

**MINUTES 21<sup>st</sup> MEETING**  
**IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**MAHÉ PLATEAU TRAP AND LINE FISHERY CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN**

International Conference Centre Seychelles (ICCS) Conference Room 3, Victoria, Mahé

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

10:00 A.M.

**Introduction**

The 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Implementation Committee for the Co-Management Plan (ICCP) of the Mahé Plateau demersal trap and line fishery was held at the International Conference Centre Seychelles, Victoria, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2023.

**Opening to the meeting**

Mr. Darell Green, Vice-Chair of the ICCP, and representative of the Praslin Fishers Association (PFA) opened the meeting and made some remarks. He noted the apologies of Mr Roy Clarisse, PS, Department of Fisheries, MFBE, who was out of the country, welcomed the participants and asked for a round of introductions from attendees. He thanked Mr. Aubrey Harris, the consultant recruited to assist the ICCP Secretariat and Mr. Frank Volcere, the Liaison officer for the Co- Management Plan, for their work and devotion towards achieving the goal of the plan during the time that they had been employed under the consultancy, with the SWIOFISH3.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

The meeting proceeded with Mr Darell Green as Chairperson. The agenda as presented in **Appendix 1** was approved. The list of documents circulated in advance of the meeting is in **Appendix 2**. Participants could use any of the three national languages.

The meeting had an attendance of 28 participants, which included 11 ICCP members and 17 other stakeholders. The list of participants is in **Appendix 3**.

**Developments since the last meeting**

Ms Elisa Socrate, Assistant-Manager, Fisheries Resource Management (SFA) informed the meeting of the developments since the last meeting of 25 May based on working paper ICCP21-WD-2.

*Fisheries Liaison Officer*

Before the termination of his contract , Mr. Frank Volcere, the Liaison officer, has dedicated most of his time doing presentation on the Mahe Plateau line and trap fishery co- management plan, sensitising the youth of the different schools around the islands about the measures of the co-management plan (Grand Anse Mahe primary school, Plaisance Secondary School, Anse Etoile Primary School, the Baie Lazare Primary School, the Praslin Secondary School, the Grand Anse Praslin Primary School, the Baie Ste Anne Primary school, the La Digue School and the Bel Ombre Primary School) . Educational materials have been left behind to reinforce the co- management measures in place.

### *Communication*

Awareness audios are still being aired at Victoria, Anse Aux Pins, and Port Launay bus terminals. The billboard sign has been installed at the Anse Aux Pins and awaiting the promoter, for installation of the one at the Victoria bus Terminal. The delayed has been due to the lack of availability of materials to complete the work. Mr. Raymond Clarisse, the Executive Director of Creative Events and Media has provided the draft of the nine videos and one documentary to the Secretariat for comments.

### *Legislation*

The final version of the draft framework was circulated to stakeholders on the 30 June 2023 for comments. The draft is expected to be presented to the Cabinet of Ministers on the 2 August 2023. Thereafter, the framework will be vetted and finalized by the Attorney General's Chambers before being gazette as a Bill.

### *Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP)*

As there is current work to develop a Management Plan Template to be used to create Management Plans for sites within the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP), staff from the various departments of the SFA have been engaged in several workshops to discuss allowable activities in Zone 2 areas, which have been identified as pilot sites, trialling the Management Plan template. In separate meetings, the SFA officials have met with different agencies such as The Green Islands Foundation and the Save Our Seas Foundation- D'Arros Research Center (SOSF-DRC), with support from SeyCCAT, to initiate the process to draft a management plan for the sustainable use zone around Denis Island and the D'Arros and St. Joseph, consecutively. This was to discuss on how key information with regards to fisheries could be integrated within the development of the Plan.

### *MCS*

The MCS department will be presenting an update on the MCS action plan in Agenda item 4.

### *Socio-economic Impact Assessment*

The consultant has submitted the draft final report which is under review by the Project Steering committee. There are some concerns regarding the quality of the report. The Statistics and Fisheries Economics department will be presenting an update on the matter in Agenda item 5.

### *Fisheries Research*

The length sampling of key demersal and reef species is ongoing (Emperor red snapper, Brownspotted grouper, Green jobfish & Siganids). Length based stock assessment using data from 2022 was conducted for the three key demersal species (Emperor red snapper, Brownspotted grouper, Green jobfish). The draft report is being reviewed prior to finalization and circulation. The assessment provides estimates of fishing pressure, length at first capture and estimates of biological reference points (for Emperor red Snapper).

Purchase of venting tools that will be distributed to fishers has been budgeted for next year with the aim of distribution by mid-2024.

#### *Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS)*

*The six (6) SAS meeting took place on 15 June 2023. An interim report SAS5 is in Annex 1.*

This ICCP meeting incorporates mixed physical and remote conferencing facilities.

#### *Discussion*

Following this agenda item, the ICCP meeting Chair, recommended that posters be fixed at different fishing landing sites and markets across the country, discouraging the commercialisation of red snapper and green Job Fish under the prescribed size limit of 32cm. This will act as a mean of preventing members of the public declaring that they were unaware about the size limit restrictions. A special request was made by the Chair, that two of such posters be placed at the main landing site at Baie St Anne fish and one in the market. He explained that on the behalf of the Praslin Fishermen Association (PFA), fish measuring tool. i.e., release ruler, has been made available at Baie St. Anne landing sites, in which one had been gifted to the Roche Caiman Fishermen Association. An experience was shared, whereby one between two adolescents was encouraging the other in releasing undersized fishes caught. The ICCP meeting Chair encouraged that this was the way forward in achieving sustainability. The representative of the Roche Caiman Fishermen Association made a special recommendation that the posters needed be placed in areas where there were no fish vending outlets.

Head, Resource Management of SFA, explained that previously there were posters that had been produced and had been made available but will see that money will be budgeted for more. He pointed out that there is a need to take up with the SPTC management regarding the missing part of the advertisement on one of the SPTC buses. It was clarified by representative of the Secretariat that this issue had already been taken up with the SPTC management and that they are in the process of addressing the matter.

Representative of Fishtech requested that the posters be displayed at localised landing sites and at the processing unit facilities. Wordings were suggested on the way messages should be read for posters. Representative of the Secretariat highlighted that the promotional videos that Creative Design studio was coming up with and should help in sensitising the restaurants and tourism establishments, and specified that these were being done in English, since those establishments had made request that digitalised version be made available for their institutions.

There was enquiry regarding the prescribed size length demarcation at selling outlets so that members of the public will be visually aware of the size limit being enforced. There was a suggestion of using an everyday item that is equivalent to 32 cm to depict the size limit restriction, in which it was explained that on Praslin, there is someone who can carved fish out of plywood which can be used as reference. Additionally, queries were made about the demarcated size length that had previously been placed at the fish bazar and the landing sites, where it was stated by participants, that it was no longer visible or had never been placed. Clarifications were also raised regarding the patrol undertaken by the enforcement unit of the SFA, to curb the misconduct of stakeholder, whereby it was upraised that this was alarming given the amount of report of outstanding cases of undersized fish species being landed, and notified by social media and that this was not being

addressed by the enforcement unit. The Chair elucidated that if no enforcement was being done to address the matter, then the existence of the committee and the work being done was useless. The Chair explained that there had been much discussion regarding respecting the size limit and that the effort being invested by the members of the implementing committee into the advancement of the plan was counterproductive. Thus, he was of the point that his time and effort was going to waste and recommended that the fishermen or the stakeholders attending the meeting be compensated since they were losing a day of work attending the ICCP meeting and not much was being achieved and it was a waste of valuable time. He explained that the source of funding will have to be outsourced.

Head, Resource Management of SFA clarified that there has been much that had been achieved regarding the plan and stressing that nothing has been realised would not substantiate. He explicated that the sensitisation will indeed take time, but a lot has been accomplished since the launch of the plan. He explained that launching a co- management plan was a new practice and that some of the process has been delayed due to bureaucratic practices.

Representative of Boatowners and Fishermen's Association of St Andre Cascade enquired on the number to call to report cases of infringement, in which the representative of the Secretariat explained that there were hotline numbers and email address made available on promotional materials publicised across the country such as on bus wrapping and promotional videos. The work that had been done by Mr. Frank Volcere, the liaison officer, was also elaborated upon, where length size demarcation had been placed at fish market for consumers to be able to distinguish the undersized fish species.

Representative of the Lasosyasyon Peser La Digue explained that not much work was being done for the island of La Digue, in respective of the plan, in which The ICCP meeting Chair promised on providing the fishermen association, with one of the measuring ruler, whereby it was stated that there were still four (4) of the release rulers available, which could be made available to other members of the fishermen associations, through the Secretariat's office of the ICCP.

The Recreational Fisher Representative wanted some clarity of the size limit restriction, in which he emphasised that undersized fish should be released from the point of origin and not when it had reached the market. Thus, the logic of having the measuring ruler on board the boat rather than at the landing or vending sites. A participant stressed on the use of other stakeholders such as marine police and coast guard officers to assist with the enforcement of the measures. The Chair clarified about the need of briefing the enforcement entities that are to help in law enforcement on the measures relating to the management plan and that having proper training on the matter, in which he gave examples of cases that has happened formerly. Mr. Suleman raised the point of having the SFA enforcement officer in reviewing their working hours to be in harmonious with the time that the fishermen usually come in with their catch.

The issue of accreditation of other public individuals (associated with fisher associations) that could assist in enforcement arose, in which the Legal Adviser (SFA) explained the technicalities and the difficulties the SFA will face if ever there is any discrepancies in the procedures undertaken. It was expressed that there will always be reason for fishermen not to comply, despite all the awareness campaign that will be done. SFA was appraised for the work that the official was doing in enforcing the measures, although faced with difficulties. A request was made by the representative of SWIOFISH3, for the fishermen association to contribute to the co-management plan, by in encouraging their members to comply with the measures in place. It was highlighted that the association can play a key role in getting their members to conform to the law, since if non-

compliance keeps on increasing then members will just lose interest in the scheme. It was clarified that even though the fishermen association cannot enforce the measures of the law, then it will be equally helpful if they could convince the members of their fishing community in abiding to the measures.

An enquiry was made by the representative of the Roche Caiman Fishermen Association on the age that a fisherman was allowed in having a fishermen registration card, and whether someone falling in the age range of 65 years was allowed to be a registered fisherman. He was enlightened by the Assistant-Manager, License and Permit Section that age was not a factor in having one, whereby he was informed on the gist of having a card and that it was related on having special benefits such as concession. He further wanted to know if whether a fisherman without a fishermen registration card was intercepted at sea, will be asked to return ashore by competent authorities if ever stopped. He was advised that this should not be the case, whereby the Chair of the ICCP explained that Authorities undertaking surveillance at sea should be brief on their mandate. A participant stressed on the need of individuals engaged as fishermen be allocated with a fishermen registration card.

An enquiry was made on the possibility of having someone to enforce the law in the fish market that could assist with the compliance of the measures of the plan. The Legal Adviser (SFA) expressed that this is an avenue that could be explored. Assistant-Manager, License and Permit Section SFA, gave an overview on the voluntary compliance project that the SFA was in the process of allocating funding for, which should help to address the issue. The Legal Adviser (SFA), gave details on the way fines are allocated and about suspension of license.

Concern was raised regarding the way media reported the absenteeism of fishers at meeting, which was done for the report interview regarding the last ICCP meeting. There was a misconception that the ICCP meeting was a meeting hosted for fisherman instead of the ICCP meeting held to discuss matters relating to the implementation of the co-management plan. There were several suggestions whereby it was proposed that the ICCP Secretariat needs to provide a summary of the meeting to the media house, or the media provided the draft of the report to be aired, to be vetted by the ICCP Secretariat, before it is published, to avoid misinterpretation.

Head, Resource Management of SFA explained the process where the SFA had met with members of the media houses regarding the way content are being streamed online, in which he explained that whenever there are issues that are wrongly reported on, this can then be taken up through News Extra for further clarifications. He explained that by providing an article would be something that could enhance informative reporting.

### ***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. He provided an update on the results of patrols and enforcement actions undertaken since the 1st of May to June 2023 with its assessment of the level of compliance with the 2021 Fisheries Regulations resulting from its operational actions.

### ***MCS action Plan VS type of Fishery***

Presently the SFA MCS resources are confronted with many challenges to improve the level of compliance by fishers with the regulation, thus there is a need to strategies on how to engage the fishing community in the decision-making for the fishery, to have better cooperation. Since there is

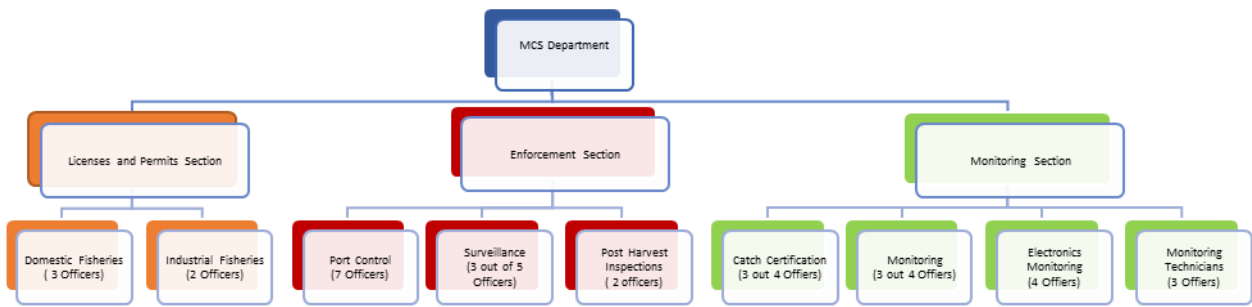
more than one type of fisher targeting a particular type of fishery (e.g., artisanal, industrial, or recreational), habitually, the MCS effort will target the user that offers the biggest threat to the fishery in terms of financial loss or biological damage.

The industrial and Semi-industrial fisheries will usually require integrated cost-effective MCS solutions, which include the combination of various components such as vessel registers, observer programmes, VMS and patrol vessels and aircraft. This usually makes this type of fishery generally easier to manage than the artisanal, recreational and Sports fisheries as vessel logbooks can often be implemented, and the landing of fish is usually through certain ports that facilitate landings monitoring. In the artisanal, recreational and Sports fisheries, the combination of vast numbers of fishers with mixed gears, and different landing sites makes MCS a very complex task for SFA to tackle on its own, and this is where the most appropriate approach to MCS in these fisheries is through the community-based approach. Sometimes in a multi-user fishery, it is easier to monitor the commercial and Sport Fishers than the recreational because their vessels are already registered. They are controlled through a system of licences and closed areas, bag limits and monitored through logbooks and monitoring of landings on designated sites by inspectors. However, since recreational fishers are unregistered fishers, this is where the MCS community-based approach comes in.

Currently, the SFA MCS resources are being overstretched to support the fisheries industry, hence, it is necessary to consider using targeted MCS as one of the strategies to improve the cost-effectiveness and efficiency. Therefore, applying random checks as part of a sampling strategy may be sufficient to get the required data for monitoring, but often the surveillance effort that is targeting enforcement must be aimed at known or suspected offenders, which must be intelligence driven. The usual targeting of routine offenders rather than the occasional or opportunistic ones is important as a visible deterrent to potential offenders. This type of intelligence-driven enforcement is also known as adaptive operations. The information usually comes from the fishing community itself and is, therefore, part of a cooperative or participatory management approach. However, encouraging the community to report possible infractions can be a challenging task.

### ***MCS Structure***

Tasked to support the successful implementation of the agreed fisheries management policies, plans and strategies by ensuring compliance with fishing conditions, management measures, and fisheries legislations, both domestic and international through effective flag state, coastal state, and port state controls. The MCS Department has 3 Sections with their own key functions. However, for the purpose of this report, we will be concentrating on the functions of the Enforcement Section which is responsible for the inspectorate and fisheries supervisory roles.



With a total staffing of 17 personnel, the Enforcement Section is made up of 3 units which have their own unique functions.

- **The Port Control Unit**, with a total of 7 personnel, is responsible for all in-port inspections for all Fisheries. Their activities are not limited to, compliance inspections and monitoring of landings for both industrial and domestic fisheries.
- **The Surveillance Unit** has a team of 3 personnel, and they are responsible to undertake all surveillance activities (Land, Coastal, Long Range, and Air). The Surveillance shall be carried out using assets of the Authority or jointly with other national law enforcement agencies, or in the framework of a regional or international arrangement, fisheries inspectors, and maritime agencies of foreign partners.
- **Post Harvest Inspections Unit** is comprised of 2 Officers, and they are responsible to inspect and monitor all post-harvest activities to ensure that minimum requirements regarding traceability and implemented trade measures are being adhered to once the fish has left the point of landing, up to the final point of consumption or export. This is done through the inspection of fish markets, processing plants, seafood outlets, hotels, restaurants, and point of exports.

**Enforcement and Licence effort towards the National Fisheries Regulations.**

The table 1 below show the numbers of Licensable activities and registered vessels by types of fishers from May to June 2023. (Note: figure highlighted in yellow did not change since the last ICCP report.)

	Target Species	Type of Gears applicable	No. of Known vessel registered	No. of Traps registered	Comments
<b>Commercial Fisheries</b>					
Artisanal Fishing	All species, excluding those prohibited from being fished under the fisheries act and those requiring special authorizations under the fisheries law.	Any Gear, excluding those prohibited to be used under the fisheries act and those requiring special authorizations under the fisheries law.	423	954	
Net Fishing	Mackerel, Sardines, Slipper Lobster	Net	N/A	N/A	45 nets licenced until now
Semi Industrial Tuna and Tuna like	Tuna & tuna like species	Long line gears	61	N/A	The vessel shall not operate on the Mahé Plateau.
Semi Industrial Dropline	Demersal fish species	Hand line or Drop line	2	N/A	The vessel shall not operate on the Mahé Plateau.
Sea Cucumber licence	Sea Cucumber	Scuba	25	N/A	Sea cucumber fishing season is currently closed until October 2023.

<b>Recreational</b>	All species, excluding those prohibited from being fished under the fisheries act and those requiring special authorizations under the fisheries law.	Any Gear, excluding those prohibited to be used under the fisheries act and those requiring special authorizations under the fisheries law.	Number of vessels unknown	66	Registration process to be conducted by SMSA under the SMSA Act to be enacted. Meanwhile, due to lack of capacity, SFA is in the process of internally discussing funding options to outsource development of registration and/or a permit system for recreational fishing. Deadline for finalised discussion: June 2023.
<b>Charter / SportFishers</b>	Any random species , usually big game species; Swordfish , bourgeois or Job fish	Any Gear, excluding those prohibited to be used under the fisheries act and those requiring special authorizations under the fisheries law.	Number of vessels unknown	N/A	SMSA to provide the list of registered vessels.

Table 2 below shows a Summary of Enforcement Activities vs Offences for the Month of May to June 2023. (Kindly note that the table for the Surveillance and Enforcement Plan from the MCS Protocol of the Mahe Plateau Management Plan 2019 is currently under review.)

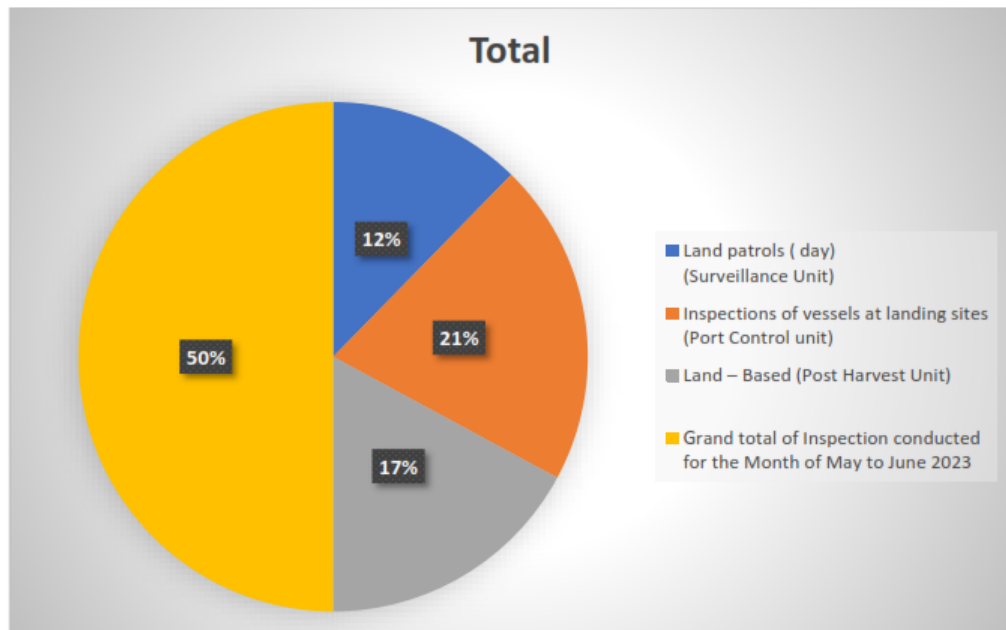


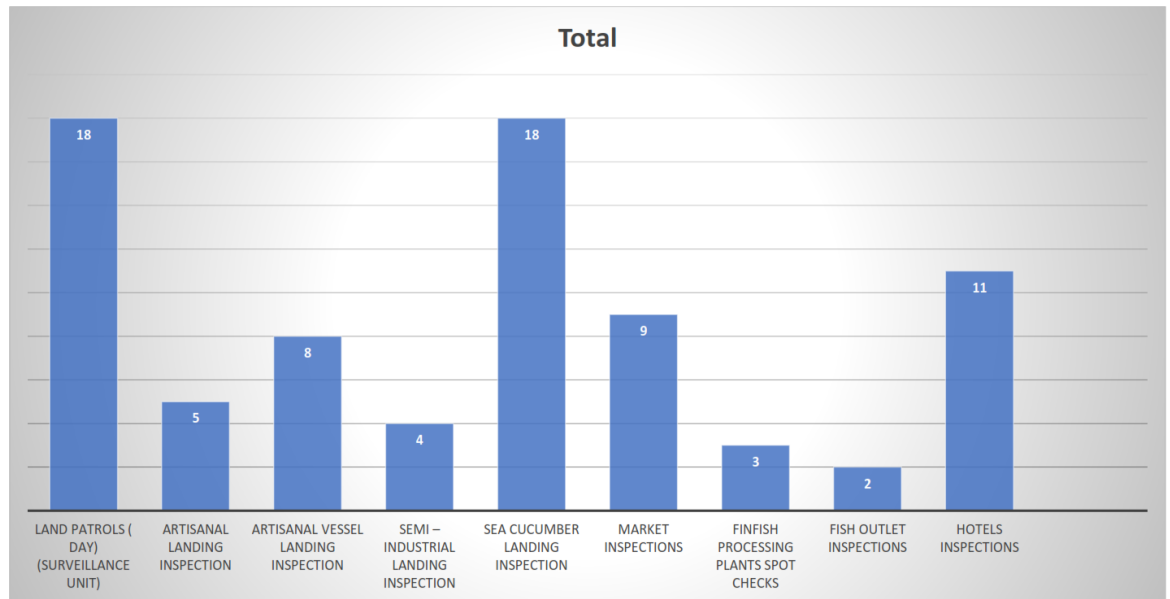
		Total	Infringements detected / information/warnings provided
<b>Near shore/coastal on water (Surveillance Unit)</b>			
1.	Coastal surveillance patrols-day patrols	0	No Patrols conducted due to lack of funding
1.1	Coastal surveillance patrols-evening/night patrols	0	No Skipper/Vessel not equipped for night patrol (Surveillance 1)
<b>Offshore/outer Mahe plateau-on water (Surveillance Unit)</b>			
1.2	Offshore/outer Mahe plateau patrols	0	No National sea patrol was planned for the month of May to June – Pending upcoming regional mission 61
<b>Near shore/ Offshore Aerial Patrol (Surveillance Unit)</b>			
1.3	Offshore/within Mahe plateau patrols	0	No Patrols conducted due to lack of funding
<b>Land-based (Surveillance Unit)</b>			
1.4	<b>Land patrols (Day)</b>	<b>18</b>	No infringements
1.5	Artisanal land patrol Inspection (Sites/District)	5	Total Number of sites visited and Vessels spotted: 42 sites and 92 vessels.
1.6	Semi – Industrial vessel inspection at Providence (departure of vessel)	0	Total Number of sites visited and Vessels spotted: 1 sites and 50 vessels.
1.7	Lobster inspection	0	Out of fishing season, Lobsters monitoring is done in conjunction with the FinFish

<b>Land – Based (Port Control unit)</b>			
2.	<b>Total Number of Offloading Monitored per Vessels at Landing sites</b>	<b>30</b>	4 designated port/ District including Providence (Data capture is available till 15.06.2023 for the moment due SFA office relocation)
2.1	Artisanal vessel landing inspection	8	Inspection on landing site in districts, no Under size catch measured (Data capture is available till 15.06.2023 for the moment due SFA office relocation)
2.2	Semi – Industrial Landing Inspection	4	4 Inspection conducted on vessels during offloading, no demersal catch seen. Additional to the offloading monitoring, 8 compliance inspection was conducted. Total 12 inspection. (Data capture is available till 15.06.2023 for the moment due SFA office relocation)
2.3	Sea cucumber Landing Inspection	18	Inspection of offloading sea cucumber, no demersal catch was seen during inspection. (Data capture is available till 15.06.2023 for the moment due SFA office relocation)
<b>Land – Based (Post Harvest Unit)</b>		<b>25</b>	
	Market inspections	9	Victoria, English River, Anse Etoile, Roche Caiman, Cascade, Anse Aux Pains, Anse Royale Market : No infringements detected during inspection
	Finfish processing plants spot checks	3	Seaharvest, Fresh Sea Food, and Oceana fisheries : No infringements detected during inspection

			(Additional to fin fish inspection 6 Inspection was conducted at Seacucumber processing plant.)
	Fish outlet inspections	2	Slice Pack and Oceana fisheries : No infringements detected during inspection
	Takeaways/Restaurants inspections	0	
	Hotel inspections	11	Inspections was conducted on Mahe only ; Anantara Maia, Ephilia, Double Tree HILTON, LAILA, Crown Beach Hotel, Fisherman Cove, Aden Blue, Story Hotel, Hilton Northholme, SAVOY Hotel.
<b>Total</b>		<b>73</b>	

The following chart represent the Statistical analysis of the total patrols conducted.





### Hotline

The hotline is made up of:

1. Landline: 4670321
2. Mobile: 2716300/2501249/2513390
3. Email: [mptl@sfa.sc](mailto:mptl@sfa.sc)

Aside from the email address, the contact details below were existing resources that have been assigned for the public to report potential infractions. It is unclear why, but the SFA enforcement unit have not been receiving Mahe plateau specific complaints on the phone numbers and email address published as the hotline.

The complaints specific to the management plan received so far are summarised below:

Contact point	Remarks	MARCH 2023	APRIL 2023
	FEBUARY 2023		
Landline 4670321	No activity related to infringement.	No activity related to infringement	No activity related to infringement.
Mobile 2716300/ 2501249 / 2513390	No activity related to infringement.	No activity related to infringement.	No activity related to infringement.
Email (mplt@sfa.sc)	No activity	No activity	No activity
Others	None related to Mahe plateau CM	No related to Mahe plateau CM	No related to Mahe plateau CM

### ***MOUs with the Police and in relation to SPA, SMSA and Eden Island***

The MOU with SPA, SMSA and Eden Island management the progress is ongoing.

The MOU with the Police. (e.g., Delegation of Power/or Chartering Agreements etc.) The signing is scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

In the discussion that followed participants expressed that it was of no use to have regulations in place if no one was abiding to the laws in place. The importance of being careful in setting precedents was raised. Experience was shared regarding incompetence of individuals working in certain agencies which has caused inconvenience to some boat operators. Issues of carangids being caught in nets was brought up, in which it was explained that the net regulations were going to be addressed soon through the development of the new Fisheries Act. Clarity was sought in instances whereby there are juvenile shark which enters the net and become entangled and die. There was a request in involving stakeholders when revising the net regulations concerning by-catch species such as sharks. SFA drew attention on the loophole that exist whilst developing regulations and explained that the regulations should clearly state that there should be zero retention of non-targeted species.

Since the number of chartered sport fishers were unknown, a participant enquired in whether the SFA could not obtain the figures from the Department of Tourism, whereby, the MCS Manager explained that the matter currently lies within the portfolio of the Seychelles Maritime Safety and Administration (SMSA) office.

For issues relating to Praslin and La Digue, there was a request to have an enforcement officer covering both the islands of Praslin and La Digue. Clarifications were requested regarding the number of artisanal landing inspections as compared to the number of visits to hotels was brought up, whereby the MCS manager clarified on the way the inspections were being conducted. Each unit i.e., Surveillance, Port control, Post Harvest Unit, within the MCS Section, were tasked with different area of monitoring and that the work is being done on a weekly basis. Additional query was on the number of artisanal vessels landing whereby the MCS manager explained the way the inspection was conducted.

The ICCP expressed an understanding of the enforcement constraints of the MCS Section and requested that the report be improved to show the reality and improvement should be made to ensure that the management plan achieves its goals.

*The SFA and members of the ICCP concluded that to undertake all the actions discussed there was need for more financial and human resources.*

### **Socio-economic assessment of the impact of fisheries regulations.**

The Socio-economic Impact Assessment of the trap and line fishery co-management plan commenced in February 2022. The study seeks to determine the impacts of the regulatory measures, develop scenarios as a basis to examine future changes, examine stakeholder perceptions that may affect compliance, and determine strategies to reduce the adverse effects of the measures. Mr Sharif Antoine, the SFA Economist, appraised the ICCP members of the results of the study.

Following the presentation, an observation was made that the consultant had not produced valuable report, in which it was explained that the report was based on the survey done without backing up the study with other work done as reference. It was explained that the report was mostly fishermen's perception rather than facts. It was explained that the report has lapse the reporting schedule by eight (8) months and that the contract was still being extend due to the number of resources invested in the work and that recruiting someone else will only delay the process. No additional fund was being invested in paying the consultant. It was explained that the result has shown that the most impacted by the measures will be the fishers that operate close to shore, such as those using the mini- Mahe, since they are the ones targeting the smaller sized red snapper. Additionally, the bigger fishing vessels will not be much impacted since they are selling their catch to the processors, who are rather requesting for bigger sized fish for export. It was explained that the consultant is working with the SFA to deliver the report. Details were given that ideally, the socio-economic study is normally done before implementing a management plan but this one was done after devising the plan since it is the first of its kind to be done in the Seychelles.

### **The Seychelles artisanal fisheries catch assessment system (CAS)**

Seychelles has been assessing the catch of its artisanal fisheries over several decades. It has a long-term dataset not matched by any other country in the region. Aspects of its catch assessment system was be presented to the ICCP by Mrs. Emilie Augustin, Statistical Officer (SFA), providing an appreciation of the technical and other matters involved in properly monitoring such fisheries.

Given that a point was raised by Mrs. Augustin on fishermen's unwillingness in providing data to the SFA, the ICCP meeting Chair suggested that it was time for SFA to introduce a system that is compulsory for the registered fishers to provide data. Moreover, the need of explaining the enumerator the importance of the job.

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

At its 18<sup>th</sup> meeting the ICCP approved a SWIOFish3 proposal to have a study of market opportunities of the fish resources of the Co-management Plan. Since the Terms of Reference (TOR) was not yet ready for the meeting, it was explained that the TOR was to be shared by email with the members for an intersessional review.

### **Other matters**

There were no other matters raised.

### **Date and Place of the next meeting**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ICCP will be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 at a location to be decided by the Secretariat.

# Appendix 1

## Agenda

### PROVISIONAL 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 20<sup>th</sup> ICCP meeting (25 May 2023) 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 SFA MCS Section will update the meeting on the results of patrols and enforcement actions undertaken since its last report to the 20<sup>th</sup> ICCP. It will also provide a report of the MCS task force's contribution or otherwise to improving its MCS monitoring.*

**5. Socio-economic assessment of the impact of fisheries regulations.**

*The Socio-economic Impact Assessment of the trap and line fishery co-management plan commenced in February 2022. The study seeks to determine the impacts of the regulatory measures, develop scenarios as a basis to examine future changes, examine stakeholder perceptions that may affect compliance, and determine strategies to reduce the adverse effects of the measures. The ICCP will be appraised of the results of the study.*

**6. The Seychelles artisanal fisheries catch assessment system (CAS)**

*Seychelles has been assessing the catch of its artisanal fisheries over several decades. It has a long-term dataset not matched by any other country in the region. Aspects of its catch assessment system will be presented to the ICCP to provide an appreciation of the technical and other matters involved in properly monitoring such fisheries. Some recent results will be provided.*

**7. Market opportunities of the fish resources of the Co-management Plan**

*At its 18<sup>th</sup> meeting the ICCP approved a SWIOFish3 proposal to have a study of market opportunities of the fish resources of the Co-management Plan. An update will be provided.*

**8. Other matters**

**9. Date and place of the next meeting**

## Appendix 2

### List of Documents circulated in advance of the meeting.

#### **Working documents**

ICCP21/WD/1. Agenda

ICCP21/WD/2. Developments since the last meeting

ICCP21/WD/3. MCS Monitoring and compliance to the Fisheries Regulations 2021

ICCP21/WD/4. The Seychelles artisanal fisheries catch assessment system (CAS)

#### **Information documents**

ICCP21/ID/1. List of Documents

ICCP21/ID/2. Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> ICCP meeting of 25 May 2023



## Appendix 3

### List of Participants

#### Members, other Stakeholders and Secretariat

<b>Members</b>	
Jean-Claude Hoareau	Fishtech
Rodney Nicole	Bel Ombre Fishermen Association
Ray Payet	Lasosyasyon Peser La Digue
Wilna Accouche	Green Island Foundation
Shantilal Dhanjee	Hire Craft (Fishing) Representative
Kevin Moumou	Min of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE)
Nancy Onginjo	Seychelles Fishermen and Boat Owners Association
Darrel Green (ICCP meeting Chair)	Praslin Fishers Association
Faizal Suleman, Michael Arnephie	Recreational Fisher Representative
Therence Labrosse, Neddy Labrosse	Roche Caiman Fishers Association
Philippe Michaud	Seychelles Fishing Authority
Mervin Dugasse	Seychelles Sport Fishing Club
Stephanie Radegonde	Department of Fisheries (MOFBE)
<b>Other Stakeholders / Observers</b>	
Albert Napier	Apostolat de la Mer
Darney Barbe	Glacis Fishermen Association
Steve J Payet	Boatowners and Fishermen's Association of St Andre Cascade
Theophane Estro	Fishermen of Anse Aux Pins
Jan Robinson	SWIOFISH3
Randolph Valmont	Anse Boileau Fishermen Association
<b>Secretariat</b>	
Elisa Socrate	Assistant-Manager, Resource Management (SFA)
Sharif Antoine	Fisheries Economist (SFA)
Joanne Lucas	Fisheries Officer, Resource Management (SFA)
Stephanie Hollanda	Fisheries Scientist, Research (SFA)
Roddy Allisop	Head, Fisheries Monitoring Centre (SFA)
Vincent Lucas	Head, Resource Management (SFA)
Yannick Roucou	Legal Adviser (SFA)
Karyss Auguste	Assistant-Manager, <b>License</b> and Permit Section
Emelie Augustin	Statistical Officer (SFA)
Claire Pierre-Louis	Statistics Technician (SFA)