



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

Seychelles'

Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

2022 SUMMARY

Release date: 25 April 2024



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

The report has been produced by [Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group \(MSG\)](#), a group comprised of 12 members, equally representing government, business and civil society. Together, this group is responsible for how the FiTI is implemented in Seychelles.

Government Representatives	Business Representatives	Civil Society Representatives
Mr Philippe Michaud ¹ Mr Roy Clarisse Honorable Wallace Cosgrow Honorable Philip Monthy	Mr Muditha Gunathilake Mr Selwyn Edmond Mr Rodney Nicole Mr Faizal Suleman	Mr Cyril Bonnelame Dr Marie-Therese Purvis Mrs Wilna Accouche Mr Antoine Marie-Moustache

This 2022 FiTI Report was prepared by [Mrs. Daniella Larue](#) from November 2023 – April 2024. Mrs. Larue was appointed by Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group as the Report Compiler for the 2022 FiTI reporting process. On the 4th October 2023, the Seychelles Government submitted an extension request for publishing the report due to delays in recruiting the Report Compiler and leadership changes within the Seychelles Fishing Authority. This was granted by the FiTI International Board on 27th November 2023. The report was approved by [Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group](#) on 12th April 2024.

This is Seychelles' third FiTI Report, covering information relevant for the calendar year 2022. This report, hereafter referred to as Seychelles' 2021 FiTI Report, has been divided into two distinct sections:

- this present 'Summary Section', which provides a high-level overview of the transparency assessment's key findings,
- and a 'Detailed Section', which delves into greater detail according to each of the FiTI Standard's 12 transparency requirements.

The report was funded by the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA).

¹ Chair of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group



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Abbreviations

AFS: Audited Financial Statements

BSFC: British/Seychelles Fisheries Commission

CBS: Central Bank of Seychelles

CEO: Chief Executive Officer

COA: Certificate of Authorisation

EEZ: Exclusive Economic Zone

EU: European Union

FADs: Fish Aggregation Devices

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

FCP: Fisheries Comprehensive Plan

FiTI: Fisheries Transparency Initiative

FINSS: Financial SaaS Solutions

FIU: Financial Intelligence Unit

FSA: Financial Services Authority

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

GT: Gross tonnage

IOT: Indian Ocean Tuna Limited

IOTC: Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

ITZ: International Trade Zone

MCS: Monitoring Control and Surveillance

MESA: Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs

MFBE: Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy

MSG: Multi-Stakeholder Group

MSY: Maximum Sustainable Yield

Mt: Metric tonnes

NBS: National Bureau of Statistics

ODA: Official Development Assistance

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

POC: Province of China

SCR: Seychellois Rupee

SEYLII: Seychelles Legal Information Institute

SeyCCAT: Seychelles Climate Change Adaptation Trust

SFA: Seychelles Fishing Authority

SWIOFish3: Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project

TAC: Total Allowable Catch

TFI: Top Fortunate International

TTA: Taiwan Deep-sea Tuna Longline Boat Owners and Exporters Association

UNDP :United Nations Development Programme

VAT: Value Added Tax

Foreword



It is my honour and privilege to present the Seychelles' Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) for the calendar year 2022.

In 2022 a validation process was carried out by an independent validator to verify compliance of the country against the FiTI Standard's transparency requirements, procedural requirements, meaningful involvement of the stakeholders and impact of the FiTI in the country. The independent validator conducted a site visit to Seychelles between May 30 and June 12, 2022, to collect stakeholders' viewpoints on the initiative. The FiTI International Board reviewed and then made a final determination of whether the individual requirements were met and determined the implementing country's overall level of compliance. It recognised Seychelles' efforts to implement the FiTI Standard with a score of 'meaningful progress' in its first validation.

The meaningful progress score means that Seychelles, for now, remains a FiTI Candidate Country. As part of its Compliance Statement, the FiTI International Board has issued four corrective actions for Seychelles to undertake which, if properly addressed, will see the country progress to the status of a FiTI Compliant Country.

The FiTI initiative is not only about making more information available to the public and stakeholders but also making it more meaningful and useful for all. The improvements which the validation process identified included the strengthening of the engagement of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group (NMSG) and increasing operational support to the group by the Blue Economy Department which has the portfolio responsibility for FiTI. It should be pointed out that in the Seychelles Blue Economy: Strategic Policy Framework and Roadmap, Charting the Future (2018-2030), Principle Four consists of Transparency inclusiveness and accountability. Subsequently, there has been a much-needed increase in the support provided by the Department to the Secretariat.

There were also improvements in the NMSG and we have now a much-reinvigorated group as the result of the appointment of new members through an expression of interest.



I hope that this year, through a pilot project 'Beyond transparency: Enhancing stakeholder participation in marine fisheries of Seychelles', there will be an increase of FiTI's impact on sustainable marine fisheries. It will also contribute towards creating a more inclusive policy-making environment. Seychelles' participation in the second Open Government Partnership National Action Plan for 2024-2025 in which one of the pledges includes the commitment to implementing the FiTI, augurs well for the future.

I am pleased to note that there has been an active participation of the group in the preparation of the report with enquiries on various issues involving the fisheries sector. These ranged from the role of the Fisheries Appeals Board to the relevance of considering certain payments as subsidies.

I am encouraged by the fact that the Designated Minister Mr. Jean-Francois Ferrari has from the start recognised the benefits of FiTI in promoting good governance in fisheries in Seychelles.

Finally, I wish to thank the members of the NMG, the Secretariat and the SFA staff for their active contribution and participation in the preparation of the 2022 Report.

This certainly would not have been possible without the persistent and determined efforts of our Report Compiler who managed to get all these involved in achieving a collective and meaningful result. This is a process which, if sustained as it has been, will contribute greatly to the Seychelles economy.

Philippe Michaud
Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy
Chair of the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group of Seychelles

Introduction



The FITI is a global multi-stakeholder partnership that defines for the first time the information that national authorities must publish on the marine fisheries sector. By making fisheries management more transparent and inclusive, the FITI promotes informed public debates on fisheries policies and supports the long-term contribution of the sector to national economies and the well-being of citizens and businesses that depend on a health marine environment.

Seychelles, an island group in the western Indian Ocean, is comprised of 115 islands spread over an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 1.37 million km².

Despite having a land mass of just 455km², Seychelles is a large oceanic state, and a major player in the global tuna industry, with Port Victoria one of the busiest industrial fishing ports in the Western Indian Ocean. Seychelles is heavily reliant on the two main pillars of its economy: tourism and fisheries.

In view that marine fisheries are such a key contributor to the social, economic and cultural fabric of Seychelles, the fisheries sector plays a central role in the nation's developmental agenda, from successive National Development Plans to strategies for socio-economic growth. Seychelles has also prioritized the nationalizing of the international agenda on sustainable fisheries, such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

There is a widely shared understanding of the need to achieve sustainably managed marine fisheries. But coastal states, like Seychelles, face a complex challenge: ensuring that fishing and fish trade contribute to income, employment, food and nutrition security, while also conserving marine biodiversity for future generations.

While there are many aspects to achieve sustainable fisheries, the public availability of information is essential. Transparency does not only contribute to improved decision-making by public authorities – it can also highlight underlying factors of unsustainable fisheries. National authorities, private fishing companies, local fishing communities, investors, retailers and partner countries engaged in fishing agreements stand to benefit from increased transparency. Promoting these positive features of fisheries lies at the heart of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI).

Transparency has become a cornerstone of Seychelles' endeavours to transit towards a sustainable ocean economy; and it is a core principle of the country's 'Blue Economy: Strategic Policy Framework and Road map' (2018-2030).

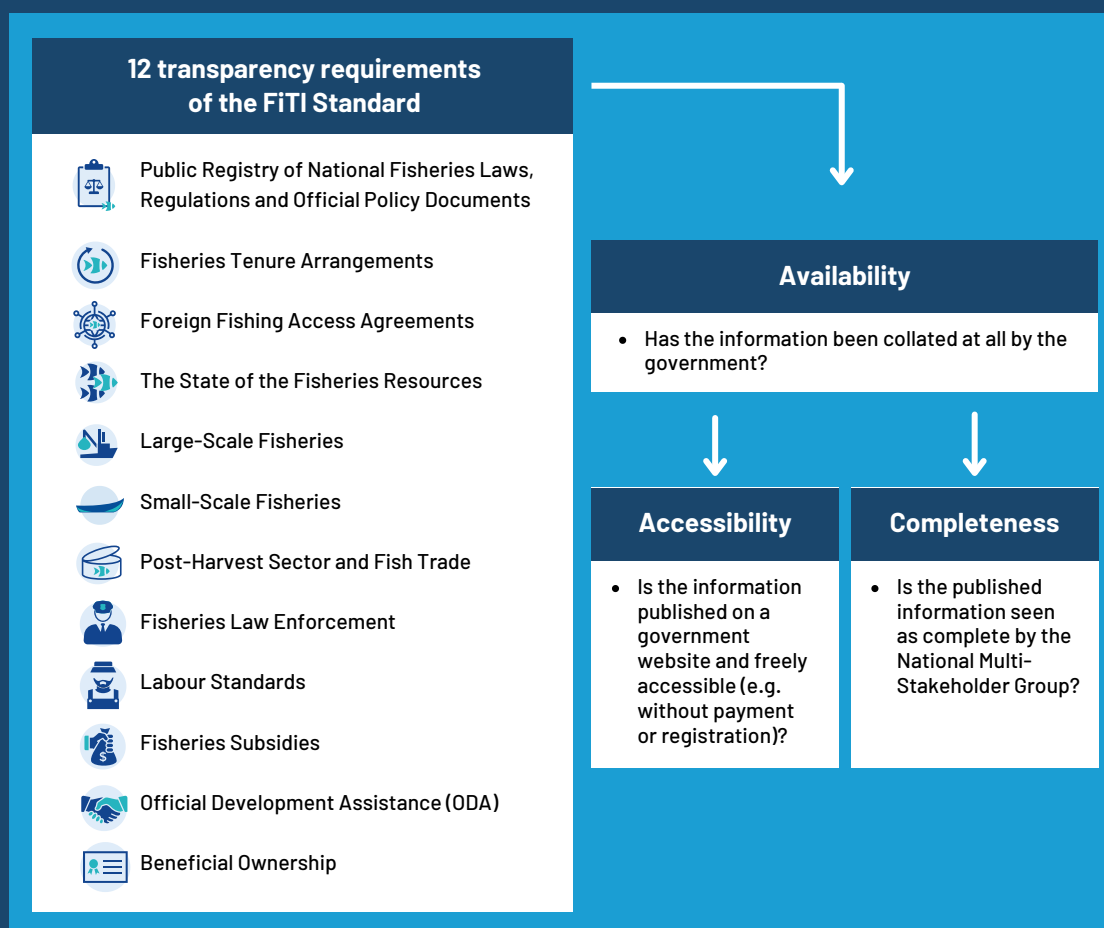
The purpose of this report is fourfold:

1

To **SUMMARISE KEY STATUS INFORMATION** on Seychelles' fisheries sector to increase public understanding and appreciation.

2

To **ASSESS SEYCHELLES' LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE** against the 12 transparency requirements of the FiTI Standard.²



3

To **PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS** to Seychelles' national authorities on how information in the public domain can be further increased.

4

To **REVIEW** progress by Seychelles' national authorities to implement past recommendations from the country's FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group.

2 The **FiTI Standard** is an internationally recognised transparency framework that defines for the first time what information on fisheries should be published online by the national authorities. The FiTI Standard was developed over the course of a 2-year global consultation process with representatives from fishing nations, industrial and artisanal fishing, civil society and intergovernmental organisations.

Summary

“ We, the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group of Seychelles, appreciate the enhanced government support during this fourth FiTI reporting process and the growing responsiveness of government agencies. This increased collaboration underscores our collective commitment to promoting transparency and accountability in the governance of fisheries resources. Moving forward, we aim to deepen stakeholder engagement and broaden participation to ensure that the FiTI process becomes integral to sustainable fisheries management in Seychelles. By fostering inclusive dialogue and meaningful partnerships, we strive to advance the principles of transparency and good governance for the benefit of our marine ecosystems and coastal communities. ”

–Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group



Public access to fisheries information published by the Seychelles' government continues to increase. Fisheries information published over previous reporting cycles remains available in the public domain and is being continually updated, especially via government websites belonging to the Seychelles Fisheries Authority (SFA) and the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MFBE). The Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS), a digital platform aimed at improving access to fisheries information, was launched in July 2023, and once fully operational promises to be a game-changer where access to fisheries information is concerned.

- In addition to the list provided in the summary of Seychelles 2020 and 2021 FiTI reports, the following is now publicly accessible on government websites:
- Two private foreign fishing access agreements, which could not be published earlier due to confidentiality provisions, are now published on the SFA website.
- A sample of the Sustainable Fisheries Agreement with management companies of Seychelles-Flagged vessels, which contains conditions for vessels authorized to fish in third party waters, their reporting requirements and the conditions for removal of authorization is now published on the SFA website;

- An explanation for the absence of published procedures for joining the sea cucumber fishery is published as part of the FAQ on fisheries tenure arrangements on SFA's website;
- A list of convictions and offences in the fisheries sector from 2020 to 2023 along with relevant court cases,
- Studies on the economic contribution of sub-sectors in artisanal fishery – information is now available for the small-scale longline fleet, the sea cucumber fishery and industry and the sport and recreational fishery.
- A 2018 study on employment and job opportunities in the industrial tuna fishery is now published which increases the amount of information on employment in the fisheries sector in the last 5 years.
- An official summary description of national labour standard laws that apply to national and foreign workers employed in Seychelles' fisheries sector (both at sea and in the post-harvest sector), is now published.

The signing of sustainable fisheries agreements with management companies of Seychelles-flagged vessels, provide a framework for the oversight of Seychelles-flagged industrial vessels fishing in third countries or on the High Seas and their reporting requirements as part of Seychelles' obligations as a flag State.

Despite the absence of a figure for total employment in the fisheries sector, information on employment in specific sub-sectors is increasing through the publication of studies as listed above for sectors in the artisanal fishery and the industrial tuna fishery and through information published in this FITI report on employment in Seychelles ITZ.

As part of this 2022 FITI Report, in annex C, a range of unpublished information is now publicly available including:

- The list of 8 fisheries and fisheries-related businesses operating in Seychelles International Trade Zone and their number of employees for the years 2020-2022.
- A list of ODA-funded projects relating to fisheries and marine conservation being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment in 2022, including information on any evaluations undertaken.
- The list of fisheries and marine conservation projects, funded by overseas development assistance through SeyCCAT, which were active in 2022.



In 2022, work started to strengthen the regulatory framework for fisheries management through a series of initiatives including a gap analysis of beneficial ownership, review of the Fisheries Act and Fisheries Regulations, review of the Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy 2019-2023 and development of a regulatory framework for joint ventures (split into laws and policies).

As part of the 2021 FITI reporting process, the MFBE confirmed the existence of an informal fisheries sector and also that no fuel subsidies are provided to large scale industrial fishing vessels.

Since 2021, there has been a central register of beneficial owners for all legal persons and legal arrangements registered in Seychelles including businesses in the fisheries sector. However, the information is not publicly available.



Information required by the FiTI Standard on several important fisheries issues remains unpublished either on a government website or as part of this FiTI Report, or if published is seen as significantly incomplete. This impacts decision makers' ability to understand how specific fisheries management decisions are affecting the overall sustainability of Seychelles' fisheries sector. These include:

- A summary of the outcome of stakeholder consultations relating to the review of the Fisheries Act 2014 and Fisheries Regulations 1987 are not published.
- The confirmation of the existence of an informal fisheries sector by MFBE is not published on any government website.
- The official summary description of national labour standard laws published on the Employment Department's website, excludes the laws applicable to workers in Seychelles International Trade Zone who are not subject to the Employment Act.
- Beneficial ownership information for businesses in the industrial fisheries sector is not publicly available.





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

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2022

	2022		2021
Major marine fisheries laws and regulations in Seychelles	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries Act (2014) Fisheries Regulations (1987) Aquaculture Regulations (2020) Fisheries (Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery) Regulations (2021) 	4
Major official policy documents regarding marine fisheries	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seychelles Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy (2019) Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (2019) - focused on small-scale fisheries 	2
Fisheries management plans	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mahé Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co-Management Plan (2020) National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (2016-2020) 	2

TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?		Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?		Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?	
2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021

KEY



Yes



To a large extent



Partially



To a limited extent



No



The MFBE and SFA websites are updated with all laws and regulations with a direct bearing on marine fisheries including the 2 pieces of legislation enacted in 2021. No new pieces of legislation were published in 2022.

In addition, all laws and regulations are published in the Official Gazette.

All other relevant fisheries policies and strategy documents are published on the MFBE and SFA websites.



In 2022, there were several initiatives to review the policy and regulatory framework for fisheries management, including:

- Review of the Fisheries Act 2014 and the Fisheries Regulations 1987;
- Review of the Seychelles Fishing Authority Establishment Act 1984;
- A gap analysis on beneficial ownership in the fisheries sector;
- Development of a regulatory framework for joint ventures;
- Development of the Harvest Strategy Policy and Management Standards; and
- Review of the Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy.

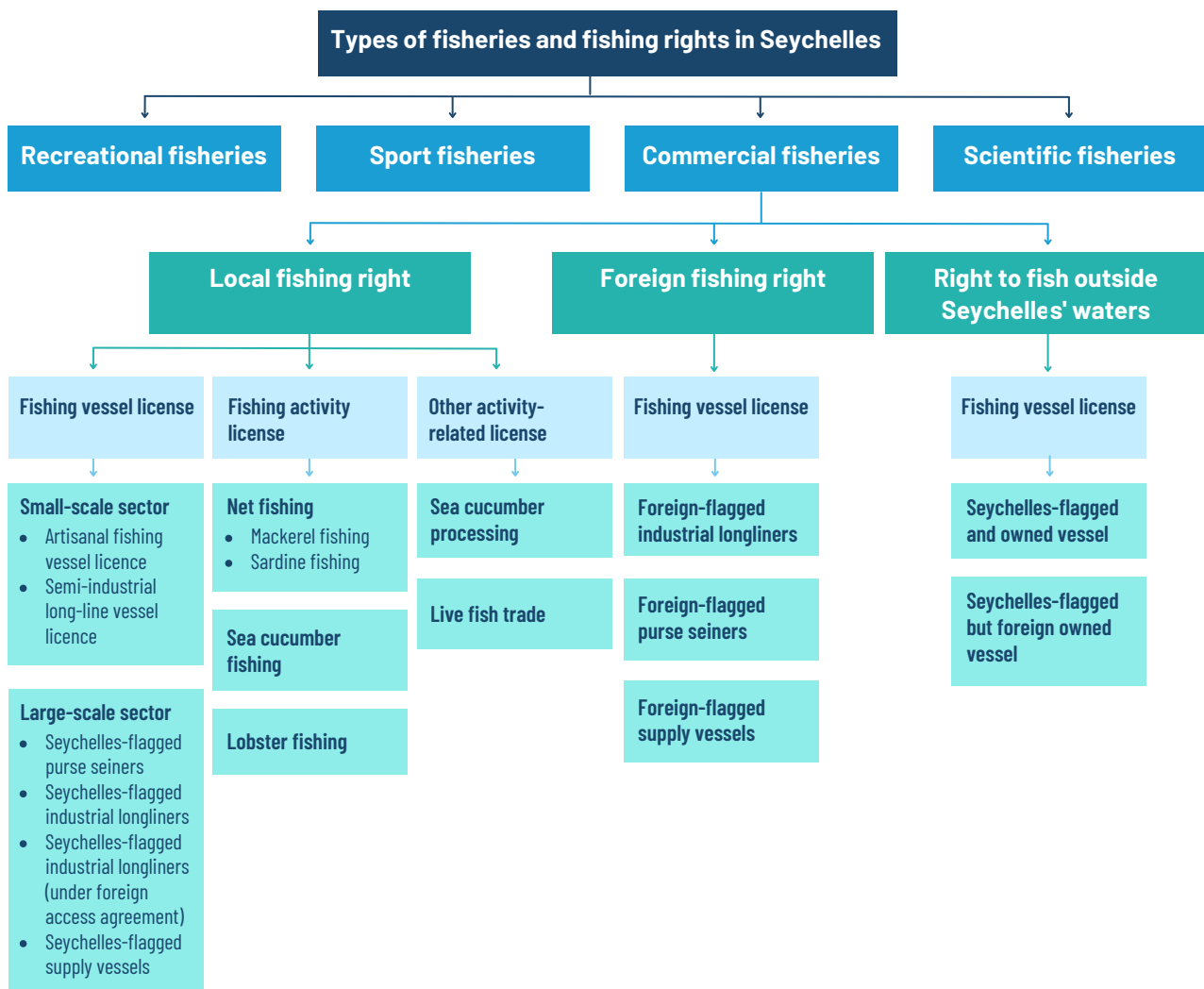


Fisheries Tenure Arrangements³

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2022

The Fisheries Act (2014) is the main piece of legislation structuring rights, authorizations, procedures, and dispensation for all types of fisheries in Seychelles. Many of the articles concerning rights and authorizations in the Act are elaborated in the Fisheries Regulations (1987).

Furthermore, the Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (FCP) 2019 partially updated and summarized the application procedures for fishing permits and authorisations for the small-scale sector. For calendar year 2021, no changes occurred in the types of fisheries and fishing rights that exist in Seychelles.



³ Fisheries tenure agreements define who can use which fish resources, for how long, and under what conditions, amongst other features. Such agreements are one of the most critical aspects of sustainable fisheries management. Fisheries tenure systems define how and why governments allocate rights for fishing.



TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?		Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?		Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?	
2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021



The FAQ on fisheries tenure arrangements for all fisheries in Seychelles published on the SFA website during the 2020 FITI reporting process, is still available and has been updated to reflect the implementation of the Fisheries (Mahé Plateau Trap and Line Fishery) Regulations, 2021 which came into effect in January 2022, the review of Total Allowable Catch for the sea cucumber fishery for the 2022/2023 season, and updated license fees for industrial fishing vessels introduced from 2022 onwards.

Clarifications for the absence of processes and procedures to join the sea cucumber fishery, are published as part of the FAQ on fisheries tenure arrangements on the SFA website.

In 2022, the MFBE signed Sustainable Fisheries Agreements with management companies of Seychelles-Flagged vessels. A sample of the agreement has been published on the SFA website. In addition to providing for the fees to be paid for the authorization to fish in third country waters and on the high seas, there are provisions for reporting requirements and for terminating such authorisations. The agreement applied provisionally in 2022 and will come into effect in 2023.

The SFA has published the fees that need to be paid for all types of fisheries rights existing under the law, including changes to current fee structures on its website. There is no requirement for these fees to be gazetted in addition to appearing in respective enabling policies, regulations and agreements.



SFA is developing licensing frameworks for the spanner crab and the sport and recreational fisheries following outcomes of assessments on these fisheries.



There is no systematic documentation and publication of stakeholder consultations relating to fishing rights. Whilst these events are reported in the media and some summarized in the SFA Annual Report, the agenda for these consultations and record of participants and discussions are not published.

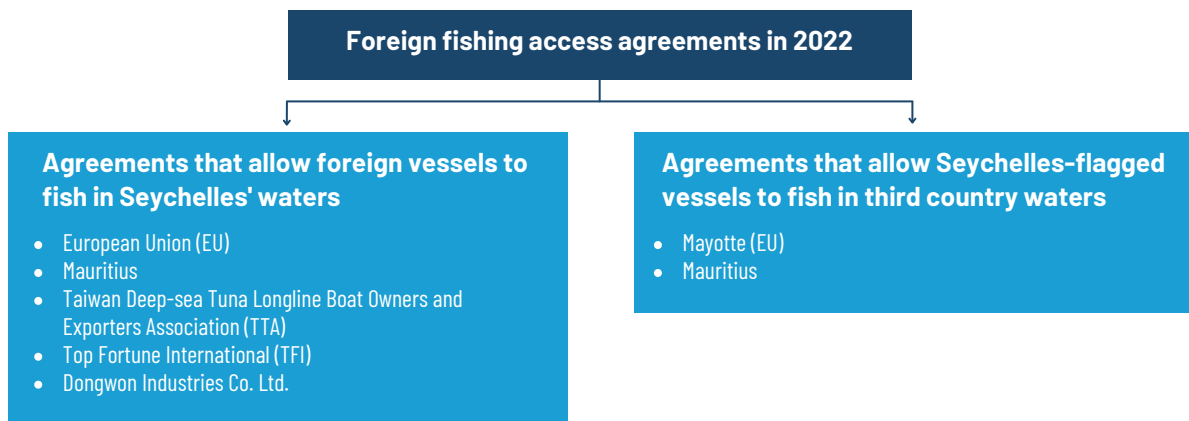
The SFA has yet to publish the names of individual persons that are legally entitled to issue commercial access rights and fishing authorisations in Seychelles. The Fisheries Act does not provide for the names of these individuals to be gazetted.



Foreign Fishing Access Agreements⁴

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2022

	2022		2021
Agreements that allow foreign vessels to fish in Seychelles' waters	5	[See below]	5
Agreements that allow Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish in third country waters	2	[See below]	2
Number of studies or reports that provide evaluation or oversight of these agreements	0		0



⁴ A foreign fishing access agreement refers to a contractual arrangement entered into by a coastal state (e.g. Seychelles) and a foreign party, that allows for fishing vessels to operate in the country's marine jurisdictional waters (i.e. Territorial Sea and EEZ). Such a foreign party can either be a foreign government, a union of foreign governments (such as the EU), a private company, or an association of private companies. These agreements provide fishing opportunities in return for payments or investments, and usually set out the conditions that regulate fishing activities.



TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?		Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?		Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?	
2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021



The summary of the key information for each of the foreign fishing agreements active in 2022 onwards is published on the SFA website and it is up to date.

The agreements with Top Fortune International (TFI) and Taiwan Deep Sea Tuna Longline Boat Owners and Exporters Association (TTA) were renegotiated and the confidentiality clauses removed: they were subsequently published on the SFA website. They took effect in 2023.

The three available evaluation reports on the EU/Seychelles Partnership Agreement, published during the 2020 FITI Reporting process, remain available on the SFA website.



The MFBE has commissioned an assessment of the fishing agreements with Mauritius and the EU which evaluates the compliance with the conditions of the agreement.

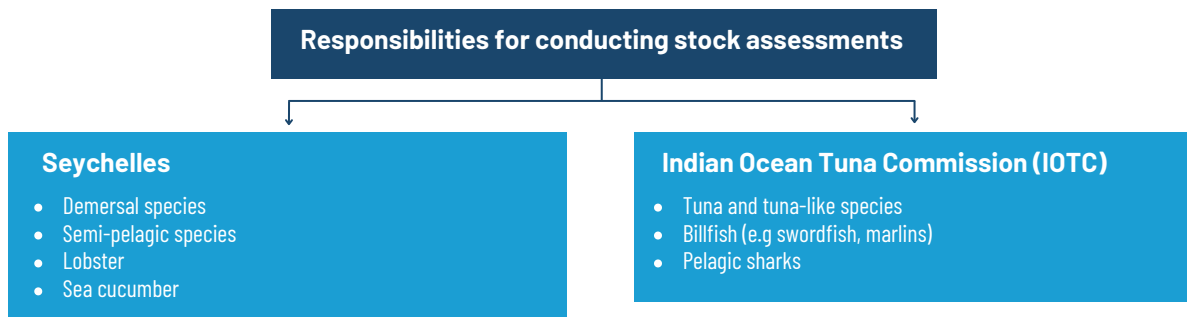
The MFBE has negotiated and signed a new fisheries agreement with Dongwon Industries Co. Ltd in 2023 and this will be effective in 2024.



The State of the Fisheries Resources

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2022

Given that a variety of different species are pursued as part of fishing activities undertaken in Seychelles' waters, the following simplified chart outlines the responsibilities for conducting stock assessments.



	2022	2021
Stock assessments published by national authorities in Seychelles	4	4
Species groups with stock status information (up to 2021)	48	23

The Seychelles sea cucumber survey 2021/22- sample design, analysis of survey data and management recommendations, 2022 was reported on in the 2021 FITI report.



Fishing pressure⁵

Not subject to overfishing



Subject to overfishing



Uncertain



The fishing pressure status of the majority of the species of importance in artisanal fisheries (7/12) and sea cucumber fishery (9/12) was determined to be uncertain. Stock status of 9 species, 6 of these sharks, was unknown.

Biomass⁶

Not overfished



Overfished



Uncertain



The stock status of most of the species remained the same as in 2021.

⁵ **Fishing pressure** indicates whether a stock is being subject to excessive fishing or not. Subject to overfishing indicates a stock has a fishing mortality (harvest) rate that is higher than the MSY. Not subject to overfishing indicates that the fishing mortality is not affecting the MSY.

⁶ **Biomass** indicates whether the stock is able to support the largest long-term average catch or yield under the existing environmental conditions. This long-term average catch or yield is commonly referred to as the maximum sustainable yield (MSY). *Overfished* indicates that the biomass is below the level able to support the MSY. Vice versa, *not overfished* indicates the stock biomass is at a level capable of sustaining the MSY.





















Summary of stock status of species (assessed by SFA since 2017)

	Common Name	Creole Name	Period	Year of Publication	Stock Status	
					Fishing mortality	Biomass
Fisheries resources of the artisanal fishery assessed by SFA						
Lutjanus sebae	Emperor Red Snapper	Bourzwa	2019	2021		
Epinephelus chlorostigma	Brown Spotted Grouper	Vyey Makonde	2019	2021		
Aprion virescens	Green Jobfish	Zob gri	2019	2021		
Siganus spp.	Rabbitfish	Kordonyen	2019	2021		
Carangoides fulvoguttatus	Yellow Spotted Travelly	Karang plat	2019	2021		
Carangoides gymnostethus	Bludger	Karang balo	2019	2021		
Sphyraenidae spp	Becune	Bekin	2019	2021		
Sarda orientalis & other bonito species	Bonito	Bonit	2019	2021		














KEY (fishing pressure):	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain	Subject to overfishing
KEY (biomass):	Not overfished	Uncertain	Overfished



Lutjanus bohar, L. gibbus	Red snapper		2019	2021		
Lehtrinidae spp	Capitaine		2019	2021		
Other trap fish (mixed reef fish species)	Incl. Parrot fish, goat fish & wrasse families		2019	2021		
Other Serranidae spp	Groupers	Vyey	2019	2021		
Lobster species						
Panulirus penicillatus	Pronghorn spiny lobster	Oumar	2021	2021		
Panulirus longipes	Long-legged spiny lobster	Oumar	2021	2021		
Sea cucumber species						
Holothuria fuscogilva	White teatfish	Kokosye blan	2021	2021		
Holothuria sp.	Flower teatfish	Pentard	2021	2021		
Thelenota ananas	Prickly redfish	Sanpye	2021	2021		



The State of the Fisheries Resources

Holothuria nobilis	Black teatfish	Kokosye nwanr	2021	2021		
Holothuria fuscopunctata	Elephant trunkfish	Safran	2021	2021		
Holothuria atra	Lollyfish	Spork, Spork koray, Disan	2021	2021		
Holothuria edulis	Pinkfish		2021	2021		
Holothuria scabra	Sandfish	Kokonm	2021	2021		
Holothuria lessoni	Golden sandfish	Kokonm	2021	2021		
Actinopyga mauritiana (complex)	Surf redfish	Red surf, Yellow surf, Brisan	2021	2021		
Actinopyga miliaris	Hairy blackfish	Spork	2021	2021		
Actinopyga echinites	Deepwater redfish	Spork	2021	2021		
Species under the IOTC mandate						
Thunnus alalunga	Albacore	Albakor	2022	2022		
Katsuwonus pelamis	Skipjack tuna	Ton reye	2021	2022		

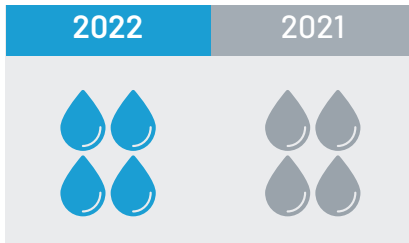


Thunnus obesus	Big eye tuna	Ton gro lizye	2022	2022		
Thunnus albacares	Yellowfin tuna	Ton Zonn	2021	2022		
Xiphias gladius	Swordfish	Espadron	2021	2022		
Makaira nigricans	Blue marlin	Espadron	2022	2022		
Tetrapturus audax	Striped marlin	Espadron	2021	2022		
Istiophorus platypterus	Indo-Pacific sailfish	Dyab Lavwal	2022	2022		
Euthynnus affinis	Kawakawa	Bonit fol	2020	2022		
Thunnus tonggol	Longtail tuna		2020	2022		
Scomberomorus guttatus	Indo-Pacific king mackerel		2021	2022		
Scomberomorus commerson	Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel		2021	2022		
Prionace glauca	Blue shark		2021	2022		

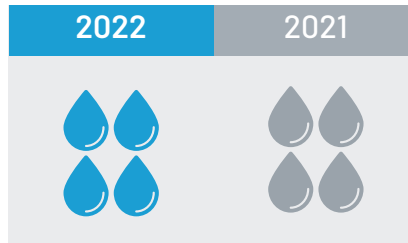


TRANSPARENCY STATUS

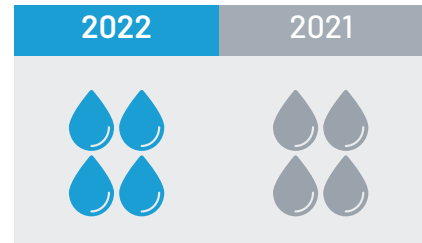
Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?



Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?



Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?



All stock assessment reports produced or commissioned by SFA from 2017 are now available on the SFA website.

The plan of stock assessments up to 2024, published during the 2020 FITI report, is still available on SFA's website.

Summary information on published stock status information for species falling under both the management mandate of the Seychelles government and that of the IOTC, published in 2020 on the SFA website, is still available and has been updated to reflect stock assessment updates from 2021 and 2022.

SFA published information on planned efforts to update and expand fish stock assessments - relating to spanner crab and small-scale octopus fishery.



A comprehensive national report on the overall status of fish stocks in Seychelles has not been compiled to date. Staff turnover at the SFA is delaying the preparation of this report.



Large-Scale Fisheries

WHO IS ALLOWED TO FISH?

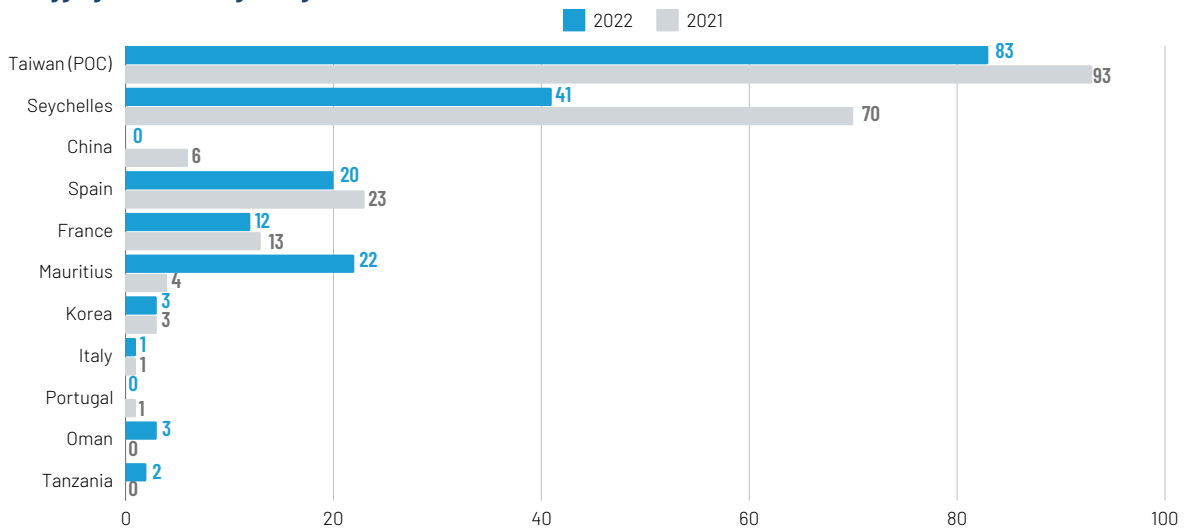
KEY INFORMATION FOR 2022

Number of large-scale vessels authorised to fish in Seychelles' waters

2022 187

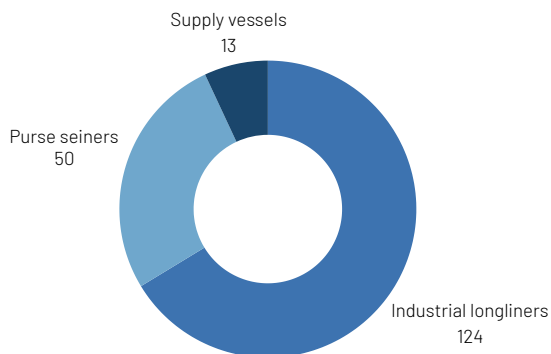
2021 215

Disaggregated according to flag state

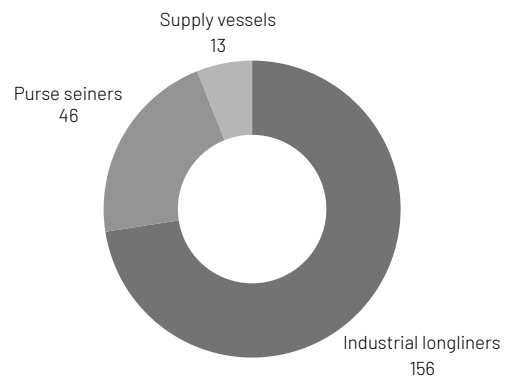


The decrease in the number of fishing vessels from 215 to 187 is due to a decrease in Seychelles-Flagged and Taiwan (POC)-flagged longliners from 70 and 93 in 2021 respectively to 41 and 83 in 2022.

Disaggregated according to vessel type (2022)



Disaggregated according to vessel type (2021)





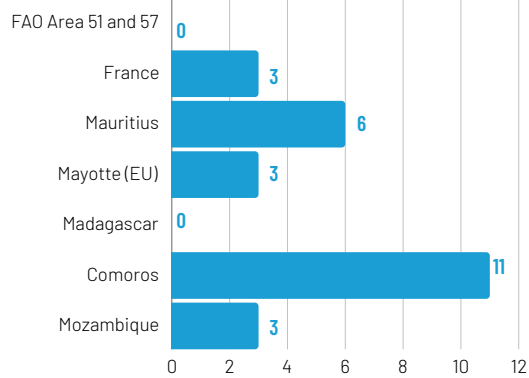
Large-Scale Fisheries

Number of Seychelles-flagged large-scale vessels authorised to fish in third country waters and on the High Seas

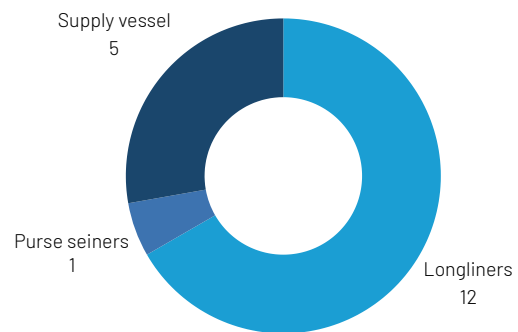
2022 18

2021 15

Disaggregated according to third countries/areas (2022)



Disaggregated according to vessel type (2022)



TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?

2022



2021



Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?

2022



2021



Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?

2022



2021



As pointed out in Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report, SFA maintains complete, updated records on large scale vessels licensed to fish in Seychelles' waters. An updated registry in the form of a searchable Excel database, meeting the FiTI standard for information on large scale vessels and their license payments, is published on the SFA website.

Assessment of SFA's internal vessel records showed that all 187 vessels licensed in 2022 were included on this online vessel registry and all the 14 attributes as required by the FiTI standard are captured for all vessels.



Payment information and records could not be verified because of an issue of fungus infestation of 2022 payment records.

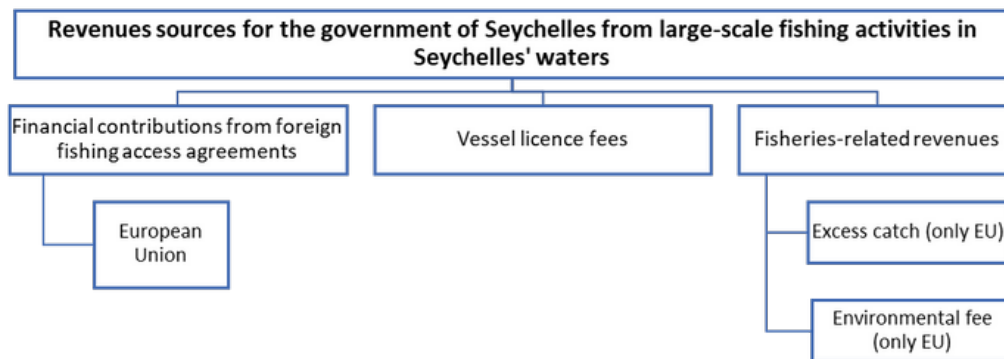




HOW MUCH IS PAID FOR THE RIGHT TO FISH?

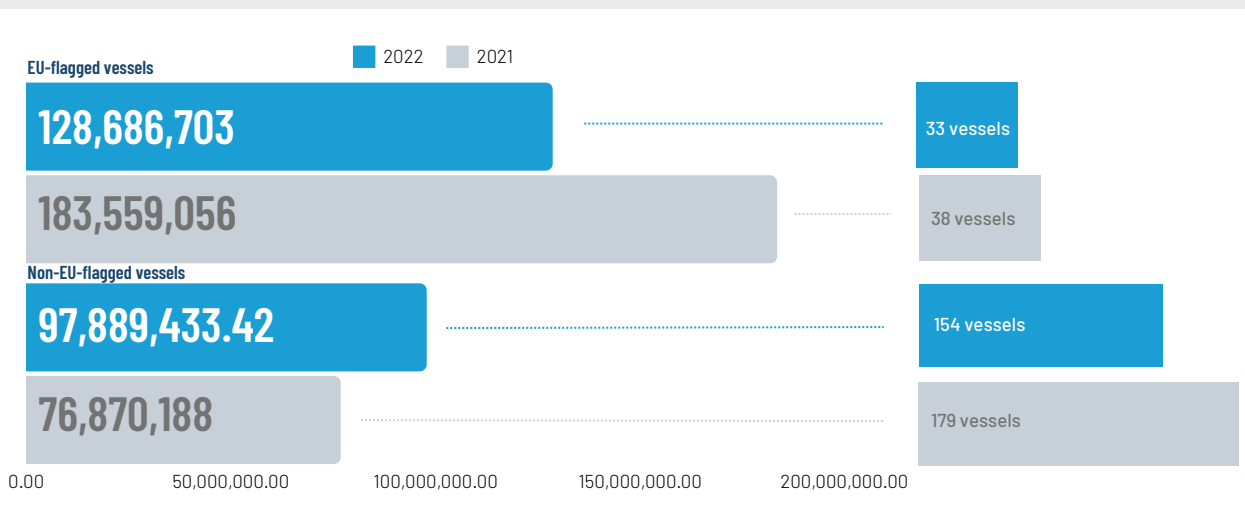
KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021

Revenue sources for the government of Seychelles from large-scale fishing activities in Seychelles waters



The values for excess catch payments made by EU-flagged fishing vessel operators and by EU for excess catch taken by its vessels under the SFPFA, have been restated for 2020 and 2021. Consequently, tables for payments by large scale vessels, excess catch payments by EU-flagged vessel operators and excess catch payments made by the EU in Seychelles 2021 FiTI Summary Report had to be restated and are published in annex C in the detailed section of this report.

Payments from large-scale vessels authorised to fish in Seychelles' waters (in SCR)

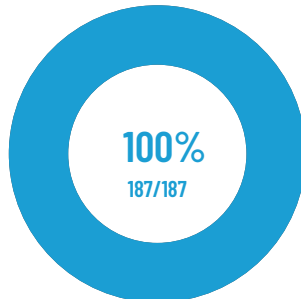


Payments for EU-flagged vessels are under several headings, such as sectoral support, fishing opportunities and excess catch. For more information, please refer to the detailed breakdown on the next page. Payments made for non-EU-flagged vessels relate to fishing licenses in Seychelles' waters and environment management fee for purse seiners introduced in the Mauritius- Seychelles fisheries agreement.

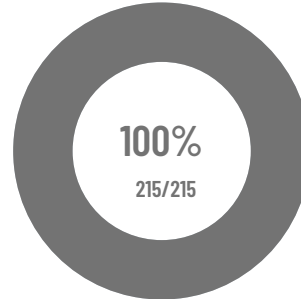
Income from EU-flagged vessels decreased as a result of a decrease in the number of vessels from 38 to 33 and a change in the value of the Seychelles Rupee to the Euro from 16.60 in 2021 to 14.95 in 2022 (Note 2.14 in the audited accounts).



Large-scale vessels for which licence payments could be verified as part of this reporting process



2022



2021

Data breakdown: EU-flagged vessels (in SCR)

Sectoral support under the EU Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA)



In 2022, the European Union paid Seychelles EUR 2.8 million to support the implementation of the country's sectoral fisheries and maritime policies, which is the same amount paid in 2021. The difference in absolute amounts from 2021 to 2022 is because of foreign currency fluctuations. All EU payments are made in Euros and are converted in SCR the day of the payment (reflected in SFA's audited accounts).

Annual lump sum for fishing opportunities in Seychelles' waters for EU-flagged vessels under the SFPA



In 2022, the EU paid an annual sum equivalent to EUR 2.5 million for access of up to 48 EU-flagged vessels to Seychelles' waters, equivalent to a reference tonnage of 50,000 tonnes per year, the same rate applied in 2021. However, the value in 2022 is 38% lower because of the fluctuation in foreign exchange rates; in 2021 the payment was converted at SCR 24.2508 to the Euro versus SCR 15.7400 to the Euro in 2022.

Payments made by EU-flagged vessel operators for fishing licences in Seychelles' waters under the SFPA



The payment values for 2022 correspond to a total of 33 fishing vessels: 26 purse seiners, 1 longliner and 6 supply vessels, versus payments in 2021 which related to 38 vessels.



Additional payments made by EU-flagged vessel operators for excess catch in Seychelles' waters under the SFPA



EU-flagged vessels make a non-refundable, advance payment which is for 700Mt. If their catch exceeds this tonnage, they pay for the excess catch. There is no refund for catches below this tonnage.

The additional payments value for 2022 corresponds to payments for excess catch from 27 EU industrial fishing vessels (Purse seiners: French - 10; Spanish - 15, Italy - 1; Longliners: Spanish - 1). However, excess catch payments cannot be published on a per vessel basis, due to a confidentiality clause in the EU/Seychelles SFPA:

The statement of fees for excess catch payments is raised as per the protocol deadline which is 30th April the following year for the previous year. The figures in the published audited financial statements do not correspond to the statement of fees for that particular year since Finance raises invoices when confirmation is received from the Statistics Department. Thus, the figure for one year represents payments for excess catch for previous years. The Finance Department's records show that receipts in 2020 include payments for excess catch in 2018 and 2019. Similarly, the 2021 figure relates to excess catch payments for the year 2020, whereas figures for the year 2022 include payments for 2020 and 2021. Therefore, it is not possible to explain changes year on year from payment information.

SFA explained that technically, the only difference between the years will be due to availability of tunas in the Seychelles EEZ based on various environmental factors. A plausible explanation could also be a change in fishing strategy by fishing vessels to avoid large yellowfin which is highly abundant inside the Seychelles EEZ. This could lead to the vessels exhausting their yellowfin quota. Instead, the vessels fished more on drifting FADs outside the Seychelles EEZ where the most abundant species are skipjack.

Additional payments made by the EU-flagged vessels for excess catch under the SFPA



To note that only the EU makes payments to Seychelles for excess catch in Seychelles' waters. According to the current protocol (2020-2026), the total amount to be paid by the EU increases by EUR 50

To note that only the EU makes payments to Seychelles for excess catch in Seychelles' waters. According to the current protocol (2020-2026), the total amount to be paid by the EU increases by EUR 50 for each additional tonne of catch that exceeds the annual reference tonnage (50,000 tonnes) afforded to EU vessels fishing in Seychelles' waters.

In 2021, SFA did not receive any payment from EU, as the total catch from EU-flagged vessels did not exceed the reference tonnage of 50,000 tonnes. This means that the figure published in the 2021 FiTI report has been restated and is published in annex C of the detailed report.

Payment made by EU-flagged vessels for environmental management and observation of marine ecosystems under the SFPA



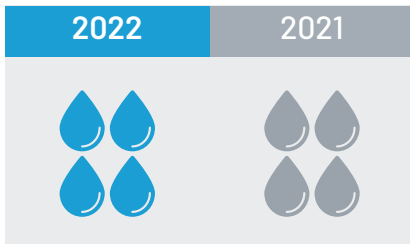
The environmental management and observation of marine ecosystems fee was introduced under the 2020-2026 EU/Seychelles SFPA. It was also introduced in the Seychelles-Mauritius Fishing Agreement negotiated in 2022 and payable by purse seiners only.

In 2022, the total amount for the environment management fee received from EU-Flagged vessels was Euro 269,102 equivalent to SCR4,324,023.31. In 2021 and 2022, SFA paid seamen compensation payments under the 2005-2011 EU/SEY Protocol, which were deducted from EU operators' contributions collected through the fund for environmental fee. In 2022, the expenses related to seamen compensation amounted to SCR 8,252,284.24 leaving a negative balance of SCR 3,928,261 at the end of the period.

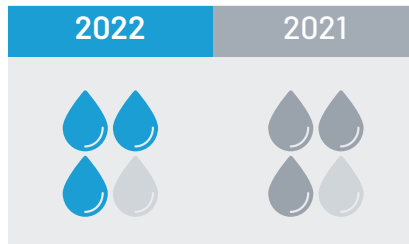


TRANSPARENCY STATUS

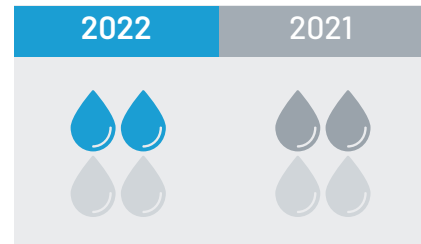
Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?



Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?



Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?



As pointed out in Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report, license payments by large scale vessel operators in 2021 is included in the vessel registry available on the SFA website.

Some of the payments made by EU for fishing rights, sectoral support and for excess catch for EU-flagged vessels under the SFPA, is published in the notes to SFA's 2022 audited financial statements. Environment fee and excess catch payments made by EU-flagged vessels are also detailed in these notes.



Payment information and records could not be verified because of an issue of fungus infestation of 2022 payment records.



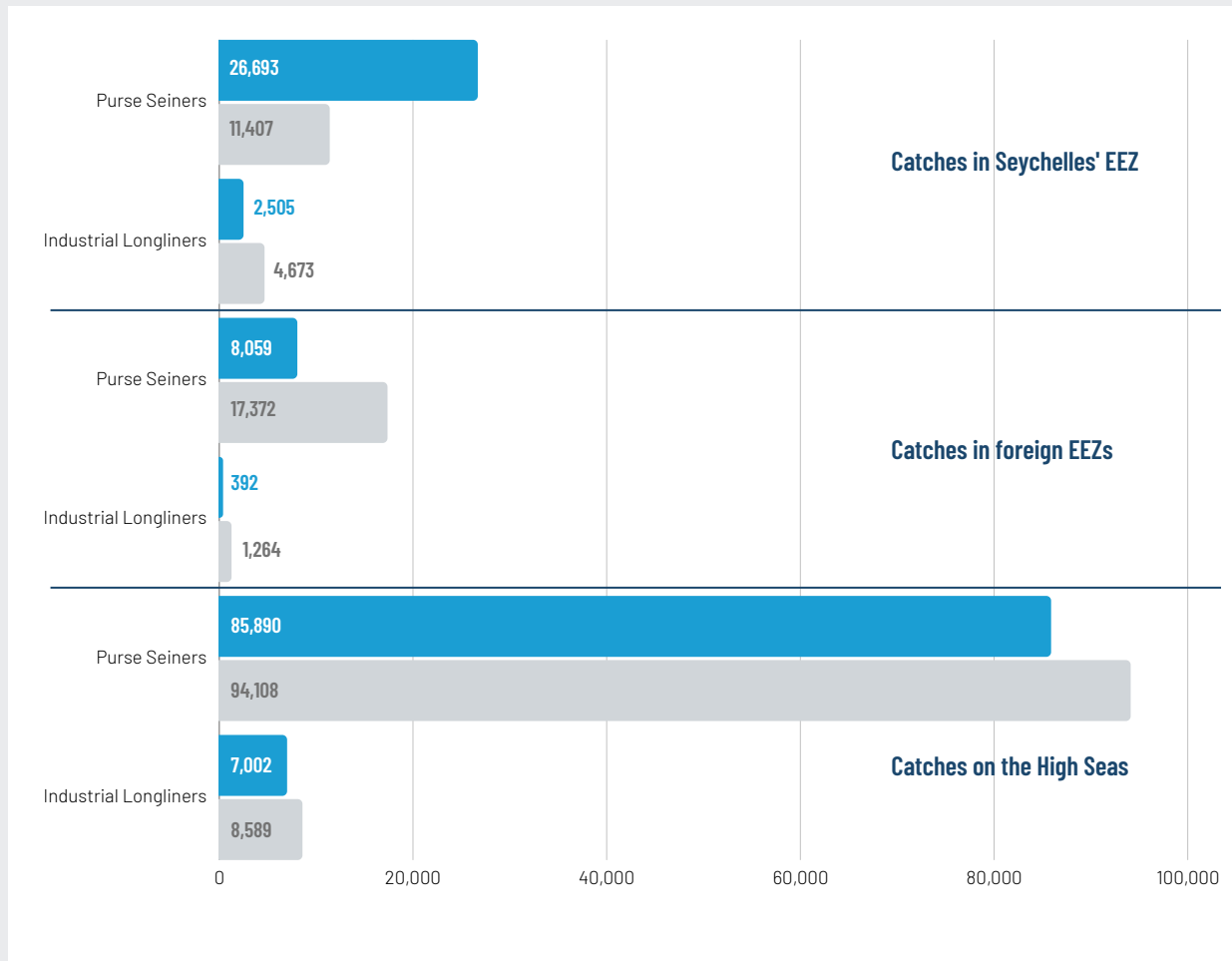
HOW MUCH FISH HAS BEEN CAUGHT?

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2022

Annual retained catches by Seychelles-flagged vessels

2022 130,541 Mt

2021 137,413 Mt



KEY

2022

2021



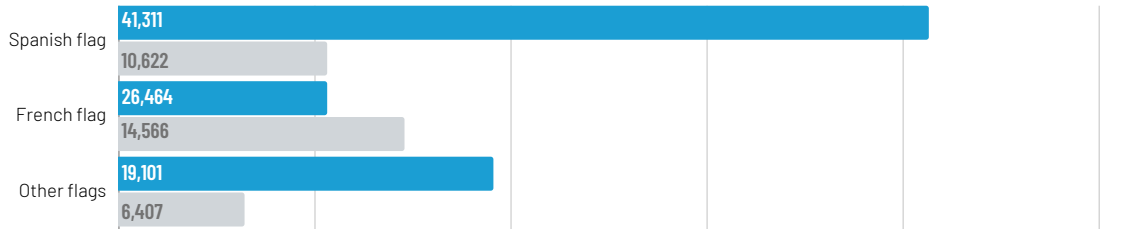
Annual retained catches by foreign-flagged vessels

2022 **292,718 Mt**

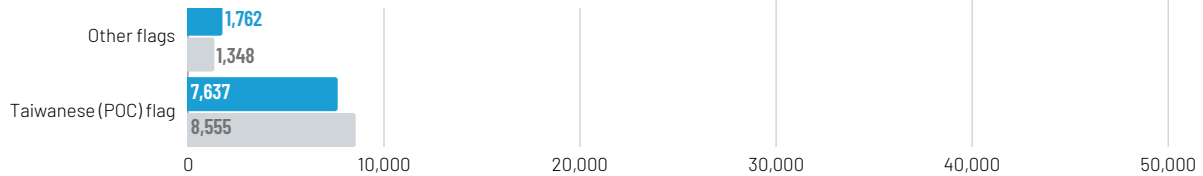
2021 290,036 Mt

Catches by foreign-flagged vessels in Seychelles' EEZ (Mt)

Purse Seiners

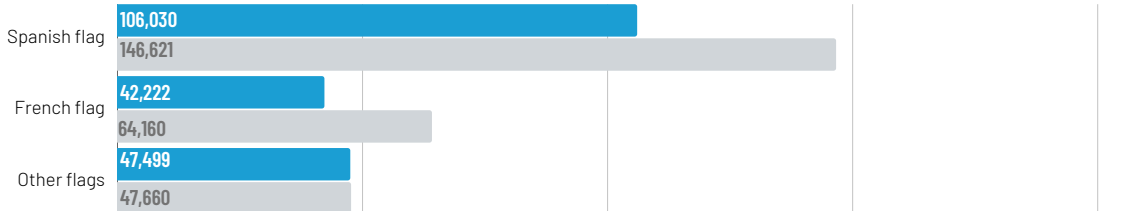


Industrial Longliners

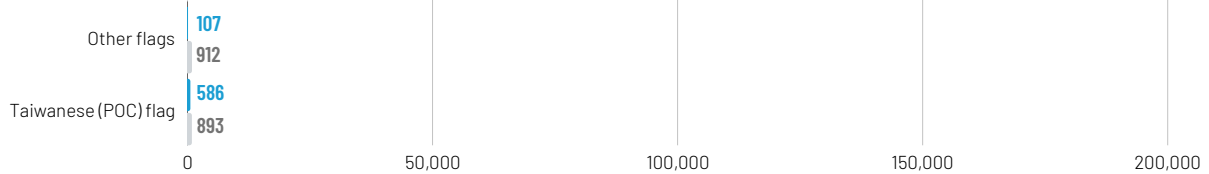


Catches by foreign-flagged vessels in EEZs of other Western Indian Ocean countries or the High Seas (Mt) in 2022

Purse Seiners



Industrial Longliners



KEY

2022

2021

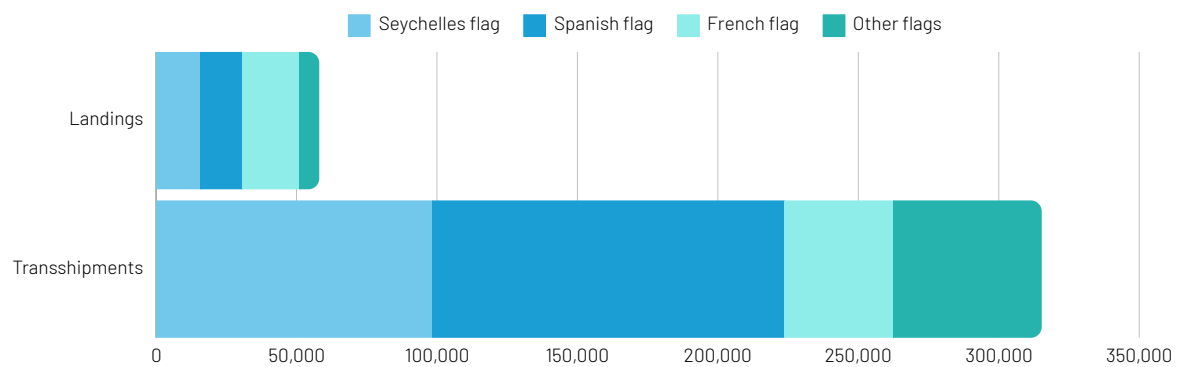


Annual landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports

2022 373,396 Mt  2021 389,542 Mt 

The landings and transshipments data for 2021, published in the 2021 FiTI report was incomplete. The restated 2021 data has been included in annex C of the 2022 detailed report

Annual landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports in 2022-> [only Purse Seiners \(Mt\)](#)



Annual landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports in 2022 (mT)







	Transshipments	Landings
Only Purse Seiners (Mt)		
Seychelles flag	98,580	15,659
Spanish flag	124,997	14,966
French flag	38,826	20,369
Other flags	52,890	7,109



KEY INFORMATION FOR 2022

	2022		2021
Annual landings and transshipments in foreign ports	 31,549 Mt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data refers to purse seiners licensed to fish in Seychelles' waters. Data from industrial longliners was not available. Value represents 8% of total catch from purse seiners Two foreign ports were used for transshipments and landings in 2022: Diego Suarez (Madagascar) and Port Louis (Mauritius) 	 28,032 Mt
Fishing effort by purse seine vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters (days spent fishing within Seychelles' EEZ)	2,972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 9,579 days was spent fishing in the Western Indian Ocean. 	1,601
Fishing effort by industrial longline vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters (hooks deployed within Seychelles' EEZ)	32.4 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total of 54.2 million hooks deployed in the Western Indian Ocean 	38.6 million

TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?		Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?		Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?	
2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
					

 Indicating incomplete data



Large-Scale Fisheries



As pointed out in Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report, through its Fisheries Statistical Report, SFA publishes a large amount of data regarding catches, landings, transshipments and fishing effort of large-scale fisheries.

For three consecutive years, catch data for large scale fisheries is complete, based on 100% logbook returns for both the purse seiners and industrial longliners. In addition, the data is highly disaggregated and fulfils almost all the requirements of the FiTI standard.

Data on fish discards from the industrial longline fishery has been published for two consecutive years now in the 2021 and 2022 Fisheries Statistical Reports.



The MFBE is collaborating with the National Statistics Bureau to prepare fisheries satellite accounts, which would provide a more comprehensive coverage of fisheries economic contribution. No date was given as to when this will be available.

The implementation of Seychelles Maritime Single Window (MSW) by the Seychelles Ports Authority in 2024 will make available transshipment and landing fees on a per vessel basis.



Small-Scale Fisheries

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2022

Small-scale fisheries in Seychelles (often also referred to as local fisheries) is defined in the Fisheries Comprehensive Plan as 'a fishery using vessels less than 24 metres in length overall carrying out fishing activities within Seychelles' territorial waters and EEZ and to a lesser extent on the high seas.' The economic, social and cultural contributions of small-scale fishing are significant for Seychelles, as is its role in ensuring food security in terms of animal protein for the population of the country.



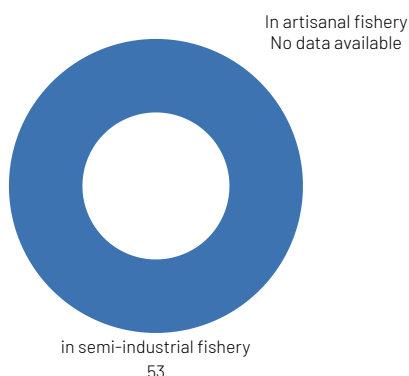
Information on small scale fisheries is seen as incomplete as there is no data for 2022 for the small-scale fishing vessels. The 2021 data published in the 2021 FiTI report was incomplete. The updated 2021 data is presented here.

Average monthly number of active small-scale fishing vessels

2022 297

2021 338

Small-scale vessels in 2022

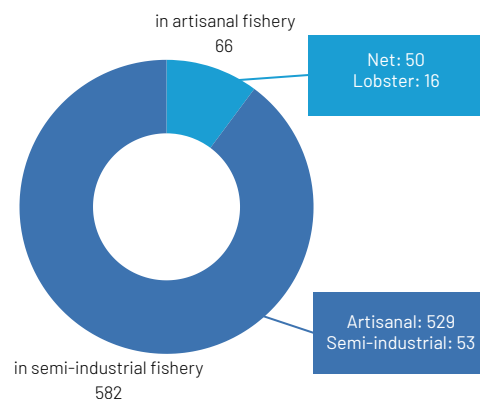


Number of fishing licences issued to small-scale fishing vessels

2022 673

2021 692

Licences issued to small-scale fishing vessels in 2022

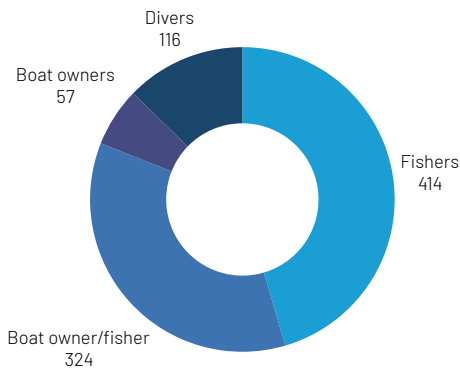




Number of fishers engaged in the fishing sector

2022 860 2021 706

2022 licences issued to small-scale fishing vessels



It is not known how many of these fishers are active on a regular basis. COVID-19 related government benefits provided to the fisheries sector is thought to have resulted in large numbers of people registering as fishers in 2020, which decreased in 2021 and is now stabilizing in 2022.

Payments for fishing licence fees made by small-scale fisheries (in SCR)

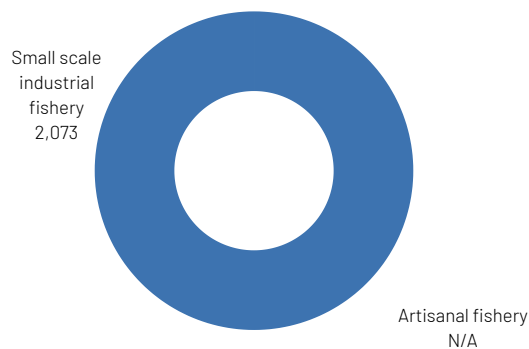
No payments are made by small-scale fishers for catches and landings.



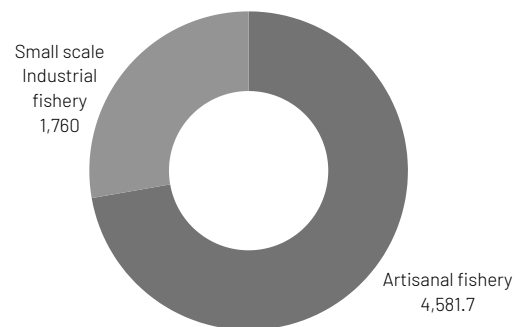
Quantity of catches made by small-scale fisheries (in Mt)

Catch data for artisanal fishery is incomplete due to data processing and reporting issues for this fishery.

2022



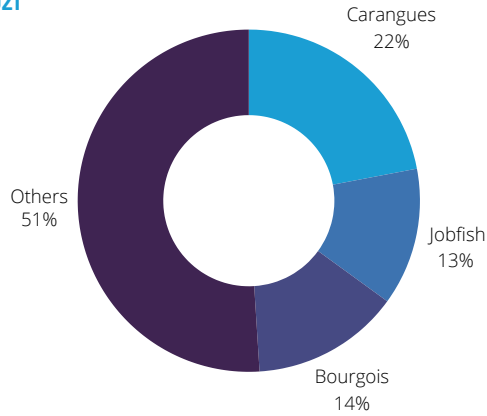
2021



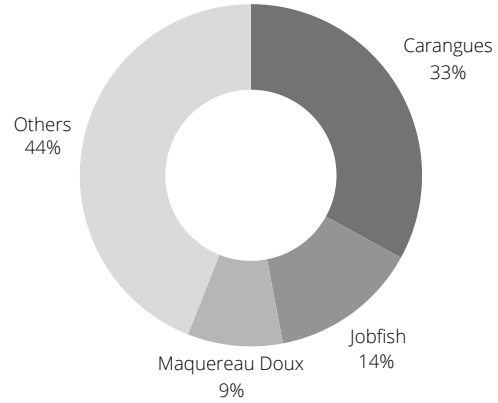


Catches by artisanal fishery (in Mt) - Major species

2021

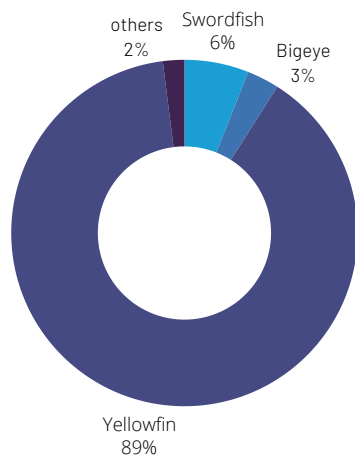


2020

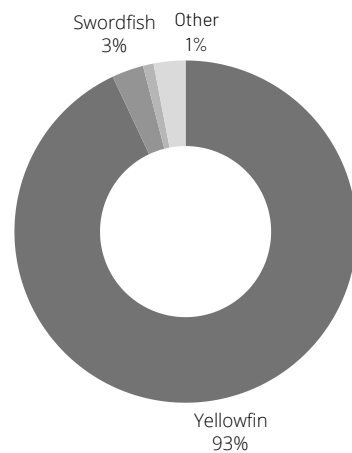


Catches by semi-industrial fishery (in Mt) - Major species

2021



2020



TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?

2022



2021



Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?

2022



2021



Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?

2022



2021





Catch data for the sea cucumber and lobster fisheries was included in the 2022 Fisheries Bulletin, which means that for the second consecutive year, the publication now provides a more comprehensive estimate of the total volume of local fishery production.

SFA explained in the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report that the absence of information on discards in the artisanal fishery is due to the fact that fish that are not sold are used as bait or are kept for own consumption by the fishers.

The updated database containing license information, payment information relating to fishing vessels and fishing activities, along with information on artisanal fishing licenses, which were published for the first time on the SFA website, during the 2021 FiTI reporting process, is published on the SFA website. The 2022 update also contains information on gender for fishers, boat owners and divers.

The two studies on the contribution of the small-scale fisheries sector to the economy, published in 2021, on the semi-industrial longline fleet and the sea cucumber fishery and industry, are still available on the SFA website. In 2022, the Assessment of the Economic and Social Importance of Seychelles' Sport and Recreational Fishery" was published on the SFA website.



SFA explained that it is not practical to collect information on the employment status of registered fishermen, as the requirement to be registered to qualify for concessions, will mean that all fishers will indicate that they are working full time at registration. Information on employment status is best obtained through occasional surveys.

üSFA has indicated that catch data from the sport and recreational fishery will be progressively included in subsequent statistical reports which will provide a more complete estimate of the total volume of local fishery production.




No catch data was available for 2022 for artisanal fishery as a result of challenges related to upgrading of the data processing and reporting system for this fishery.



Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade⁷

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2022

	2022	2021
Total quantity of fish and fish products produced	 50,724 Mt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published in the 2022 SFA Annual Report, which is more complete when compared to the NBS figure. Fish catch is disaggregated by sector (artisanal, semi-industrial, sea cucumber) and additional fish products such as fish meal and fish oil are also included in the production figures. However, catch data is incomplete in the 2022 SFA annual report because no catch data was available for artisanal fisheries. 	62,728 Mt

The figure published in the 2021 FITI report of 60,023Mt was incomplete because data for the small-scale fisheries was available for one semester only. It has been re-stated here following updated figures published in the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report. The 2022 figure is deemed to be incomplete because no catch data was available for artisanal fisheries and data for semi-industrial longliners only is presented.

Total value of imports of fish and fish products

Most of the imported fish are frozen tuna sold by EU-flagged vessels to the local canning factory, as well as frozen tuna imported from a certified fishery in the Maldives.

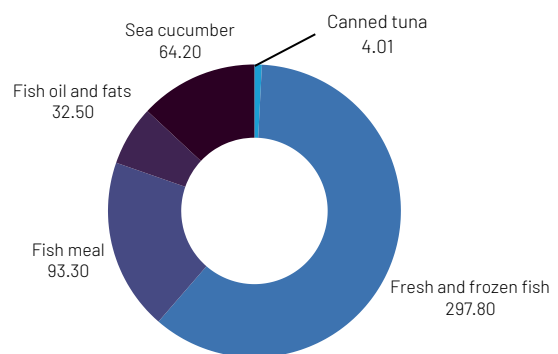


Total value of exports of fish and fish products

2022 SCR 4.5 billion

2021 SCR 5.3 billion

2022 value of exports of fish and fish products (SCR)



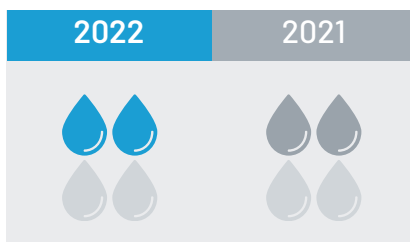
⁷ Fish is the most traded agricultural product in the world (in monetary terms); the value of fish traded internationally is greater than that of many other food products, such as coffee, tea and sugar combined.



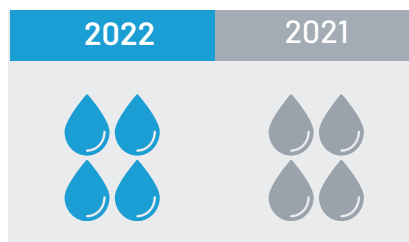
	2022	2021
Total number of people employed in commercial fisheries sectors in Seychelles	<p>Unknown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2021 Employment Study and Capacity Needs Assessment for the Fisheries Sector in Seychelles established that the workforce is composed of 85% full time workers and 76% of fishers were full time compared to 81% non-fishers. It did not estimate total employment. The 2019 Economic Impact Study of the Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry found that 185 jobs were supported by the fishery and the industry, the majority of which (64%) were Seychellois. The 2018 study Employment and Prospect in the Industrial tuna Fishery Sector of the Republic of Seychelles, found that in the first half of 2018, there were 6,900 persons, both full time and part-time, working in the industrial tuna fishery, of which 72% were male and 28% female. 	Unknown
Total number of people employed in the informal fisheries sectors in Seychelles	<p>Unknown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MFBE confirmed the existence of an informal fisheries sector during the 2021 FiTI reporting process. The 2022 Assessment of the Economic and Social Importance of Seychelles' Sport and Recreational Fishery, estimated that the sports fishing sector may account for approximately 2.2% employment or 1,153 jobs. 	Unknown

TRANSPARENCY STATUS

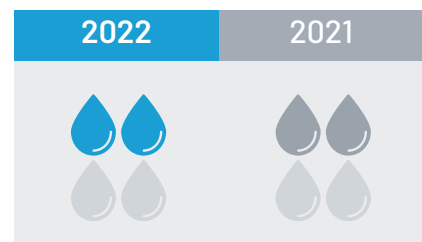
Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?



Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?



Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?





Information on the quantity of fish and fish products produced by Seychelles for the year 2022 was published in SFA's 2022 Annual Report and fish catch information is disaggregated by sector (artisanal, semi-industrial and industrial) and fish products such as fish oils and fish meal are also included.

Information on imports of fish and fish products was published in the 2022 SFA Annual Report and provided information on both the value and quantity of imports. Information on fish exports was published in NBS' Merchandise Trade 2021 Q4 Statistical Bulletin, disaggregated by export destination but not by species.

Despite the absence of an up-to-date figure on total employment in the fisheries sector, several studies implemented in the last 5 years have provided increasingly more information on employment in specific sub-sectors. Four studies published in 2021 and 2022, provide some information on number of employees in specific sub-sectors and on wages in the fisheries sector:

- The Employment and Capacity Needs assessment study for the fisheries sector, published in 2021, provided information on the distribution of employees across different fisheries sub-sectors by gender and an estimation of full time and part-time workers in the fisheries sector. It provides the most comprehensive information on wages among fishers and non-fishers.
- The Baseline socioeconomic study of semi-industrial longline fleet, and the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and industry on the other hand, provided information on number of employees and wage estimates in these respective sub-sectors.
- The Assessment of the Economic and Social Importance of Seychelles' Sport and Recreational Fishery, published in 2022, provided an estimate of employment in the sport and recreational fishery.
- The Employment and Prospect in the Industrial tuna Fishery Sector of the Republic of Seychelles produced by the Blue Economy Department in 2018, is a comprehensive employment study of the industrial tuna fishery and established the number of employees in that fishery in 2018.
-

Information received from the International Trade Zone (ITZ) Section in the Financial Services Authority (FSA) provided up-to-date information on employment for fisheries and fisheries-related businesses operating in the ITZ, which is published in the detailed section of this report.



The MFBE confirmed during the 2021 FiTI Reporting process that there exist an informal fisheries sector, especially in the sports and recreational fishery, which is presently not regulated.



There is still no reliable figure on the total number of employees in the Seychelles fisheries sector in both the commercial and informal fisheries sectors.

The MFBE's pronouncement on the existence of an informal fisheries sector, made as part of the 2021 FiTI reporting process, has not been published on any government website.

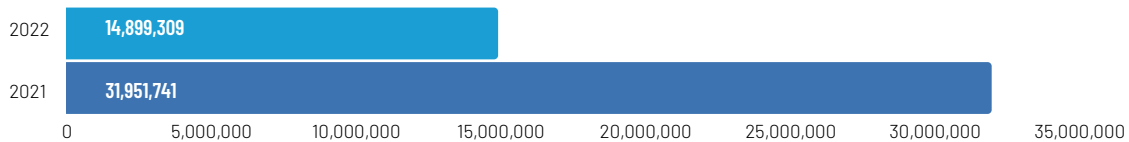


Fisheries Law Enforcement⁸

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2022

Financial and human resources deployed by the government to ensure compliance with national legislation

- This value includes the operational and staff budget for the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Division of SFA as well as funds provided to support MCS through the sectoral support of the EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement.
- Information from other relevant authorities is not available.



Movement restrictions during the period 2020 to 2022, as a result of COVID-19, badly affected MCS enforcement activities. Consequently, an extra SCR 6,027,726 was spent in the year 2021 to upgrade satellite-based digital monitoring platforms to compensate for the lack of human presence. In 2022, there was a 55% decrease in expenditure partly as a result of movement restrictions because of COVID.

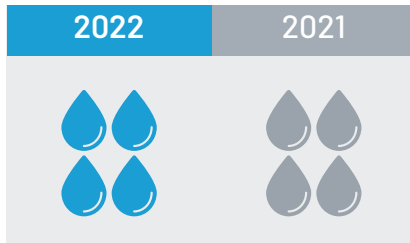
	2022		2021
Number of inspections of fishing vessels at sea and in ports	128	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The high number of in port inspections in 2021 was possible because COVID restrictions at the time meant that most of the work was concentrated in port. With the lifting of restrictions, the staff moved to other activities, leading to a drastic reduction in in-port inspections in 2022. 	1,146
Number of convictions for major offences in the fisheries sector	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Sri Lankan and 5 Indian vessels were apprehended for IUU fishing in 2022. The 5 Indian vessels were forfeited to the republic of Seychelles, the crew was repatriated to their country and the vessels sunk by the Seychelles Coast Guard. The Skipper of the Sri Lankan vessel was fined SCR400k, which he paid. 	3

⁸ Non-compliance with national fisheries laws is a major challenge to sustainability and equitability across the sector. While significant international attention has been given to combatting 'illegal, unreported and unregulated' (IUU) fishing, the implementation of effective national law enforcement activities in the fisheries sector, including on penalties and prosecutions, is an equally important aspect

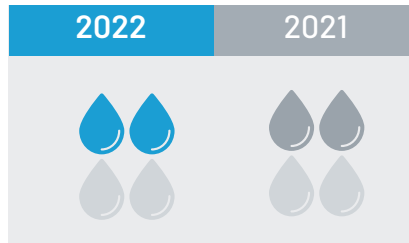


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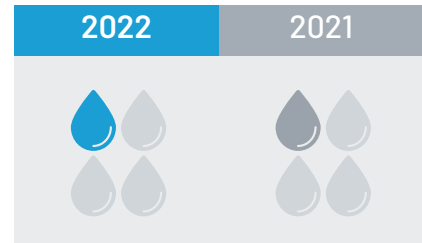
Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?



Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?



Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?



As part of the 2022 FITI Reporting process, SFA published on its website, an updated 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.

As detailed in Seychelles 2020 FITI Report, several compliance and policy instruments exist and are still available online which provide strategic directions guiding fisheries compliance.



The SFA has secured funding under the UNDP EcoFish Programme to complete the 'National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing', and write it into national policy.



There is no comprehensive report covering national activities and strategies for ensuring compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector with national legislation for 2022 or the previous FITI reporting periods. SFA has not indicated when this will be available although funding has been secured.



Labour Standards

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2022

The public authority responsible for monitoring and enforcing laws on labour standards in Seychelles is the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs (MESA). The Employment Act is not applicable to employees working in Seychelles International Trade Zone (ITZ), which is regulated under the ITZ (Employment Regulations) by the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

	2022		2021
Financial and human resources deployed by the government to enforce laws on labour standards in the fisheries sector	SCR 7,501,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 96% (SCR 7,231 million) went towards staff wages and salaries 15 inspectors of the MESA seek to enforce labour standards across all sectors of the economy, including fisheries. 2 employees in the International Trade Zone Section in the FSA are dedicated to enforcing labour matters within Seychelles ITZ. 	SCR 7,314,000
Number of offences committed by employers in the fisheries sector that have been resolved by the authorities	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 offences with MESA and 2 with FSA 	6 (3 offences with MESA and 3 with FSA)

TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?		Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?		Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?	
2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021



Labour Standards



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, has been published on the Employment Department's website.



The published 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 does not take into consideration the specific provisions covering ITZ employees, which, in the fisheries sector is important, because of the large fisheries and fisheries-related companies operating in the ITZ.

Work on the domestication of the ILO Convention on Work in Fishing has stalled because no Competent Authority is willing to lead the exercise.



Fisheries Subsidies⁹

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2022

	2022		2021
Total value of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector	SCR 50.1 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an underestimation given that it relates to information on ice and fuel subsidies only provided to the small-scale fisheries sector. This figure is made up of: Fuel subsidy: SCR 41.5 M, Ice subsidy: SCR 8.6M 	SCR 46.3 million
Value of fuel subsidies for large-scale fisheries:	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOFBE confirmed that there are no subsidies provided to Seychelles' large-scale fisheries sector. 	0
Value of fuel subsidies for small-scale fisheries	SCR 41.5 million Artisanal fishery- 26.3 million; Semi-industrial fishery- SCR 15.2 million		SCR 36.5 million Artisanal fishery- 24.9 million; Semi-industrial fishery- SCR 11.6 million

The total value of financial transfers for 2021 has been restated because updated values were obtained for the cost of electricity and water, whose tariffs increased in 2021.

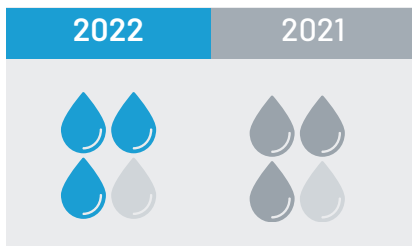
Additional information on fuel subsidies is provided in the Detailed Section.

⁹ Subsidies have become one of the most controversial subjects in debates on fisheries reforms. Perhaps more than any other single factor, subsidies are seen as the source of a range of problems, such as overfishing, illegal fishing and unfair benefit sharing.

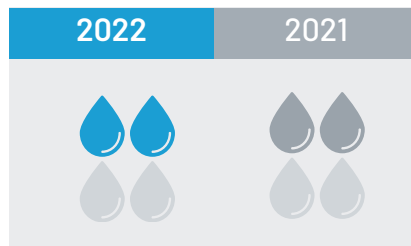


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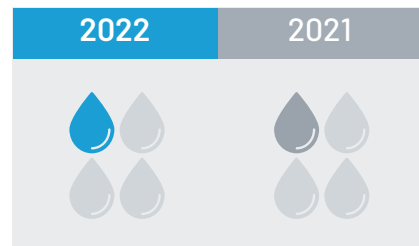
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During the 2021 FITI Reporting process, the MFBE confirmed that there are no subsidies provided to Seychelles' large-scale fisheries sector.

Published Information on fuel subsidies provided to the small-scale fisheries sector in 2022 was partially disaggregated and information allows identification of the value of fuel subsidies provided to the artisanal fishery sector as distinct from the semi-industrial fishery sector.

The 2017 report on the review of subsidies provided to the artisanal fisheries sector, published on SFA's website as part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process, is still available.



In 2022, the MFBE commissioned a study of public sector support to the Seychelles fisheries sector with its main objective being the identification of all types of public sector support and its value to the fisheries sector. This study should provide information on subsidies in other sub-sectors and not only artisanal fisheries and will also quantify the value of other programs in addition to subsidized fuel and ice.



As noted in Seychelles' previous FITI Reports, published information on subsidies is limited to support given to the artisanal fisheries and then include only fuel and ice subsidies and continues to fall short of national information requirements (e.g. the Access to Information Act), policy objectives (e.g. reducing subsidies dependency) as well as international expectations.

There is no published statement on a government website to confirm the absence of subsidies to the large-scale fisheries sector.

Despite disaggregation of fuel subsidies to the small-scale fisheries sector, there is no disaggregation of subsidies given to the semi-industrial sub-sector to show specifically fuel subsidies enjoyed by the sea cucumber fishery.



Official Development Assistance (ODA)

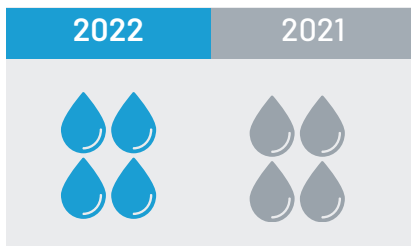
KEY INFORMATION FOR 2022

	2022	2021
Number of public sector projects related to fisheries	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWIOFISH3 (financed by World Bank) • Extension of the Providence Fishing Port (financed by the Government of Japan) • Support for business development and investment opportunities in fisheries (Financed by FAO) • Organisation of BlueInvest in Seychelles (Financed by European Commission – Directorate General for International Partnerships (INTPA)) • Countering Illegal Fishing Transshipments in African Small Island Developing States (Financed by USAID) 	2
Number of public sector projects related to marine conservation	Unknown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This information is not collated except for projects funded by GEF. SFA has compiled a list of all projects it is implementing. 	Unknown
Number of corresponding evaluations of these public sector projects	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term review of the SWIOFISH 3 project undertaken in 2021 	1

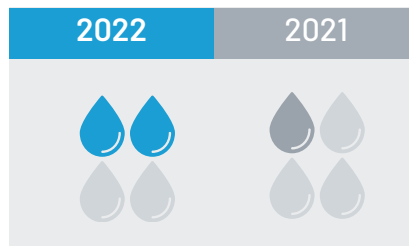


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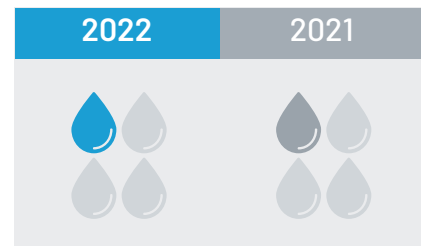
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The list of donor-funded, fisheries and marine conservation projects being implemented by SFA and published on its website as part of the 2021 FiTI reporting process, has been updated to reflect projects active in 2022.

The mid-term review (MTR) of its strategy 2018-2022 commissioned by SeyCCAT and published on its website in 2021, is still available.

Marine conservation and fisheries related projects, funded by SeyCCAT, which were active in 2022, have been published in annex C in this FiTI report. SeyCCAT being a public-private trust, its funding comes from a mixture of ODA and GOS and therefore does not represent ODA in the strictest sense. However, the information contributes to understanding the breadth of projects being implemented with outside assistance.

A mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the SWIOFish3 project, done in 2021.



SeyCCAT commissioned impact evaluation of projects it funded between 2015 and 2020 but the results have not yet been published. All SeyCCAT grantees must include a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) component.



Both the SWIOFish3 and the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU)'s websites were off-line during this FiTI reporting process. Project information usually available on their websites was not accessible during that time.

There is no central repository for information on fisheries and marine conservation-related public sector projects being implemented in Seychelles.



Beneficial Ownership¹⁰

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2022

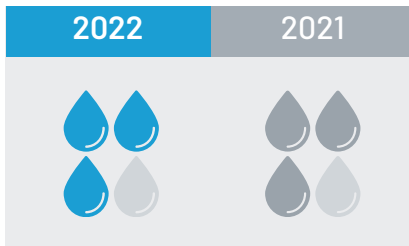
	2022		2021
Legal basis for beneficial ownership transparency	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficial Ownership Act (2020) Beneficial Ownership Regulations (2020) 	Yes
Rules and procedures for incorporating beneficial ownership in filings by agencies regulating access to fisheries	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries businesses whose legal structures are registered in Seychelles have to provide beneficial ownership information as per the requirements of the Beneficial Ownership Act (2020). 	Yes
Availability of a public register of beneficial owners	Partially	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficial ownership information for information for vessels and businesses in small scale fisheries is published with online license information. The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) maintains a central register of beneficial owners, but it is not public. 	No

¹⁰ A beneficial owner is the natural person who ultimately owns or controls a business or transaction. In fisheries, the demand for beneficial ownership transparency is linked to a range of policy concerns. Perhaps this is most notable in terms of the fight against illegal fishing and corruption, but it also includes efforts to expose the extent of tax evasion, economic concentration and foreign ownership in the sector.

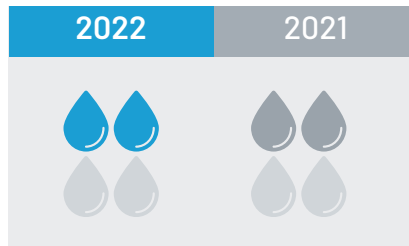


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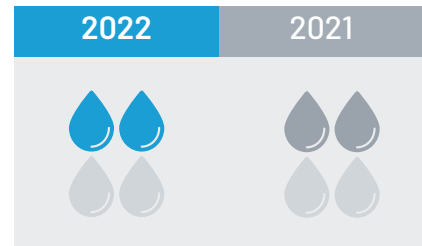
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SFA has updated application forms to capture beneficial ownership information in line with the Fisheries Act (2014). The 2022 license information for small scale fisheries contains information on beneficial owners, and it is published on the SFA website.

In 2022, SFA signed an MOU with FIU to allow the former to access beneficial ownership information on the central register of businesses in the fisheries sector.

The MFBE has started the process to develop a legal framework for Joint Ventures and to undertake a Gap-analysis of Beneficial Ownership for the Fisheries Sector. The results will inform policies to address disclosure requirements in regards to beneficial ownership in the sector and the introduction of a regulatory framework for joint ventures.



Since 2021, the Financial Intelligence Unit has populated a central register of beneficial owners for all local businesses registered as legal arrangements or legal persons, which is kept updated by local agents.



SFA has long been required by Section 8(2)(r) of the Fisheries Act to keep records of beneficial owners as part of its records on fishing vessels, but this has not been systematically enforced.

Despite signing an MOU with FIU, there is no policy framework in place to guide SFA's access to and retrieval of beneficial ownership information from the central register of beneficial owners.

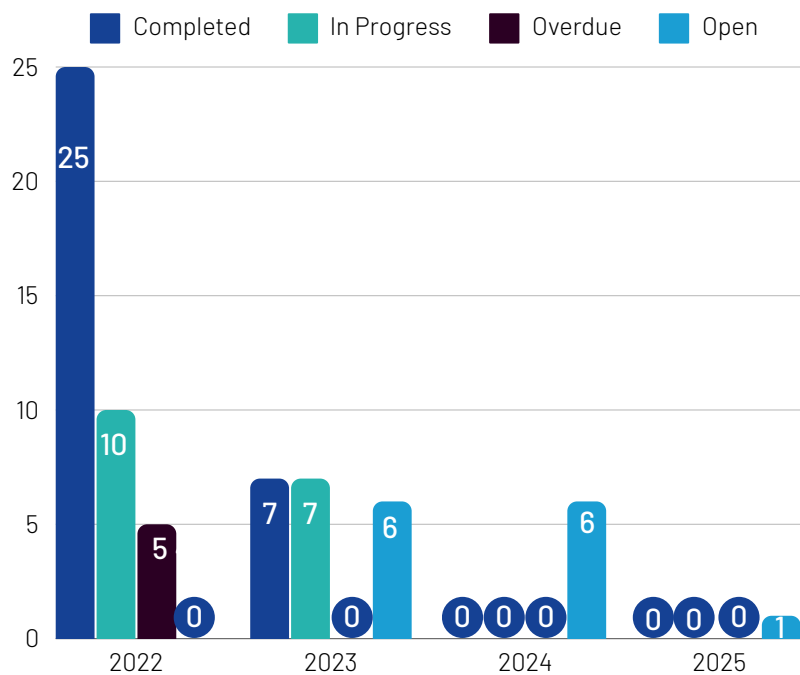
Progress

in implementing past recommendations

The objective of the FiTI is to support countries to progressively improve levels of transparency across their marine fisheries sector. In other words, the FiTI does not expect countries to have complete data for each of the FiTI Standard's 12 transparency requirements from the outset. Instead, national authorities must disclose the information they have, and where important gaps exist, demonstrate improvements over time.

Wherever such information gaps exist, the National MSG is responsible for jointly agreeing upon recommendations to address them. Monitoring the implementation of the recommendations it issues to the Seychelles' government stands out as a core function of Seychelles' National MSG.

The Seychelles' National MSG determined 34, 23 and 12 recommendations in its 2019, 2020 and 2021 FiTI Report respectively, aiming to further strengthen the country's leadership in fisheries transparency. Two recommendations from the 2019 report were cancelled as they could not be implemented as presented. The current implementation status (as of December 2022) of the remaining recommendations is as follows:



A total of 32 recommendations have already been fully implemented by Seychelles' national authorities between the launch of the country's 2019 and 2022 FiTI Reports (February 2020–April 2024). In addition, the implementation of seventeen other recommendations is currently in progress.

An in-depth overview of the implementation status of all recommendations from Seychelles' 2019, 2020 and 2021 FiTI Reports can be found in Appendix D of the Detailed Section of this report.

A vertical photograph on the left side of the page shows an underwater scene. The water is clear and blue, with ripples on the surface. Several fish, likely sea bream, are visible swimming in the water. The lighting is bright, creating a sense of depth and clarity.

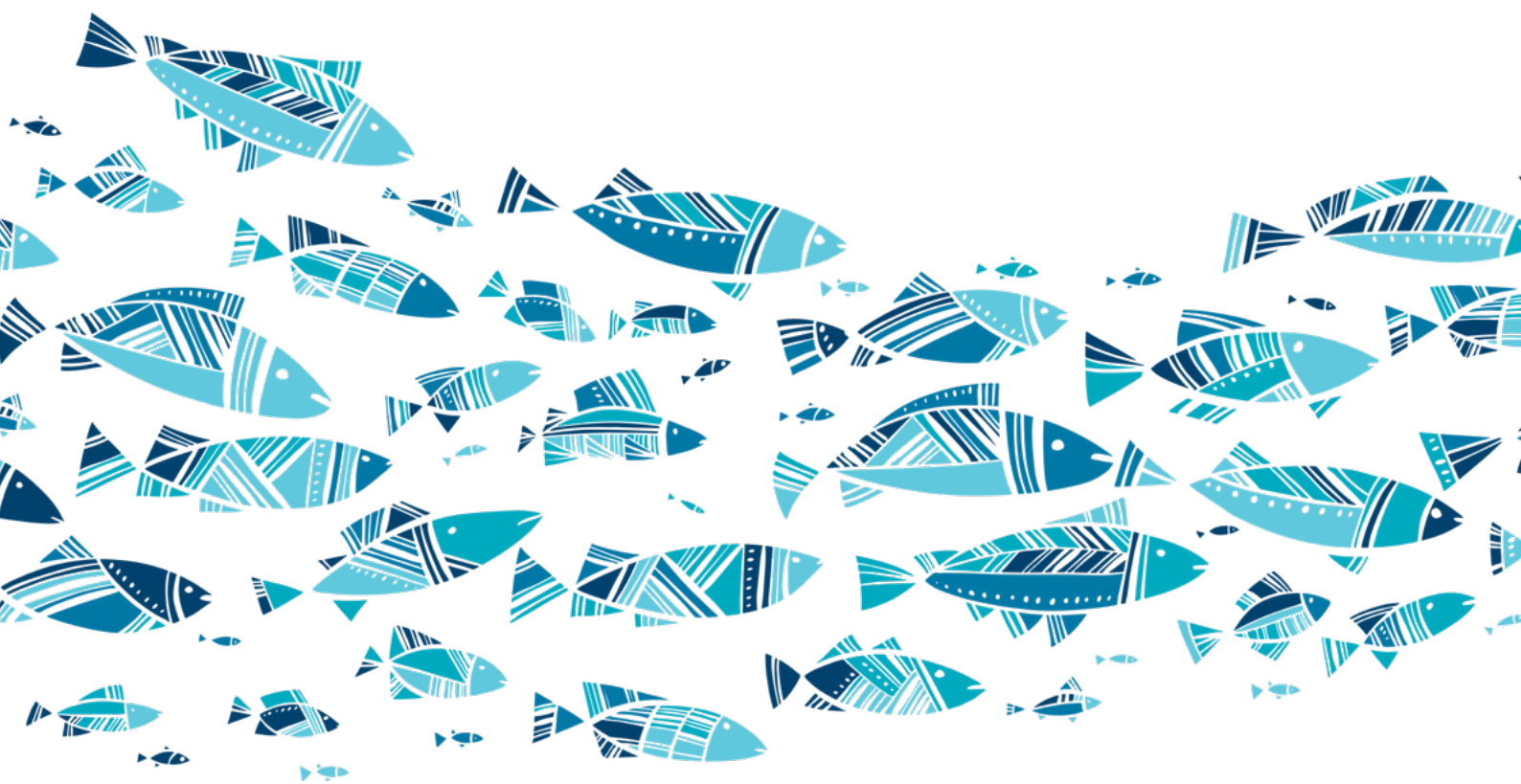
Annex

In order to facilitate the understanding and usage of this report, the National MSG seeks to emphasise the following core characteristics:

- **Public disclosure of information cannot be directly equated to actual progress towards sustainable management of fisheries.** In other words, poor levels of transparency may not be a sign of wrongdoing, but they rather highlight a potential opportunity to enhance disclosure to stakeholders. Likewise, high levels of public access to information illustrate strong disclosure systems, but this may not reflect operational and implementation success regarding the sustainability of marine fisheries. Consequently, Seychelles' annual FiTI Reports are not an end in themselves. Instead, they are an opportunity to take stock of current disclosure practices against an internationally recognised transparency framework, with a view to starting a conversation with all relevant stakeholders in Seychelles' fisheries sector.
- **This report does not highlight mistakes or weaknesses in decision-making, nor bad fishing practices.** It does, however, offer an important means to raise levels of openness and public access to information which can support all stakeholders in maintaining or achieving robust democratic governance and accountability within Seychelles' fisheries sector.
- **This report does not substitute or duplicate existing efforts by national authorities, such as the Seychelles Fishing Authority's Annual Report or its statistical bulletins.** Instead, the FiTI emphasises the need for national authorities to develop and strengthen their own systems for collating and publishing information online in a complete and accessible manner. The focus is therefore on summarising the status and levels of transparency around core aspects of Seychelles' marine fisheries sector.
- **Ultimately, the impact of these annual FiTI Reports does not lie in the act of publishing information.** The reports rely on how such information is used and on the willingness of decision-makers to listen to the ideas and concerns of stakeholders on how marine fisheries should be managed. The National MSG therefore welcomes the fact Seychelles' commitment to the FiTI is also anchored in its wider commitment to open governments, highlighted in particular via the country's national action plan to the Open Government Partnership.

In addition to this '2022 Summary' the FiTI National MSG has also compiled a '2022 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 2022 which has only been published as part of this FiTI Report.

Both sections (i.e. Summary and Detailed) are available for download on the websites of the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy as well as the Seychelles Fishing Authority.





2022 SUMMARY SECTION

Seychelles' Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

