



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

Seychelles'

Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

2020 SUMMARY

Release date: 15th December 2021



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 Seychelles¹.

Government Representatives	Business Representatives	Civil Society Representatives
Mr Roy Clarisse Honorable Chantal Ghislain Mr Philippe Michaud ² Honorable Philip Monthy	Mr Keith Andre Mr David Bentley Mr Selwyn Edmond Mr Darrell Green	Mr Cyril Bonnelame Ms Gabriella Gonthier Mr Grant Heyer Dr Marie-Thérèse Purvis

This 2020 FiTI Report was prepared by [Mr Jude Bijoux](#) from September – December 2021. Mr Bijoux was appointed by Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group as the Report Compiler for the 2020 FiTI reporting process. The report was approved by [Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group](#) on 6th December 2021.

This is Seychelles' second report to the FiTI, covering information relevant for the calendar year 2020. This report, hereafter referred to as Seychelles' 2020 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 Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (SWIOFish3) through a Global Environment Facility grant (TF-A5293) administered by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

1 The composition of the group remained identical to the Seychelles' last FiTI reporting period (calendar year 2019).

2 Chair of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group



Table of Contents

1	Abbreviations
2	Foreword
4	Introduction
6	Summary
8	Public Registry of National Fisheries Laws, Regulations and Official Policy Documents
10	Fisheries Tenure Arrangements
12	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements
14	The State of the Fisheries Resources
17	Large-Scale Fisheries
28	Small-Scale Fisheries
32	Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade
35	Fisheries Law Enforcement
37	Labour Standards
38	Fisheries Subsidies
40	Official Development Assistance (ODA)
42	Beneficial Ownership
44	Progress in implementing past recommendations
45	Annex

Abbreviations

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

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

FCP: Fisheries Comprehensive Plan

FINSS: Financial SaaS Solutions

FiTI: Fisheries Transparency Initiative

FIU: Financial Intelligence Unit

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

IOT: Indian Ocean Tuna Limited

IOTC: Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

MCS: Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

MESA: Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs

MOFBE: Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy

MSG: Multi-Stakeholder Group

MSY: Maximum Sustainable Yield

Mt: Metric tonnes

NAS: National Assembly of Seychelles

NBS: National Bureau of Statistics

NRT: Net registered tonnage

ODA: Official Development Assistance

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

POC: Province of China

SCR: Seychellois Rupee

SEYLII: Seychelles Legal Information Institute

SFA: Seychelles Fishing Authority

TAC: Total Allowable Catch

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

VAT: Value Added Tax

Foreword

The thoroughly positive reaction from both the local and international community to Seychelles' first report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) has been of great encouragement to our country's FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group.

I can safely say that the report has also enhanced Seychelles' credibility as a responsible fishing nation – such a worthy achievement must now be maintained and improved upon even further.

What is interesting is that the process of regularly reporting to the FiTI is helping to bring into focus the importance of improving the quality of information held internally by the government, as not every dataset that is available to our public authorities is complete enough to be published directly online. But with the FiTI 'pushing' for more data quality, the authorities can now more easily fulfil regular reporting obligations (such as those to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission) as well as better respond to ad-hoc inquiries from ordinary citizens.

I would like to point out that the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) has played a tremendous role in addressing issues around data gaps and data quality during this FiTI reporting cycle, and has equally taken huge steps in publishing the information it produces online so that all concerned stakeholders can better inform themselves of the fisheries issues relating to our country. I thank them for their dedication.

The hard work that went into compiling this 2020 FiTI Report – and the internal discussions it has already sparked – clearly show there is a growing interest from all sectors of society to resume ownership of our common resource. It has also highlighted certain gaps which exist and certain areas to which more attention should be afforded, such as beneficial ownership, subsidies, and data reporting – especially from the industrial longliners fishing in our waters.



Assessing transparency of government information tells us what is published and what is not, and also helps us understand gaps where information has not yet been collated by the government at all. This is a crucial first step, though one whose importance is not always immediately obvious. For example, raw catch data or the statistics found in a vessel registry do not tell us anything particularly interesting in themselves. It is how such information is used that makes all the difference. Ultimately, most people are not interested in reading catch data – they are concerned about whether fishing levels are sustainable or not. It is therefore hoped that the 2020 FiTI Report will support the effective implementation of the Mahé Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co-Management Plan, an important new management plan being implemented in Seychelles to achieve sustainability in the sector. By contributing to an improved understanding of our fisheries sector, the FiTI should enable us all to adopt the right attitudes and take positive measures. More transparency will help in terms of answering the ‘real’ big questions.

It is, however, true that much remains to be done to encourage stakeholders to become more familiar and engaged with the various areas of our fisheries industry. There are insufficient public debates around the sector as a whole, partly because of a lack of information on issues like the state of demersal stocks or the socio-economic importance of fisheries, but also because associations of fishers and fish processors are often poorly organised and so struggle to make their voices heard.

In any case, I am convinced we are on the right path, and that the FiTI process will greatly contribute towards improving good governance of the sector and making it even more vibrant and prosperous than it is today.

Finally, I wish to thank all those who have contributed towards the preparation of this report on time.

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

Introduction



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

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 healthy 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 455 km², 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 its two main pillars of the 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 prioritised the nationalising 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 corner-stone 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 Roadmap' (2018-2030).

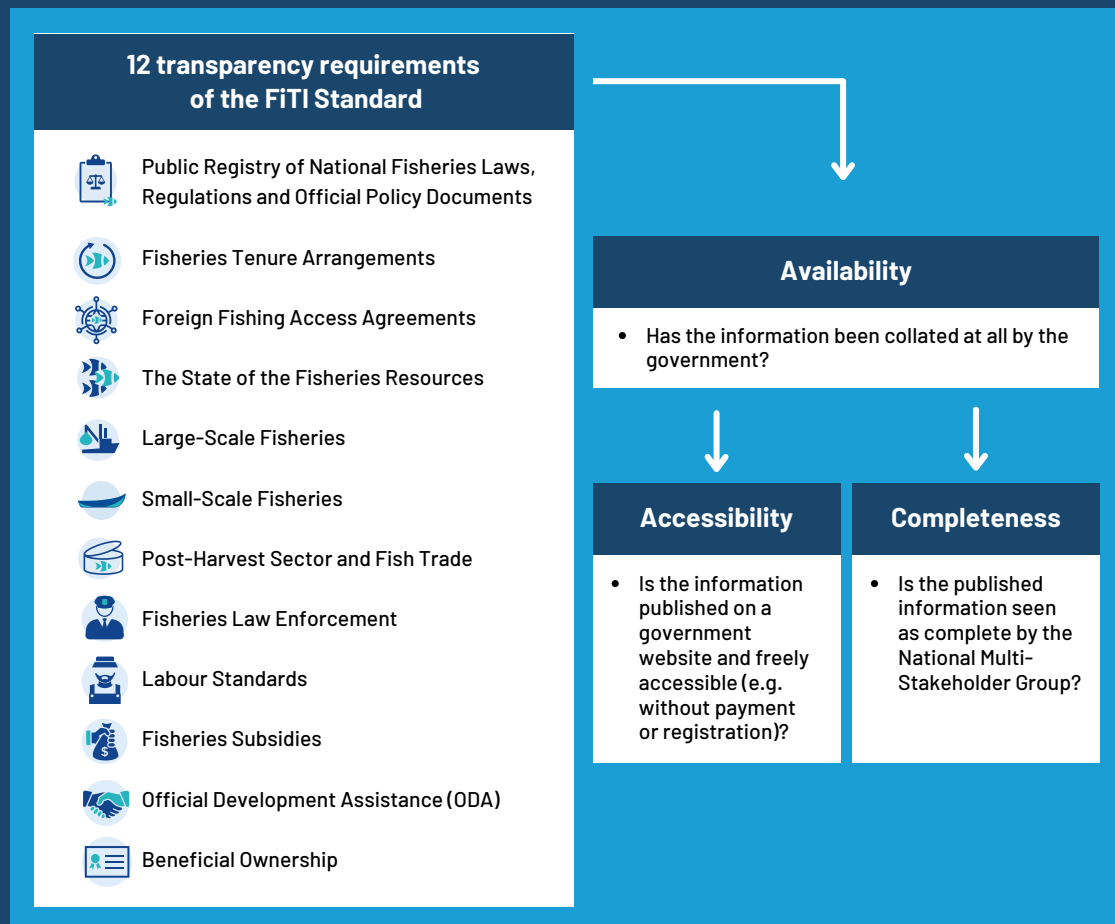
The purpose of this report is fourfold:

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.³



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.

³ 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

“ Through the FiTI, we are shifting from a reactive model – where businesses or citizens have to come forward and ask for information – to a proactive approach, where government information is already published online.

This 2020 reporting period has also triggered a significant push for more data quality, increasing the ability of our government to make evidence-based policy recommendations and to instill credibility in published information. Trust in what the government is publishing is highly important, as rumours and suspicion often grow in the vacuum of verifiable information. Through the FiTI, we are in the process of making the Seychelles’ fisheries one of the most transparent in the world. ”

–Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group



Guided by the 12 requirements of the FiTI Standard, the MOFBE and the SFA have made significant progress in terms of increasing the public availability of information on Seychelles’ fisheries sector (e.g. via government websites).

A range of information which was either not published at all or only published in Seychelles’ 2019 FiTI Report (as an interim measure) is now publicly accessible on government websites, including:

- All laws, regulations, policy documents and management plans directly relating to or more broadly concerning the fisheries sector.
- The major international fisheries treaties to which Seychelles is a party.
- A summary of fisheries tenure arrangements for each of Seychelles’ fisheries – in an easy-to-comprehend FAQ format.
- All foreign fishing access agreements not containing confidentiality clauses.
- All evaluations of fishing agreements undertaken over the past two years.
- A summary of the status of fish stocks in Seychelles and a schedule of future stock assessments up to the year 2024.
- A large-scale vessel registry and the names of licence holders for all categories of fisheries licences.
- Licence payment details for all large-scale fisheries vessels.

Furthermore, as part of this 2020 FITI Report (in Annex C of the Detailed Section), a range of previously unpublished information is now publicly available, including:

- Updated data of 2019 recorded catches and fishing effort from the industrial longline fishery.
- Catch and landing data from the sea cucumber and lobster fishery for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons .
- A list of vessels apprehended for IUU fishing in Seychelles' EEZ in 2020, along with the outcome of relevant court cases.
- A list of ODA-funded projects relating to marine conservation being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment in 2020, including information on any evaluations undertaken or planned.
- The total value of fuel and ice subsidies provided to the small-scale fisheries sector in 2020.
- The fishing licence payments made by small-scale fishing vessels.



However, information required by the FITI Standard on several important fisheries issues is still not published – neither on a government website nor as part of this FITI Report – or, if published, is seen as significantly incomplete. This impacts the ability of decision-makers and the general public to understand how specific fisheries management decisions are affecting the overall sustainability of Seychelles' fisheries sector. These include:

- The procedures for applying to participate in the sea cucumber fishery.
- The publication of two private foreign fishing access agreements, due to confidentiality provisions.
- Incomplete catch, landing, transshipment, discards and fishing effort data for the industrial longline for the year 2020.
- An official statement on whether an informal fisheries sector exists in Seychelles.
- Information on the provision of subsidies to Seychelles' large-scale fisheries sector, if any.
- 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).

As part of this 2020 FITI Report, the National MSG identified a variety of reasons explaining weaknesses in the above information, and made clear recommendations to the Seychelles' government to strengthen transparency in these areas.



In 2020, Seychelles passed laws and regulations for mandatory recording of beneficial ownership, thereby legally requiring Seychelles-registered companies involved in the fisheries sector to declare such information to national authorities.



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

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2020

	2020		2019
Major marine fisheries laws and regulations in Seychelles	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries Act (2014) Fisheries Regulations (1987) 	2
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?	
2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019

KEY Yes To a large extent Partially To a limited extent No



During the 2020 FiTI reporting process, the website of the MOFBE came online. Through this website, PDF copies of all primary fisheries laws and regulations and other laws and regulations related to or having an impact on fisheries have been published⁴. The main fisheries laws and regulations have also been published on the SFA website⁵.

In addition, all laws and regulations concerning fisheries must be published in the Official Gazette⁶.

Via their respective websites, both the MOFBE and SFA have published PDF copies of all relevant fisheries policies and strategy documents.

As part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process, the MOFBE has published on its website PDF copies of the main international treaties, policy instruments and best practices Seychelles is signatory to or adhering to⁷ – even though this is not a requirement of the FiTI Standard.

4 <http://www.mofbe.gov.sc/fisheries-legislations-and-regulations/>

5 <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-legislation-other-fisheries-related-documents>

6 <https://www.gazette.sc>

7 <http://www.mofbe.gov.sc/resources>

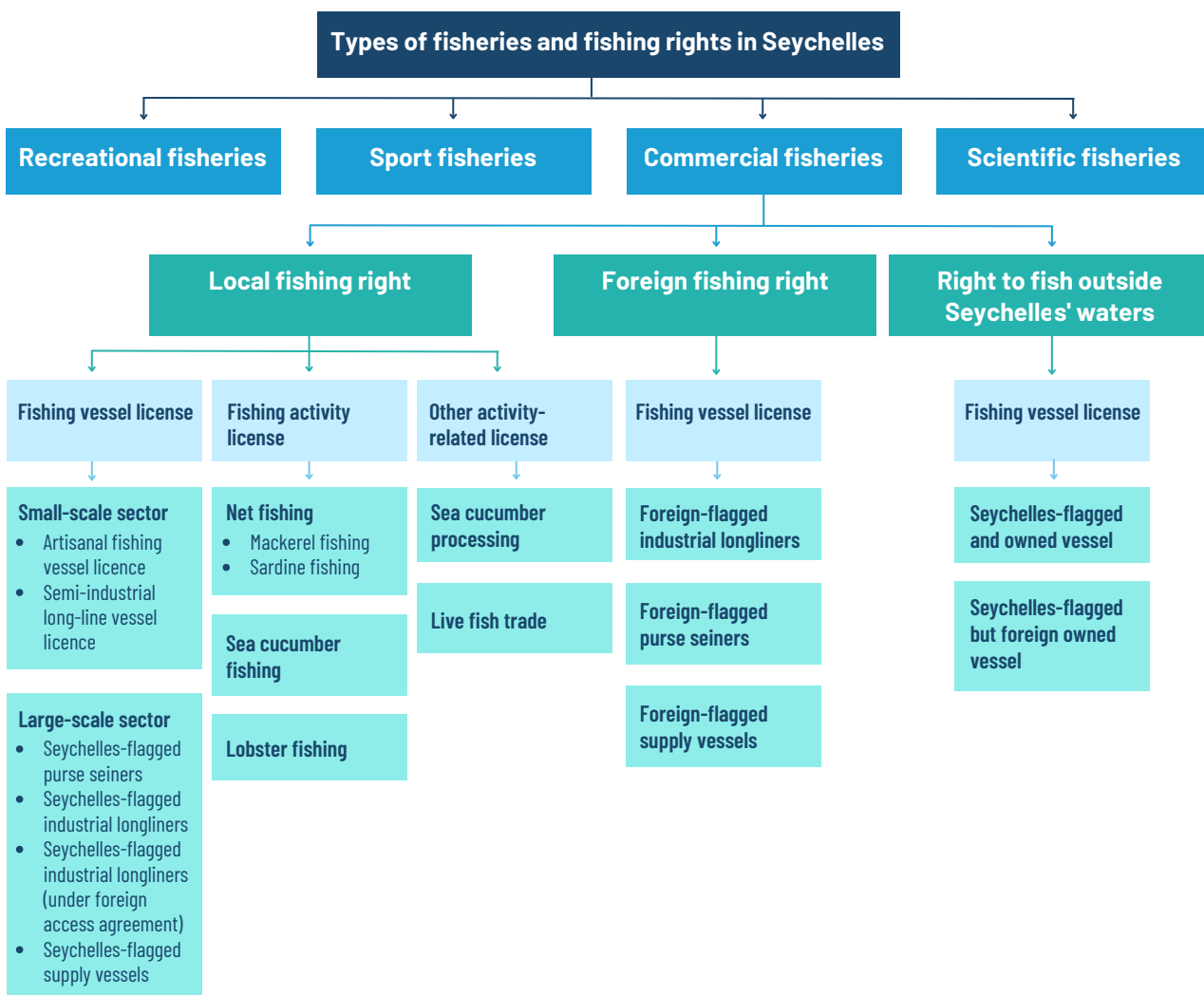


Fisheries Tenure Arrangements⁸

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2020

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

Furthermore, the application procedures for fishing permits and authorisations have been partially updated for the small-scale sector and are summarised in the Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (2019). Between calendar year 2019 and 2020, no changes occurred in the types of fisheries and fishing rights that exist in Seychelles.



⁸ 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?	
2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019



As part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process, SFA has published on its website an intuitive FAQ on fisheries tenure arrangements for all fisheries in Seychelles⁹. The FAQ is based on the summary description of these arrangements that was compiled by the National MSG as part of the 2019 FiTI Report. The FAQ covers issues including permits/authorizations/fishing rights, fees, permit durations, transferability and divisibility of permits, allowable gears, catch limits, reporting requirements, targeted species and the right to sell catches.

As part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process, SFA has published on its website all licences issued for engaging in different fisheries, including the small-scale¹⁰ and large-scale fisheries¹¹.



SFA has published on its website the application form for the issuing of Certificates of Authorisation for Seychelles flagged-vessels to fish in third country waters or on the High Seas. The application form contains conditions for this authorisation but neither the reporting requirements nor provisions for terminating such authorisations.



There is still opacity around the exact procedures to be followed by those wishing to participate in Seychelles' sea cucumber fishery.

9 <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/faqs>

10 <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/small-scale-fisheries-licences/summary/54-small-scale-fisheries-licences/152-small-scale-fisheries-licences-2020>

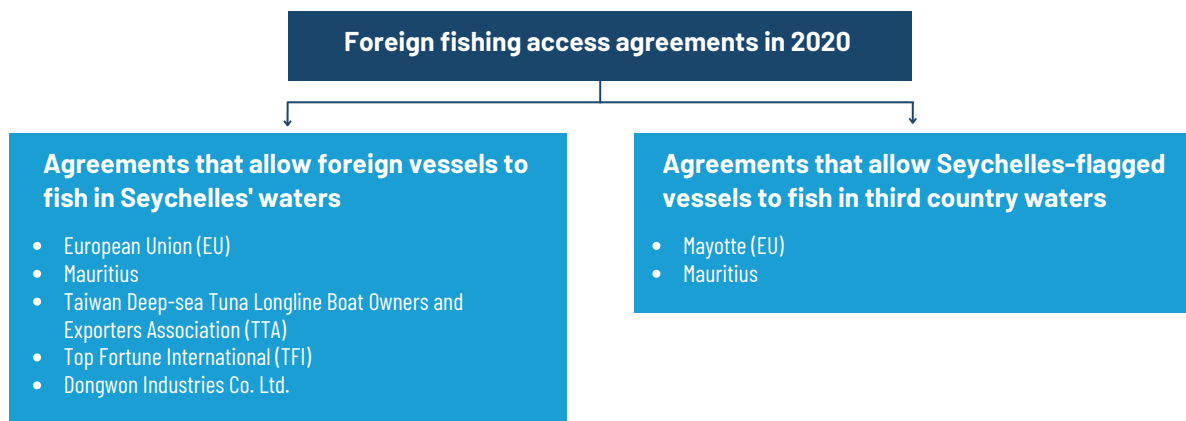
11 <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/large-scale-fisheries-licence/summary/59-large-scale-fisheries-licence/162-industrial>



Foreign Fishing Access Agreements¹²

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2020

	2020		2019
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	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All are related to the access agreement with the EU 	1



¹² 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?	
2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
					Unknown



SFA has published on its website the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between Seychelles and the European Union (EU) for the 2020-2026 period, as well as the agreement between Seychelles and the EU providing Seychelles-flagged vessels access to the waters and marine biological resources of Mayotte.¹³

Both evaluations commissioned by SFA and undertaken in 2020 as part of the EU-Seychelles agreement have been published on the SFA website, along with the *ex-ante* and *post-ante* evaluation of the same agreement commissioned by the EU¹⁴.



The agreements with: i) Top Fortune International (TFI) and ii) Taiwan Deep-sea Tuna Longline Boat Owners and Exporters Association (TTA) that respectively allow Chinese and Taiwanese (POC) industrial longliners to fish in Seychelles' waters have not been published by the Seychelles' government due to confidentiality clauses.¹⁵ This lack of information continues to prevent an objective comparison of the value and impact of all foreign fishing access agreements signed by Seychelles.

There is still no written agreement (i.e. contract) between Seychelles and Dongwon Industries Co. Ltd.¹⁶ The MOFBE is yet to issue a timeframe as to when this agreement will be formalized in writing.

¹³ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/57-eu-sey-fishing-agreement>

¹⁴ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/22-eu-sey-performance-audit>

¹⁵ The Government of Seychelles has pledged that future fishing agreements will not contain confidentiality clauses restricting their publication (or the publication of their protocols).

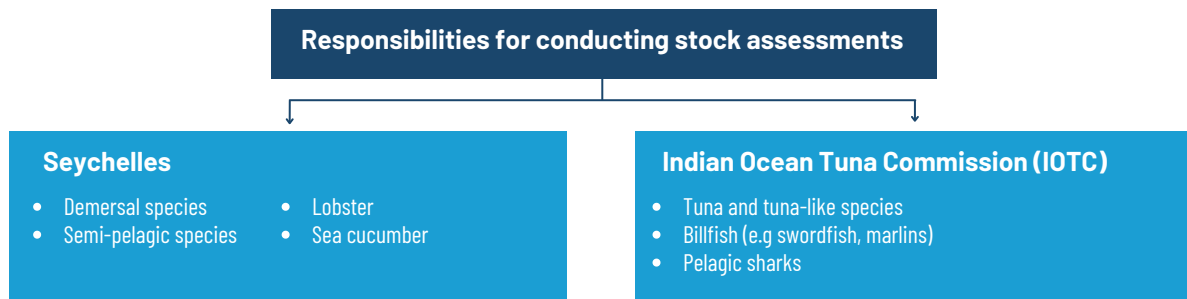
¹⁶ It is noted that section 11(4)(b) of the Fisheries Act allows for fishing in Seychelles' waters without an agreement: 'A licence under subsection (3) shall (a) be granted on payment of such fee as provided for in an international agreement under section 12; or (b) in the absence of an agreement under section 12, be granted on payment of the prescribed fee.'



The State of the Fisheries Resources

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2020

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.



	2020		2019
Stock assessments published by national authorities in Seychelles	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobster Survey Report 2020 	1
Species groups with stock status information (up to 2020)	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [For a complete listing, please refer to section 2.4 of the Detailed Section of this report] 	18



Stock status (biomass)¹⁷

Not overfished



Overfished



Uncertain



Fishing pressure¹⁸

Not subject to overfishing



Subject to overfishing



Uncertain



¹⁷ **Stock status** indicates whether the biomass in 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).

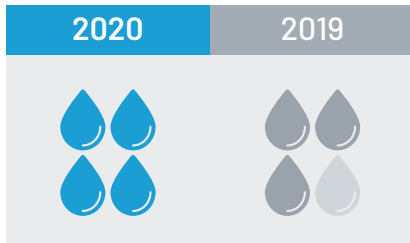
Overfished indicates that the biomass is below the level able to support the MSY. Vice versa, *not overfished* indicates the stock biomass is at a level capable of sustaining the MSY.

¹⁸ **Level of 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.

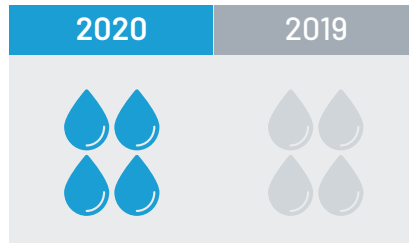


TRANSPARENCY STATUS

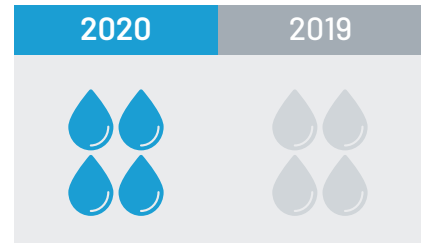
Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?



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 over the last five years are now publicly available on the SFA website.¹⁹

As part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process, through its website SFA has summarised and published stock status information (up to the year 2020) for species falling under both the management mandate of the Seychelles' government and that of the IOTC²⁰.

As part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process, SFA has published planned stock assessment programmes up to the year 2024 on its website²¹.



A comprehensive national report on the overall status of fish stocks in Seychelles has not been compiled to date.

19 <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/43-stock-assessment-reports>

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

21 <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/fisheries/state-of-the-fisheries-resources/state-of-the-fisheries-resources-2?task=download.send&id=161&catid=58&m=0>



Large-Scale Fisheries

WHO IS ALLOWED TO FISH?

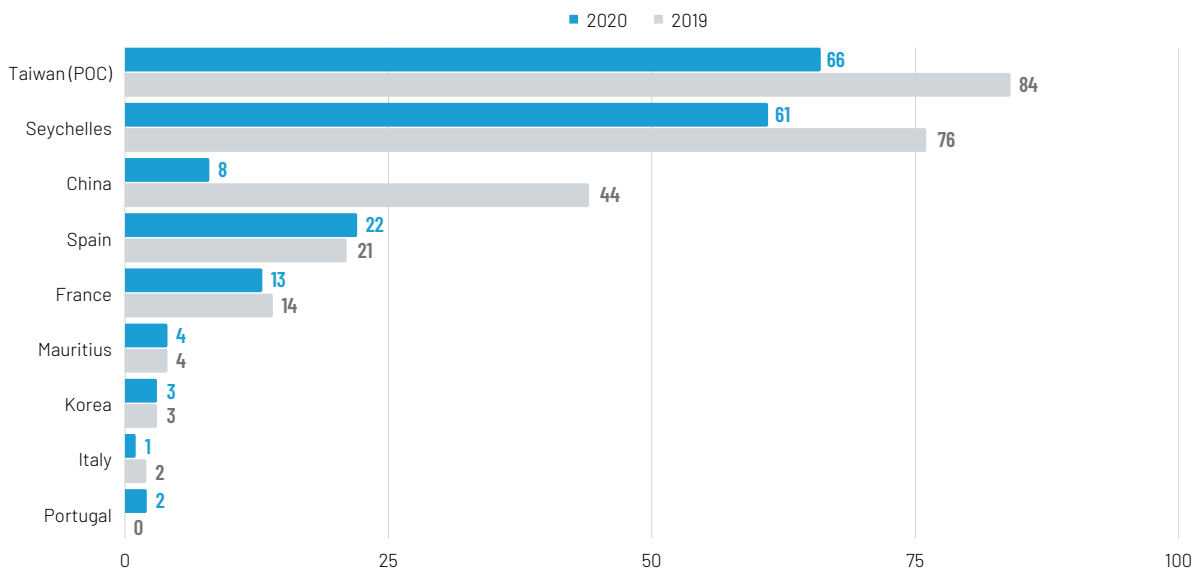
KEY INFORMATION FOR 2020

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

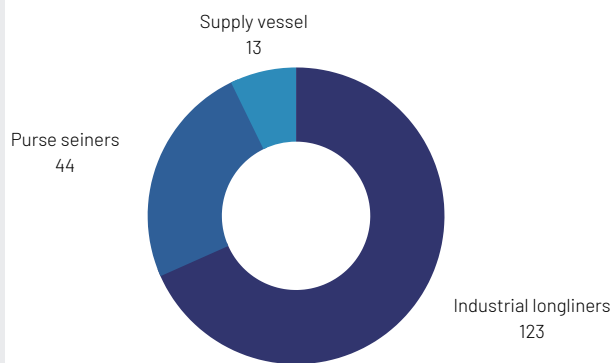
2020 180

2019 248

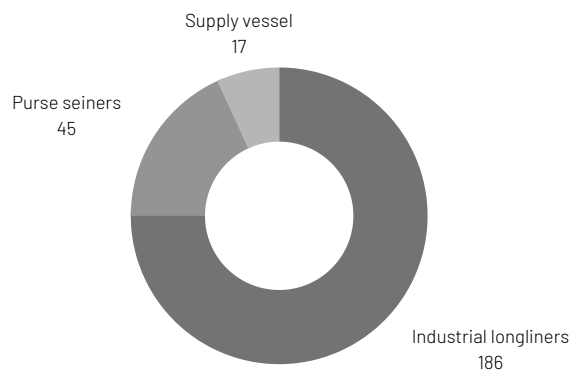
Disaggregated according to flag State



Disaggregated according to vessel type (2020)



Disaggregated according to vessel type (2019)





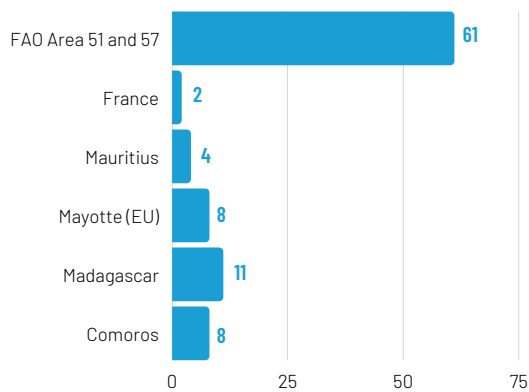
Large-Scale Fisheries

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

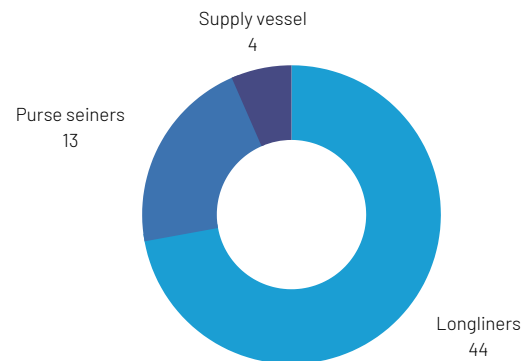
2020 61

2019 76

Disaggregated according to third countries/areas (2020)



Disaggregated according to vessel type (2020)



TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?

2020



2019



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

2020



2019



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

2020



2019





Large-Scale Fisheries



SFA collates information about large-scale vessels and lists them in an internal vessel record. This vessel registry has been published online by SFA as an Excel file as part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process²².

The assessment of SFA's internal vessel records, conducted as part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process, showed that all 180 vessels that were licenced in 2020 had been entered into said records.



For certain vessels, the 14 vessel attributes required by the FiTI Standard are not met meaning there are gaps in the data available in the published vessel registry.

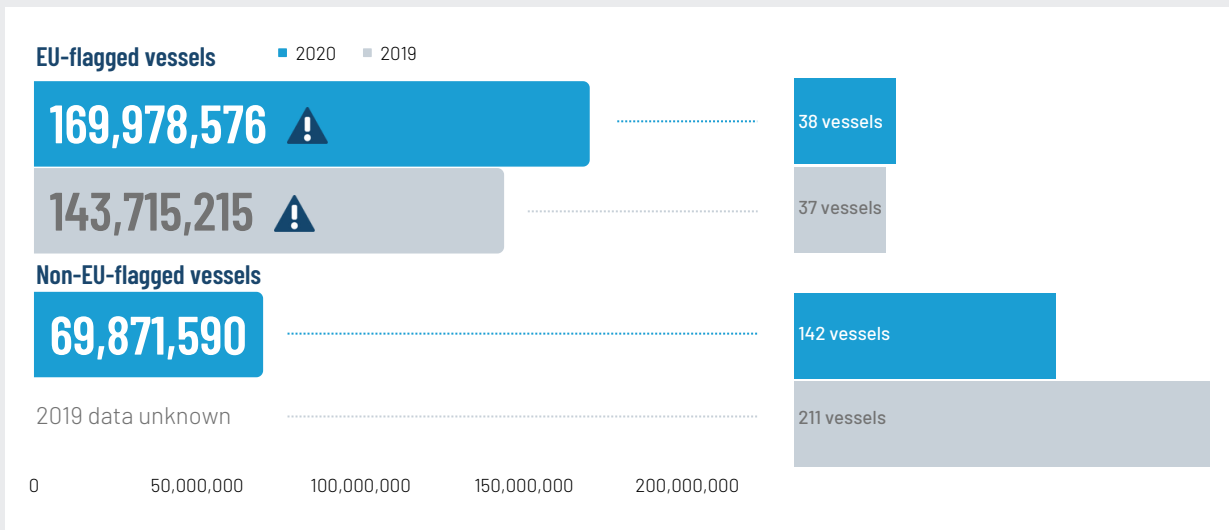
22 <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/large-scale-fisheries-licence/summary/59-large-scale-fisheries-licence/162-industrial>



HOW MUCH IS PAID FOR THE RIGHT TO FISH?

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2020

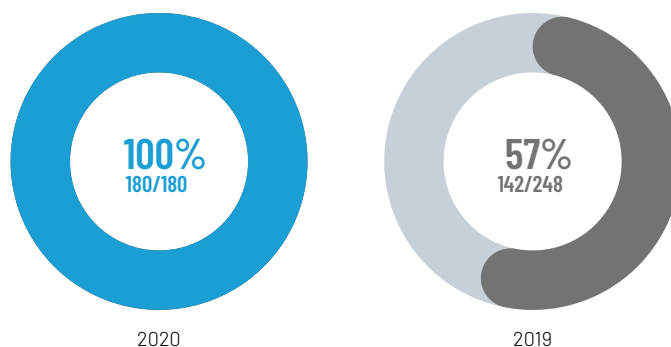
Payments from large-scale vessels authorised to fish in Seychelles' waters (in SCR)



Payments for EU-flagged vessels consists of several categories, 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 relates solely to fishing licences in Seychelles' waters. No payment information for 2019 from these vessels was provided to the National MSG.

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





Data breakdown: EU-flagged vessels (in SCR)

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



In 2020, the European Union paid Seychelles EUR 2.8 million to support the implementation of the country's sectoral fisheries and maritime policies. In 2019, this annual payment was the equivalent of EUR 2.5 million. All EU payments are made in Euros and are converted in SCR the day of the payment (reflected in the SFA's account).

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



In 2020, 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 annual sum shown for 2019 is also equivalent to EUR 2.5 million (but up to 46 vessels, as outlined under the EU/Seychelles SFPA (2014-2020)).

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



The payment values for 2020 correspond to a total of 38 fishing vessels, thereof 26 purse seiners, 5 longliners and 7 supply vessels. The payment values for 2019 are shown as unknown, as only incomplete payment information has been made available to the National MSG by SFA.

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



excess catch payments cannot be published on a per vessel basis, due to a confidentiality clause in the EU/Seychelles SFPA: "The Parties shall ensure that only aggregated data related to fishing activities in the Seychelles fishing zone shall be made available to the public domain."

It is noted 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. However,

The value for 2020 must be seen as incomplete, as this figure only includes the payments which had been made prior to the finalisation of this FITI Report (i.e. payments from 11 EU purse seiners). The value for 2019 corresponds to payments for excess catch from 26 EU purse seiners.



Large-Scale Fisheries

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

2020 **Data not yet available**

2019 2,730,045

It is noted that from the total value for 2019, SCR 2,332,785 is still outstanding and has not been paid by the EU.

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

2020 3,009,269

2019 Not applicable

The 2020 value is equivalent to EUR 165,384.34. The environmental management and observation of marine ecosystems fee did not exist in 2019 (under the 2014-2020 EU/Seychelles SFPA).

TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?

2020

2019



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

2020

2019



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

2020

2019



Information on licence payments made by large-scale vessels operators for fishing activities in 2020 is now published on the SFA website as part of the vessel registry²³.

The National MSG was able to verify all licence payments for the 180 large-scale vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters in 2020.



The National MSG took note that the SFA Board of Directors is the decision-making body determining how funds obtained through industrial fishing access fees and excess catch is spent.

23 <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/large-scale-fisheries-licence/summary/59-large-scale-fisheries-licence/162-industrial>



HOW MUCH FISH HAS BEEN CAUGHT?

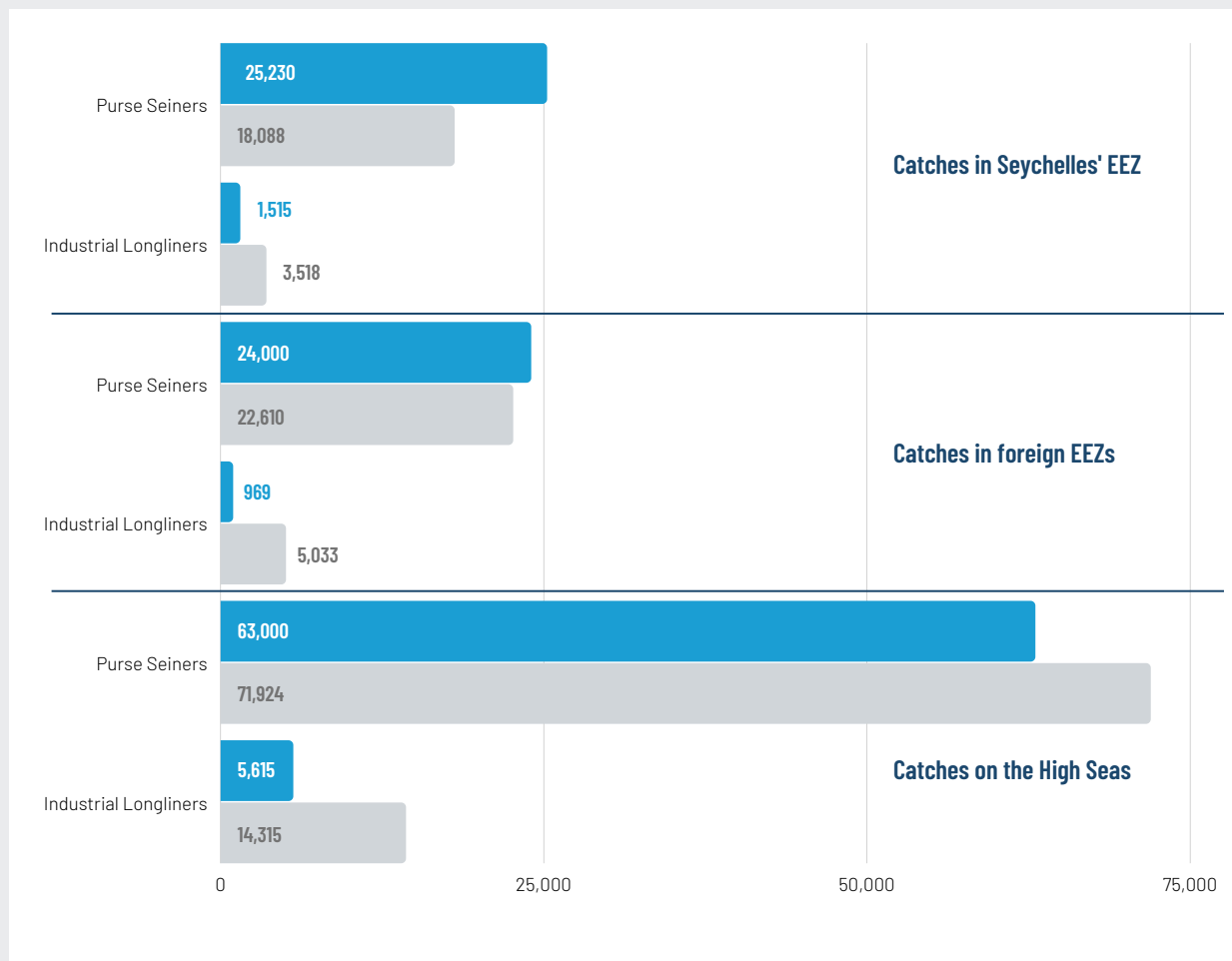
KEY INFORMATION FOR 2020

The 2019 FiTI Report showed incomplete catch data for the industrial longline fishery, in particular stemming from administrative challenges within SFA and unreturned logbooks. As part of this 2020 FiTI Report, the 2019 data has been updated (where possible) – in-depth information is provided in Annex C of the Detailed Section.

Annual retained catches by Seychelles-flagged vessels

2020 120,330 Mt

2019 142,715 Mt



KEY

2020

2019

Information for 2020 is again incomplete, due to missing Semester 2 catch data from the industrial longline fishery.



Annual retained catches by foreign-flagged vessels

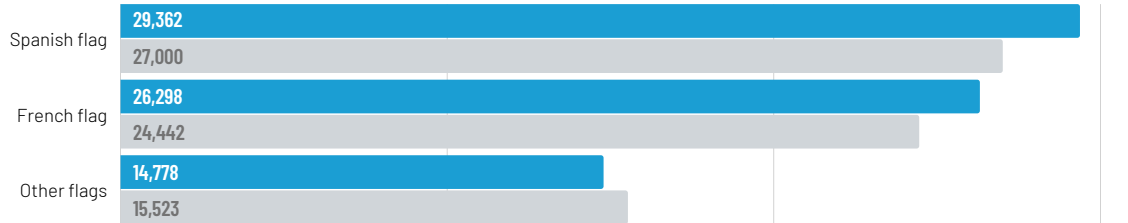
Information is incomplete, due to missing catch data from the industrial longline fishery.

2020 **295,987 Mt** ⚠

2019 **301,062 Mt** ⚠

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

Purse Seiners

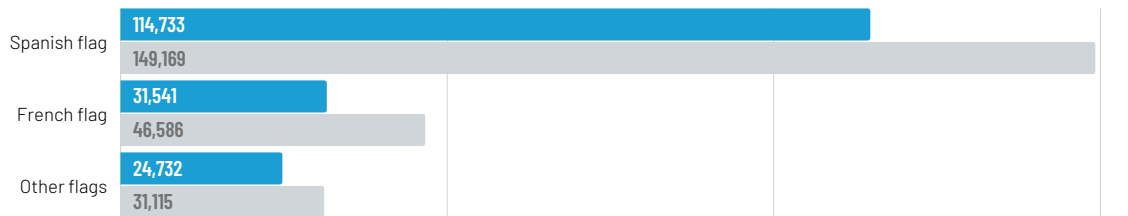


Industrial Longliners

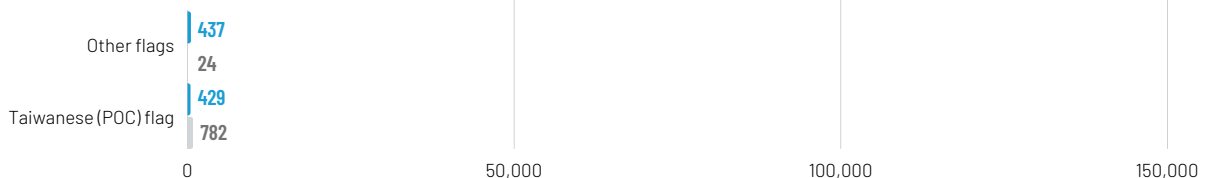


Catches by foreign-flagged vessels in EEZs of other Western Indian Ocean countries or the High Seas (Mt) in 2020

Purse Seiners



Industrial Longliners



KEY

2020

2019



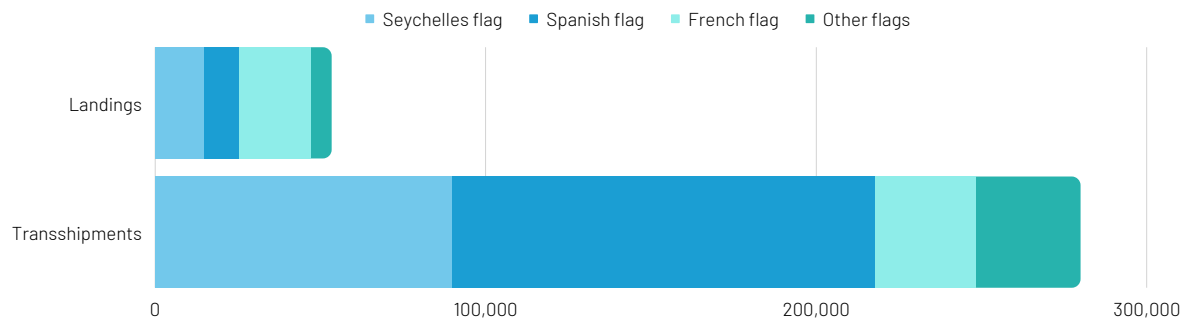
Annual landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports

Information is incomplete, as the data from the industrial longline fishery is not fully collated.

2020 **333,152 Mt** ⚠

2019 387,707 Mt ⚠





Annual landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports in 2020-> only Purse Seiners (Mt)









	Transshipments	Landings
Seychelles flag	89,646	14,585
Spanish flag	127,914	10,637
French flag	30,517	21,712
Other flags	31,785	6,356



KEY INFORMATION FOR 2020

	2020		2019
Annual landings and transshipments in foreign ports	 18,108 Mt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data refers only to fish caught by purse seiners licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters. Data from industrial longliners not published yet. Value corresponds to 5% of total catch from these purse seiners. Four foreign ports were used in 2020 for landings and transshipments: Diego Suarez (Madagascar), Port Louis (Mauritius), Mombasa (Kenya) and Busan (Korea). 	 19,104 Mt
Fishing effort by purse seine vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters (days spent fishing within Seychelles' EEZ)	3,127 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total of 10,548 days spent fishing in the Western Indian Ocean²⁴. 	2,577 days
Fishing effort by industrial longline vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters (hooks deployed within Seychelles' EEZ)	 7.5 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data covers only Semester 1 of 2020 (January - June). Total of over 18.5 million hooks deployed in the Western Indian Ocean²⁵. 	 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?	
2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
					

24 The 10,548 days spent fishing in the Western Indian Ocean also includes the 3,127 days spent fishing within Seychelles' EEZ.

25 The 18.5 million hooks deployed encompasses the 7.5 million hooks deployed within the Seychelles' EEZ.



Large-Scale Fisheries



Mainly through its Fisheries Statistical Report, SFA publishes a large amount of data regarding catches, landings, transshipments and fishing effort of large-scale fishing vessels.

Catch data from the purse seiner fishery is perceived as complete, and is provided in a highly disaggregated form, which fulfils almost all requirements of the FiTI Standard.



However, catch data from the industrial longline fishery is seen as significantly incomplete, as published data only includes Semester 1 (January – June 2020) catches for Seychelles' and Taiwanese (POC)-flagged vessels and Quarter 1 (January – March 2020) catches for other-flagged vessels, and also suffers from partially unreturned logbooks.

This is a major finding, as almost identical shortcomings were documented in the last FiTI Report, covering information for the calendar year 2019. This lack of information significantly impacts the ability of Seychelles' national authorities to make evidence-based decisions, as well as public understanding around who catches what amount of fish in Seychelles' waters.

Furthermore, SFA does not extrapolate nominal catch data to compensate for unreturned logbooks and can therefore not estimate an annual total catch from this fishery. Data on fish discards from the purse seiner fishery has been published in the Fisheries Statistical Report for the year 2020. However, this data is not disaggregated by species or species group.

Data on discards from the industrial longline fishery is available to SFA but so far has not been published. SFA has stated that this data will be published in the Semester 2 – 2020 Fisheries Statistical Report.



Small-Scale Fisheries

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2020

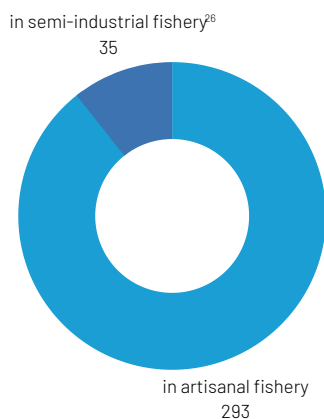
Small-scale fisheries in Seychelles (often also referred to as local fisheries) is defined in the Fisheries Comprehensive Plan as ‘a fishery using vessels less than 24 metres in length overall carrying out fishing activities within Seychelles’ territorial waters and EEZ and to a lesser extent on the 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.



Average monthly number of active small-scale fishing vessels



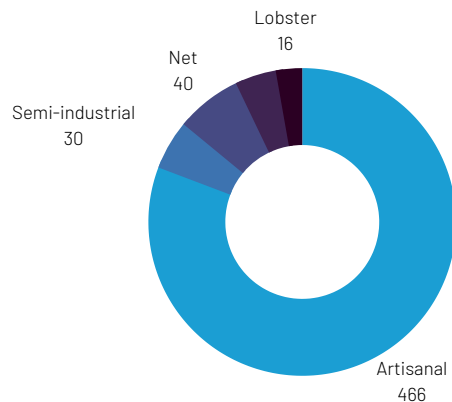
Vessels in 2020



Number of fishing licences issued to small-scale fishing vessels



Licences issued to small-scale fishing vessels in 2020



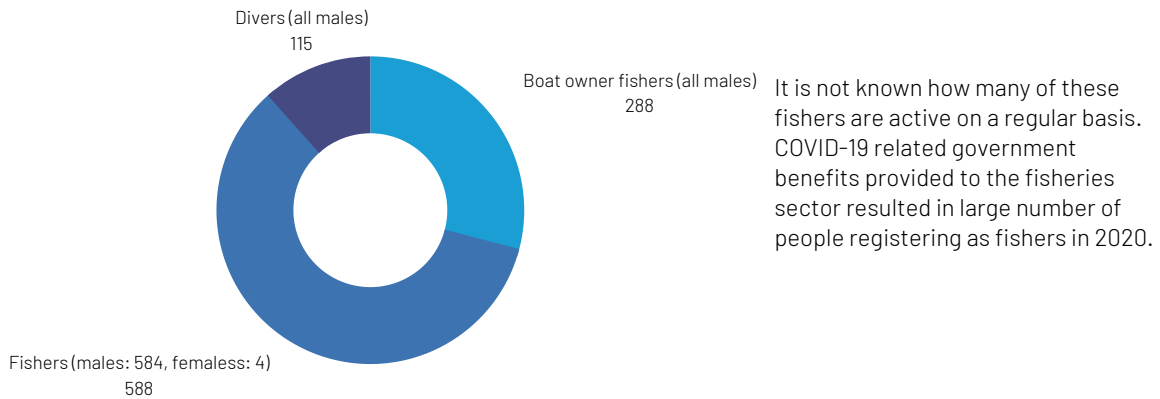
²⁶ Note that some of these vessels were licenced in 2019 and did not seek a new licence in 2020, hence the discrepancies with the number of licenced semi-industrial vessels licenced in 2020 noted in the same table.



Number of fishers engaged in the fishing sector



2020 licences issued to small-scale fishing vessels



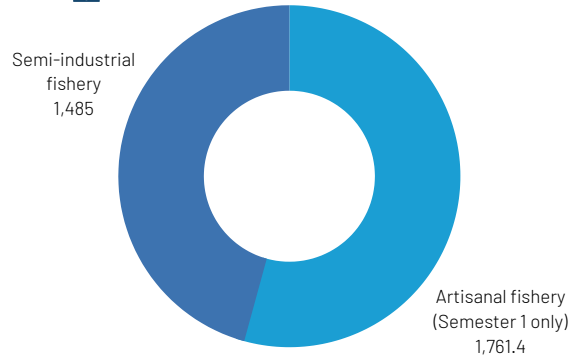
Payments for fishing licence fees made by small-scale fisheries (in SCR)

In 2020 no payments are made by small-scale fisheries vessels for catches and landings

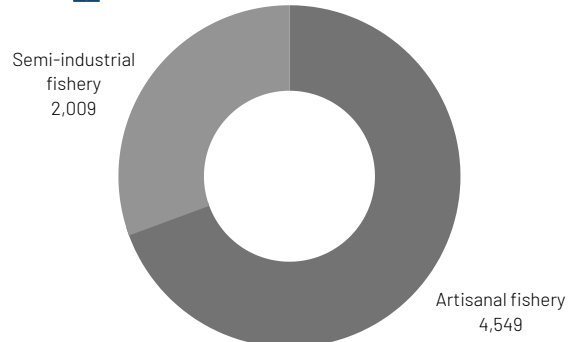


Quantity of catches made by small-scale fisheries (in Mt)

2020 ⚠

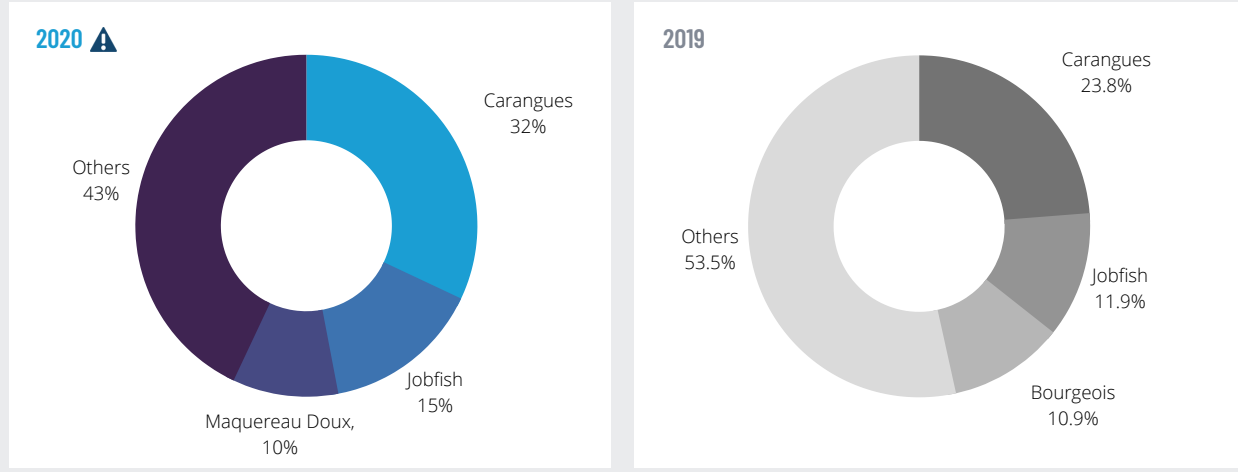


2019 ⚠

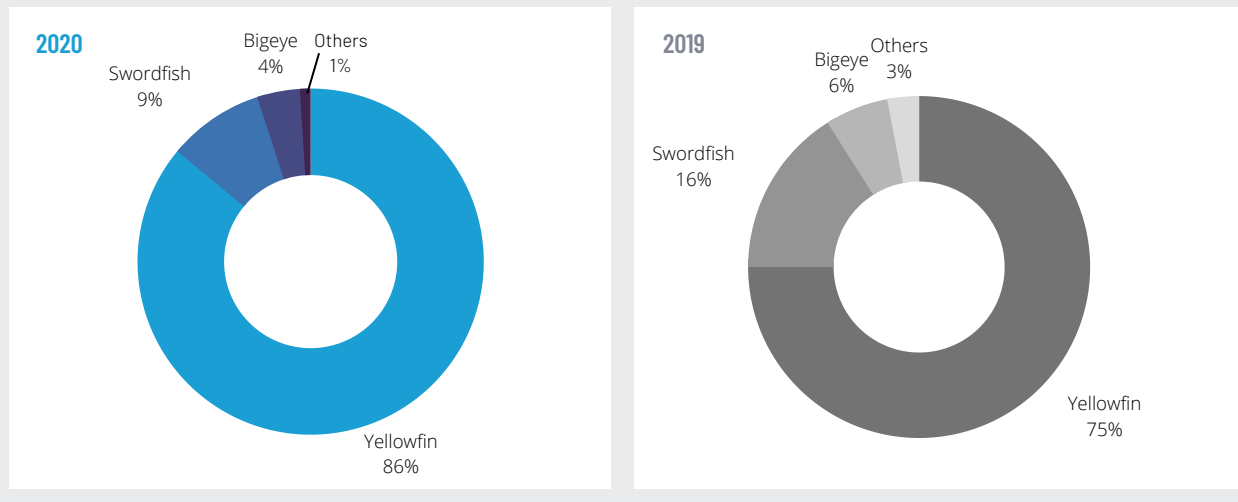




Catches by artisanal fishery (in Mt) - Major species



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

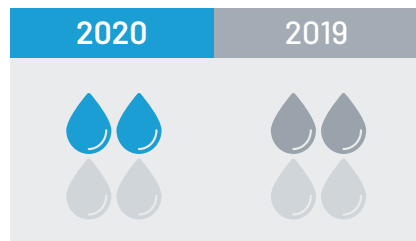
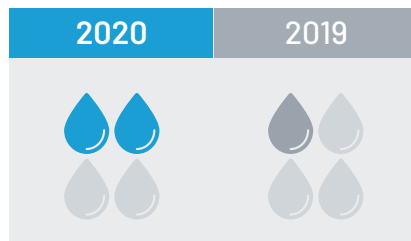
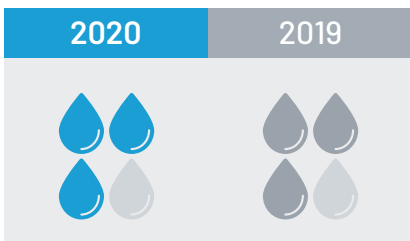


TRANSPARENCY STATUS

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?



Indicating incomplete data



Details of vessels licenced in 2020 for the artisanal fishery, semi-industrial fishery, net fishery, lobster fishery and sea cucumber fishery have all been published online by SFA during the 2020 FiTI reporting process²⁷.

Catches made during the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 season for the limited entry lobster and sea cucumber fisheries were made accessible by SFA and are published as part of this 2020 FiTI Report (as an interim measure).

Fishing vessel licence and fishing activity licence payments received by SFA has been made available as part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process. Such payments are published on a per vessel basis in Annex C of the Detailed Section of this 2020 FiTI Report (as an interim measure).



The 2020 catches from Seychelles' small-scale fisheries cannot be seen as complete as only Semester 1 (January-June) catch estimates have been published for the artisanal fishery. The Semester 2 (2020) Fisheries Statistical Report – which would have published the 2020 artisanal catch data for the period July-December – was in the process of being finalised for publication at the time this 2020 FiTI Report was completed.




No recent evaluations or audits of the economic, social and food security contributions of Seychelles' small-scale fisheries sector have been produced by the government of Seychelles.

²⁷ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/small-scale-fisheries-licences/summary/54-small-scale-fisheries-licences/152-small-scale-fisheries-licences-2020>



Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade²⁸

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2020

	2020	2019
Total quantity of fish and fish products produced	 60,849 Mt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published as part of the NBS Production Indicator Q4 2020 Report. The total quantity is seen as underreported. The SFA Annual Report, which typically provides this information, has not been published yet. 	Unknown

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.

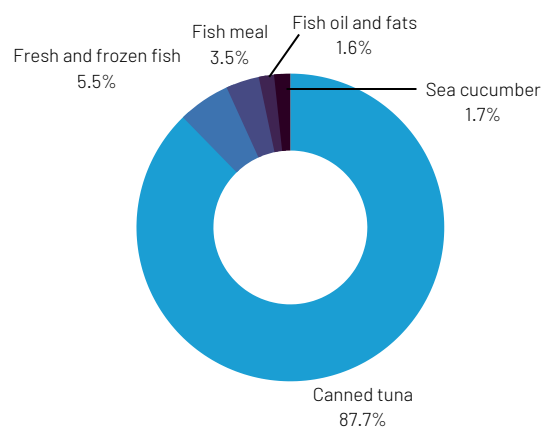


Total value of exports of fish and fish products

2020 **SCR 4.994 billion**

2019 SCR 3.577 billion

2020 value of exports of fish and fish products



²⁸ 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.



Small-Scale Fisheries

	2020		2019
Total number of people employed in commercial fisheries sectors in Seychelles	Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 2018 study showed that 6,900 people (including full-time and part-time employees) were employed in the industrial tuna fishery, thereof: 72% males, 28% females. 	Unknown
Total number of people employed in the informal fisheries sectors in Seychelles	Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No official statement exists from Seychelles' national authorities on the extent of Seychelles' informal fisheries sector. The National MSG agreed that there is indeed such an informal fisheries sector. 	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?	
2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019



Small-Scale Fisheries



Information on the quantity of fish and fish products produced by Seychelles for the year 2020 is published as part of the Production Indicator Q4-2020 Statistical Bulletin. However, the published information is highly aggregated.

Information on the quantity of exports and imports of fish and fish products has been published by the National Bureau of Statistics; however, this data is not always disaggregated by species, or by the country of origin or destination.



The SFA Annual Report 2020, a common source for trade-related fisheries data, is still not published as of today (December 2021).



An 'Employment and capacity needs assessment study for the fisheries sector in Seychelles' was conducted in 2020 and 2021, funded by the SWIOFish3 project. This study will provide more information on employment across different fisheries sub-sectors, including a gender breakdown. It was originally planned for this study to be published by mid-2021 but publication has been delayed due to technical issues.

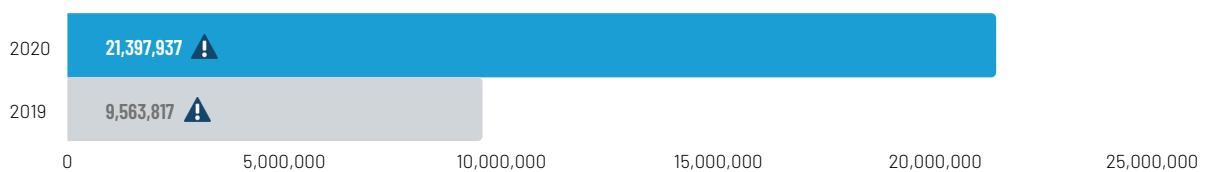


Fisheries Law Enforcement²⁹

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2020

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.



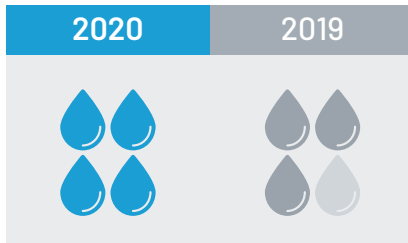
	2020	2019
Number of inspections of fishing vessels at sea and in ports	 376 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SFA Annual Report, which typically provides this information, has not yet been published for 2020. • Data made available by the SFA on the inspections of artisanal vessels in Seychelles' ports was only available for Semester 2 of 2020. 	Unknown
Number of convictions for major offences in the fisheries sector	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Sri Lankan vessels were apprehended for IUU fishing in 2020. All were subsequently prosecuted and convicted. 	 6

²⁹ 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 combating '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.

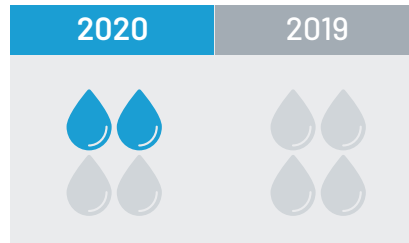


TRANSPARENCY STATUS

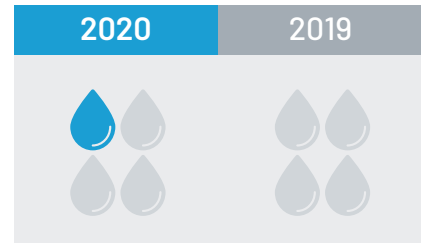
Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?



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



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



No comprehensive report covering national activities and strategies for ensuring compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector with national legislation existed for 2020. Furthermore, key compliance and policy instruments, such as the 'The National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing', remain incomplete.



A number of compliance and policy instruments exist and are available online which provide strategic directions guiding fisheries compliance³⁰.



A record of convictions for major offences in the fishing sector for 2020 is collated by SFA, but not published online. The convictions are published in Annex C of the Detailed Section of Seychelles' 2020 FITI Report (as an interim measure).

³⁰ These include:


- The Seychelles National Plan of Action for Sharks (2016-2020); <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/39-fisheries-plans-strategies/68-npoa-shark>
- The Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (2019); <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/39-fisheries-plans-strategies/9-fisheries-comprehensive-plan>
- The Fisheries Policy and Strategic Plan (2019); <http://www.mofbe.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/Seychelles-Fisheries-Sector-Policy-.pdf>
- The MCS Plan for the Mahé Plateau Demersal Fishery Management Plan (2020); www.mofbe.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Mahe-Plateau-Demersal-Fishery-Management-Plan-MCS-Protocol.pdf









Labour Standards

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2020

The public authority responsible for monitoring and enforcing laws on labour standards in Seychelles is the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs (MESA).

	2020	2019
Financial and human resources deployed by the government to enforce laws on labour standards in the fisheries sector	 SCR 6,487,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 93% went towards wages and salaries of staff. 15 inspectors of the MESA seek to enforce labour standards across all sectors of the economy, including fisheries. 	Unknown
Number of offences committed by employers in the fisheries sector that have been resolved by the authorities	0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MESA reported that there were no offences committed by employers in the fisheries sector that were detected or reported in 2020. 	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?	
2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
					



No summary description of national laws on labour standards, national strategies for enforcing labour standards or information on labour offences committed and resolved in the fisheries sector is available to facilitate public understanding.



Fisheries Subsidies³¹

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2020

	2020	2019
Total value of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector	Unknown	Unknown
Value of fuel subsidies for large-scale fisheries:	Unknown	Unknown
Value of fuel subsidies for small-scale fisheries:	SCR 59.7 million	SCR 43 million

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

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?	
2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019

³¹ 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.



Fisheries Subsidies



Similar to the situation documented in Seychelles' 2019 FiTI Report, very little information is published by national authorities about fisheries subsidies, failing to meet national requirements (e.g. the Access to Information Act), policy objectives (e.g. reducing subsidies dependency) as well as international expectations.



While no information was provided by Seychelles' national authorities about the value and scope of subsidies to its large-scale fisheries, the National MSG was able to confirm that the government sells fuel to industrial fishing vessels at duty-free rates. The sale of fuel at duty-free rates applies to all international vessels (not only those involved in fisheries).



Official Development Assistance (ODA)

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2020³²

	2020		2019
Number of public sector projects related to fisheries	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWIOFish3 (financed by World Bank) • Extension of the Providence fishing port (financed by the Government of Japan) 	2
Number of public sector projects related to marine conservation	Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This information is not locally collated apart for projects that are funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). 	Unknown
Number of corresponding evaluations of these public sector projects	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terminal evaluation of the GEF-financed Outer Islands Project undertaken in 2020. 	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?	
2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019

32 Covering public sector projects funded by bilateral, multilateral and private donors.



Very little visibility is given to fisheries-related public sector projects in Seychelles. There is almost no information on public sector projects being implemented on the websites of MOFBE and SFA, and no references exist to websites of funding or implementation partners. Thus, several externally-funded public sector projects related to fisheries, such as the World Bank's SWIOFish3 project, receive very little attention outside Seychelles' core fisheries community.

There are several marine conservation-related public sector projects being implemented in Seychelles, but no comprehensive overview of them has been provided by the government of Seychelles.



Financial contributions received from the EU under the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement for the support and implementation of Seychelles' sectoral fisheries and maritime policy (EUR 2.8 million for 2020) represent compensation for fishing activities in fishing areas within Seychelles' EEZ. They are therefore not considered as ODA.



Beneficial Ownership³³

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2020

	2020		2019
Legal basis for beneficial ownership transparency in Seychelles	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficial Ownership Act (2020) Beneficial Ownership Regulations (2020)³⁴ 	None
Rules and procedures for incorporating beneficial ownership in filings by agencies regulating access to fisheries	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fisheries businesses have to provide beneficial ownership information as per the requirements of the Beneficial Ownership Act (2020). 	Not applicable
Availability of a public register of beneficial owners	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A central (though not public) registry of beneficial owners is being compiled by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). 	Not applicable

³³ CA 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.

³⁴ In addition, Beneficial Ownership Guidelines have been issued jointly by the Financial Services Authority and the Financial Intelligence Unit (2020).



TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?

2020	2019
	Not applicable

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

2020	2019
	Not applicable

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

2020	2019
	Not applicable



Declaration of beneficial ownership became a legal requirement in 2020 with the promulgation of the Beneficial Ownership Act and Regulations.



A central registry of beneficial owners is being compiled by the FIU for all locally-registered businesses and companies, but there is currently no intention to make this registry publicly available.

SFA has long been required by Section 8(2)(r) of the Fisheries Act to keep records of beneficial owners as part of its record of fishing vessels but has only done so in a limited number of cases.

There is as no information publicly available on the process for verifying beneficial ownership information in Seychelles' fisheries sector.

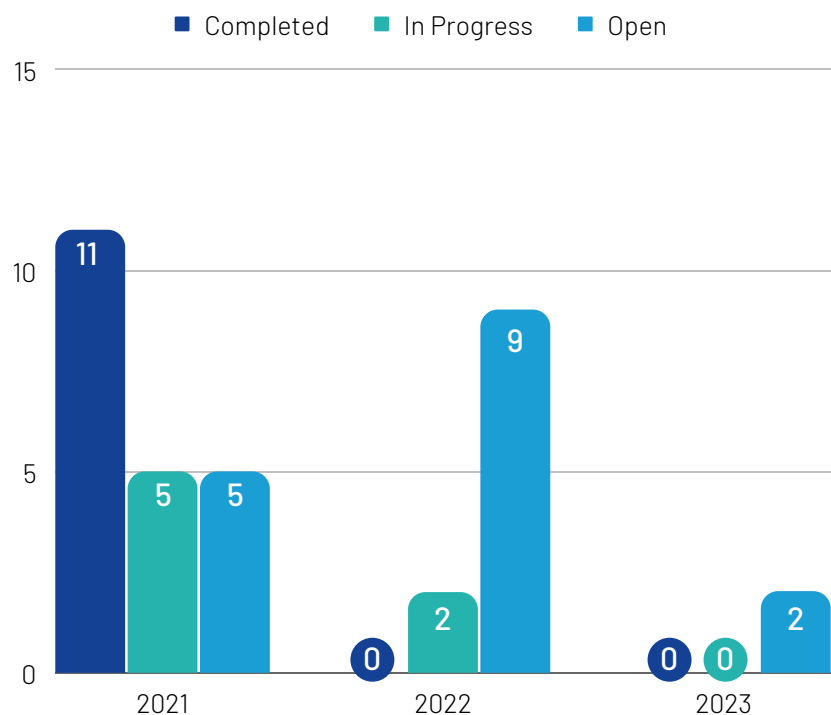
Progress

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.

In its [2019 FiTI Report](#) the Seychelles' National MSG determined [34 recommendations](#) aiming to further strengthen the country's leadership in fisheries transparency. The current implementation status (as of December 2021) of these recommendations is as follows:



A total of 11 recommendations have already been fully implemented by Seychelles' national authorities between the launch of the country's 2019 and 2020 FiTI Reports (April-December 2021). In addition, the implementation of six other recommendations is currently in progress.

An in-depth overview of the implementation status of all recommendations from Seychelles' 2019 FiTI Report 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 and light reflections on the surface. Several fish, likely sea bream, are visible swimming in the water. The fish are silver with dark stripes along their sides. The overall tone is bright and natural.

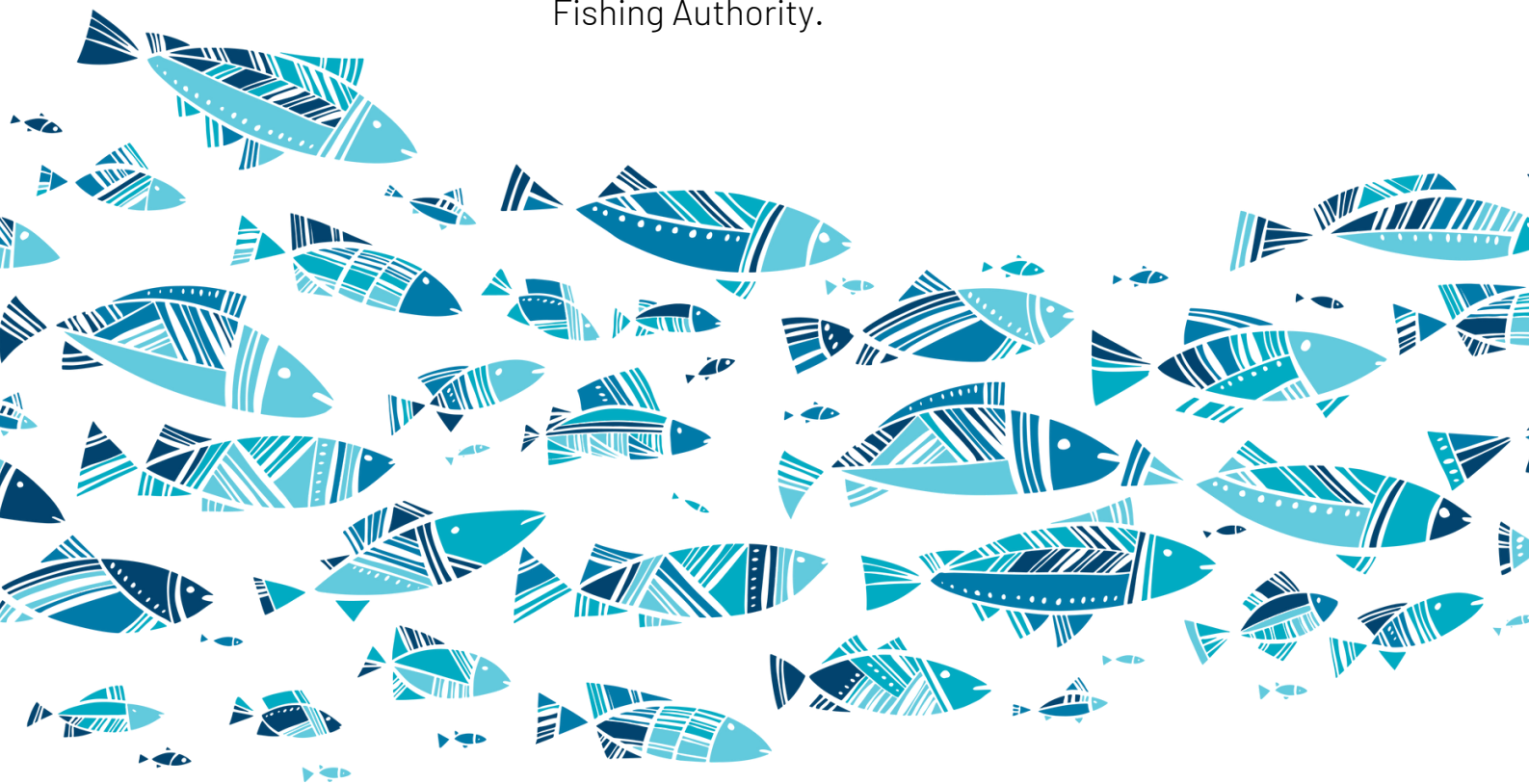
Annex

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 '2020 Summary' the FiTI National MSG has also compiled a '2020 Detail 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 2020 which has only been published as part of this FiTI Report.

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





2020 SUMMARY

Seychelles' Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

