



SFA

Seychelles Fishing Authority

The background of the cover is a large, vibrant underwater photograph of a massive school of fish, likely yellowtail snappers, swimming in clear blue water. The fish are densely packed and moving in a coordinated pattern, creating a sense of dynamic movement. The lighting is bright, highlighting the silvery scales of the fish and the clarity of the water.

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020


**Excellence in sustainable
fisheries management
and development**

Seychelles Fishing Authority ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020

Dear Minister

We have much pleasure in presenting to you, this Integrated Annual Report of the Seychelles Fishing Authority for the years 2019 and 2020. This report also includes the Authority's Annual Performance Statement for 2019-2020.

This report was approved by the Board of Directors on June 24th 2022.



Radley Weber
CHAIRPERSON



Nichol Elizabeth
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

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SFA Strategy KEY PILLARS



Our Vision

Excellence in sustainable fisheries management and development.



Our Mission

To ensure optimal utilisation of the fisheries resources for the benefit of the Seychellois people through sustainable management, ecosystem-based approaches and integrated development.



Our Goals

Our strategic goals are based on the four main components of fisheries management:

- **Goal 1:** Effective governance arrangements.
- **Goal 2:** Institutional strengthening of SFA.
- **Goal 3:** Ensure the sustainability of fisheries resources.
- **Goal 4:** Optimize the economic and social benefits of fisheries.

Our Core Values



Integrity & Professionalism

Work with highest level of professional ethics, responsibility and respect to gain the trust of our constituents.



Stewardship

Promote sustainable resource management and ecosystem-based approaches among all stakeholders.



Leadership

Consistently leading the way by empowering and developing staff to own and drive work programs.



Adaptability

Be proactive and flexible in our approaches and make use of best available science and technology to execute our duties in line with the social and economic priorities.



Inclusiveness & Team-work

Promote team work, engage our co-workers and stakeholders and valorize the diversity of our workforce and stakeholders while working towards common results.



Equity

Be fair and provide equal opportunity to present and future generations.

Section 1

OVERVIEW & STRATEGY

Promote, organize and develop fishing, fishing industries and fishing resources in Seychelles

Chairperson's STATEMENT



Radley Weber, Chairperson SFA (From February 2021)

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the Seychelles Fishing Authority's Annual Report for 2019-2020, which outlines the highly significant work that was undertaken in these two years, and the progress made.

I joined the SFA as its new Chairperson in February 2021, a challenging time when Covid-19 was pushing the country's economy to breaking point, with decreasing inbound tourism and slump in international demand for Seychelles' fish and fishery products. I was taking over from my predecessor, Mr. Cyril Bonnelame, who had been both the Chairperson and the Interim Chief Executive during much of the crisis. I would like to personally, and on behalf of the Board of Directors, thank Mr. Bonnelame for his immense contribution to the SFA and the fisheries sector during these challenging times.

The Board of Directors and the SFA management is dedicated to implementing our mandate in a manner that promotes good governance, transparency, participation, and accountability in accordance with internationally recognized best practices in fisheries management. This Annual Report highlights the work that has been undertaken by the Authority in these two years to further develop the fisheries sector while strengthening fisheries management. I am encouraged to read about the diversity of programmes and projects that are under implementation.

The administrative and financial autonomy that the Authority gained in 2019 has given legs to SFA and is pushing the sector to greater heights. I would like to thank the CEO and staff of SFA for their hard work, and my other fellow board members for their dedication to SFA and the fisheries sector. A special mention to the members of the Accounts' Committee whose diligent work allowed us to reconcile and audit the SFA accounts for the period of 2017 to 2020 in such a short time.

Radley Weber

Chief Executive Officer's STATEMENT



Nichol John Elizabeth, Chief Executive Officer, SFA (From September 2020)

Less than a year ago I had the pleasure of submitting the Seychelles Fishing Authority's Annual Report for the year 2017/2018. In the forward to that report, I stated that one of my priorities in managing the SFA was to improve reporting and accountability to our parent Ministry, our stakeholders at all levels in the fisheries value chains, and the Seychellois public. I am delighted to be able to fulfil this pledge through the submission of the Seychelles Fishing Authority's Annual Report for the year 2019/2020 with full disclosure of our finances, activities, achievements, and challenges.

Faced with the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, the fisheries sector got a hard hit in 2020. The Authority together with our parent Ministry was able to quickly put a scheme together to support our local fishermen during these hard times. When tourism numbers dwindled, fisheries were able to take the reign and became the number one foreign exchange earner and supported other sectors of the economy.

In 2019, the Authority was able to gain financial and administrative autonomy, moving from a government budget-dependent entity to a Financial Autonomous State-Owned Enterprise' status. This new status allowed the Authority to develop greatly. Autonomy

made it possible to boost the human capacity of the organisation through the employment of a number of key personnel.

In 2019 and 2020 the Authority achieved several milestones to strengthen fisheries management. For the artisanal fisheries, the milestones included the gazetting of the Mahe Plateau Demersal Trap and Line Fishery Co-management Plan and the setting up of the Management Advisory Committee (MAC) for the sea cucumber fishery. For the industrial fishery, measures included the preparation and submission of a Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (DFADs) policy proposal to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. In 2019 and 2020, the SFA continued to work with local boat owners to increase the number of vessels with VMS, a tool that allows the Authority to have an overview of fishing activity in time and space, and further act as a safety tool that allows fishers to alert the authorities in times of distress.

As well as strengthening fisheries management, the Authority continued to develop fisheries infrastructures in the different districts to ensure that appropriate facilities were available for our hardworking fishermen.

I am proud of the work that my team at SFA has been able to do during the years 2019 and 2020 to support the development of the fishing industry and promote the sustainability of the fish stocks upon which the whole sector depends. In these few lines that I have, I cannot do justice to highlighting their achievements. I, therefore, invite you to delve in and read our Annual Report for the year 2019/2020.

Before the end of the year 2022, the Authority's Annual Report for the year 2021 will be out. At that stage, we will be current with respect to all our reporting requirements. I hope that every year henceforth we will be able to publish our Annual Report in a timely manner.

I take this opportunity to thank all my staff for their hard work and dedication in pushing SFA forward, and to all operators in the fishing industry with whom I have had the opportunity to work with, discuss, strategize, and share experiences since I have been the Chief Executive Officer. I hope that you will continue to support our work.

Nichol Elizabeth

2019

AT A GLANCE



2020

AT A GLANCE

ARTISANAL FISHERIES

No. Licence: 379
Est. Catch: 4,411 Mt

SEM-INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES

No. Licence: 36
Est. Catch: 2,009 Mt

INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES

Revenue: SR 2,166 Million ↓ 5%

Purse Seine Fishery

No. Licence: 45
Catch: 406,455 Mt
Landing: 49,209 Mt
Transshipment: 340,437 Mt

Longline Fishery

No. Licence: 186
Catch: 30,093 Mt
Transshipment: In Port: NA*
@ Sea: NA*

ARTISANAL FISHERIES

No. Licence: 522
Est. Catch: 3,460 Mt

SEM-INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES

No. Licence: 35
Est. Catch: 1,484 Mt

INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES

Revenue: SR 2,019 Million ↑ 7%

Purse Seine Fishery

No. Licence: 45
Catch: 353,675 Mt
Landing: 55,213 Mt
Transshipment: 279,861 Mt

Longline Fishery

No. Licence: 163
Catch: 31,496 Mt
Transshipment: In Port: 6,140 Mt
@ Sea: 12,615 Mt

PORT INSPECTION INDUSTRIAL

No. Insp: 177
Insp Rate: 21%

SURVEILLANCE

Aerial Patrols: 34 hrs
Sea Patrols: 10 days
Land Patrols: NA*

CERTIFICATES ISSUED

Catch: 1,398
Statistical: 1,410

PORT INSPECTION INDUSTRIAL

No. Insp: 41
Insp Rate: 5%

SURVEILLANCE

Aerial Patrols: 37 hrs
Sea Patrols: 13 days
Land Patrols: 43

CERTIFICATES ISSUED

Catch: 3,211
Statistical: 2,795

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

Catch: 6,420 Mt
Fish Products: 54,817 Mt

SFA FINANCIAL

Revenue: SR 225.1 Million
Fixed Assets: SR 249.9 Million
Grants Utilised: SR 42.2 Million
Operating Profit: SR 130.3 Million

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

Catch: 4,944
Fish Products: 61,297 Mt

SFA FINANCIAL

Revenue: SR 264.6 Million
Fixed Assets: SR 264.9 Million
Grants Utilised: SR 43.0 Million
Operating Profit: SR 150.6 Million

EXPORTS

58,850 Mt ↑ 3%
SR 3,577 Million ↓ 21%

IMPORTS

59,122 Mt ↓ 26%
SR 1,359 Million ↓ 42%

EXPORTS

64,09 Mt ↑ 9%
SR 4,995 Million ↑ 40%

IMPORTS

74,768 Mt ↑ 26%
SR 2,199 Million ↑ 62%

About the Authority

The Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) was created in August 1984 by the Seychelles Fishing Authority Act, as an executive arm of the Government of Seychelles in the field of fishery, to develop the fishing industry to its fullest potential and to safeguard the resource base for sustainable development. The Authority became a Financial Autonomous State-Owned Enterprise in January 2019.

The Authority works closely with the Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy and is governed by a Board of Directors, which is responsible for its policy, control, and management oversight. A Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has supervision over and directs the day-to-day affairs of the Authority.

For the period starting January 2019 to February 2020, the board's Chairperson was Dr. Nirmal Jivan Shah and other members were, Eugene Vidot, Keith Andre, Roy Clarisse, and Rebecca Loustau-Lalanne. From February 2020 to the end of December 2020, Mr. Cyril Bonnelame was the Chairperson and also become the Interim CEO from March 2020. Mr. Nichol Elizabeth was appointed as the CEO in September 2020.

Mandate

The functions of the SFA as defined in article (5) of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act (1984) are to:

- Promote, organize and develop fishing, fishing industries, and fishing resources in Seychelles;
- Assist in the formulation of the national policy with respect to fishing, fishing industries and fishing resources, and in the implementation of that policy;
- Identify the manpower training requirements of Seychelles with regard to fishing and fishing industries;
- Conduct negotiations, or engage in meetings, seminars, or discussions, with regard to fishing or fisheries or the establishment or operation of fishing industries, whether at a national or international level, on behalf of the Republic or otherwise.

Subject to the Act, the Authority has the power to do all things necessary or convenient in connection with, or incidental to, the performance of its functions, and these includes:

1. Own, lease or dispose of movables or immovables;
2. Own, operate and charter any vessel;
3. Form companies under the Companies Act;
4. Enter into partnership or joint ventures;
5. Act as an agent for the purpose of the management of any business or enterprise, or for any other purpose;
6. Hold shares in or debentures of any company;
7. Carry on any business or enterprise for or in connection with fishing or fisheries including; processing, transporting, handling, marketing, or distributing fish or fish products, exporting fish or fish products, and the sale of equipment or apparatus to be used for fishing, or any other matter relating to its functions where, in the opinion of the Authority, the carrying out of such a business or enterprise is in the best interest of the Republic;
8. Conduct surveillance operations, in conjunction with the Department of Defence, in relation to fishing operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) or in waters adjacent to the continental shelf;
9. Monitor the catch of all fishing vessels;
10. Carry out scientific and development research.



FEATURE STORY

SFA Gains Financial Autonomy

2018-2020 Strategic Plan in Action

SFA celebrated its 35th Anniversary in 2019, and how appropriate it was to begin the year with a new chapter as a Financially Autonomous State-Owned Enterprise.

Up until the 31st December 2018, SFA was a Government Budget-dependent Entity. In its Strategic Plan: 2018-2020, it had set itself a goal to achieve effective governance arrangement by enhancing the organization's financial, administrative, and risk management capability, with the first step being achieving autonomous status from the 1st of January 2019.

At the end of December 2018, the Authority transferred all funds in its bank accounts to the Consolidated Funds and negotiated a loan of SR14.1m from the Government of Seychelles to assist in its transition from the 1st of January 2019.

Before 2019, the Finance Section at SFA reported directly to the Ministry of Finance, and all budgets, receipts, and payments were prepared and executed on a cash basis. From the 1st of January 2019, the Accounting officers started to report directly to the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority and the Board of Governors. The Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission (PEMC) became the new oversight commission for SFA. The responsibility of ensuring controls, accountability in revenue, and monitoring of expenses, were transferred directly to SFA leading to a complete transformation of the finance function at SFA.

Key Senior Accounting and Technicians positions were created and filled, including the post of Financial Controller, Financial Accountant, and Management Accountant, allowing clear segregation of duties. Three commercial bank accounts, with Internet banking facilities, were opened at Nouvobanq, and the Authority took ownership of all bank accounts held with the Central Bank of Seychelles. A new accounting software, QuickBooks, was purchased, and all accounting transactions were automated, which has allowed all accounting documents and financial reports to be generated quickly. A payroll system, a Human Resources Information system, and an Asset Management System were also purchased, installed, and integrated with the accounting system. The Authority also moved from cash accounting to accrual accounting, where invoices are now recorded and accounted for as per invoice date, debtors and creditors are recognized, and prepayments and arrears are accounted for and reconciled.

Although the SFA management and finance team faced some challenges initially, the new financial controlling system brought immediate, strong internal management control measures to the SFA. The integrated financial system has significantly improved financial reporting, allowing Management and the Board of Directors to scrutinize the report before being sent to the PEMC. The Authority has significantly improved its debt collection and settled all payments to long-standing creditors in the first quarter of 2019. At the end of December 2019, the Authority reported a surplus of SCR130.32m and was able to fully repay the loan and also pay a dividend of SCR25m to the Government of Seychelles.



Seychelles Signs New €58.2m, 6-year Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement with The European Union

The Seychelles-European Union (EU) Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement was signed in February 2020 for a new 6-year period, for an estimated value of EUR58.2m. This followed the expiration of the previous 2014-2020 agreement in January 2020. Under this agreement, EUR31.8m will be paid directly by the EU while EUR26.4m will be paid by the ship owners.

The sustainable fisheries partnership agreement is a longstanding cooperation agreement between Seychelles and the EU, which was initially signed in 1987, to allow European Union fishing vessels access to the Seychelles' EEZ. The EUR31.8m, which is an increase of EUR1.1m from the previous agreement, will allow access to forty purse seiners, eight longliners, and support vessels from Spain, Italy, France, and Portugal, to fish up to 50,000 tons per annum within the Seychelles' EEZ. The EUR26.4m, include annual license fees, a fee per tonne of fish caught, and a specific contribution dedicated to environmental management and observation of marine ecosystems in Seychelles waters.

As has been the case from the start, the EUR31.8m (EUR5.3 annually), paid directly by the EU, comprises of the following:

- EUR2.5m annually for access to the Seychelles fishing zone, equivalent to a reference tonnage of 50 000 Mt per year;
- EUR2.8m per year to support and implement Seychelles' sectoral fisheries and maritime policies.

For the first time, Seychelles has also managed to set up a fund of approximately EUR 175,000 annually to be paid by the EU tuna vessel owners, dedicated to environmental management and monitoring of its ecosystem.

The agreement also includes new provisions for installing cameras on tuna vessels to monitor their tuna fishing methods, such as using natural or biodegradable, non-entangling designed FADs. The aim is to reduce the impact of FADs on the ecosystem, including reducing the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles, or any other non-targeted species and reducing the amount of synthetic marine debris left in the Seychelles waters.



Section 2 PERFORMANCE & DEVELOPMENT

Improve institutional infrastructure, build core competencies and strengthen the internal procedures of SFA to build and inspire human capacity for better service delivery



CEO's Secretariat

For the period 2019/2020, the SFA's key focus was to deliver on its 2018-2020 strategic plan, which had set clear strategic directions to transform SFA and the fisheries sector through improvements in the quality of service it provides throughout the fisheries value chains, as well as enhancing the management of fisheries resources and the socio-economic benefits derived from the fishing industry.

SFA witnessed key leadership changes during the two-year period. This include the appointment of a new Chairperson, Mr. Cyril Bonnelame in February 2020, who also took the role as the Interim CEO role in March 2020. Mr. Nichol Elizabeth was appointed CEO in September 2020 and Minister Jean-Francois Ferrari was sworn in as the Minister responsible for fisheries in October 2020. Despite of these changes, the focus for SFA remained on the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2018-2020.

Strategic Plan 2018-2020

SFA launched its strategic plan 2018-2020 in June 2018 with the following four strategic goals supported by detailed action plans:

- 1. Put in place effective governance arrangements:** Project SFA as the legal authority among various stakeholders through acceptance of responsibility for its decision and actions and reinforcing mechanisms for accountability and good governance. This includes SFA gaining autonomy over its operation and administration.
- 2. Institutional strengthening of SFA:** Improve institutional infrastructure, build core competencies, and strengthen the internal procedures of SFA to build and inspire human capacity for better service delivery.
- 3. Ensure the sustainability of fisheries resources:** Manage fisheries resources through ecosystem-based approaches and ensure that policies, legislations, and infrastructure development are aligned towards achieving sustainability, taking into account climate change and global developments.
- 4. Optimize the economic and social benefits of fisheries:** Ensure that the fisheries sector continues to play a key role in the sustainable development of the country and the socio-economic well-being of the Seychellois nations.

SFA Autonomy

In line with its first strategic priority, the Authority gained Financial and Administrative Autonomy on 1st January 2019, moving from a government budget dependent entity to a

Financial Autonomous State-Owned Enterprise' status. To assist with the transition, the Authority borrowed SR 14.1m from the Government of Seychelles in January 2019, which was fully repaid at the end of 2019.

Capacity Building

As part of its second strategic priority of institutional strengthening to build core competencies and strengthen internal procedures, SFA recruited a Management Accountant, a Financial Accountant, and a Financial Controller, supporting clear segregation of duties required for an autonomous company. It also recruited a new Procurement Manager, Human Resources Manager, and a Principal Fisheries Scientist among the 69 personnel recruited during the two-year period bringing the total number of staff to 218 at the end of 2020.

Extension of the Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) offices was completed during the period providing more space and better working conditions for the employees. At the end of 2019, the SFA head-office main building suffered a fungus infestation and therefore relocated to the Espace Building with some staff being accommodated at the MCS extended offices.



From left to right: Executive Chairperson SFA, Mr. Cyril Bonnelame (Feb 2020-Mar 2021) & Minister responsible for fisheries, Mr. Jean Francois Ferrari on his familiarization visit at SFA.

Legal

During the 2019-2020 period, several new regulations, policies, and MOUs were developed while others were revised by the Legal Unit, in line with the development goals of SFA. These included:

- Gazetting of the Fisheries (Mahé Plateau Trap and Line Fishery) Regulations (2020).
- Completion of The Fisheries (Aquaculture) Regulations (2020), which was gazetted in December 2020.
- Revision of the Fisheries Act (2014) to transpose IOTC resolutions into domestic fisheries legislations.
- Amendment of the Fisheries Development Fund criteria with the Development Bank of Seychelles to (i) provide a covid-relief scheme to assist fish processors, (ii) provide the artisanal fisheries sector with a special fund to purchase/repair their equipment and (iii) increase loan amount for the semi-industrial fisheries sector.
- Signing of an MOU between the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture and the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Management for the development of training programmes for SMA and the provision of financial support to SMA.
- Signing of three lease agreements for new fish processing facilities at the Bel Ombre Fishing Port.
- Successful prosecution of nine IUU fishing cases involving foreign-flagged vessels. The vessels were forfeited to the Republic and auctioned.



Mr. Cyril Bonnelame as Interim CEO SFA (right) and Mr. Jude Talma, PS Fisheries, at the signing ceremony of the MOU agreement with Ministry of Education .

International Agreements

New agreements and communications with various international partners/forums continued in 2019-2020, to ensure alignment in the application of regulations and adoption of best practices as well as in areas of potential development.

This included working with the European Union to ensure that the EUR 3.2m balance from the sector policy support funds of the EU/Seychelles Fisheries 2014-2020 protocols under the Fisheries Partnership Agreement was being promptly and effectively used in the implementation of the approved fisheries development projects. By the end of December 2019, EUR2.4m of the available balance of EUR3.2m had been disbursed and the balance was transferred to the new 2020-2026 protocol. The new 2020-2026 EU/Seychelles Fisheries protocol was signed in February 2020.

In November 2020, SFA signed the new general agreement for scientific and technical cooperation with the French Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD).

Seychelles remained a very active member of IOTC during the two-year period and SFA participated in the 23rd and 24th commission's meetings. During the 23rd session, major decisions were taken for rebuilding the Indian Ocean stock of Yellowfin tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence and the management of Fish Aggregated Devices (FADS). Other major decisions included: a ban on the discard of Bigeye tuna, Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna, and non-targeted species caught by purse seiners, prohibiting the use of large-scale driftnets in the IOTC Area, conservation of Mobulid rays, and establishment of procedures for transshipments and vessels chartering.



Mr. Nichol Elizabeth, CEO SFA (far left) at the signing of Lease Agreements for Bel Ombre fish processing facilities

Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

The period 2019/2020 was a very busy one for the IT team beginning with the SFA autonomy, which necessitated new IT systems for the Finance Division and the Human Resources (HR) Section, followed by a ransomware attack and a fungus attack towards the end of 2019 and the need to work-from-home as a result of Covid-19 related lock-downs in 2020.

In the later part of 2019, despite having an enterprise antivirus solution, SFA was severely affected by a ransomware attack. About seventy-five percent of the files were recovered from the backup server as they were encrypted but unfortunately some backed up files and folders were also infected and could not be retrieved.

To mitigate future attacks and ensure a good disaster recovery service, a new antivirus 'Sophos' was purchased and deployed in 2020 to replace the 'Kaspersky' antiviruses. The antivirus uses AI technology which can detect abnormal activities associated with computer threats and isolate any device with suspicious activities to prevent any spread.

To enhance the quality of services provided and facilitate the decision-making process through more effective use of Information and Communication Technology, The ICT Section introduced and supported the introduction of several ICT/Information Systems including:

- Introduction of The 'Zoho' helpdesk system in 2020 to assist the System Support team manage tasks and ICT support requests from the SFA users. It recruited a new Helpdesk Officer/IT administrator to log all helpdesk requests and ensure that all documentation and procurement of equipment and services were logged into the Helpdesk System.

- Introduction of IP Phones, providing the ease of installation and moving around with one's extension number as it uses the existing Internet network. This increased efficiency and reduced the cost of installations by Telecom providers.
- Procurement and installation of new Accounting software (Quickbook Premier edition).
- Installation of a new cloud-based HRIS System.
- Installation of a new Payroll System, which was integrated with The HRIS system to provide a new secure payslip system.
- Introduction of a New HPE StorEver Server and Observe Server for better backup management.

The SFA administrative building suffered a fungus attack towards the end of 2019, which led to all administrative offices moving to the Espace building. The IT Section facilitated the move by providing fibre connectivity to all the offices and with electronic card entry access. The IT Section started to digitalise the Document Center of SFA, as most documents were affected and had to be cleaned and digitalise. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the IT Section implemented a Terminal Server to facilitate access to working from home while providing better data security.

In 2019, the post of Information Administrator was created, with the responsibility of updating the website of SFA. Both the Information Administrator and the IT Manager attended a two-week website training in Dubai during the same year. In 2020, SFA hired the web-design firm 'Design Twenty-four' to design, host, and maintain its new website.



Property Management

The Property Management Section, consisting of two Staff, was created in February 2019. The Section is responsible for the overall management of the 17 SFA properties in various districts on the three main islands, including markets, gear stores, processing units, net repair yard, and several plots of land on Ile Du Port Zone 14 and the Providence Zone 6 which is leased to the SFA by the Government to be subleased to investors/businesses for the development of fisheries-related activities and services.

The Section's responsibilities include:

- Working with the Legal Section to prepare new or renew existing leases ranging from one year for gear stores to 25 years for processing units and 60 years for land.
- Coordinating the cleaning and maintenance of the premises and attending to queries/property requests of tenants or users of the facilities.
- Maintaining proper records of the properties and assisting the Accounts Section with timely collection of rent.

During the period 2019/2020, the Section prepared a detailed property register for all lands and buildings that were allocated or occupied by tenants. This resulted in a significant improvement in the collection of debts for rental properties from SCR5.24m in 2018 to SCR9.88m in 2020.

A large-scale cleaning exercise was undertaken at the Net Repair yard in 2019 to maximize its use and increase revenue. The revenue from the yard tripled over the two years, from SCR2.03m in 2018 to SCR6.47m by the end of 2020.

With the assistance of the Health and Safety Manager, the Property Management Section also prepared the draft inventory of all markets on Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue, which was submitted to the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture for further action. It also worked in close collaboration with the Health and Safety Manager to improve the safety of SFA premises/properties.

In 2019, the Section assisted the Post-Harvest & Value Addition (PHVA) Division in assessing all the processing units and land in Providence Zone 6 and Ile Du Port Zone 14 that had been allocated but not yet developed. The aim was to allow for a more strategic approach to land development. SFA also requested that various plots of land be transferred to the Authority in 2020 to expand the fisheries industry and maximize its contribution to the national economy.

The Property Management Section plans to acquire a new property management software, to include the property register and other important and relevant information regarding the SFA's properties to assist with better management of these properties and improved record keeping. It also aims to recruit additional staff to increase the efficiency of the Section.

Workshops and Conferences

Both Senior and Junior Management staff participated in several local and international workshops/conferences over the two years with the aim of building staff capacity and ensuring that Seychelles' positions were being represented. Most of the 2020 events' participation was online due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Stakeholders Engagement

The SFA actively supports stakeholders' engagement and strives to maintain a good relationship with all parties involved. SFA held meetings with major stakeholders in the development and amendments of the different policies and organised several workshops in aquaculture and the development of value-added fisheries products.

Meetings were also held in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture on existing and new projects. These meetings provided a platform for discussions and made it easier for stakeholders to better engage in the development of the fisheries sector.

Outlook

In 2021, the Authority will focus on the implementation of its strategic priorities with a key focus on delivering on all projects that will optimise the economic and social benefits of fisheries in the country. The Authority will also continue to simplify regulations to reduce operational and cost burdens for the industry, manage compliance risks, deter illegal unreported and unregulated fishing, and increase engagement with its stakeholders.

SFA strongly believes in scientific and economic research to assist in decision making and therefore will continue to increase its research capability working with local and international partners to support evidence-based decision making.



Aquaculture consultative meeting in 2019

Finance Division

The Finance Division provides leadership in financial management and accountability for SFA. This includes the management of the annual budget, collection of revenue, payments to suppliers, administration of the donor funds, and the fuel claim process. The Division also ensures financial reporting is provided in a timely manner to senior management, the Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission (PEMC), and the SFA board.

The financial years 2019 and 2020 were unprecedented years for the Finance Division. SFA became financially autonomous as of 1st January 2019, leading to substantial changes in the finance function at SFA, including an increase in the number of staff from 3 to 12 by the end of 2020. During the Covid-19 related lock-down in 2020, the Finance Division opted not to effect work from home practices as the necessary procedures and systems were not fully in place. However, the Fuel claim Section worked fully on a rotational basis. All the SOPs established by the Ministry of Health was followed and the Division has learned from previous experience and is now establishing new SOP for potential future occurrences.

Prior to 2019, there were only 3 accounts staff in the Finance Section at SFA reporting directly to the Ministry of Finance. Budgets, receipts, and payments were prepared and executed on a cash basis. As a Financial Autonomous Authority, the accounting officer now reports directly to the CEO and all accounting is now done on an accrual basis. This shifted the responsibility of ensuring controls and monitoring of expenses to the SFA.

The Finance Division is now divided into three Sections:

- The Trade Receivables Section is responsible for collecting and recording revenue and fees for all the services that the SFA provides to its stakeholders.
- The Accounts Payable Section is responsible for controlling, monitoring, and managing the SFA's expenditures and spending.
- The Fuel Claim Section is responsible for processing fuel claim receipts from boat owners, which are then forwarded to the Seychelles Revenue Commission for transfer of payment through the Government accounts.

In the first quarter of 2019, The Finance Division recruited additional senior accounting staff, including Financial Controller/Management Accountant/Financial Accountant, and a Payroll and Administration officer, to allow segregation of duties and to be compliant with PEMC guidelines.

A new accounting software, QuickBooks, was purchased and is now in use and all accounting transactions have been automated. This brought improvement in financial reporting, management of budgeting, and provides the possibility of implementing additional modules such as Asset, Stores, and Inventory. A payroll system was also purchased and installed and has been integrated with the Human Resource System. Commercial Bank Accounts with online banking facilities were also opened. The new financial controlling system



brought immediate and strong internal management control measures to SFA.

In 2020, further improvements were made to reorganize and modernize the Finance Division to reflect SFA's strategy and business activities. Specialization of duties was introduced allowing more focus on areas that needed more controls. Five additional finance staff were recruited including an Asset Officer, three Accounts Technicians, and a Cashier. Work also started on new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Finance Division as well as the development of the Asset Capitalization and Debt Management policies. External Auditors were also appointed in the last quarter of 2020 to work on past accounts for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019.

In 2019/2020, the Finance Division submitted monthly financial reports to the Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission (PEMC) in line with the PEMC Act 2013.

At the beginning of 2019, SFA received a loan of SR 14.1m from the Government of Seychelles to assist the Authority in transiting to financial autonomy. At the end of 2019, the Authority reported a surplus of SCR130.32m and was able to fully repay the loan and pay a dividend of SCR25m to the Government of Seychelles. In 2020, the Authority reported a surplus of SCR150.59m and also paid the Government a dividend of SCR50m.

In 2021, the Finance Division will continue to provide efficient and effective financial support and advice to the different Divisions of SFA and support its strategic objectives in decision making. The Division will also focus on staff improvement to meet the State-Owned Enterprise (SoE's) financial reporting requirement and work with Property Management Section to improve the collection of debts.

Sustaining Fisheries Activities During Covid-19 Pandemic

SFA Partners with STC and Fish Processors to Assist Artisanal Boat Owners

In April 2020, one month into Covid-19 lock-down, the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), the Seychelles Trading Company (STC), and fish processors entered a three months agreement with artisanal boat owners and fishermen to purchase and stock the excess catch of commercial species, which were normally sold to the hospitality sector or exported, at a fixed price for that period.

This intervention was necessary as fish processors had stopped buying fish from the artisanal fishermen due to a reduction in demand from the hospitality industry as a result of the closure of the airport to international commercial flights from the 8th of April 2020.

Under the agreement, the processors bought all the catch from the fishermen at a set price that was agreed by fish processors and the Boat Owners Association (BOA), for some species mainly red snapper (bourzwa) priced at R65 per kilo, zob and vyey at R45 per kilo and Karang at R20 per kilo. Upon the fish being processed into fillets, sliced, packaged, labeled, and priced, they were purchased by the Seychelles Trading Company (STC), who then distributed them to Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue at an affordable price. Retailers were also encouraged to buy fish from STC to sell in their shops

The Chairman and Interim Chief Executive Officer of SFA, Mr. Cyril Bonnelame, advised at the launch of the program that in addition to the purchase agreement, the artisanal fishing sector would benefit from a lower price for ice, from SCR30 per 60 kg bag to SCR15, and bait from SCR15 per kg to SCR5. He also advised that fishermen would automatically benefit from reduced fuel prices at the pump as fuel costs had gone down substantially on the international market.

The primary aim of the program was to ensure food security for the nation during the lock-down period as disruptions in the supply chains for other sources of protein were expected from the closure of the international airport. In addition it was to also help sustain the employment of operators in the fishing sector during that period. To participate in the program, the artisanal fishermen and the fish processors had to be registered with the SFA. The processors participating in the scheme were also provided with a temporary loan of R1 million to help with their cash flow in ensuring that fishermen are paid. The loan was to be repaid from the proceeds of the sale of fish to STC.



From left, Mr. Beatty Hoarau from Boat Owners Association, Ex-Minister Bastienne and Mr. Cyril Bonnelame during the press conference announcing the scheme.



Economics Management

The Economic Management Division is responsible for collating socio-economic information on the fishing sector and undertaking analysis to assist with policy decisions, as well as providing advice on the development and management of the sector.

During the 2019/2020 period, the Division continued with the preparation of reports that analysed the economic impact of the fisheries sector and its contribution to the national economy, and worked on the following key projects:

- Employment Survey and Capacity Needs Assessment of the Fisheries Sector. The Survey started in September 2020.
- Review of Fisheries Development Fund (FDF) to include Covid-19 relief facility, artisanal special scheme, and increased loan limit for semi-industrial.

The fisheries sector plays a key role in the socio-economic development of the country and as such, it is important that the players are provided with financial support and incentives to further develop the industry. The Economic Management Division works with different entities, including the government, financial services institutions, and other partners to ensure that the right financial facilities are put in place to promote the sustainable development of the fishing industry.

The Division plays a major role in assessing applications for access to these facilities and in making recommendations based on the fit of proposed projects to the agreed development paths of the fisheries sector. The available financial facilities include credit availability for the fishermen and value-added producers, insurance to protect their investment and their employees, fuel excise tax incentives as well as Value Added Tax (VAT) and trade tax incentives.

Credit Facilities to the Fisheries Sector

Access to credit facilities furthers economic growth by raising capital which usually leads to multiple spillover effects in the economy through creation of jobs and business opportunities. The Government of Seychelles and SFA have set up a number of credit facilities to support the development of the fishing sector. These facilities includes:

Commercial Banks & Development Bank fisheries loans

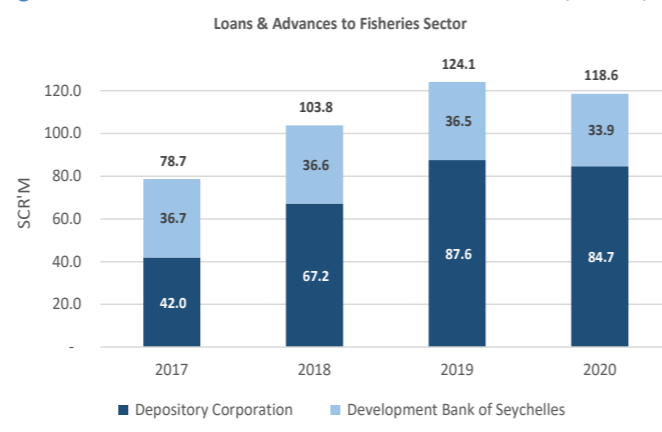
According to figures from the Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS) Annual Report 2020, total loans and advances balance to the non-government fisheries sector reached a record SCR124.1m in 2019, a 20% increase above 2018. The highest increase was from depository corporations (Banks), which observed a 30% growth. However, due to Covid-19, the banks stopped lending resulting in an overall loan balance drop of 4% to SCR118.6m in 2020.

By economic sectors, credit to the fisheries sector ranks amongst one of the lowest at 2.0% of SCR6.1 billion balance of loans to the private sector in 2019 and 1.5% of SCR7.8 billion in 2020, displaying the lack of investment toward the

fisheries sector by commercial banks, possibly due to the relatively high risk of the sector.

Loan balances from the Development Bank of Seychelles (DBS), which provides lower interest rates, fell to SCR36.5m in 2019 and a further reduction of 7% was observed in 2020, reducing the total loan outstanding to SCR33.9m. DBS approved 15 new loans to the fisheries sector in 2019, worth SCR8.1, an increase of 8% above 2018's SCR10.7m. In early 2020, before Covid-19 hit, three new loans worth SCR3.5m were approved.

Fig 1: Loans and advances balance to fisheries sector (SCR'M)



Fisheries Development Fund

The Fisheries Development Fund, capitalised through the European Union's sectoral support to Seychelles under the EU/Seychelles Fisheries Partnership Agreement, had a balance of SCR56m with SCR20m available for lending at the end of 2020. This fund aims to boost investment in fisheries value addition and processing. The loan facility is administered by the DBS on behalf of SFA and has a maximum limit of SCR3,000,000 per applicant. It attracts a 3% annual rate of interest and has a maximum repayment period of 10 years. The loan is available exclusively to Seychellois investors or joint partnerships where the majority shareholder is Seychellois. The Investors are asked to contribute a minimum of 5% of the total project cost. For the period 2019, one new loan of SCR1.5m was approved under the FDF and two were approved in 2020. In September 2020, the maximum loan amount for semi-industrial fisheries was increased from SCR3 million to SCR5 million.

Semi Industrial/Artisanal Special Relief/Fishing loan program

Due to the effects of Covid-19, in April 2020, the government introduced a special scheme under the FDF to assist fish processors who had been adversely affected by the pandemic with a facility of SCR1m at a 1% interest rate to alleviate cash flow problems. Three loans to the value of SCR2.8m were

approved under this scheme in 2020. In June 2020, a special scheme was also launched for the artisanal fisheries sector under the FDF, with the aim of assisting artisanal fishing boat owners with funding to purchase, repairs or replace fishing equipment or undertake minor vessel repair. The maximum loan amount is SCR150,000 at a 1% interest rate. A total of 11 loans were approved under the scheme at a value of SCR1.475 million for 2020.

Table 1: No. & Value of loans under the FDF programme

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of new loans approved	0	0	1	17
Value of new loans approved	-	-	1.50	10.89
Number of Loans disbursed	2	0	1	17
Value of loan disbursed	0.20	-	1.50	9.31
Outstanding Balance (SCR'M)	45.23	44.38	33.16	36.24
FDF Funds Available (SCR'M)	18.72	22.22	26.02	20.13
Admin fee (SCR'M)	(0.25)	(0.39)	(0.17)	(0.33)
Total FDF Asset (SCR'M)	63.70	66.21	59.01	56.04

The total FDF facility stood at SCR56.04m at the end of 2020. The decrease in the total FDF asset is primarily due to an increase in provisions for impairment, which stood at SCR14.51m in 2020, up 25% from SCR11.64m in 2019. SFA will be working with DBS to improve repayment from existing FDF clients.

Blue Investment Fund

The Blue Investment Fund, launched in April 2019, is a US\$12 million fund derived from the US\$15m Sovereign Blue Bond which was raised to support the expansion of sustainable fisheries' value chains in Seychelles. Managed by DBS on behalf of the Government of Seychelles, the Blue Investment Fund provides loans of up to US\$3 million at a 4% interest rate with up to 15 years of repayment.

The loan is available to existing Seychellois majority-owned, Seychellois businesses, that focus on value chains of managed pelagic fishes (tuna and billfish) and aquaculture, including businesses that produce seafood goods, offers logistics and scientific services, help local fish producers to access international markets, or aquaculture pioneers. Investors are asked to contribute a minimum of 10% of the project cost. To qualify, the business must have also been in operation for a least a year.

At end of December 2020, although there were a number of investors that showed interest, only one application had been submitted.

Agriculture Disaster and Fisheries Insurance Scheme (ADFIS)

The ADFIS, a voluntary insurance scheme available to fishermen registered with SFA with a maximum vessel value



of SCR2m, provides coverage for damage to their vessels and their machinery as a result of perils such as fire, piracy, lightning, and tsunami for up to SCR2m per vessel, as well as third party liability cover, covering loss or damage or injury caused by the insured to a third party, including loss of life or bodily injury up to SCR500,000. It also provides up to SCR100,000 personal accident cover for the crew which ranges from three fishermen on a Mini-Mahe to seven on a schooner.

The premium for the coverage is 4% of the total insured boat value. The Seychelles government pays 2% and the beneficiary pays the remaining 2% of the sum insured. By the end of 2020, 33 policies for a total premium of SCR0.93m had been issued. This shows a low level participation in the scheme from the 328 registered artisanal and semi-industrial boat owners. This is however expected to change when the new SMSA regulation comes into force requiring all fishing vessels to be registered, licensed and a condition of the license is to be insured.

Fuel Incentive Scheme

The Fuel Incentive Scheme (FIS) is a government-assisted excise tax concession on fuel aimed at reducing the operational cost of fishing activities. Eligible benefactors benefit from a reduction in fuel at the concession rate of SCR8.50 per litre. Under the scheme, boat owners qualify for the concession on fuel for the exclusive purpose of fueling vessels undertaking commercial fishing activities.

In 2019 there was a 76% increase in the total value of incentive from SCR23.72m to SCR41.97m, which was due partly due from the outstanding 2018 refund as well as a result of increased activity from both artisanal and semi-industrial fishery. 2020 refund stood at SCR33.29m.

Value-Added and Trades Tax Concessions

In 2019, 228 VAT applications for a total value of SCR46.4m was processed, compared to 396 applications for a value of SCR81m in 2018. In 2020, 227 applications with a CIF value of SCR54.8m were processed, which was 18% above that of 2019.

Statistics Management

The Statistics Management Division of SFA is the custodian of numerous valuable fisheries data sets. Its mandate is to ensure fisheries information is provided at the highest quality, optimal speed, and in easily retrievable formats. It also conducts comprehensive statistical analyses on fisheries data to enable sound scientific and economic analyses, for better decision making in support of long-term sustainable fisheries management.

The Division also ensures that SFA meets its obligations in the timely dissemination of fisheries statistic to all its stakeholders and international organizations.

In the 2019/2020 period, the Statistics Management Division faced major delays in data capture and reporting due to a major loss of data as a result of a Ransomware attack on the statistical server in November 2019. As part of this attack, even backups of the industrial longline fishery data were lost. Further delays were caused by the need to clear accumulated backlogs of artisanal fishery data resulting from setbacks in the implementation of the SIH.

The delay was further exacerbated by the relocation of staff at the end of 2019 as a result of a fungus attack in all statistical offices as well as the Covid-19 situation in the first half of 2020, which necessitated remote server access provisioning for staff to work from home. To cope with the situation, in 2020, the Statistics Management Division focused on clearing previous the backlogs of data.

The Division continued with its plan to implement new/upgrade the data management systems, to improve the timeliness and reliability of fisheries statistics produced. These included the following:

- The signing of a new contract with EIS for the second phase of The SIH data capture software (Allegro) to include modules for biological data capture and logbook system for the artisanal, lobster fishery, and sport fishery, and data verifications and validation scripts.
- A new web-based version of the Allegro software was made available for testing to SFA in October 2020. The new version allows for data capture on tablets at landing sites, thus reducing delays in the availability of fisheries statistics for coastal fisheries and improving the monitoring of technicians. With the COVID19 situation, pilot testing and training were postponed to the first quarter of 2021 and had to be further postponed to November 2021 due to covid19 restrictions in France.
- A new script was developed to transfer data from Electronics Reporting System (ERS) database into AVDTH/Observe to reduce the amount of data entry and improve the timeliness of purse seine fishery data. Testing on real-time data was delayed due to a delay in MCS implementation of the ERS onboard the purse seiners.
- A new module for the Data management system for Longline fisheries with the aim of using one data management system for all industrial Fisheries was developed in the OBSERVE software to replace FINSS and was installed on the SFA server in Q4 2020.

- Continued to participate in the T3 Technical Committee by preparing data and updating software in order to run the T3 process which estimates the catches of the EU tropical purse seine fisheries and associated coastal countries (Seychelles, Senegal, and Mauritius).

Published Reports

During the 2019/2020 period, the Division produced the Fisheries Statistical Reports for the years 2017 and 2018 as well as the first-semester report for 2019. The Division also produced the Seychelles National report for IOTC scientific meeting for the two years (IOTC-2019-SC22-NR22 and IOTC-2020-SC23-NR18).

Capacity development and knowledge sharing

For the 2019 period, the Division recruited an additional data capture team member in the artisanal fisheries category, bringing the total number of staff in data capture to 16 and total staff to 43 as per the table below.

Table 2: No. Staff in the Statistics Division

Fisheries	Main tasks	2019	2020
Industrial purse seine	Data capture of logbook (PS & SV) plus verification, validation	6	6
Industrial purse seine	Sampling onboard vessels	11	11
Industrial longline	Data capture of logbook, landing and license	2	2
Industrial longline	Data capture of sampling data	3	3
Semi-industrial longline	Data capture of logbook & landings	1	1
Artisanal	Data collection on site	14	14
Artisanal	Electronic capture of sampling data	4	4
Statistician	All fisheries	2	2
Total		43	43

Refresher training was conducted for AVDTH for purse seine fishery in 2020. Staff also attended several meetings including The IOTC Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics, The IOTC Working Party on Tropical Tuna, The IOTC Working Party on Billfish, the IOTC Scientific Working Group, and the IRD/IEO T3 Meeting.

FEATURE STORY

Lobster Fishing Season 2019-2020 Opens

The spiny lobster fishery has been conventionally managed by seasonal closures and limited access (license-limited) regulations implemented by the Seychelles Fishing Authority. These regulations have been in force to limit fishers primarily targeting coastal and shallow water stocks, where abundance is limited and easily accessible. In the past, assessments of fisheries dependent data have shown several significant declines in the coastal stocks when too many licenses were allocated or when the fishery remained open for three to four consecutive seasons. Consequently, the stock status is determined by assessing both fisheries dependent and independent (surveys) data. Results obtained are provided to managers with advice on whether the fishery should be opened or remain closed.

After remaining closed for two consecutive seasons, 2017-2018 and 2018- 2019, the lobster fishing season was opened for three months from the 10th December 2019 to the 10th of March 2020. A compliance bond of SCR5,000 was implemented to ensure that licence holders submitted their logbooks and sale records at the end of the fishing season. A total of 16 licenses were available, however, only 12 were allocated, 10 on Mahe and two on Praslin. This announcement came following the 2019 Participatory Lobster Monitoring Programme (PLMP) conducted during the month of October 2019. The results of this fishery independent survey showed an increase in the relative abundance and biomass of all lobsters caught, indicating that the prior two-year closure had allowed the stock to recover to a level whereby the fishery could be re-opened.

A total catch of 5.42 Mt of lobster was recorded from 196 trips for the 2019/2020 season, compared to 4.120 Mt from 238 trips in 2016/2017. Pronghorn Spiny Lobster remained the most popular catch for the season at 4.53 Mt, compared to 3.4 Mt in the previous season indicating a positive sign that lobster stock is in a healthy state.



Four main species of lobster found in the Seychelles waters from left to right: Pronghorn Spiny lobster (oumar gro latet), longlegged Spiny lobster (oumar rouz), Painted Spiny lobster (oumar ver) and Ornate Spiny lobster (oumar blan)

Fisheries Management

The Fisheries Management Division within SFA has the responsibility to promote sustainable and transparent utilisation of marine resources both in Seychelles waters and in the region. This includes the development of new, or amendments to existing management plans/mandates for various exploitable marine living resources, through participatory multi-stakeholder processes and to effectively implement those management plans.

The Division also has the responsibility to ensure that fishing and other related activities are undertaken in accordance with the Fisheries Act and other regulations as may be prescribed by any International arrangements/agreements to which Seychelles is a party. This includes the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs), the South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), and other fishing agreements that Seychelles has signed.

During the reporting period, the Division focused on improving the efficiency of its team and creating a positive working environment. Progress on the work plans developed from the Strategic Plan 2018-2020 was monitored and meetings were conducted to discuss progress, constraints, and solutions.

Training

To further develop the capacity of staff with the required skills and knowledge to perform their duties, staff members from the Division attended the following training during the two-year period

- Microsoft Excel at the beginner's level to facilitate task management processes.
- Refresher First Aid training.
- IOTC workshop on Furthering Capacity Building for Harvest Control Rules and Management Strategy Evaluation. The aim was to ensure sustainable management of tunas and to leverage the participation of Seychelles in the process of the development of the Tuna Management Procedures within the Indian Ocean. (September, 2019)

Fisheries Resource Management Planning and Management Plan implementation

To improve fisheries governance and ensure the sustainability of the fishing industry and fisheries resources (demersal resources), the Division undertook the following activities during the two-year period:

- Set up the Implementation Committee of the Mahe Plateau Demersal Trap and Line Fishery Co-management Plan in 2019 to undertake a complete review of the plan and its implementation. The plan was subsequently gazetted in January 2020 with its implementation planned for 2021.

- Set up a Management Advisory Committee (MAC) for the sea cucumber fishery, to provide legal and statutory advice to the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA). The MAC provides a forum for discussion and implementation of the solutions for the fishery. The committee is chaired by the SFA and consists of a broad stakeholder representation from the fishery.
- Started to develop a zoning framework and Allowable Activities as part of the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) action plan. The aim of the MSP is to address the sustainable use of marine resources in 70% of the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), given that 30% is committed under a marine protection commitment by the Government of Seychelles.
- Submitted a proposal to amend IOTC 17/04, which bans the discard of by-catch caught by purse seine vessels. The amendment was approved at the 23rd IOTC session in 2019, allowing the discard of species containing toxins or high levels of toxins at sea rather than being disposed of in landfills as was the case for Seychelles.
- Submitted report to IOTC on the Implementation of the Drifting FADs Management Plan for Seychelles registered purse seine fleet. Seychelles was 100% compliant with both the 19/02 and 19/04 Fad-related resolutions.



Consultative meeting with stakeholders

Reviewing, development and implementation of new fisheries policies and strategies

The Division continued to play its role to improve fisheries management and ensure that fishing activities are undertaken in accordance with the national legislation and international standards. Over the two-year period the Division:

- Reviewed and validated The Shark National Plan of Action (NPOA) 2016-2020. However, due to logistical constraints, the implementation of the plan has been delayed.
- Produced action plan for Sea Cucumber fishery management, including the extension of the 2019-2020 season by one month, due to Covid-19 impact, and to allow for maximum use of quotas after the reallocation of quota from low performing to high performing fishers.
- Conducted surveys and produced a report on Spiny Lobster Fishery. The Lobster fishery was opened for both the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 seasons.

Promoting responsible fisheries practice in line with international standards and obligations.

The Division also worked towards ensuring that fisheries practices in Seychelles remained in line with international standards. During the period 2019-2020, the following was achieved:

- The country implemented 80-90% of the IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.
- To improve data collection on the industrial fishing fleet in the Indian Ocean, the observer program was intensified resulting in coverage of over 38% of all

vessels trip in 2020, 33% above the minimum 5% coverage required by IOTC's resolution 11/04.

- To ensure Seychelles fleet targeting tuna and tuna-like species in IOTC area of competence do so in accordance with relevant international regulation, 90% of vessels were inspected and 100% of Seychelles Flagged vessels were issued with Certificate of Authorization (COA) thus in compliance with IOTC's Conservation and Management Measures.
- Reduction of Supply vessels from 7 in 2018, to 4 in 2020 for Seychelles in line with IOTC 19/01 regulation.

Reporting

The Division actively participated and contributed to national and international forums over the two years, producing several reports, which included those mandatory for IOTC committees, including IOTC Scientific Committee, IOTC Compliance Committee, IOTC Working Party on Tropical Tuna, IOTC Working Party on Ecosystem Bycatch and IOTC Working Party on Billfish. SFA presented and defended Seychelles' position at the IOTC Working party on Quota Allocation Criteria and also produced reports for the SWIOFC Scientific Committee.

Outlook

For the period 2021/2022, the Fisheries Management Division will focus on the implementation of The Demersal Fishery Management Plan as well as other co-management plans to further improve the sustainability of the fisheries resources. The Division's target is to also improve the collection of data on the observer program for industrial longliners and coastal sampling programme to capture size frequency data.



The Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fisheries Co-Management Plan

The Mahé plateau supports an artisanal fishery that is critically important for food security and the economic development of Seychelles. The main species targeted by the hand line fishery are fish such as bourzwa, bordmar (snappers), vyey (groupers), and kapitenn rouz, laskar, baksou (emperrors), whereas the trap fishery targets kordonnyen (rabbitfish), kakatwa (parrotfish) and rouze (goatfish).

For years, fishers have raised concerns over decreasing catch rates and sizes of target species. Recent scientific studies have produced multiple lines of evidence that overfishing of some of the major plateau target species is likely to be occurring and that management intervention is urgently needed.

After intensive work during 2019 on the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co-management Plan by the Implementation Committee, which includes stakeholders in the fisheries industry, the Government of Seychelles gazetted the plan on 20th February 2020, providing a pathway for the phased introduction of a series of management measures to rebuild and maintain healthy fish stocks.

The goal of the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co-management Plan is to have a sustainable demersal fishery that delivers the best possible ecological, economic, and social benefits for Seychelles through effective, transparent, and participatory management. The implementation of the plan would be phased over a 2-year period, with the launch in 2021.

Once the plan is launched in 2021, the Implementation Committee will have the mandate to report on and make recommendations to the Minister responsible for Fisheries, in relation to the implementation of the plan.

The measures to be implemented under the plan are shown in Fig 2. A penalty fee of SR20,000 will apply for any person who contravenes these regulations.

Fig 2: 24-months management measures

Management Measures	
1	A minimum size limit for Bourzwa (<i>Lutanus sebae</i>) of 32cm (fork length)
2	A bag limit (per person per day) that applies to recreational fishers (including fishers on sport-fishing/charter vessels) for: Bourzwa = 5; Zob gris = 5.
3	A maximum limit of 20 active traps per licensed (commercial) fishing vessel.
4	A demersal fish bag limit of 20 fish per semi-industrial vessel.
5	No traps to be left in the sea overnight on listed Kordonnyen (Rabbitfish spawning sites from September to April inclusive)
6	A minimum size limit for Zob gris (<i>Aprion virescens</i>) of 32 cm (fork length)
7	A combined demersal species bag limit for recreational fishers of 20 fish per person per day.
8	A maximum vessel limit of 2 traps for recreational fishers.
9	Licensed fishers limited to a maximum of 6 traps per boat per day for 7 days spanning the full moon (3 days prior and 3 days post) on listed Kordonnyen (Rabbitfish) spawning from September to April inclusive.

In addition to reporting to the Ministry of Fisheries, they will also report on and make recommendations in relation to the performance of the fishery in terms of meeting its objectives under a Performance Monitoring System (PMS). It will also report on compliance, provide updates on the status of fish stocks, report on changes to regulations, and on the performance of the education awareness strategies. Finally the committee will also have the responsibility of ensuring that all relevant information and reports on the fishery are made publicly available, to maintain full transparency.



Picture Credit to Seychelles News Agency

Implementation of obligations to the Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

Seychelles has been a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO), responsible for the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean (FAO Statistical Areas 51 and 57) since the 26th of July 1995. As a Contracting Party (member), Seychelles has to comply with Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted by this RFMO as well as other obligations in regard to data submission and the implementation of Port State Measures.

For the period 2019-2020, the Authority continued its implementation vis-vis IOTC obligations, namely the monitoring of the Yellowfin tuna quota and the implementation of the observer program on purse seiners.

Monitoring of Yellowfin tuna

An assessment of the yellowfin tuna stock of the Indian Ocean, undertaken by the IOTC Working Party on Tropical Tuna (WPTT) in 2015, found the stock to be overfished and being subjected to overfishing. The 2016 assessment although more optimistic, gave the same conclusion. The IOTC Scientific committee recommended that the catches of Yellowfin tuna be reduced by 20% of the 2015 levels to recover the stocks to levels above the interim target reference points. Subsequently, the Commission at its 2016 meeting adopted IOTC resolution 16/01, an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence. The resolution recommended a reduction in the

catch level across several fleets and for the Seychelles purse seine fleet, this entailed a 15% reduction from the 2015 catch level of 39,071 Mt to 33,211 Mt.

To manage the quota, the overall allocation was linearly distributed amongst the 13 Seychelles flagged purse seine vessels, with an annual allocation of 2,555 Mt of Yellowfin tuna per vessel. In order to monitor the consumption near real-time, monitoring and enforcement mechanism were put in place. These included amongst others:

- New and simplified logbook for weekly electronic reporting;
- New form for landing declarations;
- A mandatory 48 hours notification for port entry;
- A 48-hour limit for plans and complete trip logbook to be transmitted to the Authority prior to port entry;
- Mandatory scientific port sampling to establish species composition of landings; and
- Port inspection to monitor landings.

The total catch for Seychelles Flagged purse seine vessels remained below the catch level of 33,211 Mt at 33,006 Mt in 2019 and 30,502 Mt in 2020 compared to 2,000 Mt above the catch level in 2018. This compliance achievement of the IOTC Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) was a result of several measures including human capacity enhancement in 2018/2019.



Implementation of Observer Programme on Industrial purse seiners

The National Scientific Observer Programme was initiated in July 2013, to address the objectives of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme (ROS; Res. 11/04) of collecting verified catch data and other scientific data related to the purse seine component of the Seychelles tuna fishing fleet. The programme is implemented by the SFA. During 2013, it comprised mainly of preliminary trials and officially kicked off in 2014.

When deployed onboard a vessel, observers carry out various duties such as:

- Record and report fishing activities, verify positions of the vessel;
- Observe and estimate catches as far as possible with a view to identifying catch composition and monitoring discards, by-catches, and size-frequency;
- Record the gear type, mesh size, and attachments employed by the master;
- Collect information to enable the cross-checking of entries made to the logbooks (species composition and quantities, live and processed weight and location, where available); and
- Carry out such scientific work (for example, collecting samples), as requested by the IOTC Scientific Committee.

A total of 391 fishing trips were observed on Seychelles-flagged purse seiners during 2016-2020. This represents about 8,223 days of observation at sea with more than 10,000 fishing sets observed, with a total catch of 240,145 Mt of tuna and tuna-like species. Over the years, observer



An observer on-board a tuna fishing vessel

coverage has improved both in terms of quality and quantity. In 2018, 69% of all Seychelles purse seine fishing days at sea were observed, representing ~2,000 fishing operations. In 2019, this increased to 93% of days at sea observed, representing 2,733 fishing operations. This is proof that the learning process has been quite effective.

Table 3. Annual observer deployment figures (coverage against logbook data) for the Seychelles purse seine fleet

Year	No. Trips	Days at sea	% Days at sea observed
2016	68	2,026	49%
2017	96	2,103	64%
2018	92	1,993	69%
2019	94	2,733	93%
2020	44	1,268	39%

Up to 2019, the programme had reached a stable workflow, with more than 90 deployments annually. However, in 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic brought the deployment schedule to almost a complete halt. As a result, the observer coverage suffered a sharp decrease, and this is illustrated by the worst coverage figure of 39%, since the launch of the program. This was mainly due to the uncertainty around the spread of the virus itself, which led companies to not take the risk of taking on observers with the fear of infecting the crew. In the early stages of the pandemic, there was no clear health protocol in place on how to ensure that an observer was "covid free". It was only after some time and with more knowledge about the virus that protocols were defined for deployment, such as proof of negative PCR test 48 hours prior to deployment.

Whilst it is mandatory for Seychelles to cover only 5% of its fleet targeting tuna and tuna-like species within the IOTC area of competence, over the years SFA has by far exceeded this requirement. Furthermore, observers are also deployed on foreign fishing vessels fishing within Seychelles' waters based on the obligation under fisheries agreements.

To complement the data collected by human observers, SFA is evaluating the possibility of implementing Electronic Monitoring (EM) for scientific data collection as well as for compliance purposes. The successful implementation of a pilot EM project in 2016, concluded that current EM technology can greatly enhance data collection, as it caters for simultaneous observations at various input sources. SFA is expected to roll out an EM system on its purse seine as well as industrial longline fleets in the coming years.

Sea Cucumber Fishery

Using new technology to enhance stock monitoring

Following a fishery-dependent stock assessment of the sea cucumber fishery in 2017 by Marine Resources Assessment Group (MRAG) under the SWIOFish3 programme, several policies were implemented to manage its stock level. A yearly Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 375,000 units of sea cucumber was introduced, with a maximum harvested for each species as follows; 281,250 units of Flower teat fish, 56,250 units of White teat fish and 37,500 units Prickly red fish. The harvesting of Black teat fish and any other sea cucumber species was prohibited. Furthermore, a maximum of 25 non-transferable fishing licenses were maintained, with a maximum of 4 divers and 1 apprentice diver per fishing license. The TAC was equally shared with the 25 licensees and fishing trip were limited to a maximum of 30 fishing day. Fishing season would open for 8 months only and it was recommended that the quota is reviewed after three years or three consecutive opening seasons.

In order to actively monitor the quota consumption, SFA in collaboration with the industry had been collecting data via a self-declared logbook issued to all the licensees. Following the implementation of the SEACUSEY project, led by Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) in collaboration with the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), the Association of Members of the Sea Cucumber Industry (AMSSI) and the Sea Cucumber Harvesting Association (SCHA), a new electronic logbook system was developed and introduced in time for the 2020/2021 fishing season.

The new system allows on-site data, such as, catch, dive times, fishing locations and water visibility to be collected quicker and more accurately via a smartphone. Once back into port, the data is easily offloaded onto a server where it can be processed to produce estimates of sea cucumber density by zones. This data will be used to assess changes in the abundance of harvested species over time, which will



be useful information for the sustainable management of the fishery. Training was provided to the fisherman by the research team for its effective implementation.

The SFA also plans to carry out assessment of sea cucumber populations through fisheries independent scientific surveys in 2021/2022, to establish the abundance of sea cucumber and determine the stock status to ensure optimal utilisation of this resource and its long-term sustainability. To assist with identification and counting of sea cucumbers at depths beyond scuba diving limits during the surveys, the Authority acquired a new Videoray pro 4 ultra base ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) in May 2020. The ROV was used by the SFA Research team during the pilot study in November 2020, in preparation for the main research for 2021.



Training session for electronic log system at SFA



Research team operating the ROV from the research vessel

FEATURE STORY



Fisheries Research

The Fisheries Research Division primary role is to develop and carry out research to improve understanding of fisheries, fisheries resources and the ecosystems that supports it. This involves collecting, managing, assessing data and reporting on the status of fisheries resources in collaboration with national and international partners, to provide robust advice to resource managers, fisheries stakeholders, partners and the general public on the management and development of Seychelles fisheries.

In 2020, the Division welcomed two Principal Fisheries Scientist, Ms. Sabrena Lawrence and Dr. Ameer Ebrahim. A 5-year Research Plan (2021-2025) draft was produced with the aim of providing a clear direction for the development and implementation of fisheries related research programmes by the SFA. It provides guidance on priority areas of research, which will guide decision-making within SFA and enable the Authority to prioritise allocation of resources where it is needed. Work also began on developing an operational system for managing the biological and ecological data acquired by the SFA Research.

Research to support stock management plans and assess stock levels

During the 2019/2020 period, the research team, which increased to 24 staff members, continued to deliver on key research that supported SFA in its development and implementation of fisheries management plan including assessment of different stock levels of fisheries. These included:

Independent lobster assessment survey

Under the Participatory Lobster Monitoring Programme (2018/2019), the survey was conducted with the participation of lobster fishers alongside SFA's technicians and scientists at 20 indicator sites. The results showed an increase in the relative abundance and biomass of all lobsters caught,



Collection of biometric data on lobster species

indicating that the prior two-year closure had allowed the stock to recover to a level whereby the fishery could be re-opened. Based on the findings, the season was opened for 2019/2020.

Monitoring and assessment of the lobster stocks on the Mahe Plateau Using a Multidisciplinary Approach

The aim of the research is to establish the abundance and monitor recovery of lobster stocks during the off-season period. The appropriate minimum size at first capture for *Panulirus penicillatus* and *P. longipes* was based on length at first maturity. A tagging programme was also established to monitor growth and movement of lobsters and thereafter recommendations and advice were provided to Fisheries Management on the status of the fishery.

Research to support understanding of fish resources and its ecosystem

To improve understanding of fisheries and the ecosystem that supports it, the Division worked in collaboration with several local and international partners on several research projects and publications such as:

- Nutrient and Contaminant bioaccumulation in Seychelles fisheries resources as part of the SEYFISH project with the aim to determine what captured fisheries provide in terms of valuable nutrients for the Seychelles population and how global change may affect the health benefits and risks associated with wild fish consumption. (Partners: Public Health Authority, Unisey-BERI, SIF, ICS, CSIRO & LIENS).



Analysing the nutrient level in species collected

- Variability in trophic signatures of zooplankton and food web dynamics within Seychelles waters with the aim of understanding how marine food webs are controlled to ensure that future harvest strategies for the sustainable management of the Seychelles fish stocks will account for the ecosystem dimension. (Partners: NEKTON and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation)
- Balancing risks with benefits associated with consumption of Swordfish. The research investigated factors that affect the level of metallic and organic composition of swordfish targeted by the Seychelles semi-industrial longliners. (Partners: Public Health Authority, FBOA, IRD, LIENS, CNRS, Ifremer)
- Evaluating the nutritional properties of bycatch caught by tuna purse-seiners. (Partners: Public Health Authority, Unisey-BERI, IRD, LEMAR & CNRS)
- Biological sampling of key demersal species (Emperor red snapper, Green jobfish) to derive key parameters to improve assessment and management. (Partners: FBOA, CSIRO)
- Dropline surveys to investigate and understand the Spatio-temporal variability in the community structure of the deep-sea species in order to determine the potential for dropline fisheries on the drop-off of the Mahe plateau.

Capacity development & Knowledge sharing

To further develop staff capacity and knowledge sharing, staff attended the following training/workshops:

Local Training/workshop

- Fisheries Harvest Strategy FishPath workshop, 28 Jan to 1 Feb 2019, facilitated by CSIRO, Australia, and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the USA.
- Fish Reproductive Biology training, from 11-15 Feb 2019, facilitated by CSIRO, Australia.
- From Ocean to Health Conference, 12-13 Nov 2019.



Stephanie Marie participating in the NEKTON project

International/workshop-2019

- Ninth Session of the Scientific Committee of the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission, 16-19 July, Reunion.
- FAO Technical Workshop, Supporting the use of the Weight of Evidence Framework, 9-14 December, Italy.
- South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission Second Meeting of the Working Group on Demersal Fisheries, 13-15 October, Online.
- Fourth meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, 25-29 March, Japan.
- 11th Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association Scientific Symposium, 1-5 July, Mauritius

Due to Covid-19 related travel restrictions, all 2020 meetings were held online, and these included the Fifth meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, the Second Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement Scientific Committee Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Group and the Second Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific Committee Stock Assessment and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group. The research team also participated in publishing several reports and scientific papers.

Outlook

For the 2021/2022 period, the Division will continue to build its capacity through new recruitment and training, to effectively undertake fisheries research projects. It will continue to ensure that research projects support the implementation of the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co-Management Plan with a focus on determining appropriate estimates of size limits based on size at maturity for key species identified under the plan. The Division will also investigate the impacts of catch and release on the survival of fish to provide key information for the review of management measures.



Participants in the FishPath Workshop

SEYFISH PROJECT

Contaminant and nutrient bioaccumulation in Seychelles marine food web

The SEYFISH project was conceived in 2015 and the main goals of the project were to (i) investigate the nutritional composition of Seychelles seafood, (ii) characterize groups of species with similar nutrient inputs, (iii) investigate trophic interactions and pathways of energy flows and discuss results on a fisheries management point of view, with distinction/comparison of main fisheries, as well as on a Seychellois diet and health point of view. Throughout the project, SFA partnered and collaborated with many local and international organizations.

A total of over 840 samples from 60 different fish, cephalopods, and crustacean species were collected from the Mahe Plateau between 2014-2018. Muscle samples (2 replicates per muscle sample) were grinded and freeze-dried at the SFA Research laboratory as well as analysed for total mercury. Samples were then sent to overseas partners for specific analyses: freeze-dried samples were analysed for trace elements, stable isotopes, and proteins at LIENSs (Universitee La Rochelle, France), and for amino acids at the University of Tromsø (Norway). Fresh samples were analysed for lipids and fatty acids at CSIRO (Australia).

In 2019, efforts focused on the analysis of the above-cited parameters in all species collected from the Mahe Plateau. The preliminary results were presented at the "From Ocean to Health" Conference co-organized by the Ministry of Health and the SFA held in Seychelles in November 2019. Following the conference, a 2-day workshop gathering all partners of the SEYFISH project focused on the in-depth analysis and interpretation of the nutrients and contaminants in Seychelles fisheries resources.



Monitoring Control & Surveillance

The Monitoring Control & Surveillance Division adopted a new structure in 2020, making up of a Monitoring Section, an Enforcement Section and a Licenses and Permits Section, to support the successful implementation of the fisheries management policies, plans, and strategies, by ensuring compliance with fishing conditions, management measures and fisheries legislation, both domestic and international through effective flag state, coastal state, market state, and port state controls.

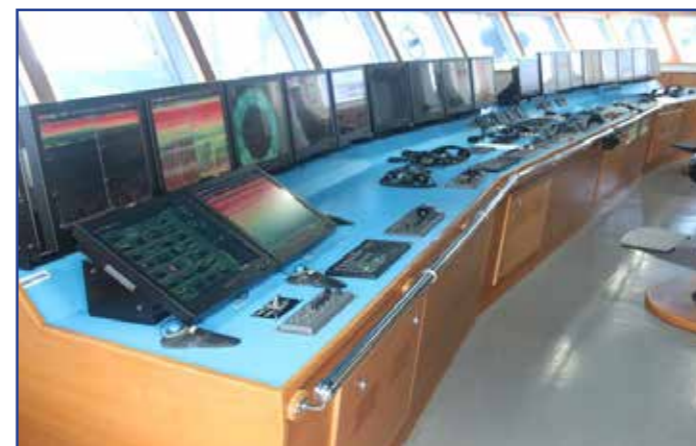
Fisheries Monitoring

The Monitoring Section is responsible for the overall monitoring duties of the MCS Division. The Section is also responsible for the validation of Catch Documents, issuing of Port Landing and Transshipment Permits and their subsequent validation and the validation of Advance Notifications, and relevant information sharing as part of their responsibility for enforcing Fisheries Port State Measures. The Section consists of the four Units being; the Fisheries Monitoring Unit, the Electronics Monitoring Systems Unit, the Catch Certification Unit, and the Monitoring Technicians Unit.

In 2019, with the adoption of the Fisheries Comprehensive Plan, the MCS was directed to implement a full-scale Electronics Monitoring System across all industrial fishing vessels (purse seiner and longliners). The main purpose of the program was to improve data collection on catch and effort reporting and complement at sea observer program, including future potential compliance observer programs. A new Unit for the implementation of the Electronics Monitoring Program (EMS) was created in 2020. At the of 2020, the program had successfully deployed EMS across the whole Industrial purse seiner fleet.

Vessel monitoring system (VMS)

The VMS system allows for the collection of spatial and temporal data on the activity of local fishing vessels at sea for management purposes as well as provides additional safety for the local artisanal vessel as most of these vessels are not equipped with safety equipment. Although there is no legal requirement for local artisanal vessels to install and have an operational VMS terminal, SFA aims to have 100% coverage for all schooners and whalers under artisanal fisheries. In early 2020, new national procedure requiring vessels to notify the SFA prior to departure and arrival was also introduced.



At the end of 2020, a total of 233 vessels had VMS compared to 133 in 2018, an increase of 75% over the two-year period. This resulted in 98% of the targeted vessels having VMS installed in 2020, compared to only 61% in 2018, as per the table below.

Table 4: VMS installed in relation to total local active vessels

	2018	2019	2020
No. VMS installed in local vessels	133	162	233
No. Purse seiner & supply vessels (Sey Flag)	20	19	18
No. Longliners (Sey Flag)	55	57	62
No. Semi-industrial	32	37	46
No. Schooners	65	61	61
No. Whalers	44	49	51
Total No. Local Active	216	223	238
% VMS installed	61%	73%	98%

VMS/Electronic reporting system

The VMS data collected are used to validate activity positions declared on the logbook for industrial vessels using specialised software developed for purse seine fishery. It is also used to correct species composition declared in the logbook. There was a 2% and 7% increase in data transmitted in 2019 and 2020 respectively. This was driven by an increase in data from artisanal vessels for both years.

Table 5: Volume of data transmitted from all vessels

	2018	2019	2020
China	48,990	29,618	23,515
France & Mayotte	49,789	53,037	45,529
Sey Flag (Artisanal vessels)	522,742	627,617	878,611
Sey Flag (Industrial vessels)	1,197,011	1,196,084	1,158,483
Portugal	-	-	387
Spain	54,400	50,855	57,081
Taiwan	401,131	361,003	318,220
Italy	1,974	4	834
Korea	29,493	27,312	23,492
Mauritius	14,663	9,580	12,999
Total	2,320,193	2,355,110	2,519,151



Catch certificates & trade documents

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing depletes fish stocks, destroys marine habitats, distorts competition, and puts honest fishers at an unfair disadvantage. In order to close the loopholes that allow illegal operation to profit from their activities, fish and fishery products that are traded in and outside of Seychelles are subject to additional control which includes catch and trade certificates in line with article 12 of COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1005/2008.

Table 6 below shows the number of catch certificates and trade documents issued during the period 2018 to 2020. The fall in the 2019 is due to the loss of data as a result of the ransomware attack in 2019. In 2020 there was a slight drop of 4% in the total number of certificate issued over 2018. This was due to a decrease in EU IUU catch certificates.

Table 6: No. Catch certificate & trade documents issued

	2018	2019*	2020
No. Non-EU catch certificates	474	250	511
No. EU catch certificate for local vessels	463	361	580
No. EU IUU catch certificates	1,694	255	1,361
No. EU foreign catch certificates	346	206	211
No. EU Seychelles catch certificates	489	286	548
No. Statistical certificates	2,177	1,277	2,297
No. Non-Manipulation certificates	568	133	498
No. Re-export catch certificates	93	0	0
Total	6,304	2,768	6,006

* The lower numbers for 2019 is due to missing data as a result of a ransomware attack in 2019.

Licenses & Permits Section

The Licenses and Permits Section is responsible for processing and issuing fishing licenses, and sea cucumber processors permits as well as controlling access to managed and regulated fisheries and fisheries-related activities. The Section is split into the Domestic Fisheries Unit and the Industrial and Foreign Fisheries unit.

Domestic Fisheries licenses

A total of 463 and 620 local fishing licences were issued in 2019 and 2020 respectively. 2019 saw a 17% increase over 2018 number of licences issued, while a further increase of 34% was recorded in 2020. All activities, with the exception of the processing and export of sea cucumber licences increased for both years, with the largest increase of 38% in Artisanal fishery licences in 2020. The lobster fishing season was opened for both the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 seasons where 12 and 16 licenses were issued respectively. Sea cucumber license issued increased to 25 for both 2019 and 2020 compared to 22 in 2018, while the number of cucumber processing license remained at 4 for the two years.

Table 7: No. Local fishing license issued

	2018	2019	2020
Artisanal fishery licence	343	379*	522
Semi-industrial fishery licence	18	30	36
Net licence	10	13	17
Sea cucumber licence	22	25	25
Process & export of sea cucumber licence	4	4	4
Lobster licence	-	12	16
Total licences	397	463	620

* 2019 Artisanal license is based on the number of active vessels due to loss of data for the actual number of licenses.

Foreign fishing vessel licences

The number of licences in the industrial fishery saw a decrease over the two-year period, from 274 in 2018 to 248 in 2019, and 224 in 2020. This was primarily due to a decrease in the number of supply vessels and longliners licensed vessels.

Table 8: No. Foreign fishing licences issued

	2018	2019	2020
Longliner licence	208	186	163
Purse seiner licence	44	45	45
Supply vessels licence	22	17	16
Total foreign licences	274	248	224

The reduction in the number of supply vessels licensed was in line with the IOTC regulation 19/01. It is to be noted that even though the number of longliner licenses decreased over the two-year period, as a result of better effort, 2019 and 2020 catches for industrial longline fishery were 30,093 Mt and 31,496 Mt respectively.



EU licensed purse seiner

Fisheries Enforcement

The Enforcement Section carries out all inspectorate duties with regards to port state inspection under the Port Control Unit and the land inspection and sea and air surveillance duties pertaining to national and regional requirements under the Surveillance Unit. In 2020, a new Unit was introduced to deal with compliance at post-harvest level and during the trading of fish and fish products.

An annual compliance inspection is carried out on all vessels of 24 metres and above, and for vessels below 24 metres that are authorised to operate outside the Seychelles EEZ. IOTC requires a minimum of 5% inspection rate, however, SFA targets a minimum of 90 inspections per year. In 2019, a total of 177 port side inspections, which was 21% of the number of vessels that visited the port, were conducted, while in 2020, only 5% of the vessels were inspected due to restrictions in accessing both the port and the fishing vessels during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

Table 9: No. Inspections and compliance for industrial fishing vessels

	2018	2019	2020
No. Visits to port	820	829	779
No. Port side inspections	223	177	41*
Inspection rate	27%	21%	5%
No. Vessels compliant (Sey-flagged)	8	15	44
Vessels Compliance rate (Sey-flagged)	11%	20%	54%

* Data from FiTi report 2020.

There has been a gradual improvement in the number of compliant industrial fishing vessels from only eight in 2018 to 44 by the end of 2020. The bulk of the non-compliance was related to markings of longliners and improper handling of logbooks. Most detection was through the IOTC At Sea Transshipment Program. A smaller minority of non-compliance was related to technical issues with VMS.

Patrols

SFA's at sea inspections beyond the coastal areas up to the outer limits of the EEZ, are carried out with the assistance of the Seychelles Peoples Defence Forces (SPDF) through their Coast Guard wing (SCG). The SPDF also supports the SFA with aerial surveillance through their Air Force wing. This allows SFA to further supervise fishing activities at sea for compliance. Land patrols are carried out on a regular basis, with key landing sites inspected. Table below shows number of patrols during the two-year period.

Table 10: No. Patrols undertaken

	2018	2019	2020
Land patrol (Number) - Target	8	0	43
Aerial patrol (Hours) - Target 20 hours	15	34	37
Sea patrol (Days) - Target 15 days	23	10	13

Recruitment/Training and development

To further support the activities of the Division, several recruitments were made in 2019/2020 which includes one new Monitoring Officer, seven new Enforcement Officers, and two new Assistant Managers for the Enforcement Section and the Licenses and Permits Sections. A Senior VMS Technician was recruited in 2020 to oversee the VMS program of the SFA.

Staff from the Division participated in several training and skills development programs during the two years as per below, including support from an IOTC mission to Improve Compliance with Conservation and Management Measures.

- Fisheries Law for Fisheries Officers, Species and Gear Identification, and Trade-related measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing was carried out under the partnership of the Nelson Mandela University.
- Vessel Boarding Search and Security (facilitated by UNODC)
- Implementation of IOTC Port State Measure Resolution
- Refresher training for the use and support of Themis Systems.

The team also assisted several international compliance committees and working group meetings/workshops by the IOTC and SADC in 2019/2020, including the 6th Meeting of Parties of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (Mauritius), where Seychelles was elected as chair of the Compliance Committee during that meeting, with Mr. Johnny Louys being elected for a biennium. For 2020 all meetings were done online.

Outlook.

For 2021 and 2022, the MCS Division will continue its quest to be more efficient, employ more modern technology to improve internal processes and efficiency and improve capacity and resources.



Sri Lankan vessels being escorted by SCG for illegal fishing

Promoting Fisheries Value Addition

SFA holds its first public bazaar in Victoria

On Friday 14th August 2020, the Seychelles Fisheries Authority (SFA) launched its first public bazaar in Victoria. This was an opportunity for the general public to sample and purchase a variety of fish products developed by the Chef in the Post Harvest and Value Addition (PHVA) Section. It was also an opportunity for the SFA to encourage people to consume more fish and related value-added products.

Fish products such as burgers, fingers, cakes, balls, and nuggets made from Trevally, Job, Tuna, and Emperors were available for purchase at prices ranging from SCR20 to SCR45 per packet. Dog food was also available at SCR15 per kg.

Customers, who visited the bazaar, were given the opportunity to taste some of the products and they had very positive feedback on both the taste and the packaging. They even recommended that the products are made available in retail shops around the islands.

The bazaar was also an opportunity to inspire local investors to venture into the fisheries' value-added production as they could see the potential of the various products.

"The more readily available value-added fish products are made, the greater the likelihood of increased fish consumption among the Seychelles population", said Margaret Ally, the Senior Development Officer, in the PHVA Section. *"Having local investors invest in such businesses, will allow the creation of products with a distinct Creole flavor that can be consumed locally and potentially exported"* She concluded.

Since the bazaar was held during the Covid-19 public health emergency, SFA ensured strict SOP guidelines of the Public Health Authority were followed.



Picture courtesy of Seychelles News Weekly

Post-Harvest & Value Addition

The Post-Harvest & Value Addition (PHVA) Division is responsible for research, development and promotion of local post-harvest processing and value addition, as well as providing technical and scientific support to promote the standardization and adoption of best practices throughout the sector, with the aim of allowing Seychelles to gain competitive advantage and thereby contribute to the country's overall economic growth.

The Division also assists in reviewing and assessment of seafood processing projects in collaboration with other governmental organizations, on the basis of quality assurance, food safety, good manufacturing practices, and business financial feasibility.

PHVA Division launched its Post-Harvest and Value Addition 5-year Strategic Plan in 2019, after carrying out several surveys to identify issues in the fisheries value chains. These included fish handling practices on-board vessels and process loss at the processing plants.

The Division also implemented the following projects

- Evaluation of all of investor profiles from the fishing sector to allow a strategic approach aimed at maximizing the economic gain of the sector. A total of 31 investors were identified.
- Provided support for three Investors for the development of their business plan.
- Introduced nine new recipes using low-value fish species in the two years, which were promoted at fairs and public bazaars organised by the Division on Mahe and Praslin.
- Participated in several local trade fairs in 2019 to promote the Post-Harvest Division and showcase the different value-added products that had been developed to encourage usage of under-utilised fish and hence promote sustainable fishing. Due to Covid-19, there were no fairs in 2020.
- Participated in sea-food international expo to allow local processors to meet potential international clients/partners and gather information for local investors and processors to improve processing capacity and build capability.



New value added recipes displayed at the SFA fair

Training/Workshops

To assist in the development of the post-harvest and value addition sector and to promote standardization in the sector, several trainings were organised for both the staff as well as participants in the sector as per below:

- Fish Quality Assessment, Torry freshness scale, and quality Index method (18th May to 26th May 2019, Grimsby, UK). The training was for the training of trainers.
- Fish Quality Assessment, Torry freshness scale and quality Index method delivered to participants in Seychelles.
- Delivered two workshops for introduction and advanced Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Implementation for existing/new food processors, to increase capacity in the sector so that the businesses are able to set up their own HACCP plans.
- Delivered two HACCP Certified Lead Implementer Professional (CLIP) training.
- Hosted five training workshops on Post Harvest as part of the National School Level Awareness Program, to introduce the concept of value addition to the general public with an emphasis on the youth.

For the 2021/2022 period, the Division will continue to focus on fish quality enhancement, New Product Development, capacity building, market research & exportation possibilities to further support SFA's strategic goal of optimising the economic and social benefits of fisheries.



Participants in the fish quality assessment training

Infrastructure Development

The Infrastructure Development Division is responsible for the development and modernization of all the fishing ports and quays as well as the adoption of new technologies and practices, to improve and support the growth of the fishing sector while ensuring that ports and facilities are used optimally, to generate maximum revenue in terms of fishing port activities. The Division consists of the Infrastructure and Port Maintenance Section and the Project Section.

Infrastructure and Port Maintenance

SFA manages the Providence, Victoria, and Bel Ombre fishing ports and after the completion of major projects in 2018 at those facilities, the focus for 2019/2020 was on putting in place management, operating, and security standards for the ports. The following were completed by the team:

- Drafted the Port Management Plan and Standard Operating Plan for Providence Port to manage the increased boat traffic which was creating congestion for bunkering, ice loading, and fish unloading activities.
- Drafted and implemented the Port Security Plan for Providence Port to establish a standard for accessing SFA ports and quays.
- Installed 32 security cameras all around the Providence port facilities.

Regional Fishing Facilities Infrastructure Projects

Under its mandate to facilitate and support the construction of regional fisheries facilities, the Section started/completed the projects in the table below. These projects were funded under the EU/Seychelles Sectoral support program with the aim to decentralise and providing improved fishing facilities and services to fishing communities.

Table 11: Major project status at end of 2020

	Program	SCR'M	Status
La Re traite roof cover/Parking lay-by and footpath	EU	0.63	Completed
La Re traite Gear Store/Pontoon	EU	3.90	In progress
Anse Aux Pins - Fisheries facilities	EU	16.00	In progress
Cascade Fisheries facilities	EU	4.36	In progress
Baie Ste. Anne Praslin Fisheries facilities	EU	11.48	In progress
Glacis Fisheries facilities	EU	0.27	In progress
Total		36.64	

Management of existing fisheries infrastructure

Under its mandate of ensuring that required maintenance is undertaken on port facilities, infrastructures, and promotion of safety at sea, annual surveys on all our navigational aids were done to assess their condition, and required repair, maintenances, and replacement was undertaken. Annual maintenances were also undertaken on all the navigation buoys and the Anse Royale one was repaired. Work was also



undertaken on the Au Cap Channel in 2019 and on L'Union and La Passe Magnan on La Digue in 2020, where dead corals were blasted in certain parts of these channels to deepen them to allow fishermen safer passage during low tide.

A new 3-ton ice plant was commissioned on La Digue in 2019, while five, 5-tons capacity ice-plants, each with an ice bin storage of 10 tons capacity were commissioned in 2020 at the Victoria Fishing Port, Providence Fishing Port, Anse La Mouche, Praslin, and La Re traite. The total ice-plant capacity stood at 83 tonnes at the end of 2020 and 68 tons of ice was produced during the year, an 18% increase over 57.5 tons produced in 2017, despite reduced fishing trips during 2020 as a result of Covid-19 lock-down.

For the period 2021/2022, the Section will continue to focus on improving facilities for the fishermen, ensuring the timely delivery of existing projects as well as undertaking new projects.



FEATURE STORY

Fisheries Infrastructure Facilities

Key regional projects being undertaken

The development of infrastructure projects in fishermen's communities on Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue is a top priority for the SFA. Funded by the European Union under the Fisheries Partnership Agreement these projects aim to decentralise and provide improved fishing facilities and services to the fishing communities. The fisheries-related infrastructure needs in communities were reviewed with the development of the Fisheries Comprehensive Plan and the below three key projects were well underway at the end of 2020.

Anse Aux Pins fisheries facility plan



The Anse Aux Pins fisheries facilities project will consist of the following:

- A fish market,
- A gear store comprising 12 units to be rented out to fishermen,
- A 5-ton ice-plant,
- Adjoining parking lay-by,
- An area to load and unload fish,
- Fish cleaning area, and toilets.

The project will be built in two phases, the first being the infrastructure while the second phase will include the civil work where a sea wall will be built. The facilities are expected to cost SCR16 million.

Cascade fisheries facility plan

The Cascade fisheries facilities project will consist of the following:

- A fish market,
- A gear store comprising 9 units to be rented out to fishermen,
- Adjoining parking lay-by,
- A landing shed,
- Fish cleaning area and toilets

The project is anticipated to be completed in 2022 at an expected cost of SCR4.36 million.



Baie Ste Anne fisheries facility plan



The Baie Ste Anne fisheries facilities project will consist of the following:

- A fish market,
- A gear store comprising 12 units to be rented out to fishermen,
- A board room,
- 2 gear shops,
- Adjoining parking lay-by,
- An area to load and unload fish,
- 2 offices for SFA and PFBOA and toilet facilities.

The project is expected to be completed in 2022 at a cost of SCR11.48 million.



Projects

The Project Section is responsible for the identification and initiation of all fisheries projects around the country, including the preparation of all concepts, design/detail drawings, and the preparation of scope and estimated costs. The Section liaises with internal and external procurement for the tender process and supervises the implementation of the projects.

The Section also ensures that fisheries projects are undertaken in accordance with the SFA mandate and other regulations as may be prescribed by any international arrangements to which Seychelles is a party. It also actively liaises with stakeholders in the fishery sector to identify constraints and propose possible solutions to meet all its obligations at the national level, thus ensuring that all fisheries projects are delivered to standard and cost-effectively.

The Project Section is assisted by a Project Committee in the implementation of all the fisheries projects. The committee comprises of Directors from the SFA Board, the Deputy CEO, the Project team, the Procurement team, the Property management team, EU Collaboration, and a member from the Account Section. The committees provide a forum where issues relating to the projects are discussed, constraints are identified, and proposing a way forward for the Section

During the period 2019-2020, the Section managed 10 projects to the value of SCR9.68m financed by the EU under the Sectoral support program. At the end of 2020, eight projects to the value of SCR9.3m were completed, while two other projects to the value of SCR0.38m were still in progress as per the table below.

Table 12: Major project status at end of 2020

Project Name	Year started	Year Completed	Budget SCR'M
Construction of Aquaculture Building Providence.	2019	2020	6.50
Re-construction of Fish Shed at Bel Ombre.	2019	2020	0.35
Construction of Security Kiosk Ile Du Port Net Repair.	2020	2020	0.15
Construction of Ice Plant Slab Anse Royale.	2020	2020	0.15
Construction of Ice Plant Slab Anse La Mouche.	2020	2020	0.15
Construction of Ice Plant Slab La Retraite.	2020	2020	0.15
Construction of Gear store La Retraite.	2020	2020	0.65
Construction of fish Market at La Retraite.	2020	2020	1.20
Construction of Security Kiosk Bel Ombre Processing plant	2020	In progress	0.23
Construction of Security Kiosk at Providence ware-house.	2020	In progress	0.16
		Total	9.68



Aquaculture building, Providence

For the period 2021/2022, the Section will continue to ensure that all projects are delivered on time and within budget as well as initiate and implement major new projects including the Integrated Development Plan of the Industrial Processing Zone at Ile Du Port Zone 14.



La Retraite fisheries facility

FEATURE STORY

Launch of the New Aquaculture Facilities

Paving the way for Aquaculture as a new industry in Seychelles

The launch of The Broodstock Acclimation and Quarantine Facility (BAQF) in October 2019, marked a significant achievement in the implementation of the Mariculture Master Plan 2015-2020 and an important step in the Government of Seychelles' effort to launch Aquaculture as an industry in line with its Blue Economy Strategy.

Managed by the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), the facility was officially opened by then-President Danny Faure in the presence of the European Union (EU) Ambassador, Vincent Degert, and officials from the Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture and the SFA.



The facility, which is located in the Providence Industrial Estate and was funded by the EU under the sectoral support program, includes multi-species quarantine and acclimation facilities that provide quarantine treatments for wild-caught broodstock such as Groupers, Red snappers, Sea cucumbers, and sea urchins, preparing these animals for life and reproduction in captivity. The 24-hour facility is being manned by a group of eight Seychellois technicians, the majority of whom are graduates of Seychelles Maritime Academy, trained, and mentored by the authority.

The launch of the facility has contributed towards changing the perception of stakeholders on aquaculture. Local investors from the fisheries sector have been able to visit the facility to find out what this industry is about, and it is also attracting investors with non-fisheries backgrounds, while banks and SeyCCAT now have a point of reference to evaluate investors seeking funding for aquaculture projects. Outreach sessions especially in schools and post-secondary institutions have created increased awareness and interest in aquaculture and there has been increased scientific collaboration with The Seychelles Maritime Academy and The University of Seychelles for students coming on work attachment or to conduct research for their dissertation. The facility has also been visited by bilateral partners and the EU, who has expressed interest in co-funding the Phase 2 of the project, which will include a hub for aquaculture consisting of a hatchery, nursery, laboratory and offices.



Aquaculture Division

The Aquaculture Division is responsible for the implementation of the Aquaculture Sector Development Plan. This includes the setting up of the required institutional, policy, and regulatory framework to encourage the orderly development of the aquaculture sector. The Division is also responsible for upholding the Seychelles Aquaculture Regulations which addresses activities set to take place within the Aquaculture Sector, including investment, research, and human capacity development.

During the 2019/2020 period, The Division forged ahead with its development plan for the aquaculture sector and recruited an additional nine staff members, bringing the total number of staff to 16 at the end of 2020. The Fisheries (Aquaculture) Regulations, 2020, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in September 2020 and gazetted in December 2020 as a supplement to the Fisheries Act 2014.

Several projects were achieved during the two years under the technical support of Advance Africa, whose consultancy contract ended in December 2020. These included:

- The set-up and official opening of the Broodstock Quarantine and Acclimation Facility (BAQF) at Providence in October 2019 by H. E Mr. Danny Faure, President of the Republic of Seychelles and H.E Mr. Vincent Degert, Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to the Republic of Seychelles.
- The set-up of the SURF (Sea Urchin Research Facility) at the Seychelles Maritime Academy in 2019, to conduct research on high-value aquaculture species other than finfish.
- The set-up of two sea cages in September 2019, to receive the juvenile from the hatchery for grow-out. One cage net was removed in May 2020, for cleaning and repair due to biofouling. This provided a great opportunity for in-house training for the technical team.

The Division also worked on several key regulations and guidance manuals including the following:

- Revised Mariculture Master Plan (MMP) 2019;
- Aquaculture Opportunities on Coetivy, The Alphonse Group, Desroches and Poivre Island Seychelles - Revisited 2019;
- Seven Sustainable Aquaculture Standards (Prawns, Sea cucumbers, Sustainable Use Areas, Responsible Fish Cage, Pearl Oysters, Biosecurity and Fish Health and Effluent and Waste);
- Seychelles Aquaculture and Seychelles Seafood Brand Manuals for the sector.

High-Level Aquaculture Committee (HLAC)

The HLAC and its Sub-committees met at various intervals during the two years as per their ToR. The HLAC met to discuss strategic matters in 2019 related to wrapping up

most of the pending matters such as land which had been more difficult to acquire for the industry than was previously planned. The HLAC and its sub-committees also focused on new developments around the industry getting ready for launch. This included a presentation to the Cabinet of Ministers to explain the implementation plan and strategy.

Research and development

In the 2019/2020 period the following key research was undertaken:

- Quarterly water quantity testing by the aquaculture staff at several sites and different depths. Parameters tested include; pH, ammonia, salinity, phosphate, nitrate, nitrite, and nickel.
- Collection of Broodstock. Since the opening of the BAQF, multiple trips have been conducted to collect potential broodstock. The most successful trip was the Farquhar trip in January 2020, where 16 Camouflage groupers (*Epinephelus polyphekadion*) and 11 Brown marbled groupers (*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*) were captured and brought to Mahe. Emperor Snappers and juvenile mangrove snappers were also collected around Mahe during the year 2020.
- Successful growth trials of juvenile mangrove snappers captured from the wild were initiated.
- A storage room was converted to a small algal laboratory to culture a local microalga for live feed.



Aquaculture team at the launch of the BAQF facility at Providence

Training/Workshops

As the development of the aquaculture sector progressed, Advance Africa conducted several trainings for the staff and other key partners during the two-year period. These included

- Aquaculture licensing process and its supported Online Database Management System (DBMS) for the staff.
- GIS training for the senior staff, which covered the process of preparing, analysing, and interpreting spatial data with the aid of spatial analysis tools.
- Aquaculture 101, which provided a generalised overview of Aquaculture: specifically, Aquaculture in Seychelles, its history, and also its future implications. This 5-day workshop was attended by 19 individuals from a number of organisations.
- Familiarization visit of the Aquaculture Planning and Development Officer in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Staff also participated in several international meetings during the two-year period and those included:

- Sub-Regional Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Aquaculture. (26th- 28th November 2019, Durban, South Africa by the World Organisation for Animal Health).



Aquaculture 101 training participants



Aquaculture team at the ANHRD Public Awareness Session for prospective university student

- First meeting of the Sustainable Aquaculture Action Group under the Commonwealth Blue Charter. (25 to 27th February 2020 in Lanarca, Cyprus). Seychelles was chosen as a case study during the meeting.
- Tenth session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) sub-committee on Aquaculture, (23-27th August 2019 in Trondheim, Norway)
- AquaNor 2019 International Exhibition, (20-23rd August, Trondheim, Norway) was attended by Manager Aquaculture Division, Aubrey Lesperance, who used the opportunity to discuss research opportunities with aquaculture industry players in Europe.



Senior Aquaculture Compliance Officer, Rosabelle Gendron at the AMR in Aquaculture workshop, Durban, Africa in 2019

Education and awareness

The Division continued its sensitisation program over the two-year period at schools and government organisations, including participating in the NHRDC Public Awareness Session in Feb 2020, and several school careers fairs. The Division also used its Facebook and blog site as well as television programs to promote aquaculture.

Outlook

For the period 2021/2022, the Division will continue with the implementation of the Aquaculture Sector Development Plan to realise the potential of the Aquaculture industry in Seychelles.

Seychellois Can Now Partner With Foreign Investors To Develop the Aquaculture sector

Paving the way for a successful aquaculture development

Further to the Cabinet of Minister's approval in November 2020, the investment regulation for aquaculture was gazetted on 21st December 2020 paving the way to allow Seychellois entrepreneurs who want to venture into aquaculture locally, to partner with foreigners, as long as the Seychellois entrepreneur holds at least 51 percent share of the business.

Prior to the new regulation, the Government of Seychelles limited access to the coastal area, from zero to two kilometers offshore, to fishing by citizens only. In addition, Aquaculture development was also limited to Seychellois investors only. However, this has now been changed and according to Mr. Aubrey Lesperance, the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)

Principal Aquaculture Officer, the Government and the Aquaculture Division realized that if they kept this limit, it would prevent Seychellois investors from getting the capacity that will help them launch their business. As a result, the regulations have been relaxed to allow foreigners to have a minority stake in aquaculture businesses in order to allow local operators to reach out to potential aquaculture investors who have the know-how and the capability to take the sector forward.

The reviewed local/foreign joint venture policy limits foreign stake in such partnership to 49 percent, leaving the majority shareholding to Seychelles citizens. "Other zones further out at sea will require more investments and infrastructures and we envision that foreign companies will venture into them better. We need to look at how we can bring foreign direct investment into our economy," said Mr. Lesperance.

When it becomes fully operational in 2021, the new aquaculture regulations will pave the way for the establishment of an Aquaculture Authority, its Regulatory Committee, and other provisions governing the implementation of Seychelles' National Aquaculture Policy.



Section 3 FISHERIES STATISTICS

Improve understanding of fisheries, fisheries resources and the ecosystems that supports fisheries through targeted research and surveys



Overview

For the period 2019-2020, the total estimated catch for all types of fisheries by boat licensed to fish in the Seychelles EEZ was 833,083 Mt, a drop of 3.8% (32,744 Mt) over the period 2017-2018. This was due to a decrease in catch of 3.5% (33,190 Mt) for industrial and 7.9% (672 Mt) for artisanal fishery but cushioned by an increase of catch of 47% (1,118 Mt) for semi-industrial fishery.

Fisheries catch

In 2019, the total catch was 442,968 Mt, of which 98.6% came from industrial fisheries, 0.45% from semi-industrial fisheries, and 1% from artisanal fisheries. In 2020, a total catch of 390,115 Mt was recorded, a decrease of 12% (52,853 Mt) over 2019. While all fisheries' catch volume with the exception of Industrial purse-seine grew in 2019, all fisheries category decreased in 2020, with the highest percentage decline in Semi-industrial (26%) and Artisanal (22%) due to the reduction in demand from the hospitality industry as a result of Covid-19 related lock-down.

Table 13: Catch by fishery category (Mt)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Artisanal fisheries	4,356	4,187	4,411	3,460
Semi-industrial fisheries	1,108	1,267	2,009	1,484
Industrial fisheries				
Sey-flagged purse seine	122,202	123,310	112,621	112,231
Other flagged purse seine	244,554	316,521	293,834	241,444
Sey-flagged longline	14,704	17,558	22,866	22,469
Other flagged longline	8,890	7,169	7,227	9,027
Total industrial	390,351	464,558	436,548	385,171
Total Catch	395,815	470,012	442,968	390,115

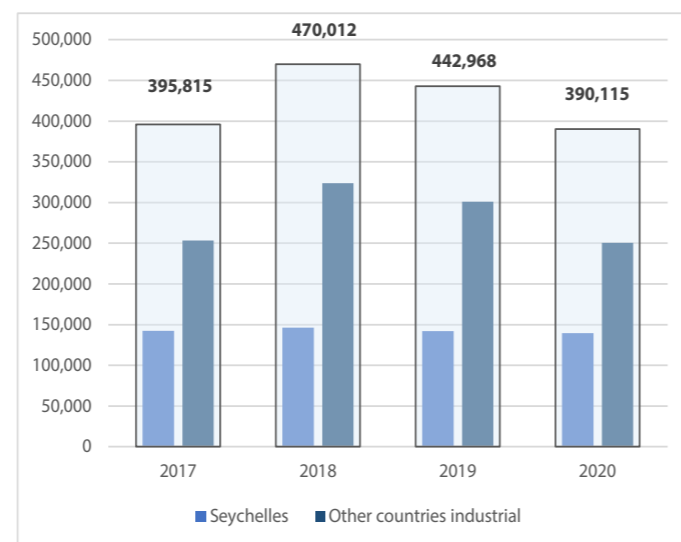
After a fall in catch in 2018, artisanal fisheries' catch grew by 5% to a record 4,411 Mt in 2019 over 2018, as a result of increase in fishing effort mainly from net-fishery. However, it witnessed a drop of 22% in 2020 to 3,460 Mt due to reduced demand as a result of Covid-19 pandemic. Semi industrial catch saw a record catch of 2,009 Mt in 2019 (58% growth over 2018) due to a record increase of 100 trips during the year to 397 as well as a record catch rate of 0.79 Mt per 1000 hooks. The large increase was in yellow-fin catch which reached 1,507 Mt compared from 833 Mt in 2018. For the period 2020, however, total catch dropped by 26% as the boat owners were advised not to go out during the lock-down period from April to August 2020.

In terms of industrial fishing, made up of purse seine and longline fisheries, an increase of 21% was observed in 2019 for longline fishery to a record 30,093 Mt. The increase was due to a 43% increase in yellow-fin catch to a record 11,901 Mt in 2019. A further increase of 5% was observed in 2020. After achieving record catch of 439,831 Mt in 2018, purse seine fishery dropped by 7.5% in 2019 to 406,455 Mt, and a further 13% in 2020 to 353,675 Mt. This reduction was mainly attributed to reduced quota for Yellow-fin tuna.

Fisheries Catch By Flag

In 2019, 32% (141,907 Mt) of the total catch was taken by Seychelles flagged vessels (artisanal, semi-industrial, and industrial fishery), a decrease of 3% over 2018, while other countries flagged vessels recorded a 7% decrease in total catch for the year. Catch of both Seychelles and other countries flagged vessels reduced by 36% and 17% respectively in 2020 over 2019. This meant, that Seychelles flagged vessels' contribution to total catch increased from 32% to 36% in 2019 and 2020 respectively, from 31% in 2018.

Figure 4: Total catch (Mt) and the breakdown by country flagged vessels

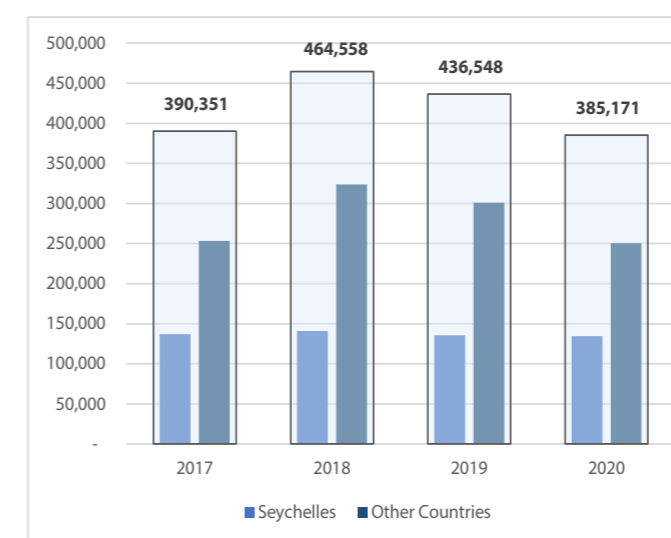


Industrial Fisheries

Industrial fisheries, consisting of purse seine and longline fisheries, contributes on average of 98.6% of total fisheries catch over the period 2019/2020. A total catch of 821,719 Mt was recorded during same period, a decrease of 3.8% over 2017/2018. Catch by Seychelles flagged vessels accounted for 33% of the total catch at 270,187 Mt (an decrease of 2.7% (7,587 Mt) over 2017/2018).

The 2020 total industrial catch, which includes all catches in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) by vessels licensed to fish in the Seychelles EEZ was 11.8% below 2019, at 385,171 Mt, from 436,548 Mt, while 2019 catch was only 6% below 2018. While catch by Seychelles flagged vessels decreased by 3.8% and 0.6% in 2019 and 2020 respectively, other countries catch decrease by 7% and 17% in the same period due to decreased in catch in Purse Seine fishery as a result of quota reduction for Yellowfin tuna.

Fig. 5: Total industrial catch by flag (Mt)



Purse seine fishery

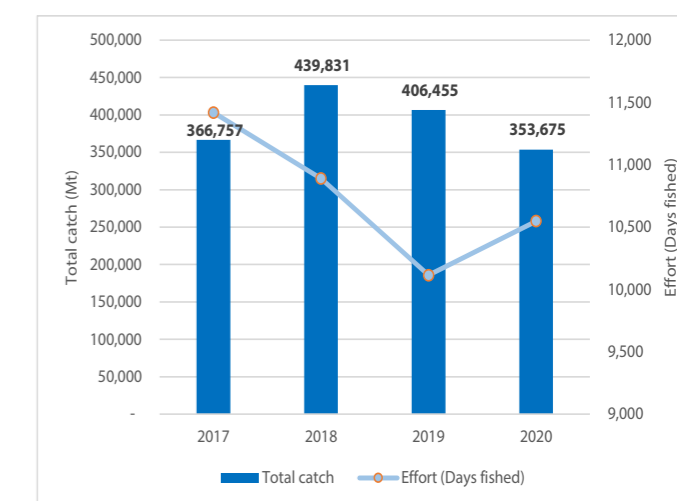
Catches, fishing effort, catch rates and species composition

The total purse seine catch in 2019 was 406,455 Mt, a 7.5% decrease over the 2018 total of 439,831 Mt. This decrease was due to the IOTC 19/01 resolution which called for a reduction of 15% in allowable catch (TAC) for Yellowfin. A further 13% decrease over 2019 was observed in 2020 with a total catch of 353,675 Mt. This reduction was in line with IOTC 19/01 resolution in decreasing the catch of Yellowfin by 15%. For 2019 a reduction of 8% in Yellowfin catch was recorded, while for 2020, a reduction of 14% was recorded.

Fishing effort of purse seiners in 2019 was estimated to be 10,115 days, a 7% decrease over the 2018, which again may be the result of the IOTC imposed restriction. However, in 2020, an increase of 4% in fishing days was observed, reaching 10,548 days despite overall decrease in catch of 13% in total catch.

Given the reduction in the total catch from purse seine fishing over the two years, coupled with reduction in fishing days, catch rate declined by 17% from 2018 at 40.39 Mt per fishing day to reach 33.53 Mt per fishing day in 2020. It is to be noted though that the catch rate remains above that of 2017, which was at 32.12 Mt per fishing day.

Fig. 6: Total catch (Mt) and effort (days fished) from purse seine fishery



Since 2016, Skipjack has dominated the purse seine total tuna catches, followed by Yellowfin then Bigeye, and others respectively. In 2019, the Skipjack catch decreased by 8% over 2018 to reach 252,131 Mt, accounting for 62% of the total catch, the same proportion as in 2017. In 2020, Skipjack catch further decreased by 11% to 223,603 Mt and accounting for 63% of the total catch.

Table 14: Total purse seine catch by fish category (Mt)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Yellowfin	137,970	140,273	128,907	110,752
Skipjack	197,680	274,315	252,131	223,603
Bigeye	29,608	23,261	24,160	16,702
Others	1,500	1,982	1,257	2,617
Total	366,757	439,831	406,455	353,675

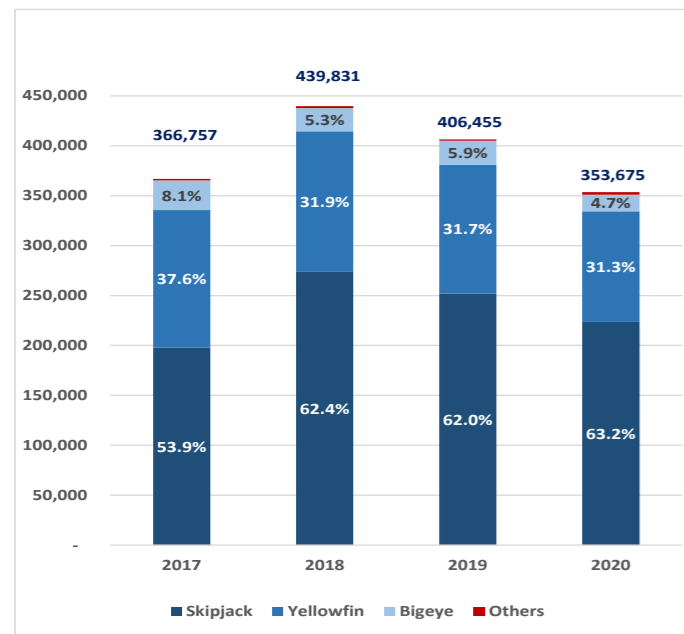
The Yellowfin catch was 128,907 Mt in 2019 accounting for 31.7% of the total catch, a decrease of 8% over 2018, while 2020 saw a further decrease of 14% over 2019 to 110,752 Mt, 31.3% of the total catch.



The Bigeye tuna catch in 2019, accounting for 5.9% of total catch, increased by 3.8% over 2018 to 24,160 Mt. In 2020 16,702 Mt catch was recorded, a decrease of 31.8% over 2019. The other type of tuna catches which remained under 0.5% of total catch up to 2019, saw a 108% growth in 2020 to 2,617 Mt.

Though the total catch for both Skipjack and Yellowfin tuna have kept growing since 2016, the proportion of the total catch of Skipjack tuna catch has grown, while that of the Yellowfin tuna catch has decrease due to quota imposed by IOTC.

Fig 7: Purse seine catch proportion by fish category (Mt)



Catches and effort by flag

Catches by flag have been dominated by the Spanish fleet, followed by the Seychelles, French, and other countries.

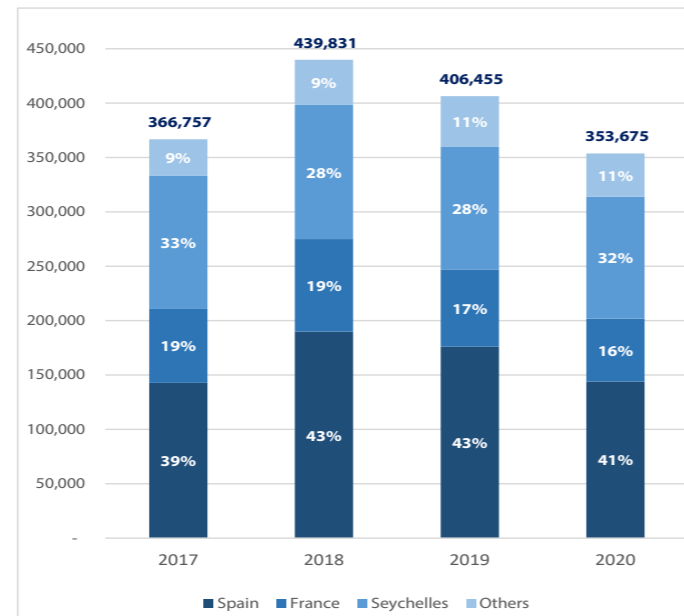
In 2019, the Spanish fleet catch was 176,168 Mt, accounting for 43% of the total catch by purse seiners, a decrease of 7% over 2018. While in 2020, their total catch was 144,095 Mt, accounting for 41% of the total catch, a decrease of 18% over 2019. The Spanish fleet catch had continuously increased up to 2018, but has decreased since then.

Table 15: Fishing catch and effort by flag

Flag	2019			2020		
	Catch (Mt)	Effort (Days fishing)	CPU (Mt/Days fishing)	Catch (Mt)	Effort (Days fishing)	CPU (Mt/Days fishing)
Spain	176,168	3,696	48	144,095	3,948	36
Seychelles	112,621	2,922	39	112,231	3,221	35
France	71,027	2,088	34	57,839	1,956	30
Others	46,639	1,409	33	39,510	1,423	28
Total	406,455	10,115	38	353,675	10,548	32

The Seychelles flagged fleet catch was 112,621 Mt in 2019 accounting for 28% of the total catch, a decrease of 8.6% over 2018. 2020 saw only a marginal decrease of 0.3% in its total catch over 2019, at 112,231 Mt, accounting for 32% of the total catch. Similarly to the Spanish fleet catch, the Seychelles flagged fleet catch has continuously increase yearly from 2015 to 2018, after which it decreased in 2019.

Fig 8: Total purse seine catch (Mt) and proportion by flag



Overall fishing effort decreased on a year-on-year basis by 7% in 2019 but grew by 4% in 2020. The drop was primarily from the French fleet, which recorded 37% decrease (1200 fishing days), while all other countries witnessed an increase. In 2020, the French fleet recorded a further 6% decline in effort, while all the other countries continued to increase, with Seychelles fleet leading at 10% increase, followed by Spain at 7%, thus resulting in an overall 4% increase in effort. Given the reduction in catch and increase in fishing days in 2020, CPUE continued to decline over the period.

Purse seiners' catches within the Seychelles EEZ

Catch within the Seychelles EEZ was 21% and 27% of total catch in the whole WIO region by purse seiners licensed to fish in the Seychelles EEZ for 2019 and 2020 respectively, compared to 20% in 2018. Catch within Seychelles EEZ decreased by 4.5% in 2019, but increased by 27% in 2020 as a result of 21% increase in fishing days from 2,575 to 3,127 days. Catch by Seychelles flagged vessels accounted for 26% of total catch in Seychelles EEZ in 2020, a 39% increase from 2019.

Table 16: Fishing catch in Seychelles EEZ (Mt)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Skipjack	31,383	53,899	40,906	49,682
Yellowfin	36,032	30,322	35,805	40,624
Bigeye	5,651	4,255	7,634	4,936
Others	294	172	266	425
Total	73,360	88,649	84,610	95,668

Table 19: Fish catch by flag in Seychelles EEZ (Mt)

Flag	2017	2018	2019	2020
Seychelles	15,572	24,812	18,088	25,230
Others	57,788	63,837	66,522	70,438
Total	73,360	88,649	84,610	95,668

Landing and transshipment in Port Victoria

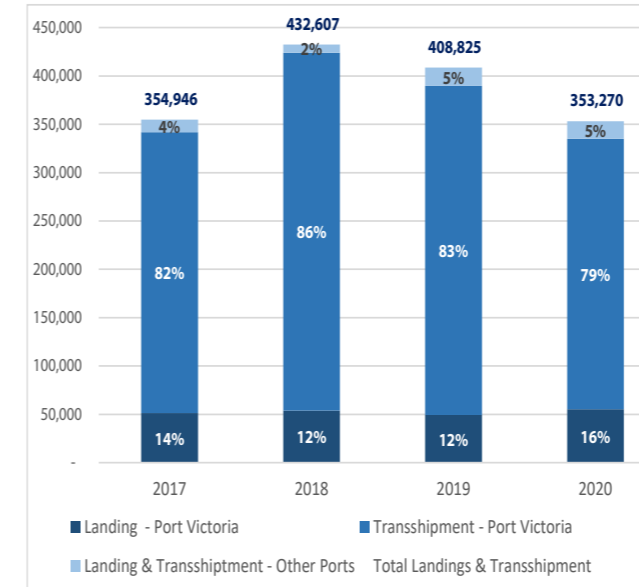
Port Victoria remained the principal port for tuna landing and transshipment for purse seiners licensed to fish in the Seychelles' EEZ. During 2019 and 2020, a total of 389,646 Mt and 335,074 Mt of tuna was unloaded through Port Victoria, accounting for 95% both years, of total landing and transshipment in all ports by the purse seiners. This represented a drop of 8% of total landings and transshipment in Port Victoria over 2018 and a further drop of 14% over 2019 period.

For the year 2019 a decrease of 8.7% in landings was observed and although a 12% increase was observed in 2020, the volume remained well below 2016 level. Transshipment also witnessed a decline of 8% and 18% for the period 2019 and 2020 respectively partly due to decrease in catch and Covid-19 pandemic which led to the use of other ports in 2020.

Table 18: Purse seine landings and transshipment (Mt)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Landing (Port Victoria)	51,429	53,918	49,209	55,213
Transshipment (Port Victoria)	290,443	369,999	340,437	279,861
Total Port Victoria	341,872	423,917	389,646	335,074
Landings/Transshipment in other ports	13,074	8,690	19,179	18,196
Grand Total	354,946	432,607	408,825	353,270

Fig 9: Purse seine landing and transshipment in Port Victoria (Mt)

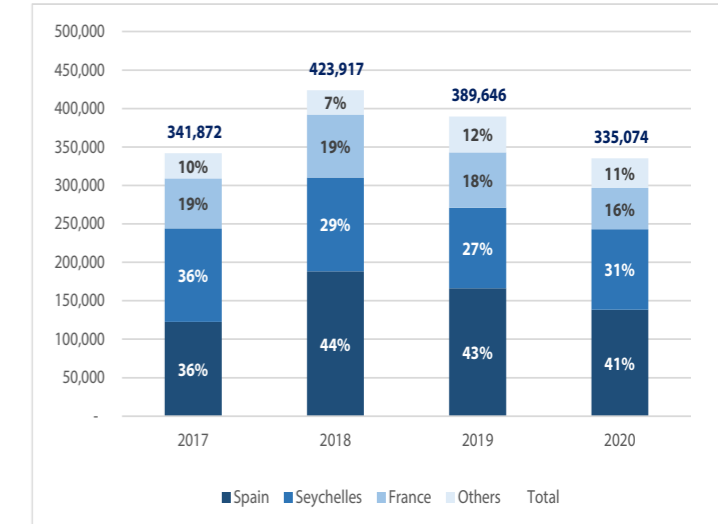


During 2019 and 2020, the Spanish vessels accounted for the majority of transshipment in Port Victoria, while the Seychelles flagged vessels accounted for the highest landings for the first time in 2019.

Table 19: Purse seine landings and transshipment in Port Victoria by flag (Mt)

Flag	Activity	2017	2018	2019	2020
Spain	Transshipment	105,998	168,058	155,978	127,914
	Landing	16,627	20,362	10,334	10,649
France	Transshipment	47,436	65,915	57,260	30,517
	Landing	17,487	15,929	14,672	22,908
Seychelles	Transshipment	107,730	107,561	86,524	89,646
	Landing	13,876	14,346	18,151	14,972
Others	Transshipment	29,279	28,465	40,675	31,785
	Landings	3,439	3,281	6,052	6,684
Total	Landings & Transshipment	314,872	423,917	389,646	335,074

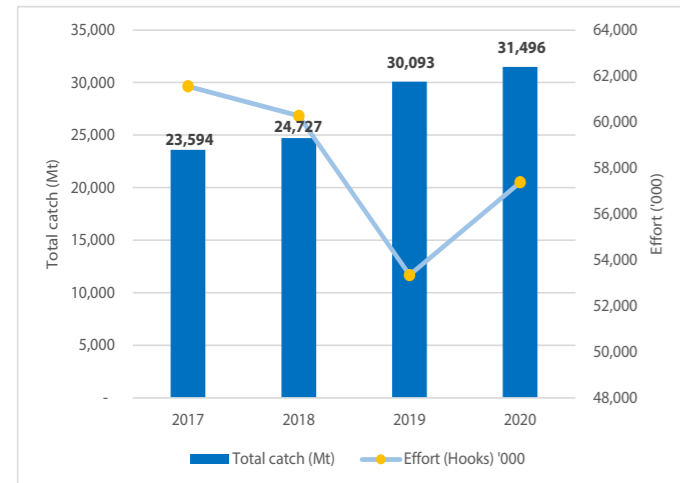
Fig 10: Purse seine landing and transshipment in Port Victoria by flag (Mt)



Industrial longline fishery

After a slight drop in industrial longline fishery catch in 2016, the total catch reported from 186 longliners licensed to fish in the Seychelles EEZ, which includes all catches made in the Western Indian Ocean region (WIO), reached a record 31,496 Mt in 2020. This was a 27% increase over the 2018's 24,727 Mt with 206 licensed vessels, despite a 5% drop in effort for the same period. This increase was mainly attributed to increase in catch of Bigeye of 91% and Yellowfin, 26% over the period. On a year-on-year basis total industrial longline fishery catch increased by 22% in 2019 (5,366 Mt) and a further increase of 5% in 2020 (1,403 Mt) was recorded in 2020 to reach 31,496 Mt.

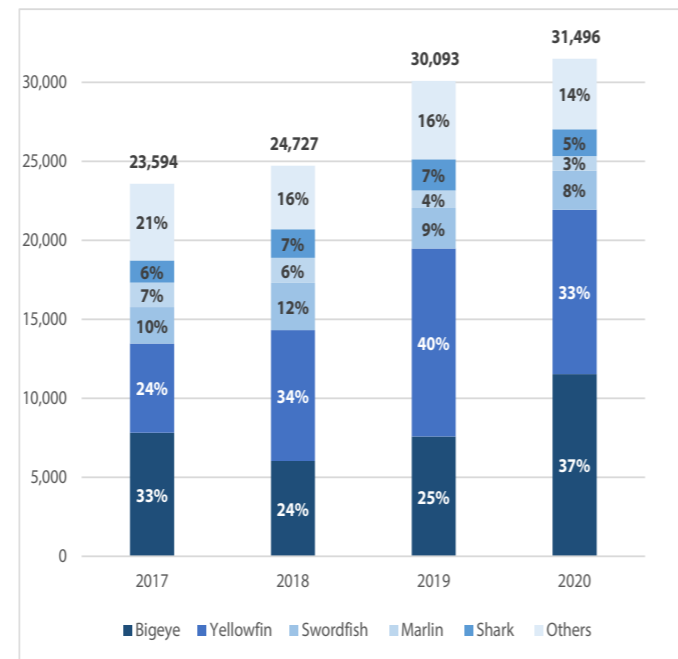
Fig 11: Total Catch and effort from industrial longline fishery



Catch rate of the longliners increased by 38% to reach a record 0.56 Mt per 1000 hooks in 2019 from 0.41 in 2018. It however, fell slightly in 2020 to 0.55 per 1000 hooks. In terms of effort, the number of hooks used decreased by 11% from 60.2m hooks in 2018 to 53.3m hooks in 2019, making 2019 the best year over the last decade in terms of catch rate. An increase of 8% in the number of hooks was observed in 2020 to reach 57.3 million hooks, thus slightly reducing the catch rate to 0.55 per 1000 hooks for the year.

In terms of catch composition by fish type, Bigeye tuna returned to being the dominant species caught in longline fishery in 2020 at a record 11,531 Mt after Yellowfin being the dominant catch for the 2018-2019 period. In 2019, the Yellowfin accounted for 40% of the total catch at a record 11,901 Mt.

Fig 12: Total Catch from industrial longline fishery by fish category in WIO



In 2019 there was a year-on-year 26% increase in Bigeye tuna catch, 43% in Yellowfin, 9% in Shark and 23% in Others, while Swordfish and Marlin catch decreased by 14% and 30% respectively. In 2020 Bigeye tuna catch reached a record 11,531 Mt (52% year-on-year increase), while all other catches decreased, with Yellowfin decreasing by 12% to 10,418 Mt, Swordfish by 4%, Marlin by 16%, Shark by 15% and Others by 10%. It is to be noted that despite the decrease, Yellowfin catch still remained above 2018 catch level.

Table 20: Total catch from industrial longline fishery by fish category in WIO (Mt)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Yellowfin	5,642	8,298	11,901	10,418
Bigeye	7,825	6,029	7,581	11,531
Swordfish	2,307	2,981	2,567	2,469
Marlin	1,553	1,584	1,106	930
Shark	1,397	1,815	1,981	1,684
Others	4,870	4,020	4,957	4,464
Total catch	23,594	24,727	30,093	31,496

Industrial longline fishery by flag

The catch reported in 2019 for the Seychelles flagged fleet, in WIO reached a record 22,866 Mt (75% of total catch), which was achieved from a fishing effort of approximately 39.2 million hooks with a mean catch rate of 0.58 Mt/1000 hooks compared to 17,558 Mt achieved from a fishing effort of 39.4 million hooks and mean catch rate of 0.45 Mt/1000 hooks reported for the year 2018. This meant a further increase of 30% in catch by the Seychelles fleet in 2019 over 2018 after an increase of 19% in 2018 over 2017 period. This was due to the better fishing effort in 2019. Catch from Taiwan increased by 14% and 24% in 2019 and 2020 respectively, while Others catch decreased by 54% in 2019 but saw a growth of 36% in 2020 to reach 892 Mt.

Table 21: Industrial longline fishery catches in WIO by flag (Mt)

Flag	2017	2018	2019	2020
Seychelles	14,704	17,558	22,866	22,469
Taiwan	7,534	5,754	6,570	8,135
Others	1,356	1,414	657	892
Total catch	23,594	24,727	30,093	31,496

In 2020, the catch reported for the Seychelles fleet was 22,469 Mt which was achieved from a slightly higher fishing effort of approximately 40.6 million hooks although at a lower mean catch rate of 0.55 Mt/1000 hooks. That meant a slight decrease of 2% in catch over 2019. Seychelles flagged fleet remains the longliners' fleet with the highest catch over the years of 2018/2019, followed by the Taiwan fleet, and then the Others flagged fleet.

Table 22: Industrial fishing effort, catch and catch rate in WIO by Flag

Flag	2019			2020		
	Fishing effort (000's hooks)	Catch (Mt)	Catch rate (Mt 1000 hooks)	Fishing effort (000's hooks)	Catch (Mt)	Catch rate (Mt 1000 hooks)
Seychelles	39,154	22,866	0.58	40,551	22,469	0.55
Taiwan	12,289	6,570	0.53	15,270	8,135	0.53
Others	1,896	657	0.35	1,554	892	0.57

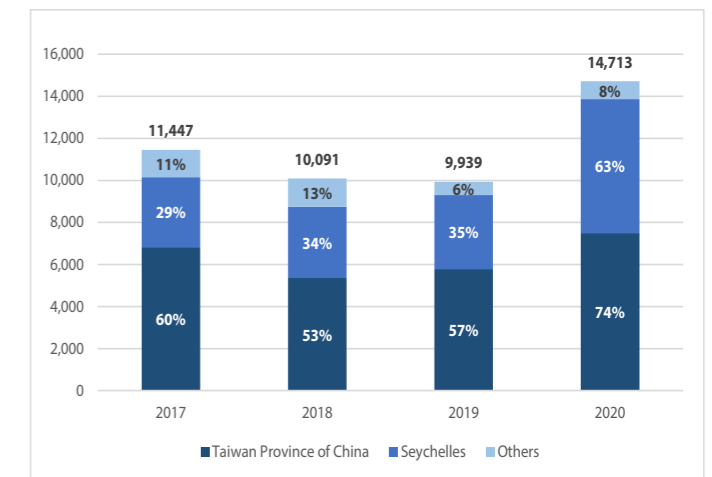
In terms of catch of longliners within the Seychelles EEZ, after a slight decline of 1.5% in total catch in 2019 to 9,939 Mt, total catch increased by 48% to reach 14,713 Mt in 2020. The Seychelles flagged vessels recorded an 81% increase to reach a record 6,375 Mt, increasing its percentage of total catch from 35% to 43%.

The Taiwan flagged vessels catch remained the highest catch at 5,788 Mt in 2019 (58% of total catch), an 8% increase over 2018, however, it further increased by 29% in 2020 to reach 7,491 Mt although its proportion of total catch decreased to 50% due to the increase in catch by the Seychelles flagged vessels. Other flagged vessels though decreased by 53% in 2019 to a low of 633 Mt, however, it increased by 34% in 2020 to reach 848 Mt, which was still below pre-2019 catch.

Table 23: Industrial longline fishery catches in Seychelles EEZ by flag (Mt)

Flag	2017	2018	2019	2020
Seychelles	3,328	3,382	3,518	6,375
Taiwan	6,829	5,359	5,788	7,491
Others	1,291	1,349	633	848
Total catch	11,447	10,091	9,939	14,713

Fig 13: Total catch of industrial longline licensed to fish in Seychelles EEZ by flag (Mt)



Transshipment

Both the annual number and volume of transshipment of industrial longliners at sea has decreased by 1% and 8% respectively from 2018 to 2020. While the number of transshipment at sea decreased by 14% in 2020, from 219 transshipments in 2018 to 189 in 2020, the volume of transshipment at sea increased by 22%, from 10,332 Mt in 2018 to 12,615 Mt in 2020. It is to be noted that the 2019 data for longliners transshipment is missing due to loss of data as a result of a ransomware attack in 2019. The development of new shore-based storage facilities in Port Victoria anticipates an increase in the volume of transshipment at port from 2022 onwards.

Table 24: Industrial longline transshipment

	2017	2018	2019	2020
No. Transshipment at sea	143	219	N/A*	189
No. Transshipment in port	97	84	N/A	83
Total No. Transshipment	240	303	N/A	272
Volume transshipment at sea (Mt)	7,131	10,332	N/A	12,615
Volume transshipped at port (Mt)	8,059	6,675	N/A	6,140
Total volume transshipped (Mt)	15,190	17,007	N/A	18,755

*Data not available due to ransomware attack



Semi-Industrial Fisheries

Semi-industrial fisheries contributed 0.4% of total catch by vessels registered under Seychelles flag in 2020. For the period 2019/2020, 3,493 Mt catch was recorded, a growth of 47% over 2017/2018 and for the same period its total contribution to total catch by vessels registered under Seychelles flag increased from 0.8% to 1.2%.

In 2020, a total catch of 1,484 Mt was recorded from 35 active semi-industrial vessels that made a total 306 fishing trips, with an average 14 days per trip and a catch rate of 0.73 Mt/1000 hooks. This was a decrease over 2019 which had 36 active vessels, and a record number 397 of trips which resulted in a record catch of 2,009 Mt. The decrease in activity and catches in 2020 was mainly due to the lock-down as a result of Covid-19 pandemic from April to August 2020 where semi-industrial vessels were restricted from going out.

Trend analysis for the year 2019 and 2020 showed an increase in catch rate of semi-industrial fishery over the years 2016 to 2019, with a spike in 2019 to reach 2.5 million hooks leading to an effort of 0.79 Mt per thousand hooks. However, this declined to 2.0 million hooks in 2020 and a lower catch of 1,484 Mt, thus leading to an reduced effort of 0.73 Mt per thousand hooks, which was still above 2018 level.

Fig 14: Total catch and catch rate from semi-industrial

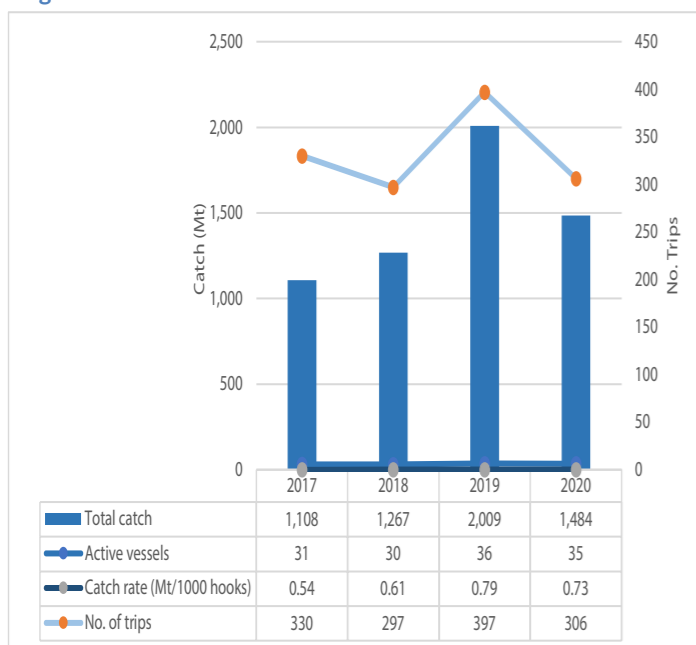
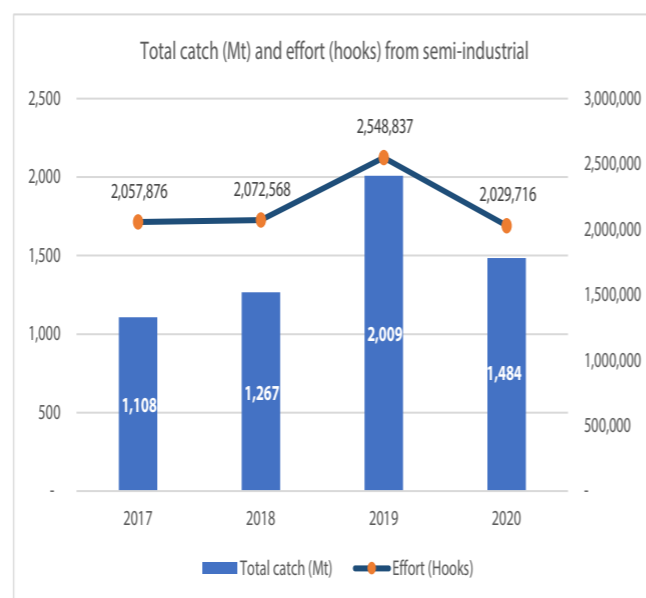


Fig 15: Catch rate and effort from semi-industrial fishery



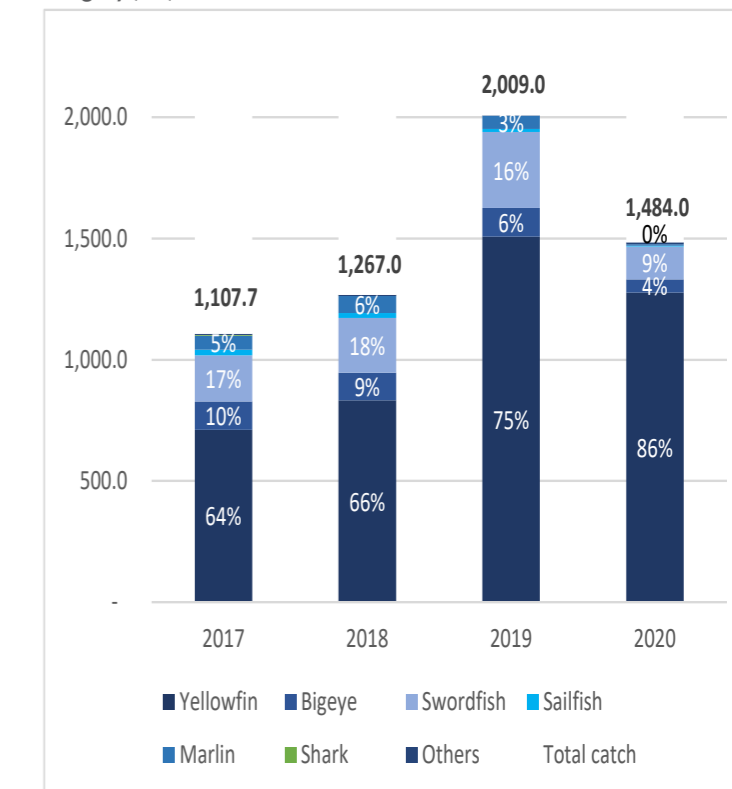
Picture Credit to Oceana Fisheries, 2016

In terms of catch composition, Yellowfin tuna continued to be the dominant species caught in this fishery accounting for 75% of the total catch in 2019. This was a 81% increase in catch in this species over 2018, leading to a record catch of 1,507 Mt. Swordfish which accounted for 16% of total catch, also saw an increase in catch of 38% to reach a record 313 Mt in 2019, while Bigeye catch increased by 5% and other specials witnessed a drop in 2019. In 2020 due to the Covid-19 restriction, all species with the exception of Others' category decreased. Yellowfin catch fell by 15% to reach 1,277 Mt, however, this was still above pre-2019 catch number and it made up 86% of total catch for the 2020. Swordfish dropped by 57%, Bigeye by 54%, Marlin by 87% and Sailfish by 77%. No catch was recorded for Shark for both 2019 and 2020 period.

Table 25: Semi-industrial catch by fish category (Mt)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Yellowfin	711.0	833.0	1,507.0	1,277.0
Swordfish	191.0	226.0	313.0	135.0
Bigeye	116.7	113.0	119.0	55.0
Marlin	58.0	70.0	55.0	7.0
Sailfish	23.8	20.2	13.0	3.0
Shark	2.0	0.8	-	-
Others	5.9	4.0	2.0	7.0
Total catch	1,107.7	1,267.0	2,009.0	1,484.0

Fig 16: Total catch composition from semi-industrial fishery by fish category (Mt)



Picture Credit to Oceana Fisheries, 2016

Artisanal Fisheries

Artisanal fisheries contributed 2.5% of total fishery catch by vessels registered under Seychelles in 2020, down from 2.8% in 2018. For the period 2019/2020, 7,871 Mt catch was recorded, a decrease of 8% over 2017/2018 (8,543 Mt) and for the same period its total contribution to total fishery caught by vessels registered in Seychelles decreased from 3% to 2.8%. The reduction in 2020, was primarily due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which led to a decrease in demand from the hospitality industry due to country lock-down from April to August 2020.

A total catch of 4,411 Mt from 379 active boats was recorded in 2019, an increase of 5% over 2018 which had 498 boats operating. A decrease of 21% in catch was observed in 2020 to 3,460 Mt due to a reduction in demand as a result of the country lock-down. It is to be noted that in partnership with the Government of Seychelles and Seychelles Trading Company (STC), the SFA provided a facility for artisanal fishermen to sell their excess catch at a fixed rate to the fish processors, who in turn was able to package and sell it to STC. This ensured that artisanal fishery could continue during the lock-down, albeit at a reduced rate.

Table 26: Number of active boats by type & their catch

	2018		2019		2020	
	No. Boats	Catch Mt	No. Boats	Catch Mt	No. Boats	Catch Mt
Outboard	274	2,332.9	262	2,528.6	208	1,897.9
Whaler	65	889.5	61	816.1	61	567.3
Schooner	44	685.6	49	936.1	51	732.9
Semi-industrial	2	150.1	1	26.1	11	168.5
Others	4	128.6	6	104.3	7	93.5
Total Active	389	4,186.7	379	4,411.2	338	3,460.1

Outboards and schooners recorded a 8% and 36% increase in catch in 2019 respectively, despite a decrease in number of boats. However, for 2020, due to the Covid-19 situation, all boats recorded a decrease in catch with the exception of semi-industrial vessels undertaking demersal fishery, which recorded catch of 168.5 Mt from 11 boats after a minimum catch of 26.1 Mt in 2019 where only one boat was operating. This increase was due to the restriction of fishing imposed on semi-industrial fishing during the lock-down period.

Table 27: Total catch from artisanal fisheries by gear type (Mt)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Handlines	2,734.5	2,816.8	2,946.9	2,450.4
Encircling gillnets	1,012.6	703.5	808.9	467.7
Static traps	392.7	358.6	400.5	286.6
Active traps	164.8	145.0	161.9	60.8
Others	33.3	131.8	65.2	175.9
Total catch	4,356.2	4,186.7	4,411.2	3,460.1

Handlines, remained the dominant type of gear used in artisanal fisheries, contributing 67% of total catch in 2019 and 71% in 2020. Handline catch increased by 5% over 2018 to 2,946 Mt, but fell to 2,450 Mt in 2020. The encircling gillnets catches increased by 15% in 2019 to 808.9 Mt but dropped by 42% in 2020 to 467.7 Mt. The static trap catches increased by 12% in 2019 to 401 Mt, but also recorded a 28% decrease in 2020 to 287 Mt. Active trap catches which made up 4% of total catch in 2019, saw a 12% increase in the same year over 2018 to 161.9 Mt. However, it recorded a 62% decrease in catch in 2020 to only 60.8 Mt. Other categories decreased by 51% to 65.2 Mt in 2019, but increased significantly in 2020 to reach 175.9 Mt.

Catches for all species, with the exception of Carangue, Capitaine, Becune, crabs, Red snapper, Bonite, other pelagic, Octopus and Sharks & Rays saw an increase in 2019, with the highest increase recorded in Bourgeois by 60% over 2018 to reach 475 Mt, the highest catch since 2011. Job catch reached a record 528 Mt in 2019. In 2020, however, catches of all species reduced with the exception of Carangue and Bonito which increased by 9% and 13% respectively.

Table 28: Artisanal fisheries catch by fish category (Mt)

Fish species	2017	2018	2019	2020
Carangue	1,357.0	1,248.6	1,043.1	1,134.9
Job	432.1	458.2	528.4	483.9
Bourgeois	289.1	297.5	474.9	236.5
Maquereau doux	309.4	361.6	487.1	323.2
Capitaine	309.8	276.0	274.8	225.2
Cordonier	254.6	225.3	270.3	143.8
Becune	159.1	196.8	168.3	108.5
Other trap fish	201.8	202.9	250.8	139.6
Vielle	97.5	134.9	171.5	144.4
Crab	27.4	90.2	36.6	9.4
Red snapper	145.3	179.4	177.3	138.7
Bonite	216.7	124.6	114.7	130.0
Other pelagic	119.1	119.1	118.4	96.1
Maconde	70.1	94.7	117.3	67.2
Octopus	34.0	31.6	30.1	19.2
Other maquereau	192.8	78.2	84.0	24.5
Sharks and rays	33.7	41.7	26.7	15.9
Others	106.7	25.5	37.0	19.3
Total catch	4,356.2	4,186.7	4,411.2	3,460.1

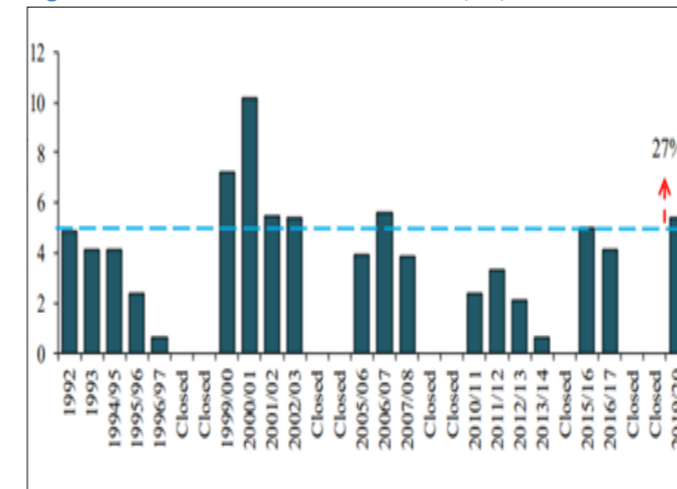
Lobster fishery

The lobster fishery is managed as a limited entry and seasonal fishery. The fishery is traditionally only opened for a period of three consecutive months during a year. The Research Section of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) assesses the status of the lobster stock annually, using fisheries dependent and fisheries independent (surveys) data. Following the assessments, the scientists provide scientific advices to the Managers on whether the fishery should be opened or remain closed.

Further to independent survey carried out in October 2019, CPUE data from independent surveys carried out in October 2019 indicated an increase in the relative abundance and biomass of all lobster species caught during the survey. The survey detected increasing trend in the relative abundance and biomass of legal-size lobsters (more than 7.5 cm carapace length), as well as an increase in the average size for the main species caught. The results indicated that the prior two-year closure had allowed the stock to recover and it was therefore recommended that the fishery be opened for a three-month period from December 21, 2019 to March 21 2020. A total of 16 licenses were issued (10 for Mahé residents, 4 for Praslin and 2 for La Digue).

A total catch of 5.42 Mt was recorded during the open season 2019/2020, which was 31.6% above the 2016/2017 season of 4.12 Mt. A total of 196 fishing trips were made during the 2019/2020 open season compared to 238 trips in 2016/2017 season.

Fig 17: Lobster catch from 1992 to 2020 (Mt)



In terms of catch composition, Pronghorn Spiny Lobster which made up 83% of total catch in 2019/2020, saw an increase of 42% over 2016/2017 season to reach 4.534 Mt,

while Long legged Spiny Lobster, which makes up 15% of total catch, saw a slight increase of 1% to reach 0.806 Mt in 2019/2020 season. All other species saw a decline in catch over the previous period.

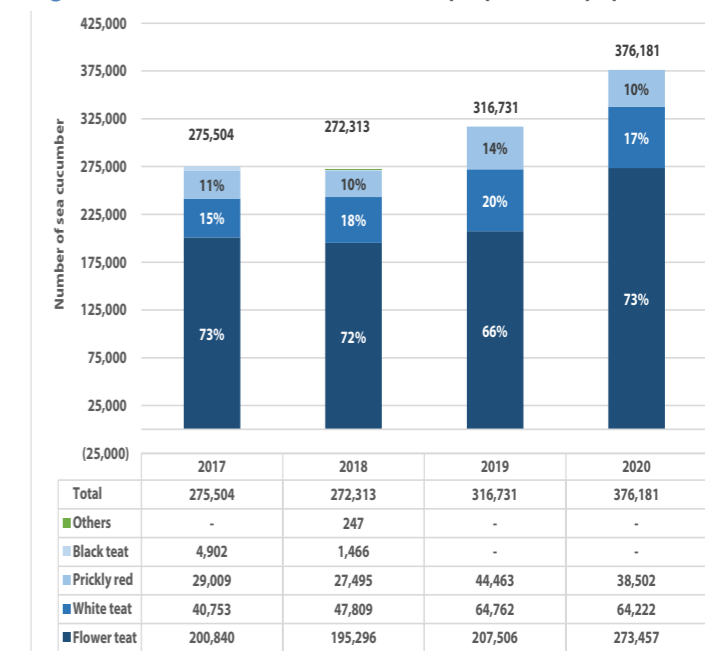
Table 29: Lobster catch by species (Mt)

	2015 2016	2016 2017	2019 2020
Pronghorn Spiny Lobster	4.140	3.200	4.534
Long legged Spiny Lobster	0.803	0.797	0.806
Painted Spiny Lobster	0.035	0.118	0.078
Ornament Spiny Lobster	0.006	0.004	0.002
Total catch	4.984	4.119	5.420

Sea cucumber fishery

The total number of sea cucumber harvested annually increased by 6% and 32% to 316,731 and 376,181 in 2019 and 2020 respectively as a result of increase in licenses from 22 to 25 in 2019/2020. Black teat catch remained banned in 2019/2020 period. On the other hand, White teat, which made up of 20% of total catch in 2019 grew by 34% over 2018 to 64,762 but fell slightly in 2020. Prickly heat catch increased by 61% to 44,463 catch in 2019, while Flower teat, which accounted for 66% of total catch in 2019, increased by 6% over 2018 and 31% in 2020 to reach 273,457, the highest catch since 2014.

Fig 18: Sea cucumber annual catch and proportion by species



Fisheries Becomes Key Foreign Exchange Earner For the Economy in 2020

Stepping up in a time of crisis

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the world economy, with The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimating that global economic growth will be lowered by 3.5 percent (IMF 2021) and the World Trade Organization predicting that Global trade will contract by 13% to 32% in 2020 (WTO 2020). As a small island developing state (SIDS), such adverse impacts have shown the vulnerability of Seychelles compared to other countries from external shocks. That was evident with the 2007-08 financial crisis and now with Covid-19, as according to many institutional projections GDP of the Republic of Seychelles was forecasted to fall by -11.5% (UNDP), -13.8% (IMF), -10.5% (World Bank), and -11.6% (African Development Bank worst case) (IMF 2020, Rassool et al. 2020, AfDB 2021a).



The UNDP report was a socio-economic assessment of the impacts of Covid-19 undertaken in 2020 and revealed that Seychelles suffered a 70% collapse in revenues for the tourism industry, export decreased by 38.9%, and the budget balance share was the worst among SIDS, at 15.5%. At the end of 2020, The Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS) reported a tourism income of US\$221.3 million compared to US\$589.7m in 2019.

Despite the fact that both artisanal and semi-industrial longline fishing subsectors were severely impacted,

with the former losing local markets due to restaurant closures and the latter completely ceasing operations due to a disruption in their export supply chain caused by flight cancellations, industrial fishing-related industries remained the most active and prominent industry, outperforming pre-Covid levels. The purse-seine tuna fleets continued to supply IOT, the principal provider of private jobs and foreign exchange revenue earner in the fishing industry, with tuna needed to meet its increased demand.

The IOT canning factory operated at levels higher than the pre-Covid-19 pandemic in exports of canned tuna products to meet increased international demand since canned food is considered a safe commodity during the lock-down periods. Canned tuna export, which makes up the majority of fish and fish-related export, increased by 20% in tonnage to a record 42,976 Mt and 11% in foreign currency value from US\$220.7m to US\$246m between 2019 and 2020. Foreign currency earnings from other fisheries/ value-added export and license fees from industrial fishing vessels also increased by 5% to US\$44.3m, bringing the total fisheries-related earnings to US\$290.4m in 2020. The fisheries-related industry replaced the tourism industry as the primary source of foreign exchange revenue for Seychelles in 2020, although for a short-term period, showing the importance of the fishing industry to the Seychelles economy.

Section 4

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR

Ensure that the fisheries sector continues to play a key role in the sustainable development of the country and the socio-economic well-being of the Seychellois nations

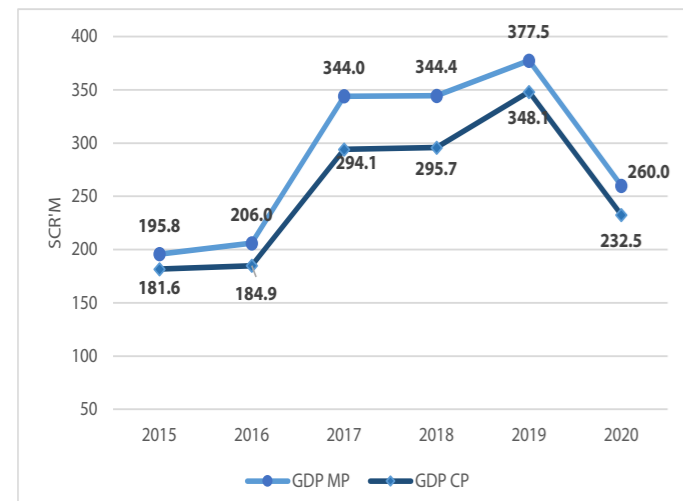


Overview

The fisheries sector contributes significantly to the wealth of the country and is an important source of employment, export revenue, and food security. Under the System of National Accounts (SNA), the fisheries sector, which represents the first point of sales value of artisanal and semi-industrial fisheries only, recorded a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contribution of SCR260m at market prices in 2020, a decrease of 25% from SCR344.4m in 2018 mainly due to Covid-19 related impacts.

GDP at constant prices also fell by 21%, from SCR295.5m in 2018 to SCR232.5m in 2020. In 2019, GDP contribution at market prices increased by 10% to SCR377.5m but decreased by 31% in 2020 to reach SCR260m, due to a decrease in demand for fish from the hospitality industry as a result of Covid-19 lock-down. The fisheries sector contribution, as defined above, was 1.72% and 1.2% of total GDP of SCR23.6b and SCR21.2b at current prices in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

Figure 19: GDP trend between 2015 and 2020 from CBS annual report 2020.



Source: NBS, 2020 Annual National Accounts Statistics

Contribution from industrial fisheries under the National Accounts is captured under Manufacturing of fisheries product from Indian Ocean Tuna (IOT) since it measures the gross value addition only, in this case, the canned tuna output or other related products. The GDP at market price for this sector decreased by 10.2% in 2019 to SCR610.6m but rebounded to SCR792.8m in 2020 due to an increase in the demand for canned fish products on the international market during the lock-down period. The total contribution for both Fisheries sector and Manufacturing of fisheries products stood at 4.98% in 2020 compared to 4.84% in 2018.

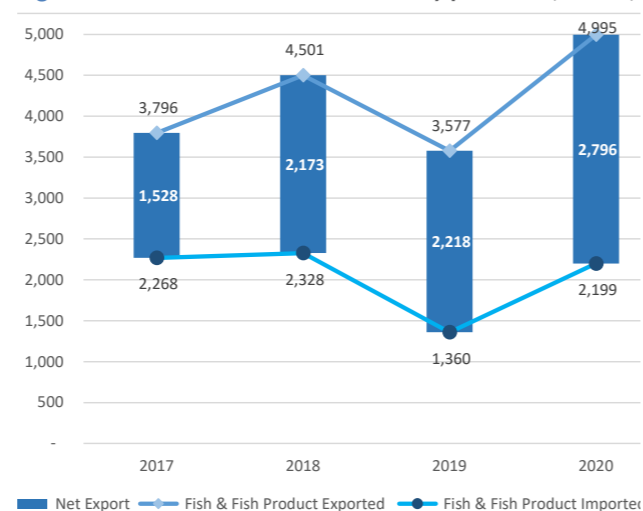
Table 30: GDP at market price for fisheries and fisheries-related sector (SCR'M)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Fisheries sector GDP	344.0	344.0	377.5	260.0
Manufacturing of fishery products	740.5	757.2	610.6	792.8
Total	1,084.5	1,101.2	988.1	1,052.8

A Key development in the fisheries sector included the signing of the new EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership agreement 2020-2026, valued at EUR58.2m over the 6-year period (EUR9.7m annually). Under the updated agreement, up to forty purse seiners and eight surface long-liners from select EU members in both categories are allowed to fish a total of 50,000 tonnes of tuna per year. To promote the development of the Aquaculture industry, in 2020, SFA revised the Aquaculture Policy to allow Seychellois investors to partner with international investors in aquaculture projects, with the Seychellois investor holding a minimum 51% share of the venture. This was due to the need for additional capacity-building locally, high investment and infrastructure requirements and to ensure a greater likelihood of success in a potential new area for foreign direct investment.

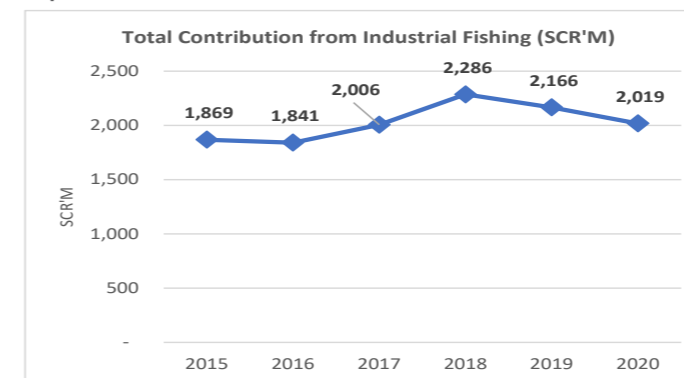
Fisheries export, consisting of fresh fish, canned tuna, and other fisheries products, is a vital source of foreign currency earnings for the country and contributes positively to the national trade balance of the current account. The value of export of fish and fishery products fell by 21% in 2019 over 2018, from SCR4.5b to SCR3.57b leading to a 0.2% decrease in the contribution of total domestic export of SCR3.67b. However, due to an increase in demand as a result of Covid-19 coupled with the resulting depreciation of the Seychelles Rupees, total fisheries export increased to SCR4.99b in 2020 and contribution increased to 98.2% of total gross domestic export. Fish and fishery products imports also followed the same trend, with a 62% increase in imports in 2020 to meet IOT production requirements, however, the Net trade balance reached a record SCR2.796b in 2020.

Fig 20: Trade balance for fish and fishery products (SCR'M)



Total expenditure from industrial fishery decreased by 5% and 7% in 2019 and 2020 respectively due primarily to a decrease in the price of fuel on the world market, which decreased by 31% from 2019 to US\$491.9 per Mt in 2020 due to Covid-19 lock-down impact. The 2020 decrease was mitigated by the devaluation of the Seychelles Rupee.

Fig 21: Total annual contribution from industrial fishery expenditure.



After Total Fish & Fish Production, which includes both catches from all Seychelles flagged vessels including artisanal and semi-industrial fishing and production of fish products, reached a record 207,221 Mt in 2018, a decline of 5% was observed in 2019 to 196,725 Mt. This was driven primarily by a decrease in industrial catch of 9%, while all other fisheries catch increased for that year. Total fish production decreased by 10% in the same year as a result of a decrease in canned tuna production from 51,077 Mt to 45,812 Mt.

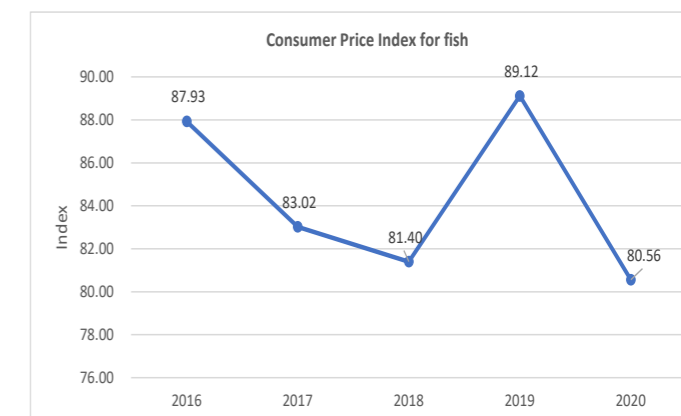
In 2020, total catch declined by a further 1.6% as a result of a decrease of 22% and 26% in artisanal and semi-industrial catch respectively. This was a direct result of the Covid-19 lock-down impact, which resulted in a decrease in demand from the hospitality industry due to the country lock-down from April to September 2020 and the unavailability of flights for the export of catches from the semi-industrial fishery. Production of canned tuna, on the other hand, increased by 14% over 2019 to reach a record 52,100 Mt in 2020 as a result of increased demand for canned food internationally due to the Covid-19 lock-down. This contributed to the 11% increase in total production of fish and fish products to a record 61,297 Mt in 2020.

Table 31: Production of fish and fish products (Mt)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total catch by Sey flagged vessels	142,370	146,322	141,907	139,644
Total production of fish and fish products	49,533	60,900	54,817	61,297
Total	191,903	207,221	196,725	200,942

The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is used to measure inflation, increased from 81.40 to 89.12 for fish in 2019, indicating a 9.3% increase in the price of fish. However, as a result of the Covid-19 lock-down and reduced demand for fish, the CPI fell to 80.56 in 2020 indicating a fall of 9.6% in fish prices for the year.

Fig 22: Consumer price index for fish



The sector faced substantial labour challenges directly linked to the pandemic in 2020, with the most prominent example being the case of 97 expatriate mariners who tested positive for Covid-19 in June. This incident resulted in the implementation of additional, but necessary controls to ensure such health risks were mitigated given the economic importance of maintaining activity in the industry, which had become the key foreign currency earner for the country.

To support the increase in production in 2020, IOT recruited 250 Seychellois on 6-month contracts in June 2020, increasing the number of employees to 2019 of which 68% were foreigners and 32% Seychellois. At end of 2020, SFA estimated a total of 5,282 employees in the fisheries and fisheries-related sector, with female employees making up 24% of the workforce, primarily in the processing sector.



Picture Credit to State House, 2020

Indian Ocean Tuna increased production and storage in 2020

Domestic Production of Fish and Fish Products

Total domestic production of fish and fishery products, including canned tuna, production of fish meal and fish oil as well as total catch by Seychelles-flagged vessels decreased by 5% in 2019 to 196,725 Mt due to a decrease in purse seiner catch, however, increased by 2% to 200,942 in 2020.

The decrease in 2019 was primarily driven by a reduction in catch from the purse seiner flying the Seychelles flag due to the implementation of IOTC regulation to reduce Yellowfin catch by 15%. Semi-industrial catches increased to a record 2,009 Mt in 2019 as a result of an increased number of licensed vessels and efficiency. Canned tuna production fell by 10% in 2019 after a production of 51,077 in 2018.

In 2020, total production of fish and fish products increased by 2% and this was led by an increase of 14% in the production of canned tuna to a record 52,100 Mt as a result of an increase in international demand for canned fish products as a result of Covid-19 lock-down. Total catch, on the other hand, declined by a further 1.6% as a result of a decrease of 22% and 26% in artisanal and semi-industrial catch respectively. This was a direct result of the Covid-19 lock-down impact, which resulted in a decrease in demand from the hospitality industry due to the country lock-down from April to September 2020 and the unavailability of flights for the export of catches from the semi-industrial fishery.

Table 32: Production of fish and fish products (Mt)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Artisanal catch	4,356	4,187	4,411	3,460
Semi-industrial catch	1,108	1,267	2,009	1,484
Canned tuna	40,480	51,077	45,812	52,100
Smoked Fish	28	18	22	19
Fish meal	8,322	8,061	7,769	8,241
Fish oil	572	1,641	1,158	881
Sea cucumber	59	46	56	56
Others (Sharks & rays)	72	57	-	-
Total domestic production	54,996	66,353	61,238	66,241
Sey flagged purse seiner catch	122,202	123,310	112,621	112,231
Sey flagged longliner catch	14,704	17,558	22,866	22,469
Total industrial catch	136,906	140,868	135,487	134,700
Grand Total	191,903	207,221	196,725	200,942

Production of dried sea cucumbers remained steady at 56 Mt in both 2019 and 2020, while no shark production was recorded for the two-year period.

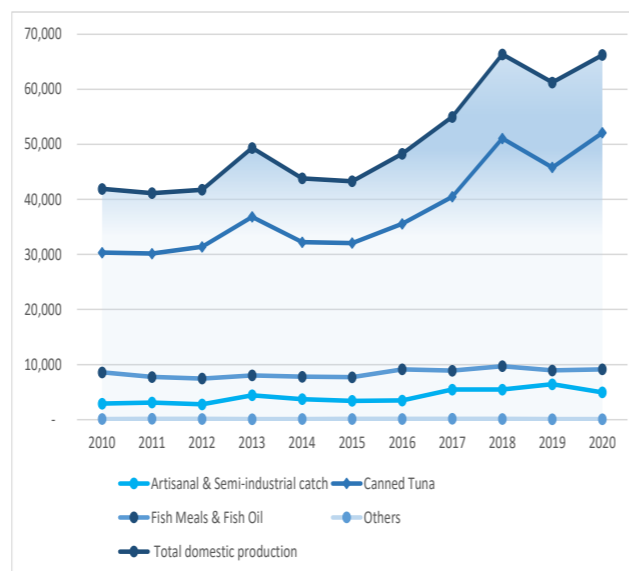
Fish meal is a by-product produced from the tuna factory trimmings and fish oil is obtained during the reduction process by which fish meal is produced. They are both important by-products of the tuna

canning industry and in 2020 production of fishmeal stood at 8,241 Mt after a fall of 4% in 2019, from 8,061 Mt in 2018 to 7,769 Mt. Production of fish oil on the hand continue to decline in 2019 and 2020 to reach only 881 Mt in 2020.

Trend analysis of the relative contribution of each fish and fishery product over the last ten years indicates that although total output (excluding industrial catch by Seychelles Flagged vessels) have been increasing since 2014, with a slight decrease in 2019, which closely follows the trend of canned tuna production. This reveals the high correlation and significant effects canned tuna output has on total domestic output. In line with this finding, the Government and the SFA's plan is to expand fisheries value-added productions on the Ile Du Port fish processing zone (Zone 16), which is expected to be in operation by mid-2023.

The other categories such as Artisanal, Semi-industrial, Fish meal & Fish Oil, and others appear to have less of an effect on total output due to carrying less weight in terms of volume produced.

Fig 23: Domestic production trend of fish and fish products (Mt)



Revenue From Industrial Fisheries

Industrial fishing activities from the Tuna Industry remained one of the leading sources of foreign currency earnings in the economy, with its contribution more prominent in 2020 with Covid-19 lock-down. The gross income from the sector is derived primarily from bunkering and foreign fishing vessels' expenditures on goods and services in Port Victoria, as well as through payments for licenses and other financial compensations.

After a record revenue of SCR2,286.5m in 2018, the overall contribution from industrial fishing decreased by 5% and 7% for the period 2019 and 2020 respectively to reach SCR2,018.5m in 2020. The decrease in both years was driven by a decline in the price of fuel on the world market, which reached US\$492/Mt in 2020 due to Covid-19 lock-downs and a decrease in the number of licensed industrial vessels.

Table 33: Annual contribution from industrial fishing (SCR'M)

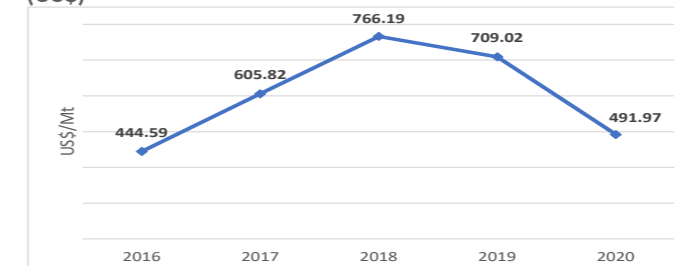
Expenditure Type	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bunkering	1,353.1	1,691.8	1,599.5	1,313.0
Fishing Vessels/Company expenditure	433.8	382.1	363.9	425.0
Licence/Access fees, Excess catch and Sectoral Support	197.7	211.5	201.8	278.3
Seamen compensation	21.4	1.1	0.9	2.1
Total contribution	2,006.0	2,286.5	2,166.1	2,018.5

The number of industrial vessel licences issued and the total number of days spent in port both decreased by 26 and 643 days respectively in 2019 leading to a decrease in all lines of expenditure. In 2020, the number of licences issued dropped by 24, and the number of days spent in port also decreased by 1278 days (23%), however, revenue from Fishing vessels/company expenditure increased by 17% due to an average 28% devaluation of the Rupees as a result of Covid-19 lock-down. Although sales of fuel decreased by 0.2% and 2% in 2019 and 2020 respectively, bunkering revenue decreased by 5.4% and 20% in the respective years as a result of the decrease in the price of fuel in US\$ as per Fig.24 below.

Table 34: Number of industrial licences issued, number of port calls, days spent and volume of fuel sold.

	2017	2018	2019	2020
No. Industrial licence issued	281	274	248	224
No. Port calls	840	820	831	768
Days spent in port	5,447	6,254	5,611	4,333
Fuel sale (Mt)	166,037	158,322	158,681	155,416

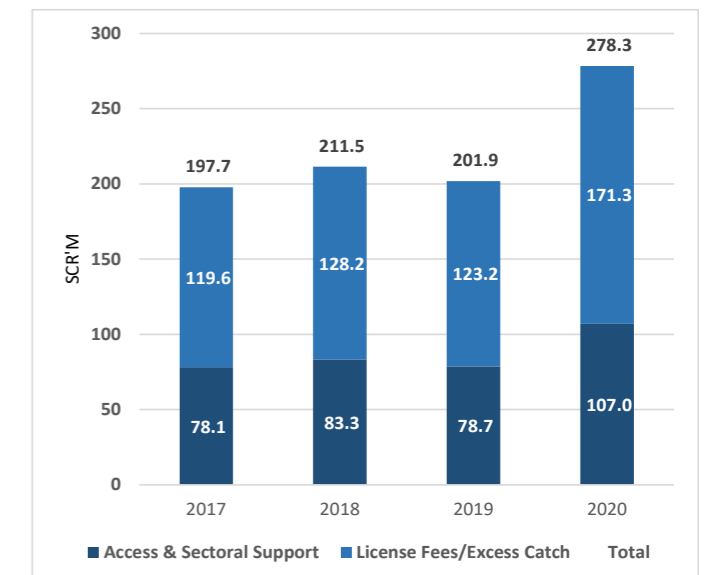
Fig 24: Price of fuel quoted by SEYPEC Jan 2016 - Dec 2020 (US\$)



Bunkering remained the largest proportion of revenue from industrial fishing, accounting for 74% in 2019 and 65% in 2020. Fishing vessels/company expenditures which accounted for 16% of total expenditure in 2019, after a 5% decrease over 2018, increased by 17% to SCR425m in 2020, thus accounting for 21% of the total industrial revenue contribution for the year.

License fees, excess catch, and the EU Sectoral support fees decreased by 4.5% in 2019 due to a slight devaluation of the Rupee against the EUR, given that the Access and Sectoral support remained constant at EUR5m under the EU/Sey agreement. In 2020 however, Access and Sectoral support increased to EUR5.3m under the new 2020-2026 EU/Sey Protocol. This coupled with the devaluation of the Seychelles Rupees by an average of 28% in 2020 as a result of Covid-19 related lock-down, led to an increase of 26% in Access and Sectoral support to reach a record SCR171.3m. Although the number of licenses decreased in 2020, excess catch of 2019 worth EUR138,896 was paid in 2020 resulting in an increase of 36% in revenue to SCR107m. The overall revenue from license fees, excess catch, and the EU Sectoral support fees, therefore, increased by 38% to reach a record SCR278.3m in 2020.

Fig 25: Licence/Access fee, excess catch and sectoral support revenue breakdown



Seamen compensation, fell by 18% in 2019 in line with the decreased number of licenses, however, it increased by 133% to SCR2.1m in 2020 due to the settlement of past dues in line with ILO minimum payment, and as a result of the devaluation of the Seychelles Rupees in 2020.

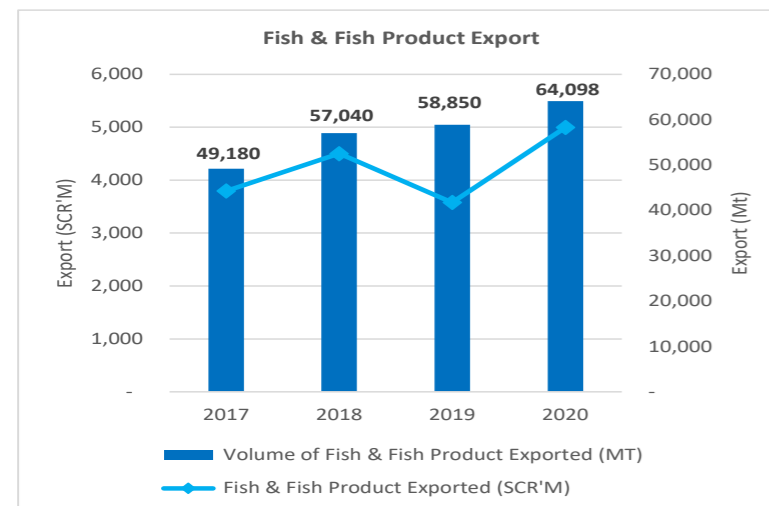
Trade in Fish and Fisheries Products

Fish and fisheries products are one of the most traded commodities in Seychelles and as such constitute an important growth and income-generating activity for the national economy. It is expected that the demand for these valuable goods by external agents will continue to rise due to their nutritional benefits and commercial value. Therefore, this acts as an incentive for domestic exporters to undertake new innovative global outreach techniques to exploit potential markets.

Exports of fish and fisheries products

The total fish and fish product volume grew by 12.4% from 2018 to a record 64,098 Mt in 2020. This was driven by an 18% increase in canned tuna export as a result of increased international demand during the Covid-19 lock-down. The value of export fell by 20% in 2019 to SCR3.577b but increased by 40% in 2020 to a record SCR4.995b, driven by both the increase in volume and the devaluation of the Seychelles Rupees as a result of Covid-19.

Fig 26: Value and volume of fish and fish product export



In 2019, the export of Fresh and Frozen fish saw an increase of 27% in volume and a 6% increase in value over 2018 to a record 13,886 Mt and a value of SCR237m in 2019. However, due to the non-availability of international flights due to the Covid-19 lock-down, export volume dropped by 20% in 2020 to 11,180 Mt, although the value increased by 16% due to a combination of increased freight cost and devaluation of the Seychelles Rupee.

Table 35: Volume and value of fish and fish products exported

	2018		2019		2020	
	Volume (Mt)	Value (SCR'M)	Volume (Mt)	Value (SCR'M)	Volume (Mt)	Value (SCR'M)
Canned tuna	36,356	3,817	35,951	3,098	42,976	4,383
Fish oil	1,641	293	1,158	77	881	77
Fish meal	8,029	127	7,809	115	9,003	174
Fresh and frozen fish	10,966	223	13,886	237	11,180	274
Sea cucumber, shark fin and crustaceans	49	41	46	50	58	87
Total	57,040	4,501	58,850	3,577	64,098	4,995

The largest export destination for fresh and frozen fish in 2019 was Cote D'Ivoire at SCR64.8m. This consisted of mainly frozen fish and accounted for 27% of export value for this category. However, in 2020, export to Cote D'Ivoire decreased by 59% to become the 2nd largest export destination after the USA, which recorded SCR49.9m in mainly frozen fish. In 2019, the USA contributed only 9% of total export value of this export category at SCR20.6m, but this grew by 142% in 2020 to reach SCR49.9m, contributing to 18% of total value of fresh and frozen fish export. Export grew over the two-year period to Spain, Thailand, UK, Reunion, and France, while Sri Lanka, Turkey, Morocco, and other destinations declined. With the establishment of direct flights to Israel as a safe destination during the Covid-19 pandemic, export of fresh and frozen fish increased by 439% from SCR3.7m to SCR20.2m in 2020. Ecuador also became a new market in 2020, bringing SCR10.3m in export value.

Table 36: Export Destination of fresh and frozen fish (SCR'M)

	2018	2019	2020
United States of America (USA)	7.8	20.6	49.9
Cote D'Ivoire	38.2	64.8	26.5
Spain	9.8	22.3	24.8
Thailand	16.3	-	23.4
Israel	-	3.7	20.2
United Kingdom	9.3	11.9	16.6
Sri Lanka	-	29.5	16.4
Reunion	19.7	7.3	11.6
Turkey	-	18.2	11.4
France	0.6	2.9	10.9
Morocco	-	11.7	10.6
Ecuador	-	-	10.3
Others	121.4	44.5	41.6
Total	223.3	237.5	274.0

Canned tuna export, which made up 61% of total volume and 87% of total value of export in 2019, decreased by 9% in volume in 2019 but increased by 19.5% in 2020 to reach 42,976 Mt. In terms of value of export, it increased by 41% over 2019 to reach a record SCR4.383b accounting for 88% of total value of export. France remained the top destination for canned tuna export in 2020 at 46% (SCR2.029b) followed by UK at 28% (SCR1.220b) and Italy at 15% (SCR0.555b).

Fish oil export decreased by 46% in volume and 74% in value over the period 2019/2020, from 1,641 Mt in 2018 to 881 Mt in 2020 and from SCR293m to SCR77m in 2020. The drop was mainly from the Australian market which decreased from SCR254m in 2018 to SCR61m in 2019, and to only SCR3.9m in 2020 as a result of its Covid-19 strict lock-down policy in 2020. Iceland remained the top market for fish oil during the 2019/2020 period, bringing in SCR12m during both years. New markets were also developed in 2020 including Switzerland, which brought in SCR10.2m.

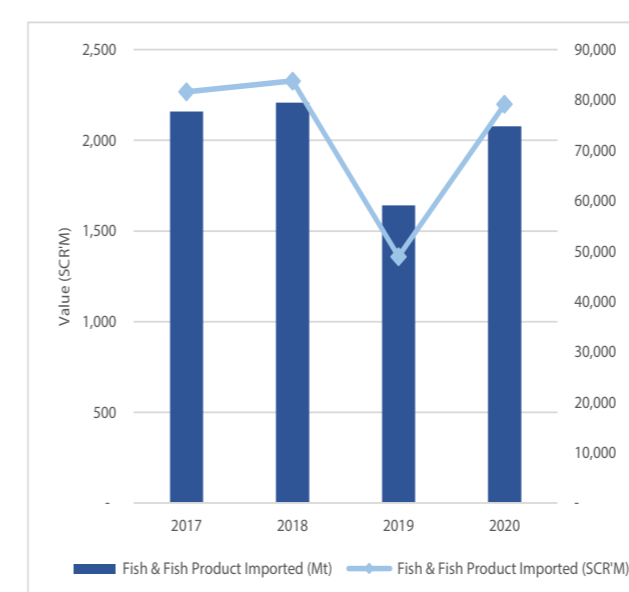
Fish meal volume increased by 12% over 2018 to reach a record 9,003 Mt in 2020 and similarly, value of export increased by 37% from SCR121m to a record SCR174m contribution. Australia and the USA were the major markets for fish meal in 2018, accounting for 84% of the total export value at SCR76m and SCR26.2m respectively. However, Taiwan became the top market in 2020, contributing 35% of total export at SCR60.9m, while Australia and USA contributed 10% and 8% respectively. New markets including India, Nigeria and others emerged in 2020.

Export of sea cucumber experienced a growth of 14% in volume and 112% in value in 2020 over 2018 to reach 56 Mt and SCR87m in export revenue for the year. This followed a 12% and 54% increase in volume and value of export in 2019. Hong Kong remained the main destination for sea cucumber, contributing 99.9% of the total value of export.

Import of fish and fisheries products

The total import in fisheries products decreased in both volume and value in 2019 from 79,494 Mt and SCR2.328b in 2018 to 59,122 Mt and SCR1,360b in 2019, accounting for a decrease of 25% and 41% respectively. However, volume increase by 26% to 59,122 Mt in 2020, while value increased by 41% to SCR2.199b due to a combination of increased volume and devaluation of the Seychelles Rupees.

Fig 27: Value and volume of fish and fish product import



As the main raw material for the IOT factory for canning, frozen fish namely tuna, remained the dominant import commodity, accounting for over 99% of total imports of fish and fishery products in terms of volume and close to 96% in terms of value in 2020. After a decline in 2019 due to decrease in canned tuna production, volume and value of frozen fish import increased by 41% and 66% respectively in 2020.

Table 37: Volume and value of fish and fish product imported

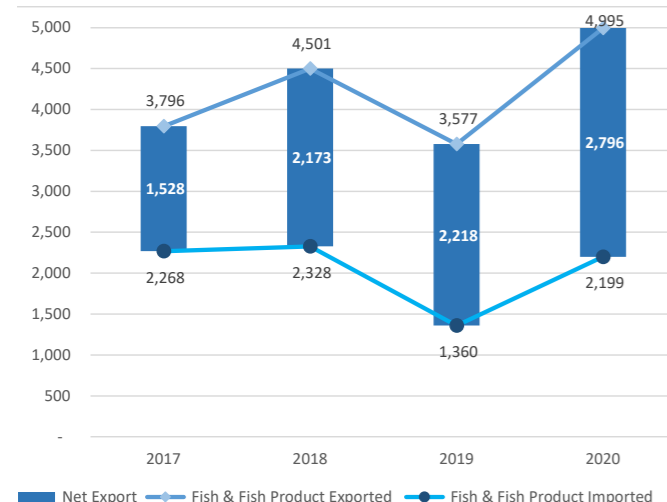
	2018		2019		2020	
	Volume (Mt)	Value (SCR'M)	Volume (Mt)	Value (SCR'M)	Volume (Mt)	Value (SCR'M)
Fish fresh or chilled	19	4	13	3	15	3
Fish frozen	78,663	2,218	58,321	1,271	73,991	2,111
Fish fillet & other fish meat	9	1	3	1	4	1
Fresh dried & salted/brine	40	7	32	5	32	5
Mollusc & Crustacean prepared or preserved	762	98	753	79	728	79
Total	79,494	2,328	59,122	1,360	74,768	2,199

The other commodities not destined for processing in the cannery are mainly supplied to hotels, local markets and bait for the domestic fishing industry. Mollusc and crustaceans are the second-largest import category, accounting for SR79m worth of imports in 2019, a 19% decrease over 2018. Due to Covid-19 lock-down and subsequent decrease in demand from the hospitality industry, import volume of mollusc and crustacean decreased by 3% to 728 Mt in 2020, while value remained at SCR79m. Other products including fresh fish, fish fillet and dried fish have low import volume and value and thus little impact on total import.

Balance of Trade

The balance of trade measures the flow of exports and imports over a given period of time. From Fig 28 below, there is a constant and high positive net export for fish and fish products for the years 2017 to 2020, with a record balance of SCR2.796 billion in 2020. This points to the great importance of the fisheries sector to the country's balance of payments, especially during the Covid-19 economic crisis, where the country lost significant income from the tourism industry.

Fig 28: Trade balance for fish and fishery products (SCR'M)



Inflow of foreign currency

The fisheries sector is part of the many channels in which foreign currency flows in and out of the economy. The inflow of foreign currency injects various foreign currencies in the economy which in turn allows households, businesses and the government to import overseas products, which will be used as intermediate and consumption goods. From the table below, illustrating the inflow of the fisheries sector, an inflow of around SCR5.743b was recorded in 2019 representing 24% in the current account receipts. This was a drop of 5% over 2018, primarily a result of the decrease in export of canned tuna for the year. However, gross inflow from fisheries increased by 22% in 2020 to a record SCR7.014b representing 35% of current account receipt for the year, as a result of increase in demand for canned tuna during the lock-down period coupled with devaluation of the Seychelles Rupees.

Table 38: Inflow of foreign currency from export (SCR'M)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Visible Export	3,796	4,501	3,577	4,995
Revenue from industrial tuna fishery	2,006	2,286	2,166	2,019
Gross inflow from fisheries (a)	5,802	6,787	5,743	7,014
Current account receipts (b)	22,513	24,994	23,760	19,922
(a) as % of (b)	26%	27%	24%	35%

According to the Central Bank of Seychelles' annual reports, earnings from tourism in 2019 was US\$590m but fell to US\$221m in 2020 as a result of 70% decrease in the number of arrivals due to the Covid-19 lock-down. From the above table, total gross inflow from fisheries amounted to US\$409.3m and US\$398.1m respectively for the same period based on an average exchange rate of SCR14.03 to the US\$ in 2019 and SCR17.62 in 2020. The fisheries sector became the key foreign currency earner for the Seychelles Economy in 2020 and this clearly shows the vital importance of fisheries and related activities to the national economy and in the development of the country and the need to further develop the sector's potential contribution to the economy.



Operating during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Implementing workplace prevention strategies at SFA

Identified in Wuhan, China, in October 2019, Covid-19, caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, led to travel restrictions around the globe from March 2020 onwards, leading to a direct impact on the Seychelles tourism industry, the country's economic mainstay.

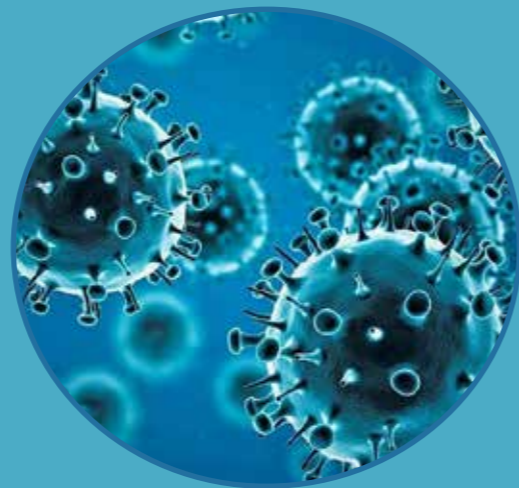
The Seychelles Fishing Authority, being one of the essential services in the country's fisheries industry, had to keep all the services operational, even with some at a smaller scale. Thus, we centered our focus around three strategies Plan, Prepare, and Respond.

The Occupational Safety and Health Section was at the forefront to provide resources to prevent Covid-19 exposure and infection in the workplace, prevent and reduce transmission and maintain healthy business operations and provide updates on the most current requirements, guidance, tools, and Resources. However, our first order of business was to introduce an Internal Covid-19 protocol complied by the input of all managers as per the nature of their activities.

The Section established strategies to undertake daily monitoring of the staff, including appropriate evaluation and management of those who had signs and symptoms before and after receiving the Covid-19 vaccine.

The SFA purchased a corporate package with the Euromedical clinic to facilitate and fast-track the detection and contact tracing process. Potential positive cases or high-risk contacts were immediately transported to the Euromedical clinic for a rapid antigen test while taking all preventative measures to ensure the safety of the drivers. The implemented protocol minimized the number of staff excluded from work and reduced the disruptions in the workplace operations. The implemented protocol minimized the number of staff excluded from work and reduced the disruptions in the workplace operations while ensuring that those infected were immediately isolated.

In 2020, SFA did not have any total or partial close-down of its premises and service as most positive Covid-19 cases were from home or outside the SFA. SFA recorded only three cluster cases due to misdiagnosis of staff members.



Section 5

MANAGEMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Project SFA as the legal authority among various stakeholders through acceptance of responsibility for its decision and actions and reinforcing mechanisms for accountability and good governance



Corporate Governance Practice

The Authority is a Financial Autonomous State-Owned Enterprise since January 2019. Created under the SFA Act 2004, it works closely with the Ministry responsible for Fisheries. It is governed by a Board of Directors which is appointed by the President of the Republic, and is responsible for its policy, control and management. The Chief Executive Officer has supervision over, and direction of the day-to-day affairs of the Authority.

Organisation Structure

SFA's organisation structure as at end of December 2020 is presented below:

SFA Board of Director Chairperson: Cyril Bonnelame	
SFA Chief Executive Nichol Elizabeth	
Administration & Services	Operations
Deputy Chief Executive <i>Calvin Gerry</i>	Fisheries Resource Manager <i>Vincent Lucas</i>
Legal Advisor <i>Yannick Roucou</i>	Aquaculture Manager <i>Aubrey Lesperance</i>
International Collaboration Manager <i>Nan Constance</i>	Development & Assessment Manager <i>Ronny Antat</i>
Procurement Manager <i>Samantha Ramanoelina</i>	Project Manager <i>Andrew Bristol</i>
Financial Controller <i>Paul Lesperance</i>	Infrastructure & Development Manager - <i>Georgie Nicette</i>
Fisheries Incentive Manager <i>Petrrina Esparon</i>	Monitoring Control & Surveillance Manager - <i>Johhny Lous</i>
Human Resource Manager <i>Jessy Roseline</i>	Fisheries Research Manager <i>Rodney Govinden</i>
IT Manager <i>Slim Dogley</i>	Fisheries Statistic Manager <i>Juliette Lucas</i>
Health & Safety Manager <i>Michael Gill</i>	Fisheries Economic Manager <i>Michel Marguerite</i>
Administration Manager <i>Elvis Stravens</i>	
Property Manager <i>Marlene Kahn</i>	

Nichol Elizabeth was appointed CEO in September 2020, after the resignation of Cyril Bonnelame as Interim CEO. Cyril Bonnelame was appointed Chairperson in February 2020.

Corporate governance

The Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act 2004 sets out the governance requirements which the Authority have to comply with. For the reporting period 2019-2020, the Authority complied with majority of its requirement as per below:

Authority meeting

There were two ordinary board meetings in 2019 that were attended by a minimum of three members at each meeting. In 2020, there were 10 ordinary and seven extra ordinary meetings. There were between eight to 10 directors present at the ordinary meetings.

Access to information Act 2018

The Access to information act 2018 was ascended on 20th July

2018 with aim to foster good governance through enhanced transparency, accountability, integrity in public service, and administration. SFA is subject to this Act and is required to therefore create, organise, keep, and maintain its information in a manner which facilitates access to information as stipulated by the Act.

SFA started work in 2018 to ensure that the Authority is in full compliance with the new regulation and this included advising the public how to access information from the authority, appointing the HR Manager as the Information Officer, and guiding staff accordingly. SFA updated its website in 2019 providing a vast array of information for all its stakeholders and the public in general.

Audit assessments

The Authority is required to carry out independent audit for both its financial reporting as well as for the Sectoral Support Fund from the EU/Seychelles Protocol. The financial audit for the period 2019/2020 was finalised at the end of March 2022. The EU/Sey audit for 2018 & 2019 installment and for the 2014-2020 performance was completed in December 2020.

Corporate planning and reporting

The Authority is required to submit its annual corporate plan to the PEMC. The corporate plans were submitted to PEMC after approval of the board and monthly/quarterly/semi-annual performance reports were submitted as required. There has been a delay in the submission of the Annual reports for the 2019 and 2020, as a complete financial audit was commissioned in 2021 for the years 2017/2018/2019 and 2020.

Procurement

SFA is guided by the Public Procurement Act (2008), and the Public Procurement Regulations (2014) for acquiring of goods, consultancies, services and civil works. During the period 2019/2020 all procurement processes were in line with the regulations and all purchases above SCR150,000 were directed to Procurement Oversight Unit for processing. Procurement between SCR1,000 to SR100,000 are approved by the Financial Controller, while those between SCR100,000 and SCR150,000 were approved by the Internal Procurement Committee. SFA ensures principles of transparency, fairness to obtain favourable competitions of bids/quote are in line with the Act & Regulations and are in the most economical interest for SFA.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Section continued to support the SFA's management team in attracting, developing, and retaining high performing employees during the period 2019/2020. This was in line with the Authority's strategy to build core competencies across the organisation for the execution of the organisational mandates.

Capacity building

A detailed need assessment was carried out for all Divisions in 2018 to support SFA's transition to Autonomy status. A total of 74 positions were filled during the two-year period as per the table below.

Table 39: New Recruitment for 2019-2020

	2019	2020
Secretariat	3	3
Human Resources	6	6
Accounts	3	5
Research	3	4
Aquaculture	5	2
Post Harvest & Value Addition	1	2
Port Management/Development	11	2
Projects	3	1
Statistics	1	-
Monitoring Control & Surveillance	2	11
Total	38	36

Key management positions such as Property Manager, Project Director, Procurement Officer (Projects), Financial Controller, Financial Accountant, Management Accountant, Human Resources Manager, Principal Fisheries Scientists, and other support staff were recruited. Several new schemes of service for Technical cadre, Scientist cadre, and Support Cadre were finalised and implemented from 2019 onward. SFA had 189 employees at the end of 2019 and 215 at the end of 2020.

Training and development

HR seeks to fosters a healthy, safe, well-equipped, and productive work environment for all SFA staff, as well as provide opportunities for staff to increase their knowledge and develop their full potential. During the two-year period, 16 staff were registered on full time courses as the per table below.

Table 40: No. Staff participated in training & workshops 2019-2020

	Status	2019/2020
Certificate level	Ongoing	8
Diploma	Ongoing	1
BSc. Degree	1 Completed	2
Post Graduate Diploma	Ongoing	1
Master's Degree	1 Completed	3
PHD	Completed	1
Total		16

Several staff participated in local and international workshops/conferences during 2019/2020. Due to Covid-19 pandemic all international workshops were held online in 2020.

Document Review Committee

Policies and procedures, whilst containing legal and best practice requirements, should also reflect the company's vision and values so that these can run through every aspect of the business. In line with SFA's 2018-2020 Strategic Plan and its new Autonomy Status, a Document Review Committee, comprising the Management team was created in 2020 to develop and review all the internal policies and procedures. A total of five policies were completed over a period of six months including a new Standard Operating Procedure for recruitment and organizational development/training.

2021/2022 Outlook

The HR Section's key focus for 2021/2022 is to continue with the capacity building to support the SFA and to work with the management team to develop and implement performance management across the company.



Kettyna Gabriel graduated with BSc. Marine Biology/Zoology

Environmental, Occupational Health & Safety

The Environmental/Occupational Health and Safety (EH&S) Section of SFA, which was created in 2019, is responsible for health and safety across the whole fishing sector, partners, contractors, fishermen, and fish processors that directly or indirectly revolve around fisheries and fish products daily, including Seychellois as well as expatriate seamen and service providers to the fishing industry.

The EH&S Section's vision is to create a safe and healthy work environment, free from occupational accidents and occupational diseases, and to promote a preventative safety and health culture in the Seychelles Fishing Authority. This vision will be guided by health and safety laws and regulations, including the: National occupational health and safety Policy, National Public Health Policy, Environment Protection Acts & Occupation Safety, Health Decree Chapter 151 (Laws of Seychelles), standards and best practices pertaining to Health and Safety.

The EH&S Section's mission is to motivate and mobilize the Seychelles Fishing Authority managers, workers, and other key partners to ensure they systematically minimize occupational accidents, by being equipped with the necessary tools to nurture a culture of health and safety, from the conception of any work plan to its final consistent accomplishment.

The aims of the Section are to:

- Adopt a zero tolerance towards Health and Safety, consistent with its zero-harm philosophy.
- Provide a framework for measuring performance and ensuring continuous improvement by setting auditing and reviewing occupation health and safety objectives and target.
- Prevent occupational accident and occupational diseases and occupational injuries, so far as reasonably practicable, through consultative mechanisms at Sectional and Division levels.
- Protect all workers against health and safety risks and hazards by implementing effective OSH measures;
- Commit to the preventing and reducing pollution, especially oceanic pollution, minimizing waste in all its forms by efficient and sustainable use of energy, fish (as raw materials), water and packaging.
- Commit to continually enhance the Post-Harvest and Value Addition Section in their commitment to produce and maintain the consumer confidence both local and international client in local products by enforcing strict food safety requirements.

During the first year of its operation, the EH&S Section implemented several new projects and procedures including:

- All new recruits undergoing medical/toxicology test before being confirmed in post.
- Regular evaluation and risk assessment of all potential hazard.



- Biannual First Aider Refresher Course for all new candidates, and ensuring that each Division has a certified first aid respondent.
- Demarcation of all exit route, Emergency exit, and fire assembly points.
- Implementation of a maintenance servicing list for all fire extinguishers.
- Ongoing implementation of basic Ice plant safety protocol which includes installation of fire safety gears on the Ice Plant facilities managed by SFA.
- Establishment of a Safety Protocol and Notification for SFA staff leaving the port to go out at sea.
- Establishment of an Environment Health Committee, comprising of key Divisions within SFA to tackle Illegal disposal of slugs in the drain of Providence fishing Port and along the processing area.

During 2019, three SFA headquarters offices suffered fungus infestation. A committee, led by the EH&S office was set up and several measures were undertaken, including increased ventilation and regular cleaning. However, due to the paper-intensive nature of the activities of the administration offices, other offices within the building were cross-contaminated. The fungus was also spread through the air condition system of the server rooms.

To protect and preserve the health of the SFA staff, as some of the staff started to suffer from rashes, breathing inconsistencies, and chronic allergies, the SFA headquarters was relocated to the Espace Building and the Document Center to ABIS complex at Providence Industrial Estate.

Covid-19 pandemic mitigation

2020 was a testing year for the EH&S Section. With the detection of the first case of Covid-19 in Seychelles on 14th March 2020 and the subsequent lock-down of the country and restriction of international travel from April to August 2020, the fisheries sector had to step up as the main pillar of the Seychelles economy.

SFA, as one of the essential services in the country, had to keep all of its services operational even with some at a smaller scale. Its focus was based on three key strategies: Plan, Prepare, and Respond.

The EH&S Section implemented a Standard Operating Procedure focusing on mitigation, prevention and preparedness. The Public Health Authority's (PHA) Covid-19 Protocol was implemented at all SFA premises as much as practicable and Covid-19 posters and sensitization materials were printed and disseminated across all premises. The EH&S Section kept Management and staff informed on news, updates, and the status of the Covid-19 Pandemic in relation to SFA.

Environment Health & Safety Reports produced

The following reports/communication were produced during the two-year period:

- SFA Health and Safety Communiqué;
- Risk assessment for all the different Division/Sections of SFA;
- Covid-19 status in SFA/ Vaccination percentage on Division/Sections level.



Firefighting trainer Paul Charlot

Health & Safety Training completed

The following training was organised during the year 2019/2020:

- Firefighting Training (Fire Safety Training) (Facilitator Paul Charlot).
- Covid-19 awareness in the workplace and field deployment. (Facilitator PHA).

2021 Outlook

For 2021, The EH&S Section key focus is to implement an Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan for SFA and to also set up health and safety procedures for the SFA's Ice plant management, including ice collection and waste removal.

The Section also plans to start work on the setting up of an Environmental Health & Safety Committee that will ensure that the SFA's Environmental, Health & Safety (EH&S) policies, procedures, and working practices regarding EH&S meet or exceed any legal obligations. This will promote the well-being and safety of the SFA's employees, its customers, and others who may be affected by its activities. The scope of the committee will be the EH&S aspects of all SFA owned/rented premises and will apply to all employees of SFA, stakeholders and any contractors working on any SFA site.



PHA staff demonstrating Covid-19 protocols

Agreements, Policies and Regulations

Policies and regulations

The authority is mandated in preparing and updating of local policies and ensuring that they are abide to. It also forms part of international commissions and needs to ensure that it complies with them.

Local policies & regulations

During 2019-2020 period, several new or revised policies and regulations were completed, which are in line with the development goals of SFA and these included:

- Gazetting of the Fisheries (Mahé Plateau Trap and Line Fishery) Regulations (2020).
- Completion of The Fisheries (Aquaculture) Regulations 2020, which was gazetted in December 2020.
- Revision of the Fisheries Act (2014) to transpose IOTC resolutions into domestic fisheries legislations.
- Amendment of the Fisheries Development Fund criteria with the Development Bank of Seychelles to (i) provide a covid-relief scheme to assist fish processors, (ii) provide the artisanal fisheries sector with a special fund to purchase/repair their equipment and (iii) increase loan amount for the semi-industrial fisheries sector.

International agreements

Existing/New agreements and communications with various international partners continued in 2019-2020 to ensure alignment in the application of regulations and the adoption of best practices as well as areas of potential development.

European Union (EU)/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partner Agreement

February 2019-January 2020 Agreement

The EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) came into force in January 2014, with a six-year validity for a value of EUR 30.7m, giving the opportunity for 40 tuna purse seiners and 6 surface longliners flying the flag of a member country of the European Union to fish for tuna and tuna like species in the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone at a reference tonnage of 50,000 Mt per year. The EUR30.7m is broken down as follows:

- An annual amount of EUR2.75m was available for 2014/2015 and EUR2.5m annually thereafter for remaining years based on a reference tonnage of 50,000 Mt per year.
- A specific amount of EUR2.6m for 2014/2015 and EUR2.5m annually thereafter for the remaining years was available for the support and implementation of Seychelles sectoral fisheries policy and marine policy with priority in aquaculture development plan,

infrastructure development and capacity building. Funds under this program is released based on achievement of at least 75% utilisation of the previous year budget, and any unused budget from a previous year can be carried over to the new year.

In 2019, the total budget under the sectoral program was EUR3.18m, as per breakdown in Table 41 below. As at end of November 2019, 77% of the budget had been used.

Table 41: Budget utilisation 2019

	2019 Budget (EUR'M)	2019 payment (EUR'M)	Budget execution Dec 2019
Development & implementation of fisheries & aquaculture management plan	1.64	1.19	73%
Fisheries infrastructure development for artisanal and industrial sector	0.97	0.73	75%
Capacity building	0.57	0.52	91%
Total	3.18	2.44	77%

In 2020, in response to the Covid-19 crisis, EU agreed to allocate 28% of the 2019 fund allocation, representing EUR 0.92m to provide additional support for the temporary cessation of fishing activities and storage of fishery and aquaculture products. The total budget for 2020 was therefore EUR3.25m as per breakdown below. At the end of July 2020, 67% of the budget had been utilised. As this was the end of the 2014-2020 protocol, the balance of EUR1.08m, which was mainly from the Covid-19 response program was brought forward to the new protocol 2020-2026.

Table 42: Budget utilisation 2020

	2020 Budget (EUR'M)	2020 payment (EUR'M)	Budget execution Nov 2020
Development & implementation of fisheries & aquaculture management plan	1.09	0.95	87%
Fisheries infrastructure development for artisanal and industrial sector	1.02	0.87	85%
Capacity building	0.22	0.19	89%
Covid-19 response program	0.92	0.16	18%
Total	3.25	2.17	67%

Over the 2014-2020 period, EUR17.64m was available for spending under the sectoral support program, representing EUR15.20m from the 2014-2020 protocol and €2.42m carried over from the previous protocol. Overall, EUR16.60m had been spent by July 2020, 6 months following the end of the protocol period and EUR1.02m was carried over to the next protocol representing 5.8% of the total amount available to spent during that period.

February 2020-January 2026 Agreement

The new EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement for the period 2020-2026 was signed in February 2020. Under the new agreement, Seychelles is expected to benefit from EUR58.2m over the 6-year period (EUR9.7m annually). This includes EUR31.8m, an increase of EUR1.1m from the previous agreement, to be paid directly by the EU to allow access to forty purse seiners and eight surface long-liners and support vessels from Spain, Italy, France, and Portugal to fish up to 50,000 Mt per annum in the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). EUR26.4m will be paid directly by the ship-owners for license fees per tonne of fish caught, as well as a contribution of EURO.157m dedicated to environmental management and observation of marine ecosystems in Seychelles waters.

The EUR31.8m (EUR5.3 annually), paid directly by the EU will comprise of:

- EUR2.5m annually for access to the Seychelles fishing zone, equivalent to a reference tonnage of 50,000 Mt per year;
- EUR2.8m annually for the support and implementation of Seychelles' sectoral fisheries policy and maritime policy.

Joint Commission meeting

EU/Seychelles Joint Commission Meetings held during 2019/2020, reviewed the implementation of actions for the period and Sectoral support fund disbursement were approved. Fishing activities under the Protocol, level of utilisation of the fishing opportunities, modalities to reinforce communication channels and monitoring mechanism on the fishing activities through the use Electronic Reporting System (ERS) were also discussed.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

Seychelles is an active member of the IOTC and participated in the 23rd and 24th commission sessions which took place in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

During the 23rd session held in June in Hyderabad, India, a total of seven Conservation and Management Measures were taken with the main one being Resolution 19/01 on an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of Competence and Resolution 19/02 which established procedures for the management of Fish Aggregated Devices (FADS). The other resolutions were:

- Conservation of Mobulid rays caught in association with Fisheries in the IOTC area of competence (19/03)
- Recording of vessels authorised to operate in The IOTC area of competence (19/04).
- Ban on discard of Bigeye tuna, Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna, and non-targeted the species caught by vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence (19/05).
- Establishment of a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels (19/06).
- Establishing procedures and requirements for Vessel chartering in the IOTC area of competence (19/07).

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the 24th session of the IOTC Committee was held virtually in November 2020. Given the exceptional nature of the meeting, no new conservation and management resolution were adopted during the meeting, however, the Commission agreed to hold a Special Session by videoconferencing from 8 to 12 March 2021 in relation to concerns of members on the current status of Yellowfin tuna and deficiencies relating to the harvest control rule for Skipjack tuna.



IOTC 23rd session Hyderabad, India, May 2019

A further look inside the Seychelles-EU Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement

The sectoral support element of the agreement

Under the new Seychelles-EU Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement signed in February 2020 for a period of 6 years, the EU will provide to Seychelles EUR2.8m per annum for the support and implementation of Seychelles' sectoral fisheries policy and maritime policy. This is equivalent to EUR16.8m over 6 years, an increase of EUR1.7m from the 2014-2020 agreement of EUR15.1m.

The aim of the sectoral program is to assist the Government of Seychelles in developing responsible and sustainable fisheries that reflects the priority set out in the Seychelles National Fisheries Policy and other related policies that have an impact on the following:

- i. Support and management measures for fisheries, including small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.
- ii. Sanitary and quality management in the fisheries sector and also to support domestic and export capacities.
- iii. Fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance and the fight against illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- iv. Promotion of scientific capacity and cooperation in the field of fisheries, including collection, processing, analysis, and communication of catch data.
- v. Support in infrastructure and other relevant actions for the development of domestic fisheries.

In addition to the above, in order to ensure the efficient use of the funds in the sectoral program, the government needs to incorporate mechanisms for the planning, management, implementation, and reporting of the financial component and activities within the sectoral program. It also needs to provide visibility of the different programs as well as promote the measures undertaken through the sectoral support program.

On an annual basis, a Joint Committee made up of Seychelles and the EU members shall validate and evaluate the different programs and the use of the funds in supporting these programs, ensuring the objectives have been met. The Government of Seychelles shall also submit an annual report on the actions implemented and the results achieved and subsequent to that, the financial contribution from the EU shall be released annually.



La Retraite fisheries infrastructure (Seychelles Nation)

Section 6

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND STATEMENTS

Enhance the organization financial, administrative and risk management capability



General Information 2019

DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS OF THE AUTHORITY During 2019 Period

- Nirmal Jivan Shah (Chairperson)
- Eugene Vidot
- Keith Andre
- Roy Clarisse
- Rebecca Loustau-Lalanne

DIRECTORS OF THE AUTHORITY Current

- Radley Weber (Chairperson)
- Roy Clarisse
- Eugene Vidot
- Aubrey Harris
- Beatty Hoarau
- Marc Gonther
- Joseph Tirant
- Audrina Dine
- Franky Laporte

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- Rohny Renaud (Jan 2019 - Dec 2019)
- Nichol John Elizabeth (1st September 2020 onwards)

SECRETARY

Nane Constance

REGISTERED OFFICE

P.O. Box 449, Fishing Port, Mahé, Seychelles

PRINCIPLE PLACE OF BUSINESS

Fishing Port, Mahé, Seychelles

AUDITOR

Baker Tilly
Chartered Accountants, Seychelles

BANKERS

- Absa Bank (Seychelles) Limited
- Seychelles International Mercantile Banking Corporation Ltd

Statement of Financial Performance - 2019

Section 22 of the SFA Act 2004 requires the Authority to prepare, keep proper records in relation to accounts and prepare for each financial year a statement of account in compliance with commercial standard after being audited by an auditor appointed by the Authority.

Financial result summary 2019

SFA gained Financial Autonomous State-Owned Enterprise' status in 2019 and borrowed SCR14.1m from the Government of Seychelles in January 2019 to assist the Authority in transiting to financial autonomy. At the end of 2019, the Authority reported a surplus of SCR130.32m compared to SR71.97m in 2018 and was able to fully repay the loan and also pay a dividend of SCR25m to the Government of Seychelles.

Over the year of 2019, a total of SCR225.19m was received from the prime source of income, which was SCR56.96m (33%) above 2018 as per table below.

Table 43: Income

SCR'M	Actual 2019	Actual 2018	Actual 2017
Income for ice operations	4.67	3.29	2.61
Income from sea cucumber fishery	1.34	0.58	1.01
Net & container fees	5.17	2.03	2.30
Fees from embarking seamen	0.56	1.13	1.03
Registration & license fee (local)	0.54	2.39	0.24
Registration & license fee (foreign)	108.04	153.46	116.03
VMS management and communication fee	2.85	0.68	0.66
Rental	7.58	5.24	1.21
Sale of Fuel	22.58	-	-
Fuel incentive received	10.94	-	-
Excess catch surcharge	60.80	-	-
Lobster Licenses & compliance fee	0.07	-	-
Other revenue	0.07	0.06	0.06
Total	225.19	168.86	125.15

Increase in income in 2019 from Ice operations, Net & containers fees and Rental totalling SCR6.8 showed positive results from SFA's strategy in property management and the introduction of new/replacement of old ice-plant facilities, while other major increase of SCR85m is a result of changes in reporting as a result of SFA's Financial Autonomy status.

Other major increase totalling SCR94.3m from Sale of Fuel, Fuel incentives received, and Excess catch surcharge are all due to new reporting as a result of financial autonomy status.

Prior to 2019, Sales of Fuel and Excess catch revenue were collected directly by the Government of Seychelles and did not feature as an SFA's revenue. Fuel incentives is now claimed as a refund by the SFA from the Seychelles Revenue Commission.

SFA total expenditure was SCR138.68m for the year 2019, a reduction of 9% over 2018. While employee cost increased by 73% over 2018 in line with SFA strategic plan of building core competencies and achieving financial autonomy status, all other expenditure categories saw a reduction in cost.

Table 44: Expenditure

SCR'M	Actual 2019	Actual 2018	Actual 2017
Employee costs	45.44	26.30	20.72
Operating and other expenses	21.25	33.35	32.88
Research and development costs	17.24	18.06	12.56
Monitoring Control Surveillance and Enforcement costs	5.52	17.75	16.22
Fisheries Facilities Development	48.21	57.06	59.96
Foreign exchange (loss)/gain	1.02	0.08	(0.44)
Total	138.68	152.60	141.90

Reduction of SCR11.85m in Operating and other expenses was due to adaptation as a result of the autonomy status. The Authority focused on restructuring of the organization and re-evaluation of some of its functions during the year.

Expenses for Monitoring Control, Surveillance and Enforcement reduced by SCR12,23m to SCR5.52m. This was primarily due to Satellite Communication fees being billed directly to industrial fishing vessels compared to prior years, which was billed to SFA and the availability of Seychelles Air Force to conduct patrol.

Capital expenditure of SCR53.9m was recorded, resulting in an increase of 20% in Total Fixed Asset of SFA, to SCR250m. This included the completion of key projects including Bel Ombre Processing Building and Providence Port Construction. The timely collection and raising of invoices for SFA properties from the newly created Property Management Section, resulted in an increase of SCR22m in Trade Receivables from SCR6.5m in 2018 to SCR28.5m in 2019. Overall Total Asset of SFA increased by 25%, from SCR377.9m to SCR475.8m.

Directors Report - 2019

The Directors present their report together with the audited financial statements of Seychelles Fishing Authority ("the Authority") for the year ended December 31, 2019.

Principal activities

The Authority is a parastatal organization which functions as the executive arm of Government for fisheries and related matters. There has been no significant change in the nature of these activities during the financial year under review except that:

As at 31 December 2018, SFA was required to transfer all the funds held in its accounts to the Consolidated Fund as part of the process of migration from a 'Budget Dependent Institution' to a 'Financial Autonomous State Owned Enterprise'. At the resumption of business in January 2019, the Authority had to negotiate a loan from the Government of Seychelles to enable it to continue functioning financially. On 31 January 2019, a loan agreement was signed between the Government of Seychelles and the Authority for a sum of SR. 14,106,750. The purpose of the loan was to assist the institution in transiting to financial autonomy; the loan is interest free and scheduled for repayment in full by 31 December 2019. On 29 January 2019 the Government of Seychelles transferred SR. 12,771,444 to the Authority and withheld SR. 1,335,306 for payment of 13th month salary. On 24 December 2019, the Authority repaid the Government of Seychelles SR. 14, 106,750 being full and final settlement of the said loan.

Results

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Surplus for the year:	130,324,352	71,969,761

Dividends

An interim dividend of SR. 25 million was declared and paid during the year. (2018: No dividends were paid but an amount of SR. 73,799,485 was transferred to the Consolidated Fund at Treasury Department, Ministry of Finance).

Property, Plant and Equipment

Additions of SR. 53,964,613 to property, plant and equipment during the year comprised buildings, office and research equipment, motor vehicles and ice plants (2018: SR.1,681,255). To the best of knowledge and based on the information and records made available to the Current Directors, the Directors are not in a position to confirm that there were no disposals during the financial year under review (2018: SR. Nil).

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. To the best of knowledge and based on the information and records made available to the Current Directors, the Directors are not in a position to confirm whether the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the balance sheet date approximates its fair value.

Directors and Directors' interest

The Directors of the Authority appointed by the President of Seychelles since the date of the last report and the date of this report are stated on page 78 above.

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The Board of Directors is responsible for policy, control and the overall management of the affairs of the Authority including the operations of the Authority and making investment decisions.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with requirements of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act, 1984, Public Finance Management Act 2012, and the Public Enterprise Monitoring Act 2013. In accordance with the aforementioned legislations, the financial statements should have been prepared with the International Financial Reporting Standards but in view of lapses in the management of the financial affairs of SFA during the year under review, the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Generally accepted Accounting Standards in Seychelles. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the

Directors Report - 2019

preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies that fall within the accounting policies adopted by the Authority; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. The Board of Directors has the general responsibility of safeguarding the assets, both owned by the Authority and those that are held in trust and used by the Authority.

However, since the Board of Directors responsible for operations, preparation and presentation of the financial statements and for its audit for the year ended December 31, 2019 did not complete their responsibilities within the mandated time and left with incomplete books of accounts and missing supporting documents, the current Board of Directors for the purpose of continuity and legal compliance, made its best endeavor to ensure accuracy and reliability of the available information and provided them to the Auditors to obtain an independent audit opinion on them. The new Board of Directors do not and will not under any circumstances accept responsibility and liability for actions undertaken or not undertaken in relation to these financial statements by the then Board of Directors in the financial year 2019.

Auditor

The retiring auditor Messrs. Baker Tilly, Chartered Accountants, Seychelles being eligible offer themselves for reappointment.

 Radley Weber Director	 Roy Clarisse Director	 Aubrey Harris Director
 Beatty Hoarau Director	 Marc Gontier Director	 Joseph Tirant Director
 Audrina Dine Director	 Franky Laporte Director	 Eugene Vidot Director

Independent Auditor Report - 2019

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Seychelles Fishing Authority set out on pages 86 to 99, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2019, the statements of profit or loss, cash flows and changes in equity for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

Responsibilities of the Directors and those charged with governance for the financial statements

The Board of Directors is responsible for keeping proper accounting records and for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act, 1984, and for such internal controls as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and ensure that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Authority's affair. In preparing the financial statements, the Board is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it either intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Directors disclaimer

Reference is made to the third paragraph under Statement of Directors Responsibilities on Page 81 of the Directors Report. The Directors have explicitly stated that they do not and will not under any circumstances accept responsibility and liability for actions undertaken or not undertaken in relation to the financial statements by the then Board of Directors in the financial year 2019. This is one of the reasons for our disclaimer opinion.

Other information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Directors' Report, which we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not and will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this audit report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal controls;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management;
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Independent Auditor Report - 2019

We communicate with management, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Unavoidable scope limitation due to inadequacies in the Authority's accounting records

Since the year 2014, there have been significant and continued changes to key personnel upon whom the Authority's system of control was dependent. In particular, changes in the key finance personnel.

Due to changes in personnel, incomplete accounting information and lack of adequate external records and complete information with respect to capital work in progress and their timely capitalization; we have preferred to provide a long form audit report covering major line items of the statement of financial statements.

(A) Statement of Financial Position

Property, Plant and Equipment - SR. 249,499,916

Asset Register and Asset listing of Property, Plant and Equipment and depreciation contains certain depreciated assets that dates back to the year 1998 which may be no longer be used. Treasury has implemented a fixed asset register module in the year 2016 for Government entities to manage and record their assets. The Authority started implementing the software but the assets in the register did not reconcile back to the Treasury asset Public Sector Investment Programme ("PSIP") accounts, and therefore the register was not used for the purpose of accounting for additions to the Property, Plant and Equipment in the Authority's accounting records.

Internal controls were inadequate in ensuring that an accurate up-to-date fixed assets register is maintained by the Authority, therefore we cannot conclude on whether the balance of Property, Plant and Equipment reported in these financial statements is free from material misstatements.

Furthermore, the Authority is not the legal owner of certain properties on which certain Property, Plant and Equipment are situated.

Capital work in progress - SR. 25,431,877

Certain large projects were capitalised during the year. We are satisfied that work in progress is correctly stated in the annual financial statements with regards to the ongoing projects after capitalisation during the year.

Fisheries Development Fund - SR. 69,403,864

In addition to the normal audit tests, we obtained external confirmation for the Fisheries Development Fund for the year

2019 and are satisfied that the balance has been correctly stated in the financial statements.

Fuel inventories - SR. 173,837

Physical count of inventories was not carried out at the end of the financial year to ensure that the inventories are stated based on their existence. We were unable to carry out alternative audit procedures or carry out a physical count as we were appointed at the end of December 2020.

Trade and other receivables - SR. 28,474,093

In addition to the normal audit tests, we verified the subsequent receipt in the subsequent years to ensure their recoverability. We are satisfied that the balance of Trade and other receivables stated in the balance sheet together with provision for doubtful debts is properly reflected.

Cash and bank balances - SR. 102,785,083

We have obtained external confirmation to satisfy ourselves of the existence of this asset, with the exception of three accounts amounting to SR. 249,298.

Employee benefit obligations - SR. 9,842,046

We are satisfied that the Authority had made adequate provisions for gratuity and compensation in its financial statements.

Deferred Grants - SR. 263,980,693

Deferred grants represent unamortised balance of Property, Plant and Equipment acquired by the Authority and we are satisfied that the deferred grants are correctly stated in the financial statement. Deferred grants are recognized on the same basis as Property, Plant and Equipment and reliance should only be placed in accordance with the reliance placed on the accuracy of Property, Plant and Equipment.

Credits held for future projects- SR. 49,229,664

This represent amounts received as grants/subsidies for specific projects to be undertaken by the Authority with a reporting requirement to the donor. The largest credit carried forward represents SR. 40,873,999 from European Union for fisheries development. Expenditure incurred during the year under this project amounted to SR. 73,845,127. However, the records maintained by the Authority did not specify the project for which expenditures were incurred. Therefore, there is a possibility of error in allocation of expenditures to the appropriate project accounts.

Independent Auditor Report - 2019

Credits held for Fisheries Development Fund- SR.57,690,464

This balance has been carried forward from prior years for which no details were available.

Other payables and accruals - SR. 41, 891,864

During the financial year under review, an amount of SR. 26,275,048 was received in advance for license fees for the year 2020. Those amounts were correctly reclassified from Revenue to Prepaid licenses in the Statement of financial position (2018: SR. 39,212,608).

(B) Statement of Profit or Loss

Annual subvention - Nil

The Authority represented to us that no Annual subvention was received from the Government of Seychelles during the financial year under review. In the absence of any external evidence, we had to rely on the representation of the Management.

Rental income - SR. 7,576,616

Rental income from properties owned by the Authority at the Fishing Port form a significant part of the income of the Authority. We are satisfied that the rental income is correctly recorded in the financial statements.

Fuel operations from fuel depot

We were unable to verify the movements in the fuel treasury suspense account with respect to fuel purchases and sales; other miscellaneous income and expenses; and Illegal, unreported and unregulated ("IUU") fishing vessel fines and costs. Therefore we are not satisfied that fuel surplus from depot operations has been correctly stated in the financial records, not taking into account the omission of the Providence fuel station stock in the accounting records of the Authority.

Other revenues

Based on the conversion from a receipts based accounting approach to an accrual basis, we cannot safely conclude that the other revenues are completely stated in the financial statements.

Operating and other expenses - SR. 20,004,288

We are satisfied that expenses have been properly authorized and accurately accounted for in terms of the required processes. The expenses have not been recorded on an accrual basis therefore we cannot safely conclude that the balance is free from material misstatement.

Employees Salaries and benefit expenses - SR. 20,721,377

Staff cost incurred by the Authority has been properly accounted and the Authority has complied with the provisions Personal Income Tax and the Pension Acts.

Depreciation and amortisation - SR. 11,245,986 and transfer from deferred grants SR. 11,540,161

We are satisfied that the financial statements correctly reflect depreciation in accordance with stated accounting policies. We have also verified amortisation of deferred grants and confirm it complies with the accounting policy note 2.2.

Research and development costs - SR. 17,236,278

We are satisfied expenditure has been appropriately authorized and correctly recorded in the financial statements. However, classification within the head of account could vary due to incomplete transaction details.

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and Enforcement - SR. 5,521,860

We are satisfied expenditure has been appropriately authorized and correctly recorded in the financial statements. However, classification within the head of account could vary due to incomplete transaction details.

Our observations with respect to Fisheries Facilities Development of SR. 48,205,936 are stated below:

(i) Fuel claims paid in the year - SR. 33,366,918

We are satisfied that fuel claims paid during the year are correctly stated in the financial statements.

(ii) Fisheries Development expenditure from EU funding - SR. 12,428,358

We are satisfied expenditure has been appropriately authorized and correctly recorded in the financial statements.

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Utilities - SR. 604,560

We are satisfied that Utilities has been correctly stated in the financial statements.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission expenses - SR. 1,242,000

We are satisfied that the rental and housing allowance paid for the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission has been fairly stated in the financial statements.

Other expenses

Based on the conversion from a receipts based accounting approach to an accrual basis, we cannot safely conclude that the other expenses are completely stated in the financial statements.

Operational controls

1. Our review of internal controls revealed that there is an apparent lack of controls over the revenue collection processes of SFA leading to an increased risk of fraudulent activity and mismanagement. In addition to this, rates and revenue prices have not been increased for a number of years which has consequently undermined the earning potential of SFA over the course of time.
2. Controls over invoicing and debtor management are limited and do not adequately ensure timely and accurate collection of outstanding receivables.
3. Internal controls for the accounting of fixed assets are inadequate. Proper record of fixed asset additions is not kept and the maintenance of asset register is incomplete.

Other matters

We have no relationship with, or interests, in the Authority other than in our capacity as auditors and arms length dealing with the Authority in the ordinary course of business. We draw attention to the disclaimer of responsibility of the Current Board of Directors to the financial statements for the financial year under review detailed under the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities on Page 81 of the Directors' Report.

Opinion

Whilst the figures provide a general appreciation of the financial position and performance; due to matters stated above, disclaimer of responsibility by the Current Directors with respect to preparation and fair presentation of financial statements; and limitations in internal controls, we are unable to express and we do not express an opinion that the accompanying financial statements set out on page 86 to 99 give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 December 2019, and of its financial performance for the year then ended.

Baker Tilly



BAKER TILLY
Chartered Accountants

Statement of Financial Position 2019

Statement of Financial Position As at December 31, 2019

	Notes	2019 SR	2018 SR
ASSETS			
Non-current Assets:			
Property, plant and equipment	5	249,999,916	206,781,289
Capital Work in progress	6	25,431,877	51,065,766
Investment	7	54,986	54,986
Fisheries Development Fund	8	69,403,864	66,213,891
		344,890,643	324,115,932
Current Assets			
Inventories	9	173,837	728,655
Trade and other receivables	10	28,474,093	6,507,872
Cash and cash equivalent	11	102,785,083	46,567,126
		131,433,013	53,803,653
Total Assets		475,823,656	377,919,585
EQUITY AND LIABILITY			
Equity and Reserves			
Assigned capital	12	1,122,800	1,122,800
Retained surplus /(Excess transfer to consolidated fund)	13	50,896,125	(54,428,227)
Total Equity		52,018,925	(53,305,427)
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred grants	14	263,980,693	264,278,543
Credit held for future projects	15	49,229,664	48,913,307
Credit held for Fisheries Development Fund		57,690,464	57,690,464
Excess transfer to consolidated fund	16	9,842,046	7,980,336
		380,742,867	378,862,650
Current liabilities			
Other payables and accruals	17	43,061,864	52,362,362
		43,061,864	52,362,362
Total Liabilities		423,804,731	431,225,012
Total Equity and Liabilities		475,823,656	377,919,585

The notes on pages 90 to 99 form an integral part of these financial statements and Independent Auditor's report on pages 82 to 85.

Statement of Profit or Loss 2019

Statement of Profit or Loss For year ended 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 SR	2018 SR
Income			
Revenue	18	225,188,571	168,855,066
Other Income	19	1,275,513	1,764,285
Grants utilised	15	42,241,606	53,233,656
		268,705,688	223,853,007
Expenditure			
Employee costs	20	(45,444,839)	(26,304,801)
Operating and other expenses	21	(21,246,289)	(33,353,837)
Research and development costs	22	(17,236,277)	(18,055,649)
Monitoring Control Surveillance and Enforcement costs	23	(5,521,860)	(17,747,969)
Fisheries facilities development	24	(48,205,936)	(57,062,853)
Foreign exchange (loss)/gain		(1,020,310)	(75,089)
		(138,675,511)	(152,600,198)
		130,030,177	71,252,809
Amortisation of deferred grants		11,540,161	11,024,423
Depreciation	5	(11,245,986)	(10,307,471)
Surplus for the year		130,324,352	71,969,761

The notes on pages 90 to 99 form an integral part of these financial statements and Independent Auditor's report on pages 82 to 85.

Statement of Cash Flow 2019

Statement of Cash Flow For year ended 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 SR	2018 SR
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Surplus for the year		130,324,352	71,969,761
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	5	11,245,986	10,307,471
Amortisation	14	(11,540,161)	(11,024,423)
Movement in employee benefit obligations provision	16	2,252,834	1,292,017
Operating profit before working capital changes		132,283,011	72,544,826
Changes in working capital:			
Inventories	9	554,818	(340,478)
Trade and other receivables	10	(21,966,221)	2,905,037
Other payables and accruals	17	(9,300,498)	3,595,651
Net cash inflow from operating activities		101,571,110	78,705,036
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Additions to property, plant and equipment	5	(53,964,613)	(1,681,255)
Movement in capital work in progress	6	(1,934,792)	(24,291,881)
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(55,899,405)	(25,973,136)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Grants received	14	11,242,311	24,568,936
Paid to Government of Seychelles			
Movement in credits held for future projects		21,113,968	30,305,805
Transfer to consolidated fund		-	(73,799,485)
Dividend		(25,000,000)	
Movement in Fisheries Development Fund	8	3,189,973	2,510,070
Net cash outflow from financing activities		10,546,252	(16,414,674)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		56,217,957	36,317,226
Movements in cash and cash equivalents:			
At January 1,		46,567,126	10,249,900
Increase/(decrease)		56,217,957	36,317,226
At December 31,	11	102,785,083	46,567,126

The notes on pages 90 to 99 form an integral part of these financial statements and Independent Auditor's report on pages 82 to 85.

Statement of Changes in Equity 2019

Statement of Changes in Equity For year ended 31 December 2019

	Assigned Capital SR	Excess Transfer To Consolidated Fund SR	Total SR
Balance at January 1, 2019	1,122,800	(54,428,227)	(53,305,427)
Surplus for the year	-	130,324,352	130,324,352
Dividend	-	(25,000,000)	(25,000,000)
Balance at December 31, 2019	1,122,800	50,896,125	52,018,925
Balance at January 1, 2018	1,122,800	(52,598,503)	(51,475,703)
Surplus for the year	-	71,969,761	71,969,761
Transfer to consolidated fund	-	(73,799,485)	(73,799,485)
Balance at December 31, 2018	1,122,800	(54,428,227)	(53,305,427)

The notes on pages 90 to 99 form an integral part of these financial statements and Independent Auditor's report on pages 82 to 85.

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

1. General information

Seychelles Fishing Authority is incorporated by statute (Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act, 1984) with the aim of developing the industry to its fullest potential and to safeguard the resource base for sustainable development.

These financial statements will be submitted for consideration and approval at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of Board of Directors of the Authority.

2. Summary of principal accounting policies

A summary of the significant accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

2.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Authority have been prepared in accordance with requirements of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act, 1984, and Generally Accepted Accounting Standards in Seychelles.

(a) Accounting convention

These financial statements of the Authority have been prepared in accordance with requirements of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act, 1984, Public Financial Management Act, 2012, Public Finance Management Regulations 2014, PEMC Act, 2013 and Generally Accepted Accounting Standards in Seychelles.

(b) Reporting and functional currency

The reporting and functional currency of the Authority is Seychelles Rupee ("SR"), as most of the transactions are effected in Seychelles Rupees.

2.1 Off balance sheet transactions and activities

From time to time, transaction, which are not related to the operations of the Authority are undertaken as a proxy of the Seychelles Government. The management confirm no such transactions were undertaken during 2019 (2018: nil).

2.2 Property, plant and equipment and depreciation

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment in value recognised at the date of acquisition. Initial cost of property, plant and equipment comprises its purchase price and any attributable costs of bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use. Such cost also include the cost of replacing components of the property, plant and equipment. Borrowing costs for long-term construction projects are capitalised only if the recognition criteria is met.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Authority and the cost can be reliably measured.

Properties in the course of construction for operation purposes are carried at cost less any recognised impairment loss. Cost includes professional fees for qualifying assets and borrowing costs capitalised only if the project is viable and the Authority would pursue it further. Depreciation of these assets, on the same basis as other property assets, commences when the assets are ready for their intended use.

Costs incurred for major maintenance are recognised in the carrying amount of the property, plant and equipment as a replacement if the recognition criteria are satisfied. All other repairs and maintenance costs are charged to the statement of profit or loss.

Depreciation of property, plant and equipment is provided for on a straight line basis to write off the cost of each asset to its residual values over their expected useful lives as follows:

	Years
Leasehold buildings	50
Furniture and office equipment	3 to 10
Motor vehicles	4
Computer equipment	5
Ice plant	10
Boats	10

An item of property, plant and equipment and any significant part initially recognised is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use or following disposal. Any gain or loss arising on derecognition of the asset (calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset) is included in the statement of profit or loss.

The assets' residual values, useful lives and methods of depreciation are reviewed periodically and adjusted prospectively, if appropriate. The carrying values of property, plant and equipment are reviewed for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. If any such indication exists and where the carrying values exceed the estimated recoverable amount, the assets or cash-generating units are written down to their recoverable amount or amortised over a period determined by the management.

2.3 Investments

Investments classified as non-current are carried at cost, less amounts written off to recognize other than temporary declines in the values of the investments.

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

2.4 Inventories

Inventories comprising fuel and equipment, are stated at the lower of cost (determined on a first in first out basis) and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in ordinary course of business and applicable variable selling expenses. Net realisable value is determined after review of individual items of inventories by management for any required impairment. Marine chandlery received as part of foreign aid are stated at values per the aid agreement.

Provisions are made for obsolete inventories based on Management's appraisal.

2.5 Grants and credit for future projects

Grants are recognized at the fair value in statement of profit or loss where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and the Authority has complied with their attached conditions. Grants received where the authority has yet to comply with the attached conditions are recognised as deferred income and released to income when all attached conditions have been complied with.

Subventions and grants are recognized in the income statement as follows:

- Grant towards acquisition of a property, plant and equipment are amortized over estimated useful lives of assets.
- Grant for recurrent expenditure is credited to revenue on an accrual basis.
- Grants from donors for development and other expenditure is offset against approved costs.

2.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash in hand, at banks and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value, against which the bank overdrafts, if any, are deducted. Overdrafts are shown within borrowings under current liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

2.7 Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of trade receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Authority will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables.

The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. The amount of provision is recognised in the statement of profit or loss. The carrying amount of trade and other receivables approximate their fair value.

2.8 Deferred Grants

Grants from Government, International Organisations and third parties are recognised where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and on compliance with all the attached conditions thereof. Grants are classified as current and non-current based on their expected utilisation pattern.

When the grant relates to an expense item, it is recognised as income over the period necessary to match the grant on a systematic basis to the costs that it is intended to compensate.

Where the grant relates to an asset, it is recognised as deferred income in the Statement of Financial Position until it is complete for intended use and then recognised in the statement of profit or loss as Grants Income.

2.9 Employee benefits obligations

Provision is made for the end of service benefits due to employees in accordance with current applicable Labour Laws for their periods of service up to the reporting date. The provision for the end of service benefits is calculated annually based on their current basic remuneration.

Defined benefit plans

A defined benefit plan is a post employment benefit other than a defined contribution plan. The Corporation currently operates an unfunded scheme for employees' end of service benefits that follows relevant local regulations and is based on periods of cumulative service and levels of employees' final basic salaries. The liability for staff terminal benefits is determined as the liability that would arise if employment of all staff was to be terminated at reporting date. Provision for post-employment benefits with respect to long service compensation commences and recognized as soon as the employees meet the eligibility criteria specified under the Seychelles Employment Act with respect to completion of 5 years of continuous employment.

At the end of the each reporting period, accumulated post-employment benefits are measured in line with the applicable regulations for completeness. Shortfall, if any, is provided by a charge to the statement of profit or loss. Further provision is required for past services in the year if there is an increase in basic salary, since the effect of the increased salary would impact the existing provision. Provision is reversed to the statement of profit or loss when an employee defaults on

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

the eligibility criteria at the time or before termination of his employment. The liability recognized in the statement of financial position is the present value of the defined obligation at the reporting date.

A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which the Authority pays fixed contributions to the Seychelles Pension Fund and the Authority has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution plans are recognized as an employee benefit expense in the statement of profit or loss in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

2.10 Trade and other payables

Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether claimed by the supplier or not.

Monies received in advance for goods or services to be provided subsequent to the year end are recognised as advances from customers in current liabilities.

The carrying amounts of trade and other payables approximate their amortised cost.

2.11 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Authority has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Where the Authority expects some or all of a provision to be reimbursed, for example under an insurance contract, the reimbursement is recognised as a separate asset but only when the reimbursement is virtually certain. The expense relating to any provision is presented in the statement of profit or loss net of any reimbursement.

2.12 Current and deferred taxation

Income tax expense normally comprises current and deferred tax. Current tax is recognised in profit or loss. Current tax is the expected tax payable on the taxable income or loss for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

As per the current tax regime, income of the Authority is not liable to tax. Hence no provision is considered for current tax as on the reporting date and consequently no provision is required for deferred tax.

2.13 Offsetting of financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount is reported in the statement of financial position when the Authority has a legal enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the Authority intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and liability simultaneously.

2.14 Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to Seychelles Rupees at exchange rates at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are retranslated to Seychelles Rupees at the exchange rate at that date. Foreign currency gains or losses on monetary items are the differences between the amortised cost in Seychelles Rupees at the beginning of the period, adjusted for effective interest and payments during the period, and the amortised cost in foreign currency translated at the exchange rate at the end of the year.

Non-monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies that are measured in terms of historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Foreign currency differences arising on the translation are recognised in the statement of profit or loss.

As at year end, the main exchange rates against the Seychelles Rupees were as follows:

Currencies	Exchange rates		Changes in %	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
United States Dollars	14.10	14.10	-0.71%	-1.33%
Euro	15.99	16.01	0.12%	3.20%

2.15 Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability is disclosed when the Authority has a possible obligation as a result of past events, the existence of which will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events, not wholly within the control of the Authority; or when the Authority has a present legal or constructive obligation, that arises from past events, but it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

2.16 Assigned Capital

The Authority received contributions from the Government of Seychelles for certain assets on inception, there have been no further subsequent movements in this balance and have been classified as Assigned Capital representing contribution other than cash from the owner of the Authority.

2.17 Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised when the performance obligation is being satisfied. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, taking into account contractually defined terms of payment and excluding taxes or duty.

(i) Subvention

Subvention is recognized as it accrued on monthly basis.

(ii) Rental income

Rental income is recognized on accrual basis unless collectability is in doubt.

(iii) Other income

Other income is recognized on the accrual basis. Net gains and losses on the disposal of property, plant & equipment, after deducting from proceeds on disposals, the carrying amount of the assets and related selling expenses.

(iv) Government grants

Grants that are received for compensation of expenses or losses already incurred, or for the purpose of giving immediate financial support to the Authority with no future related costs, are recognised in the statement of profit or loss in the period in which reasonable assurance is established that the entity will comply with the conditions attached to the Grant and that the Grant will be received.

Grants that compensate the Authority for expenses to be incurred are initially recognised in the statement of financial position as a deferred income. Subsequent to initial recognition, such grants are recognised in the statement of profit or loss as Grants Income.

3. Risk management

3.1 Financial risk management objectives and policies

The activities of the Authority expose it to different financial risks, market risks (including currency and fair value interest risk), credit and liquidity risk. The Board of Directors have the overall responsibility for the establishment, overseeing and monitoring of the Authority's risk management

framework and are assisted by the senior management. Senior management is responsible for designing, developing and monitoring the Authority's risk management policies, which are approved by the Board of Directors.

The Authority's risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Authority, focusing on the unpredictability of financial markets, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits. Risk management policies and systems are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in market conditions and the Authority's activities and its role in the Republic of Seychelles. The Authority, through its training and management standards and procedures, aims to develop a disciplined and constructive control environment in which all employees understand their roles and obligations.

The following are the Authority's exposures to each of the above risks, the Authority's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk, and the Authority's management of capital. Further quantitative disclosures are included throughout these financial statements.

(a) Foreign currency risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the fair values or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates and can arise on financial instruments that are denominated in a currency other than the functional currency in which they are measured. The Authority is exposed to currency risk arising from future commercial transactions and liabilities that are denominated in currencies other than the functional currency. The currencies in which these transactions are primarily denominated are Euro ("EUR") and United States Dollar ("USD"). The Authority aims to aggregate a net position for each currency. Foreign currency risk is not hedged.

(b) Credit risk

The Authority's credit risk arises when a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations, and arises principally from the Authority's receivables from trade and other receivables.

The Authority establishes an allowance for impairment that represents its estimate of incurred losses in respect of trade and other receivables. The main components of this allowance are a specific loss component that relates to individually significant exposures, and a collective loss component established for groups of similar assets in respect of losses that have been incurred but not yet identified. The collective loss allowance is determined based on historical data of payment statistics for similar financial assets and the current economic environment.

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

4. Significant accounting estimates, judgments and assumptions

The preparation of the Authority's financial statements requires management to make estimates, judgments and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities, and the disclosure of contingent liabilities, at the end of the reporting period. However, uncertainty about these assumptions and estimates could result in outcomes that require a material adjustment to the carrying amount of the asset or liability affected in future periods.

Estimates and judgments are continuously evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. In the process of applying the Authority's accounting policies, management has made the following estimates and judgments, which have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

4.1 Government Grants

The Authority receives contributions from the Government of Seychelles towards investments in capital projects for improvements of infrastructure and ameliorating services being offered. Significant judgment is required to determine whether these contributions are in the nature of government grants, in which case they are recognized in the statement of profit or loss systematically in accordance with the related liability or expense, or in the form of equity, in which case they are recognized in the statement of financial position as capital contributions.

4.2 Impairment of assets

Decline in the value of property, plant and equipment could have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements. Management assesses the possible impairment of property, plant and equipment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. Factors considered important that could trigger an impairment review include:

(i) Significant change in the useful life which would be expected from the passage of time or

(ii) Evidence that the performance of the plant and equipment could have a negative impact on the operating results, hence the economic viability of the asset itself and where it is a component of a larger economic unit, the viability of that unit itself.

4.3 Depreciation policies

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated to their residual values over their estimated useful lives. The residual value of an asset is the estimated net amount that the Authority would currently obtain from its disposal, if the asset was already of the age, and in condition expected at the end of its useful life. The Board of Directors therefore make estimates based on historical experience and use their best judgment to assess the useful lives of assets and to forecast their expected values at the end of their expected useful lives.

4.4 Estimated useful lives of property, plant and equipment

Estimated useful lives and residual values of property, plant and equipment are assigned based on the intended use of the respective assets and their economic lives. Subsequently, if there are changes in circumstances, such as technological advances or prospective utilisation of the assets concerned that could result in the actual useful lives or residual values differing from initial estimates, the estimated useful lives and residual values need to be adjusted in line with the current circumstances. The Board of Directors review the residual values and useful lives of major items of property, plant and equipment and determine necessary adjustments.

4.5 Limitation of sensitivity analysis

Sensitivity analysis demonstrates the effect of a change in a key assumption while other assumptions remain unchanged. In reality, there is a correlation between the assumptions and other factors. It should also be noted that these sensitivities are non-linear and larger or smaller impacts should not be interpolated or extrapolated from these results.

Sensitivity analysis does not take into consideration that the Authority's assets and liabilities are actively managed. Other limitations include the use of hypothetical market movements to demonstrate potential risk that only represent the Authority's views of possible near-term market changes that cannot be predicted with any certainty.

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

5. Property, plant and equipment

	Buildings	Office and research equipment	Ice plants	Boats and Motor vehicles	Total
	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
COST					
At January 1, 2018	209,973,878	31,376,109	57,352,350	18,214,766	316,917,103
Additions	-	1,172,560	262,695	246,000	1,681,255
At December 31, 2018	209,973,878	32,548,669	57,615,045	18,460,766	318,598,358
Additions	27,071,249	24,876,327	731,972	1,285,065	53,964
At December 31, 2019	237,045,127	57,424,996	58,347,017	19,745,831	372,562

ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION

At January 1, 2018	24,990,791	29,536,905	29,948,138	17,033,764	101,509,598
Charge for the year	4,199,477	660,917	4,907,733	539,344	10,307,471
At December 31, 2018	29,190,268	30,197,822	34,855,871	17,573,108	111,817,069
Charge for the year	4,199,721	1,302,833	4,936,366	807,066	11,245,986
At December 31, 2019	33,389,989	31,500,655	39,792,237	18,380,174	123,063,055

NET BOOK VALUE

At December 31, 2019	203,655,138	25,924,341	18,554,780	1,365,657	249,499,916
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At December 31, 2018	180,783,610	2,350,847	22,759,174	887,658	206,781,289
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6. Capital work in progress

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
At January 1,	51,065,766	26,773,885
Expenditure during the period	1,934,792	24,291,881
Transfer to property, plant and equipment during the year	(27,568,681)	-
At December 31,	25,431,877	51,065,766

(a) The Capital work in progress comprise of the following projects:

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Ile du Port Road & Utilities construction	25,348,696	25,348,696
Bel Ombre processing building	-	9,251,885
Port Construction	-	10,386,377
Facility Providence	-	5,905,874
Other projects	83,181	172,934
	25,431,877	51,065,766

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

7. Investment in financial assets

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Financial assets at amortised cost:		
Ordinary shares (unquoted) in:		
Indian Ocean Marine Limited	29,986	29,986
Praslin Ocean Farm Limited	25,000	25,000
	<u>54,986</u>	<u>54,986</u>

8. Fisheries Development Fund

(a) Movements in balances held with Development Bank of Seychelles:

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
At January 1,	66,213,891	63,703,821
Additional capital disbursed during the year	3,189,973	2,510,070
Movement during the year	-	-
At December 31	<u>69,403,864</u>	<u>66,213,891</u>

(b) Status of fund

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Capital	57,703,821	57,703,821
Retained surplus	11,700,043	8,510,070
	<u>69,403,864</u>	<u>66,213,891</u>
Loans made	43,928,177	44,384,675
Balance held with Development Bank of Seychelles	25,607,942	22,218,100
Management fee payable	(132,255)	(388,884)
	<u>69,403,864</u>	<u>66,213,891</u>

The revolving fund, managed by the Development Bank of Seychelles, finances development of local fishing industry by enabling local investors to participate in long line fishing ventures. The loans are granted over 1 to 10 years and bear interest at rate of 3% per annum.

9. Inventories

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Fuel and lubricants	173,837	728,655

10. Trade and trade receivables

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Gross trade receivables	22,572,108	6,756,179
Less: provision for credit impairment (note (a))	(848,480)	(836,480)
Net trade receivables	<u>21,723,628</u>	<u>5,919,699</u>
Prepayments for fuel purchase	4,169,715	1,100
Due from Government of Seychelles	1,944,387	-
Other receivables	636,363	587,073
	<u>28,474,093</u>	<u>6,507,872</u>

(a) The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the fair value of each class of receivable. The Authority does not hold any collateral as security. Movement in the provision for credit impairment of trade and other receivables is as follows:

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
At January 1,	836,480	836,480
Increase in provision for credit impairment	12,000	-
At December 31,	<u>848,480</u>	<u>836,480</u>

11. Cash and cash equivalent

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Cash on hand	293,278	-
Bank Balances	55,609,510	-
Treasury deposits	46,882,295	46,567,126
	<u>102,785,083</u>	<u>46,567,126</u>

12. Assigned capital

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Assets from government on inception	1,122,800	1,122,800

The Authority received contributions from the Government of Seychelles for certain assets on inception, there have been no further subsequent movements in this balance and have been classified as Assigned Capital representing contribution other than cash from the owner of the Authority.

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

13. Excess transfer to consolidated fund

In accordance of Section 19 of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act, the Authority shall pay the surplus income remaining for each financial year into the Consolidated Fund. Debit balance in the 'Excess Transfer to consolidated fund' represents excess transfers by the Treasury on a yearly basis.

14. Deferred grants

Deferred Grants for Property, plant and equipment

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
At the beginning of the year	264,278,543	250,734,030
Received from other projects	1,207,519	-
Received from European Union	10,034,792	24,568,936
	<u>275,520,854</u>	<u>275,302,966</u>
Less: Amortisation for the year	(11,540,161)	(11,024,423)
	<u>263,980,693</u>	<u>264,278,543</u>
Analysed as:		
European Union	153,263,864	149,275,817
Japanese Corporation	103,331,707	107,633,802
African Development Bank	1,807,429	1,901,514
Government and other projects	5,577,693	5,467,410
	<u>263,980,693</u>	<u>264,278,543</u>

15. Credits held for future projects

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
At January 1,	48,913,307	13,332,362
Received during the year	42,557,960	88,814,601
Utilised during the year:		
Fisheries facilities development	(9,176,346)	(578,724)
Research and development costs	(17,256,277)	(18,055,649)
Monitoring control, surveillance and enforcement costs	(5,521,960)	(9,773,990)
Other expenditure	(302,454)	(181,267)
Transfer to deferred grants for capital assets	(10,034,972)	(24,568,936)
Exchange rate fluctuation	30,126	(75,090)
	<u>49,229,664</u>	<u>48,913,307</u>

Source of funding for the above projects:

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
European Union	40,874,000	40,065,876
Japanese Corporation	4,414,175	4,414,175
Other projects	3,941,489	4,433,256
	<u>49,229,664</u>	<u>48,913,307</u>

European Union

The Authority is responsible for managing the fishing licenses agreement between the European Union and the Government of Seychelles and overseeing the compliance of conditions stipulated in the agreement. Funds received were utilized to support the development of sustainable fisheries policy and fisheries infrastructure. The European Union is also the main source of finance for major projects such as the Ile Du Port and Providence fishing quay which were completed during the year.

Japanese Corporation

The Japanese Government awarded a grant to the Government of Seychelles consisting mainly of equipment and fishing gear. The Authority is responsible for managing the equipment and disposal of the fishing gear and for the management of the proceeds in accordance with the conditions of the grant. At the end of 2014, the unutilised credits were still being held by the Ministry of Finance.

Other projects

Multiple minor grants were received in the year. Funds received, were utilized for consultancy services and other miscellaneous expenditure.

16. Employee benefit obligations

(a) Statement of financial position

Movement in length-of-service compensation payable under the Seychelles Employment Act is given below:

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
At January 1,	7,980,336	6,943,319
(Write back)/Provision made for the year (note (c))	2,252,834	1,292,017
Paid during the year	(391,124)	(255,000)
At December 31,	<u>9,842,046</u>	<u>7,980,336</u>

(b) The Authority recognised and provided for employee benefit obligations arising on account of gratuity based on the regulations applicable to parastatal organisations and length of service severance compensation based on the applicable regulations of Seychelles Employment Act, 1999 (as amended).

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

17. Other payables and accruals

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Prepaid license fee	26,275,048	39,212,608
Accrued expenses and other payables	16,786,816	13,149,754
	<u>43,061,864</u>	<u>52,362,362</u>

18. Revenue

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Income for ice operations	4,670,621	3,291,964
Income from sea cucumber fishery	1,335,109	580,616
Net & container fees	5,167,558	2,029,766
Fees from embarking seamen	555,476	1,126,780
Registration & license fee (local)	543,408	2,391,030
Registration & license fee (foreign)	108,042,493	153,460,474
VMS management and communication fee	2,846,529	679,092
Rental	7,576,616	5,235,344
Sale of Fuel	22,580,117	-
Fuel incentive received	10,936,152	-
Excess catch surcharge	60,803,492	-
Lobster Licenses & compliance fee	66,000	-
Other revenue	65,000	60,000
	<u>225,188,571</u>	<u>168,855,066</u>

19. Other income

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Sundry income	172,624	54,853
Dividend income	308,700	206,100
Sales of oil and lubricants	360,968	-
Auction sale income	-	1,096,018
EEZ application fees	433,221	407,314
	<u>1,275,513</u>	<u>1,764,285</u>

20. Staff costs

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Salaries and wages	42,517,467	24,768,308
Chairman's emoluments	86,854	54,876
Directors' emoluments	587,684	189,600
Provision for Employee benefit obligation	2,252,834	1,292,017
	<u>45,444,839</u>	<u>26,304,801</u>

21. Operating and other expenses

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Auditor's remuneration	253,800	314,950
Advertising and sales promotion	364,246	227,804
Bad debts	12,000	-
Contracted services	1,523,240	10,772,361
Electricity and water charges	604,560	10,541,550
Fuel and local conveyance	914,307	1,083,947
Indian ocean tuna commission expenses	1,242,000	-
Insurance	202,253	572,253
IUU Vessel costs	749,384	795,056
Printing, stationery and postage	749,902	795,056
Refuse removal	-	451,303
Rental expenses	189,750	364,500
Reversal of prior year payables	(241,954)	-
Repairs and maintenance	1,714,076	3,466,923
Security expenses	2,759,952	2,369,867
Training expenses	3,364,661	238,103
Travelling expenses	3,783,488	519,746
Telephone and internet	1,626,697	1,265,627
Vehicle expenses	536,456	467,063
Movement in fuel incentive account	-	(2,493,134)
Other expenses	897,471	2,395,918
	<u>21,246,289</u>	<u>33,353,837</u>

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

22. Research and development costs

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Aquaculture Master Plan project	12,564,748	4,778,284
Research boat expenses - fuel and insurance	-	9,962,106
Research boat expenses - repairs and maintenance	997,768	1,413,342
Sundry research projects	3,673,761	1,901,917
	<u>17,236,277</u>	<u>18,055,649</u>

23. Monitoring control, surveillance and enforcement costs

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Satellite communication costs	3,029,318	7,006,100
Patrol expense	2,492,542	10,741,869
	<u>5,521,860</u>	<u>17,747,969</u>

24. Fisheries facilities development

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Fuel claims paid in the year	-	23,718,359
Fuel expense	33,366,918	-
Fishing boat owner association - coastal fishery development	233,318	475,826
Publication and awareness	29,392	64,240
Surplus on fisheries development loans (note 8)	(3,057,718)	(2,510,070)
Training and university costs	-	3,111,979
Workshop, conferences and travelling	158,498	2,625,951
Infrastructure development	10,034,792	16,157,092
Salaries and wages	-	638,885
Consultancy expenses	-	955,586
Renovation and maintenance of fishing facilities	2,835,819	3,250,205
Utilities	2,194,257	8,525,405
Other fisheries support expense	2,210,518	-
Other expenses	142	49,395
	<u>48,205,936</u>	<u>57,062,853</u>

Fuel subsidy to fishermen

As part of promoting artisanal fishing, the Government of Seychelles, through the Authority, subsidizes this activity through refund for the cost of fuel utilized by the fisherman up to the year of 2018. Effective the financial year of 2019, the Authority became Autonomy and processed the fuel claims that were paid by the Seychelles Revenue Commission

through the government account.

25. Capital commitments

	2019	2018
	SR	SR
Approved and contracted regarding work in progress	596,672	10,222,760
Approved but not contracted	-	-
	<u>596,672</u>	<u>10,222,760</u>

26. Contingent liabilities

There were no other contingent liabilities as at December 31, 2019 (2018 : SR. Nil).

27. Events after the reporting date

There have been no material events occurring after the reporting date that require adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial statements.

27. Events after the reporting date

A corona virus pandemic affecting the global and Seychelles economies has broken out at the end of March, 2020. This has severely affected the global financial commercial and economic transactions, retail, logistic and distribution and the production and supply chains worldwide. The liquidity, solvency and existence of business entities has come under severe stress. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted and may continue to impact the business operations, including employees, customers, partners, and communities, and there is substantial uncertainty in the nature and degree of its continued effects over the financial year 2021. The extent to which the Covid-19 pandemic impacts the business going forward will depend on numerous evolving factors that cannot be reliably predicted, including the duration and scope of the pandemic; governmental, business and individuals' action in response to the pandemic; and the impact on the economic activity including the possibility of recession or financial market instability.

These factors may adversely impact consumer, business, and government spending in the economy and on the customers' ability to pay for products and services on an ongoing basis. The main source of income of the country is from tourism and the fisheries sectors and the source of the country's consumption of food, beverage and consumables are imported. The country is badly affected due to closure of hotels and restaurants on one hand and the depleted foreign currency resource with increase in exchange rates on the other hand due to the severe impact on the inflows of foreign exchange in the country.

The country has taken measured to open up for tourism towards the end of March 2021 with certain restrictions to bring the economy back to normal. The Directors have considered the impact of the COVID_19 pandemic and ascertained that the going concern of the company shall not get affected although business has considerable reduced due to the impact of the pandemic.

General Information 2020

DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS OF THE AUTHORITY During 2020 Period

- Nirmal Jivan Shah (Chairperson) (Resigned effective 4th February 2020)
- Cyril Bonnelame (Chairperson) (15th February to 31st December 2020)
- Eugene Vidot
- Keith Andre
- Roy Clarisse
- Rebecca Loustau-Lalanne

DIRECTORS OF THE AUTHORITY Current

- Radley Weber (Chairperson)
- Roy Clarisse
- Eugene Vidot
- Aubrey Harris
- Beatty Hoarau
- Marc Gonther
- Joseph Tirant
- Audrina Dine
- Franky Laporte

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- Cyril Bonnelame (Interim CEO - 24th March to 31st October 2020)
- Nichol John Elizabeth (1st September 2020 onwards)

SECRETARY

Nane Constance

REGISTERED OFFICE

P.O. Box 449, Fishing Port, Mahé, Seychelles

PRINCIPLE PLACE OF BUSINESS

Fishing Port, Mahé, Seychelles

AUDITOR

Baker Tilly
Chartered Accountants, Seychelles

BANKERS

- Absa Bank (Seychelles) Limited (accounts closed in November 2020)
- Seychelles International Mercantile Banking Corporation Ltd

Statement of Financial Performance - 2020

Financial result summary 2019

Despite the Corona virus pandemic, at the end of 2020, the Authority reported a surplus of SCR152m, 16% increase over the SR130.3m reported in 2019. This enabled the Authority to pay a dividend of SCR50m to the Government of Seychelles compared to SCR25m paid in 2019.

Over the year 2020, a total of SCR264.55m was received from the prime source of income, which was SCR39.36m (33%) above 2019 as per table below.

Table 45: Income

SCR'M	Actual 2020	Actual 2019	Actual 2018
Income for ice operations	2.71	4.67	3.29
Income from sea cucumber fishery	1.60	1.34	0.58
Net & container fees	6.47	5.17	2.03
Fees from non-embarking seamen	4.49	0.56	1.13
Registration & license fee (local)	0.52	0.54	2.39
Registration & license fee (foreign)	133.77	108.04	153.46
VMS management and communication fee	1.85	2.85	0.68
Rental	9.88	7.58	5.24
Sale of Fuel	15.66	22.58	-
Fuel incentive received	9.19	10.94	-
Excess catch surcharge	75.18	60.80	-
Environmental fees	3.10	-	-
Lobster Licenses & compliance fee	0.07	0.07	-
Other revenue	0.06	0.07	0.06
Total	264.55	225.19	168.86

The devaluation of the Seychelles Rupees against the Euro, the main currency collected in industrial fisheries, had significant impact on the income from April 2020 onwards. This contributed to increase in income from Foreign vessels Registration & License fees, Excess Catch and non-embarking seamen fees. However, part of the increase for Registration & license fee was a result of 11 new vessels registered during the period 2019/2020.

Property rental and Net & containers fees continued to increase due to past invoices being raised and this is expected to stabilise in 2021.

While devaluation increased revenue from industrial fisheries, Covid-19 pandemic also had negative impacts on other revenue lines. The decrease in ice operations income was a result of a 50% reduction in ice prices to fisherman as a measure to assist fisherman during the lock-down, while ensuring food security. Fuel sale and refund of fuel in incentives reduced due to the fall in fuel prices on the international market as a result of reduction in demand during lock-down period.

In 2020, SFA's total expenditure increased by 13% from SCR138.68m in 2019 to SCR156.67m. The increase in employees fee was due to the recruitment of 40 new staff, in line with SFA's Strategic Plan of building core competencies.

Table 46: Expenditure

SCR'M	Actual 2019	Actual 2019	Actual 2018
Employee costs	61.71	45.44	26.30
Operating and other expenses	27.18	21.25	33.35
Research and development costs	15.72	17.24	18.06
Monitoring Control Surveillance and Enforcement costs	10.36	5.52	17.75
Fisheries Facilities Development	66.83	48.21	57.06
Foreign exchange (loss)/gain	(25.13)	1.02	0.08
Total	156.67	138.68	152.60

The increase in operating and other expenses was mainly due to the move of the SFA Headquarters to Espace Building and the associated repairs/maintenance work that were carried out on the headquarter itself. The increase in Monitoring Control and Surveillance was in line with SFA's improvement in surveillance strategy. The increase in Fisheries Facilities Development was primarily due to an SCR8.9m salary adjustment for seamen, approved by the Government of Seychelles and an SCR8m support projects of the Seychelles Maritime Academy under the EU funding.

Capital expenditure of SCR28.36m was recorded for the year, resulting in an increase of 6% in Total Fixed Asset of SFA, to SCR264.88m. The timely raising of invoices for SFA properties for 2019/2020 period by the Property Management Section resulted in an increase of SCR29.8m in Trade receivables from SCR28.5m in 2019 to SCR58.3m in 2020. The overall Total Asset of SFA increased by 24%, from SCR475.8m to SCR579.6m.

Directors Report - 2020

The Directors present their report together with the audited financial statements of Seychelles Fishing Authority ("the Authority") for the year ended December 31, 2020.

Principal activities

The Authority is a parastatal organization which functions as the executive arm of Government for fisheries and related matters. There has been no significant change in the nature of these activities during the financial year under review.

Results

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Surplus for the year:	152,049,340	130,324,352

Dividends

An interim dividend of SR. 50 million was declared and paid during the year. (2019: SR. 25 million was paid). The Directors did not propose any final dividend for the financial year under review (2019 Nil).

Property, Plant and Equipment

Additions of SR. 28,363,301 to property, plant and equipment during the year comprised buildings, office and research equipment, motor vehicles and ice plants (2019: SR. 53,964,613). Proceeds from disposal of assets during the financial year under review were credited to Other Income. However, in the absence of complete details of disposals, their cost and accumulated depreciation were not removed from the Property, Plant and Equipment schedule (2019: SR. nil).

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. To the best of knowledge and based on the information and records made available to the Current Directors, the Directors are not in a position to confirm whether the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the balance sheet date approximates its fair value.

Directors and Directors' interest

The Directors of the Authority appointed by the President of Seychelles since the date of the last report and the date of this report are as stated in the Corporate information on Page 100.

Statement of Directors' responsibilities

The Board of Directors is responsible for policy, control and the overall management of the affairs of the Authority including the operations of the Authority and making investment decisions.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with requirements of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act, 1984 and Generally Accepted Accounting Standards in Seychelles. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies that fall within the accounting policies adopted by the Authority; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. The Board of Directors has the general responsibility of safeguarding the assets, both owned by the Authority and those that are held in trust and used by the Authority.

However, since the Board of Directors responsible for operations, preparation and presentation of the financial statements and for its audit for the year ended December 31, 2020 did not complete their responsibilities within the mandated time and left with incomplete books of accounts and missing supporting documents, the current Board of Directors for the purpose of continuity and legal compliance, made its best endeavor to ensure accuracy and reliability of the available information and provided them to the Auditors to obtain an independent audit opinion on them. The new Board of Directors do not and will not under any circumstances accept responsibility and liability for actions undertaken or not undertaken in relation to these financial statements by the then Board of Directors in the financial year 2020.


Auditor

The retiring auditor Messrs. Baker Tilly, Chartered Accountants, Seychelles being eligible offer themselves for reappointment.



Radley Weber
Director



Roy Clarisse
Director


Aubrey Harris
Director


Beatty Hoarau
Director


Marc Gontier
Director


Joseph Tirant
Director


Audrina Dine
Director


Franky Laporte
Director


Eugene Vidot
Director

Independent Auditor Report - 2020

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Seychelles Fishing Authority set out on pages 108 to 123, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2020 the statements of profit or loss, cash flows and changes in equity for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

Responsibilities of the Directors and those charged with governance for the financial statements

The Board of Directors is responsible for keeping proper accounting records and for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act, 1984, and for such internal controls as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and ensure that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Authority's affair. In preparing the financial statements, the Board is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it either intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

Other information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Directors' Report, which we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not and will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this audit report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

Directors disclaimer

Reference is made to the third paragraph under Statement of Directors Responsibilities on Page 102 of the Directors Report. The Directors have explicitly stated that they do not and will not under any circumstances accept responsibility and liability for actions undertaken or not undertaken in relation to the financial statements by the then Board of Directors in the financial year 2020. This is one of the reasons for our disclaimer opinion.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal controls;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management;
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Independent Auditor Report - 2020

We communicated with management, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Reason for Disclaimer Opinion and Long Form Audit Report

Unavoidable scope limitation due to inadequacies in the Authority's accounting records

There have been significant and continued changes to key personnel particularly in the finance personnel upon whom the Authority's system of control was dependent. Due to changes in personnel, incomplete operational and accounting information, lack of adequate external records and complete information with respect to capital work in progress; their timely capitalisation and Disclaimer of responsibility of financial statements by the current Board of Directors stated under third paragraph on page 102 of the Directors' Report, we have preferred to express a disclaimer opinion and to provide a long form audit report covering major line items of the Statement of Financial Position (A) and Statement of Profit or Loss (B)

(A) Statement of Financial Position

Property, Plant and Equipment - SR. 264,888,604

Asset Register and Asset listing of Property, Plant and Equipment and depreciation contain certain fully depreciated assets that date back to the year 1998 which may no longer be in use. Treasury has implemented a fixed asset register module in the year 2016 for Government entities to manage and record their assets. The Authority started implementing the software, but assets reported in the register did not reconcile back to the Treasury asset Public Sector Investment Programme ("PSIP") accounts. Therefore, the register was not used for the purpose of accounting of additions to the Property, Plant and Equipment in the Authority's accounting records. The Authority is still in the process of completing the asset register.

Due to discrepancies in the balances brought forward from the prior years, an accurate up-to-date fixed assets register is not available, therefore we cannot conclude on whether the balance of Property, Plant and Equipment reported in these financial statements is free from material misstatements.

During the financial year, the Authority disposed certain fixed assets for SR 398,900, however, due to the lack of up-to-date fixed assets registrar, the Authority is unable to remove their cost and accumulated depreciation from the fixed assets schedule and the entire sale proceeds were reported as Other Income.

Furthermore, the Authority is not the legal owner of certain properties on which certain Property, Plant and Equipment are situated. However, these were authorised by the Government of Seychelles.

Capital work in progress - SR. 2,614,492

We are satisfied that capital work in progress is reasonably stated in the annual financial statements with regards to the ongoing projects. The Authority does not have a detailed breakdown of the individual assets generated from these projects. The Ile du Port project of SR. 25,952,446 comprised construction of roads and other facilities for the Government of Seychelles. Since this project was not to create a fixed asset for the Authority, this amount was reclassified from Capital Work in Progress and the contra was derecognised from Deferred Grants during the financial year under review.

Fisheries Development Fund - SR. 56,035,664

The loan portfolio of this Fund is administered by the Development Bank of Seychelles. The Fund was audited for the first time by the Auditor of the Development Bank of Seychelles as at December 31, 2020 who provided an unmodified opinion. The Authority updated the results and the financial position of the Fund in their books as at December 31, 2020 and the net deficit of SR. 11,713,400 was treated as a Prior Year Adjustment in order not to distort the books for the financial year under review. We placed reliance on the audit opinion by that auditor. In addition to normal audit tests, we also obtained independent confirmation of bank balance of Fisheries Development Fund for the year 2020 and are satisfied that the balances are appropriately stated in the financial statements.

Fuel inventories - SR. 516,435

We were unable to carry out a physical count and perform alternate audit procedures as we were appointed at the end of financial year ended December 31, 2020.

Trade and other receivables - SR. 58,298,816

In addition to the normal audit tests, we circulated confirmations to major debtors at the end of the financial year but the response was poor. We also test checked subsequent receipt of major outstanding debtors pertaining to the financial year under review and noted that SR. 8,532,891 was still outstanding as at October 31, 2021. Provision for credit impairment at the balance sheet date was only SR. 865,988. We relied on the Management representation that the balance of overdue trade debtors amounting to SR. 7,666,903 is fully recoverable.

We also relied on the Management representation that SR. 1,944,387 due from Government of Seychelles and SR. 30,071 included in other receivables brought forward from prior years are fully recoverable. We could not extend audit checks whether these balances still exist and are required to be carried forward in the balance sheet.

Independent Auditor Report - 2020

The Board decided to write off SR. 432,000 included in other receivables during the financial year under review as per confirmation received from treasury as per the letter dated 18th February 2022.

Cash and bank balances - SR. 197,205,751

We have obtained external confirmation to satisfy ourselves of the existence of this account balance, with the exception of certain accounts amounting to SR. 2,582,749.90 held previously with Treasury. The Board decided to write off these balances during the financial year under review and received confirmation from treasury as per the letter dated 18th February 2022.

Deferred Grants - SR. 232,643,149

Deferred grants represent unamortised balance of corresponding Property, Plant and Equipment acquired by the Authority and we are satisfied that the deferred grants are fairly stated in the financial statements. Deferred grants are recognized on the same basis as Property, Plant and Equipment and reliance should only be placed in accordance with the reliance placed on the accuracy of Property, Plant and Equipment.

Credits held for future projects - SR. 73,403,827

This represents amounts received as grants/subsidies for specific projects to be undertaken by the Authority with a reporting requirement to the donor. The largest credit carried forward represents SR. 65,130,966 from European Union for fisheries development. Expenditure incurred during the year under this project amounted to SR. 43,034,797.

The records maintained by the Authority did not specify the project for which expenditures were incurred. Therefore, there is a possibility of error in allocation of expenditures to the appropriate project accounts. Although a complete listing of grants for which these are held was not available, the balance appears to be fairly stated in total.

Funds held under Fisheries Development Fund - SR.56,035,664

This balance has been fairly stated and reported in the draft audit report of the Fund audited independently by the Auditor of Development Bank of Seychelles (Administrator of the Fund). We relied on the opinion of the independent auditor of Development Bank of Seychelles.

Employee benefit obligations - SR. 11,888,039

We have checked that the Authority has made adequate provisions for gratuity and length of service compensation in these financial statements and the closing balance is fairly stated.

Other payables and accruals - SR. 52,362,362

License fees are received in advance for one year which is not necessarily a calendar year, and the total amount is recognised to License fees income, instead of apportioning prepaid license fees received for the part of next financial year as liability in the statement of financial position. Prepaid license fees of SR. 41,667,309 (2019: 26,275,048) was calculated at the end of the financial year through a scrutiny of invoices by manually calculating the number of days falling in the next financial year.

(B) Statement of Profit or Loss

Rental income - SR. 9,879,537

Rental income from properties owned by the Authority at the Fishing Port forms a significant part of its income. We have test checked that the rental income is fairly stated in the financial statements.

Other revenues

Since most of the other revenue streams are also recorded on receipt basis as in the case of license fees, certain other incomes could remain unaccrued for the financial year.

Employees costs - SR. 61,712,267

Staff costs incurred during the year were accounted based on actual payments and the management reconciled and justified the reasons for their increase during the year. We have test checked that the Authority complied with the provisions of Income and Non-Monetary Benefits Tax Act and Seychelles Pension Fund. However, we had to rely on the management authorisations with respect to allowances, staff welfare and leave salary.

Operating and other expenses - SR. 27,181,229

We test checked expenses incurred during the year together with their authorisations. However, in the absence of approved policies and procedures, we had to rely solely on their authorisation by the management on the dates of those expenses. Not all expenses have been recorded on an accrual basis. Therefore, we cannot safely conclude that the account balance is free from material misstatement. The Management has represented to us that policies and procedures framework is being worked in the year 2022.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission expenses - SR. 1,627,104

We based our test checks on management authorisations and are satisfied that the rental and housing allowance paid for the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission has been fairly stated in the financial statements.

Independent Auditor Report - 2020

Research and development costs - SR. 15,716,795

We test checked expenses incurred during the year together with their authorisations. However, in the absence of approved policies and procedures, we had to rely solely on their authorisations on the dates of those expenses.

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and Enforcement - SR. 10,363,942

We test checked expenses incurred during the year together with their authorisations. However, in the absence of approved policies and procedures, we had to rely solely on their authorisations on the dates of those expenses.

Depreciation and amortisation - SR. 12,974,613 & transfer from deferred grants SR. 11,841,205

We test checked that depreciation is charged in accordance with the current accounting policies adopted by the Authority and that they are consistently applied. We also test checked amortisation of deferred grants and ensured their compliance with existing accounting policies.

Fisheries facilities development - SR. 66,826,708

Our observations with respect to Fisheries Facilities Development of are stated below:

(i) Fuel claims paid in the year - SR. 25,101,020

In the absence of adequate internal controls, we carried out an analytical review of purchase, sale, claims paid considering the opening and closing stock of fuel and found that there is no significant difference in recording sale and purchase of fuel.

(ii) Other Fisheries Development expenditure from EU funding - SR. 41,725,689

We are satisfied expenditure has been appropriately authorized and correctly recorded in the financial statements.

Seamen salary adjustment - SR. 8,919,703

In order to rectify the wages payable to the Seamen at par with the International Labour organisation standards, and as recommended and approved by the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture in July 2020 to pay SR. 14 million, the Authority paid the Seamen SR. 8,919,703 during the financial under review which is mainly for prior years. No provision exists for the balance payable.

Utilities - SR. 9,543,524

We test checked utility payments based on authorisation of the management and satisfied that cost of utilities has been fairly stated in the financial statements.

Support provided to Seychelles Maritime Academy - SR. 8,000,000

The Authority entered into an agreement with the Seychelles Maritime Academy under which SR 8,000,000 was disbursed during the financial year 2020. However, the management does not have proper records with respect to management and utilization of these funds

Other expenses

We test checked all other expenses together with their authorisations. However, in the absence of approved policies and procedures, we had to rely on their authorisation by the management on the dates of those expenses.

Taxation

The Authority has represented to us that on record currently they are exempt from business tax. However, the Authority is still negotiating with Ministry of Finance/SRC regarding the applicability of VAT.

Operational controls

1. Controls over invoicing and debtor management are limited and do not adequately ensure timely and accurate collection of outstanding receivables.
2. Internal controls for accounting for fixed assets are inadequate. Proper record of fixed asset additions is not kept and the maintenance of asset register is incomplete.
3. Cyril Bonnelame held the positions of Chairman of Board from 15th February until the 31st of December 2020 and also as Interim CEO for the period 24th March to 31st October 2020. This is not in accordance with Section 13 (1) division 4 of Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act, 1984 and PEMC Act, 2013.

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Disclaimer Opinion

Whilst the figures provide a general appreciation of the financial position and performance; due to matters stated above, disclaimer of responsibility by the Current Directors with respect to preparation and fair presentation of financial statements; and limitations in internal controls, we are unable to express and we do not express an opinion that the accompanying financial statements set out on page 108 to 123 give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 December 2020, and of its financial performance for the year then ended.

Report on Other Legal Regulatory Requirements

Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission Act, 2013

We have no relationship with, or interests, in the Authority other than in our capacity as auditors, tax and business advisors and dealings in the ordinary course of business.

We have obtained all information and explanations we have required.

Except for the matters discussed in our audit opinion with respect to the reasons for issue of Disclaimer opinion and long form audit report on pages 4 (b) to 4 (g), in our opinion, proper accounting records have been kept by the Authority as far as it appears from our examination of those records.



BAKER TILLY
Chartered Accountants



Statement of Financial Position 2020

Statement of Financial Position As at December 31, 2020

	Notes	2020 SR	Restated 2019 SR
ASSETS			
Non-current Assets:			
Property, plant and equipment	5	264,888,604	249,999,916
Capital Work in progress	6	2,614,492	25,431,877
Investment	7	54,986	54,986
Fisheries Development Fund	8	56,035,664	59,010,674
		323,593,746	333,997,453
Current Assets			
Inventories	9	537,233	173,837
Trade and other receivables	10	58,298,816	28,474,093
Cash and cash equivalent	11	197,205,751	102,785,083
		256,041,800	131,433,013
Total Assets		579,635,546	465,430,466
EQUITY AND LIABILITY			
Equity and Reserves			
Assigned capital	12	1,122,800	1,122,800
Retained surplus		141,232,065	39,182,725
Total Equity		142,354,865	40,305,525
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred grants	13	232,643,149	263,980,693
Credit held for future projects	14	73,403,827	49,229,664
Credit held for Fisheries Development Fund	8	56,035,664	59,010,674
Excess transfer to consolidated fund	15	11,888,039	9,842,046
		373,970,679	382,063,077
Current liabilities			
Other payables and accruals	16	63,310,002	43,061,864
		63,310,002	43,061,864
Total Liabilities		437,280,681	425,124,941
Total Equity and Liabilities		579,635,546	465,430,466

The notes on pages 112 to 123 form an integral part of these financial statements and Independent Auditor's report on pages 103 to 107.

Statement of Profit or Loss 2020

Statement of Profit or Loss For year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 SR	2019 SR
Income			
Revenue	17	264,554,583	225,188,571
Other Income	18	2,267,315	1,275,513
Grants utilised	14	43,034,797	42,241,606
		309,856,695	268,705,688
Expenditure			
Employee costs	19	(61,712,267)	(45,444,839)
Operating and other expenses	20	(27,181,229)	(21,246,289)
Research and development costs	21	(15,716,795)	(17,236,277)
Monitoring Control Surveillance and Enforcement costs	22	(10,363,942)	(5,521,860)
Fisheries facilities development	23	(66,826,709)	(48,205,936)
Foreign exchange (loss)/gain		25,126,995	(1,020,310)
		(156,673,947)	(138,675,511)
Surplus before depreciation and amortisations		153,182,748	130,030,177
Amortisation of deferred grants	13	11,841,205	11,540,161
Depreciation	5	(12,974,613)	(11,245,986)
Surplus for the year		152,049,340	130,324,352

The notes on pages 112 to 123 form an integral part of these financial statements and Independent Auditor's report on pages 103 to 107.

Statement of Cash Flow 2020

Statement of Cash Flow For year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 SR	2019 SR
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Surplus for the year		152,049,340	130,324,352
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	5	12,974,613	11,245,986
Amortisation	13	(11,841,205)	(11,540,161)
Movement in credit impairment provision	10	17,508	
Movement in employee benefit obligations provision	15	2,883,266	2,252,834
Operating profit before working capital changes		156,083,522	132,283,011
Changes in working capital:			
Inventories	9	(363,396)	554,818
Trade and other receivables	10	(29,842,231)	(21,966,221)
Other payables and accruals	16	20,248,138	(9,300,498)
Net cash inflow from operating activities		146,126,033	101,571,110
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Additions to property, plant and equipment	5	(28,363,301)	(53,964,613)
Movement in capital work in progress	6	22,817,385	25,633,889
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(5,545,916)	(28,330,724)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Grants received	13	6,456,107	11,242,311
Derecognition of Ile Du port from Capital Work In Progress	6	(25,952,446)	
Movement in credits held for future projects	14	24,174,163	316,357
Employee Benefits paid during the year		(837,273)	(391,124)
Dividend Paid		(50,000,000)	(25,000,000)
Movement in Fisheries Development Fund	8		(3,189,973)
Net cash outflow from financing activities		(46,159,449)	(17,022,429)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		94,420,668	56,217,957
Movements in cash and cash equivalents:			
At January 1,		102,785,083	46,567,126
Increase/(decrease)		94,420,668	56,217,957
At December 31,	11	197,205,751	102,785,083

Statement of Changes in Equity 2020

Statement of Changes in Equity For year ended 31 December 2020

	Assigned Capital SR	Excess Transfer To Consolidated Fund SR	Total SR
Balance at January 1, 2020	1,122,800	39,182,725	40,305,525
Surplus for the year	-	152,049,340	152,049,340
Dividends		(50,000,000)	(50,000,000)
Balance at December 31, 2020	1,122,800	141,232,065	142,354,865
Balance at January 1, 2019	1,122,800	(54,428,227)	(53,305,427)
Surplus for the year	-	130,324,352	130,324,352
Transfer to consolidated fund	-	(25,000,000)	(25,000,000)
Balance at December 31, 2019	1,122,800	39,182,725	40,305,525

The notes on pages 112 to 123 form an integral part of these financial statements and Independent Auditor's report on pages 103 to 107.

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

1. General information

Seychelles Fishing Authority is incorporated by statute (Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act, 1984) with the aim of developing the industry to its fullest potential and to safeguard the resource base for sustainable development.

These financial statements will be submitted for consideration and approval at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of Board of Directors of the Authority.

2. Summary of principal accounting policies

A summary of the significant accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

2.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Authority have been prepared in accordance with requirements of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act, 1984 and Generally Accepted Accounting Standards in Seychelles.

(a) Accounting convention

The financial statements of the Authority have been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Standards in Seychelles and comply with the requirements of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act, 1984, Public Financial Management Act, 2012 and Public Finance Management Regulations 2014. The PEMC Act 2013 requires that every public enterprise should prepare its financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRS') issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ('IASB') and interpretations issued by the International Financial Reporting Standards Interpretations Committee (the 'Committee'). The Board of Directors recognizes the lapses in the management of the financial affairs of SFA during the year under review, attributed to changes in key personnel. Consequently, the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Standards in Seychelles.

The Board of Directors undertakes to explore appropriate structural improvement options within the Finance Department. This will also include recruitment and training for key financial personnel, to further improve the financial reporting standards of the Authority so as to meet the financial requirements of the PEMC Act 2013. The Board recognizes that these procedures will take time to achieve the required objectives and proposes a time scale of 3 years to completion.

(b) Reporting and functional currency

The reporting and functional currency of the Authority is Seychelles Rupee ("SR"), as most of the transactions are effected in Seychelles Rupees.

2.1 Off balance sheet transactions and activities

From time to time, transactions, which are not related to the operations of the Authority are undertaken as a proxy of the Seychelles Government. The management confirm no such transactions were undertaken during 2020 (2019: nil).

2.2 Property, plant and equipment and depreciation

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment in value recognised at the date of acquisition. Initial cost of property, plant and equipment comprises its purchase price and any attributable costs of bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use. Such cost also includes the cost of replacing components of the property, plant and equipment. Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Authority and the cost can be reliably measured.

Properties in the course of construction for operation purposes are carried at cost less any recognised impairment loss. Cost includes professional fees for qualifying assets and capitalised only if the project is viable and the Authority would pursue it further. Depreciation of these assets, on the same basis as other property assets, commences when the assets are ready for their intended use.

Costs incurred for major maintenance are recognised in the carrying amount of the property, plant and equipment as a replacement if the recognition criteria are satisfied. All other repairs and maintenance costs are charged to the statement of profit or loss.

Depreciation of property, plant and equipment is provided for on a straight line basis to write off the cost of each asset to its residual values over their expected useful lives as follows:

	Years
Leasehold buildings	50
Furniture and office equipment	3 to 10
Motor vehicles	4
Computer equipment	5
Ice plant	10
Boats	10

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

An item of property, plant and equipment and any significant part initially recognised is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use or following disposal. Any gain or loss arising on derecognition of the asset (calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset) is included in the statement of profit or loss.

2.3 Investments

Investments classified as non-current are carried at cost, less amounts written off to recognize other than temporary declines in the values of the investments.

2.4 Inventories

Inventories comprising fuel and equipment, are stated at the lower of cost (determined on a first in first out basis) and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in ordinary course of business and applicable variable selling expenses. Net realisable value is determined after review of individual items of inventories by management for any required impairment. Marine chandlery received as part of foreign aid are stated at values per the aid agreement. Provisions are made for obsolete inventories based on Management's appraisal.

2.5 Grants and credit for future projects

Grants are recognized at the fair value in statement of profit or loss where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and the Authority has complied with their attached conditions. Grants received where the authority has yet to comply with the attached conditions are recognised as deferred income and released to income when all attached conditions have been complied with.

Subventions and grants are recognized in the income statement as follows:

- Grant towards acquisition of a property, plant and equipment are amortized over estimated useful lives of assets.
- Grant for recurrent expenditure is credited to revenue on an accrual basis.
- Grants from donors for development and other expenditure is offset against approved costs.

2.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash in hand, at banks and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value, against which the bank overdrafts, if any,

are deducted. Overdrafts are shown within borrowings under current liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

2.7 Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of trade receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Authority will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables.

The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. The amount of provision is recognised in the statement of profit or loss. The carrying amount of trade and other receivables approximate their fair value.

2.8 Deferred Grants

Grants from Government, International Organisations and third parties are recognised where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and on compliance with all the attached conditions thereof. Grants are classified as current and non-current based on their expected utilisation pattern.

When the grant relates to an expense item, it is recognised as income over the period necessary to match the grant on a systematic basis to the costs that it is intended to compensate.

Where the grant relates to an asset, it is recognised as deferred income in the Statement of Financial Position until it is complete for intended use and then recognised in the statement of profit or loss as Grants Income.

2.9 Employee benefits obligations

Provision is made for the end of service benefits due to employees in accordance with current applicable Labour Laws for their periods of service up to the reporting date. The provision for the end of service benefits is calculated annually based on their current basic remuneration.

Defined benefit plans

A defined benefit plan is a post employment benefit other than a defined contribution plan. The Corporation currently operates an unfunded scheme for employees' end of service benefits that follows relevant local regulations and is based on periods of cumulative service and levels of employees' final basic salaries. The liability for staff terminal benefits is determined as the liability that would arise if employment

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

of all staff was to be terminated at reporting date. Provision for post-employment benefits with respect to long service compensation commences and recognized as soon as the employees meet the eligibility criteria specified under the Seychelles Employment Act with respect to completion of 5 years of continuous employment.

At the end of the each reporting period, accumulated post-employment benefits are measured in line with the applicable regulations for completeness. Shortfall, if any, is provided by a charge to the statement of profit or loss. Further provision is required for past services in the year if there is an increase in basic salary, since the effect of the increased salary would impact the existing provision. Provision is reversed to the statement of profit or loss when an employee defaults on the eligibility criteria at the time or before termination of his employment. The liability recognized in the statement of financial position is the present value of the defined obligation at the reporting date.

A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which the Authority pays fixed contributions to the Seychelles Pension Fund and the Authority has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution plans are recognized as an employee benefit expense in the statement of profit or loss in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

2.10 Trade and other payables

Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether claimed by the supplier or not.

Monies received in advance for goods or services to be provided subsequent to the year end are recognised as advances from customers in current liabilities.

The carrying amounts of trade and other payables approximate their amortised cost.

2.11 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Authority has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Where the Authority expects some or all of a provision to be reimbursed, for example under an insurance contract, the reimbursement is recognised as a separate asset but only when the reimbursement is virtually certain. The expense relating to any provision is presented in the statement of profit or loss net of any reimbursement.

2.12 Current and deferred taxation

Income tax expense normally comprises current and deferred tax. Current tax is recognised in profit or loss. Current tax is the expected tax payable on the taxable income or loss for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years. As per the current tax regime, income of the Authority is not liable to tax. Hence no provision is considered for current tax as on the reporting date and consequently no provision is required for deferred tax.

2.13 Offsetting of financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount is reported in the statement of financial position when the Authority has a legal enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the Authority intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and liability simultaneously.

2.14 Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to Seychelles Rupees at exchange rates at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are retranslated to Seychelles Rupees at the exchange rate at that date. Foreign currency gains or losses on monetary items are the differences between the amortised cost in Seychelles Rupees at the beginning of the period, adjusted for effective interest and payments during the period, and the amortised cost in foreign currency translated at the exchange rate at the end of the year.

Non-monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies that are measured in terms of historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Foreign currency differences arising on the translation are recognised in the statement of profit or loss.

Due to Corona Virus Pandemic, there has been substantial devaluation of Seychelles Rupees as compared to the major foreign currencies. As at year end, the main exchange rates against the Seychelles Rupees were as follows:

Currencies	Exchange rates		Changes in %	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
United States Dollars	21.58	14.10	-53.05%	-0.71%
Euro	26.43	15.99	-65.29%	0.12%

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

2.15 Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability is disclosed when the Authority has a possible obligation as a result of past events, the existence of which will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events, not wholly within the control of the Authority; or when the Authority has a present legal or constructive obligation, that arises from past events, but it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

2.16 Assigned Capital

The Authority received contributions from the Government of Seychelles for certain assets on inception, there have been no further subsequent movements in this balance and have been classified as Assigned Capital representing contribution other than cash from the owner of the Authority.

2.17 Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised when the performance obligation is being satisfied. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, taking into account contractually defined terms of payment and excluding taxes or duty.

(i) Subvention

Subvention is recognized as it accrued on monthly basis.

(ii) Rental income

Rental income is recognized on accrual basis unless collectability is in doubt.

(iii) Other income

Other income is recognized on the accrual basis. Net gains and losses on the disposal of property, plant & equipment, after deducting from proceeds on disposals, the carrying amount of the assets and related selling expenses.

(iv) Government grants

Grants that are received for compensation of expenses or losses already incurred, or for the purpose of giving immediate financial support to the Authority with no future related costs, are recognised in the statement of profit or loss in the period in which reasonable assurance is established that the entity will comply with the conditions attached to the Grant

and that the Grant will be received.

Grants that compensate the Authority for expenses to be incurred are initially recognised in the statement of financial position as a deferred income. Subsequent to initial recognition, such grants are recognised in the statement of profit or loss as Grants Income.

3. Risk management

3.1 Financial risk management objectives and policies

The activities of the Authority expose it to different financial risks, market risks (including currency and fair value interest risk), credit and liquidity risk. The Board of Directors have the overall responsibility for the establishment, overseeing and monitoring of the Authority's risk management framework and are assisted by the senior management. Senior management is responsible for designing, developing and monitoring the Authority's risk management policies, which are approved by the Board of Directors.

The Authority's risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Authority, focusing on the unpredictability of financial markets, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits. Risk management policies and systems are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in market conditions and the Authority's activities and its role in the Republic of Seychelles. The Authority, through its training and management standards and procedures, aims to develop a disciplined and constructive control environment in which all employees understand their roles and obligations.

The following are the Authority's exposures to each of the above risks, the Authority's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk, and the Authority's management of capital. Further quantitative disclosures are included throughout these financial statements.

(a) Foreign currency risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the fair values or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates and can arise on financial instruments that are denominated in a currency other than the functional currency in which they are measured. The Authority is exposed to currency risk arising from future commercial transactions and liabilities that are denominated in currencies other than the functional currency. The currencies in which these transactions are primarily denominated are Euro ("EUR") and United States Dollar ("USD"). The Authority aims to aggregate a net position for each currency. Foreign currency risk is not hedged.

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

(b) Credit risk

The Authority's credit risk arises when a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations, and arises principally from the Authority's receivables from trade and other receivables.

The Authority establishes an allowance for impairment that represents its estimate of incurred losses in respect of trade and other receivables. The main components of this allowance are a specific loss component that relates to individually significant exposures, and a collective loss component established for groups of similar assets in respect of losses that have been incurred but not yet identified. The collective loss allowance is determined based on historical data of payment statistics for similar financial assets and the current economic environment.

4. Significant accounting estimates, judgments and assumptions

The preparation of the Authority's financial statements requires management to make estimates, judgments and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities, and the disclosure of contingent liabilities, at the end of the reporting period. However, uncertainty about these assumptions and estimates could result in outcomes that require a material adjustment to the carrying amount of the asset or liability affected in future periods.

Estimates and judgments are continuously evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. In the process of applying the Authority's accounting policies, management has made the following estimates and judgments, which have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

4.1 Government Grants

The Authority receives contributions from the Government of Seychelles towards investments in capital projects for improvements of infrastructure and ameliorating services being offered. Significant judgment is required to determine whether these contributions are in the nature of government grants, in which case they are recognized in the statement of profit or loss systematically in accordance with the related liability or expense, or in the form of equity, in which case they are recognized in the statement of financial position as capital contributions.

4.2 Impairment of assets

Decline in the value of property, plant and equipment could have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements. Management assesses the possible

impairment of property, plant and equipment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. Factors considered important that could trigger an impairment review include:

(i) Significant change in the useful life which would be expected from the passage of time or

(ii) Evidence that the performance of the plant and equipment could have a negative impact on the operating results, hence the economic viability of the asset itself and where it is a component of a larger economic unit, the viability of that unit itself.

4.3 Depreciation policies

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated to their residual values over their estimated useful lives. The residual value of an asset is the estimated net amount that the Authority would currently obtain from its disposal, if the asset was already of the age, and in condition expected at the end of its useful life. The Board of Directors therefore make estimates based on historical experience and use their best judgment to assess the useful lives of assets and to forecast their expected values at the end of their expected useful lives.

4.4 Estimated useful lives of property, plant and equipment

Estimated useful lives and residual values of property, plant and equipment are assigned based on the intended use of the respective assets and their economic lives. Subsequently, if there are changes in circumstances, such as technological advances or prospective utilisation of the assets concerned that could result in the actual useful lives or residual values differing from initial estimates, the estimated useful lives and residual values need to be adjusted in line with the current circumstances. The Board of Directors review the residual values and useful lives of major items of property, plant and equipment and determine necessary adjustments.

4.5 Limitation of sensitivity analysis

Sensitivity analysis demonstrates the effect of a change in a key assumption while other assumptions remain unchanged. In reality, there is a correlation between the assumptions and other factors. It should also be noted that these sensitivities are non-linear and larger or smaller impacts should not be interpolated or extrapolated from these results.

Sensitivity analysis does not take into consideration that the Authority's assets and liabilities are actively managed. Other limitations include the use of hypothetical market movements to demonstrate potential risk that only represent the Authority's views of possible near-term market changes that cannot be predicted with any certainty.

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

5. Property, plant and equipment

	Buildings	Office and research equipment	Ice plants	Boats and Motor vehicles	Total
	SR	SR	SR	SR	SR
COST					
At January 1, 2019	209,973,878	32,548,669	57,615,045	18,460,766	318,598,358
Additions	27,071,249	24,876,327	731,972	1,285,065	53,964,614
At December 31, 2019	237,045,127	57,424,996	58,347,017	19,745,831	372,562,971
Additions	9,427,202	10,864,916	5,882,517	2,188,666	28,363,301
At December 31, 2020	246,472,329	68,289,912	64,229,534	21,934,497	400,926,272

ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION

At January 1, 2019	29,190,268	30,197,822	34,855,871	17,573,108	111,817,069
Charge for the year	4,199,721	1,302,833	4,936,366	807,066	11,245,986
At December 31, 2019	33,389,989	31,500,655	39,792,237	18,380,174	123,063,055
Charge for the year	4,829,973	2,497,412	5,006,050	641,178	12,974,613
At December 31, 2020	38,219,962	33,998,067	44,798,287	19,021,352	136,037,668

NET BOOK VALUE

At December 31, 2020	208,252,367	34,291,845	19,431,247	2,913,145	264,888,604
At December 31, 2019	203,655,138	25,924,431	18,554,780	1,365,657	249,499,916

6. Capital work in progress

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
At January 1,	25,431,877	51,065,766
Expenditure during the period	-	1,934,792
Transfer to property, plant and equipment during the year	-	(27,568,681)
Derecognition of Ile du port project to Deferred Grants (note (b))	(25,952,446)	-
At December 31,	2,614,492	25,431,877

(a) The Capital work in progress comprise of the following projects:

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Ile du Port Road & Utilities construction	-	25,348,696
La Retraite development	1,333,792	-
SFA Headquarters	654,868	-
Aquaculture facilities	179,088	-
Other projects	446,744	83,181
	2,614,492	25,431,877

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

(b) The Authority derecognised SR. 25,952,446 being the total cost of completed project of Ile du Port infrastructure development carried out for the Government of Seychelles from grant received from the European Union. Since there is no asset created for the Authority from the completed project, the amount has been derecognised to o Deferred Grants (also refer Note 13 (a)).

7. Investment in financial assets

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Financial assets at amortised cost:		
Ordinary shares (unquoted) in:		
Indian Ocean Marine Limited	29,986	29,986
Praslin Ocean Farm Limited	25,000	25,000
	<u>54,986</u>	<u>54,986</u>

8. Fisheries Development Fund

The Fisheries Development Fund is a revolving fund, and its purpose is to finance the development of the economy of local fishing industry in Seychelles. It is funded by the Seychelles Fishing Authority and is being managed by the Development Bank of Seychelles. The loans are granted over 1 to 10 years and bear interest at rate of 3% per annum.

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(a) Movements in balances held with Development Bank of Seychelles:

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Balance held with Development Bank of Seychelles	19,713,818	25,607,942
Loans and receivables	36,237,993	33,161,637
Receivables from Development Bank of Seychelles	413,051	156,897
Payables and accruals	(315,998)	(155,258)
EU retention fee payable	(13,200)	(12,200)
	<u>56,035,664</u>	<u>59,010,674</u>

Analysed as under:

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Funds under management	66,213,891	66,213,891
Revenue deficit (note (d))	(10,178,227)	(7,203,217)
	<u>56,035,664</u>	<u>59,010,674</u>

(a) Loans and receivables

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Gross loans and receivables	54,337,223	47,212,605
Less: interest in suspense	(3,587,778)	(2,410,188)
Less: provision for credit impairment (note (b))	(14,511,452)	(11,640,780)
	<u>36,237,993</u>	<u>33,161,637</u>

(b) Provision for credit impairment

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
At January 1,	54,337,223	47,212,605
Increase in provision for credit impairment	(3,587,778)	(2,410,188)
At December 31,	<u>36,237,993</u>	<u>33,161,637</u>

(c) Prior adjustment

	As previously stated	As restated
	SR	SR
Fisheries Development Fund - Liability	69,403,864	59,010,674
Funds held under Fisheries Development Fund - Asset	(57,690,464)	(59,010,674)
At December 31,	<u>11,713,400</u>	<u>33,161,637</u>
Difference charged to retained surplus as prior year adjustment		(11,713,400)

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

(d) Movements in fund

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Income		
Interest income	470,639	897,084
At December 31, Application fees received	3,000	10,000
	<u>473,639</u>	<u>907,084</u>
Expense		
Management fees	549,227	523,292
Audit fees	28,750	23,000
Charge for credit impairment	2,870,672	2,973,932
	<u>3,448,649</u>	<u>3,520,224</u>
Loss of the year	(2,975,010)	(2,613,140)
Revenue deficit brought forward	(7,203,217)	(4,590,077)
Revenue deficit carried forward	<u>(10,178,227)</u>	<u>(7,203,217)</u>

9. Inventories

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Fuel	537,233	173,837

10. Trade and trade receivables

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Gross trade receivables	52,908,250	22,572,108
Less: provision for credit impairment (note (a))	(865,988)	(848,480)
Net trade receivables	52,042,262	21,723,628
Prepayments for fuel purchase	-	4,169,715
Due from Government of Seychelles	1,944,387	1,944,387
Other receivables	4,312,167	636,363
	<u>58,298,816</u>	<u>28,474,093</u>
Movements in provision for credit impairment:		
At January 1,	(848,480)	836,480
Increase in provision for credit impairment	(17,508)	12,000
At December 31,	<u>(865,988)</u>	<u>848,480</u>

(a) The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the fair value of each class of receivable.

11. Cash and cash equivalent

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Cash on hand	708,629	293,278
Bank Balances	126,115,180	55,609,510
Treasury deposits	70,381,942	46,882,295
	<u>197,205,751</u>	<u>102,785,083</u>

Certain trading and operating account balances held with the Treasury Department totaling to SR. 2,582,749.90 were written off during the year. This was based on the confirmation from Treasury Department dated February 18, 2022 that stated that those balances were written off in their books since the Authority became financially autonomous body from December 31, 2019 from its budget dependent status earlier.

12. Assigned capital

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Assets from government on inception	1,122,800	1,122,800

The Authority received contributions from the Government of Seychelles for certain assets at its inception to which there were no further movements to this which was classified as Assigned Capital representing contribution other than cash from the owner of the Authority.

13. Deferred grants

Deferred Grants for Property, plant and equipment

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
At the beginning of the year	263,980,693	264,278,543
Received from other projects	389,841	1,207,519
Received from European Union	6,066,266	10,034,792
	<u>270,436,800</u>	<u>275,520,854</u>
Less: Amortisation for the year	(11,841,205)	(11,540,161)
Derecognition of Ile du port infrastructure for Government (note a)	(25,952,446)	
	<u>232,643,149</u>	<u>263,980,693</u>

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Analysed as:		
European Union	127,029,896	153,263,864
Japanese Corporation	99,029,612	103,331,707
African Development Bank	1,713,344	1,807,429
Government and other projects	4,870,297	5,577,693
	232,643,149	263,980,693

(a) The Authority carried out infrastructure development for the Government of Seychelles at the Ile du Port from grant received from the European Union that was previously recognised under Deferred Grants. During the financial year under review, the completed project was reclassified from Capital work in progress. Since no asset was created from the grant for the Authority, cost of completed project of SR. 25,952,446 was derecognised from Deferred Grants.

14. Credits held for future projects

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Movements in balances during the year:		
At January 1,	49,229,664	48,913,307
Received during the year	67,208,960	42,557,960
Available for utilisation	116,438,624	91,471,268
Utilised during the year:		
Fisheries facilities development	(12,529,231)	(9,176,346)
Research and development costs	(15,716,795)	(17,256,277)
Monitoring control, surveillance and enforcement costs	(10,363,942)	(5,521,960)
Other expenditure	-	(302,454)
Transfer to deferred grants for capital assets	(6,066,266)	(10,034,972)
Exchange rate fluctuation	1,641,437	30,126
	73,403,827	49,229,664

Source of funding for the above projects:

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
European Union	65,130,966	40,874,000
Japanese Corporation	4,414,175	4,414,175
Other projects	3,858,686	3,941,489
	73,403,827	49,229,664

European Union

The Authority is responsible for managing the fishing licenses agreement between the European Union and the Government of Seychelles and overseeing the compliance of conditions stipulated in the agreement. Funds received were utilised to support the development of sustainable fisheries policy and fisheries infrastructure. The European Union is also the main source of finance for major projects such Onshore facilities which were completed during the year.

Japanese Corporation

The Japanese Government awarded a grant to the Government of Seychelles consisting mainly of main Providence fishing quay, equipment, and fishing gear. The Authority is responsible for managing the equipment, and disposal of the fishing gear and for the management of the proceeds in accordance with the conditions of the grant. At the end of 2014, the unutilised credits were still being held by the Ministry of Finance.

Other projects

Multiple minor grants were received in the year. Funds received were utilized for consultancy services and other miscellaneous expenditure.

15. Employee benefit obligations

(a) Statement of financial position

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Movements during the year:		
At January 1,	9,842,046	7,980,336
Provision made for the year (note (c))	2,883,266	2,252,834
Paid during the year	837,273	(391,124)
At December 31,	11,888,039	9,842,046

(b) The Authority recognised and provided for employee benefit obligations arising on account of gratuity based on the regulations applicable to parastatal organisations and length of service severance compensation based on the applicable regulations of Seychelles Employment Act, 1999 (as amended).

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

16. Other payables

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
License fees received in advance	41,667,309	26,275,048
Annual leave provision	4,421,098	2,282,540
Accrued expenses and other payables	17,221,595	14,504,276
	63,310,002	43,061,864

17. Revenue

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Income for ice operations	2,711,514	4,670,621
Income from sea cucumber fishery	1,604,776	1,335,109
Net & container fees	6,466,848	5,167,558
Fees from non-embarking seamen	4,486,002	555,476
Registration & license fee (local)	523,950	543,408
Registration & license fee (foreign)	133,768,745	108,042,493
VMS management and communication fee	1,845,963	2,846,529
Rental	9,879,537	7,576,616
Sale of fuel	15,657,004	22,580,117
Fuel incentives	9,194,775	10,936,152
Excess catch surcharge	75,183,419	60,803,492
Environmental Fee	3,100,550	-
Compliance fee	71,500	66,000
Other revenue	60,000	65,000
	264,554,583	225,188,571

18. Other income

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Sundry income	151,803	172,624
Dividend income	205,800	308,700
Divers, farmers and fishermen registration fee	584,952	-
Sales of oil and lubricants	-	360,968
Profit on disposal of assets	398,900	-
Auction sale income	18,525	-
EEZ application fees	547,369	433,221
	2,267,315	1,275,513

19. Employee costs

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Salaries and wages	58,313,030	42,658,853
Members' emoluments (note (a))	515,971	533,152
Provision for employee benefit obligation (note 15)	2,883,266	2,252,834
	61,712,267	45,444,839

(a) Board Members' emoluments:

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Nirmal Shah - Chairperson (January 2020)	8,000	86,854
Cyril Bonnelame - Chairman (February to March 2020)	16,000	-
Cyril Bonnelame - Chairman & interim CEO (April to Oct 2020)	225,000	-
Eugene Vidot - Board member (January to December 2020)	45,200	64,400
Keith Andre - Board member (January to December 2020)	45,200	64,400
Roy Clarisse - Board member (January to December 2020)	83,278	129,757
Rebecca Loustau-Lalanne - Board member (January to December 2020)	82,493	129,757
Nan Constant - Board secretary (January to December 2020)	10,800	57,984
	515,971	533,152

- Salaries and wages comprise of gross salaries, wages, allowances, leave salary, employer pension contribution, staff insurance and other staff welfare.
- The Authority is required to deduct personal income tax from all emoluments paid to the employees at applicable rates and comply with the provisions of Income and Non-Monetary Benefit Act, 2010 (as amended).
- Members' allowances comprise of yearly emoluments and certain increases pertaining to the prior years.

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

20. Operating and other expenses

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Auditor's remuneration	239,700	253,800
Advertising and sales promotion	422,467	364,246
Provision for credit impairment	17,508	12,000
Contracted services	1,862,527	1,523,240
Electricity and water charges	380,312	604,560
Fuel and local conveyance	1,315,140	914,307
Indian ocean tuna commission expenses	1,627,104	1,242,000
Insurance	408,228	202,253
IUU Vessel costs	879,379	749,384
Printing, stationery and postage	835,779	749,902
Rental expenses	2,731,017	189,750
Write off of old treasury balances/(reversal of prior year payables)	2,582,750	(241,954)
Repairs and maintenance	2,620,847	1,714,076
Security expenses	4,187,253	2,759,952
Training expenses	3,332,963	3,364,661
Travelling expenses	439,095	3,783,488
Telephone and internet	1,988,487	1,626,697
Vehicle expenses	274,948	536,456
Other expenses	1,035,725	897,471
	27,181,229	21,246,289

21. Research and development costs

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Aquaculture Master Plan project	12,540,002	12,564,748
Research boat expenses - repairs and maintenance	394,688	997,768
Utilities	1,513,165	-
Sundry research projects	1,268,940	3,673,761
	15,716,795	17,236,277

22. Monitoring control, surveillance and enforcement costs

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Satellite communication costs	7,589,393	3,029,318
Patrol expense	2,774,549	2,492,542
	10,363,942	5,521,860

23. Fisheries facilities development

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Fuel expenses (note (a))	25,101,020	33,366,918
Fishing boat owner association - coastal fishery development	241,842	233,318
Publication and awareness	115,720	29,392
Surplus on fisheries development loans (note 8)	-	(3,057,718)
Training and university costs	13,883	-
Workshop, conferences and travelling	61,250	158,498
Infrastructure development	6,066,266	10,034,792
Seamen expenses	218,100	-
Seamen salary adjustment	8,919,703	-
Renovation and maintenance of fishing facilities	4,864,656	2,835,819
Utilities	9,543,524	2,194,257
Other fisheries support expense (note (b))	3,680,745	2,210,518
Support provided to Seychelles Maritime Academy	8,000,000	-
Other expenses	-	142
	66,826,709	48,205,936

- a. As part of promoting artisanal fishing, the Government of Seychelles, through the Authority, subsidizes this activity through refund of tax component from the cost of fuel utilized by the fisherman.
- b. As part of Covid Support Program, The Government of Seychelles, through the Authority, purchased fish from artisanal and semi-industrial fishermen that the processors and exporters were refusing to purchase due to a lack of export. The Authority intended to resell this fish to general public and process the balance into finished products such as sausages and burgers for sale. However, since certain fish stock was spoiled and certain unsold finished stock expired, the Authority incurred a loss of SR. 1,776,622 from this venture that was charged to account head "Other Fisheries Support Expenses".

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

24. Capital commitments

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Approved and contracted regarding work in progress	15,754,678	596,672
Approved but not contracted	-	-
	15,754,678	596,672

25. Contingent liabilities

There were no other contingent liabilities as at December 31, 2020 (2019 : SR. Nil).

26. Events after the reporting date

There have been no material events occurring after the reporting date that require adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial statements.

27. Corona virus pandemic

A corona virus pandemic affecting the global and Seychelles economies has broken out at the end of March 2020. This has severely affected the financial, commercial, and economic transactions, retail, logistics and distribution and the production and supply chains worldwide. The liquidity, solvency and existence of business entities has come under severe stress. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted and may continue to impact the business operations, including employees, customers, partners, and communities, and there is substantial uncertainty in the nature and degree of its continued effects over the financial year 2021. The extent to which the Covid-19 pandemic impacts the business going forward will depend on numerous evolving factors that cannot be reliably predicted, including the duration and scope of the pandemic; governmental, business and individuals' actions in response to the pandemic; and the impact on economic activity including the possibility of recession or financial market instability. These factors may adversely impact consumer, business, and government spending in the economy and on the customers' ability to pay for products and services on an ongoing basis.

The main source of income of the Country is from tourism and fisheries sectors and the source of the country's consumption of food, beverage and consumables are imported. The Country is badly affected due to the closure of hotels and restaurants on one hand and depleted foreign currency resources with increase in exchange rates on the other hand due to the severe impact on the inflows of foreign exchange in the country. The Country has taken measures to open up for tourism towards the end of March 2021 with certain restrictions to bring the economy back to normal. The Directors have considered the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and ascertained that the going concern of the Authority shall not get affected although businesses have considerably reduced due to the impact of the pandemic.

Seychelles Fishing Authority's 35th Anniversary Celebration

Celebrating 35 years of achievements

On 31st August 2019, SFA celebrated its 35th anniversary with an exhibition and open day at the fishing port next to the SFA head office, to showcase the authority's achievements through its core Divisions and Sections, during its 35 years of existence. The Authority was set up on 31st August 1984 with the establishment of the SFA Act, replacing the Seychelles Industrial Fisheries Authority, which was initiated in 1983 with the development of industrial tuna fishing in Seychelles.

The open day and exhibition showcased SFA's main activities through posters, banners, displays and interactive materials. All the activities organised during the event allowed members of the public to interact with the SFA staff to know more about their specific mandates to achieve their vision of **Excellence in sustainable fisheries management and development**. The pictures below capture the different moments at the open day and exhibition.



Section 7

GLOSSARY OF TERMS



Glossary of Terms

ADFIS	Agriculture Disaster and Fisheries Insurance Scheme	FCP	Fisheries Comprehensive Plan
AMR	Anti Microbial Resistance	FCS	Fisheries Enforcement Section
AMSSI	Association of Members of the Sea Cucumber Industry in Seychelles	FDF	Fisheries Development Fund
BAQF	Brood stock Acclimation and Quarantine Facility	FIS	Fuel Incentive Scheme
CBS	Central Bank of Seychelles	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	GIS	Geographic Information System
CIF	Cost Insurance & Freight	GVA	Gross Value Added
CMM	Conservation and Management Measures	HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
COA	Certificate of Authorisation	HLAC	High-Level Aquaculture Committee
COFI	Committee of Fisheries	HR	Human Resources
CNRS	Centre National de Recherche Scientifique	HRIS	Human Resources Information System
CPI	Consumer Price Index	ICT	Information & Communication Technology
CPUE	Catch per Unit Effort	ILO	International Labour Organisation
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	IOT	Indian Ocean Tuna
DBS	Development Bank of Seychelles	IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
DBMS	Database Management System	IPHS	Ile Du Port Handling Services
DFAD	Drifting Fish Aggregated Devices	IRD	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated
EM	Electronic Monitoring	JICA	Japanese Corporation Agency
EIS	Environment Information System	LIENS	Littoral Environnement et Societes
ERS	Electronics Reporting System	MCS	Monitoring and Control Section
Est	Estimated	MMP	Mariculture Master Plan
EU	European Union	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
EURm	Euro million	MRAG	Marine Resources Assessment Group
Exp	Expenditure	MSP	Marine Spatial Plan
FADs	Fish Aggregated Devices	Mt	Metric tonne
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	NBS	National Bureau of Statistic
FBOA	Fishermen and Boat Owners Association	NGO	Non Government Organisation
		NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration

Glossary of Terms

NPOA	National Plan of Action	STC	Seychelles Trading Company
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health	SWIO	South West Indian Ocean
PEMC	Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission	SWIOFC	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Committee
PHVA	Post-Harvest & Value Addition	SWIOFish	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries
PLMP	Participatory Lobster Monitoring Programme	SWIOFish3	Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project
R&D	Research and Development	TAC	Total Allowable Catch
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation	TGMI	The Guy Morel Management Institute
RFMOS	Regional Fisheries Management Organizations	ToR	Terms of Reference
ROS	Regional Observer Scheme	U.A.E	United Arab Emirates
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community	UniSey-BERI	University of Seychelles Blue Economy Research Institute
SCG	Seychelles Coast Guard	UNODC	United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
SCHA	Sea Cucumber Harvesting Association	US\$m	US Dollar million
SCR'000/m/b	Seychelles Rupee thousand/million/billion	USA	United States of America
SR'000/m/b	Seychelles Rupee thousand/million/billion	VAT	Value Added Tax
Sey	Seychelles	VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
SeyCCAT	Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust	WIO	Western Indian Ocean
SEYPEC	Seychelles Petroleum Company	WIOMSA	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
SFA	Seychelles Fishing Authority	WPICMM	Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures
SFPA	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement	WPTT	Working Party on Tropical Tuna
SIF	Seychelles Island Foundation		
SIH	Système D'Informations Halieutiques		
SIOFA	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement		
SMA	Seychelles Maritime Authority		
SNA	System for National Accounts		
SPDF	Seychelles Peoples Defence Forces		
SR	Seychelles Rupee		
SRC	Seychelles Revenue Commission		
SSDS	Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy		

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