

MINUTES 17th MEETING
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
OF THE
MAHÉ PLATEAU TRAP AND LINE FISHERY CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN

Seychelles International Conference Centre (ICCS), Victoria, Mahé

Thursday 17th November 2022

10:00 A.M.

Introduction

The 17th meeting of the Implementation Committee for the Co-Management Plan (ICCP) of the Mahé Plateau demersal trap and line fishery was held at the Seychelles International Conference Centre Conference Room 2, Victoria, on the 17th of November 2022.

Opening to the meeting

Mr. Roy Clarisse, Principal Secretary (PS), Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, and the Blue Economy (MFBE) opened the meeting, welcomed the participants, and asked for introductions from attendees.

Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting proceeded with the chairperson, Mr. Roy Clarisse, PS, Department of Fisheries, MFBE. The approved agenda is presented in **Appendix 1**. The list of documents circulated in advance of the meeting is in **Appendix 2**.

The meeting had an attendance of 10 ICCP members and five other stakeholders or observers. It incorporated the sanitary measures required for all government Agency meetings. Participants were at liberty to use any of the three national languages. The list of participants is in **Appendix 3**.

Developments since the last meeting

Ms. Elisa Socrate, Assistant Manager, Resource Management (SFA) informed the meeting of the developments since the last meeting on 22 September based on working paper ICCP17-WD-2.

Fisheries Liaison Officer

Mr. Frank Volcere continued with his regular visits at the landing sites, Bel Ombre, Cascade, Anse Aux Pins, La Retraite, and Victoria Port. Fishers were aware of the actual enforcement of the fisheries regulations. Concerns had been raised regarding enforcement of the measures for recreational fishers and super yachts that fished dories. The need for better collaboration with the marine police and coast guard was raised. Fisheries Resource Management, the MCS Enforcement Unit and Mr. Volcere had presented the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co-Management Plan to Members of the National Assembly.

Communication

SFA's communication taskforce had continued its work. To date four Seychelles Public Transport Corporation (SPTC) buses (3 on Mahe, 1 on Praslin) had been wrapped with Co-management plan messages. Three 30-second spot videos were being streamed at the STC supermarket at Bois De Rose. Another was awaiting airing. Four more were being conceptualized. Audios were being aired at Victoria, Anse Aux Pins and Port Launay bus terminals timed mostly at peak hours. A documentary

film and nine awareness videos were under preparation. Content for the documentary was sought from ICCP members. Fishers and ICCP members were invited to participate in the filming sessions. In collaboration with the SPTC, a visiting artist supported by the British High Commission and Seychelles Institute of Art and Design (SIAD) was painting a wall on the SPTC property to promote the Co-Management Plan. The SFA had also sought a site from the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA) to place banners publicizing the Co-management Plan regulations to passengers arriving from cruise ships.

Legislation

MFBE and SFA would be undertaking a broad stakeholder consultation, on 23-24 November 2022, on a draft new Fisheries Act and Regulations. The consultant involved, Ms. Judith Swan, would continue providing legal assistance until June 2023, when for the review process would be completed.

MCS

The MCS department would present an update on the MCS action plan in Agenda item 4.

Sightings of dead fish – a potential algal bloom

There had been public reports of dead fish washing up ashore around the area of Perseverance and La Retraite. SFA's Research Section suspected that a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) event may have been occurring as some fishers had reported water discoloration further offshore in the past weeks. The event may have been related to hot weather conditions together with changes in wind and current direction causing the blooms in the Northern part of the island with poor water circulation in those areas closed off from the open sea by reclaimed land. SFA had made public announcements and given TV interviews on this event.

Fish handling techniques when releasing deep-water fish showing signs of barotrauma

The Secretariat had contacted Mr. Faizal Suleman, Recreational Fisher Representative, for his expertise and assistance to build the capacity of SFA's research team in the release of line-caught fish showing signs of barotrauma. This will assist SFA activities in encouraging fishers to release undersized fish.

The Socio-economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) of the trap and line fishery co-management plan

Mr. Sharif Antoine, SFA Economist, provided an update on this consultancy. Secondary data had been collected. Primary data independent of the fishery as well as from fishers, wholesalers and the public was collected. Preliminary results showed an aging fisher population and that there were larger catches of bourzwa and zob in the Northwest monsoon. The assessment was about 25% complete. More results would follow, next year.

Other follow up by the Secretariat

ICCP representatives of associations and NGOs were reminded that they had to provide their registration papers, constitution, and member details. Some received were incomplete while others were still to submit their documents.

In discussions that followed, the Fisheries Liaison Officer was asked to also approach marinas and yachts to raise awareness of the Co-management plan and its regulations. On the economic importance of sports and recreational fishing, the ICCP was informed that a workshop would be held in January 2023 which would, among other issues, address fishing by those living aboard yachts. Comments included that superyachts mostly release their catch but also drew attention that some recreational fishers on Eden Island were selling their catch. The following week, a two-day stakeholder consultation would take place on a new Fisheries Act and its regulations. Proposed provisions included licensing of all fishing activities and ICCP members were encouraged to attend.

MCS Monitoring and compliance with the Fisheries Regulations 2021

Ms. Karyss Auguste, Assistant Manager, Licence and Permits, MCS, SFA, presented the MCS activities related to the Co-management Plan since the last ICCP meeting (ICCP17-WD-3).

The 1st of October 2022 marked the beginning of full enforcement of the Mahe Plateau Trap and line Fisheries regulations. She informed the meeting of the MCS enforcement activities undertaken since then (**see Appendix 4**). These included:

- measuring equipment had been procured and issued to staff.
- 58 operational actions had encountered 2 infringements
- 3 targeted inspections at Au Cap, La Retraite, and Anse aux Pins resulted in 2 seizures of undersized bourzwa and 1 case file
- The compliance rate was calculated at 66%
- The issuing of markings for registered traps had continued
- An update was provided on the status of the licensing framework.
- SFA had set up an internal process to revise the license fees
- The vessel and fisher registries were now available on the SFA website.

Discussions raised numerous issues. There was more targeting of landing sites required rather than markets. Not much appeared to have been done regarding the enforcement of bag limits. The licensing framework had to also include commercial trap and line fishing licenses. There appeared to be insufficient collaboration with the Police. There was still a large discrepancy between what ICCP members were encountering as undersized fish and what was being reported from the MCS operations. The MCS Unit was asked not to reveal its sources of tip-offs received from fishers as this could cause conflicts between the fishers themselves. More use of the associations could be made in publicizing the regulations. Associations and stakeholders could also contribute more as co-management partners than they had been doing. The MCS section had not provided feedback on the status of SFA involvement in an MOU between the Port Authority (SPA), Maritime Safety Administration (SMSA,) and Eden Island Marina Management despite many requests and reminders from the ICCP. Information presented on operational actions, target inspection and the level of compliance did not make sense. No feedback had been received on the operation of the hotline specially set up for the Co-management Plan. Several contributions raised that the enforcement of the fisheries regulations was critical for the success of the Co-management Plan. The SFA CEO *ad interim* took notice of the points raised.

The Chair requested the SFA MCS Unit address ICCP's recommendations reminding that the ICCP was mandated to have oversight on the Co-management Plan's enforcement program. To enhance its capacity to ensure better compliance, the Unit should seek better collaboration with other relevant agencies.

The Chair requested the Secretariat draft TORs for a task force to assist the MCS unit in its reporting to the ICCP.

The ICCP requested the SFA MCS Unit to provide the next ICCP with:

- *Proper feedback on its actions towards SFA being included in an MOU between SPA, SMSA, and Eden Island Marine Management.*
- *Proper feedback on its actions towards SFA establishing an MOU with the Police.*
- *A correct assessment of compliance with the fisheries regulations resulting from its operational actions.*
- *Quantified feedback on the use of and response to the Co-management Plan hotline*

Feedback from the Stock Assessment Sub-Committee.

The Chairperson of the ICCP Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS), Mr. Darell Green, introduced the work that had been undertaken by the Subcommittee and provided its recommendations to the meeting. The ICCP Chair, Mr. Roy Clarisse, presented the recommendations to the meeting for discussion and consideration.

The ICCP made 16 recommendations on the process of stock assessment undertaken by stock assessment experts in the future (1); on stock assessment of bourzwa, zob Gris, and kordonnyen and their management (3); on whether other species should be regulated (5), and; on the broader management of the Mahe Plateau trap and line fishery and the work of the SAS next year (7).

The recommendations of the ICCP are in **Appendix 5**. These will be sent by the ICCP Secretariat to the respective parties for action.

The ICCP Chairperson thanked the SAS for its work. The next ICCP meeting should consider when phase 2 of the Co-management Plan should start.

Peer-to-peer visit to examine fisheries management in a relevant country

Organised and facilitated by the SWIOFish3 project, a peer-to-peer exchange to Shetland (UK) and Sete (France) took place from 3-12 October 2022. Dr. Jan Robinson, SWIOFish3 Coordinator presented some of the outcomes and lessons learned from the trip that will be useful for fisher associations, ICCP members, and the Co-management Plan in the future (ICCP17-WD-5)

These included:

- The important role played, and the responsibilities are taken by the private sector;
- Profits from the fisheries sector activities were re-invested into the fisheries;
- Different fisher association structures, modes of operation, and their independence from government and the public sector;
- How fish harvesting, landings, and sales were interlinked
- Some fisheries encountered in Shetland and Sete that were once in a poor and unprofitable state had been transformed to become sustainable and profitable (herring; cod; Bluefin tuna)
- One fishery that hadn't been transformed (the Mediterranean groundfish trawl fishery) was unsustainably catching much small fish.
- Exposure to a range of controls used (such as TACs) showed what might be possible in the future.
- Examples of profitable and efficiently run aquaculture businesses at an intensive industrial scale (salmon) as well as an extensive smallholder scale (oysters, mussels).
- Contacts and networks that could be of use in future follow-up

Successes as well as constraints had been encountered. The full details of the lessons learned were available in an information document (**ICCP17-ID-3**) provided in advance of the meeting.

Following the exchange visit, a debriefing by the peer-to-peer visit participants was held with the Minister of Fisheries and the Blue Economy to consolidate lessons learned and to identify the next steps. The outcome of this debrief was that:

- Much of the focus going forward would be to explore ways to empower and professionalize fisher associations, including opportunities for associations to provide services to their members and the wider community.
- There were benefits for fisher associations to a group within a federation. The roles and functions that a federation would undertake were a priority follow-up.
- Conversations continued between MFBE and the harbour master of Lerwick Port on the costs of harbour extensions. Also, there had been meetings between potential investors in snapper aquaculture and Seychelles Fishing Authority.

- Co-ordinating focal points Mr. John Goodlad in Shetland and Mr. Bertrand Wendling in Sète provided a highly informative experience and participants expressed their interest in continuing to seek their support.

ICCP members participating in the exchange visit were asked to examine the Information document (ICCP17-ID-3) and provide their input and comment. In due course, a report of the entire trip will be compiled and provided to the ICCP.

Following the presentation, the need for fishers to stand together in Associations and within a Federation was emphasized. Some peer-to-peer participants re-iterated how well-organized fisher associations encountered had been and without large government involvement. There was a need for all fishers to be members of fisher associations in the Seychelles and fisher associations should be empowered with roles in ice and fuel supply, determination of mooring and berthing facilities, vetting of commercial fisher licenses, and fuel subsidies. Strong associations would lead to a strong federation. Discussions included the possibility of setting up an ICCP subcommittee to strengthen associations, but this was considered not to fit well within the ICCP mandate and responsibilities. At a previous ICCP, the need for a contact person within the SFA directly responsible for addressing the fisher associations' concerns within SFA had been raised and this was raised again. Also, other fisher associations apart from the two with existing MOUs with SFA should be supported provided their registration and other association documents (Statutes, annual general meetings, minutes, annual registry report) were in order. Overall, the peer-to-peer visit had been well-organized, and the participants were an active and agreeable group.

The ICCP asked the stronger fisher associations to consider assisting the weaker ones through sharing of successful and practical modes of practice.

The ICCP asked that MFBE and SFA better assist in the empowerment of fisher associations.

End of year ICCP meeting and SFA open day

Mr. Aubrey Harris, the Consultant, introduced this item based on ICCP17/WD/6. At its 12th meeting on 3 December 2021, the ICCP approved its work plan for 2022. That plan proposed that the last ICCP meeting for 2022 should take place in December 2022, an occasion where all decisions and recommendations for management in 2023 would have been finalized. The plan also proposed that this would be coordinated with an SFA Open day where, among other activities, the members of the ICCP could meet with stakeholders and the public, explain their work and contributions, and present the regulations agreed on for 2023.

Following the proposal, the ICCP meeting learned that MFBE and SFA had planned a week of activities celebrating Fisheries Week and the international year of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture from 21-25 November. Activities would include profiling various fishers in the press and an exhibition at the National Museum on the Evolution of artisanal fishing in Seychelles. Several fisher associations had already been involved and proposed activities promoted awareness of the Co-management Plan.

With that and considering other commitments that SFA had towards the end of the year, there was no enthusiasm for an SFA Open Day in December 2022. It was agreed that members could participate and provide information on their work through the interactions during the artisanal fisheries week. *The ICCP Secretariat was requested to circulate the program of activities of the Artisanal Fishing and Aquaculture week to all the ICCP members and meeting participants.*

Other matters

The Representative of Roche Caiman Association thanked the Minister of Fisheries and the Blue Economy, Mr. Jean-Francois Ferrari, for his intervention so that the Association would no longer be required to move out of its current location near the Eden Island Bridge. It would be able to stay there permanently without the threat of dislocation every couple of years. *The ICCP meeting gave a round of applause for this much-appreciated development.*

The observer from Anse aux Pins raised the need to encourage the young into the fishery. This is a theme covered by the Fisheries Policy and initiatives were in place, but much remained to be done. One of the many actions in progress included a cartoon book recently produced. It was suggested that the next should be more colorful.

The observer from the Cascade Fisher Association invited all ICCP members to join his association and with the Cascade populace celebrate the feast of St Andrew (eponymous saint of Cascade church) on Sunday 27 November, from 900hrs onwards. They were invited to also bring their fishing boats for the customary blessing by the parish priest.

The SFA Legal Adviser reminded meeting participants to attend the stakeholder consultation on the new Fisheries Act, 0830-1600hrs, 22-23 November, ICCS, Victoria.

The ICCP endorsed an extension of the contract of Mr. Aubrey Harris, a consultant providing Secretary support to the ICCP Secretariat.

Date and Place of the next meeting

The 17th Meeting of the ICCP will be held on Thursday 15 December 2022, at a location to be decided by the Secretariat.

Appendix 1

Agenda

1. Opening to the Meeting

Remarks by the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MFBE)/Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)

2. Adoption of the agenda

To be moved by the Chairperson.

3. Developments since the last meeting

The ICCP will be briefed on the developments since the 16th ICCP meeting (22nd September 2022) including continuing SFA fisher communications and other relevant matters from SFA and the Secretariat.

4. MCS monitoring and compliance with the Fisheries Regulations 2021.

The MCS unit will update the meeting of the start of full enforcement on 1 October 2022, the results of patrols and any warnings or enforcement actions were undertaken, and its assessment of the level of compliance with the 2021 Fisheries Regulations.

5. Feedback from the Stock Assessment Sub-Committee.

Time constraints prevented a full discussion and consideration of the recommendations of the Stock Assessment Committee (SAS) at the last ICCP meeting. This meeting will further discuss the SAS recommendations and make recommendations to SFA and MFBE for stock assessment and management in 2023.

6. Peer-to-peer visit to examine fisheries management in a relevant country

A peer-to-peer visit to Shetland (UK) and Sete (France) took place from 1-14 October 2022. The meeting will be presented some of the outcomes of the visit and of lessons learned that will be useful for fisher associations, ICC members, and the Co-management Plan in the future.

7. End-of-year ICCP meeting and SFA open day

The ICCP work plan for 2022 envisions the last ICCP meeting for the year to take place in December 2022. Also, that the SFA would have an open day around the same time where, among other things, the members of the ICCP can meet with the stakeholders and public, explain their work and contributions, and present fisheries management regulations and the ICCP's proposed work for 2023. This agenda item will discuss these actions and set up a task group to prepare for the open day.

8. Other matters

9. Date and place of the next meeting

Appendix 2

List of Documents circulated in advance of the meeting

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working documents

ICCP17/WD/1. Agenda

ICCP17/WD/2. Developments since the last meeting

ICCP17/WD/3. MCS Monitoring compliance with the Fisheries Regulations 2021

ICCP17/WD/4. Recommendations of the Stock Assessment Sub-Committee

ICCP17/WD/5 Lessons learned from peer-to-peer exchange to Shetland and Sete

ICCP17/WD/6 End of the year ICCP and SFA Open day

Information documents

ICCP17/ID/1. List of Documents

ICCP17/ID/2 Minutes of the 16th ICCP meeting of 22 September 2022.

ICCP17/ID/5 Lessons learnt from peer-to-peer exchange to Shetland and Sete

Appendix 3

List of Participants

Members, the Stakeholders and Secretariat

Members	
Rodney Nicole	Bel Ombre Fishers Association
Roy Clarisse, Stephanie Radegonde	Department of Fisheries, MFBE
Jean-Claude Hoarau	Fish Tech
Wilna Accouche	Green Island Foundation
Ray Payet	La Digue Fishers Association
Darell Green	Praslin Fishers Association
Faizal Suleman	Recreational Fisher representative
Therence Labrosse, Neddy Labrosse	Roche Caiman Fishers Association
Philippe Michaud	Seychelles Fishing Authority
Bertie Bonne	Seychelles Fishers & Boatowners Association (SFBOA)
Other Stakeholders / Observers	
Theo Estro	Anse Aux Pins Fishers Association
Steve Payet	Cascade Fishers Association
Jan Robinson	Coordinator, SWIOFish3 Project (MFBE)
Nancy Onginyo	Grand Anse Praslin FBOA
Beverly Michel	Seychelles Tourism Department
Secretariat	
Karyss Auguste	Assistant Manager, License, and Permit (SFA)
Elisa Socrates	Assistant Manager, Resource Management (SFA)
Aubrey Harris	Consultant (SFA)
Sharif Antoine	Fisheries Economist, Statistics and Economics (SFA)
Joanne Lucas	Fisheries Officer, Resource Management (SFA)
Claire Pierre-Louis	Fisheries Statistics Technician (SFA)
Yannick Roucou	Legal Adviser (SFA)
Frank Voucher	Liaison Officer (SFA)
Stephanie Hollanda	Principal Fisheries Scientist (SFA)

Appendix 4

Presentation made on the enforcement report

17th MEETING
OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE OF THE
MAHE PLATEAU TRAP AND LINE FISHERY
CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN
17th November 2022

MCS Monitoring and voluntary compliance
Period : 1st October to 15 November 2022


1

2

Introduction

- The 1st of October 2022 marked the beginning of full enforcement of the management measures of the Mahe Plateau Trap and line Fisheries regulations.
- Much of the year was spent collecting and verifying intelligence and fine-tuning inspection strategies. The process is expected to endure.
- In addition, as we gain more ground the requirements of the management plan is to be better integrated into ongoing activities of the MCS Department ensuring a higher level of success.
- To date there has been the following developments

1.
Procurement
of measuring
equipment
completed



3

4

2. Review of activities

Operational actions	Total	Infringements detected / information/warnings provided
Near shore/coastal on water surveillance		
Coastal surveillance patrols-day patrols	0	
Coastal surveillance patrols-evening/night patrols	1	
Offshore/outer Mahe plateau-on water surveillance		
Offshore/outer Mahe plateau patrols	0	
Land-based surveillance		
Land patrols	9	
Inspections of Vessels at Landing sites	8	1
Market inspections	28	1
Finfish processing plants spot checks	8	
Fish outlet inspections	3	
Takeaways/Restaurants inspections	5	
Hotel inspections	9	

3. Infringements

3 targeted inspections
(18/10/22)

Case file for 1
undersized red snapper
at Au cap

4 undersized red
snappers were seized
at La Retraite
(abandoned at the
cleaning area)

1 at Anse aux pins
roadside (unattended
and unclaimed).

5 6



Anse aux pins 18/10/22



7 8

4. Indicative level of voluntary compliance

No. of inspections =
39 ; No. of
undersized fish
detected= 13

When we conduct
an **indicative**
analysis
using the above
parameters only:

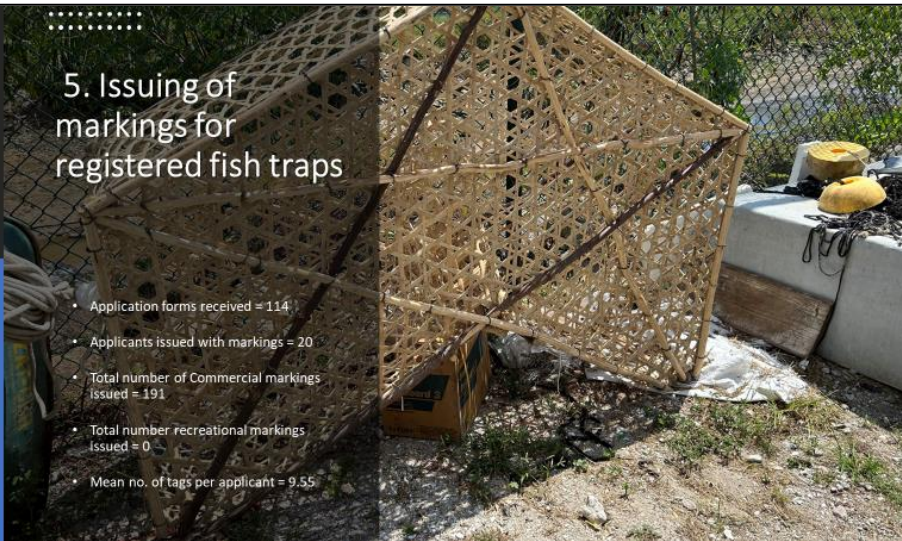
(No. of undersized
fish detected / No. of
inspections) x 100

= (13/39) x 100

= 33.3% non-
compliance

66.6 % compliance

5. Issuing of markings for registered fish traps



- Application forms received = 114
- Applicants issued with markings = 20
- Total number of Commercial markings issued = 191
- Total number recreational markings issued = 0
- Mean no. of tags per applicant = 9.55

9 10

5. Updates on License frameworks to be implemented:

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK	STATUS
A request for fishing vessel license must be accompanied with a certificate of registration, sea worthiness and safety from the SMSA;	The legal framework has not been finalized.
Fishing vessel licenses will not be issued unless the boat owners present their insurance certificate;	The legal framework has not been finalized.
Implementation of permits: As per the Fisheries comprehensive Plan, the following fishing activities will require a permit for: 1. Recreational fishing; 2. Pleasure fishing; 3. Fly-fishing; 4. Sports fishing.	Update will be provided following revision of Fisheries Act and regulations next week.
Additional Fishing activities to be licensed: 1. Spanner Crabs; 2. Deep water shrimp 3. Octopus 4. Exploratory fishing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. License framework developed but not finalized (ongoing discussions) 2. Regulation required 3. Regulation required 4. Framework and definition required

➤ License fees: The internal process for the review of license fees is ongoing.

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6. The Vessel registry



- The vessel registry provides licenses issued to small scale fishing vessels and for fishing activities such as Net fishing, Sea cucumber harvesting and Sea cucumber processing.
- The vessel registry and the list of registered fishers are available on the website:

 www.sfa.sc
 license@sfa.sc

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Appendix 5

Stock assessment and management recommendations of the ICCP for 2023

At its 17th Meeting, the ICCP considered the work of its Stock Assessment Subcommittee in 2022 and made the following 16 recommendations. These recommendations are made to the SFAits' supporting and funding partners (S&FP), the ICCP itself, its members, and its Stock Assessment Committee (SAS). They are **to be acted on in 2023**.

Recommendations

Overview of the stock assessment process

1. Stock assessments of the Mahe Plateau trap and line fisheries should engage with the SAS in the early phase of the assessment to better understand some of the fishery issues¹. **(S&FP; SFA-Research)**

Stock assessment results of Bourzwa, Zob Gris, Kordonnyen, and their management action

2. SFA should obtain better information on the location and ecology of the bourse spawning and nursery areas². **(SFA - Research)**
3. SFA should increase the inclusion of fishers (commercial, sports, and recreational) in their research **(SFA – Research; ICCP members)**
4. The Co-management Plan Performance Monitoring System (PMS) table should be better populated and revisited. **(SFA – Research; SAS)**

Whether other species apart from the above should be regulated.

5. SFA should provide data (length frequencies, PMS) on bourzwa, zob gri (*Aprion virescens* only), kordonnyen (all species), border, and kaptan blan from line and trap catches for SAS meetings in 2023 so that more informed decisions may be taken on their management **(SFA – Research)**
6. The **SAS** should consider whether to recommend bag limits and Minimum Size Limits (MSL) for border and kaptan plan to start after 1 October 2023
7. SFA should provide data on the very plat, very Goni, and very masala for SAS meetings in 2023 so that more informed decisions may be taken on their management³. **(SFA -Research; Stats)**
8. SFA must better enforce the net fishing regulations⁴ **(SFA – MCS)**

¹ There were likely some targeting issues that were not taken into consideration in the stock assessment analyses that the SAS examined in 2022.

² This was considered important to properly manage the fishery in the long term and understand possible interactions such as with the sea cucumber fishery.

³ Originally these species were raised during the Co-management Plan preparation based on Productivity, Susceptibility Analysis (PSA). SFA should provide whatever data is available, for example, through a weight of evidence approach, using historical or recent catches and catch rates, any biological work undertaken locally or internationally, anecdotal reports etc. Green Island Foundation offered to provide some length frequency data on these species to the SFA. Vyey plat consists of more than one species.

⁴ The ICCP agreed that the impact of fishing on possibly vulnerable species will be significantly reduced if illegal fishing with nets and the actual net fishing regulations are enforced.

9. Four species are recommended for release on capture⁵. **(SFA – Fisheries Management; Legal)**
 - Ornate eagle ray *Aetomylaeus vespertilio* – “Lare Dore”.
 - Giant devil ray (*Mobula modular*) – “Swarko”.
 - Bow mouth guitarfish (*Rhina ancylostoma*) – “Gitar or Pantouf”.
 - Shortfin devil ray (*Mobula kuhlii*) – “Swarko”.

General recommendations on the management of the Mahe Plateau trap and the line fishery

10. Fishers should be encouraged to film themselves when releasing undersized fish so that the footage can be used to promote the co-management plan.⁶ **(SFA; ICCP members – Sports, Recreational, Fisher Associations)**
11. **SAS** should review the recreational and sports fisher bag limits downwards and make recommendations to the ICCP in 2023 for possible regulation after 1 October 2023.
12. **SAS** should review the Minimum Size Limits of bourzwa and zob and make recommendations to the ICCP in 2023 for possible regulation after 1 October 2023.
13. A degradable wire should be used to attach the fish trap mouth to the trap body to prevent ghost fishing.⁷ **[SFA - Fisheries Management; Research]**
14. The **SFA** should regularly publish the information that it has been collecting on the price of different species of fish.⁸ **(Stats; Economics)**
15. Traps should be marked with a number linked to a fisher followed by another number for his actual trap⁹. **[SFA - MCS; Fisheries Management]**
16. **SFA** must have a correct and regularly updated list of registered fishers, permits, fishing licenses, and fishing vessels publicly available on the SFA website¹⁰. **(MCS; Fisheries Management)**

⁵ This should be through a fisheries regulation with eventual enforcement preceded by adequate sensitization and awareness.

⁶ SFA could support fishers showing interest in this activity by providing a waterproof housing for the mobile phones.

⁷ The ICCP noted that this SAS recommendation was taken after consideration of several other types of biodegradable devices. SFA should provide advice and assistance to obtain such a degradable device. There will be need for testing trials before the exact detail of a regulation is legislated.

⁸ To assist a better understanding of seasonal or other targeted fishing which was raised at various times during the SAS meetings and endorsed by the ICCP. It would also provide better information on the economic contribution of artisanal and small-scale fishing to fisher livelihood and the national economy.

⁹ For example, a recreational fisher could be identified by number 53 and his traps would be 53.1 and 53.2. A commercial fisher could be identified by no 72 with the possibility of have traps (72.1, 72.2....., 72.24, 72.25). Since registration of traps has already started, this change will be adopted on procurement of new tags.

¹⁰ The ICCP considers that that there are too many registered fishers and registered fishing vessels that are not fishing. This creates confusion, difficulty in enforcement of regulations, and mismanagement of fuel subsidies. Proper licensing and registration are most basic and critical information necessary for the management of the Mahe Plateau trap and line fishery, as well as other Seychelles fisheries. Fisher associations can assist in correcting and updating this list.