

MINUTES 18th MEETING
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
OF THE
MAHÉ PLATEAU TRAP AND LINE FISHERY CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN

Seychelles International Conference Centre (ICCS), Victoria, Mahé

Thursday 15th December 2022

10:00 A.M.

Introduction

The 18th 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 15th of December 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. He passed the condolences of the meeting to Mr Jean-Claude Hoareau, FishTech, on the passing away of his father.

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 11 ICCP members and three other stakeholders or observers. It incorporated the sanitary measures required for all government Agency meetings. Participants could use any of the three national languages. The list of participants is in **Appendix 3**.

Developments since the last meeting

Ms Elisa Socrates, Assistant-Manager, Resource Management (SFA) informed the meeting of the developments since the last meeting of 17 November based on working paper ICCP18-WD-2.

Fisheries Liaison Officer

The Liaison officer, Mr. Frank Volcere had continued visiting the landing sites. Most fishers seemed to be abiding to bourzwa and zob minimum size regulations. A request had been made to the SWIOFISH3 Secretariat for an extension of his contract to June 2023 which had been agreed.

Communication

The SFA communication task force resumed work with the service provider of the pending four (4) 30-second Spot videos to be streamed at the Bois De Rose STC supermarket. The task force had received samples of the videos 4, 5 and 6 which have been vetted and will be brought to the attention of the Implementation Committee for input. Awareness audios are being aired at Victoria, Anse Aux Pins, and Port Launay bus terminals. Filming for a documentary and 9 awareness videos is halfway complete. ICCP members were invited to provide, Mr. Raymond Clarisse, the producer, with additional content for the documentary as was the request for a filming session with a fisher.

Legislation

The consultative workshop to discuss the draft Act and Regulations was held by the SFA and the Ministry (MFBE) on 23-24 November 2022 at the ICCS Conference room.

MCS

The MCS department would present an update on their activities since the last meeting in Agenda item 4.

ICCP Task Force to support the MCS Unit.

At its 17th Meeting, the ICCP asked the Secretariat to draft terms of reference (TOR) for a task force to assist the MCS unit in its reporting to the ICCP. A draft TOR for the MCS Task Force was attached in Annex 1 of ICCP18/WD/3.

World Fisheries Day

The theme of this year's Fisheries Day this year revolved around the United Nations International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture. Activities spread over one week, from 21-26 November 2022. MFBE and SFA organised several activities, revolving around the theme, such as an exhibition of the evolution of artisanal fishing in the Seychelles where SFA work in partnership with stakeholders was showcased. There were also visits to the aquaculture facilities at Providence, donation of equipment to the Seychelles Maritime Academy (SMA) by the Minister of MFBE, a Seafood Fiesta roadshow, the launch and distribution of the Fishbites¹ app, and a courtesy call to State House by fishers from different fisher associations that had made a significant contribution to the Seychelles Fishing Industry².

Fisher Associations and CEPS

Following up on discussions at the 17th ICCP meeting on the strengthening of fisher associations and the development of a federation, an SFA/CEPS meeting took place on 1 December 2022 at CEPS' headquarters to discuss possible ways forward on this matter. Support through a Fisher Association Secretariat located in SFA and manned with the assistance of CEPS is one of those possibilities.

Submission of registration documents

Following up on repeated requests by the ICCP for fisher associations to provide their registration documents and put their house in order in view of the requirements of the new Associations Act of April 2022, the Secretariat has sought a list of compliant fisher associations and ICCP member representations from the Registrar of Associations with the assistance of CEPS. These were still to be received. CEPS/SFA discussions and meetings will continue next year.

Following the presentation by Ms Socrates the meeting viewed 3 new spot videos. ICCP member comments included:

- Spot video messages should be consistent with actual legislation – e.g., the kordonnyen spawning season is from September to April and spawning ground fishing restrictions are from 3 days prior to full moon, full moon itself, and 3 days post.
- It was clarified that to place the locations of spawning sites on the videos was acceptable as it was part of the legislation.

¹ Downloadable on Google Play store

²<http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/17797/Elderly+fishermen+in+Seychelles+recognised+for+contribution+to+sector+at+presidential+ceremony>

- Visuals should reflect the appropriate Co-management plan fishing methods (traps and lines) rather than other fishing methods.
- Consideration be given to awareness raising at the inter-island ferry site (Kat coco) and the airport.
- The SFA awareness task force targeted audiences by spot (30-second) videos or longer videos depending on the best communication approach for the situation or location.

The ICCP Secretariat was requested to circulate the revised spot videos to the meeting participants for further comments in the next two weeks. The Chair asked fisher associations to encourage experienced members of their associations to participate in the video documentary under preparation.

MCS Monitoring and voluntary compliance to the Fisheries Regulations 2021

Mr Roddy Allisop, Head of the Fisheries Monitoring Centre, SFA, presented the Co-management Plan MCS activities since the last ICCP meeting. Mr Allisop recall that the last ICCP had requested the SFA MCS Unit to provide:

- 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

MOU with SPA/SMSA/Eden Island

SFA was yet to be included in the MOU signed by SMSA, Seychelles Port Authority (SPA) and Eden Island Management to collaborate and cooperate to ensure that their relevant regulations are adhered to. This was in process.

MOU with Seychelles Police

SFA (MCS) had contacted the Police commissioner's office on various occasions for an update on the MOU. The Police had asked for more time to review the documents.

Enforcement activities related to Eden Island and elsewhere

From 1 November 2022 to date, there had been 6 land patrols directed to Eden Island. No infringements had been encountered. Reports of refusal of access to Eden Island by SFA Enforcement officers were based on past events and not the situation currently. The Enforcement team had been reviewing its operational activity in relation to Eden Island patrols. This would increasingly use Automatic Identification System³ (AIS) data in planning and execution of missions. Currently, it was relying on intelligence received from informants to plan inspections. One of the challenges was working out individual legal limits when recreational/sports fishers spend more than one day at sea, as the legislation relates to each person per day on a recreational vessel.

Altogether there were 18 land patrols undertaken on Mahe in November. Also, there were 31 inspections: 13 at landing sites, 9 at markets, 2 processing plant spot checks, 3 fish outlets, 4 takeaway restaurants, 0 hotels. A reviewed enforcement plan extracted from the approved MCS Protocol of the Management plan was presented.

³ International Maritime Organization (IMO) requirement for all passenger vessels and those above 300 tonnes to broadcast their positions and movement to prevent collisions.

This showed that in November:

- There was an incident for the use of an unregistered net in Bel Ombre. The net was seized and the case is ongoing.
- No Coastal patrols were conducted on kordonnyen spawning grounds. SFA was currently seeking assistance from the Seychelles Coast Guard.
- No infractions of minimum bourzwa and zob sizes and bag limits were detected.
- There was a joint Regional Patrol of offshore areas conducted with Mauritius using Seychelles Coast Guard assets. No unlicensed fishing vessels were encountered fishing on the Mahe Plateau
- No infractions were encountered on the illegal sale of fish and bag limits of semi-industrial fishing vessels.
- In collaboration with the coastguard, there was apprehension of a net fishing karang and seizure of lobsters from an establishment in La Digue.

The team had lost two members to retirement over the past two years, including the team leader most recently. Considering the additional joint Patrol obligations, the SFA MCS unit had been short on manpower.

Comanagement Plan hotline

The Comanagement Plan hotlines are: 4670321 (landline); 2716300 (mobile) and the email for reporting is mptl@sfa.sc. There were no Mahe Plateau specific complaints either on the hotlines or email in November. In October, there was 1 phone call on undersized fish at Victoria market and 3 phone calls on illegal net fishing activity in the north of Mahe, and 2 on illegal lobster fishing. Information also had been received by whatsapp and through other SFA numbers.

Registration and marking of fish traps

As of 1 December 2022, a total of 1020 fish traps had been registered (954 commercial, 55 recreational). There had been 539 commercial and 48 recreational fish traps registered before 1 October, and 415 commercial and 18 recreational after 1 October 2022.

Following the presentation, *the Chairperson appealed to SFA for MCS working documents to be provided in advance (1 week) of the ICCP meetings.* Otherwise, it was difficult to have a productive discussion on the subject.

The SFA legal adviser informed that he had recently raised the issue of the MOU with the police. On the MOU with SMSA, SPA and Eden Island, the parties had informed that they had no objection to SFA's inclusion, SFA had received a copy from SPA and was working on its modification. The MOU with the police was a framework for collaboration which included: combating illegal unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU); the conduct of joint police/SFA patrols; exchange of information; due diligence and intelligence gathering; investigations; capacity building and knowledge exchange; and policy and legislative proposals. Sensitive information would at times be involved and provision of a copy of the MOUs to the ICCP would not be appropriate.

There was dissatisfaction expressed that after so much discussion and nearly one year after the legislation being in place, these MOUs were still at such a preliminary stage. SFA raised that *there was need for more co-management cooperation in reporting infringements on the hotline.* It was not possible for SFA to know of and act on all infringements but as was seen in the case of the seizure of lobsters, the information circulated quickly and had an important general compliance effect. It was brought to the attention of the meeting that there were no SFA enforcement officers on Praslin. SFA would seek to remediate this situation. *The importance of official SFA follow-ups with collaborating agencies on MCS was emphasized.*

The ICCP discussed a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) of a Task Force to assist the MCS Unit provided by the Secretariat in advance of the meeting. It approved the finalised TOR in **Appendix 4** and set up the Task Force. It appointed the following Task Force members: Roddy Allisop, Karyss August (SFA MCS); Vincent Lucas (SFA Fisheries Management); TBA (SFA Research); Jan Robinson (SWIOFISH3); Rodney Nicole (Fisher Association); TBA (Sports/Recreational fisher), and; Wilna Accouche (Green Island, NGO).

The Stock Assessment Sub-Committee in 2023

Following a proposal from the Chair of the SAS, Mr Aubrey Harris, Consultant, presented the SAS workplan for 2023. Next year, the SAS intended to continue its work in accordance with the recommendations of the ICCP made at its 17th meeting on 17 November 2022 (see ICCP18/WD/4). These are:

1. To revisit the Performance Monitoring System (PMS) of the Co-management Plan.
2. To review the Minimum Size Limits (MSLs) of bourzwa and zob and consider whether bordmar and kapten blan should also have MSLs.
3. To review the recreational and sports fisher bag limits downwards and consider if there should be bag limits for bordmar and kapten blan.
4. To consider the data on vyey plat, vyey goni and vyey masata for more informed decisions on their management
5. Any other pressing stock assessment or related fisheries management matters that may be referred to it by the ICCP

The SAS intended to work over 4 meetings (in April, May, June and July) finishing by 1 August 2023 so that these can be presented to the ICCP well before 1 October 2023. It would retain its 2022 membership and intended to keep its workday as Monday with meetings of 4 hours from 1000-1400hrs.

Based on the discussions that followed, the *ICCP Chair requested that the SAS also considers including other kordonnyen spawning areas (such as around Mahe) and to clarify whether sports/recreational fishers should be allowed to set traps on spawning areas. It should also include Makonde as one of the species for its consideration.*

Market opportunities of the fish resources of the Co-management Plan

Dr Jan Robinson made a presentation on market opportunities of the fish resources of the Co-management Plan based on ICCP18/WD/5. He noted that fishers, fish processors and other businesses in the trap and line fishery value chains are making short-term sacrifices to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Mahè Plateau fish resources. The implementation of the Mahè Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co-management Plan however also offered market opportunities and benefits that may offset any losses from complying with size and bag limits, among other measures.

Market opportunities encompasses factors such as access to markets, market potential, brand value and price premium, that seafood providers can focus on to ensure return on investment and growth in their business. For example, a fish labelling program ('Hook and Line Fisheries') was initiated in 2008 by the Fishermen and Boat Owners Association (FBOA). Intended to serve as a market-based incentive to promote responsible and sustainable fishing practices, the program came to an end after a few years despite early signs of success.

A key development in recent decades is the rise in ecolabelling schemes based on certification products originating from sustainable fisheries. These schemes typically rely on third-party assessment that a fishery meets international best-practice for sustainably caught seafood. In developed country markets of Europe and North America, and increasingly elsewhere consumers

are demanding that their seafood choices are sourced from fisheries that are ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable.

In Seychelles, recent initiatives have demonstrated that consumers, including tourists originating from countries where ecolabelling is common, would adjust their choices if information on seafood products was available. A study of Seychelles' seafood value chains in 2019 identified that branding, labelling, and certification schemes hold potential for significant value added to trap and line-caught finfish, marketed both locally and abroad. SWIOFish3 was currently supporting a market intelligence plan, which was one of the recommendations of the 2019 study. The plan has been implemented and now offers an opportunity to underpin marketing and certification strategies by providing an evidentiary basis on the sustainability of the fishery.

The ICCP could play an important role in supporting market-based initiatives. For example, a branding and labelling scheme for products of the trap and line fishery, like that launched by the FBOA a few years ago, could be implemented under the auspices of the ICCP. Alternatively, different fleet or gear segments may see value in more specific branding and labelling. It was proposed that a study, financed by SWIOFish3, is undertaken in the first semester of 2023 to prepare options on market opportunities for trap and line fisheries and to provide more details on the potential role of ICCP in promoting market-based incentives.

Comments following the presentation included: that the local market for fish should progressively be entirely weight based rather than on 'pake pwason' (packets of fish); the need to encourage fishers and their families to obtain better outlets and preliminary fish processing; all Co-management Plan species would be considered but the study would look at the most promising; the study should evaluate the previous eco-labelling project and use the lessons learnt from that study; with the co-management plan in place now new opportunities existed; the target should be labelling for the local market as well as possibilities of export; and any existing local or island based initiatives should be considered and included if these were in place.

The ICCP approved the proposal to have a study of market opportunities of the fish resources of the Co-management Plan.

Status of implementation of the Co-management Plan and the ICCP program for 2023

Mr Aubrey Harris, Consultant, presented this item based on ICCP18/WD/6 and ICCP18/ID/3. He recalled that the ICCP had approved its workplan for 2022 at its 12th Meeting in December 2021. The workplan envisaged holding five (5) ICCP Meetings and the setting-up of a Stock Assessment Committee. Together these would: review the communication, sensitisation, and enforcement/licencing activities; review and understand the stock assessment; assess the progress of implementation of the Co-management Plan and the status of a proposed peer to peer overseas exchange; openly discuss all Co-management Plan matters, socio-economic assessment, and management measures; and make decisions and recommendations for management in 2023, which would be shared with the public in an SFA Open day.

Actual results were that there were six (6) ICCP, one (1) ad hoc meeting and four (4) ICCP Stock Assessment Subcommittee meetings held in 2022. The achievements of each of the meetings were in ICCP18/ID/3. Over the year the ICCP: reviewed communication and awareness and requested SFA to set up a task force; agreed to soft enforcement until full enforcement as of 1 October 2021; regularly appraised SFA's MCS monitoring of voluntary compliance; overviewed stock assessment and made assessment and fisheries management recommendations; collaboratively prepared for the peer-to-peer exchange visit; reviewed communication and awareness promotional material produced by the SFA Task Force; discussed information collected on fisher associations and of their empowerment; undertook a peer to peer exchange with Shetland (UK) and Sete (France); further raised the need for empowerment of fisher associations and a Federation or Secretariat; appraised SFA's MCS full-enforcement of fisheries regulations between October and December 2022; made

stock assessment and management recommendations to SFA after considering the SAS recommendations; considered the possibility of an SFA Open day; discussed market opportunities of the Co-management Plan's fish resources; reviewed its work in 2022 and considered its workplan for 2023.

Participation of ICCP members in 2022 was much the same as in 2021 (10.4 and 10.75 per meeting, respectively) with slightly greater participation of observers (4 and 3.2 per meeting, respectively) - see ICCP18/ID/3 and **Appendix 5, slide no 5**. SAS meetings had good participation of fisher and recreational ICCP members and of the SFA Research section, but some disappointment had been expressed at the fisheries resources management support.

An analysis the 2022 ICCP recommendations/decisions against their outcomes was made (detail presented in ICCP18/ID/3). These were summarised in **Appendix 5, slide 6**. Of 64 recommendations/decisions made 53% were implemented, 9% were partially implemented, 16% were not implemented, and for 22% the outcome was not yet known. The 'not yet known' group of recommendations would need to be taken up next year. Mr Harris reviewed some of the successes and disappointments in 2022 (**Appendix 5 slide 7 and 8**).

Proposed workplan for 2023

Mr Harris traced key timelines of the Mahe Plateau trap and line fishery (MPTLF) Co-management Plan over the last couple of years. It was gazetted on 6 February 2020 by the then Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture (MFAg). Its fisheries regulations were gazetted as Statutory Instrument 77 on the 13 September 2021 to come into force subsequently when declared by the Minister of Fisheries and the Blue Economy (MFBE). The Co-management Plan was launched by the Minister of MFBE on 1 October 2021 preceded by Communication strategy two weeks earlier prepared by a service provider with the input of the ICCP over several months. This strategy continued until December 2021. The Co-management Plan regulations came into effect on 1 January 2022 with understanding that this would be with further sensitisation and awareness, less emphasis on punitive measures directed towards the fishers, and compliance rather directed at pleasure and sports fishers, hotels, restaurants etc.

Substantively, therefore, **the effective start of the implementation of the Co-management Plan was the 1 January 2022**. The MPTLF has two phases of two years. The **end of the first phase will thus be on 31 December 2023**. The Co-management Plan envisages a review of the Co-management Plan and the PMS biennially. It was noted that work some of the strategies of Phase 2 has already started in Phase 1 (e.g., licencing framework, discussions and recommendations on strengthening fisher associations/ federation; work of Stock Assessment Subcommittee on MSLs and bag limits).

With these in mind, the proposed workplan of the ICCP for 2023 consisted of 6 ICCP meetings and 4 SAS meetings (covered separately in **ICCP18/WD/4 and ICCP18/WD/6**). The six ICCP meetings (see Appendix 6) were:

- **19th ICCP, 23 February 2023** – Follow-up of last year's recommendations, Compliance with fisheries regulations and work of the MCS Task Force, Communication and awareness review and propose 2023 activities.
- **20th ICCP, 20 April 2023** – Socio-economic assessment of impact of fisheries regulations, the SFA Catch Assessment System and latest available statistics
- **21st ICCP, 22 June 2023** – Report of the MCS Task Force, Market opportunities for fish resources of the Co-management Plan, Progress report of SAS
- **22nd ICCP, 24 August 2023** – Recommendations of the SAS for ICCP consideration. Review of the ICCP, its mode of operation and membership.
- **23rd ICCP, 19 October 2023** – Compliance to fisheries regulations after first year of full enforcement. Agreed legislative changes to the regulations for implementation as of 1 January 2024.
- **24th ICCP, 7 December 2023** – Review of the 1st Phase of the Co Management Plan, Revision of the Co-management Plan and the PMS. Proposed plan for the ICCP in 2024

As planned but not implemented in 2022, the last meeting of the ICCP for the 2023 year should be coordinated with an SFA open day where ICCP members can meet with the stakeholders and public, explain their work and contributions, and present the regulations and proposed work for 2024. The ICCP in 2023 should, hopefully, be even more active and successful as it was in 2022.

Discussion following the presentation raised the importance of getting more fisher associations involved in the ICCP in 2023 even though they may not be ICCP members. *The ICCP asked that SFA programme for an open day for ICCP discussions with other stakeholders and the public in December 2023.*

*The ICCP approved its workplan for 2023 as presented and discussed (see **Appendix 6**)*

Other matters

The SFA expressed its appreciation of the participation of several fisher associations at the Fisheries legislation consultation workshop held late November.

An appeal was made for the Secretariat to encourage greater participation of fisher associations and other secondary stakeholders to ensure ICCP decisions are broadly known. There was need to send them a letter as a reminder and keep them in copy with the minutes of the meetings.

There was an expression of appreciation for fisher associations that attended with both Representative and alternate and who actively passed the ICCP decisions to their members.

Work on permits for sports and recreational fishers was in progress and would be covered in the upcoming new Fisheries Act.

The sports fisher's representative informed that some 80% of fishing hire craft were releasing their fish or making greater efforts to.

The view was expressed that we are still not sufficiently sensitising the public in relation to the fisheries regulations.

Date and Place of the next meeting

The 19th Meeting of the ICCP will be held on Thursday 23 February 2023, 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 17th ICCP meeting (17th November 2022) including continuing fisher communications and other relevant matters from SFA and from the Secretariat.

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

The MCS Section will update the meeting on outstanding matters raised at the last meeting and the results of patrols and enforcement actions undertaken since the start of enforcement on 1 October 2022 with its assessment of the level of compliance with the 2021 Fisheries Regulations.

5. The Stock Assessment Sub-committee in 2023.

The Stock assessment Sub-committee has finished its work for 2022 providing recommendations that have been adopted by the ICCP. Here it will propose a plan for its work in 2023.

6. Market opportunities of the fish resources of the Co-management Plan

With progress in the implementation of a Co-management Plan as a tangible step towards ensuring sustainability of the trap and line resources of the Mahe Plateau, it is time to consider marketing possibilities such as eco-labelling to provide added value to fishers and other stakeholders.

7. Status of implementation of the Co-management Plan and the ICCP program for 2023

A review of the implementation of the Co-management Plan in 2022 will be presented together with a proposed programme for the ICCP in 2023.

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

ICCP18/WD/1. Agenda

ICCP18/WD/2. Developments since the last meeting

ICCP18/WD/3. MCS Monitoring and compliance to the Fisheries Regulations 2021 [Not available before meeting]

ICCP18/WD/4. Workplan of the Stock Assessment Sub-Committee in 2023

ICCP18/WD/5. Market opportunities for the fish resources of the Co-management Plan

ICCP18/WD/6 Review of implementation in 2022 and proposed ICCP programme for 2023

Information documents

ICCP18/ID/1. List of Documents

ICCP18/ID/2 Minutes of the 17th ICCP meeting of 17 November 2022.

ICCP18/ID/3 Review of implementation in 2022 and proposed ICCP programme for 2023.

Appendix 3

List of Participants

Members, other Stakeholders and Secretariat

Members	
Rodney Nicole	Bel Ombre Fishers Association
Roy Clarisse (ICCP Chair),	Department of Fisheries, MFBE
Stephanie Radegonde	MFBE
Wilna Accouche	Green Island Foundation
Kevin Moumou	Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment, MACCE
Ray Payet	La Digue Fishers Association
Darell Green (ICCP Vice-Chair)	Praslin Fishers Association
Therence Labrosse, Neddy Labrosse	Roche Caiman Fishers Association
Philippe Michaud	Seychelles Fishing Authority
Bertile Bonne	Seychelles Fishers & Boatowners Association (SFBOA)
Mervyn Dugasse	Seychelles Sports Fishers Club (SSFC)
Other Stakeholders / Observers	
Albert Napier	Apostolat de la Mer
Steve Payet	Cascade Fishers Association
Jan Robinson	Coordinator, SWIOFish3 Project (MFBE)
Secretariat	
Elisa Socrates	Assistant-Manager, Resource Management (SFA)
Karyss Auguste	Assistant-Manager, License and Permit (SFA)
Aubrey Harris	Consultant (SFA)
Estelle Barreau	Fisheries Analyst, Resource Management (SFA)
Vincent Lucas	Fisheries Management (SFA)
Roddy Allisop	Head, Fisheries Monitoring Centre (SFA)
Rodney Govinden	Head, Research (SFA)
Yannick Roucou	Legal Adviser (SFA)
Frank Volcere	Liaison Officer (SFA)
Betty Victor	Senior Coordinator, Resource Management (SFA)

Appendix 4

ICCP Task Force to support the MCS Unit.

At its 17th Meeting, the ICCP Secretariat was asked to draft TORS for a task force to assist the MCS unit in its reporting to the ICCP. At the 17th ICCP meeting, several MCS Issues had been raised (see 17th ICCP minutes), there had been an insufficient SFA MCS response, and a Task Force was requested as a result.

The purpose of this Task Force is to assist the MCS unit to improve compliance to regulations of the Mahe Plateau trap and line fishery Co-management Plan and report it to the ICCP in a satisfactory manner⁴. It will also assist the MCS unit in its response to the ICCP regarding ICCP recommendations. The Task Force will do this in a positive and helpful manner taking due consideration of the MCS unit's human resource capacity and where this is wanting to seek innovative ways to add capacity or to optimise existing capacity. Task force members are to assist ~~rather than criticise~~⁵ with the objective of showing tangible improvements to the ICCP.

The Taskforce will start work as from 15th January ~~2022~~, 2023, for a period of 6 months. It will operate virtually on dates and in intervals that it will itself decide but at least four times within the 6-month period. It will provide a short summary of its progress to the ICCP at the end of this period.

The task force shall:

- Decide on its task force leader – proposals from the ICCP will be welcome.
- Seek to improve the MCS strategy regarding the Co-management Plan
- Examine some existing patrol reports and propose improvements that will provide objective and measurable indicators of inspection.
- Standardise the terminology and calculation of compliance
- ~~Provide suggestions and comments to MOUs with other enforcement Agencies.~~
- Help in the finalisation of the line and trap fishing licences, and the Co-management Plan component of the licencing framework
- Make comments and suggestions on documents provided to it by the MCS unit
- Assist the MCS unit with the content and structure of its reports to the ICCP
- Aid in other ways that may be suggested by the MCS unit.

It shall consist of: MCS personnel (2 or more); Fisheries Resource Management (1 person); Fisheries Research (1 person), SWIOFish3 (1 person), Fisher Associations (1 person); Sports fishers/recreational (1 person); NGOs (1 person). The ICCP Secretariat will support this Task Force.

⁴ Underlined text are additions made during the meeting.

⁵ Strikeout text are deletions made during the meeting

Appendix 5

Presentation made on the implementation in 2022 and the ICCP programme for 2023

18th ICCP of the Mahe Plateau trap and line fishery Co-management Plan

ICCS
15 December 2022

Review of implementation in 2022 and a proposed ICCP programme for 2023

Aubrey Harris
Consultant assisting ICCP

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2

Plan for 2022

Planned for 2022.

Five (5) ICCP Meetings and set-up of a Stock Assessment Committee (number of meetings unspecified). These would:

- review of communication, sensitisation, and enforcement/licencing activities
- Stock assessment understanding and review
- Assess midyear progress in implementation. Status of proposed overseas tours
- Have an open discussion on all Co-management Plan matters, socio-economic assessment, and management measures
- Make decisions and recommendation for management in 2023, and share with public in an SFA Open day

Hoping for better meeting opportunities coming out of Covid19 restrictions

What happened in 2022

Six (6) ICCP Meetings, one (1) ad hoc Meeting, four Stock (4) Assessment Committee (SAS) meetings. The meetings did the following:

- reviewed communication and awareness and requested SFA to set up a task force
- agreed to soft enforcement until full enforcement as of 1 October 2021
- Regularly appraised SFA's MCS monitoring of voluntary compliance;
- overviewed stock assessment and made assessment and fisheries management recommendations
- jointly prepared for the peer-to-peer exchange visit
- Reviewed communication and awareness promotional material produced by the SFA Task Force

3

4

What happened in 2022 (contd)

- Discussed information provided on fisher associations, suggested possibilities of improvement
- Had a peer to peer exchange with Shetland (UK) and Sete (France);
- Emphasised need for empowerment of fisher associations and a Federation/Secretariat?;
- Appraised SFA MCS monitoring of full compliance since 1 October 2022;
- Reviewed SAS recommendations and made it those of the ICCP;
- considered an SFA Open day;
- discussed market opportunities of the Co-management Plan's fish resources [today];
- Reviewed its work in 2022 and considered its workplan for 2023 [today].

Participation in ICCP and SAS meetings

Stakeholder member	2022					Total
	ICCP13	ICCP14	ICCP15	ICCP16	ICCP17	
Attendance of ICCP meetings						
Primary						
Bel Ombre Fishers Association						5
FishTech						4
FBDA						2
Hire Boat Rep						0
La Digue Fishers Association						4
Praslin Fishers Association						5
Roche Caiman Fishers Association						5
Secondary						
Dept of Blue Economy						3
Green Island Foundation						5
MACCE						1
Dept of Fisheries						4
Recreational Fishers Rep						5
SFA						5
Sport Fishers (SFC)						4
Total member attendance	9	12	9	12	10	52
Observers						
Anse Aux Pins Fishers Association						2
Apostolat de la Mer						2
Cascade Fishers Association						1
FBDA (Praslin)						4
AMSS						1
CEPS						1
OCEANA						1
SFA Board						1
Intercellaneous						1
Tourism Department (SHTA)						2
Total Observer attendance	5	5	3	3	4	16

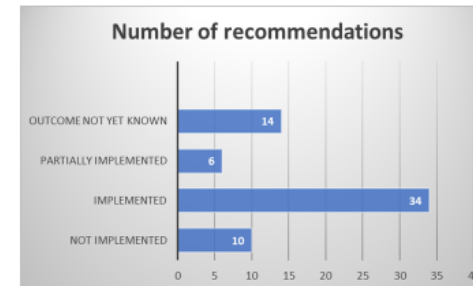
Average:
10.4 members
3.2 observers

SAS:
High participation Fisher,
Recreational, Sports,
Processor and SFA Research
representatives.

Resource management?

5 6

Decisions and actions in 2022



From a detailed examination
of ICCP recommendations and
outcomes.
See **information document 6**

53% implemented,
9% partially implemented,
16% not implemented,
22% not yet known

Successes

- Improved and targeted communication of the fisheries regulations by an active SFA communication and awareness task force.
- Work of the Stock Assessment Sub-Committee with good participation and recommendations largely endorsed by the ICCP;
- The involvement, support and advice of the Tourism sector (Seychelles Hospitality and Tourism Association) in the later part of the year.
- Well-organised SWIOFISH3-supported peer-to-peer exchange of 12 ICCP members with counterparts in Shetland with many important lessons-learnt.
- Listing of the fisher and vessel licences on the SFA website by the MCS Section
- The start of full enforcement on 1 October as agreed early in 2022.

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Disappointments

- Reports of the SFA MCS Section on compliance (initially 'soft' voluntary and later during full enforcement) were barely adequate or unsatisfactory.
- The inaction in seeking collaboration with Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA), SMSA and Eden Island Management to assist in the enforcement of the Co-management Plan fisheries regulations around Eden Island.
- Disappointing level of participation of the Hirecraft representative, MACCE and SFBOA.
- Lack of response of some fisher associations and some ICCP members in provision of their updated registration documents.

Implementation of the Co-management Plan

- Co-management Plan gazetted on 6 February 2020
- Fisheries regulations 13 September 2021
- launched by the Minister of MFBE on 1 October 2021.
- Regulations came into force on 1 January 2022.
- Understanding there would be further educational phase, less emphasis on punitive measures directed towards the fishers, emphasis on compliance of pleasure and sports fishers, hotels, restaurants etc.

Substantive start of implementation of the Co-management Plan was the **1 January 2022**.

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Implementation of the Co-management Plan (cont)

- Gazetted Co-management Plan has two phases of two years.
- **The end of the first phase will thus be on 31 December 2023.**
- The Co-management Plan envisages a **review** of the Co-management Plan and the Performance Monitoring System (PMS) every two years.

Second Phase includes:

- Develop/implement a fishery licencing framework
- Develop/implement incentive scheme for commercial fishers
- SFA to develop a framework to empower commercial fishers to be a more professional and cohesive group
- Provisions to compensate for ecosystem impacts affecting fishers
- Introduce MSLs based on Lm50 for bourzwa, zob, and several other species

Preliminary work on some of the strategies of Phase 2 has already started in Phase 1

Workplan for 2023

Proposed workplan of the ICCP for 2023 - 6 ICCP meetings and 4 SAS meetings:

- **19th ICCP Meeting February 2023** – Follow-up of last year's recommendations, Compliance with fisheries regulations and work of the MCS Task Force, Communication and awareness review and propose 2023 activities.
- **20th ICCP Meeting April 2023** – Socio-economic assessment of impact of fisheries regulations, the SFA Catch Assessment System and latest available statistics
- **21st ICCP Meeting June 2023** – Report of the MCS Task Force, Market opportunities for fish resources of the Co-management Plan, Progress report of SAS

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Workplan for 2023 (contd)

- **22nd ICCP Meeting August 2023** – Recommendations of the SAS for ICCP consideration. Review of the ICCP, its mode of operation and membership.
- **23rd ICCP Meeting October 2023** – Compliance to fisheries regulations after first year of full enforcement. Agreed legislative changes to the regulations for implementation as of 1 January 2024.
- **24th ICCP Meeting December 2023** – Review of the 1st Phase of the Co Management Plan, Revision of the Co-management Plan and the PMS. Proposed plan for the ICCP in 2024

The last meeting for the year have ICCP members can meet with the stakeholders and public, explain their work and contributions, and present the regulations and its proposed work for 2024.

