LOBSTER FISHING SEASON 2023

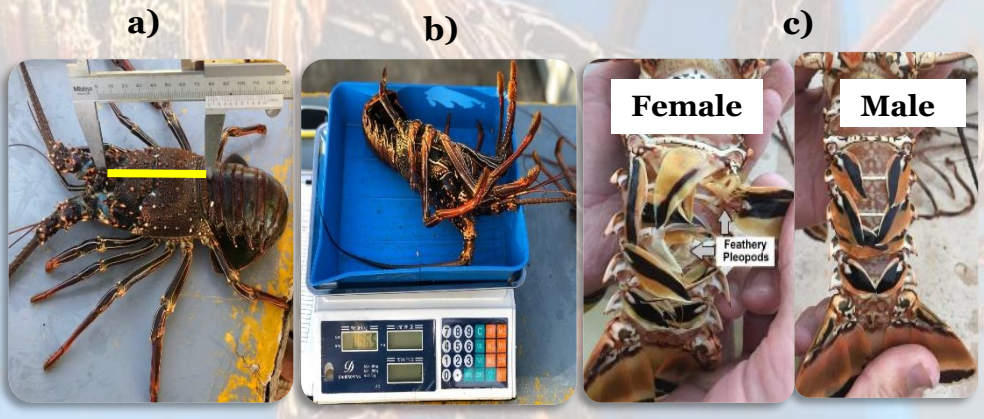
Figure 1: Number of fishing license allocated.

- The Lobster fishery was opened from January 15th, 2023, and closed March 28th 2023 (2 months).
  - 1 month less than the usual opening period.
  - 2 weeks extension
- All 16 licenses were allocated (11 on Mahé, 4 on Praslin and 1 on La Digue; **Figure 1**).

Data collection methods

1) Fisher logbooks; Catch and effort data recorded by fishers.
2) Biological data sampled and recorded by SFA.

a) Carapace length (**mm**)
b) Weight (**kg**)
c) Sex (**M/F**)



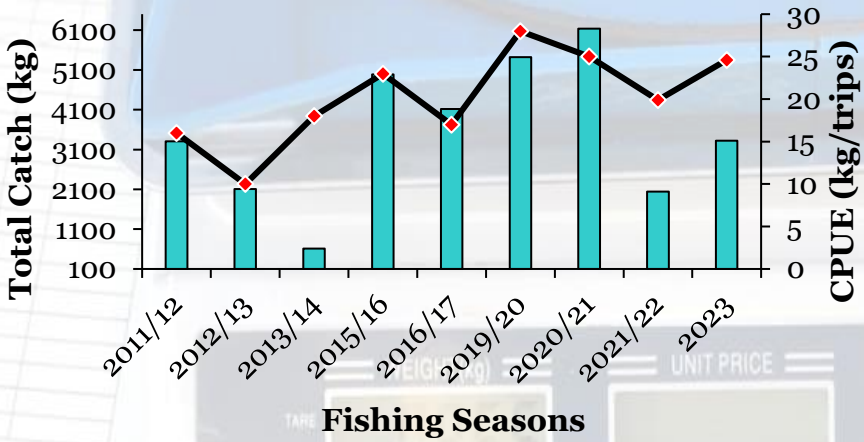


Figure 2: Total catch (**bars**) and fishing effort (kg/trip) (**line**) from 2011/2012 to 2023.

Fishing summary

Total catch

- Total of 3322 **kilograms** (kg) of lobsters caught (**Figure 2**):
  - This represents **62%** increase from 2021/2022 (2045kg) and **46%** decrease from 2020/2021 (6140kg).

Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE)

- Lobster abundance determined by the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was **24.6 kg/trip** (**Figure 2**):
  - This represents **24%** increase from 2021/2022 (19.9kg/trip) and **3% decrease** from 2020/2021 (25kg/trip).

Fishing trips

- Lobster fishing was mostly concentrated **around Mahé Island** (**Figure 3**).
    - **54%** of lobsters caught around **Mahé**.
- A total of **135 fishing trips** were recorded:
    - This represents **31%** increase from 2021/2022 (103 trips) and **44%** decrease from 2020/2021 (242 trips).

Species composition

- Total kg per species (**Figure 4**):
    - 2219 kg Oumar gro latet
    - 984 kg Oumar rouz
    - 73 kg Oumar ver
    - 46kg Oumar blan

Fishing method

- The most common fishing technique used was snorkeling with 95%, followed by scuba with 4% **(Figure 5)**.

Conclusion

- CPUE found in the 2023 season was higher than the previous season, indicating increased abundance.
    - However, this will be confirmed after the 2023 fisheries independent survey.

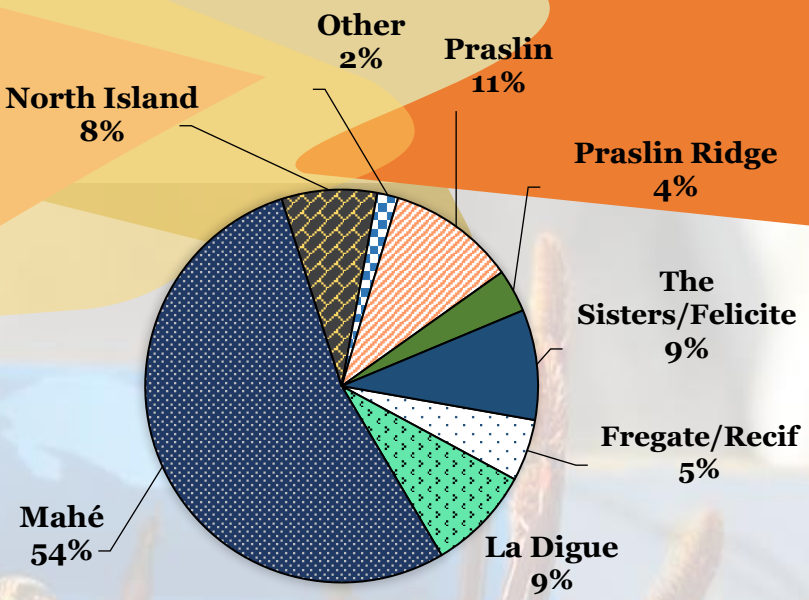


Figure 3: Percentage (%) catch by fishing sites.

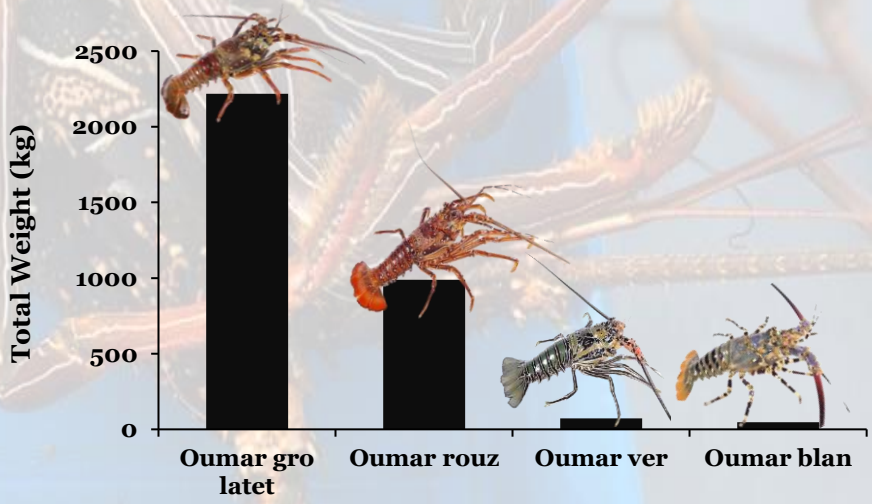


Figure 4: Total catch per species.

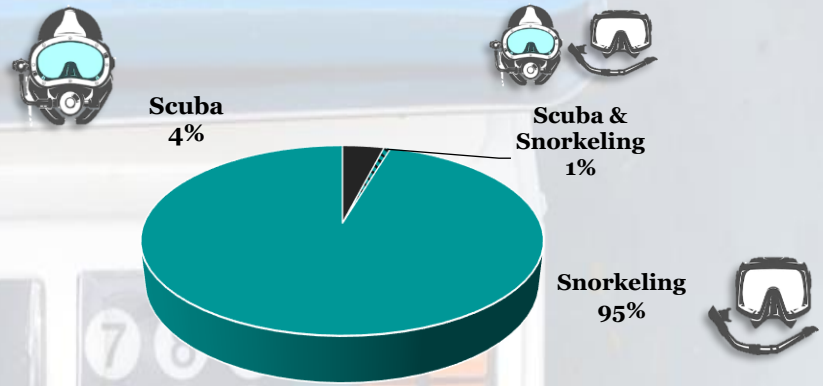


Figure 5: Fishing methods used.

Acknowledgment

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