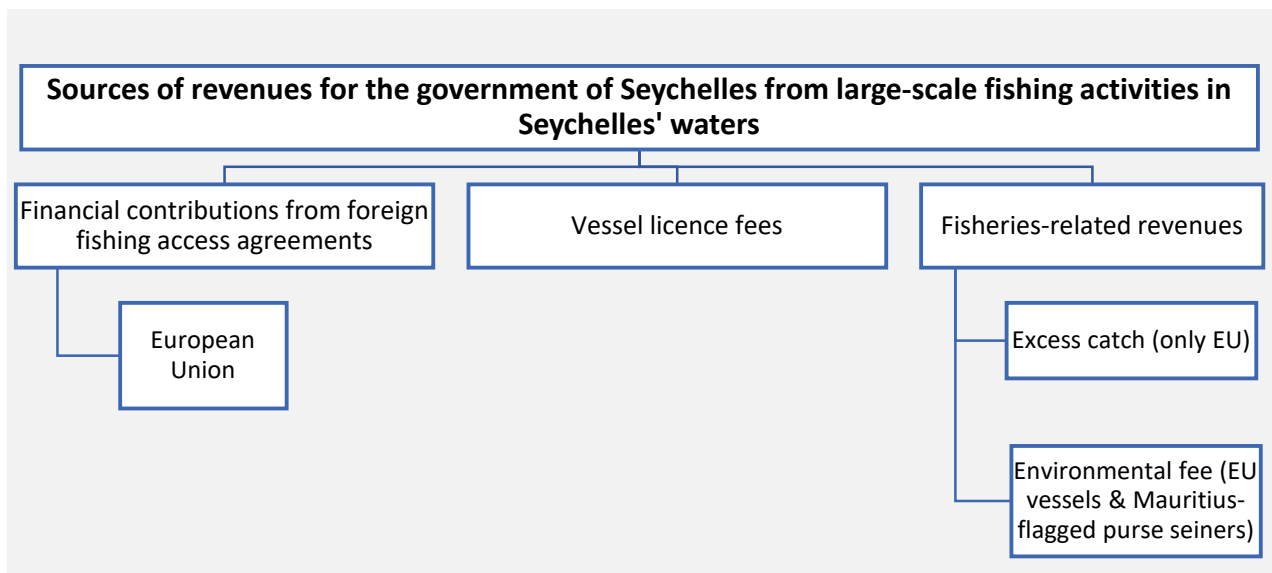
<sup>49</sup> The FiTI Standard provides for *the legal owner of the vessel* to be included in the vessel registry and not *the beneficial owner*.

The National MSG noted, with satisfaction, that records for the vessel registry are fully updated and all required information is captured for each licenced industrial vessel fishing in Seychelles' waters.

### 1.5.2 Payments for fishing

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish accessible and complete information on payments made by each vessel listed in the vessel registry for their fishing activities</b>			
i. <b>The name of the natural person or legal entity that made the payment.</b>	Yes	No	Unknown
ii. <b>The name of the national authority who received the payment.</b>	Yes	Yes (FITI Report)	Yes
iii. <b>The date on which payment was received by the national authority.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
iv. <b>The purpose of the payment.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes

Given the economic importance of fisheries for Seychelles, the National MSG has outlined this simplified illustration of the various direct revenue sources provided to government by large-scale fishing vessels:



SFA published the licence payments made by large-scale fishing vessel operators as part of the large-scale vessel registry, which is available on the SFA website

Analysis of licence payment data in the published large-scale fishing vessel registry by the National MSG brought out the following:

- ➔ Complete licence payment information was available for all vessels that featured on the published registry. The purpose of the payment was clearly identified in all cases as **licence fees** and the information was followed by the name of the vessel and the SFA-assigned vessel number.
- ➔ **Natural person or legal entity making payments:** Information on the natural person or legal entity making payments (*which would usually be the vessel's foreign agent*), for large-scale fishing activities in Seychelles' waters is not captured. As pointed out in previous reports, the name of the vessel's local agent is on record as the payee in the majority of cases instead of the foreign vessel agent or owner, who actually makes the payment.
- ➔ **Name of the national authority who received the payment:** The payment process for collecting vessel licence fees, has remained unchanged. All payments are made centrally through the Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS), which then remits the money to the SFA upon the latter producing invoicing and payment confirmation information.
- ➔ **The purpose of the payment:** Payment details were supplied by the Finance Department and inserted in the large-scale vessel registry. All licence payments made for 2024 were available for verification and they were complete.

The terms of the EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement prevent publication of *excess catch* payments on a per vessel basis for EU vessels. *Port fees* are also not available on a per vessel basis to the fisheries authorities, as they reside with the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA) – only aggregated data is transferred to SFA<sup>50</sup>. By January 2025, following the implementation of the Port Victoria Management Information System (PVMIS), all industrial fishing vessels using Port Victoria will be doing so on this platform and SPA has confirmed that information, including fees on transshipment and landing, will be available and easier to share on a per vessel basis..

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<sup>50</sup> In 2022, transshipment and landing fees were collected at a rate of Euro 4 per Mt and Euro 3 per Mt respectively by the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA).

## 1.5.3 Recorded catch data

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish the following information from vessels listed in its vessel registry:</b>			
i. <b>Catches by Seychelles-flagged vessels: The quantity of annual recorded retained catch according to species or species groups, as well as marine jurisdictional waters, High Seas and third country waters</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
Disaggregated by fishing authorisations or gear type	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
Disaggregated by marine jurisdictional waters, High Seas and third country waters	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
ii. <b>Catches by foreign-flagged vessels: The quantity of annual recorded retained catch according to species or species groups</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
Disaggregated by fishing authorisations or gear type	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
Disaggregated by flag State	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
iii. <b>Landings in national ports: The quantity of annual recorded landings in national ports according to species or species groups caught in the country's marine jurisdictional waters</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
Disaggregated by fishing authorisations or gear type	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
Disaggregated by flag State	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
iv. <b>Transshipments and landings in foreign ports: The quantity of annual recorded transshipments at sea or landings in foreign ports according to species or species groups caught in the country's marine jurisdictional waters</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
Disaggregated by fishing authorisations or gear type	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
Disaggregated by flag State	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
<b>Seychelles must publish information on recorded quantities of discards according to species or species groups.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
Disaggregated by fishing authorisations or gear type	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially

Disaggregated by flag State	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
Seychelles must publish the most recent studies and reports on recorded <i>fishing effort by vessels</i> , disaggregated by fishery or gear type and by flag state, if available.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
Seychelles must publish evaluations or audits of the <i>economic, social and food security contribution</i> of the large-scale fishing sector, if available.	No	No	No

The annual retained catch data for all large-scale fishing vessels meets the FiTI Standard for both the purse seine fishery and industrial longline fishery and is published in the 2023 Fisheries Statistical Report.

- **Catches of Seychelles-flagged vessels:** Data on retained catches of active Seychelles-flagged, large-scale fishing vessels for 2023 is summarised below, disaggregated by species and geographical areas. Catch data for purse seiners and longliners is provided for the entire calendar year 2023 based on 100% logbook return and is *perceived as complete*.

➤ Table 5.2: Catch data for Seychelles-flagged industrial fishing vessels in 2023

Species	Catches in Seychelles EEZ		Catches in foreign EEZs		Catches on the High Seas		Total catches	
	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)
	<i>Purse seiners</i>	<i>Long-liners</i>	<i>Purse seiners</i>	<i>Long-liners</i>	<i>Purse seiners</i>	<i>Long-liners</i>	<i>Purse seiners</i>	<i>Long-liners</i>
Yellowfin	3,561	1,394.30	5,144	0.0	19,625	1,925	28,330	3,320
Skipjack	9,237		18,635	0.0	51,920		79,792	0
Bigeye	1,320	898.5	1,925	0.0	7,726	2,634	10,971	3,533
Albacore <sup>51</sup>	7		4	0.0	3		14	0
Swordfish		122.4		0.0		465.9	0	588
Marlin		56.8		0.0		201.5	0	258
Shark		93.6		0.0		198.2	0	292
Others	201	106.6	124	0.0	1,768	1,530.20	2,093	1,637
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,326</b>	<b>2,672</b>	<b>25,832</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>81,042</b>	<b>6,955</b>	<b>121,200</b>	<b>9,627</b>

<sup>51</sup> Albacore catch for longliners included in "Others"



- ➔ **Catches of foreign-flagged vessels:** Data on retained catches from active foreign-flagged, large-scale fishing vessels for 2023 is published in the 2023 Fisheries Statistical Report available online.,.
- **Purse seiner fishery:** The published catch information from all foreign-flagged purse seiner vessels *is perceived as complete*. Catches made in 2023 are summarised below (in Mt), disaggregated by species, flag State and geographical area<sup>52</sup>.

Table 5.3: Catches of foreign-flagged industrial purse seine fishing vessels in 2023 (Mt)


Species	Catches made in Seychelles' EEZ	Catches in other EEZs & High Seas,	Total Western Indian Ocean catches
	(Mt)	<u>calculated values[1]</u>	(Mt)
<b>Spanish-flagged vessels</b>			
Yellowfin	9,345	31,023	40,368
Skipjack	11,463	68,425	79,888
Bigeye	2,650	11,092	13,742
Albacore	0	22	22
Others	226	1,620	1,846
<b>Spanish catch (Mt)</b>	<b>23,684</b>	<b>112,182</b>	<b>135,866</b>
<b>French-flagged vessels</b>			
Yellowfin	8,378	12,886	21,264
Skipjack	8,945	25,658	34,603
Bigeye	874	2,967	3,841
Albacore	7	4	11
Others	485	1,134	1,619
<b>French catch (Mt)</b>	<b>18,689</b>	<b>42,649</b>	<b>61,338</b>
<u>Other-flagged vessels[2]</u>			
Yellowfin	6,120	10,525	16,645
Skipjack	5,399	26,813	32,212
Bigeye	741	3,555	4,296
Albacore	0	0	0
Others	300	1,267	1,567
<b>Others catch (Mt)</b>	<b>12,560</b>	<b>42,160</b>	<b>54,720</b>
<b>Total catch (Mt)</b>	<b>54,933</b>	<b>196,991</b>	<b>251,924</b>

<sup>52</sup> Differences between total catch and column sums where these arise are due to rounding off.

- **Industrial longline fishery:** The published retained catch data for the foreign-flagged longline fishery *is incomplete*, as it is based on 99% logbook return.

Reported catches by foreign-flagged longliners in 2023 are summarised below (in Mt) disaggregated by species and geographical area:

Table 5.4: Catches of foreign-flagged, industrial longline fishing vessels in 2023 (Mt)

	Catches made in Seychelles' EEZ	<a href="#">Catches made in other EEZs &amp; on the High Seas[1]</a>	Total Western Indian Ocean catches
<b>Taiwan (POC)</b>			
Yellowfin	2303.4	180.3	<b>2483.7</b>
Bigeye	2730.5	197.1	<b>2927.6</b>
Swordfish	336.0	32.7	<b>368.7</b>
Marlin	225.4	23.1	<b>248.5</b>
Sharks	614.5	49.0	<b>663.5</b>
Others	660.3	39.3	<b>699.6</b>
Taiwan (POC) catch	<b>6,870</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>7,392</b>
<b>Others[2]</b>			
Yellowfin	583.9	35.8	<b>619.7</b>
Bigeye	309.7	19.8	<b>329.5</b>
Swordfish	43.6	2.5	<b>46.1</b>
Marlin	24.1	1.4	<b>25.5</b>
Sharks	5.9	0.4	<b>6.3</b>
Others	70.3	2.6	<b>72.9</b>
Others catch	<b>1037.5</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>1100.0</b>
Total catch	<b>7907.6</b>	<b>584.0</b>	<b>8491.6</b>

- **Landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports:** Data on landings and transshipments in national ports from large-scale fisheries is published in the 2023 Fisheries Statistical Report available online. **Purse seine fishery:** Total landing and transshipment in Port Victoria by purse seine vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters for 2023 is summarised below (in Mt), disaggregated by Flag State.

- Table 5.5: Landings and transshipments in Port Victoria by purse seine vessels by flag State in 2023 (Mt)

Flag State	Landings	Transshipments	Total
Seychelles	19,793	92,336	112,129
Spain	16,485	114,752	131,237
France	18,616	23,181	41,797
Others (Italy, Mauritius, Korea)	6,014	56,492	62,506
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,908</b>	<b>286,761</b>	<b>347,669</b>

The published landing data for 2023 is *perceived as complete*. As noted in all previous FiTI reports, the published landing and transshipment data is not in full accordance with the FiTI Standard, as the data is not disaggregated in a manner that allows catches made in Seychelles' waters to be separated from those made in other national jurisdictions or on the High Seas. This transparency requirement poses a practical challenge, as catches made in different locations are stored in the same wells and therefore cannot be physically landed/transhipped separately.

The landings and transshipments data set is [disaggregated](#) by several other attributes (month, flag State, fish species, fish size, landing destination, fishing agreement).

- **Industrial longline fishery:** No data on landings and transshipments for industrial longline fishery, made in Seychelles' ports, have been published due to technical software issues outlined in the 2020 FiTI Report. To note that the data is captured on landing and transshipment forms, which are submitted to the MCS Division of SFA for verification prior to onward submission to the IOTC. However, the information is not collated for publication. The SFA has indicated during this FiTI reporting process, that transshipment and landings for longline fishery will be published starting in 2024.
- **Landings and transshipments in foreign ports:** Partial data on landings and transshipments in foreign ports by the large-scale sector for 2023 is published in the 2023 Fisheries Statistical Report. .

Similar to landings and transshipments in national ports, the data for foreign ports cannot be disaggregated in a manner that allows catches made in Seychelles' waters to be separated from those made in other national jurisdictions or on the High Seas.

- **Purse seine fishery:** Published 2023 data indicates that a total of 28,267 Mt of fish caught by purse seiners licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters, were landed or

transhipped in foreign ports in 2023. This equates to 8% of the catch that is made by purse seine vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters.

Three foreign ports were used in 2023 for landings and transshipments: Diego Suarez (Madagascar), Port Louis (Mauritius) and Mombasa (Kenya) in order of volume landed. In addition to the port, the data set is further [disaggregated](#) by intervals during the year, fish species and discards. The data is not disaggregated by flag State, even though this information is collated by SFA, as landings and transshipments in foreign ports are minimal.

- **Industrial longline fishery:** Such data for 2023 has not been published by Seychelles' authorities, even though the majority of the data is being collated by SFA. SFA indicates that their present statistical system does not capture transshipment and landing data for the longline fishery and therefore they are unable to validate logbook data submitted by vessel captains. SFA has indicated that they are using a new statistical software that will allow publication of transshipment and landings by longline fishery in foreign ports in 2024.
- ➔ **Discards:** Data on fish discards is published in the 2023 Fisheries Statistical Report for both the purse seine and the longline fisheries.
- **Purse seine fishery:** Published discard data shows that, in 2023, a total of 7,685 Mt of discards were unloaded in Port Victoria and 5 Mt in Port Louis, Mauritius, the only foreign port where discards were recorded. The increase in bycatch for year 2023 is due to improved reporting of bycatch data by all fleet and improved data management to disaggregate discards from bycatch.
  - In addition to port information, this data set is further [disaggregated](#) by month, quarter, semester and year, but not by species or species groups (as required by the FiTI Standard). SFA informed the National MSG that at present it is not possible to publish discard data from the purse seine fishery disaggregated by species as this information is received by SFA in a non-disaggregated format.
  - **Longline fishery:** Published discard data for the longline fishery presents the number of discards rather than the volume but it is disaggregated by species: tuna, sharks (6 species are listed) and others (rays, mantas, oil fish, etc).
  - Finally, discards of non-fish species are recorded by both the purse seine and industrial longline fishery and reported to the IOTC through the annual National Reports to the Commission's Scientific Committee. For sharks, marine turtles, sea birds, and marine mammals, reports also include information on whether the animal is discarded alive or dead. The Seychelles National Report to the IOTC for the

calendar year 2023 was submitted in November 2023<sup>53</sup>. Links to recent IOTC reports are published on the SFA website<sup>54</sup>.

The National MSG also took note that by the end of 2023, the Seychelles' authorities had not released the outcome of the project to verify the accuracy of discard information submitted by industrial longliners. As outlined in the 2020 FITI Report, SFA piloted Electronic Monitoring on industrial longliners as from 2019 to address the lack of observations at sea for this fishery.

- ➔ **Fishing effort:** Data on fishing effort of Seychelles-flagged and foreign-flagged large-scale vessels for 2023 was published in the 2023 Fisheries Statistical Report. For both, the purse seine and industrial longline fishery, SFA collects and archives data on fishing effort by individual vessel. However, the authorities have never published such data.
  - **Purse seine fishery:** Data on fishing effort is published as *days fished*. Published data for 2023 indicates that purse seiner vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters spent a total of 11,326 days fishing in the Western Indian Ocean, of which 2,837 days were spent fishing within Seychelles' EEZ.

Table 5.6 summarises fishing effort of purse seiners licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters for the years 2022 and 2023, disaggregated by flag State and geographical area where fishing took place.

Fishing effort data is also disaggregated by month, quarter, semester, year and the agreement under which the access regime is defined (European Community, others).

Table 5.6: Fishing effort for purse seine vessels licensed to fish in Seychelles' waters in 2022 and 2023 (*days fished*).

Purse seiners	2023			2022		
	Fishing effort (days fished) in...			Fishing effort (days fished) in...		
	Seychelles' EEZ	other EEZs & the High Seas (calculated)	the Western Indian Ocean region	Seychelles' EEZ	other EEZs & the High Seas (calculated)	the Western Indian Ocean region
Seychelles	725	3,002	3,727	838	2,096	2,934
Spain	856	2,908	3,764	981	2,291	3,272
France	732	1,322	2,054	694	1,089	1,783
Others	524	1,257	1,781	459	1,131	1,590
Total	2,837	8,489	11,326	2,972	6,607	9,579

<sup>53</sup> [https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/2023/11/IOTC-2023-SC26-NR22E\\_Seychelles.pdf](https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/2023/11/IOTC-2023-SC26-NR22E_Seychelles.pdf)

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/international-bodies>

- **Industrial longline fishery:** Fishing effort data is published as the number of *hooks set* and disaggregated by vessel flag State, whether set in Seychelles EEZ or the Western Indian Ocean region as a whole, by month, quarter and year and by access regime. Published data indicates that the industrial longline vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters deployed over 54 million hooks in the Western Indian Ocean during 2023, of which 21.8 million were within Seychelles' EEZ.

Table 5.7: Fishing effort for longline fishery vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters in 2021 and 2022 (*no. of hooks set*).

	2023			2022		
	Fishing effort (hooks set) in ...			Fishing effort (hooks set) in ...		
	Seychelles' EEZ	other EEZ & on the High Seas <i>(calculated)</i>	Western Indian Ocean region	Seychelles' EEZ	other EEZ & on the High Seas <i>(calculated)</i>	Western Indian Ocean region
<b>Seychelles</b>	5,552,944	14,549,493	20,102,437	7,804,074	19,942,739	27,746,813
<b>Taiwan (POC)</b>	14,310,279	1,172,836	15,483,115	21,890,895	1,649,336	23,540,231
Others	1,965,746	237,196	2,202,942	2,657,722	225,148	2,882,870
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,828,969</b>	<b>15,959,525</b>	<b>37,788,494</b>	<b>32,352,691</b>	<b>21,817,223</b>	<b>54,169,914</b>

➔ **Evaluation or audits of the economic, social and food security contribution of the large-scale fishing sector:** An analysis of the *economic contribution* of the Seychelles' large-scale fishing sector in 2023 features in SFA's 2023 Annual Report. SFA initiated a project to analyse the financial dynamics of Seychelles' industrial longline fisheries, an exercise supported by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The results are expected in 2024. In the 2023 SFA Annual Report, it was pointed out that the absence of a proper data management system for fisheries economic data was one of the challenges facing the Statistics Department in SFA. During this FiTI Reporting process, the SFA Statistics Department indicated that it is in the process of developing a data management system for economic data in FIMS and once implemented, fisheries economic data will feature on this digital platform.

Data on the contribution of the fisheries industry to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2023 is published by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) through the Quarterly National Accounts Bulletin Q4, 2023 <sup>55</sup>.

The National MSG is of the view that information on the economic contribution of the large-scale fisheries sector to Seychelles' economy is central to policy making in the fisheries sector. The collaboration between MFBE and the National Statistics Bureau (NSB) to prepare fisheries satellite accounts, has suffered a set-back. At the finalisation of this report, no date was given as to when this exercise will be completed. The National MSG is of the view that the publishing of fisheries satellite accounts will provide a more comprehensive coverage of fisheries economic contribution and greatly improve understanding of the importance of fisheries to the local economy.

[Best available information] The National MSG found no instances relating to the assessments of catches and information on by-catch/discards, as well as evaluations of social and economic impacts of Seychelles' large-scale fisheries, where information used by national authorities is clearly misleading, or could be improved by considering alternative sources of information, such as studies by non-governmental organisations, the private sector or academic institutions.

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<sup>55</sup> <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/38-economic-statistics/15-quarterly-national-accounts/138-2023>

## 1.6 Small-Scale Fisheries

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish the following information on its small-scale fisheries sector (as set out in the national legislation):</b>			
i. <b>Total number of small-scale fishing vessels, disaggregated according to categories of fishing or gear types.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
ii. <b>Total number of fishing licences issued to small-scale fishing vessels, disaggregated according to categories of fishing authorisations.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
iii. <b>Total number of fishers engaged in the fishing sector, indicating the gender of fishers and the proportion that are engaged in full-time work, seasonal or part time fishing, occasional fishing or recreational fishing.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
iv. <b>Total payments made from small-scale fisheries relating to fishing authorisations, catches and landings, disaggregated according to categories of fishing authorisations or gear types, indicating the recipient of these payments.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
v. <b>Quantity of catches, disaggregated according to species, categories of fishing authorisations and gear types.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online and FITI Report)	Partially
vi. <b>Total volumes of discards, disaggregated according to species, categories of fishing authorisations and gear types.</b>	No		
<b>Seychelles must publish the most recent studies and reports on quantities and species of fish discarded by the small-scale fisheries sector, if available.</b>	No		
<b>Seychelles must publish evaluations or audits of the economic, social and food security contribution of the small-scale fisheries sector, if available.</b>	Yes	Yes Online	Partially

The small-scale fishing sector in Seychelles comprises two sub-sectors:

The *artisanal fishery* comprises all domestic fisheries, including boats ranging in length from 4 to 15 m. The main gears used by the artisanal fishing fleet include hook and line, drop-lines, traps and nets that are used to catch a diverse array of demersal and pelagic fish species.



The *small-scale longline fishery* comprises medium-sized vessels ranging from 14 to 23 metres in length. Their main target species are tuna and tuna-like species such as yellowfin tuna, broadbill swordfish and big eye tuna with marlin and sharks as the primary bycatch species.

The National MSG notes that Seychelles' fisheries legislation applicable in 2023 is silent on the need to publish information on the number of vessels operating in the small-scale fisheries.

- ➔ **Small-scale fishing vessels:** This information is published in the 2023 Fisheries Statistical Report where information is provided on the mean number of active vessels by sub-sector (artisanal and small-scale fishery) and by vessel type. Table 6.1 summarises the average number of small-scale fishing vessels active in 2022 and 2023 (. A breakdown according to gear types is not provided, as many boats in the small-scale fisheries are multi-gearred.

Information on small-scale fishing vessels cannot be seen as complete because fishermen on foot are known to be operating in the small-scale fisheries sector, however the report lists a nil return.

Table 6.1 Mean number of small-scale fishing vessels by type in 2022 and 2023

	2022	2023
Outboard	184	150
Whaler	64	60
Schooner	57	49
Semi-industrial long-liner (pelagic longline fishing)	53	53
Others	2	1
Semi-industrial longliner (artisanal fishing)	1	1
Pirogue	1	1
Fisher on foot	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>315</b>

- ➔ **Small-scale fishing vessels licences:** Details of small-scale fishing vessel and fishing activity licences, issued in 2023 <sup>56</sup>, are available as a downloadable Excel document published on SFA's website, and this information is summarised in the table below for 2022 and 2023. There was a slight increase in the number of small-scale fishing vessel licences issued in 2023. The licences are disaggregated according to fishery or fishing activity and include five lists as follows: artisanal fishery, net fishery, lobster fishery, small-

<sup>56</sup> [https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/LICENSED-SMALL-SCALE-FISHING\\_2023.xlsx](https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/LICENSED-SMALL-SCALE-FISHING_2023.xlsx)

scale longline fishery, sea cucumber fishery and semi-industrial sea cucumber fishery. The 2020 FITI Report outlined the attributes of each list.

- ➡ The published lists of vessels do not include sport fishery (hire craft vessels) organising fishing trips for paying visitors (which need to be registered with and licenced by the Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority (SMSA)) and non-commercial vessels used for recreational fishing, which as of 2023, had no legal obligation to be registered.

Table 6.2: Small-scale fishing vessel licences and fishing activity licences issued in 2022 and 2023

Type of fishing licence	2023	2022
Artisanal	550	529
Net	43	50
Lobster	0	16
Spanner Crab	9	0
Small-scale longline fishing licence	60	53
Small-scale sea cucumber fishing licence	28	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>673</b>

- ➡ In 2023, as part of new management measures for the small scale longline fishery, the SFA introduced a moratorium on the importation and chartering of longline fishing vessels for use in the small-scale tuna fishery from August 2023 to June 2024. The 2023 SFA Annual Report states that the measures aim to control the fishery's expansion and address issues such as misreporting of fisheries statistics, rising government subsidy costs, port congestion and limited capacity for essential inputs like bait, ice and equipment. During this FITI reporting process, Government announced an extension of the moratorium to mid-2026, citing persistent issues, which in addition to those above include increased reliance on foreign crews and the increasing threat of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing<sup>57</sup>.
- ➡ **Fishers engaged in the small-scale fishing sector:** A summary of the number of fishers engaged in small-scale fishing in 2023 is published online<sup>58</sup> and is reproduced in the table below for the last three years. The summary data shows that the number of registered fishers is stabilising following business resumption post-COVID. SFA tracks the number of commercial fishers through its fishermen registration programme but

<sup>57</sup> <https://blueeconomyseychelles.org/latest-news/sna-seychelles-extends-moratorium-on-import-and-charters-of-longline-fishing-vessels/>

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/small-scale-fisheries-licences?task=download.send&id=151&catid=54&m=0>

information on whether the registered fishers are full-time, part-time or occasional fishers is not captured at registration. The explanation for not capturing such information was provided in the 2021 FiTI Report. Some information on full and part-time fishermen was gleaned through the *Employment Study and Capacity Needs Assessment*<sup>59</sup> detailed in the 2021 FiTI Report.

Table 6.4: Number of fishers engaged in the small-scale fishing sector by gender, 2023

	Male			Female		
	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
Boat owner	54	57	52	27	37	11
Boat owner fisher	269	324	169	3	4	1
Fisher	381	414	365	6	5	4
Divers	94	116	104	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>16</b>

- ➔ **Payments made from the small-scale fishing sector:** Payment information from the small-scale fisheries sector is collated by SFA on a per licence per vessel basis. Payment information relating to fishing vessels and fishing activities along with information on artisanal fishing licences are published on the SFA website<sup>60</sup>. The total licence payment made for small-scale fisheries licences in 2023 amounted to SCR 564,650.
- ➔ **Catches by the small-scale fishing sector** This information is published in the 2023 Fisheries Statistical Report following 2 years where no information on catch data for the small-scale fishing sector was published. SFA explained that in 2024, it upgraded its data processing system for the artisanal fishery and as a result, it has been reprocessing historical artisanal fishery data to produce more refined and disaggregated statistics and this is being done in phases. The 2023 Fisheries Statistics Report includes catch data for the years 2018 to 2023 that have been processed using the new system.
  - For the *artisanal fishery*, data for 2022 and 2023 is presented in table 6.5. Catch data presented is disaggregated by species groups and some individual species and available catch information is also disaggregated by vessel type, month and gear type.

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report?task=download.send&id=172&catid=51&m=0>

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/small-scale-fisheries-licences/summary/54-small-scale-fisheries-licences/208-2021-small-scale-fisheries-licence-payments>

Table 6.5: Annual catches by artisanal fishery by species (Mt) in 2023 &amp; 2022

	<b>2023</b>	<b>% catch</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>% catch</b>
Barracuda	118.7	3%	125.13	3%
Bonitos	32.4	1%	167.75	4%
Emperor red snapper	339.04	8%	344.35	8%
Emperors	219.29	5%	229.92	6%
Trevally	1539.3	36%	1330.53	32%
Rabbit fishes	132.21	3%	169.59	4%
Crab	19.2	0%	17.44	0%
Other Mackerel	3.59	0%	29.72	1%
Indian Mackerel	310.15	7%	520.71	13%
Sharks & Rays	16.36	0%	21.46	1%
Tuna	61.15	1%	22.74	1%
Other Groupers	155.56	4%	86.32	2%
Brown-Spotted Grouper	61.8	1%	48.33	1%
Jobfish	845.66	20%	459.67	11%
Octopus	80.17	2%	91.01	2%
Other Trap Fish	128.47	3%	196.88	5%
Other Pelagic Fish	13.32	0%	26.46	1%
Other Snappers	190.63	4%	184.3	4%
Other Fish nei	24.86	1%	29.49	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4291.86</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4101.8</b>	<b>100%</b>

- For the *small-scale longline fishery* the data published in the 2023 SFA Fisheries Statistical Report, is based on 100% logbook return and is seen as complete. Catch data is disaggregated by month, species (Yellowfin, Bigeye, Swordfish and sail fish) and species group (Marlins, Sharks, others).

Table 6.6: Annual catches for the small-scale longline fishery in 2022 and 2023 (Mt)

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Yellowfin	1,920	2,376
Swordfish	72	60
Bigeye	20	34
Marlin	28	34
Others	9	7
Sailfish	14	15
Sharks	10	10
	<b>2,073</b>	<b>2,536</b>

Data for the lobster and sea cucumber fisheries is reported in the 2023 Fisheries Statistical Report for the third consecutive year as well as in annual reports for the individual fishery.

- **Lobster:** Catch data for the 2022/23 lobster fishing season is published online in the comprehensive annual lobster report. In that report, catch data is compared to the 2021/2022 and 2020/2021 lobster fishing seasons and is summarised below. During the 2022/23 open season, a total of 3.32 Mt was recorded, 62% above and 46% below the 2022/21 and 2021/20 catch respectively and 20% lower than the historical mean of 4.24 Mt (1992-2022). The results of the lobster fishing season are summarised in a flyer published on SFA's website, which increases accessibility of the information to the public.. Flyers for the last four fishing seasons are available, allowing easy comparisons of the results of the lobster fishery over this period.

Table 6.7. Lobster catch by species for the last 3 fishing seasons (Mt)

	<u>2022/2023</u>	<u>2021/2022</u>	<u>2020/2021</u>
<b>Pronghorn Spiny Lobster</b>	2.21	1.5	4.849
<b>Long-legged Spiny Lobster</b>	0.99	0.51	1.031
<b>Painted Spiny Lobster</b>	0.08	0.0374	0.253
<b>Ornate Spiny Lobster</b>	0.05	0	0.008
<b>Total catch</b>	<b>3.32</b>	<b>2.0474</b>	<b>6.141</b>

- **Sea cucumber:** Catch data for the 2022/2023, 2021/22 and 2020/21 sea cucumber fishing seasons is presented in the *Summary Report on the Sea Cucumber Fishery 20/21, 2021/2022 & 2023/2024 fishing seasons*, and the 2023 Fisheries Statistical Report and summarised below. There is a declining trend in the sea cucumber catch across the 3 seasons. Harvesting of white teatfish was banned in 2022 which was replaced by golden sandfish.

In 2023, the SFA authorised 2 operators from among the 25 licenced operators to undertake exploratory sea cucumber fishing in the Joint Management Area (JMA) with Mauritius. Six trips between September and December landed 30,013 pieces of sea cucumber weighing 16,183 kg, made up of 96% White teatfish and 4% Flower teatfish.

Table 6.8: Sea cucumber catch by species from 2020 to 2023 (pieces)

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Flower teatfish</b>	194,390.00	212,870.00	243,169.00	268,047.00
<b>White teatfish</b>	0	49964	53241	66491
<b>Prickly red</b>	2695	31177	38494	37061
<b>Golden sandfish</b>	8933			
<b>Total catch</b>	<b>206,018</b>	<b>294,011</b>	<b>334904</b>	<b>371599</b>

- **Sport and recreational fishery:** In the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report, SFA indicated that information on recreational and sport fishery will be included progressively in future editions. This is yet to be published.
- **Discards by the small-scale fishing sector:** A statement published in the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report indicated that the government of Seychelles does not collect any statistics or publish studies on the species and volumes of fish discarded in the small-scale sector. It states that there are no discards in the artisanal fishery as the fish that are not sold are used as bait or are kept for own consumption by the fishers.
- **Economic, social and food security contribution:** Three studies published on the SFA website relate to the contribution of the small-scale fisheries sector to the economy, namely, the “*Baseline Socioeconomic Study of Small-scale longline fleet*”<sup>61</sup>, the *Economic Impact of the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry*<sup>62</sup>, and the *Assessment of the Economic and Social Importance of Seychelles’ Sport and Recreational Fishery*<sup>63</sup>. No studies were implemented in 2023.

As noted in previous FiTI Reports, the GDP contributions of the fisheries sector for the year 2023 (though not disaggregated by sub-sector) is published by the government of Seychelles through the Q4 2023 Quarterly National Accounts Statistics produced by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS.).

[Best available information] The National MSG found no instances relating to Seychelles’ small-scale fisheries, where information used by national authorities is clearly misleading, or could be improved by considering alternative sources of information, such as studies by non-governmental organisations, the private sector or academic institutions.

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<sup>61</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/171-baseline-socio-economic-study-of-small-scale-longline-fleet>

<sup>62</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/131-economic-impact-of-the-seychelles-sea-cucumber-fishery-and-industry>

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report?task=download.send&id=216&catid=51&m=0>

## 1.7 Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish information on the post-harvest sector and fish trade:</b>			
i. <b>Total quantity of fish and fish products produced, disaggregated by species and fish products.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
ii. <b>The total quantity of imports of fish and fish products, disaggregated by species and fish products, indicating the country of their origin.</b>	Yes	Yes (online)	Partially
iii. <b>The total quantities of exports of fish and fish products, disaggregated by species and fish products, indicating the country of their destination.</b>	Yes	Yes	Partially
iv. <b>The total number of people employed in commercial fisheries sectors, including the number of men and women working in specific sub-sectors.</b>	Uncertain		
v. <b>The total number of people employed in informal fisheries sectors, including the number of men and women working in specific sub-sectors.</b>	Uncertain		
<b>Seychelles must publish reports or studies on wages in the post-harvest sector, if available.</b>	No		

➤ **Total quantity of fish and fish products produced:** The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) published information on the total quantity of fish and fish products produced for the year 2023 as part of its Production Indicator Q4 2023 Statistical Bulletin<sup>64</sup>. The production figure provided (44,260Mt) only accounts for semi-industrial longliners fish catch, production of canned tuna and smoked fish. The fish catch data does not cover all landing sites and only captures week-day landings. In addition, the information is not disaggregated by individual species. More complete fish production information is published in the 2023 SFA Annual Report, along with disaggregated data by sector (artisanal, small-scale, sea cucumber) and additional fish products such as fish meal and fish oil are also included in the production figures. According to this report, fish production totalled 54,833Mt in 2023.

➤ **Imports of fish and fish products:** NBS publishes information on the total amount of imports of fish and fish products for 2023 as part of the Merchandise Trade 2023 Q4

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/38-economic-statistics/17-production-indicators/139-2023>

Statistical Bulletin<sup>65</sup>. It reports only the total monetary value of imports, using the Harmonized System Codes, and does not present information on the weight, species or country of origin of the imports. However, these aspects are documented by the NBS, and passed on to SFA.. The import value published by NBS for 2023 stood at SCR 2.0 billion. Information on the total imported weight and value by country of import is available on FIMS on the SFA website but there is no information on species. The data can be downloaded as an Excel or CSV file and dates to 2017. It indicates that in 2023, a total of 66,096 Mt of fish and fish products, representing SCR1.87 billion in value, was imported. The 2023 SFA Annual Report also published fish import and export information.

- ➔ **Exports of fish and fish products:** The NBS' Merchandise Trade 2023 Q4 Statistical Bulletin also contains information on the total quantity of exports of fish and fish products for 2023 . Published export data is disaggregated according to the Harmonized System Codes and falls into five categories, as shown in the table below.<sup>66</sup> The NBS' published export data is not disaggregated by species.<sup>67</sup>

Table 7.1: Export value of fish and fish products, 2022-2023

	<u>Export country</u>	<u>Export value 2023 (SCR'000)</u>	<u>Export value 2022 (SCR'000)</u>
Fresh and frozen fish	USA	24,338	37,917
	Spain	41,939	51,266
	UK	29,942	19,302
	Sri Lanka	3,734	316
	Reunion	437	550
	France	3,022	8,379
	Russian Federation	0	0
	<i>Others</i>	234,739	180,107
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>338,151</b>	<b>297,837</b>
Canned tuna	France	1,700,507	2,241,499
	UK	694,194	846,226
	Italy	558,146	490,983
	Germany	328,512	150,282

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/38-economic-statistics/13-merchandise-trade/136-2023>

<sup>66</sup> Data on the *total quantity of exports* is available as an annual sum for the five categories. The *total monetary value of export (in SCR)* is provided as an annual sum, as well as per quarter. The *monetary value of exports broken down for some of the most important export destination countries* is also published (see below).

<sup>67</sup> The National MSG assumes that data for species groups could be available from records kept as part of the issuance of phytosanitary certificates (all exports) by the Fish Inspection and Quality Control Unit of the Seychelles Bureau of Standards, as well as catch certificates (exports above 20 kg) issued by SFA. However, this information is not published and was not reconciled as part of this FITI Report.



	<u>Export country</u>	<u>Export value 2023 (SCR'000)</u>	<u>Export value 2022 (SCR'000)</u>
	<i>Others</i>	219,898	278,763
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3,501,257.00</b>	<b>4,007,753</b>
Fish oil and fats	Iceland	14,018	1,484
	Switzerland	0	
	Australia	0	
	<i>Others</i>	30,623	30,974
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>44,641</b>	<b>32,458</b>
Fish meal	Australia	9,719	15,907
	Japan	35,335	
	Sri Lanka	329	
	<i>Others</i>	58,109	77,433
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>103,492</b>	<b>93,340</b>
Sea cucumber	Hong Kong	68,612	64,162
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>68,612</b>	<b>64,162</b>
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>4,056,153</b>	<b>4,495,550</b>

The National MSG notes that an accurate estimate of the number of people employed in Seychelles' commercial fisheries sectors is one of the fundamental pieces of information to allow an accurate estimate of the economic importance of this sector. It further notes that despite the absence of an up-to-date figure on total employment in the fisheries sector, there have been several attempts in the last 5 years to establish the number of persons employed in specific sub-sectors.

- **Employment in commercial fisheries sector:** The Seychelles' government does not collate employment information for the commercial fisheries sector. NBS published the 2023 employment figures as part of its Q4 2023<sup>68</sup>, Employment & Earnings Bulletin which gives an annual average employment in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector of 611 for 2023, which is a gross underestimation taking into consideration information from other reports cited below.

Several reports published in the last 5 years have assessed employment in specific sub-sectors but to date, there are no clear estimates of the number of persons employed in the commercial fisheries sector. Two comprehensive reports are now published: the "*Employment and Prospect in the Industrial tuna Fishery Sector of the Republic of*

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/38-economic-statistics/11-employment-earnings/135-2023>

*Seychelles*” study report, produced by the Blue Economy Department in 2018 <sup>69</sup> , published on the MFBE website and the *Employment Study and Capacity Needs Assessment for the Fisheries Sector in Seychelles* <sup>70</sup> reported in the 2021 FiTI report, which is still available on the SFA website..

Other recently published studies on SFA’s website have estimated the number of employees in specific sub-sectors in the commercial fisheries sector. They are the *Economic Impact of the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry*<sup>71</sup> report, which estimated the number of persons employed in the sea cucumber fishery, the *Baseline socio-economic study of semi-industrial longline fleet* <sup>72</sup> , which estimated the number of persons employed in the small-scale longline fishery and “*Assessment of the Economic and Social Importance of Seychelles’ Sport and Recreational Fishery*” which estimated the number of fisheries and fisheries-related jobs created by the sport and recreational fishery.

Information published only in FiTI reports from the International Trade Zone (ITZ) Section in the Financial Services Authority (FSA), indicate that out of 17 businesses operating in Seychelles’ International Trade Zone (ITZ), 11 operate fisheries or fisheries-related businesses. The list of the 11 fisheries and fisheries-related businesses in the ITZ and their number of employees for the years 2021 to 2023 is presented in annexe C. All 11 businesses operate in the post-harvest sector and table 7.2 presents a summary of the total number of employees in the ITZ, the total number of persons and the number of expatriates employed in fisheries and fisheries-related businesses for 2021 to 2023. In 2023, out of a total of 2,268 persons employed in the ITZ, 2,177 or 96% worked in fisheries and fisheries-related businesses. In addition, 1,552 or 71% of employees in fisheries and fisheries-related businesses are expatriate workers, the bulk of which (1,468 or 95%) are employed by the Indian Ocean Tuna Limited (IOT). With 1896 employees, IOT is one of the largest, if not the largest employer in Seychelles.

Table 7.2 : Number of employees working in Seychelles ITZ from 2021 to 2023

	<u>2021</u>	<u>% total</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>% total</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>% total</u>
<b>Total employees</b>	<b>2275</b>		<b>2268</b>		<b>2106</b>	
<b>Employees in fisheries businesses</b>	2229	98%	2177	96%	2023	96%
<b>Expat employees in fisheries businesses</b>	1515	67%	1552	68%	1442	68%

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.mofbe.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Blue-Economy-Employment-Report-1.pdf>

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/131-economic-impact-of-the-seychelles-sea-cucumber-fishery-and-industry>

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/171-baseline-socio-economic-study-of-semi-industrial-longline-fleet>

- **Employment in *informal* fisheries sectors:** The Seychelles' government does not collate employment information for the informal fisheries sector. During the 2021 FiTI reporting process, the MFBE confirmed the existence of an informal fisheries sector in Seychelles, especially in the sports and recreational fisheries which are presently not regulated. This statement has appeared in the 2021 FiTI Report but not yet published on any government website. Doing so would fulfil *Recommendation 2019-7\_3* of Seychelles' 2019 FiTI Report, which *encouraged MFBE to clearly state whether an informal fisheries sector exists in Seychelles*. This recommendation is currently considered as *partially implemented*.

The study, “*Assessment of the Economic and Social Importance of Seychelles' Sport and Recreational Fishery*”, published on SFA's website in 2022, estimates that the sports fishing sector may account for approximately 2.2% of employment or 1,153 jobs. The study recommended a more comprehensive assessment of employment in that sector.

- **[Best available information]** The National MSG found no instances relating to employment statistics in Seychelles' informal sector, where information used by national authorities is clearly misleading, or could be improved by considering alternative sources of information, such as studies by non-governmental organisations, the private sector or academic institutions.

- **Wages in the post-harvest sector:** The NBS publishes average earnings figures for 2023 in the Q4 2023, Employment & Earnings Bulletin <sup>73</sup> in the fisheries, agriculture and forestry sectors are combined, and it is not clear which components of the fisheries sector this involves. The three studies published in 2021 that provided some information on wages in the fisheries sector are still available on the SFA website. The studies are: the *Employment Study and Capacity Needs Assessment for Fisheries Sector in Seychelles*, the *Baseline socioeconomic study of small-scale longline fleet*<sup>74</sup> and the *Economic Impact of the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry*.

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<sup>73</sup> <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/38-economic-statistics/11-employment-earnings/135-2023>

<sup>74</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/171-baseline-socio-economic-study-of-small-scale-longline-fleet>

## 1.8 Fisheries Law Enforcement

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish the following information relating to fisheries law enforcement:</b>			
i. <b>The national activities and strategies used for ensuring compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector with national legislation.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
ii. <b>The financial and human resources deployed by the government to ensure compliance with national legislation.</b>	Yes	Partially (Online and FiTI Report)	Partially
iii. <b>The total numbers of inspections of fishing vessels at sea and in ports.</b>	Yes	Yes	Partially
<b>Seychelles must publish an up-to-date record of convictions for major offences in the fisheries sector (of the last five years), indicating the name of the company or vessel owner, the nature of the offence and the penalty imposed.</b>	Yes	Yes	Partially

- **Activities and strategies for ensuring compliance:** There was no comprehensive report produced in 2023, on the national activities and strategies used to ensure compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector with Seychelles' legislation.

The National MSG notes, once again, that while there were activities being undertaken to monitor certain aspects of the post-harvest sector such as inspections and verifications, there was no overall MCS Strategy to guide these activities.

In 2023, SFA started work to finalise the National Plan of Action for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (NPOA-IUU) fishing for adoption as a national policy supported with funds under the EcoFISH project. The plan is expected to be finalised in 2024.

Several compliance and policy instruments do exist, providing strategic direction regarding fisheries compliance. *These are detailed in the 2019 FiTI report. No new compliance-related strategy documents were produced in 2023.*

A recommendation was made by the National MSG for SFA to provide MFBE with regular information regarding the national strategies and activities applied to ensure compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector, in the 2019 FiTI Report ([2019-8\\_1](#)). Addressing this recommendation was due by December 2022; however, no information was available on how this had progressed.

- **Financial and human resources deployed to ensure compliance:** In the 2019 FiTI report, the National MSG recommended that SFA prepares and makes available to

MFBE the financial and human resources deployed by the government (including other agencies apart from SFA) to ensure compliance with national and international legislation in the fisheries sector (at least on an annual basis) by December 2023 (2019-8\_2). SFA pledged to publish this information for the year 2022 by early 2023. There has been no consolidated information on the financial and human resources deployed by all relevant national authorities <sup>75</sup> to ensure compliance with national fisheries legislation for any of the years from 2019 to 2023.

Information from SFA as part of this FiTI Report shows that the MCS Division had *a total expenditure of SCR 33,192,936* <sup>76</sup> for 2023, of which

- 65% was derived from SFA's recurrent budget , and the other
- 35% from the sectoral support under the protocol of the EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement.

**Inspections at sea and in ports:** This information is compiled quarterly by SFA, with annual totals published as part of the SFA Annual Report. In addition, as part of this FiTI reporting process, SFA made information on the quantity and types of inspections and patrols accessible, which is summarised in the table below.

Table 8.1: Types of inspections and patrols in 2023

Types of inspections and patrols	2020	2021	2022	2023
Inspection in port – Industrial vessels	41	69	17	24
Inspection in port – Semi-industrial vessels	8	512	61	59
Inspection in port – Artisanal vessels	<u>327</u>	565	50	64
Coastal patrols	13	26	5	17
Air patrols (hours)	8	9	0	0

- **Record of convictions and major offences:** A record of convictions of major offences in the fishing sector as well as a list of foreign vessels apprehended as a result of IUU fishing, which occurred between 2020 and 2023 is published on SFA's website <sup>77</sup>. The list provides some details on the type of offences recorded and actions taken by SFA and, in a limited number of cases, the name of the vessel involved. There are no details provided on the vessel owners or the date the incident occurred. A list of foreign-flagged

<sup>75</sup> For example, SFA, Fish Inspection and Quality Control Unit, Seychelles Coast Guard, Air Force, and Environmental Health Section.

<sup>76</sup> Inclusive of basic staff salary amounting to SCR 10,339,583.

<sup>77</sup> <https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Convictions-and-major-offences-in-the-fishing-sector-2020-2023.pdf>

vessels which have been apprehended for IUU fishing is maintained by the MCS Division within SFA. This partly implements *recommendation 2021\_8\_1*, which states that *SFA should publish an up-to-date record of convictions and major offences in the fisheries sector over the last 5 years indicating the name of the company or vessel owner, the nature of the offence and the penalty imposed.*

## 1.9 Labour Standards

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
Seychelles must publish a summary description of national laws on labour standards applicable to national and foreign workers employed in the fishing sector at sea and in the post-harvest fisheries sector.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
Seychelles must publish the following information relating to the enforcement of labour standards:			
i. The public authorities responsible for monitoring and enforcing laws on labour standards.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
ii. Documents, including policy statements and evaluations, regarding a national strategy, if applicable, or related activities for enforcing the laws on labour standards in the fisheries sector, including total figures on the financial and human resources deployed by the government.	Yes	Yes (Online and FiTI Report)	Partially
iii. The role and legal standing of anybody that has a governmental mandate to receive labour-related complaints from workers in the fishing sector and in the post-harvest sector.	Yes	Yes	Yes
iv. The total number of offences committed by employers in the fisheries sector that have been resolved by the authorities.	Yes	Yes (FiTI Report)	Yes

The National MSG is of the view that the Seychelles' government must expedite the domestication of the ILO Convention on Work in Fishing, in order to ensure that minimum, internationally recognised labour standards in the fishing sector can be implemented and enforced.

- ➔ **Summary description of national laws on labour standards:** The summary of Seychelles' laws on labour standards, applicable to national and foreign workers employed in Seychelles, based on the Employment Act 1995, is still available on the Employment Department's website <sup>78</sup>. It is noted that the Employment Act 1995 does not apply to employees working in Seychelles ITZ whose employment is regulated by the International Trade Zone (Employment) Regulations 1997 <sup>79</sup> and the ITZ (Conditions of Employment) Order. The differences between the provisions of these two legislations

<sup>78</sup> <http://www.employment.gov.sc/useful-resources/488-employment-legislation-presentation-2023>

<sup>79</sup> <https://fsaseychelles.sc/legal-framework/legislations>

are summarised in the 2022 FiTI Report. The publication of the summary of labour laws, only partially fulfils recommendation [2019-9\\_1](#), as it does not take into consideration the specific provisions covering ITZ employees.

In the 2020 FiTI Report, the NMSG recommended ([recommendation 2020-9\\_1](#)) for the government to work towards the domestication of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention by December 2024. The Employment Department indicated during this FiTI reporting process that no progress has been made since the last report. In the 2022 FiTI Report, it was relayed that the gap analysis was done and validation workshops held, although the gap analysis has not been published yet. However, the main issue holding back progress is that the Competent Authority to lead the implementation of this exercise is still to be decided.

- **Enforcement of labour standards:** The Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs (MESA) is responsible for monitoring and enforcing laws on labour standards in the fisheries sector in Seychelles (as well as in other sectors). A statement to that effect is clearly published on the information page related to the Labour Relation Division of the MESA <sup>80</sup>, but not yet on the website of MFBE or SFA.

The ITZ (Employment) Regulation 1997 provides for the FSA to administer labour laws in the ITZ sector and this is not clearly stated on either the MESA or the FSA website.

- **Documents, including policy statements and evaluations, regarding a national strategy, if applicable, or related activities for enforcing the laws on labour standards in the fisheries sector:** The Fisheries Comprehensive Plan<sup>81</sup>, and the Seychelles Fisheries Policy and Strategy, include policy statements regarding labour and employment issues in the fisheries sector, which address *Employment, training, resourcing and human resource development* <sup>82</sup>. These are outlined in the 2020 FiTI Report.

For 2023, MESA reported that it had 12 inspectors enforcing labour standards across all sectors of the economy, including fisheries. The budget <sup>83</sup> of the Labour Protection

<sup>80</sup> <http://www.employment.gov.sc/labour-relation-division>

<sup>81</sup> The Fisheries Comprehensive Plan states: 'As part of its flag State responsibility, employment and labour conditions on board Seychelles industrial fishing vessels must meet the minimum international recognised standards. The respective government agencies - SFA, SMSA and the Department of Employment - will collaborate to subject Seychelles-flagged fishing vessels to comply with these standards, and also to the basic wage conditions either provided by Seychelles legislation or minimum standard set by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), whichever is highest and under no circumstance be below ILO standard.' The Plan also identifies the ratification of the ILO work in fishing convention no.188 (adopted in 2007) as a follow-up action.

<sup>82</sup> Statement on labour issues from the Seychelles' Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy: 'The Government will promote and implement good practices relating to labour (i.e., ILO Work in Fishing Convention and Work in Fishing Recommendation, 2007 (No. 199)) and working conditions on vessels registered and flying the Seychelles flag, on the entire Seychelles fleet, including industrial longliners in particular.'

<sup>83</sup> [http://www.finance.gov.sc/uploads/national\\_budget/2023-BUDGET-ESTIMATES-OF-REVENUE-AND-EXPENDITURE-FOR-THE-FISCAL-YEAR-ENDING-31ST-DECEMBER-2023-PART-2.pdf](http://www.finance.gov.sc/uploads/national_budget/2023-BUDGET-ESTIMATES-OF-REVENUE-AND-EXPENDITURE-FOR-THE-FISCAL-YEAR-ENDING-31ST-DECEMBER-2023-PART-2.pdf): The budget is part of the



Programme<sup>84</sup> for 2023 was SCR 7,827,000, of which 94% went towards wages and salaries of staff.

- **Mandate to receive labour complaints:** Complaints related to workers' grievances are usually channelled through the Labour Relation Division of the MESA. No explicit reference is made to receive labour-related complaints from workers in the fishing and post-harvest sector. The ITZ (Employment) Regulations 1997 provides the FSA the power to receive grievances and to rule on employment cases in the ITZ and for the setting up of the SITZ Employment Council with the power to enquire about employment conditions in the ITZ. Labour complaints are routed through the ITZ Section within the FSA.
- **Number of offences committed by employers in the fisheries sector that have been resolved by the authorities:** No such information is published, neither by MESA, MFBE or SFA. Through this FiTI reporting process, MESA reported that in 2023, it recorded 2 labour offences and 2 grievances for the fisheries sector<sup>85</sup>. In addition, the FSA recorded the following number of grievances from 2021 to 2023: 2021, 3; 2022 – 4 and 2023 – 3.

## Recommendations

We, the National MSG, make the following recommendations to improve transparency regarding fisheries tenure arrangements in Seychelles:

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2023-7_1	<i>The Seychelle's government must domesticate the ILO Convention on Work in Fishing, in order to ensure that minimum, internationally recognised labour standards can be implemented and enforced in the fishing sector.</i>	High	December 2025

2023 BUDGET: Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Fiscal Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, Part 2. Published by the Ministry of Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic Planning.

<sup>84</sup> The purpose of the Labour Protection Programme of the Department of Labour is to: (i) ensure that worker vulnerability is reduced through adherence to decent work principles and improved compliance and enforcement of national labour laws in workplaces; (ii) support policies and practices that promote sound labour relations; (iii) to promote health and safety in the workplace to regulate dangerous activities; and (iv) to foster stable industrial relations and workplace productivity.

<sup>85</sup> 'Offences' are detected/established by the labour inspectors and enforced, whereas 'grievances', are complaints brought forth by employees, which may constitute offences not sufficiently proven to be addressed by enforcement and which are consequently 'resolved' (if possible) by way of mediation.



## 1.10 Fisheries Subsidies

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish information on:</b>			
Type of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector	Yes	Yes (Online)	Unknown
Value of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector	Yes	Partially (Online and FiTI Report)	Partially
Recipients of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector	Yes	No	Unknown
Average annual value of any fuel subsidies per unit of fuel in nominal and percentage terms.	Yes	Partially (FiTI Report)	Unknown

The Government of Seychelles, through the Seychelles Fisheries Policy and Strategy, expressed the need to focus on '*Building efficiency in the industry*', listing several strategies aimed at addressing overcapacity and subsidy dependency in the small-scale fisheries sector.

The *Public Sector Support to the Fisheries Sector Report*, commissioned by the MFBE and published in 2023 <sup>86</sup>, provides comprehensive information on subsidies in the Seychelles fisheries sector. It implements recommendation [2019-10\\_2](#) – which requested MFBE or SFA to publish information on the types, values and recipients of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector in Seychelles (both large-scale and small-scale fisheries). The study covers the period 2014 to 2021 and estimates government support over this period to be at least SCR 1.3 billion ranging from SCR 108.4 million to SCR 200.5 million annually. It found that the bulk of government support was indirect in the form of general services which made up 67% of the total or SCR871.8 million and direct subsidies or cost-reducing subsidies accounted for the remainder 33%, equivalent to SCR 435 million over this period. The highest form of subsidy was infrastructure support, which made up 25% of the total equivalent to SCR 328.3 million, followed by fuel which accounted for 22% of the total averaging 35.4 million annually and fisheries management making up 20% of total subsidy equivalent to an average spend of SCR 32.2 million annually. Overall, the subsector distributions of total cost-reducing transfers were 58% for the artisanal sector, 29% semi-industrial and 13% for processors/exports.

To date, regularly published information has been limited to subsidies to the artisanal fisheries sector and include only fuel and ice subsidies.

<sup>86</sup> <https://mofbe.gov.sc/swiofish3/reports/public-sector-support-to-the-seychelles-fisheries-sector/>

- **Subsidies given to large-scale fisheries in Seychelles:** During the 2021 FITI reporting process, the MFBE, confirmed that there were no direct subsidies provided to Seychelles' large-scale fisheries sector. It was explained that large-scale fishing vessels purchase fuel duty-free in Port Victoria, which is not a privilege specific to the fisheries sector as all international vessels enjoy this benefit. This statement is yet to be published on a government website.
  
- **Subsidies given to small-scale fisheries in Seychelles:** The summary of the subsidies that are available to the small-scale fisheries, contained in the 2019 FITI Report, is still relevant for the year 2023. The 2017 report on the review of subsidies provided to the artisanal fisheries sector' is still available. The 2023 *Public Sector Support to the Fisheries Sector Report* concluded that the bulk of fuel subsidies benefit the artisanal sector, which was allocated 73% of total fuel subsidies equivalent to SCR205.8 million over the period 2014 to 2021 versus 27% to the semi-industrial sector. In contrast, the concentration of VAT exemptions on imports was to processors/exporters for a value of SCR 54.2 million. Semi-industrial accounted for SCR 18.7 million of VAT exemptions and artisanal SCR 6.2 million.
  
- **Fuel subsidies:** Information about the fuel incentive scheme (FIS) for the small-scale fishing industry is available on the SFA website <sup>87</sup>. The value of fuel subsidies provided to small-scale fisheries in 2023 is published in the 2023 SFA Annual Report. It indicates that in 2023, the value of fuel subsidies to the small-scale fisheries sector stood at *SCR 42.82 million*, out of which SCR 23.73 million was to artisanal fishery and SCR 19.09 million was to the small-scale longline fishery. No information is available on fuel subsidies to the sea cucumber fishery specifically as the information on fuel subsidies to the small-scale artisanal fishery is not disaggregated. The recommendation 2019-10\_2, *which requested that information on fuel subsidies to the sea cucumber fishery should be published by December 2022*, is yet to be implemented
  
- **Ice subsidies:** The 2023 *Public Sector Support to the Fisheries Sector Report* estimates that most of subsidised ice benefits the artisanal sector. The value of ice subsidies to the artisanal fishery sector for 2020 to 2022 is published on FIMS <sup>88</sup>. The table below indicates that the cost of operating ice plants in Seychelles (excluding labour) during 2023 was SCR 14.5 million, while the earnings from the total sale of ice amounted to SCR 4.95 million. This equates to a total subsidy of *SCR 9.6 million* in 2023.

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<sup>87</sup> <https://sfa.sc/fisheries-scheme/>

<sup>88</sup> SFA Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) (traseable.com)

Table 10.1: Costs (excluding labour) of operating the ice plants in 2022 and 2023 (SCR)

	2021	2022	2023
	Expenditure/Revenue (SCR)	Expenditure/Revenue (SCR)	Expenditure/Revenue (SCR)
Sale of ice	3822122.00	5880000.00	4,947,207.00
Ice machine maintenance	-4,012,976.19	-2,330,000.00	-1,444,417.19
Electricity	-9,131,423.15	-11,630,267.34	-12,204,271.23
Water	-562,368.07	-531,876.75	-882,201.94
<b>Total subsidy</b>	<b>-9,884,645.41</b>	<b>-8,612,144.09</b>	<b>-9,583,683.36</b>

## 1.11 Official Development Assistance

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish the following information on public sector projects:</b>			
related to fisheries (project value, purpose, output, project evaluations)	Yes	Yes (FiTI Report)	Partially
related to marine conservation (project value, purpose, output, project evaluations)	Yes	Yes (FiTI Report)	Unknown

*The National MSG found that there are only a limited number of fisheries public sector projects which were funded through ODA in 2022, compared to a wider variety of marine conservation-related projects.* These projects are funded through a mixture of bilateral, multilateral and private donors.

The list of donor-funded, fisheries and marine conservation projects implemented by SFA in 2023 is published, on its website<sup>89</sup>. The list provides information on project purpose, value, duration and evaluation. It indicates that 14 projects were active in 2023, 2 were project activities under the World Bank funded SWIOFish3 Project, three were funded through SeyCCAT and four under the European Development Fund. Other donors include Eco-Fish, FAO, The Nature Conservancy and IRD. This inventory does not capture fisheries related activities and spending through aid to other sectors such as agriculture and coastal development or support for marine conservation. Some projects from this list also feature on the list of SeyCCAT-funded projects active in 2023, published in annex C of this report.

- ➔ **Fisheries-related public sector development projects:** There were four ODA-funded, national fisheries public sector projects under implementation in 2023. Only two of these are mentioned in government publications: the Project for Construction of Artisanal Fisheries Port in Mahe (phase 2) funded by JICA, which was due to be completed in 2021 and the World Bank funded SWIOFish3 Project, which was due to end in 2023, which was extended and officially came to an end on 31 June 2024. The JICA funded project is mentioned in the notes to the 2023 audited accounts published in the 2023 SFA Annual Report. There is now a SWIOFish3 Project page on the MFBE website under the Programmes tab with links to all the reports produced under the project organised under 5 headings: fisheries management, policy, governance, capacity building and awareness and education<sup>90</sup>. A mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the SWIOFish3 project was done in 2021 and published on the SWIOFish3 website. The end of project evaluation

<sup>89</sup> <https://sfa.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/ODA-Table-of-SFA-projects.xlsx>

<sup>90</sup> <https://mofbe.gov.sc/swiofish3/>

report was being finalised during this FITI reporting process and a copy posted on the MFBE website <sup>91</sup>.

Information on ODA funded projects in Seychelles can be searched on the *d-portal* of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) <sup>92</sup>, which provides information by country or by publisher, on development activities and budgets published to the IATI. Information on this portal, is largely reflected in Part 1 of the 2023 Budget book published on Ministry of Finance's website <sup>93</sup> ..

- **Regional fisheries projects:** Seychelles benefits from two regional fisheries projects: the Ecofish Programme<sup>82</sup> (2018 – 2024) funded by the European Union at a cost of EUR 28 million. The total direct benefit for Seychelles for the year 2023 is not known and it is not mentioned on the MFBE or SFA websites. The *Project for Enhancing Livelihoods, Food Security and Maritime Safety through Increased Resilience of Fishing Communities Dependent on Coral Reef Fisheries in the African Coastal Countries of the Indian Ocean* funded by FAO and the Japanese Government at a cost of USD 4.4 million, is another regional project included on the list of ODA projects published on the SFA website

**EU Economic Partnership Agreement:** Seychelles is benefitting from a long-term technical assistance programme to support the implementation of the European Union and Eastern and Southern Africa (EU-ESA) interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). This is funded through a grant of EUR 10 million from the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund, which is reflected in Part 1 of the 2023 Budget Book' *However, there is no mention of this agreement on any government websites.*

- **Conservation-related public sector development projects:** The government of Seychelles is yet to compile a comprehensive list of all marine conservation-related projects implemented in Seychelles in one central repository. The Department of Energy and Climate Change was implementing three marine conservation-related public sector projects in 2023 and they are listed in Part 2 of the 2023 Budget Book <sup>94</sup> and on the Climate Change Department's website <sup>95</sup>. A summary of these projects and related evaluations is provided in Annex C of this report.

<sup>91</sup> [https://mofbe.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Seychelles-SWIOFish3-Final-Evaluation-Final-Report\\_9October24.pdf](https://mofbe.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Seychelles-SWIOFish3-Final-Evaluation-Final-Report_9October24.pdf)

<sup>92</sup> [https://d-portal.org/ctrack.html?country\\_code=SC&sector\\_group=313&year\\_min=2010#view=ended](https://d-portal.org/ctrack.html?country_code=SC&sector_group=313&year_min=2010#view=ended)

<sup>93</sup> [http://www.finance.gov.sc/uploads/national\\_budget/Assumption-and-Objectives-of-the-2023-Budget-Part-1.pdf](http://www.finance.gov.sc/uploads/national_budget/Assumption-and-Objectives-of-the-2023-Budget-Part-1.pdf)

<sup>94</sup> [http://www.finance.gov.sc/uploads/national\\_budget/2023-BUDGET-ESTIMATES-OF-REVENUE-AND-EXPENDITURE-FOR-THE-FISCAL-YEAR-ENDING-31ST-DECEMBER-2023-PART-2.pdf](http://www.finance.gov.sc/uploads/national_budget/2023-BUDGET-ESTIMATES-OF-REVENUE-AND-EXPENDITURE-FOR-THE-FISCAL-YEAR-ENDING-31ST-DECEMBER-2023-PART-2.pdf)

<sup>95</sup> <https://macce.gov.sc/climate-change-department/programme-development-and-coordination-section/>

There are other ODA-financed marine conservation projects under implementation in 2023 such as those related to the Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning Process<sup>96</sup> and the Seychelles Climate Change Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT)<sup>97</sup> which are not implemented by the public sector but where government agencies are implementing partners. These initiatives have their own websites and generally provide information on project activities rather than project characteristics such as project value and the outcome of evaluations.

*The National MSG determined that it goes beyond the scope of this report to compile a comprehensive list of ODA projects related to fisheries and marine conservation that were under implementation in 2022. Instead, several agencies that fund and/or implement conservation-related public sector projects are listed. It is uncertain whether other projects exist, what their values are, how their implementation and impact is evaluated etc.*

- A list of marine conservation and fisheries projects, funded by SeyCCAT and active in 2023, is found in annex C. SeyCCAT indicated that it conducts internal evaluations of all projects before they can be considered completed.
- The Project Coordination Unit's (PCU) which coordinated projects within the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) was restructured in July 2022 into the Project Development & Coordination Section (PDCS) in the Climate Change Department of that Ministry<sup>98</sup>. Its website, which provided a comprehensive list of conservation and other environment-related projects dating from 2007, is offline. Consequently, there is limited visibility on marine conservation projects being implemented or coordinated by government. Most of these projects have been funded by the *Global Environment Facility (GEF)* and implemented by the *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*. The GEF website<sup>99</sup> provides a list of all national, regional and global projects through which Seychelles has benefited. While not all the projects are marine-based, most of them have implications for the management of Seychelles' marine environment. Thirty projects (23 of which form part of regional/global projects) have so far been funded by GEF.
- A list of projects funded by the *World Bank* for Seychelles is also accessible online through the Bank's website<sup>100</sup> that provides details of project titles, committed amount, approval date, status and the date the information was last updated. Projects can be filtered according to a number of attributes, including sector, which allows for the selection of 'Fisheries' sector projects..
- Information regarding total ODA provided to Seychelles since 2010 can also be obtained through the website of the *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and*

<sup>96</sup> <https://www.seymsp.com>

<sup>97</sup> <https://seyccat.org>

<sup>98</sup> <https://macce.gov.sc/climate-change-department/programme-development-and-coordination-section/>

<sup>99</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/country/seychelles>

<sup>100</sup> <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/projects-list?searchTerm=Seychelles>



*Development (OECD)* <sup>101</sup>. Data for Seychelles is only available for the period 2010 to 2017. Information on bilateral aid provided by major foundations can also be obtained online through the OECD's Development Co-operation Profiles Report <sup>102</sup>, but the data is not specific to fisheries or marine conservation.

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<sup>101</sup> <https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?QueryId=85349>

<sup>102</sup> [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/development-co-operation-profiles\\_2dcf1367-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/development-co-operation-profiles_2dcf1367-en)

## 1.12 Beneficial Ownership

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish information on the country's status regarding beneficial ownership transparency:</b>			
<b>i. The legal basis for beneficial ownership transparency in the country.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
<b>ii. The country's legal definition of beneficial ownership.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
<b>iii. The availability of a public register of beneficial owners.</b>	No <sup>103</sup>	No (restricted access)	Unknown
<b>iv. The rules and procedures for incorporating beneficial ownership in filings by companies to corporate regulators, stock exchanges or agencies regulating the access to fisheries.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	No
<b>v. The current status and discussions around beneficial ownership transparency in fisheries.</b>	Yes	No	Unknown

- **Legal basis for and definition of beneficial ownership:** The legal basis for and the definition of beneficial ownership in the fisheries sector is provided for in the Fisheries Act (2014) and the [Beneficial Ownership Act \(BO\) \(2020\)](#) and [Beneficial Ownership Regulations \(2020\)](#)<sup>104</sup> As of 30 December 2022, the [Beneficial Ownership \(Amendment\) Act 2023](#)<sup>105</sup> and the [Beneficial Ownership \(Amendment\) Regulations](#) have been enacted, to ensure ongoing compliance with international standards set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and OECD.
- **Public register of beneficial owners:** A *central register* of beneficial owners has been available in Seychelles since the end of 2021. The BO Act provides for every legal person or legal arrangement registered in Seychelles, to maintain an up-to-date register of beneficial owners at the principal place of business of its resident agent. This information is reported to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) who maintains a central beneficial ownership database<sup>106</sup>. However, the register and the database are not publicly

<sup>103</sup> Access to the Beneficial Ownership Database is not public and is restricted by the Beneficial Ownership Act (2020) and Beneficial Ownership Regulations (2020) to a number of Competent Authorities defined in the Beneficial Ownership Act.

<sup>104</sup> Furthermore, a Beneficial Ownership Guideline was jointly published in December 2020 by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to provide practical guidance on the identification of beneficial owners to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

<sup>105</sup> <https://www.seychellesfiu.sc/FIU/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Consolidated-Beneficial-Ownership-Act-2020-to-30-December-2022.pdf>

<sup>106</sup> A Beneficial Ownership Database Registration Guidelines is published on Financial Intelligence Unit website to facilitate the registration process.

[https://www.seychellesfiu.sc/FIU/Legislations/Guidelines/BO\\_Database\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://www.seychellesfiu.sc/FIU/Legislations/Guidelines/BO_Database_Guidelines.pdf)

available and the BO Act provides for institutions specified under the Act to access the information (Sections 13(4) and 14) and SFA is not included on the list of Competent Authorities. It is important to note that section 2(b) provides that the Act<sup>107</sup> *shall not apply to a legal person which is formed, incorporated or established outside of Seychelles, unless the overseas company has registered under the Companies Act.* In the fisheries sector, this would exclude foreign owned vessels from registering their BO information on the central register, unless they have registered under the Companies Act.

- **Incorporating beneficial ownership in filings by companies:** The BO Act provides that *within 30 days of incorporation, the details of beneficial owners of every legal person and legal arrangement registered with the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the Registrar of Companies (RoC), should be added to the Central BO register by the registered agent.* The onus is on the legal person or the legal arrangement and not the registered agent to identify their beneficial owners. Changes in beneficial ownership have to be added to the central register within 30 days of occurrence.

Information on beneficial ownership in the fisheries sector is, to a large extent, publicly available for operators in the small-scale fisheries sector. SFA reviewed its application forms in 2022 to ensure that it captures ownership information during licence application for local licences i.e. artisanal fisheries and this information is publicly available through the publication of licence information for small-scale fisheries. For industrial fishing vessel licences, application forms capture the name of business owners, who are usually corporates and corporate shareholders and in very rare instances information on the natural persons is captured. *Very few of the Seychelles-flagged vessels in the IOTC Record of Currently Authorised Vessels have actual beneficial ownership information listed.*

- **Current status and discussions around beneficial ownership transparency in fisheries:** Locally registered corporate entities own the majority of Seychelles-flagged industrial fishing vessels and as such are subjected to the BO Act and their beneficial ownership information captured in the central database. The same does not apply to foreign owned vessels, whose BO information can only be captured on licence application forms. Despite SFA updating its application forms internally to capture BO information, this has not been implemented for industrial fishing vessels. Information to be captured and published on individual industrial fishing vessels is usually part of the fisheries agreement negotiations and the licence application form reflecting this, is included as an annexe to the respective fisheries agreements. Application forms for all valid fishing agreements do not explicitly provide for the capture of beneficial ownership information.

<sup>107</sup> <https://seylit.org/akn/sc/act/2020/4/eng@2020-03-06>

The outcome of a Gap-analysis of Beneficial Ownership for the Fisheries Sector commissioned by the MFBE in 2023 is published on the MFBE website <sup>108</sup>. It concluded that the main gaps relate to the application of existing laws and regulations and institutional overlap where local authorities operate under different and sometimes conflicting legal frameworks. One of its main recommendations is for SFA to collect information on BO of fishing vessels and for both FIU and FSA to assist SFA with verification of the information and for the BO Register maintained by the FIU to be the repository of authoritative records on BO. The report also recommends that SFA be given access to BO information already existing on the central BO register and for both SFA and SMSA to be added to the list of Competent Authorities in Schedule 2 of the BO Act. There are no specific recommendations regarding public access to BO information in the fisheries sector; this will be determined by policy.

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<sup>108</sup> <https://mofbe.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Gap-Analysis-Beneficial-Ownership.pdf>

## Annex A. Statement of the Report Compiler

The FiTI Secretariat appointed me on 1st August 2024 to work on Seychelles' 2023 Fisheries Transparency Initiative report, funding the assignment. The NMSG approved my appointment on 19th August 2024. I took a leave from 15th August to 13th September 2024, which the Secretariat knew before signing the contract. This report was compiled based on the guidelines provided by two important reports published by the FiTI secretariat, namely: (i) The FiTI Standard and (ii) Guidance Note #2 Compiling FiTI Reports. It builds on Seychelles four previous FiTI Reports for 2019, 2020 2021 and 2022 prepared by the National MSG.

This is the third time that I have worked on compiling Seychelles Report to FiTI and I am honoured to have had this opportunity. For the 2023 process, Ms Betty Victor, Senior Technical Coordinator in SFA's Fisheries Management and Technical Coordination Department was appointed FiTI Focal Person once again. I am pleased to have collaborated with a wide range of SFA staff to provide the information to complete the report: MCS Division (licensing and Inspections), Accounts, Research, Statistics, IT and PR and Communication Section. The staff of the Licensing Section efficiently located documents and made available their records. It was pleasing to see that the accounting records were on-hand for inspection and were intuitively organised, which vastly reduced the time taken to review them. Despite some set back in IT due to staff's family commitments, the PR and Communication Section worked tirelessly to ensure identified documents were uploaded. The MFBE website remained well organised and updated, which was a bonus.

I am also pleased with the continued collaboration with the ITZ Section in the Financial Services Authority (FSA), and their commitment to publishing employment information for Seychelles ITZ. I wish to thank staff of MESA, the outgoing staff of SWIOFish3 and SeyCCAT for their prompt response to information requests.

However, I need to flag some of the persisting challenges: information that is not systematically compiled and published information not regularly updated on the SFA website even when the updated reports are available. In August, SFA's website was down in preparation for the launch of the new one on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024. This presented the added challenge of a completely new website architecture and along with the fact that documents were not well labelled and dated, made it difficult to locate them. Uploading documents, existing and new, on the new website took some time. The draft 2023 SFA Annual Report was available mid-September and uploaded in November along with the Fisheries Statistical Report. The information on the Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) is not FiTI compliant so although available, did not aid to move the process of evidencing published fisheries information.

Despite the persisting challenges, which delay the reporting process, over this 3 year period, I have witnessed a remarkable improvement in the quantity and quality of information on fisheries that has been made available in the public domain. More stakeholders are willing to collaborate to ensure more complete information is published. I owe a debt of gratitude to the National MSG, especially its chairman, Mr Philippe Michaud, who worked tirelessly to smooth

access to stakeholders and getting documents published. I am indebted to Nathanielle Morel, Programme Development Officer in the Blue Economy Department, who coordinated and organised the meetings and circulated reports for the NMSG's consideration.

I would also like to thank Yannick Meme and Dr Karine Young from the FiTI International Secretariat for their guidance and support in getting the report completed on time and for ensuring that the reporting stays within the scope of the standards.

**Daniella G Larue**

FiTI Report Compiler for the calendar year 2023

Victoria, Seychelles

## Annex B. Consultations for providing the FiTI Report

### Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)

- ➔ Dr Jan Robinson, Chief Executive Officer
- ➔ Mr Roddy Allisop, Monitoring Control and Surveillance Manager
- ➔ Mr Vincent Lucas, Head of Department, Fisheries Resource Management and Technical Coordination Section
- ➔ Ms Betty Victor,
- ➔ Ms Karyss Auguste, Manager, Licence and Permit Section
- ➔ Mrs Juliette Lucas, Statistics Manager, Fisheries Statistics Division
- ➔ Mr Rodney Govinden, Manager, Fisheries Research Section
- ➔ Ms Sara Fanchette, Management Accountant, Accounts Section
- ➔ Mrs Sandra Barbe, Deputy Financial Controller, Accounts Section
- ➔ Mrs Jessy Roseline, Head of Human Resources and Administration
- ➔ Ms. Petrina Esparon, Financial Accountant, Accounts Section
- ➔ Ms Jacinthe Matombe, Senior Licensing Officer
- ➔ Ms Sandra Grandcourt, Licencing Officer
- ➔ Mrs Tressa Bastienne, Public Relations Officer
- ➔ Ms Shana Gill, Accounts Section
- ➔ Mr Ryan Bibi, Accounts Section

### Department of Fisheries

- ➔ Mr. Roy Clarisse, Principal Secretary, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy
- ➔ Ms Stephanie Radegonde,

### Department of Employment

- ➔ Mr Steve Monnaie, Director General, Labour Relations, Employment Department

### Financial Services Authority

- ➔ Mr Karl Herminie, Director, International Trade Zone and Hire Purchase Section

- ➔ Ms Gretel Leon, Manager, International Trade Zone and Hire Purchase Section

#### **Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Energy**

- ➔ Ms Cindy Chang Leng, Director Project Development & Coordination Section, Climate Change Department

#### **Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT)**

- ➔ Mrs Thembekile Manjengwa, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

#### **National MSG (as part of group consultation held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024)**

##### **National MSG members present were:**

- ➔ Mr Philippe Michaud, National FiTI Lead-Blue Economy
- ➔ Ms Stephanie Radegonde, MFBE representative
- ➔ Mr. Sewlyn Edmond, Seaward Co. (Pty) Ltd, representing large-scale fisheries sector
- ➔ Mr Rodney Nichole, Bel Ombre Fishermen Association
- ➔ Mr Muditha Gunathilake, representing APESH
- ➔ Mr Faizal Suleiman, Glacis Fishermen's Association
- ➔ Dr Marie-Therese Purvis, representing the Civil Society Organisations-Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles (CEPS).
- ➔ Mr Antoine Marie Moustache, representing Nature Seychelles.
- ➔ Ms Nathaniel Morel, Blue Economy Department

##### **Other observers present were:**

- ➔ Ms Betty Victor, SFA representative

**Regular consultations with the FiTI International Secretariat were also conducted.**



## Annex C. Additional information for 2023, published only as part of this FiTI Report

### Fisheries and fisheries related businesses operating in Seychelles ITZ, 2021-2023

	2023			2022			2021		
	Expatriate	Seychellois	Total	Expatriate	Seychellois	Total	Expatriate	Seychellois	Total
Indian Ocean Tuna Limited	1,386	407	1,793	1,468	428	1,896	1,435	513	1,948
Ile Du Port Handling Services	44	81	125	47	76	123	47	76	123
Central Common Cold Store	2	74	76	2	74	76	2	74	76
Trivium Packaging (Seychelles) Ltd	0	0	0	21	32	53	21	32	53
Tuna Fishing Company	4	9	13	4	10	14	4	10	14
Tuna Logistics Services Ltd	3	2	5	4	1	5	4	1	5
MW Brands (Seychelles) Ltd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOH (Seychelles) Deslination Company	0	3	3	0	3	3	0	3	3
Key Success Ltd	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Marzorcchi Ship Repair Company (Seychelles) Ltd	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Satllink Ltd	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,442</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>2,023</b>	<b>1,548</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>2,177</b>	<b>1515</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>2,229</b>

## Fisheries-related public sector development projects active in 2023

Project title	Donor	Project value	Duration	Purpose	Evaluation
The Project for Construction of Artisanal Fisheries Facilities in Mahé Island (Phase 2)	<a href="#">Government of Japan through the Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA)</a> [1]	USD 12.3 million (~1.46 billion yen)	27 months (ending April 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extension of the quay by an additional 220 metres from its previous 110m</li> <li>- Installation of new ice plants, ice storage warehouse, mooring buoys, water and power supply, landing shed, drainage, access road</li> <li>- Technical support for designing the facilities and supervision of construction work</li> </ul>	<p>There is no mid-term evaluation report publicly available</p> <p>It is unknown whether a project evaluation was conducted at all.</p>
Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (SWIOFish3)	<b>World Bank</b>	USD 5 million	September 2017 to June 2023	To improve management of marine areas and fisheries in targeted zones and strengthen fisheries value chains in Seychelles.	No project evaluation undertaken in or before 2020. Mid-term evaluation done in 2021.
Support for business development and investment opportunities in fisheries	<b>FAO</b>	USD252,000	November 2021 to November 2023	To contribute to addressing challenges that entrepreneurs are facing at the point of entry and in doing business particularly within the fisheries post-harvest sector	It is unknown whether evaluation is built into the project.
Organisation of BlueInvest in Seychelles <sup>109</sup>	<b>European Commission – Directorate General for International</b>	USD 437,518	August 2021 to December 2022	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for	It is unknown whether evaluation is built into the project.

<sup>109</sup>Information is available on the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI): [https://data.iati.org/ctrack.html?country\\_code=SC&sector\\_group=313&year\\_min=2018#view=ended](https://data.iati.org/ctrack.html?country_code=SC&sector_group=313&year_min=2018#view=ended)

<u>Project title</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Project value</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Evaluation</u>
	<b>Partnerships (INTPA)</b>			Sustainable Development	
Countering Illegal Fishing Transshipments in African Small Island Developing States	<b>US Agency for International Development (funding)</b> <b>UNODC - implementing</b>	USD 6,464	October 2021 to May 2022	To provide programme support to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in two African Small Island Developing States (SIDS)	It is unknown whether evaluation is built into the project.

## Summary of Marine Conservation ODA Projects implemented by MACCE in 2023 <sup>110</sup>

<i>Project name</i>	<i>Project purpose</i>	<i>Implementing Entity</i>	<i>Executing Entity</i>	<i>Grant amount</i>	<i>Start date</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Donor</i>	<i>Project evaluation</i>
<b><i>Restoring marine ecosystem services by rehabilitating coral reefs to meet a changing climate future (Mauritius, Seychelles)</i></b>	To reduce the adverse impact of climate change on local communities and coral reef-dependent economic sectors in Mauritius and Seychelles through coral reef restoration with thermal tolerant corals as adaptation to climate change.	UN Development Programme	Mauritius: Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, and Shipping Seychelles: Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment	USD 10 million	Nov-2020	5 years	Adaptation Fund	Mid-term evaluation planned for 2023.
<b><i>Ridge to Reef -Integrated Management of Marine, Coastal &amp; Terrestrial Ecosystems</i></b>	To manage and conserve the flow of marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystem services in targeted islands of Seychelles for multiple benefits through the Ridge-to-Reef approach	UN Development Programme	Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment	USD 3.9 million	Jan-2020	6 years	GEF	Mid-term evaluation planned for 2023.

<sup>110</sup> This information can be found in Part 1 of the 2023 Budget book published by the Ministry of Finance: [http://www.finance.gov.sc/uploads/national\\_budget/Assumption-and-Objectives-of-the-2023-Budget-Part-1.pdf](http://www.finance.gov.sc/uploads/national_budget/Assumption-and-Objectives-of-the-2023-Budget-Part-1.pdf)

<i>Project name</i>	<i>Project purpose</i>	<i>Implementing Entity</i>	<i>Executing Entity</i>	<i>Grant amount</i>	<i>Start date</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Donor</i>	<i>Project evaluation</i>
<b><i>Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change in Seychelles Project</i></b>	To reduce the vulnerability of Seychelles to climate change, focusing on two key issues—water scarcity and flooding.	UN Development Programme	Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment	USD 6 million	Jun-2014	6 years	Adaptation Fund	<a href="#">Mid-term evaluation undertaken in 2018[1].</a>
<b><i>PAF- Seychelles Protected Area Finance</i></b>	To improve the financial sustainability and strategic cohesion of Seychelles protected area system while also dealing with emerging threats and risks to biodiversity in a shifting national economic environment.	UN Development Programme	Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment in close collaboration with Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA), Seychelles Island Foundation (SIP) and Ministry of Finance	USD 6.5 million	Jan-2016	5 years	GEF	<a href="#">Mid-term evaluation undertaken in 2018. Terminal evaluation planned for 2021.</a>



*"Investing in Seychelles' blue future"*

## Summary of fisheries and marine conservation projects funded through SeyCCAT active in 2023

Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
<b>Spatial ecology and response to catch-and-release of recreationally targeted fish species on St. François and Alphonse Atolls, Alphonse Group, Seychelles Outer Islands: Implications for conservation and management.</b>	To examine the spatial ecology and Catch and release response of Giant Trevally on St. François and Alphonse Atolls, Alphonse Group.	Alphonse Foundation	74,074.07	01-07-18	30-06-22	Debt Swap	Project Completed after an extension.
<b>Piloting voluntary fisheries zone closure on Praslin island for the benefit of the marine environment and fisher folks.</b>	To show to the government and the general public that marine areas managed locally by the community can be as effective as those managed by government and NGOs.	Praslin Fisheries Association	64,977.78	01-07-18	15-03-22	Debt Swap	Project completed after an extension.
<b>Abundance, habitat selection and movements at sea of the Red-footed Booby (<i>Sula sula</i>) as informative tools for conservation management within the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan".</b>	To collect data on abundance, distribution and habitat selection at sea of the RFB breeding on Farquhar Atoll and non-breeding RFB at St Francois.	Islands Conservation Society	74,074.07	01-03-19	28-02-23	Debt Swap	Project activities completed, project under administrative procedures for closure.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
<b>Marine Biodiversity Baseline assessment around Fregate Island, the eastern most Seychelles 'Inner' granitic island.</b>	To improve the knowledge on the state of the marine environment around Fregate Island, with a view to implement a long-term marine monitoring protocol and ultimately create a marine protected area around Fregate Island.	Green Islands Foundation	30,000.00	01-09-19	15-10-21	Blue Bond	Project completed after an extension.
<b>Pilot and integration of tracking, logbook and market traceability tools for co-management of the small scale fisheries sector in Seychelles</b>	Establish a sustainable management plan of the resources for artisanal and small scale fisheries.	Fisherman and Boat Owner Association	74,074.07	01-08-20	31-12-23	Blue Bond	Project activities completed, project under administrative procedures for closure.
<b>Mapping coral population connectivity and ocean currents to inform management &amp; policy of the coral reef system in Seychelles</b>	To determine the connectivity of coral populations across Seychelles to inform management and policy of coral reef systems.	Seychelles Islands Foundation	74,074.07	28-02-22	21-05-22	Blue Bond	Project completed. Objective 3 cancelled and refunded SCR 70,000
<b>Roadmap to Blue Carbon opportunities in the Seychelles</b>	To explore the Seychelles' Blue Carbon future, by developing a first-pass assessment of potential Blue Carbon opportunities in the Seychelles and building local capacity and literacy on Blue Carbon	The James Michel Foundation	74,074.07	01-10-19	30-04-22	Blue Bond	Project completed after an extension.
<b>Fishing livelihood and fisheries management in the Mahe Granitic Island, Seychelles. A Cost -Benefit-Analysis on a value Chain Approach</b>	A Cost -Benefit-Analysis on a value Chain Approach for fishers on Mahe.	Keith Andre	39,481.48	01-01-20	30-06-22	Blue Bond	Project completed after an extension.
<b>Reduction of ocean pollution through sea floor clean up, and education of fishermen and youths about the impact of ocean pollution</b>	To reduce ocean pollution through sea floor clean up, and education of fishermen and youths about the impact of ocean pollution	Marcus Quatre	50,202.22	15-05-21	30-07-22	Blue Bond	Project completed

Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
<b>Community based ecological wetland rehabilitation</b>	To address degradation of critical habitats by taking a landscape level ecosystem approach	Terrestrial Restoration Action Society	68,106.79	15-04-20	30-04-23	Debt Swap	Project activities completed, project under administrative procedures for closure.
<b>River mapping and monitoring and mangrove habitat mapping project for the sustainable development of Praslin island.</b>	To provide a map for sustainable development of the coastal strip taking into account the natural flow of water bodies on the island.	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change	7,407.41	15-11-19	31-05-22	Debt Swap	Project completed
<b>Feasibility study for SEYSSI - Seychelles Sustainable Seafood Initiative (Pronounced SEY SEA)</b>	To conduct a feasibility study on the introduction of a sustainable fisheries guide, that will enable hotel and restaurant users to choose the more sustainable seafood option for their consumption based on the best available and dynamic scientific data obtained from reports and scientific studies	Sheena Talma	7,402.30	01-04-21	30-03-23	Blue Bond	Project on going, extended due to Covid 19 Delays
<b>Research and Development of Hatchery Culture of the Tropical Echinoderm HOLOTHURIA SCABRA and HOLOTHURIA sp. "PENTARD" in the Republic of Seychelles for the consequent application in Sustainable Commercial Production</b>	To develop location specific hatchery techniques for producing juvenile Sea cucumbers for large scale commercialization in a Pilot Hatchery.	Harmony Investments	74,039.61	01-09-21	31-12-23	Blue Bond	Project activities completed, project under administrative procedures for closure.



Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
<b>Communication for Change (Comm4Change - C4C)</b>	Through enhanced scientific communication, valuable lessons on the links within ecosystems as well as between humans and nature will be shared to benefit the fisheries sector, the nascent blue economy, and the Seychellois.	Seychelles Islands Foundation	74,074.07	01-04-21	31-05-22	Debt Swap	Project completed
<b>Feasibility study to determine the economic viability to operate a rock-oyster farm for commercial purposes in Seychelles</b>	To determine that the farming of rock-oyster could become a new commercial seafood product for the local market and eventually become an income generating industry for the country as an export item.	Jacques Belle	74,037.04	01-06-21	01-06-23	Blue Bond	On going
<b>High-resolution 2D / 3D coastal mapping and monitoring using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and Structure-from-Motion photogrammetry techniques on the island of Mahé.</b>	Improve the management of coastal zones and informed decision-making processes on Mahé Island through innovative, improved and efficient coastal monitoring, data analyses and data sharing to enable better planning and the prevention or mitigation of coastal erosion.	Jonathan Pinchart	74,070.74	15-06-21	14-06-23	Debt Swap	Project completed
<b>Rapid assessment of fish biodiversity in shallow water (&lt;40m) habitats of the Alphonse Group, Seychelles</b>	To better understand the fish biodiversity and species assemblage of different shallow water	Alphonse Foundation	7,151.48	01-02-22	10-09-22	Blue Bond	Project completed

Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
<b>Exploration of the contribution of fishing to the socio cultural wellbeing of Seychellois artisanal fishermen</b>	The goal of this study is for artisanal fisherman to find articulations for and be able to represent their concerns and priorities about their socio cultural wellbeing as key stakeholders in Seychelles fisheries	Sustainable Synergies	7,407.41	16-11-21	16-11-22	Blue Bond	Project completed
<b>Determining baseline information for the effective management of the Seychelles' small-scale octopus' fishery</b>	The overall aim is to conduct comprehensive research on the small-scale artisanal octopus' fishery.	Seychelles Fishing Authority	121,851.85	01-09-22	01-09-24	Blue Bond	On going
<b>The last dugongs in the Seychelles: baseline population assessment of <i>Dugong dugong</i> at Aldabra Atoll</b>	To create a solid knowledge base of Aldabra's dugong population (Seychelles' only known population) through a comprehensive Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)-based survey.	Seychelles Island Foundation	148,148.15	01-06-22	31-05-24	Debt Swap	On going
<b>Strengthening coastal resilience against climate change induced coastal degradation through the application of science-based planning processes and the design of sustainable protection measures with the involvement of key economic partners.</b>	To build resilience and reduce vulnerability against climate change in three hotel resorts, their neighbours and local communities in Seychelles.	Inspire for tomorrow Consultancy	73,962.96	14-03-22	13-03-24	Debt Swap	On going
<b>Development of key biodiversity and fisheries indicators and baseline to inform the management of MSP Zone 2 protected areas on the Mahé Plateau and Amirantes Bank.</b>	The Goal of this project is to provide a key biodiversity and fisheries indicator and baseline to support the informed and adaptive management of Zone 2 marine protected areas on the Mahé Plateau and Amirantes bank with the synergistic benefit of contributing to	John Nevill	47,703.70	01-03-23	31-10-24	Blue Bond	On going

Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
	the sound management of Zone 1 areas and the national serranid fishery.						
<b>Upscaling coral conservation &amp; restoration, R&amp;D and public education by building a land based coral aquaculture facility</b>	The overall goal for this project is to preserve marine protected areas in order to reduce the impact of climate change on reef dependent communities in the Seychelles by fast tracking coral reef restoration through the use of farmed colonies of resilient coral species grown rapidly in a land-based aquaculture facility. The	Nature Seychelles	129,555.56	28-08-23	31-07-25	Blue Bond	On going
<b>Strengthening protection for the Marine National Parks in the Seychelles using photogrammetry as a tool to support the conservation activities of SPGA</b>	Complete an in-depth detailed analysis of the health of marine biodiversity of the MPAs with the aim to compare MPAs and unprotected areas to assist SPGA and Seychelles governing bodies in better managing the MPAs around Mahe.	GVI Seychelles	148,072.86	1-10-23	30-09-25	Blue Bond	On going
<b>Piloting the use of radar monitoring to promote effective management of 3 remote Marine Protected Areas</b>	To improve the effective management of three remote Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) located around the Outer Islands of Alphonse, Astove, and Farquhar by using technology to ensure reliable and efficient monitoring and surveillance of these sites.	Islands Development Company (IDC)	146,542.15	18-09-23	17-09-25	Blue Bond	On going

Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
<b>Lizye Lo Lanmer</b>	The overall goals of the project are: To enable Seychelles citizen and resident to collect robust oceanographic observations on water colour based on Forel-Ule index; To educate and raise awareness in Seychelles on Ocean colour; To create a database of ocean colour based on the Forel-Ule index in Seychelles EEZ with a focus on MPA as defined in SMSP i.e. both zone 1 and 2	Giberte Gendron	7,407.41	01-04-23	30-04-24	Blue Bond	On going

### Other Grants

Apart from the SeyCCAT Blue Grants Fund, the Trust also administers several other donor-funded grants. One of these is the Oceans5 funded project entitled “Enabling the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan”. One of the components of this project relates to sustainable fisheries and its details are captured in the table below.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
<b>Component 3. Enhance fishery assessment, monitoring and management regimes to support fisheries reforms and transparency.</b>	Support fishery stock assessment of 5 species.	Executing Agency Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT)  Implemented through SFA	USD 260000	Jul 2021	Dec 2024	Oceans5	Project on-track

## Annex D. Detailed implementation status of recommendations from previous FiTI Reports

The following recommendations by the Seychelles' National MSG have **been cancelled as they cannot be implemented as worded** by Seychelles' national authorities.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
<b>2019-12_1</b>	Beneficial Ownership	Follow up with the committee working on beneficial ownership declaration in the fisheries sector and determine a policy on beneficial ownership declarations for the sector. This should be based on a participatory and transparent process, involving all interested bona fide stakeholders from government, industrial and artisanal fishing, and civil society.	High	Dec-21	<p>No such committee exist.</p> <p>Has been superseded by the following recommendations:</p> <p><b>2020-12-1:</b> MFBE should update the Fisheries Act to put penalties in place for operators not providing beneficial ownership information for vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters</p> <p><b>2021-12-2:</b> MFBE should advocate for policy review in relation to the implementation of the Beneficial Ownership Act in order to allow beneficial ownership information related to fisheries businesses, contained in the central registry of beneficial owners, maintained by FIU, to be made public</p>
<b>2019-3_4</b>	Foreign Fishing Agreements	MFBE should publish information from previous (prior to 2019) and recent national stakeholder consultations undertaken with respect to the	Medium	Dec-22	<p>Superseded by recommendation <b>2022-3-1</b></p> <p>All fisheries agreements have been renegotiated and came into force from 2021 onwards.</p>

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		preparation, negotiation or monitoring of foreign fishing access agreements. Information related to future national stakeholder consultations should be published in a timely manner			There are no records of stakeholder consultations for any of these. The last to be renegotiated is the agreement with Don Wang Industries, which will come into force in 2024. All agreements last 6 years, which means that this recommendation will remain unimplemented potentially until the next round of renegotiations in 2026/7.

The following recommendations by the Seychelles' National MSG have already **been fully implemented** by Seychelles' national authorities (as of December 2023):

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2019-2_2	Fisheries Tenure Arrangements	Publish in the Official Gazette the fees that need to be paid for all types of fisheries rights existing under the law. This also includes changes to current fee structures.	High	Dec-21	The fees paid for fisheries rights are published in the summary of local fisheries licences on SFA's website. There is no requirement for the fees to be Gazetted.
2019-3_3	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	Publish any assessment regarding compliance of fishing vessels with the terms and conditions set forth in their respective access agreement, once available.	Medium	Sep-21	No such assessment exists.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2019-4_1	State of the Fisheries Resources	Publish the reports and the results of all stock assessments undertaken in the last four years on their website.	High	Jun-21	All stock assessment reports from 2017 onwards are published on SFA's website
2019-5_1	Large-Scale Fisheries - Vessel Registry	Publish an up-to-date, online registry of all Seychelles-flagged and foreign-flagged large-scale vessels authorised to fish in Seychelles' marine jurisdictional waters, and of all Seychelles-flagged large-scale vessels authorised to fish in third countries' marine jurisdictional waters and on the High Seas. The vessel registry must include all 14 vessel attributes, as defined in the FiTI Standard.	High	Sep-21	The large-scale vessel registry published on SFA's website in a spreadsheet format, is updated for 2023 and meets the FiTI standard.
2019-5_2	Large-Scale Fisheries - Vessel Registry	This online vessel registry, once published, should be linked to relevant parameters and conditions of the underlying licences (e.g. licensing period, fees paid, species to be taken, areas to be fished, etc.).	High	Sep-21	Published vessel registry has licence payment information and (for Seychelles-flagged vessels) information on areas of the High Seas and Third country EEZ where fishing is allowed.
2019-5_4	Large-Scale Fisheries - Recorded Catch Data	Publish all missing information for catches, landings, transshipments from the industrial	High	Sep-21	Information published online on SFA website as part of 2020 Fisheries Statistical Report. No data on transshipments and



ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		longliner fishery for 2019.			landings for longline industrial fishery is published.
2019-6_1	Small-Scale Fisheries	In addition to the information already provided, MFBE or SFA should publish the: - total number of small-scale fisheries licences, and - the total numbers of fishers engaged in the fishing sector, including gender information and whether fishers are engaged in full-time work, seasonal or part time fishing, occasional fishing or recreational fishing.	High	Sep-21	SFA publishes on its website details as well as a summary table of total number of small-scale fisheries licences issued in 2023.  A summary table of total number of fishers engaged in the fishing sector is also published and include information on gender but does not distinguish part or full time fishers.
2019-10_1	Fisheries Subsidies	Publish online the 2017 report that reviewed subsidies provided to the artisanal fisheries sector' which they had commissioned.	Medium	Sep-21	This report is published on the SFA website e-library.
2019-1_1	Public Registry of National Fisheries Laws, Regulations and Official Policy Documents	Determine and implement a publication strategy to ensure that all national and international fisheries laws, regulations and official policy documents are published online, up-to-date, easy to locate and searchable.	High	Dec-21	All national and international fisheries laws, regulations and official policy documents are published online on the MFBE website.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2019-2_1	Fisheries Tenure Arrangements	Publish a summary description of the different types of fisheries that exist in Seychelles, and their corresponding licence arrangements. The National MSG encourages the national authorities to utilise the summaries provided in this FiTI Report as a starting point for this aspect.	High	Dec-21	A summary description of fisheries tenure arrangements has been published in the form of an FAQ on the SFA website and has been updated to reflect the implementation of the Mahe Plateau Co-management Plan which came into effect in 2022.
2019-2_3	Fisheries Tenure Arrangements	Publish a list of all fisheries permit holders (including for the sea cucumber fishery), with information on the type of permit they hold, fees which have been paid and the start and end date of their permit(s).	High	Sep-21	This is published as part of the 2023 vessel registries.
2019-3_1	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	Publish online all foreign fishing access agreements and associated protocols. In case an agreement or expectation of confidentiality exists between the parties to an agreement, these agreements must be made public within 3 years from becoming a FiTI Candidate country (i.e. in Seychelles' case, by March 2023 latest).	High	Dec-21	All foreign fishing access agreements and associated protocols have been published on the MFBE website. Agreements negotiated with TTA and TFI in 2022 have the confidentiality clause removed and are published on the SFA website.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2019-3_2	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	Publish online all studies or reports related to the evaluation or oversight of these agreements, which have either been undertaken by national authorities or foreign parties.	High	Dec-21	The three reports related to the evaluation or oversight of the EU/Seychelles fishing agreements are published on the SFA website.
2019-4_3	State of the Fisheries Resources	Publish online any future fish stock assessment programmes planned for undertaking, and the research needed to support these assessments.	High	Dec-21	The programme of future stock assessments up to 2024 is now published on the SFA website.
2019-5_8	Large-Scale Fisheries	Publish online national evaluations or audits of the economic, social and food security contributions of the large-scale fishing sector, once available (e.g. the upcoming study on employment in fisheries).	High	Dec-21	The following reports are published on the SFA website: (1) the <i>Employment Study &amp; Capacity Needs Assessment for the Fisheries Sector in Seychelles</i> ; and (2) the 2018 study <i>Employment and Prospect in the Industrial tuna Fishery Sector of the Republic of Seychelles</i> .
2019-11_1	Official Development Assistance	Publish an up-to-date list of fisheries-related public sector projects, funded by bilateral, multilateral and private donors. This list should include information on the projects' value, purpose and outputs,	High	Dec-21	SFA has published an updated database of fisheries-related projects funded through ODA, it was implementing

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		as well as corresponding project evaluations, if applicable.			
<b>2019-2_4</b>	Fisheries Tenure Arrangements	Publish online the rules and procedures for Seychelles-flagged vessels to obtain authorisations to fish in a third country or the High Seas, along with the reporting requirements and the provisions for terminating such authorisations.	High	Sep-21	Agreements took effect in 2023 with management companies of Seychelles-Flagged vessels. A sample agreement and its annex is published on the SFA website. It provides for reporting requirements and provisions for termination of authorisation.
<b>2019-5_3</b>	Large-scale fisheries	SFA should publish on its website, on an annual basis, all payments (e.g. for fishing licence, certificate of authorisation, excess catch, and environmental fee) on a per vessel basis made by large-scale fishing vessels, including the four information requirements of the FiTI Standard.	High	Jun-22	Fishing licence payment information is available per vessel in the Vessel Registry. Information on excess catch and the environmental fee is only published in the 2023 FiTI Report. It is not disaggregated by vessel as this will violate the terms of the respective fishing agreements.
<b>2019-10_2</b>	Fisheries subsidies	Information on the types, values and recipients of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector in Seychelles (both large-scale and small-scale fisheries) should	High	Dec-22	<i>2023 Public Sector Support to the Fisheries Sector Report</i> is published on SFA website and provides comprehensive information on

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		be published by MFBE or SFA, in particular regarding fuel subsidies, which is the main type of subsidy provided to the fisheries sector in Seychelles.			subsidies in the fisheries sector for the period 2014 - 2021. Information on the value of ice and fuel subsidies to the small-scale fisheries sector is available on FIMS for the 2021 and 2022. MFBE has confirmed that no fuel subsidies are provided to the large-scale fisheries.
2019-5_6	Large-Scale Fisheries - Recorded Catch Data	Publish data on discards from the industrial longline fishery disaggregated as per the FiTI requirements, and from the purse seiner fishery by port of unloading, and by species or species groups. Furthermore, a note should be added in the introduction of the Fisheries Statistical Reports to provide information on how discard data is collected by the authorities.	High	Sep-21	Discards data is published as part of the Fisheries Statistical Report since 2020 for purse seiners only. No discard information is published for industrial longliners.
2019-8_3	Fisheries law enforcement	SFA should publish offences in the fisheries sector in a timely manner. This should include the name of the company or vessel owner, the nature of the offence and the penalty imposed.	Medium	Dec-22	<i>The list of convictions and offences in the fisheries sector between 2020 and 2023 on its website. Information on the nature of the offence and the penalty imposed is included along with the vessel</i>

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
					<i>name. The name of the vessel owner is not included.</i>
2019-6_2	Small-scale fisheries	MFBE should publish annual summaries of the socio-economic contribution of the small-scale fishing sector.	High	Dec-22	All available studies on the socio-economic contribution of the small-scale fishing sector are now published on SFA website: relating to the small-scale longline fleet, sea cucumber fishery and industry and sport and recreational fishery. No annual summary has been published yet.
2020-6_2	Small-scale fisheries	SFA should publish the data on catch in the sea cucumber and lobster fishery as part of its Fisheries Statistical Report.	High	September 2022	Catch data on sea cucumber and lobster fisheries has been published in the Fisheries Statistical Report since 2021. The lobster fishing season was closed in 2023.
2020-5_1	Large-scale fisheries	SFA should keep the large-scale-vessel registry continually updated, at least on a quarterly basis, and ensure that all information required is available for each vessel licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters. This should be done through the update of the licence application form and	Medium	Dec 2022	The large-vessel registry is updated annually. The FIMS can provide ongoing updates on industrial fishing vessels, though it does not fully comply with the FiTI standard.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		for SFA to ensure that all information is provided before issuing licences.			
<b>2020-10_1</b>	Fisheries Subsidies	SFA should provide on an annual basis a breakdown of total fuel subsidies provided to the different types of fisheries.	High	Dec-2022	Fuel subsidy information for small-scale fisheries, including artisanal and small-scale longline fishery, is available on FIMS for the years 2020 to 2023.
<b>2020-3_1</b>	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	MFBE should ensure that in the future all foreign fishing vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters should do so only under an official signed agreement.	High	Jun-2022	As of January 2023, all foreign fishing vessels operating in Seychelles' waters are doing so under an agreement. For Dongwon Industries, this agreement remains provisional until it takes effect in 2024.
<b>2020-4_1</b>	State of the fisheries resources	SFA should put in place a campaign to raise awareness of the stock status of fisheries that are under threat of overfishing.	High	Jun-2022	The results of the stock assessments have been shared with stakeholders in the lobster and sea cucumber fisheries. Details of stakeholder engagements are pending publication on a government website.
<b>2020-5_4</b>	Large-scale fisheries-payments for fishing	SFA should devise a strategy to ensure that the Fisheries Statistical Reports are published in a timely manner so that data on catch, effort, landing and	Medium	Dec-2023	The Fisheries Statistical Report and SFA Annual Report were both published during the FITI reporting process.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		transshipment are more accessible.			
2020-2_2	Fisheries Tenure arrangements	SFA should update the section on its website concerning Certificate of Authorisation to include information on the fees charged for such authorisation in addition to the reporting requirements and the provisions for terminating such authorisations.	High	June 2022	The sample <i>Sustainable Fisheries Agreement</i> with Seychelles-flagged vessel management companies on the SFA website includes reporting and termination provisions.
2020-2_1	Fisheries Tenure arrangements	Due to high staff turn-over in Seychelles national authorities, it is not recommended for SFA to gazette the names of the people authorised to issue fisheries licence as was previously recommended in recommendation 2019-2_2. Instead, it is recommended that SFA makes it clear the Authority can authorise its staff to issue fishing licences/permits.	High	June 2022	The SFA website lists the titles/designations of officers authorized to issue fishing licenses.
2020-2_3	Fisheries Tenure arrangements	SFA should publish on its website the mandatory administrative procedures required to evaluate applications of	High	Jun 2022	The Sustainable fisheries agreements signed detail the steps for obtaining a fishing licence and all vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' territorial



ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		different types of fishing vessel licences and fishing activity licence, the nature of any oversight or public consultation processes involved and the appeals process in case of refusal.			waters do so subject to an agreement.
2020-4_2	The state of the fisheries resources	SFA should establish a research plan to collect required data on vulnerable species for stock assessment purposes. This research plan should be published online by SFA.	High	June 2023	A 5-Year Research Plan is available & published on the SFA website.
2020-5_2	Large-scale fisheries	SFA should cross-check and verify the legal owner of the vessel recorded in the vessel registry are accurate and ensure that information of the owner's address and nationality is provided.	High	December 2022	All information on the legal owner of vessels on the vessel registry is provided along with nationality and address.
2020-5_3	Large-scale fisheries-payments for fishing	SFA should officially pronounce the licence fee for large-scale joint-venture fishing vessels.	Medium	Dec 2023	The fees are published through the <i>Sustainable Fisheries Agreement</i> with Seychelles-flagged vessels published on SFA's website.
2021_3_3	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	The MFBE should ensure that by December 2023, all industrial vessels fishing in Seychelles' waters including	High	Dec-2023	New fishing agreements were negotiated with TTA and TFI effective January 2023.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		Seychelles- flagged vessels, do so subject to an agreement.			Sustainable fisheries agreements have been signed with all management companies of Seychelles-flagged vessels effective January 2023. The agreement with Dongwon Industries becomes effective in 2024.
2021_6_1	Small-scale fisheries	SFA should capture information on gender during annual registration and licence renewal of fisherman.	Medium	Jun-2023	Gender information was available for all licensees, boat owners, divers and fisherman on the 2023 database published on the SFA website
2021_6_2	Small-scale fisheries	In addition to licence information, SFA should publish licence payment information for all sub-sectors in the small-scale fisheries sector	Medium	Jun-2023	Payment information is included on the 2023 database for licensees in the small-scale fisheries sector.
2021_3_1	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	The MFBE should publish key information in a summarised form on all active fishing agreements.	High	Mar 2023	A summary of foreign fishing access agreements granting access to fish in Seychelles' waters is published on SFA's website.
2021_6_3	Small-scale fisheries	With a view to improve the comprehensiveness of information on the small-scale fishery, SFA should publish a statement on the reason for not collecting statistics or publish studies on the	Medium	Dec 2023	Since 2022, Fisheries Statistical Report includes a note explaining that there are no discards in the artisanal fishery as the fish that are not sold are used as bait or are kept for own

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		species and volumes of fish discarded in the small-scale sector in the annual Fisheries Statistical Report, as it is done for catch and discard information for the other fisheries.			consumption by the fishers.
2022-2_1	Fisheries Tenure Arrangements	SFA should consider having a media page, similar to the one maintained on the MFBE website, to capture all events initiated by the SFA including workshops and other outreach activities. Media items should be dated and presented in chronological order and the platform should support searches of entries from previous periods.	High	Dec 2025	On its newly designed website, SFA has incorporated a media page with dated media items and which support searches of entries from previous periods

The following recommendations by the Seychelles' National MSG (due by December 2023) have only been *partially implemented* by Seychelles' national authorities:

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2019-5_5	Large-scale fisheries-recorded catch data	SFA should set up an online database containing annual retained catches and transshipments and landings at local and foreign ports, disaggregated by flag state, species or species groups, gear type and catch	Low	Dec-2022	FIMS, launched in 2023, provides information on licenses, economic contributions of fisheries, annual catch volumes, exports and imports, and fisheries management regulations. However, it is not complete. Retained catches and

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		location (national waters, third country waters, High Seas) in order for interested stakeholders to obtain detailed information on catch data.			transshipment data, which comply fully with FiTI standards, are available online in the Fisheries Statistical Reports.
2019-5_7	Large-scale fisheries-recorded catch data	MFBE should publish annual summaries of the socio-economic contribution of the large-scale fishing sector	High	Dec-2025	Socioeconomic contribution of large scale fisheries is included in SFA's 2023 Annual Report
2019-7_1	Post-harvest sector fish trade	Given the paramount importance of fish trade for Seychelles, MFBE or SFA needs to ensure that annual information on the quantity of fish and fish products produced, as well as information on imports and exports, are published online in a timely manner. Such information should be disaggregated by species, as well as the country of destination/ origin.	Medium	Dec-2022	Fish import and export quantities are on FIMS, but species details are missing. SFA's 2023 Annual Report includes comprehensive information on fish production.
2019-7_3	Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade	Clearly state whether an informal fisheries sector exists in Seychelles.	Medium	Dec-2021	The 2021 FiTI Report includes a government statement on Seychelles' informal fisheries sector, but it is not on a government website.
2019-9_1	Labour Standards	Publish online an official summary description of national laws on labour standards applicable to national and foreign workers employed in the fishing sector at sea and in the post-	High	Dec-2025	The Employment Department's website has published a summary of national labour laws, including those for the fisheries sector. However, many fishing industry employees working in the ITZ are not covered by the Employment Act,

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		harvest fisheries sector in Seychelles.			making the summary incomplete.
2019-9_2	Labour Standards	Obtain and publish information from the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs on offences committed by employers in the fisheries sector, as well as mitigating actions taken.	High	Dec-2025	Data on labour grievances committed by employers in the fisheries sector, as recorded by MESA and FSA, is only published in FiTI Reports.
2019-8_1	Fisheries law enforcement	SFA should provide regular information on national strategies and activities applied to ensure compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector to MFBE, which will have the responsibility for publishing such information.	Medium	Dec-2025	Published information pertains solely to SFA's activities and does not cover other agencies like SMSA or the Coast Guard.
2020-3_2	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	MFBE should put in place a strategy to review the implementation of all foreign fishing access agreements including an assessment of compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreements and make publicly available a report containing the findings.	Medium	June 2028	An exercise to assess the implementation of the fishing agreements with Mauritius and the EU began during the 2021 FiTI reporting process. The Consultant's contract was terminated, and the evaluation was not completed.
2020-5_5	Large-scale fisheries-	SFA should put in place an online system for making available data on catch, effort,	Medium	June 2023	SFA launched FIMS in 2023. However, some of the data do not meet the FiTI standards e.g.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
	payments for fishing	landing and transshipment so that the data can be more easily interpreted and can fulfil all requirements of FiTI that are possible.			information on industrial vessels.
2020-7_2	Post-harvest sector fish trade	SFA should work with the Ministry of Health to collect and make available data related to dive accidents in the sea cucumber fishery.	High	June 2022	Communication from Ministry of Health indicates that in 2023, there were 9 new patients requiring 55 sessions of hyperbaric treatment. This is an estimation, as milder cases are not referred for hyperbaric oxygen therapy.
2020-7_3	Post-harvest sector fish trade	SFA in collaboration with MFBE should on an annual basis publish a report to provide data on the economic contribution of fisheries in Seychelles.	High	Dec-2023	The 2022 SFA Annual Report no longer contains a chapter on economic contribution of fisheries.  The MFBE is collaborating with NBS to publish the fisheries satellite accounts for 2019 and 2020.
2020-6_1	Small-scale fisheries	SFA should undertake a study to determine the economic, social and food security contribution of the small-scale fishing sector.	Medium	Dec-2023	Three studies have been published relating to the sea cucumber, the small-scale longline fishery and sport and recreational fishery.
2020-12_1	Beneficial ownership	MFBE should update the Fisheries Act to put penalties in place for operators not providing beneficial ownership information for vessels	High	Dec-2023	A 2022 gap analysis on beneficial ownership in fisheries will guide the review of the Fisheries Act and Regulations.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters.			
<b>2020-8_1</b>	Fisheries law enforcement	SFA in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders should prepare and implement a clear strategy for the enforcement of fisheries regulations in the small-scale fisheries, large-scale fisheries and to deter IUU fishing. This strategy should however not be made publicly available.	Medium	Jun 2024	In 2023, work began on completing the National Plan of Action (NPOA) against Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) Fishing and incorporating it into policy. It is expected to be finalized in 2024.
<b>2021_8_1</b>	Fisheries Law enforcement	SFA should publish an up-to-date record of convictions and major offences in the fisheries sector over the last 5 years indicating the name of the company or vessel owner, the nature of the offence and the penalty imposed.	High	Jun 2023	SFA has published records of convictions and major offences in the fisheries sector for 2020 to 2023 (4 years). The name of the vessel owner is not included.
<b>2021_12_1</b>	Beneficial ownership	SFA should review its licence application forms to ensure that information on beneficial ownership is captured for all its licensees, in compliance with the Fisheries Act and the Beneficial Ownership Act.	High	Dec 2023	Ownership information is recorded for all small-scale licensees. In 2023, a gap analysis report identified that the gaps lie in enforcement and aligning regulatory frameworks to prevent duplication.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
<b>2021-12-2</b>	Beneficial ownership	MFBE should advocate for policy review in relation to the implementation of the Beneficial Ownership Act in order to allow beneficial ownership information related to fisheries businesses, contained in the central registry of beneficial owners, maintained by FIU, to be made public.	High	Dec 2023	A gap analysis on beneficial ownership in the fisheries sector was published in 2023, with recommendations that have yet to be implemented.

The Seychelles' National MSG reviewed previously **unimplemented recommendations** due in past FITI periods. Finding them still relevant, the NMSG reassessed deadlines for four recommendations (three from 2019 and one from 2021), which are now due in future reporting cycles.

The following recommendations from previous FITI reports will **become due in future reporting cycles**.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
<b>2019-4_2</b>	Fisheries Resources	SFA should prepare and publish a periodic report (e.g. biennially) on the state of the main commercial fish stocks in Seychelles	High	Dec-2025	Open
<b>2019-7_2</b>	Post-harvest sector fish trade	MFBE or SFA should publish annual employment information regarding Seychelles' commercial fisheries sector, disaggregated by gender and sub-sectors (e.g. industrial and artisanal fishing).	Medium	Dec-2027	Open



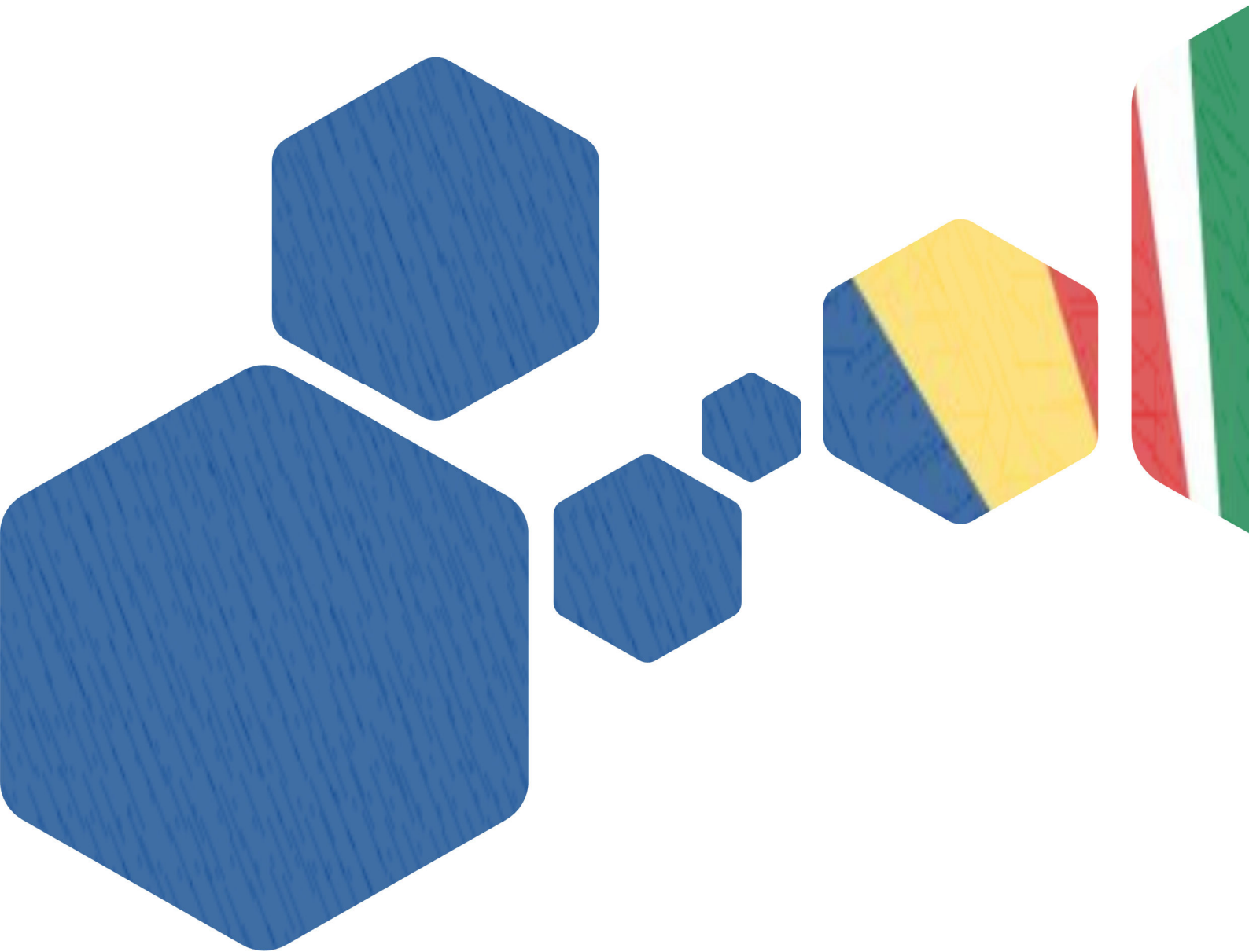
ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2019-8_2	Fisheries law enforcement	SFA should prepare and make available to MFBE the financial and human resources deployed by the government to ensure compliance with national and international legislation in the fisheries sector (at least on an annual basis). MFBE will be responsible for publishing such information.	Medium	Dec-2030	Open
2021_9_1	Labour standards	The MFBE should advocate for the Seychelles' government to allocate resources to evaluate labour standards applicable in the fisheries sector.	High	Dec 2027	Open
2021_3_2	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	The MFBE should institute and publish a plan to evaluate each fishing access agreement at least once every three years.	Medium	June 2024	Open
2020-4_3	The state of the fisheries resources	SFA should provide biennial updates on the stock status of the main species targeted by the small-scale fisheries.	High	December 2024	Open
2021_4_1	State of fisheries resources	SFA should ensure that information in the public domain on the conditions of the different fisheries is	High	December 2024	Open

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		updated. Any new conditions can be communicated through a press release which can then be posted on SFA's website.			
<b>2020-9_1</b>	Labour standards	MFBE should work towards the domestication of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention.	High	December 2024	A gap analysis has been done and validation workshops held. The Competent Authority to lead the implementation of this exercise is still to be decided.
<b>2021_7_1</b>	Post-harvet & fish trade	Given the importance of fisheries in providing quality jobs, the MFBE must conduct a census of persons employed in the fisheries sector or other exercise to obtain a fair estimate of the number of persons employed in the fisheries sector.	High	June 2025	Open
<b>2021_11_1</b>	Official development assistance	The MFBE should advocate to the rest of the government of Seychelles for updated information on official development assistance to government entities to be published in a central place for example as an addendum to the budget book.	High	December 2024	Open

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
<b>2022-1_1</b>	Public Registry of National Fisheries Laws, Regulations and Official Policy Documents	SFA and MFBE should publish records pertaining to stakeholder consultations conducted as part of the process to review policies, laws and regulations. The agenda, the list of participants, the main presentation and a summary of issues raised by stakeholders should be published.	High	December 2025	Open
<b>2022-2_2</b>	Fisheries Tenure Arrangements	SFA should systematically publish basic information relating to the various stakeholder engagement events it hosts. At the very least, the agenda, list of participants, presentations made to stakeholders should be published. A summary of the issues raised by stakeholders would also improve understanding of stakeholders' level of engagement.	High	December 2025	Open
<b>2022-3_1</b>	Foreign Fishing Agreements	The MFBE must include public consultation as part of the process to prepare, negotiate and monitor foreign fishing access agreements and	High	December 2027	Open

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		publish the outcome of these.			
<b>2022-4_1</b>	State of Fisheries Resources	The SFA must develop a communication strategy that provides for communication channels to disseminate stock status information to meet the specific needs of its various stakeholders, taking into consideration that not all of its main stakeholders are able to access information electronically.	High	December 2027	Open
<b>2022-8_1</b>	Fisheries Law Enforcement	The MFBE should commission a comprehensive study to identify the activities being undertaken by national authorities to ensure compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector with Seychelles legislation and the financial and human resources deployed to achieve this	High	June 2026	Open
<b>2022-9_1</b>	Labour Standards	The Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs should update the summary of labour laws published on its website to take into consideration the provisions of the ITZ (Employment)	Medium	June 2025	Open

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		Regulations, which in the fisheries sector is important, because of the large fisheries and fisheries-related companies operating in the ITZ.			



# Seychelles' Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

| Calendar year: 2023