



SFA

Seychelles Fishing Authority

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Excellence in sustainable
fisheries management
and development

Seychelles Fishing Authority ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Dear Minister,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you, this Integrated Annual Report of the Seychelles Fishing Authority for the year ending 2021. This report also includes the Authority's Annual Performance Statement for 2021.

This report was approved by the Board of Directors on 27th January 2023.



Radley Weber
CHAIRPERSON

CONTENT

SECTION 1 Overview & Strategy	5	SECTION 5 Management & Accountability	69
Chairperson's Statement	6	Corporate Governance Practices	70
Chief Executive Officer's Statement	8	Human Resource Management	71
Summary of Key Data	10	Environment, Occupational Health & Safety	72
About the Authority	12	Agreements, Policies and Regulations	74
SECTION 2 Performance & Development	15	SECTION 6 Reports & Financial Statements	77
CEO's Secretariat	16	General Information 2021	78
Finance	20	Statement of Financial Performance 2021	79
Economics Management	22	Directors' Report 2021	80
Statistics Management	24	Independent Auditor Statement 2021	82
Fisheries Management	26	Statement of Financial Position 2021	86
Fisheries Research	32	Statement of Profit or Loss 2021	87
Monitoring, Control and Surveillance	35	Statement of Cash Flow 2021	88
Post Harvest & Value Addition	39	Statement of Changes in Equity 2021	89
Infrastructure & Development	40	Notes to Financial Accounts 2021	90
Fisheries Infrastructure Projects	42	SECTION 7 Glossary of Terms	103
Aquaculture Development	44		
SECTION 3 Fisheries Statistics	47		
Overview	48		
Industrial Fisheries	49		
Semi Industrial Fisheries	54		
Artisanal Fisheries	56		
SECTION 4 Economic Contribution of Fisheries	59		
Overview	60		
Domestic Production	62		
Revenue from Industrial Fishing	63		
Trade in Fish & Fish Products	64		



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)

The year 2021, was when I took over as the Chairperson of the SFA along with a new Board of Directors. Our objective has been and continues to be the improvement of governance, transparency, and accountability of the organization.

This annual report is our means of informing our stakeholders on the state of the fisheries sector. Catch in the industrial fisheries by both Seychelles and non-Seychelles flagged vessels have fluctuated but are still within the long-term range, trade balance of our export vs import is increasing as is the total annual contribution from industrial fishing. However, the fisheries sector GDP, as is currently calculated, has not recovered to pre-Covid-19 level. This is something that the sector will need to address, and it will form a core part of the SFA strategies in the short to medium term.

When I look at SFA as an Authority, I can see that it is an organization that is growing stronger year on year. The financial statements indicate that the organization is financially well-rooted and that it has been fiscally responsible. I am particularly proud to see that in a period of just 18 months, the accounts committee with the hard work of the accounts staff and Director Beatty Hoarau, has been able to complete the financial reports for 2017 to 2021.

After the slump in fisheries sector-related activities caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, things are now moving once again. Infrastructure projects that were delayed have started, and many were completed in 2021. Much more emphasis is now being placed on the management of the resources upon which the sector depends. Our objective is to ensure that all commercial fisheries are actively managed by the end of 2025. The fisheries' resources are our true wealth, and it is their sustainable management that will ensure that the Seychelles fisheries remain sustainable. I remain committed to the SFA's vision of "excellence in sustainable fisheries management and development".

I would like to thank my fellow Directors on the Board of SFA and the management and staff for the work that they have done in 2021 toward this vision.

I invite you to read our annual report and to interact with us. Let us know of your ideas of how we can make things better.

Radley Weber



Providence Fishing Port & Aquaculture Facilities

2021

AT A GLANCE



2021

AT A GLANCE

ARTISANAL FISHERIES

	2020	2021
No. Licence:	522	520
Est. Catch (Mt):	3,460	2,346*

SEMI-INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES

	2020	2021
No. Licence:	36	54
Est. Catch (Mt):	1,484	1,758

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

	2020	2021
Domestic Catch (Mt):	4,944	4,104*
Fish Products (Mt):	63,079	58,980 ↓ 6.4%

PORT INSPECTION
INDUSTRIAL
 No. Insp: 20
 Insp Rate: 2%

SURVEILLANCE
 Aerial Patrols: 33 hrs
 Sea Patrols: 38 days
 Land Patrols: 85 days

CERTIFICATES ISSUED
 Catch: 4,510
 Statistical: 3,182

SFA FINANCIAL

Revenue: SCR 267.1 Million ↑ 1.3%
 Fixed Assets: SCR 282.5 Million ↑ 5.3%
 Grants Utilised: SCR 38.8 Million ↓ 9.8%
 Operating Profit: SCR 99.0 Million ↓ 35.0%

INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES

Revenue 2021: SCR 2,469M ↑ 22%
 Revenue 2020: SCR 2,019M

	Purse Seine Fishery		Long Line Fishery	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
No. Licences:	45	47	163	160
Catch (Mt):	353,675	412,922	31,496	25,340
Landings (Mt):	53,213	62,291	-	-
Transshipment (Mt):	279,861	325,701	18,755	14,577

FISHERIES TRADE BALANCE

	EXPORTS		IMPORTS	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
Volume	64,098 Mt	68,134 Mt	74,768 Mt	74,021 Mt
Value	SCR 4,995m	SCR 5,268m ↑ 5%	SCR 2,199m	SCR 2,267m ↑ 3%

* Artisanal catch data was missing for semester 2 (2nd half of the year, 2021) at the time of producing this report

* Domestic catch includes full year for semi-industrial and semester 1 only for artisanal catch data at the time of producing this report

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 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 January 2021, the board's Chairperson was Mr. Cyril Bonnelame and other members were, Eugene Vidot, Keith Andre, Roy Clarisse, and Rebecca Loustau-Lalanne. From February 2021 to the end of December 2021, Mr. Radley Weber was the Chairperson and the new appointed board members were, Eugene Vidot, Roy Clarisse, Aubrey Harris, Beatty Hoarau, Marc Gonthier, Joseph Tirant, Audriana Dine and Franky Laporte. Mr. Nichol Elizabeth was the CEO for the year 2021.

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

New SFA Board Appointed by the President

Mandated for the period February 2021 to February 2024

President Wavel Ramkalawan appointed the new SFA board and its Chairperson, Mr. Radley Weber on the 21st of February 2021 for a period of 3 years. Mr. Weber and the new board members bring a wide range of experience in business, the fishing industry and governance, and are mandated to assist the Government of Seychelles in the promotion and further development of the fishing industry in order to further diversify the economy. Below are the board members profiles.



Mr. Radley Weber

Mr. Radley Weber is currently the Managing Director of La Cave a Vins, Vetivertech (a leading provider of solar PV in Seychelles) and the Independent School. He also has extensive leadership experience in the fish processing industry. Equipped with a BSc. in Chemistry and an MSc. in Technology for Development, Mr. Weber served as the Director of the Department of Industry from 1985 to 1988. He served as the CEO of Conserveries L'Océan Indien and later Indian Ocean Tuna (IOT) from 1989 to 1998. He was a director of the Oceana Fisheries from 1999 to 2008.



Mr. Roy Clarisse

Mr. Roy Clarisse is the Principal Secretary for Fisheries in the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy since March 2021. He holds a BSc. in Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence, from the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom. He began his professional career in 1990 as a computer analyst/programmer and later joined the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission as Systems Manager. He joined the SFA in 2000 where he held several senior management positions including; ICT Manager, Manager of the Fisheries Management Division, Deputy CEO and Acting CEO until 2016 when he was appointed as Special Advisor for Fisheries. Mr. Clarisse has been a director on several boards.



Mr. Beatty Hoarau

Educated at the Seychelles College, Mr. Beatty Hoarau, started his career at Barclays Bank PLC, where he worked for 31 years before leaving to start a joint fishing enterprise. In 2011 he was appointed to the SFA board of directors, where he served until 2015. He is a founder and member of the Fishermen and Boat Owners Association. Beside his banking and fishing experiences, Mr. Hoarau has been a Presiding Officer in all elections held between 1992 and 2011. He was a member of the Electoral Commission between 2011 and 2018.



Mr. Aubrey Harris

Mr. Aubrey Harris is a consultant with a long and distinguished career in fisheries. He completed his BSc. (Hon) in Marine Biology from the University of Bangor in 1977. Between 1977 and 1981, he occupied the post of Fisheries Officer and Chief Fisheries Officer, in the Fisheries Division in Seychelles. Mr. Harris later moved to Australia where he held several posts including Experimental Scientist, Division of Fisheries, CSIRO, and the Manager, Effects of Fishing project, BRS, Australia until he joined the FAO in 1999 where he occupied the posts of Senior Fisheries Officer and the Secretary of the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission until 2017.





Mr. Joseph Tirant

Mr. Joseph Tirant started his career in the fish processing industry at Fishing Development. In 1985, he joined the Seychelles Marketing Board Fish Division where he held several senior positions over a 10-year period. Following the closure of the Division in 1995, Mr. Tirant became the Managing Director of Oceana Fisheries Company Ltd, a post he occupied until his retirement in 2013.



Mr. Eugene Vidot

Mr. Eugene Vidot has extensive experience in sourcing, supplying and logistics solution for various industries. He founded the Sey-Afrique Exporters CC in South Africa in 1982 where he sourced supplies for the Seychelles' industrial sectors. Mr. Vidot later became a partner and Company Director of Woodworks Unlimited (Pty) Ltd and Modern Construction (Pty) Ltd in Seychelles. He has occupied the post of director of both companies since their creation.



Mr. Marc Gonthier

Mr. Marc Gonthier is a self-employed fisherman from Praslin since 2013, with extensive international experience in the security service industry. Educated at the Modern School on Praslin, he started his career with Tropicar as a security escort for the US Navy officials during their visits to the island. Mr. Gonthier later joined Mikimoto, a high end jeweller based in Bond Street, London, where he worked as a security escort for 28 years before he moved back to the Seychelles in 2013. Mr. Gonthier managed a car repair business in Dubai for three years.



Mr. Franky Laporte

Mr. Franky Laporte has extensive experience in port and road infrastructure development and project management. He started his career in the Land Transport Division in 1988 as a Traffic Engineering Technician, whereby over 16 years he gathered local and international experience in the design and construction of road networks and urban traffic management. In 2004, Mr. Laporte joined the Seychelles Ports Authority to head the Port Project Infrastructure Department, a post he holds until today. Over the last 18 years, he has spearheaded several port-related infrastructure projects and has worked in close collaboration with the Seychelles Fishing Authority on numerous fisheries infrastructure projects.

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 2021, SFA continued to focus on delivering the key projects in its Strategic plan 2018-2020 which was extended to cover the period of 2021 in order to further transform the SFA and improve the quality of service it provides to the fishing industry with the aim of ensuring orderly development of the sector while ensuring the management of fisheries resources and the socio-economic benefits derived from them.

Strategic Plan 2018-2020

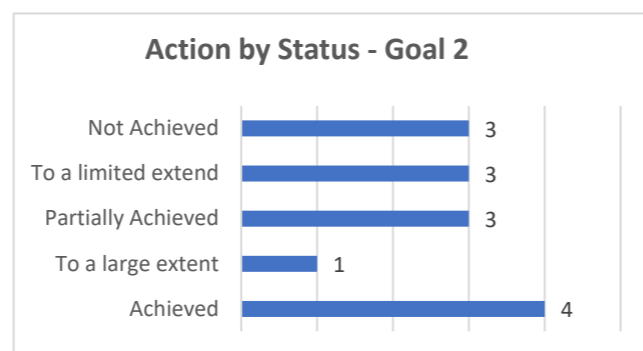
After the appointment of the new Board of Directors in February 2021, a performance review of the strategic plan implementation was carried out and presented to the board in April 2021.

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

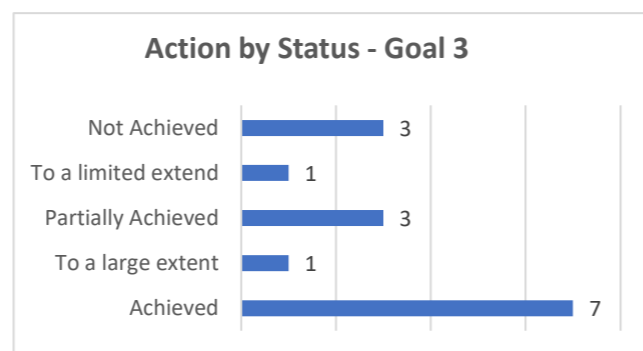
- 1. Put in place effective governance arrangements:** Project SFA as the legal authority among various stakeholders through acceptance of responsibility for its decision and actions and reinforcing mechanisms for accountability and good governance. This includes SFA gaining autonomy over its operation 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.

for oversight by and reporting to the Board of Directors, the establishment of procedures for reporting to the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture and other oversight agencies, strengthening of the Compliance unit's human capacity, and strengthening of the partnership with other enforcement agencies (local and regional) for exchange of surveillance information, joint sea/air patrols, decision making and capacity building.

In terms of institutional strengthening, four out of fourteen (29%) priority actions had been achieved. These included the establishment of strategic partnerships with local and international scientific research, fisheries enforcement, and other institutions, the replacement, and expansion of the SFA's fleet of vehicles to improve service delivery, the introduction of a new employee scheme of service, and the maintenance of an updated online searchable database of publications in SFA's documentation center.

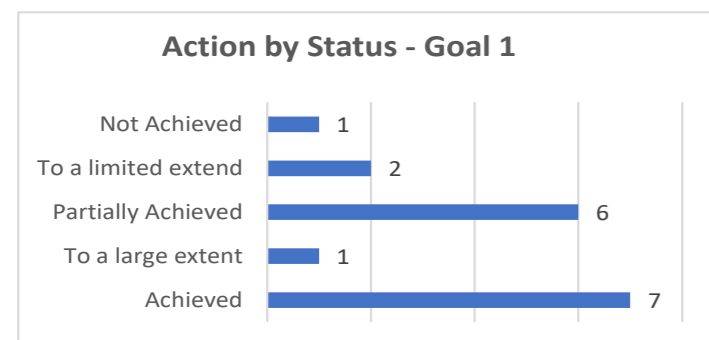


Seven of fifteen (47%) priority action plans under the third goal had been achieved by the end of April 2021 including the formulation of management plans, which include biological, economic, and social aspects, for all local commercial fisheries; Institutionalize stakeholders' engagement in fisheries resource management, and the institutionalizing of stakeholders' engagement in fisheries resource management.



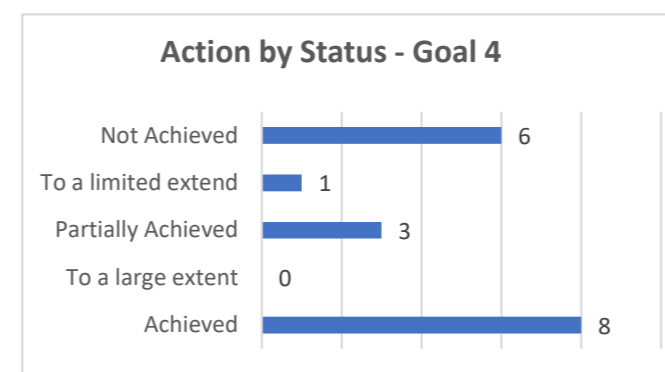
Implementation status

By the end of April 2021, SFA had achieved seven out of seventeen (44%) of the priority actions under its first goal. This included gaining its Financial and Administrative Autonomy on 1st January 2019, moving from a government budget-dependent entity to a Financial Autonomous State-Owned Enterprise' status. Other achievements included the implementation of a new organization structure for improved service delivery, the setting up of a project unit, the establishment of procedures

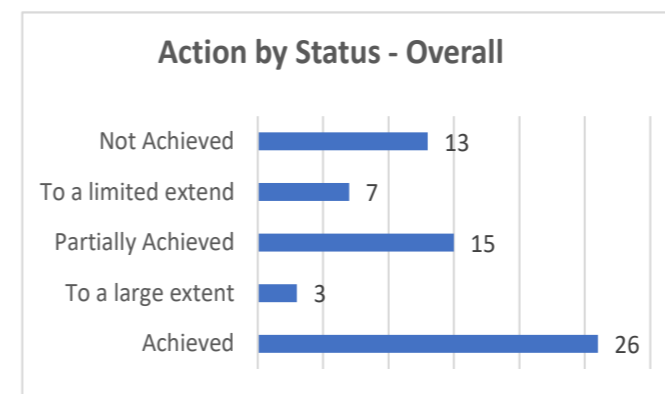


SFA also introduced measures to mitigate impacts to by-catch in the tuna fisheries as well as harvest strategies for vulnerable commercially targeted species. An infrastructure development plan was developed in line with the fisheries and aquaculture management, and the sector development plans. The SFA prioritized infrastructure development that promotes the development of new fisheries, aquaculture, local processing and value addition. It facilitated and supported the construction of regional fisheries and aquaculture facilities.

For goal 4, targeted at optimising the economic and social benefits of fisheries, eight out of eighteen (44%) priority actions had been achieved. These included promoting the economic viability within the artisanal fisheries, identifying the necessary facilities required for value-addition activities, supporting the private sector in the development of new value-added products according to market need, promoting the development of seafood certification schemes for high-end markets, supporting the development of the aquaculture sector and harmonizing the processes for issuing of licenses to include health, safety and security aspects for boats and fishers. SFA also raised awareness of the local population on the nutritional benefits of fish consumption and organize post-harvest handling training for fishermen and people working in fish processing plants.



Given that overall SFA had achieved or achieved to a large extent 29 out of the 64 (46%) identified priority action plans, it was decided by the new board of directors to further extend the strategic plan for another one-year period to allow SFA to complete the majority of identified priority actions under the 2018-2020 plan.



Legal

During the 2021 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:

- The Mahé Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Regulations, 2021 was published in the Official Gazette on 13th September 2021. It was officially launched on the 1st of October 2021 with the regulations coming into force on the 1st of January 2022.
- Further to the publication of the Aquaculture Regulations 2020 in the Official Gazette of 21st December 2020, the regulations came into force on the 1st of August 2021.
- The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) to establish a framework to facilitate collaboration in areas of mutual interest regarding the Shark National Plan of Action (NPOA).
- The signing of several new MOUs with local partners including one with Seychelles Maritime Academy for the use of the SFA's training fishing vessel "Virgo II". An MOU with the Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS) for the use of CBS' portal to process SFA's payments through the Seychelles Electronic Funds Transfer (SEFT), and with the Seychelles Intelligence Services (SIS) on a new Cooperation framework.



Minister Jean-Francois Ferrari delivering his official address during the launching of the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line fisheries Co-Management Plan on the 1st October 2021.

International agreements

New agreements and development of new working relationships with various international partners/forums continued in 2021 to ensure alignment in the application of regulations, the adoption of best practices, and identification of areas for potential collaboration.

The FAO and the SFA signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2021 on the Effort on Combating Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise, Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG).

SFA participated in the 25th session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). Three resolutions were adopted during the session, namely Resolution 21/03 on Harvest Control Rules for Skipjack Tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence, Resolution 21/02 on Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels, and Resolution 21/01 on an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence.

Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

During the 2021 period, the ICT team continued to support the SFA administration with the implementation of several ICT projects. This included the networking of the new offices at Espace Building, the installation of a conference system to support online meetings, and the installation of building security systems including door locks and camera systems at all SFA premises. All servers were moved to the new server room thanks to the installation of new UPS and power system sources.

The ICT team also supported the implementation of the new database system for the Statistics Division, and a new database server for the Research Division.

CCTVs were installed at the Providence Fishing Port and at the Providence warehouse. To improve performance, new fibre optic lines were installed. As at end of 2021, CCTV feed was available for viewing only in the Providence server room. New microwave links will be established in 2022 to provide a feed to the SFA administrative building at Espace Building.

Property Management

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

The Section's responsibilities include:

- Working with the Legal Section to prepare new or renew existing leases ranging from 1 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 Department with the timely collection of rent.

In 2021, the section continued to update the property register and support the ongoing exercise to transfer land from the Ministry of Lands and Housing to the SFA. The section also supported the Finance Division in the timely collection of rent from all SFA's tenants, and implemented the following key actions:

- Organised the official site visit with EU representatives to view major EU funded infrastructure projects that were recently completed including at La Retraite, Perseverance, Bel Ombre, and ongoing projects such as at Anse Aux Pins, Cascade, along with proposed new project sites including at the Processing Zone and at the supporting facilities.
- Coordinated the official opening of the Perseverance temporary market and assisted with all land issues for the project.
- Transfer of land allocation of approximately 73,000m² on Ile Du Port to SFA for the new processing zone and other supporting infrastructure and services.
- Initiated the procedures for land survey on Ile du Port. This activity was far behind schedule due to major delays as a result of the sand stockpile that was still occupying the area.
- Launched the concept design for the net repair area with the aim of having better control and management of the area and increasing revenue collection from the rental of lands for net repair, container stockings, and for loose storage.



The EU delegation visited the La Retraite artisanal fishing facility in November 2021.

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 including the media on the development of fisheries infrastructure as well as for the development and amendments of the different policies.

In 2021 the SFA actively participated in the preparation of the calendar year 2019 and 2020 Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) Report, which was released on 15th April and 15th December 2021. Seychelles was the first country to submit a national report to the FiTI. The report summarizes key information on the status of Seychelles' fisheries sector and details the extent of the country's compliance with the FiTI Standard. The preparation of annual transparency report for the fisheries sector is a way of ensuring that the sector remains transparent and continues to attract the right types of investments.

Outlook

In 2022, the SFA will focus on completion of the outstanding strategic goals of the 2018-2020 Strategic Plan and the development of the new Strategic Plan for the year 2022-2024. The Authority will continue to develop fisheries infrastructures in the different districts and ensure the timely completion of project that are under way.

During the year the internal Lands Committee of the SFA comprising of the CEO, PHVA, Legal and Property Management, met with various investors who had received land at the Providence Zone 6 for an exchange for new plots on Zone 14 and at the new processing zone on Ile Du Port. Some investors opted not to proceed, and necessary formalities were undertaken for the different type of cases.



CEO Elizabeth shows Investors the plots available on the new Ile Du Port fish processing zone

Workshops and conferences

Both Senior and Junior Management staff participated in several local and international workshops/conferences in 2021 with the aim of building staff capacity and ensuring that Seychelles' positions were being represented.



Minister Ferrari, SFA's Board members and CEO at the stakeholders meeting on La Digue (Oct 2021)

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 scheme. 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 Finance Division is 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 the fisheries sector. This section has nine staff.
- The Accounts Payable Section is responsible for controlling, monitoring, and managing the SFA's expenditures and spending. This section has 14 staff.
- The Fuel Claim section is responsible for processing fuel claim receipts from boat owners, which is then forwarded to the Seychelles Revenue Commission for transfer of payment to the boatowners through the Government accounts. This section has 5 staff.

In 2021, The Finance Division continued to build its capacity to provide efficient and effective financial support and advice to facilitate decision making in the different Divisions of the SFA. A new Deputy Financial Controller was recruited to assist with the budgetary process and control, tax administration, and Financial Control Reporting for the SFA.

After the installation of QuickBooks in 2020, the Division has been able to fully automate all its accounting transactions. This continued to bring improvement in financial reporting and the management of budget in 2021. During the year the Authority settled all its outstanding tax obligations from previous years after becoming a Financial Autonomous State-Owned Enterprise.

In 2021, the Authority paid the Government of Seychelles a dividend of SCR50m for the year 2020. An Interim dividend of SCR75m was also declared and paid during the year, showing the Authority's commitment to continue to support the Government of Seychelles.

The Finance Division worked diligently with the Authority's audit firm, Baker Tilly, in 2021 to complete the Annual Financial Statements (AFS) for 2017, 2018 and 2019. All the AFS were completed and signed off during the year, thus bringing the Authority nearer to full compliance with its reporting requirements.



As part of its automation strategy, the Division purchased and installed a new payroll system and an asset management system in 2020 to integrate with its main accounting system. In 2021, the payroll system was successfully implemented, while work is still ongoing to fully utilise the asset register.

During the year the Finance Division submitted all the monthly financial reports to the Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission (PEMC) in line with the PEMC Act 2013. There was a delay in the submission of the 2020 audited statement due to a backlog from previous years.

In 2022, the Finance Division will continue to provide efficient and effective financial support and advice to the different divisions of SFA to support decision-making. The Division will continue with its staff improvement and development program to meet the State-Owned Enterprise (SoE's) financial reporting requirement. It will also continue to work with the Property Management Section to further improve the collection of debts and contribute to Government's revenue through the payment of dividends.

FEATURE STORY

Economic Impact of the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry

Whilst sea cucumbers do not play a key nor subsidiary part in the daily diet of the local population, its commercialization plays an important role in the socio-economic development of Seychelles. With a need to better understand the dynamics of the sector, the Seychelles Fishing Authority undertook an 'Economic Impact Assessment of the Sea cucumber Fishery and Industry' to assess its economic impact on sales, income, employment, value-added and other aspects to the Seychelles' economy. Information derived from the report was based on a sample survey administered to boat owners and processors as well as data collected by the Authority and other partners.



For the 2019/2020 season (October 2019-May 2020), the sea cucumber fishing fleet landed 371,599 pieces of sea cucumbers representing a 34% and 40% increase from the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 seasons, respectively. This translated to a 99% utilisation of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for this fishery. This is an improvement of 28 percentage points compared to the previous season. For the calendar year 2020, a total of 376,181 sea cucumbers were landed with an estimated sales revenue of SCR 51.9 million. Increases in ex-vessel prices were observed in 2019 for two out of the 3 allowable species namely the flower teatfish (25%) and the white teatfish (35%). Seychelles' sea cucumbers are processed into a dried state and are mainly exported by air to Hong Kong. Export trends indicate that export is on the rise despite a marginal fall in both the number of pieces and weight by 1% and 4% respectively during 2018-2019.

The sea cucumber industry directly supports an estimated 185 jobs generating an income impact of approximately SCR29.6 million. The industry generated a value-added impact of SCR43.5 million, with the fishing component and processing/exporting components contributing SCR31.2 million and SCR12.3 million respectively.



Photo courtesy: Today Newspaper



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 period 2021, the Division commissioned several reports analysing the economic impacts of the fisheries sector and its contribution to the national economy including:

- An Employment Survey and Capacity Needs Assessment of the Fisheries Sector. The study was undertaken by MRAG and, was completed at the end of January 2021. The first draft report was submitted and circulated to the Project Steering Committee for review in March 2021 and the report's validation was targeted for January 2022.
- Report on Economic Impact of the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry completed in September 2021. The report indicated that the industry directly supports about 185 jobs and generated an income of approximately SCR29.6m per annum. Overall, the industry generated a value-added impact of SCR43.5m, with the fishing component and processing/exporting components contributing SCR31.2m and SCR12.3m respectively.
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of the Mahé Plateau Co-Management Plan under the SWIOFish3 projects to determine mitigation strategies to reduce the adverse effects produced by the measures under the plan.

The Economic Management Division also worked 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. This included assessing applications for access to these facilities and 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/boat owners and value-added producers, insurance to protect their investment and their employees, fuel and commercial vehicle excise tax incentives as well as Value Added Tax (VAT) exemption on imported materials and refund of VAT on goods purchased locally.

Credit facilities to the fisheries sector

Access to credit facilities provides a plethora of opportunities to both the public and private sectors. It furthers economic growth by raising capital for a given operation, which usually leads to multiple spillover effects in the economy through creation of jobs and business opportunities. Thus, the ability to gain access to capital is vital for fisheries development.

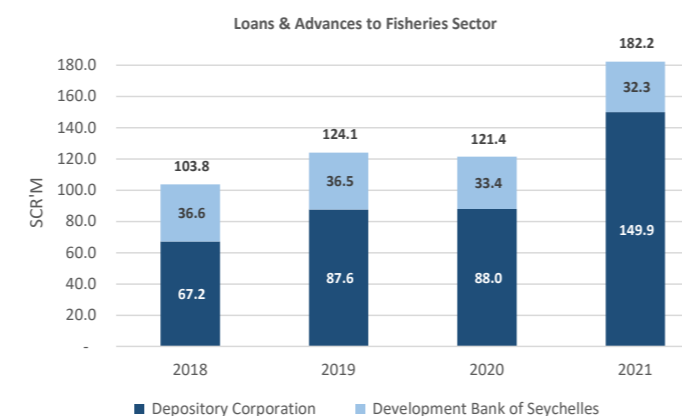
Commercial banks & development bank fisheries loans

According to figures from the Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS) annual report 2021, total loans and advances balance

to the fisheries non-government sector reached a record SCR182.2m in 2021, a 50% increase over 2020's SCR121.4m (Fig. 1). The highest increase was from depository corporations (Banks) which observed a 70% growth to reach SCR149.9m in 2021. By economic sectors, credit to the fisheries sector ranks amongst one of the lowest at 2.7% (SCR6.01 billion) balance of loans to the private sector in 2021. However, this was a slight improvement over the 2020 performance, where total fisheries loan balance accounted for only 1.5% of SCR7.8 billion advances.

Loan balances from the Development Bank of Seychelles (DBS), which provides lower interest rates, fell to by 3% over 2020 to SCR32.3m in 2021 as DBS had stopped lending after the Covid-19 outbreak in 2020. However, in 2021, one new loan worth SCR3.5m was approved as a liability transfer from one borrower to another investor.

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



Source: CBS annual report 2021

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 SCR56.77m with SCR19.8m available for lending at the end of 2021. 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 ten years. The loan is available exclusively to Seychellois investors or joint partnerships where the majority shareholders are Seychellois. The Investors are asked to contribute a minimum of 5% of the total project cost.

Artisanal Special Fishing Loan Program

In June 2020, a special scheme under the FDF was launched for the artisanal fisheries sector, with the aim of assisting artisanal fishing boat owners with capital to purchase, repair or replace fishing equipment or undertake minor vessel repair. The maximum loan amount is SCR150,000 at a 1% interest rate with no personal contribution. Three loans were approved under this scheme for SCR0.407m during 2021, compared to 11 at a value of SCR1.48m in 2020. The total FDF asset stood at SCR56.77m at the end of 2021. Table 1 below shows a summary of the FDF funds.

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

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of new loans approved	0	1	17	4
Value of new loans approved	-	1.50	10.89	0.56
Number of Loans disbursed	0	1	17	4
Value of loan disbursed	-	1.50	9.31	0.47
Outstanding Balance (SCR'M)	44.38	33.16	36.24	51.88
FDF Funds Available (SCR'M)	22.22	26.02	20.13	19.82
Admin fee (SCR'M)	(0.39)	(0.17)	(0.33)	(0.59)
Total FDF Asset (SCR'M)	66.21	59.01	56.04	56.77

Blue Investment Fund

The Blue Investment Fund, launched in April 2019, is a US\$12m fund capitalised through 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 and Seychellois businesses that focus on value chains of managed pelagic fishes (tuna and billfish) and aquaculture. This includes businesses that produce seafood goods, offer 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 2021, four loan applications had been submitted, but only one had passed technical approval and was awaiting the approval of the board. The other three applications were unable to move forward due to several administrative issues including EIA approval, exchange of land lease and the completion of Compliance Due Diligence (CDD) procedures.

Agriculture Disaster and Fisheries Insurance Scheme (ADFIS)

The ADFIS, is a voluntary insurance scheme available to fishermen registered with SFA with a maximum vessel value of SCR2m that provides coverage for damage to their vessels



and their machinery in case of perils such as fire, piracy, lightning, and tsunami, as well as third party liability cover, covering loss or damage to property 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 3 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 50% and the beneficiary pays 50% of the premium. By the end of 2021 there were 37 active policies for a total premium value of SCR0.475m compared to 33 policies for a total premium of SCR0.463m in 2020. This shows a low participation level of the 328 registered artisanal & semi-industrial vessels in the scheme. This is expected to change in 2022 when the new SMSA regulation comes into force requiring all fishing vessels to be registered, insured and licensed.

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. The SFA also gets a concession on all fuel for resale for the exclusive purpose of fueling vessels undertaking commercial fishing activities. In 2021 a total value of SCR16.55 was refunded compared to SCR9.19m in 2020.

Value-Added and trades tax concessions

In 2021, 196 VAT application for a value of SCR49.1m was processed, compared to 203 for a value of SCR54m in 2020.

Statistics Management

The Statistics Management Division 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 conducts comprehensive statistical analyses on these fisheries data to enable sound scientific and economic analysis, for improved decision making in support of sustainable fisheries management.

One of the Division's main obligations is to ensure the timely dissemination of fisheries-related statistics to interested local and international stakeholders.

In 2021 the Division restored the fisheries data for 2019 and 2020 which were lost after the ransomware attack in 2020. The statistical bulletin for 2019 and 2020 were published in November 2021.

The Division continued with its plan to upgrade and implement new data management systems with the aim of improving the reliability and timely dissemination of fisheries statistics. The key actions in this area included:

- The introduction of a new logbook module in the SIH for schooners, dropline, sport fishery, and fisheries-related biological data. The modules were tested in a training session in November 2021 and feedback was provided to the consultant for improvements.
- A new web-based version of the Allegro software was made available for testing in November 2021. This new version allows for data capture on tablets at landing sites, thereby reducing delays in data input while improving the monitoring of technicians of the field.
- CEFAS, (Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science) started the development of new R scripts to upgrade the data processing, analytical and reporting system for artisanal fisheries. This will assist in improving decision making in this fishery sector.
- The operationalization of the new data management system for the longline fisheries. The system was developed in the OBSERVE database and replaced the previously used FINS. The change was necessary to have one data management system for all industrial fisheries. The system became operational in November 2021, after training was completed by IRD consultant.
- The completion of the third phase of the project to develop a module for the purse seine fishery in the OBSERVE database with the aim of reducing the amount of data entry and timeliness of report production.

The Statisticians of the Division are members of the T3 Technical Committee. The purpose of the technical committee is to prepare data and update 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). The Committee also provides the opportunity for the experts (scientists, statisticians, and programmers) to meet, discuss and make recommendations on relevant software and procedures updates for purse seine data processing.

Published reports

During the year, the Division produced the Fisheries Statistical Bulletin for the year 2019, and 2020 and the first semester of 2021. The Division was also involved in the preparation of the Seychelles National report for the IOTC scientific meeting (IOTC-2021- SC24-NR22_Rev1_-_Seychelles(1)) and the review of size data from Indian Ocean longline fleets and its utility for stock assessment (IOTC-2021- WPTT23-07).

Capacity development and knowledge sharing

During 2021, the Division did not recruit additional staff. Eleven sampling technicians were transferred to Fisheries Management due to an emerging requirement for team logistic coordination. This new structure will allow shared resources of logistic coordination for both sampling activities and the SFA scientific observer programme. Table 2 below compares staff breakdown for the Division between 2020 and 2021.

Table 2: No. Staff in the Statistics Division

Fisheries	Main tasks	2020	2021
Industrial purse seine	Data capture from logbooks (PS & SV) plus verification, validation	5	4
Industrial purse seine	Sampling onboard vessels	11	-
Industrial long line	Data capture from logbooks, landings and licenses	2	2
Industrial long line	Data capture of sampling data	3	3
Semi-industrial long line	Data capture from logbooks & landings data	1	1
Artisanal	Data collection at landing sites	14	14
Artisanal	Data capture of sampling data	4	4
Statistician	All fisheries	2	2
Total		42	30

Staff of the Division attended training on the new data management system for longline fisheries from May to June 2021 and on the Web based version of SIH on tablet in November 2021.

In 2022, the Division focus is to complete the various statistics projects with the aim of providing near real-time data in support of efficient management of fisheries resources and decision making.

Lobster Fishing Season 2021-2022 Opens

The spiny lobster fishery is managed through seasonal closures and limited access (license-limited) regulations implemented by the Seychelles Fishing Authority. These regulations limit the number of fishers targeting easily accessible coastal and shallow water stocks, where abundance is limited. The stock status is determined annually through the analysis of 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.

The 2020/2021 fishing season was opened from the 21st December 2020 to the 10th March 2021. Due to low catch as a result of decreased fishing efforts, the fishing season was extended to 20th April 2021. The Lobster fishery report for the 2020-2021 season was finalized and circulated during 2021.

Results for the 2020/2021 season indicated that snorkeling was the dominant fishing method. An increase in both the total catch (6.14 Mt) and the number of fishing trips (242 trips) was observed compared to the two previous seasons. Overall, the results for the 2020/2021 season indicate a slight decrease in lobsters' relative abundance, which was attributed to the lobster fishing season being open for two consecutive fishing seasons.

During Q4 2021, the annual survey as part of the Participatory Lobster Monitoring Programme (PLMP) was undertaken. A total of 20 sites were surveyed to assess the status of the lobster stocks. The overall catch of lobsters and the CPUE data for the 2021 PLMP survey indicated that the relative abundance and biomass of all species of lobsters caught had decreased. In addition, a decreasing trend was also observed in the relative abundance and biomass of legal-size lobsters (more than 7.5 cm carapace length). One encouraging sign observed during the 2021 survey was that the number of lobsters under the minimum allowable size (< 7.5 cm carapace length) in the fishery that were sampled was slightly more than the number of legal size lobsters. This suggests that, if enough recovery time is given, the harvestable lobster stock would increase, which will be beneficial for the next fishing season. Based on these results, the lobster fishery was opened on the 17th of December 2021 but was reduced to two months from the usual three months.



The 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 is responsible for promoting the sustainable and transparent utilisation of fisheries resources in Seychelles waters and within the Western Indian Ocean region. This includes the development of new, or amendments to existing, management plans/mandates for various fisheries resources, through participatory multi-stakeholder decision-making processes and the effective implementation of those management plans.

The Division also has the responsibility of ensuring that fishing and other related activities are undertaken in accordance with the Fisheries Act, national regulations, and management or regulatory measures prescribed by 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 welcomed the sampling team of eleven from the Statistics Management Division after restructuring, bringing its total headcount to seventeen. It continued to focus 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 year:

- An IOTC compliance support mission, was organised from the 30th March to the 1st of April 2021 at SFA which focused on improving the quality of the data and information submitted to the IOTC Secretariat. Support was also given to assist in the formulation of an action plan that underpinned ongoing efforts to further strengthen compliance to IOTC management measures and to better meet IOTC's reporting obligations.
- A five-day capacity building activity to strengthen the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures through the use of the E-MARIS application.
- Microsoft Excel at the beginner's level to facilitate task management processes.
- Refresher First Aid training.

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 year:

- Hosted a meeting with stakeholders engaged in the sea cucumber fishing industry and presented results of quota consumptions for the previous four consecutive fishing seasons. A decision was taken to reduce the quota for flower teatfish by 10% from the previous season.
- Continued to work on the development of 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.
- Conducted an FAO Fishing Gear Loss survey focusing on semi-industrial longline and large-scale purse seine around the inner granitic islands of the Seychelles (Mahe, Praslin, La Digue and Silhouette) in its effort to combat abandoned, lost or otherwise, discarded fishing gears.
- Submitted a proposal to IOTC to consider a lower reduction requirement of 10% compared to 15% on catch by the Seychelles-flagged purse seine fleet and a change in the reference year, from catch level of 2015 to the average catch level of 2017-2019. The proposal was approved in the 25th IOTC session.



Participants at the sea cucumber consultative meeting

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. During the year 2021 the Division:

- Organised several meetings to review the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Regulations 2020. The new regulation was gazetted on the 13th of September 2021 and subsequently launched on the 1st of October 2021.
- Worked on a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) to establish a framework for collaboration in areas of mutual interest regarding the shark NPOA. The management of shark is an area of mutual interest for both parties.
- Reviewed the sea cucumber quota allocation for the 2020/21 fishing season. Subsequently, the Sea cucumber Management Advisory Committee's decided to allocate the unused quota to sea cucumber processors for redistribution to their associated vessels as opposed to the quota being redistributed by the Authority.
- Signed in November 2021 a Memorandum of Understanding with the FAO on the Effort on Combating Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise, Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG).

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

The Division worked towards ensuring that fisheries practices in Seychelles remained in line with international standards. During the year 2021, the following was achieved:

- The country implemented 80-90% of the IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.
- Improvement in data collection from the industrial fishing fleet in the Indian Ocean after a decline in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. The observer program was intensified resulting in coverage of over 53% of all vessels trip in 2021, 48% above the minimum 5% coverage required by IOTC's resolution 11/04.
- All vessels in Seychelles' fleet targeting tuna and tuna-line species were issued with the Certificate of Authorization, allowing them to operate in areas outside the Seychelles EEZ managed by the IOTC. This was in line with IOTC's conservation and management measures. 90% of Seychelles' flagged industrial fleet was inspected during the year to ensure that they were operating in accordance with international regulations.
- Reduction of Supply vessels from 6 in 2019, to 4 in 2021 for Seychelles in line with IOTC 19/01 regulation.

Reporting

The Division actively participated and contributed to national and international forums during the year, producing several reports, which included mandatory reports 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 produced reports for the SWIOFC Scientific Committee.

Outlook

The Fisheries Management Division is aiming to produce a management plan for the spanner crab fishery. This is being facilitated through the IKI Fish Path process and will undergo review once completed. The management plan will be informed by a comprehensive stock assessment planned for 2023. The Division will continue to work on the implementation of the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Management Plan, and reinstate the Shark NPOA. The Division will also review the sea cucumber management frameworks, and implement the solutions identified for FADs' management.



An observer keeping records of fish catch taken by a purse seiner

The Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fisheries Co-Management Plan

The Mahé Plateau Trap and Line Fisheries Co-Management Plan Regulation 2020, was officially launched on 1st October 2021 by Minister Jean-Francois Ferrari, the Minister for Blue Economy and Fisheries at the Eden Blue Hotel & Marina.

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

Minister Jean-Francois Ferrari and the Chief Executive Officer of the Seychelles Fishing Authority, Mr Nichol Elizabeth, together with Officers of the Authority and key partners in fisheries, presented the plan that paves the way towards a sustainable trap and line fishery in Seychelles. This is Seychelles' first ever national plan that takes a co-management approach to fisheries management.

The development of this fisheries management plan was initiated in 2007 and significantly developed in 2015. It was approved by Cabinet in 2017 for implementation in two phases. Cabinet also approved the establishment of a Co-management Plan Implementation Committee that would address the concerns raised by stakeholders and fully involve them in the plan's implementation. The Plan was gazetted in February 2020 and its regulations were gazetted in September 2021. Implementation of the regulations started on 1st January 2022

The Implementation Committee now has 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 SCR20,000 will apply for any person who contravenes these regulations.



Guests at the launching ceremony at Eden Blue

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.

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.



CEO Elizabeth addresses the invitees at the launch ceremony

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 2021, 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 in 2020. However after special consideration, the 21/01 resolution allowed Small Island Development States like Seychelles to reduce their catch level by 10% compared to average of 2017–2019 catch level, while larger countries such as the European countries agreed to reduce their catch by 21%. The new quota for the Seychelles fleet was increased to 35,800 Mt in June 2021.

To manage the quota, the overall allocation was linearly distributed amongst the 13 Seychelles flagged purse seine vessels, with an annual allocation of 2,753 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 was 6,393 Mt below the allowable catch of 35,800 Mt at 29,407 Mt in 2021 compared to 33,502 catch volume of 2020. This compliance achievement of the IOTC Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) was a result of several measures including human capacity enhancement during the past years.



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 374 fishing trips were observed on Seychelles-flagged purse seiners during 2017-2021 (Tab. 3). This represents about 9,694 days of observation at sea.



An observer on-board a tuna fishing vessel

Up to 2019, the SFA had been able to increase days at sea observed from 64% in 2017 representing 2,103 fishing operations to 93% by 2019 representing 2,733 fishing operations.

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
2017	96	2,103	64%
2018	92	1,993	69%
2019	94	2,733	93%
2020	44	1,268	39%
2021	48	1,597	53%

However, in 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic brought the deployment schedule to almost a complete halt with only 39% coverage as there was uncertainty around the spread of the virus, and there were no clear health protocols in place. This led companies to not take the risk of taking on observers with the fear of infecting the crew. By mid-2021, SFA was able to ramp up the observer program after the introduction of strict protocols such as proof of negative PCR test 48 hours prior to deployment, thus increasing the number of trips covered from 44 to 48 in 2021 and days at sea by 26% to 1,597 days equivalent to 53% days at sea being covered.

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.

Currently, 10/13 (more than 75%) Seychelles flagged purse seiners have EMS deployed onboard. The recorded footage is punctually viewed by EM officers (dry observers) at the SFA. For the longline fleet, the Authority has sent out notification letters to agents but discussions to install the systems is yet to start.

Sea Cucumber Fishery

Fishing season 2021/2022

The quota allocation for the 2020/21 fishing season was reviewed in March 2021 and it was recommended in the Sea cucumber Management Advisory Committee's meeting in March 2021, that the remaining unused quota be allocated to sea cucumber processors for redistribution to their associated vessels rather than the quota being redistributed by the Authority.

The Seychelles Fishing Authority hosted a meeting with stakeholders engaged in the sea cucumber fishing industry in September 2021 and presented results of quota consumptions for the previous four consecutive fishing seasons.

The results showed that the quota consumption for flower teatfish averaged 78% over the period under review, compared to the other two species, prickly redfish and white teatfish, which were both averaging a 97% consumption.

Based on stakeholders' feedback, it was agreed that the quota for flower teatfish be revised downwards by 10 percent for the 2021/2022 fishing season, given that fishermen were not able to meet the previously set quota of 281, 250 pieces. During the meeting, some sea cucumber fishermen outlined that one of the reasons the quota was not met was due to poor visibility underwater and bad weather, among other reasons.

The new quota was set at 253,125 for the season 2021-2022, which opened on the 8th of October 2021 and lasted to the 7th of June 2022. The quota for prickly redfish and white teatfish remained as per the previous fishing season. SFA in collaboration with stakeholders, will undertake a comprehensive fishery-independent survey during the 2021/2022 fishing season to provide more information on the abundance of sea cucumber.



After the launch of the new season, planning work started for a sea cucumber stock assessment under SWIOFish3. A consultant was recruited to assist with the sampling design and analyses. Sea cucumber fisher were presented with information on the planned stock assessment and had the opportunity to provide their input/raise their concerns at a meeting in September 2021.

The cruise plan for the first and second leg of the survey was completed and circulated, and training was undertaken for SFA staffs and fishers participating in the survey. The first and second leg of the cruise was undertaken between the 3rd November to 1st December 2021.



Participants in the sea cucumber stock assessment (Nov 21)



Sea Cucumber 2021-22 pre-season stakeholders' consultation

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 2021, the Division finalised its 5-year Research Plan (2021-2025) which provides a clear direction for the development and implementation of fisheries related research programmes by the SFA. Additionally, it provides guidance on priority research areas and helps with the prioritisation of resources. The implementation of the plan started during the year 2021.

Research to support stock management plans and assess stock levels

During 2021 the research team continued to deliver on key research that supported SFA in its development and implementation of fisheries management plan including assessment of different fisheries stocks. These included:

Fishery-independent lobster assessment survey

The Participatory Lobster Monitoring Programme 2021 survey was conducted with the participation of lobster fishers alongside SFA's technicians and scientists. Surveys were undertaken at 20 indicator sites to assess the recovery of the lobster stocks. The results indicated that the relative abundance and biomass of all species of lobsters caught had decreased. The results however indicated that there were opportunities to improve the lobster stocks in the future if more undersized lobsters were allowed to grow to the minimum harvestable limit before being fished. Based on the findings, the 2021/2022 season was opened for only two months compared to the normal three months season. A lobster habitat survey was also undertaken in 2021.



Lobster habitat survey in progress

Sea cucumber stock assessment

A sea cucumber stock assessment was undertaken in 2021 with funding from the SWIOFish3 project. A consultant was recruited to assist with the sampling design and analyses. After finalisation of the survey design, a presentation was held with sea cucumber skippers in September to inform them about the planned stock assessment and the opportunity to provide their input and raise concerns. The first and second leg of the cruise was undertaken between the 3rd November to 1st December 2021.

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 including:

- Biological sampling and histological processing of gonads was undertaken for *Lutjanus sanguineus* (Bordmar) as well as otolith processing of *Lutjanus sebae* (Bourzwa).
- A new GERUNDIO FAO/IOTC project, involving the collection of biometric measurement and samples from tuna species, mainly Yellowfin, Big eye and Skipjack, was completed in collaboration with IRD during the year.



Research staff undertaking tuna sampling

- Sampling of Green jobfish to evaluate the nutritional properties of bycatch caught by tuna purse-seiners.
- Sampling of Krab Ziraf (Spanner crab) landing to collect fishery-dependent and biological data. The aim of the project was to assess abundance, and size structure, of the stock and to document catch and effort. A questionnaire was developed, and fishers were interviewed after which a biological sampling was initiated. A total of 10 fishing trips were sampled and a session was undertaken under the IKI (International Climate Initiative) project to identify appropriate management measures for the spanner crab fishery.
- The finalisation of a grant proposal for an Octopus study under SeyCCAT. The proposal was submitted for funding in September 2021.
- The development of an operational system for managing the biological and ecological data acquired by the SFA Research.
- A baseline study to investigate demersal fish assemblage using stereo baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) station on the Mahé Plateau.
- Dropline survey to investigate spatio-temporal variability in the community structure of the deep-sea species, and determine the potential (exploitable biomass) for dropline fisheries along the drop-off of the Mahe plateau.



Research staff undertaking the dropline survey

Capacity development & knowledge sharing

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

- Completed training on otolith processing for Emperor red snapper (*Lutjanus sebae*) in collaboration with CEFAS.
- Sea cucumber stock assessment training.

Due to Covid-19 related travel restrictions, all 2021 meetings were held online, and these included the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, the Third Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement Scientific Committee Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Group and the Third 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 the publishing of several reports and scientific papers.

Outlook

For the 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.



Spanner crab sampling

Dropline survey Determining the potential for dropline fisheries on the drop-off of the Mahe plateau

The research team of the SFA undertook three 10-day Dropline surveys in 2021 on RV L'Amitie, during the months of April, August and September, after the successful completion of the first survey in February 2020.

The Dropline survey, aims to determine the potential for dropline fisheries on the drop-off (photic zones between 50 and 250m depth) of the Mahé plateau. The surveys helped with the identification of critical parameters for the development and management of fisheries resources in these areas.

The objectives of the surveys were to: (a) define the distribution and species composition of deep slope resources in pre-determined areas; (b) estimate biomass and maximum sustainable yield, (c) determine key life history parameters and spatial stock structure for their assessment and management (d) investigate possible differences in sex ratios among survey sites (e) determine nutritional composition of the fish species caught, (f) determine variability in mercury levels, and (g) determine the trophic ecology of the fish species caught.

During the four surveys 36 sampling stations, each consisting of 3 transects were set at 3 depth intervals (50 – 125, 126 – 201, 202 – 277m). A total of 38 species were recorded in the catch. The most common species caught was the Crimson jobfish (224 individuals), followed by Amberjack (185 individuals) and Brown spotted grouper (127 individuals). The three species dominated the shallow depth range. Differences in the number of fishes caught per depth range was observed, with the highest abundance recorded in the shallower depth range of 50-125m. The lowest abundance was observed in the deeper depth range of 202-277m. The most common species at that depth range was the Ruby snapper and Deepwater longtail red snapper.

A full analysis of the survey data will be undertaken in 2022.



Monitoring Control & Surveillance

The Monitoring Control & Surveillance Department is made up of a Monitoring Section, an Enforcement Section and a Licenses and Permits Section. It supports the implementation of the fisheries management policies, plans, and strategies, by ensuring compliance with fishing conditions, management measures and fisheries legislation 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 Department. 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 (4) units; the Fisheries Monitoring Unit, the Electronics Monitoring Systems Unit, the Catch Certification Unit, and the Monitoring Technicians Unit.

With the aim of improving the maritime domain and situational awareness, the SFA supported by the SWIOFish3 initiated a project to enhance the maritime observation of the Fisheries Monitoring Centre. This included the upgrading of the current monitoring system to be able to receive additional data that included Automatic Identification System (AIS), Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and Optical Satellite Imagery. The upgrade of the system was completed in November 2021.

To improve data collection on catch and effort reporting, and to complement at sea observer program, EMS was successfully deployed across the industrial Purse seiner fleet in 2021.

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 vessels 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's aim is to have VMS installed on all schooners and whalers. By the end of 2021, 170 targeted vessels had VMS installed as per Table 4 below, thus achieving 100% coverage of all targeted active vessels during the year.

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

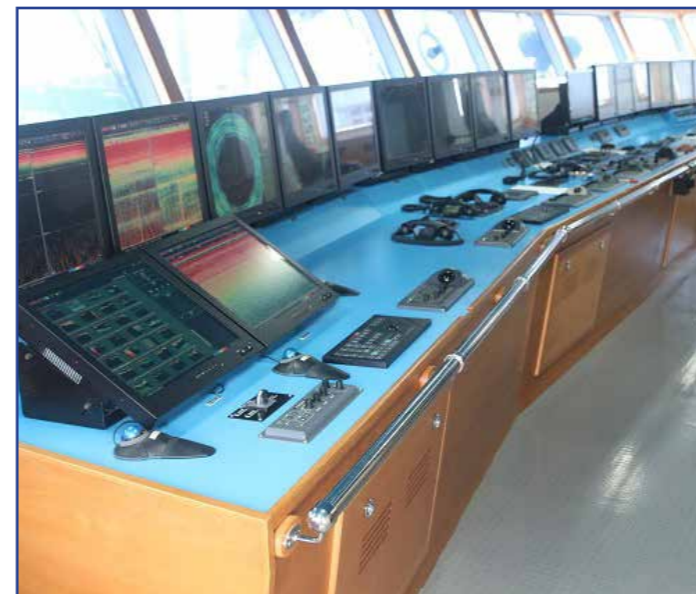
	2020		2021	
	No. Active vessels	No. installed VMS	No. Active vessels	No. installed VMS
No. Semi-industrial	46	46	48	51
No. Schooners	86	88	93	93
No. Whalers	24	24	26	26
Total No. Local Active	156	158	167	170
% VMS installed	100%		100%	

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 an 11% increase in data transmitted in 2021. This was driven by an increase in data from Artisanal vessels as per Table 5 below.

Table 5: Volume of data transmitted from all vessels

	2019	2020	2021
Sey Flag (Artisanal vessels)	627,617	878,611	1,119,451
Sey Flag (Industrial vessels)	1,196,084	1,158,483	1,035,835
Taiwan (POC)	361,003	318,220	462,110
Spain	50,855	57,081	58,377
China	29,618	23,515	55,174
France & Mayotte	53,037	45,529	36,458
Korea	27,312	23,492	18,216
Mauritius	9,580	12,999	6,023
Italy	4	834	1,613
Portugal	-	387	1,545
Total	2,355,110	2,519,151	2,794,802



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 (RC) No 1005/2008.

Table 6 below shows the number of catch certificates and trade documents issued during the period 2019 to 2021. With the exemption of EU IUU catch certificate which declined slightly in 2021, a higher number of certificates were issued in 2021 leading to an overall increase of 28% over 2020.

Table 6: No. Catch certificate & trade documents issued

	2019*	2020	2021
No. Non-EU catch certificates	250	511	605
No. EU catch certificate for local vessels	361	580	1,646
No. EU IUU catch certificates	255	1,361	1,314
No. EU foreign catch certificates	206	211	323
No. EU Seychelles catch certificates	286	548	622
No. Statistical certificates	1,277	2,297	2,669
No. Non-Manipulation certificates	133	498	513
No. Re-export catch certificates	0	0	0
Total	2,768	6,006	7,692

* The lower numbers for 2019 is due to a loss of data resulting from a ransomware attack in 2019.

Licenses & Permits Section

The Licenses and permits unit 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 696 local fishing licences were issued in 2021, a 12% increase (76) over 2020 (Table. 8). This was an increase of 50% over the period 2019 to 2021. The number of artisanal fishery licence increased by 5% (28) from 522 in 2020 to 560 in 2021, while the number of licences for semi-industrial fishery increased by 50% (18) to a record 54 licences. The number of Sea cucumber license remained at 25 over the period 2019 to 2021, while the number of processing license reduced to three from four over the period 2019/2020. The lobster fishing season was opened for both the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 seasons where 16 licenses were issued for both seasons.

Table 7: No. Local fishing license issued

	2019	2020	2021
Artisanal fishery licence	379*	522	550
Semi-industrial fishery licence	30	36	54
Net licence	0	47	48
Sea cucumber licence	25	25	25
Process & export of sea cucumber licence	4	4	3
Lobster licence	12	16	16
Total licences	463	620	696

* 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 decrease by four to 220, in 2021, although the number of purse seiners increased by two to 47. This reduction primarily due to a decrease in the number of supply vessels and long liner licensed vessels as per Table 8 below.

Table 8: No. Foreign fishing vessels licences issued

	2019	2020	2021
Long liner licence - Sey-flagged	57	62	55
Long liner licence - Other flagged	129	101	105
Purse seiner licence - Sey-flagged	13	13	13
Purse seiner licence - Other flagged	32	32	34
Supply vessels licence - Sey-flagged	6	5	4
Supply vessels licence - Other flagged	11	11	9
Total foreign licences	248	224	220

The reduction in the number of supply vessels licensed was in line with the IOTC regulation 19/01 which requires all states to reduce the number of supply vessels supporting the purse seiners.



Purse seiners in Port Victoria

Fisheries Enforcement

The Enforcement Section carries out all inspectorate duties with regards to port state inspection under the Port control unit and land inspection, 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 and during the trading of fish and fish products.

An annual compliance inspection is carried out on all vessels above 24 metres and those 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 2021, only 20 port side inspection were carried out, equivalent to 2% inspection rate (Table 9). This low inspection rate was due to imposed Covid-19 restrictions for boarding fishing vessels.

Table 9: Summary of inspections and compliance data for industrial fishing vessels for the year 2021

	2019	2020	2021
No. visits to port	829	779	851
No. port side inspections	177	41*	20
Inspection rate	21%	5%	2%
No. vessels compliant (Sey-flagged)	15	44	69
Vessels compliance rate (Sey-flagged)	20%	54%	96%

* Data from FITI report 2020.

The compliance rate reached a record 96% in 2021 from 54% in 2020.

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 10 below shows number of patrols during the year.

Table 10: No. Patrols undertaken

	2019	2020	2021
Land patrol (Number) -	0	43	85
Aerial patrol (Hours) - Target 20 hours	34	37	18
Sea patrol (Days) - Target 15 days	10	13	38

Recruitment/Training and development

To further support the activities of the department two additional Enforcement Officers for the Port control unit were recruited during the year. This brought the total number of officers to 34 by end of 2021

Staff from the Division participated in several training and skills development programmes in 2021 including the use of drones for law enforcement, and on the EMS. Staff from the Division attended the regional inception workshop for the SWIOFC and the IORA Port State measures workshop.

The Division also participated in several meeting in 2021 which were mainly done online, including SWIOFC Working Party on Collaboration and Cooperation in Tuna Fisheries, SADC technical team, EU Joint Commission meeting, FAO webinar on transshipment, Regional Coordination Unit for the Plan Regionale de Surveillance de Peches (Indian Ocean Commission), and several IOTC regional meetings.

Outlook

For 2022, the MCS department will continue its quest to be more efficient, employ more modern technology to improve internal processes and efficiency and to build technical capacity.



PS Zoroaster, Seychelles Coast Guard's new patrol vessel

Promoting Fisheries Value Addition Export at the Dubai Expo 2020

SFA & MF&BE provides a platform for investors

The SFA and the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy organised a Gala dinner at the Hyatt Regency Creek in Dubai on the 28th of October 2021 as part of its “Not Just Fish” campaign at the Dubai Expo 2020. The aim of the event was to provide the local seafood processors with a platform to present their value-added fish products to potential clients in order to optimise the current level of export from Seychelles. It was to also showcase the exclusivity of the fish from Seychelles, resulting from the adopted sustainability practices and the attention to detail during processing and production, resulting in superior quality products.

Minister Jean-Francois Ferrari officially launched the event, which was attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Minister Sylveste Radegonde, Minister for Youth, Sports and Family, Minister Marie-Celine Zialor, invitee from the Office of the Vice President of Emirates, a group of five local seafood processors and over 130 guests coming from airline catering, hotels procurements, major supermarket chains, Chef school, bloggers, marketing and distribution companies, fish processors and venture capitalists.

Various tapas made from tuna, bourgeois, sea cucumber, and swordfish were served throughout the night while the guests were engaged with the seafood processors/exporters. This was to encourage the sale of those more commercially viable species to the potential client.

The business gala dinner was funded by the SFA through the European Commission under the Fisheries Sectoral Support Fund. In addition to the gala dinner, the processors also participated in several business meetings and presentations with over 40 potential business partners at the Seychelles Pavillion at the Expo 2020. They also had the opportunity to visit the Dubai fish market to see some of the products and market attributes of the UAE market.



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 advantages and further contribute to the country's overall economic growth.

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

The Division also participated in the following projects:

- Participated in the Expo 2020 with five processors, to provide opportunities for the processors to promote their products and attract potential investors. The Expo 2020 took place in Dubai, UAE.
- Allocated three new fish processing plants aimed at local fish processing.
- Initiated the development of the PHVA mobile application. This is a platform to share information about fisheries and the gateway to promoting the local cooking fish recipes.
- Undertook the monitoring of product quality at the various STC outlets and participating shops around the country. The Division's was the liaison between the fishers, the fish processors on the program and the eventual product sale to STC. The programme consisted of 184 participating vessels/fishers, four fish processors (Amirante Fisheries, Slice Pack, Sea Harvest & Fresh Seafood Seychelles) and 39 participating shop outlets.
- Provided support for 25 investors for the development of their business plan and assisting with industry information.
- Introduced nine new fish recipes, which were promoted at fairs and public bazaars organised by the Division on Mahe, Praslin and at the Expo 2020 in Dubai, UAE.



Seychelles' seafood based tapas served at the "Not Just Fish" event

Training/Workshops

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

- GRO-FTP UNESCO Fisheries Training Programme in Iceland. The aim of the programme was to promote the sustainable use and management of marine resources by strengthening the capacities of fisheries professionals. A research paper entitled “An Economic Assessment of the Post Harvest Losses in Seychelles Industrial Sector” was presented in the training.
- A study on the quality of bycatch in the Seychelles industrial sector was initiated. The study was undertaken as part of a degree programme being followed by an SFA staff through an SFA funded scholarship.

Outlook

For 2022, the Division will continue to focus on fish quality enhancement, new product development, capacity building, market research, and exportation possibilities to further support SFA's strategic goal of optimising the economic and social benefits of fisheries.



Seychelles' seafood based tapas served at the "Not Just Fish" event

Infrastructure & Development

The Infrastructure and Development Division is responsible for developing and modernising all fishing ports and quays through the adoption of new technologies and practices, to improve and support the growth of the fishing sector. It also ensures that the ports and facilities are used optimally and generate the maximum revenue from fishing port activities. The Division also ensures that there is adequate supply of ice for the fishermen.

The SFA manages the Providence, Victoria, and Bel Ombre fishing ports facilities. In 2021, the Division started to develop the management, operating, and security standards for all the ports. The Division completed the following projects during the year:

- Implemented the Standard Operating Plan for the Providence port to manage the increased boat traffic which was creating congestion for bunkering, ice loading, and fish unloading activities.
- Improved ice plant maintenance to enhance ice provisions and stabilize supplies to fishing communities around Mahe, Praslin and La Digue. The maintenance improvement plan targeted problematic ice plants and introduced more effective maintenance and replacements to tackle supply issues, especially during the South-East monsoon. A new technical staff was recruited in 2021 to support the facilities.

Regional fishing facilities infrastructure projects

The Division facilitated and supported the construction of the following regional fisheries facilities in Table 11 below. These projects were funded under the EU/Seychelles Sectoral support program, with the aim to decentralise and provide improved fishing facilities and services to the fishing communities.

Table 11: Major project status at end of 2021

	Program	SCR'M	Status
Construction of the fish market at Ile Perseverance	EU	0.15	Completed
Construction of the La Retraite gear store/pontoon	EU	3.90	Completed
Construction of the ice plant slab at Grand Anse Praslin.	EU	0.45	Completed
Construction of the security kiosk at the Bel Ombre processing plant	EU	0.23	Completed
Construction of the security kiosk at the Providence warehouse	EU	0.16	Completed
Construction of the Anse Aux Pins fisheries facilities	EU	16.00	In progress
Construction of the Cascade fisheries facilities	EU	4.36	In progress
Construction of the Baie Ste. Anne Praslin fisheries facilities	EU	11.48	In progress
Construction of the Glacis fisheries facilities	EU	0.27	In progress
Total		37.04	



Management of the existing fisheries infrastructure

The Division undertook annual surveys on all navigational aids during the year 2021 to assess their condition. The required repair, maintenances, and replacement was subsequently undertaken during the year. The Division also undertook maintenance on all the navigation buoys. New navigation buoys with lights were procured for installation at the La Retraite, Praslin, La Digue, Bel Ombre channels to ensure that the entrances of these channels were properly demarcated. A new project to create an all-tide access channel for fishermen at Anse a la Mouche to facilitate loading and unloading during the low tide was initiated in 2021.

For the period 2022, the Division will focus on improving the existing fisheries facilities for the fishermen, ensures that the existing projects are delivered as planned, and undertake new projects that arise.



FEATURE STORY

Fisheries Infrastructure Facilities

Key ongoing regional projects

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 2021.

Anse Aux Pins fisheries facility plan



The Anse Aux Pins fisheries facility project started in September 2021 and consists 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 is being built in two phases, the first phase being the infrastructure, and 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 facility 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 facility project started in November 2021 and 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 the SFA and the PFBOA, and toilet facilities.

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



Fisheries Infrastructure Project

The Fisheries Infrastructure Project Division is responsible for identifying and initiating fisheries projects around the country. This includes preparing all concepts, design/detail drawings, and preparing the scope and estimated costs. The Division liaises with internal and external procurement teams for the tender process and supervises the implementation of those projects.

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

The Division is assisted by a project committee in the implementation of all fisheries infrastructure projects. The committee is made up of directors SFA board directors, the Deputy CEO, members from the project, procurement and the property management team, an EU collaboration member, and an account section member. The committee serves as a forum for discussing project-related issues.

In addition to the three main ongoing projects at Cascade, Anse Aux Pins, and Baie Ste Anne Praslin, the Division managed four additional projects totaling SCR1.03m that were funded by the EU under the Sectoral support program in 2021. At the end of the year, all the projects had been completed as per Table 12 below.

Table 12: Project completed in 2021

Project Name	Year started	Year Completed	Budget SCR'M
Construction of the security kiosk at the Belombre processing plant	2020	2021	0.27
Construction of the security kiosk at the Providence warehouse	2020	2021	0.16
Construction of the fish market at Ile Perseverance	2021	2021	0.15
Construction of the ice plant slab at Grand Anse Praslin	2021	2021	0.45
		Total	1.03

Other projects initiated in 2021 included:

- Concept drawing for the fishery community project at English River.
- Construction of the passageway and rock armoring at the Fishery Community Project at Glacis. Construction of the fish market at Glacis started in December 2021.
- Concept drawing for the boat repair and electrical workshop at Providence was finalised.
- Renovation of the SFA's main building in Victoria, 50% of the work was completed in 2021.
- Demolition of the current fuel depot and construction of a new depot and security kiosk at the Victoria fishing port in December 2021.



Belombre processing plant

Outlook

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



Launching of the fish market at Ile Perseverance

Seychelles launches the aquaculture sector

Achieving a new milestone for the aquaculture industry in Seychelles

Following many years of research and investment, Seychelles' aquaculture industry was formally launched on October 16, 2021 at the Eden Bleu Hotel in the presence of numerous ministers and the ambassadors for Japan and Russia.

Aquaculture is used to produce seafood for human consumption, improve wild fish, shellfish, and plant stocks for harvest, restore threatened or endangered aquatic species, rebuild critical shellfish habitats, produce nutrients and industrial compounds, and raise fish for aquariums. The Seychelles government's ultimate goals in establishing an aquaculture industry are economic diversification, food security, environmentally sound ocean management, and the creation of high-paying jobs.

During his speech, Minister Jean-Francois Ferrari, the Minister for Fisheries and the Blue Economy, stated that aquaculture is one of the fastest-growing global industries, accounting for 51% of all fish consumed globally. "With rising global demand for fish, the world is becoming more reliant on aquaculture to meet this demand, and our oceans cannot keep up," he said. "Now that the Seychelles Aquaculture Sector has been officially launched," he continued, "one of our key priorities over the next five years is for the SFA as the Regulatory Authority, in collaboration with the Seychelles Investment Board (SIB), to drive investments in sustainable aquaculture in Seychelles."

Mr. Aubrey Lesperance, the SFA's Manager for Aquaculture, explained that the SFA will follow the Ecosystems Approach to aquaculture development. "We believe firmly in its triple-bottom-line approach, which considers not only the potential economic benefits, but also the environmental and social aspects," he said.

The SFA is encouraging investors to invest in aquaculture in Seychelles, and several countries have already expressed interest in the project. The SFA is collaborating with SIB to promote the new industry, and a presentation was done at the Dubai Expo 2020 at the end of 2021.



Aquaculture Division

The Aquaculture Division is responsible for implementing the Aquaculture Sector Development Plan. This includes setting up the required institutional, policy, and regulatory frameworks to promote the orderly development of the sector. The Division is also responsible for enforcing the Seychelles Aquaculture Regulations, which govern the sector's activities, such as investment, research, and human capacity development.

The Aquaculture Regulatory Committee was established in September 2021 following the gazette of the Fisheries (Aquaculture) Regulations 2020 in December 2020. The committee is made up of representatives from government ministries, departments and agencies, the private sector, and civil society. The committee's mission is to approve licenses and provide aquaculture advice. The Aquaculture sector was officially launched on the 16th of October 2021.

Several potential investors applied for their aquaculture licenses in 2021 as shown in the Table 13 below:

Table 13: Aquaculture related licence application

Number of License	Type of License	Cost (SCR)
1	Production (sea cucumber)	50,000
1	Nursery (sea cucumber)	15,000
1	Research (corals)	2,500
1	Research (sea cucumber)	2,500
1	Research (rock oyster)	2,500
1	Research (ornamentals and mud crab)	2,500
1	Production (prawns)	50,000
	Total	125,000

The Division completed several projects during the year including:

- Awarded CH-Academy from Portugal, the SWIOFish3 contract to develop the Aquaculture Human Capital Development Plan. The consultants completed the inception report and conducted multiple focus groups during the year. They completed the draft reports for the SFA and are currently working on a final report in accordance with their TOR.
- Awarded Vision360 the contract to develop the seafood and aquaculture branding under SWIOFish3. The Covid-19 restrictions have delayed the project. The consultants submitted a brand guideline manual for seafood and one for aquaculture in 2021. They also submitted their Deliverable-1 Report to the SFA and the World Bank through SWIOFish3.

Research and development

In 2021 the Division undertook the following key research:

- Aquaculture staff conducted quarterly water-quality testing at various sites and depths. PH ammonia, salinity, phosphate, nitrate, nitrite, and nickel were all tested.
- Successful cultivation of *Caulerpa lentillifera* in raceway. *Caulerpa lentillifera* is a type of green edible seaweed that is high in minerals, protein, vitamins, dietary fibers, and unsaturated fatty acids. It is one of the most popular *Caulerpa* species due to its soft, moist texture and refreshing flavor. It can be eaten raw in sushi dipped in vinegar, or it can be mixed into salads with other vegetables and seafood. *C. lentillifera* has high economic value and has high production potential in monoculture systems.

The final draft of the Terms of Reference for the Geotech survey was submitted under SWOFish3 for final feedback and comments. The Expression of Interest (EoI) will be submitted once the project is approved by World Bank. SFA has received approval from the Planning Authority for the project's plot of land.



The aquaculture facilities at Providence

Training/Workshops

Due to physical contact restrictions as a result of Covid-19, the Division focused on virtual training for staff development in 2021. Staff followed several free online training, webinars, and presentations organised by various organisations. These included Aquatic Animal Health (Necropsy and Sampling), Practical Understanding of Aqua-feed Formulation, Prophylactic Management Strategies, Diseases and Treatments, focusing on Tilapia and Catfish, Practical Aquaculture Feed Management, Finfish Aquaculture 101 for Coral Reef Managers, Recirculating Aquaculture Systems, Introduction to Fish Health Management and Disease Control, Blue Charter training on Policy considerations when developing a sustainable blue economy, Fish Feeding for Freshwater, Brackish Water & Marine Species, Marine aquaculture in the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem, and Seaweed Revolution for Africa.

Staff participated in the following international events organised to promote Seychelles' aquaculture sector:

- The Expo 2022 in Dubai, UAE. This was an opportunity to showcase Seychelles' aquaculture potential and entice businesses to invest in this sector.
- Business to Business (B2B) meetings were organised at the Expo 2020 for further strategic interactions.
- Visited the Dubai fish market to see some of the products and market attributes of the United Arab Emirates' market.



Participants at the Aquaculture presentation at the side meeting at the Expo 2020

Education and awareness

The Division continued its sensitisation programme which included PowerPoint presentations in secondary schools on Mahe. The department used its Facebook, blog sites, and television programmes to promote aquaculture to the general public.

Several activities were organised as part of the aquaculture sector launch. This included a media launch, whereby staff were interviewed by all the media houses in the country.

The general public participated in a one-week aquaculture facility visit where they gained better understanding of the aquaculture division's work. The aquaculture team organised an exhibition at the Hypermarket where shoppers interacted with staff and learned more about their work and the overall development of aquaculture. Aquariums with real live animals were set up to entice some of the younger shoppers. The Division organised a radio quiz for the public and one for the SFA staff, and successful participants won aquaculture marketing materials. The team's social media campaign decimated information to the general public throughout the launch period.



Staff welcoming the public at the aquaculture facility

Outlook

In 2022, the Division will continue to implement the Aquaculture Sector Development Plan in order to realize the full potential of the Seychelles aquaculture industry.



SFA's delegation visiting the Dubai fish market.

Promoting the Seychelles' Aquaculture potential at the Dubai Expo 2020

The Aquaculture Department participated in the Dubai Expo 2020 under the Blue Economy theme at the Seychelles pavilion, with a strong emphasis on showcasing the potential and value of its blue economy resources through two main activities.

The SFA organised a business gala dinner on the 28th of October, 2021 to coincide with Seychelles' "National Day". The dinner provided a venue for the local seafood processors to showcase their products and network with potential investors in the processing and aquaculture industry. The European Commission provided funding for the gala dinner through the Fisheries Sectoral Support Fund.



The Aquaculture Department made its international debut with a presentation to the business group at the business gala dinner. Several meetings were held with potential aquaculture businesses in the Middle East region, and contacts were made for future discussions in Seychelles.

Following the Business Gala Dinner, the SFA hosted two days of strategic business-to-business meetings and presentations to potential business partners, at the Seychelles Pavilion. The Seychelles delegation visited the Dubai fish market on the final day to see some of the products and market attributes of the United Arab Emirates' market.



The Aquaculture and Value-Addition team at the Dubai Expo 2020

Section 3 FISHERIES STATISTICS

Assist in the better understanding of fisheries and fisheries resources, by providing reliable fisheries statistic as required



Overview

The total estimated catch for all types of fisheries by vessels/boats licensed to fish in the Seychelles EEZ in 2021 was 440,020 Mt, a 13% increase over the catch of 390,115 in 2020. This was due to an increase in catch from industrial fisheries of 13.8% (53,091 Mt) and semi-industrial fisheries of 18.4% (274 Mt). The data for artisanal fisheries was not available at the time of publication due to a system upgrade.

Fisheries catch

The total catch in 2021 was 440,020 Mt, with 99.6% coming from industrial fisheries and 0.4% from semi-industrial fisheries. This was a 13% increase over the 390,115 Mt catch volume for 2020, but a 0.7% decrease over the 442,968 Mt catch volume for 2019. With the exception of industrial longline fisheries, all fisheries catch volume increased over the 2020 period, with the highest increase recorded for the purse seine fisheries as shown in Table 14 below.

Table 14: Catch by fishery category (Mt)

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Artisanal fisheries	4,187	4,411	3,460	NA
Semi-industrial fisheries	1,267	2,009	1,484	1,758
Industrial fisheries				
Sey-flagged purse seine	123,310	112,621	112,231	122,885
Other flagged purse seine	316,521	293,834	241,444	290,036
Sey-flagged longline	17,558	22,866	22,469	14,526
Other flagged longline	7,169	7,227	9,027	10,814
Total industrial	464,558	436,548	385,171	438,262
Total Catch	470,012	442,968	390,115	440,020

Following a 26% decrease in semi-industrial catch in 2020 due to the Covid-19 lockdown, the total catch for this fishery increased by 18.4% in 2021, from 1,484 Mt to 1,758 Mt. This was due to increased activity from an increased number of active vessels during the year following the country's re-opening, and an increased availability of flights for export.

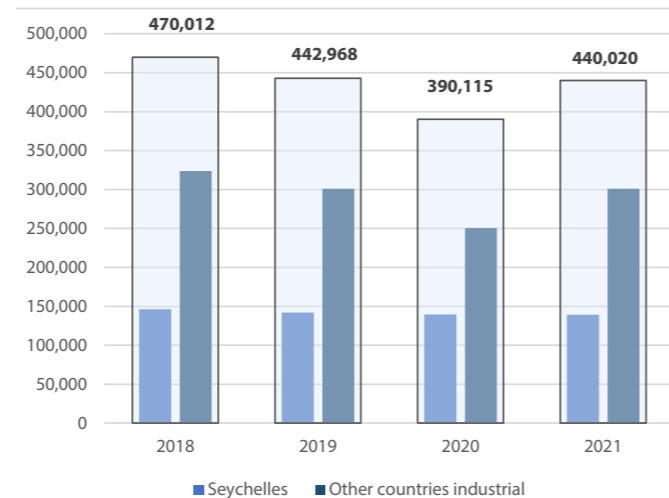
Industrial fishing, which consists of purse seine and longline fisheries, increase by 13.8% in 2021 from 385,171 Mt in 2020 to 438,262 Mt in 2021. While purse seine fishery increased by 16.8% over the same period, from 353,675 Mt in 2020 to

412,922 Mt in 2021, total longline catch decreased by 19.5% from 31,496 Mt to 25,340 Mt. The increase in catch from the purse seine fishery was recorded across all the tuna species, with the highest increase in Skipjack. The decrease in catch for long line fishery was across all the species, with the largest decrease recorded for the Yellowfin catch.

Fisheries catch by flag

In terms of fisheries catch by flag, Seychelles flagged vessels caught 32% (139,169 Mt) of the total catch of 440,020 Mt in 2021 (Fig. 4). This was 2.1% increase over the 2020 catch of 136,184 Mt (excluding artisanal fisheries). Other countries' flagged vessels increased their total catch by 20% in 2021, from 250,471 Mt in 2020 to 300,850 Mt in 2021. This meant that the contribution of Seychelles flagged vessels to total catch (excluding artisanal fishery) decreased from 35.2% to 31.6% in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

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



Industrial Fisheries

Industrial fisheries, which include purse seine and longline fishing, contributed 99% of the total fisheries catch for the year 2021. In 2021, a total catch of 438,262 Mt was recorded from 207 licensed vessels, representing a 14% increase over the catch level of 385,171 Mt from 208 licensed vessels in 2020. Catch from 68 Seychelles flagged vessels accounted for 31% of total catch at 137,412 Mt in 2021, compared to 35% from 75 vessels in 2020 at 134,700 Mt, representing a 2% increase over the 2020 catch level.

A total industrial catch of 438,262 Mt (Fig. 5) was recorded in 2021 within the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) by the 2017 vessels licensed to fish in the Seychelles EEZ (Table 15). This was 14% higher than the 385,171 Mt catch of 2020, and a slight increase over the 2019 catch of 436,548 Mt. The catch of the Seychelles flagged vessels increased by 2% over the same period, from 134,700 Mt in 2020 to 137,412 Mt in 2021. While the catch of other countries increased by 20% from 250,471 Mt to 300,850 Mt over the same period, it remained slightly lower than the 301,061 Mt recorded in 2019.

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

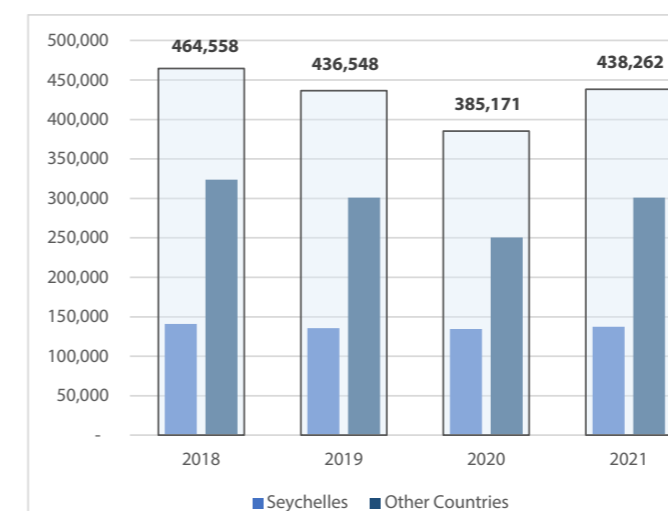


Table 15: No. Industrial licensed vessels

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Long Liners - Sey Flagged	55	57	62	55
Long Liners- other Flagged	153	129	101	105
Total Long Liners	208	186	163	160
Purse Seiner - Sey Flagged	13	13	13	13
Purse Seiner - Other flagged	31	32	32	34
Total Purse Seinners	44	45	45	47

Purse seine fishery

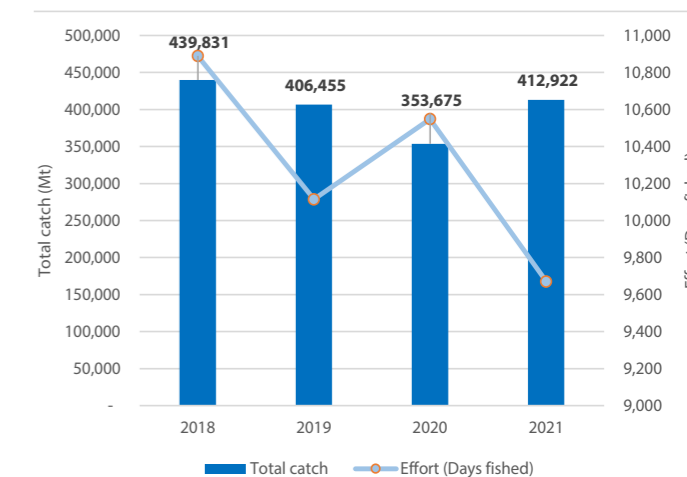
Catches, fishing effort, catch rates, and species composition

In 2021, the total purse seine catch from 47 purse seiners was 412,922 Mt, a 16.8% increase over the 2020 total of 353,675 Mt from 45 purse seiners and a 1.6% increase over the 2019 catch level of 406,455 Mt from 45 purse seiners. This increase was driven by a 121% increase in Bigeye catch, and a 13% increase in Skipjack catch over 2020. While Yellowfin catch

increased in 2021, it remained far below the 2019 catch level due to IOTC regulations that reduced the species' catch by 21% for large fishing states.

Purse seiners fished for 9,671 days in 2021, down 8% (877 days) from 2020 and 4% from 2019 (Fig. 6). The increase in total purse seine catch in 2021 over 2020, combined with a reduction in fishing days, resulted in a 27% increase in catch rate in 2021 over 2020, from 33.53 Mt to 42.70 Mt per fishing day. The catch rate in 2021 was 6% higher than in 2019 at 40.18 Mt per fishing day.

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



Since 2016, Skipjack has dominated total purse seine tuna catches, followed by Yellowfin, Bigeye, and others. As per Table 16 below, Skipjack catch increased by 13% over 2020 to 252,711 Mt in 2021, accounting for 61.2% of total catch, slightly lower than the 63% level in 2020.

Table 16: Total purse seine catch by fish category (Mt)

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Yellowfin	140,273	128,907	110,752	119,571
Skipjack	274,315	252,131	223,603	252,711
Bigeye	23,261	24,160	16,702	37,078
Others	1,982	1,257	2,617	3,562
Total	439,831	406,455	353,675	412,922

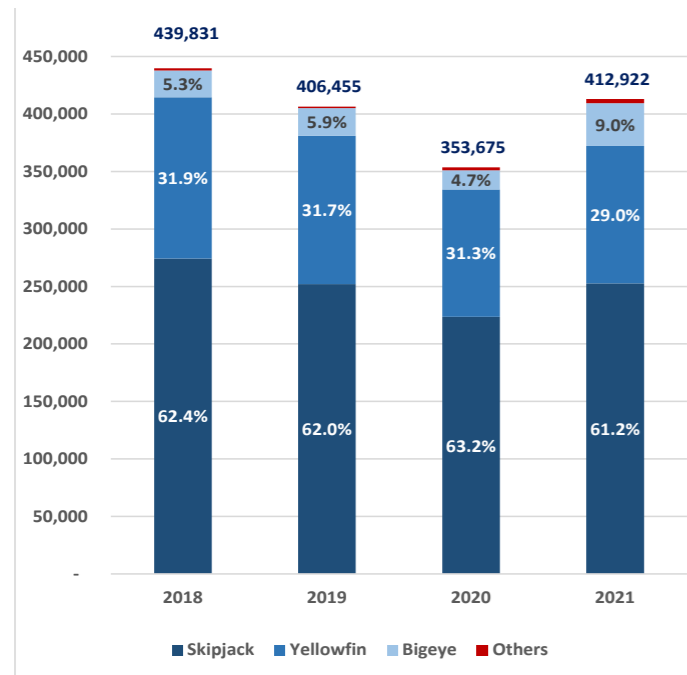
Yellowfin catch was 119,571 Mt in 2021, accounting for 29% of total catch, an increase of 8% over 2020 but a 7.2% decrease from 2019's 128,907 Mt catch level, in line with the IOTC requirement to reduce this species' catch



After a 30% decrease in Bigeye tuna catch in 2020 compared to 2019, total catch increased by 121% in 2021 to a record 37,078 Mt. The Bigeye proportion of total catch increased from 4.7% in 2020 to 9% in 2021. The 2021 Bigeye catch increased by 25% over the previous year's record of 29,608Mt. Other tuna catches, including Albacore, increased by 36% over 2020 to a record 3,567 Mt in 2021 from 2,617 Mt (Table 16).

The proportion of catches by species over the last four years is shown in Fig 7. While Bigeye catch contribution has increased over time, from 5.3% in 2018 to 9% in 2021, Yellowfin and Skipjack catch contributions have decreased.

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



Catches and effort by flag

The Spanish fleet has dominated catch volume, followed by Seychelles' fleet, the French fleet, and other countries' fleets respectively as shown in Table 17.

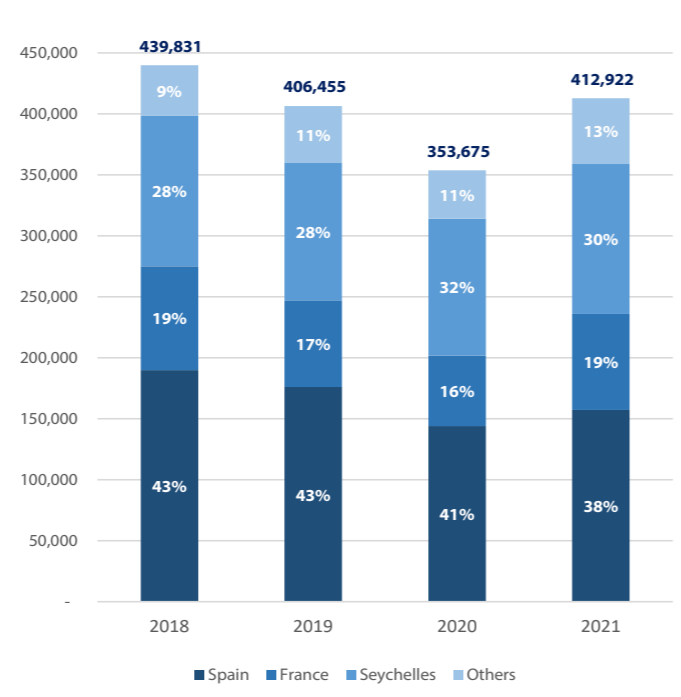
The Spanish fleet catch was 157,243 Mt in 2021, accounting for 38% of the total catch by purse seiners (Fig. 8). This was 9% above the catch of 144,095 Mt in 2020 but was 17% lower than the 2018's catch of 189,868 Mt, where Spanish catch accounted for 43% of total purse seine fishery catch.

The catch of the Seychelles flagged fleet was 122,855 Mt in 2021, accounting for 30% of the total catch. This was an increase of 9% over the catch level of 112,231 Mt in 2020. Despite the increase in 2021, it remained 0.3% lower than the catch level in 2018, when it accounted for 28% of the total catch. Other countries' catch increased by 36% in 2021, from 39,510 Mt in 2020 to 54,067 Mt in 2021. This increased the contribution for other countries' catch from 11% to 13% during the same period.

Table 17: Fishing catch and effort by flag

Flag	2020			2021		
	Catch (Mt)	Effort (Days fishing)	CPU (Mt/Days fishing)	Catch (Mt)	Effort (Days fishing)	CPU (Mt/Days fishing)
Spain	144,095	3,948	36.5	157,243	3,228	48.7
Seychelles	112,231	3,221	34.8	122,885	3,027	40.6
France	57,839	1,956	29.6	78,726	2,005	39.3
Others	39,510	1,423	27.8	54,067	1,441	38.3
Total	353,675	10,548	33.5	412,922	9,671	42.7

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



In 2021, the overall catch rate increased by 27%, from 33.5 Mt/fishing day in 2020 to 42.7 Mt/fishing day in 2021. All flags recorded an increase in catch rate in 2021 over 2020, with other countries recording the highest increase of 38%, followed by Spain and France at 33% and Seychelles at 17%. It should be noted that all flags' catch rates were higher than in 2019, but slightly below 2018's level for Spain and Seychelles.

Purse seiners' catches in the Seychelles EEZ

Purse seiners licensed to fish within the Seychelles EEZ caught 10% of the total catch in the entire WIO region in 2021. This compares to 27% of total catch in 2020 and an average of 20% for the 2018/2019 period. The catch within the Seychelles EEZ fell by 55% to 43,001 Mt in 2021 (Table 18), the lowest level since 36,013 Mt in 2013. This was driven by a 63% drop in Yellowfin catch, a 51% drop in Skipjack catch,

and a 36% drop in Bigeye catch in 2021 compared to 2020. This decrease can be attributed to purse seiners shifting their fishing grounds to mostly outside Seychelles' EEZ due to increased availability on those fishing grounds.

Table 18: Fishing catch in Seychelles EEZ (Mt)

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Skipjack	53,899	40,906	49,682	24,150
Yellowfin	30,322	35,805	40,624	15,095
Bigeye	4,255	7,634	4,936	3,175
Others	172	266	425	581
Total	88,649	84,610	95,668	43,001

Seychelles flagged vessels caught 26% of total catch in the Seychelles EEZ in both 2020 and 2021, up from 21% in 2019 (Tab. 18). The catch in 2021 decreased by 55% for both Seychelles-flagged and other countries as shown in Table 19 below.

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

Flag	2018	2019	2020	2021
Seychelles	24,812	18,088	25,230	11,407
Others	63,837	66,522	70,438	31,594
Total	88,649	84,610	95,668	43,001

Landing and transshipment in Port Victoria

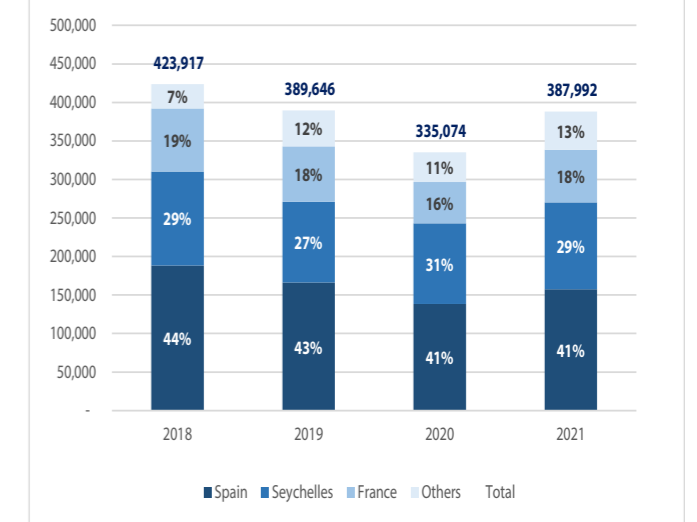
Port Victoria remained the primary port for tuna landings and transshipment for purse seiners licensed to fish in Seychelles' exclusive economic zone (EEZ). In 2021, the purse seiners unloaded 387,992 Mt of tuna through Port Victoria, accounting for 93% of total landing and transshipment in all ports (Table 20 & Fig. 10). This represented a 16% increase in total landings and transshipment in Port Victoria over 2020.

Total landings in Port Victoria increased by 13% in 2021, following a 12% increase in 2020. As catch volume increased, transshipment in Port Victoria increased by 16% in 2021. With the opening of the new Central Common Cold Store in December 2021, landings in Port Victoria is expected to rise in the future.

Table 20: Purse seine landings and transshipment in all ports (Mt)

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Landing (Port Victoria)	53,918	49,209	55,213	62,291
Transshipment (Port Victoria)	369,999	340,437	279,861	325,701
Total Port Victoria	423,917	389,646	335,074	387,992
Landings/Transshipment in other ports	8,690	19,179	18,196	28,033
Grand Total	432,607	408,825	353,270	416,024

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

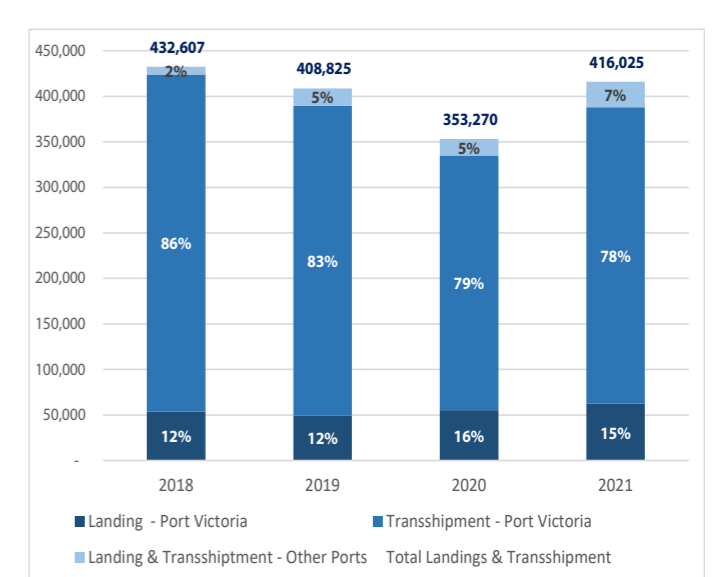


In 2021, Spanish vessels accounted for 45% of transshipment in Port Victoria, while France accounted for 38% of landings, followed by Seychelles at 26% as shown in Fig. 9 and Table 21 below.

Table 21: Purse seine landings and transshipment in Port Victoria by flag (Mt)

Flag	Activity	2018	2019	2020	2021
Spain	Transshipment	168,058	155,978	127,914	147,047
	Landing	20,362	10,334	10,649	10,275
France	Transshipment	65,915	57,260	30,517	44,285
	Landing	15,929	14,672	22,908	23,853
Seychelles	Transshipment	107,561	86,524	89,646	97,070
	Landing	14,346	18,151	14,972	15,993
Others	Transshipment	28,465	40,675	31,785	37,298
	Landings	3,281	6,052	6,684	12,169
Total	Landings & Transshipment	423,917	389,646	335,074	387,992

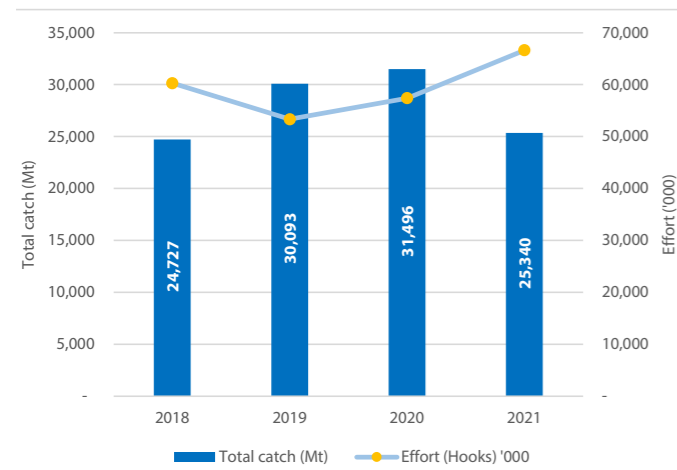
Fig 10: Purse seine landing and transshipment in Port Victoria by flag (Mt)



Industrial longline fishery

The total catch of Long liners licensed to fish in the Seychelles EEZ decreased by 19.5%, from a record 31,496 Mt in 2020 to 25,340 Mt in 2021 (Fig. 11). The number of licensed vessels also decreased by 15% over the same period from 186 to 155 in 2021. The decrease in catch might be linked to the decrease in the number of licensed vessels in 2021.

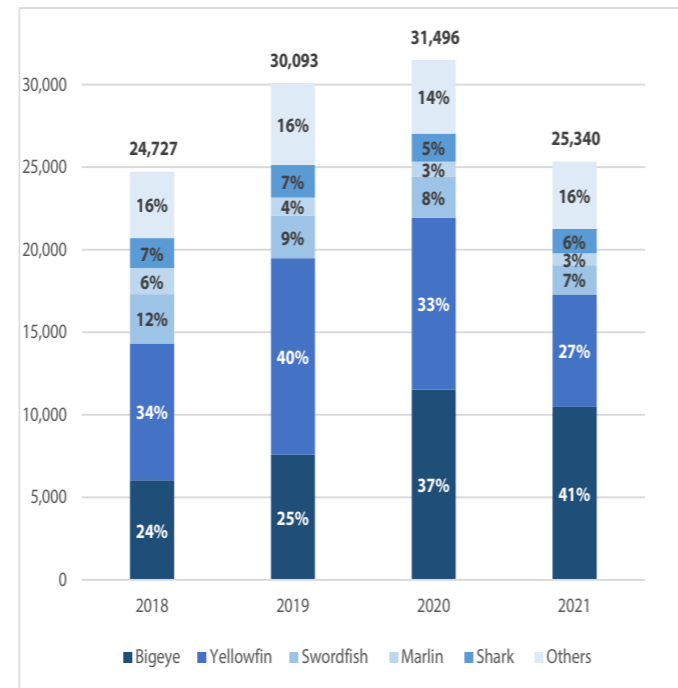
Fig 11: Total catch and effort from industrial longline fishery



Long liners' catch rate dropped by 30% to a record low 0.38 Mt per 1000 hooks in 2021, down from 0.55 Mt per 1000 hooks in 2020. The number of hooks used increased by 16%, from 57.3 million hooks in 2020 to a record 66.6 million hooks in 2021.

Bigeye tuna remained the dominant species caught in the longline fishery in 2021, accounting for a record 41% (10,488 Mt) of the total catch for the year (Fig.12). This was a 9% decrease from 11,531 Mt in 2020. In contrast, the Yellowfin catch decreased by 35% from 10,418 Mt in 2020 to 6,796 Mt in 2021.

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



Swordfish catch decreased by 28% in 2021, from 2,469 Mt in 2020 to 1,786 Mt (Table 22). This was the lowest level of catch for this species since 2015, when it was 2,201 Mt. Similarly, catch for all other species fell in 2021. Sharks and marlin catch decreased by 12% over 2020, while others decreased by 9% during the same period.

Table 22: Total catch from industrial longline fishery by fish category in WIO (Mt)

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Yellowfin	8,298	11,901	10,418	6,796
Bigeye	6,029	7,581	11,531	10,488
Swordfish	2,981	2,567	2,469	1,786
Marlin	1,584	1,106	930	707
Shark	1,815	1,981	1,684	1,481
Others	4,020	4,957	4,464	4,082
Total catch	24,727	30,093	31,496	25,340

Industrial longline fishery by flag

The Seychelles flagged fleet recorded a catch of 14,526 Mt in WIO in 2021 (Table 23). This was a 35% decrease from the 2020 catch of 22,469 Mt, and it was the lowest catch in the last four years. It should be noted that the number of Seychelles flagged vessels fell by seven during the same time period.

Catch from Taiwan Province of China (POC) flagged vessels increased by 16% in 2021, from 8,135 Mt in 2020 to 9,448 Mt. The catch of other countries increased by 53% in 2021, from 892 Mt in 2020 to 1,366 Mt in 2021. During that time, the total number of licensed vessels for non-Seychelles countries increased by four.

Table 23: Industrial long line fishery catches in WIO by flag (Mt)

Flag	2018	2019	2020	2021
Seychelles	17,558	22,866	22,469	14,526
Taiwan (POC)	5,754	6,570	8,135	9,448
Others	1,414	657	892	1,366
Total catch	24,727	30,093	31,496	25,340

The Seychelles fleet's lower catch in 2021 was also due to a 2% decrease in fishing effort, from 40.5m hooks in 2020 to 39.9m hooks in 2021 (Table 24). This resulted in a 35% decrease in catch rate during the same period, from 0.55 Mt/1000 hooks to 0.36 Mt/1000 hooks. Taiwan (POC)'s fishing efforts, on the other hand, increased by 53% from 15.3m hooks to 23.5m hooks, resulting in a decrease in catch rate from 0.53 Mt/1000 hooks to 0.40 Mt/1000 hooks. Other countries increased their fishing effort by 112% in 2021, while their catch rate decreased by 28%, from 0.57 Mt/1000 hooks to 0.41 Mt/1000 hooks.

Table 24: Industrial lonline fishing effort, catch, and catch rate in WIO by Flag

Flag	2020			2021		
	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	40,551	22,469	0.55	39,859	14,526	0.36
Taiwan (POC)	15,270	8,135	0.53	23,456	9,448	0.40
Others	1,554	892	0.57	3,297	1,366	0.41

Following a 48% increase in longliners' catch in the Seychelles EEZ to 14,713 Mt in 2020, total catch fell slightly by 0.9% to 14,575 Mt in 2021 (Table 25). However, the total catch remained higher than the 2019 and 2018 totals of 9,939 Mt and 10,091 Mt, respectively. The total catch of Seychelles flagged longliners in the Seychelles EEZ decreased by 27% from 6,375 Mt in 2020 to 4,673 Mt in 2021.

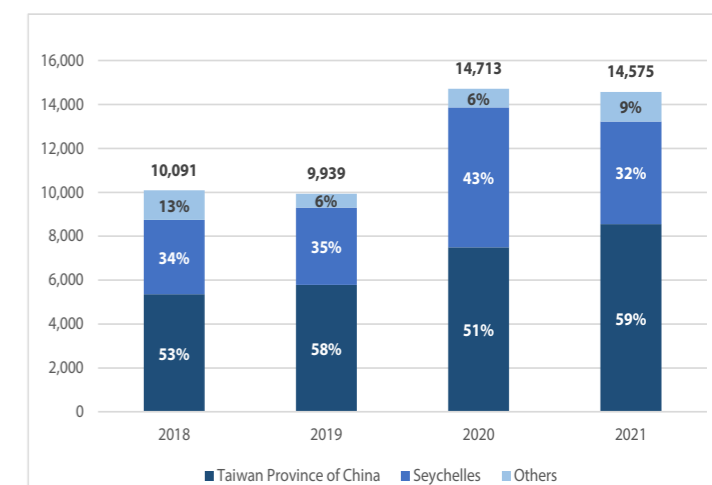
Taiwan (POC) flagged vessels increased their catch in the Seychelles EEZ by 14%, from 7,491 Mt in 2020 to 8,554 Mt in 2021. This accounted for 59% of the total longline catch in

the Seychelles EEZ in 2021, and was 60% higher than their catch level in 2018 (Fig.13). Catch from the Other countries increased by 60% in 2021 from 848 Mt in 2020 to 1,348 Mt as shown in Table 25 below.

Table 25: Industrial long line fishery catches in Seychelles EEZ by flag (Mt)

Flag	2018	2019	2020	2021
Seychelles	3,382	3,518	6,375	4,673
Taiwan	5,359	5,788	7,491	8,554
Others	1,349	633	848	1,348
Total catch	10,091	9,939	14,713	14,575

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



Transshipment

The total volume of long line catches transhipped decreased by 22% in 2021, from 18,755 Mt in 2020 to 14,578 Mt in 2021 (Table 26). This was primarily due to the decrease in catch volume in 2021. While the number of transshipments in port and at sea increased in 2021, the volume of transshipment at sea and in port decreased by 30% and 7%, respectively, in 2021 compared to 2020. The additional storage facilities provided by the Central Common Cold Storage facility in Port Victoria are also expected to increase landings of longline fisheries catch.

Table 26: Industrial long line transshipment

	2018	2019	2020	2021
No. transshipment at sea	219	N/A*	189	178
No. transshipment in port	84	N/A	83	109
Total No. transshipment	303	N/A	272	287
Volume of transshipment at sea (Mt)	10,332	N/A	12,615	8,872
Volume of transshipment in port (Mt)	6,675	N/A	6,140	5,706
Total volume of transshipment (Mt)	17,007	N/A	18,755	14,578

* Data not available due to ransomware attack



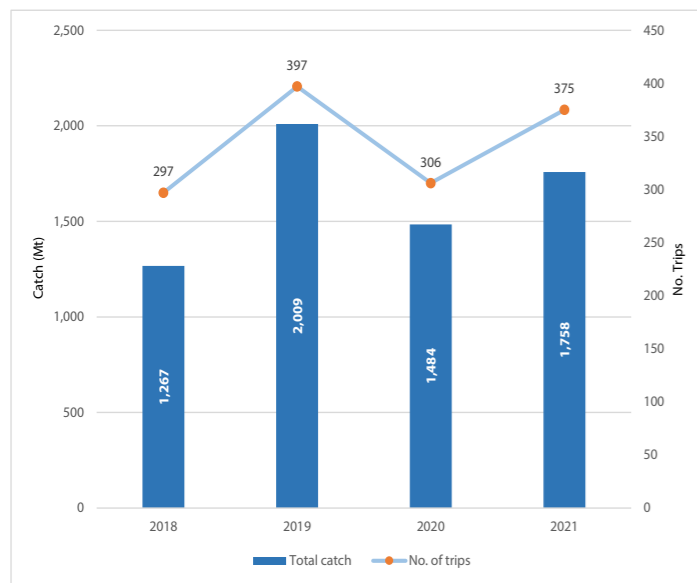
Picture Credit to Seychelles News Agency

Semi-Industrial Fisheries

In 2021, the semi-industrial fisheries recorded a total catch of 1,758 Mt. This represented 10% of the total catch of 17, 838 Mt by Seychelles flagged vessels in the Seychelles EEZ for the year. The catch level for this fishery in 2021 was 18% higher than the catch level in 2020, which had been affected by a reduction in demand and the unavailability of flights for export due to the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown.

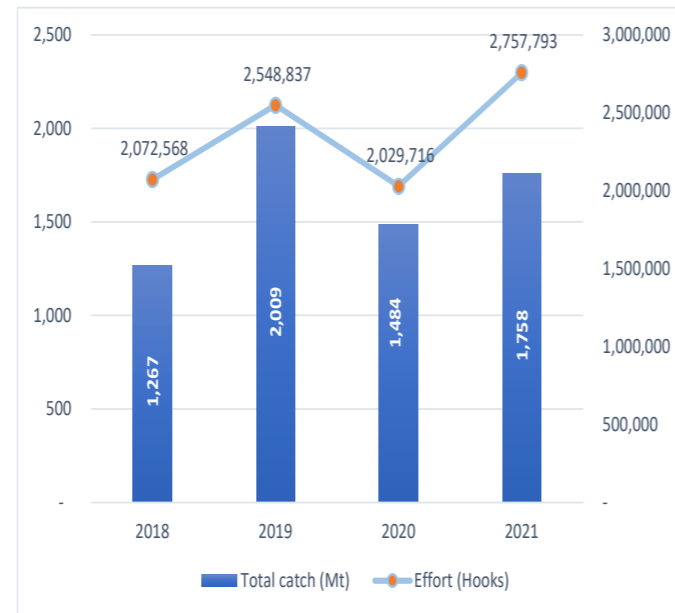
The total catch of 1,758 Mt was recorded from 41 active semi-industrial vessels that made a total of 375 fishing trips (Fig. 14), with an average of 15 days per trip and a catch rate of 0.64 Mt/1000 hooks. This was an increase over 2020, during which 35 active vessels made 306 trips and took a catch of 1,484 Mt. The decrease in activity and catches in 2020 was mainly due to the lock-down as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic from April to August 2020, during which time semi-industrial vessels were restricted from leaving port.

Fig 14: No. trips and total catch from semi-industrial



Semi-industrial fishing effort increased by 38% from 2.0m hooks in 2020 to 2.7m hooks in 2021 (Fig. 15), resulting in a drop in the catch rate from 0.73 Mt/1000 hooks to 0.64 Mt/1000 hooks over the same period. The catch rate was also lower than that of 2019.

Fig 15: Total atch and effort from semi-industrial fishery



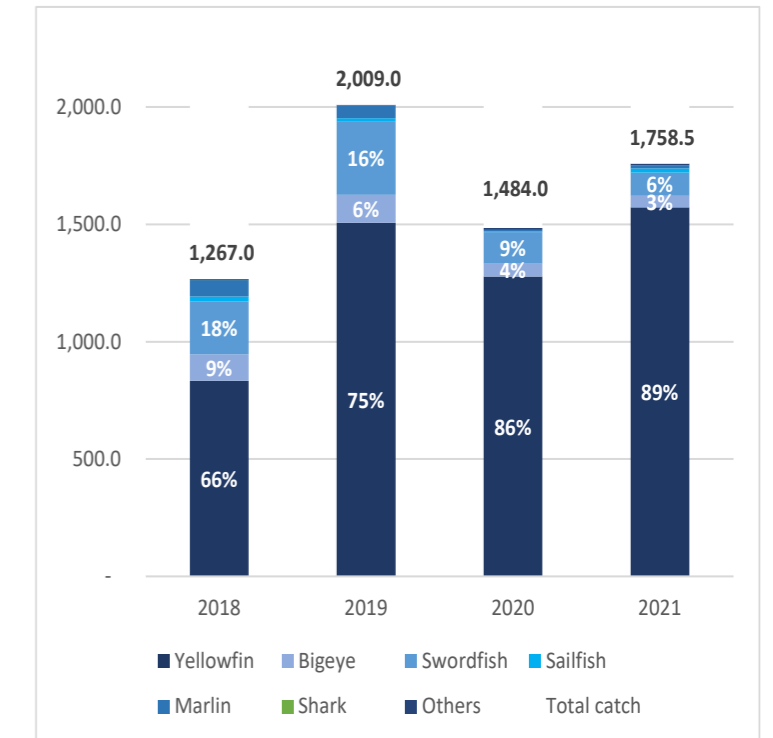
Picture Credit to Seychelles New Agency

In terms of catch composition, Yellowfin tuna continued to be the dominant species caught in this fishery accounting for 89% of the total catch in 2021 (Fig.16). This equaled to a 23% increase in the catch of this species over 2020 and a 4% increase over 2019, leading to a record catch of 1,571.9 Mt. After a fall of 54% in catch in 2020, the Bigeye catch decreased by a further 10% in 2021 to 49.8 Mt, and contributed to 2.8% of the total semi-industrial catch. Bigeye catch has decreased by 61% since it recorded its highest catch volume of 128 Mt in 2016. Swordfish which accounted for 9% of the total catch in 2020, decreased by a further 27% in 2021 to 98.5 Mt after a decrease of 57% in 2020.. As per Table 27 below, marlin and sailfish catch increased by 96% and 483%, respectively, in 2021.

Table 27: Semi-industrial catch by fish category (Mt)

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Yellowfin	833.0	1,507.0	1,277.0	1,571.9
Swordfish	226.0	313.0	135.0	98.5
Bigeye	113.0	119.0	55.0	49.8
Marlin	70.0	55.0	7.0	13.7
Sailfish	20.2	13.0	3.0	17.5
Shark	0.8	-	-	0.6
Others	4.0	2.0	7.0	6.5
Total catch	1,267.0	2,009.0	1,484.0	1,758.5

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



Picture Credit to Seychelles News Agency

Artisanal Fisheries

Artisanal fisheries contributed 2.5% of total fishery catch by vessels registered in Seychelles in 2020, at 3,460 Mt, down from 4,411 Mt in 2019, due to lower demand for fisheries products due to the Covid-19 lockdown beginning in April 2020. Only the statistics for the first half of 2021 was available for the artisanal fishery at the time of publication of this report due to issues encountered during the upgrade of the data processing and reporting system for this fishery. As a result, Table 28, 29 and 30 below provide a summary of the fishery's performance from 2019 to semester 1 2021.

Table 28: Number of active boats by type & their catch in Mt

	2019		2020		2021*	
	No. Boats	Catch Mt	No. Boats	Catch Mt	No. Boats	Catch Mt
Outboard	262	2,528.6	208	1,897.9	201	1,132.0
Whaler	61	816.1	61	567.3	62	514.5
Schooner	49	936.1	51	732.9	56	573.4
Semi-industrial	1	26.1	11	168.5	1	36.6
Others	6	104.3	7	93.5	7	89.8
Total Active	379	4,411.2	338	3,460.1	327	2,346.2

* Semester 1, 2021 only

Table 29: Total catch from artisanal fisheries by gear type (Mt)

	2019	2020	2021*
Handlines	2,946.9	2,450.4	1,645.3
Encircling gillnets	808.9	467.7	281.3
Static traps	400.5	286.6	247.4
Active traps	161.9	60.8	36.4
Others	65.2	175.9	135.7
Total catch	4,411.2	3,460.1	2,346.2

* Semester 1, 2021 only

Table 30: Artisanal fisheries catch by fish category (Mt)

Fish species	2019	2020	2021*
Carangue	1,043.1	1,134.9	558.9
Job	528.4	483.9	248.5
Bourgeois	474.9	236.5	332.4
Maquereau doux	487.1	323.2	212.1
Capitaine	274.8	225.2	149.2
Cordonier	270.3	143.8	132.7
Becune	168.3	108.5	120.2
Other trap fish	250.8	139.6	97.0
Vielle	171.5	144.4	159.8
Crab	36.6	9.4	25.5
Red snapper	177.3	138.7	124.7
Bonite	114.7	130.0	76.3
Other pelagic	118.4	96.1	11.1
Maconde	117.3	67.2	39.8
Octopus	30.1	19.2	37.6
Other maquereau	84.0	24.5	2.8
Sharks and rays	26.7	15.9	7.2
Others	37.0	19.3	10.4
Total catch	4,411.2	3,460.1	2,346.1

* Semester 1, 2021 only



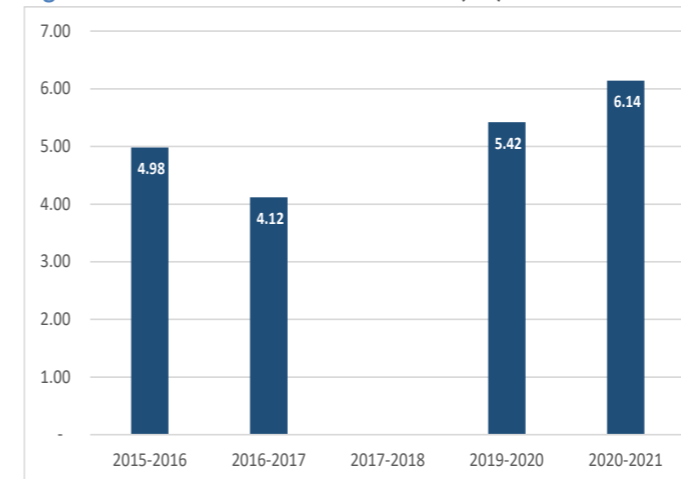
Lobster fishery

The lobster fishery is managed as a seasonal and limited-entry fishery. Traditionally, the fishery is only open for three months out of the year. The SFA's Research Division annually assesses the status of the lobster stock using data from both fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent surveys. Following the assessments, the scientists advise the managers on whether the fishery should be reopened or closed.

The lobster fishing season opened on the 21st of December 2020 and was scheduled to end on the 20th of March 2021. Following an analysis of the performance of the fishery, significant declines in effort as a consequence of unfavourable weather conditions was observed. As a result, the fishing season was extended for an additional month, closing on the 20th of April 2021. A total of sixteen fishing licences were on given, of which 13 were from Mahé, two from Praslin, and one from La Digue.

A total catch of 6.14 Mt was recorded during the open season 2020/2021, which was 13.3% above the catch of 5.42 Mt for the 2019/2020 season and 49% above the 2016/2017 season when a catch of 4.12 Mt was recorded (Fig. 17, Table 31). A total of 242 trips were made in 2020/2021 compared to 196 trips in 2019/2020.

Fig 17: Lobster catch from 2015 to 2021 (Mt)



In terms of catch composition, Pronghorn spiny lobster which made up 84% of the total catch in 2019/2020, increased by 7% in the 2020/2021 season to reach 4.849 Mt, while Long legged spiny lobster, which made up 15% of the total catch, increased by 28% to reach 1.031 Mt in the same period. Painted and Ornamente spiny lobster also increased by 224%

and 300% respectively during the 2020/2021 season as shown in Table 30 below.

Table 31: Lobster catch by species (Mt)

	2016 2017	2019 2020	2020 2021
Pronghorn spiny lobster	3.200	4.534	4.849
Long legged spiny lobster	0.797	0.806	1.031
Painted spiny lobster	0.118	0.078	0.253
Ornate spiny lobster	0.004	0.002	0.008
Total catch	4.119	5.420	6.141

Sea cucumber fishery

The Authority recorded a harvest of 319,580 pieces of sea cucumber in 2021, a decrease of 15% from the previous 2020 season. Black teat harvesting remained prohibited throughout 2021. The harvest of White teats decreased by 17% (10,770 pieces), Flower teats decreased by 16% (44,978 pieces), and Prickly red decreased by 2% (853 pieces) as shown in Fig 18 below.

Fig 18: Sea cucumber annual catch and proportion by species



Seychelles officially launches First ever FiTI report

A major step towards fisheries transparency

The department of the Blue Economy in collaboration with the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) officially launched the first FiTI country report in a ceremony held at Eden Bleu, on the 15th of April 2021. Seychelles became the first country in the world to submit a report on fisheries transparency to FiTI. The report represents a milestone for both the Seychelles and the FiTI and was a significant step in the quest for Seychelles to become fully compliant to the FiTI standard. The FiTI standard is an internationally recognised transparency framework that defines for the first time what information on fisheries should be published online by the national authorities. The Standard was developed over the course of a 2-year global consultation process with representatives from fishing nations, industrial and artisanal fishing, civil society and intergovernmental organisations.

The launch ceremony was attended by President Wavel Ramkalawan, Designated Minister Jean-François Ferrari, who is also the Minister for Fisheries & the Blue Economy, members of the diplomatic corps, among other guests.

During the launch, the country's first assessment results on the state of transparency fisheries in the Seychelles was presented by FiTI National Lead from the Department of the Blue Economy, Philip Michaud; the general manager of Seaward Ltd, Selwyn Edmond, and vice-chairman of Transparency Initiatives Seychelles, Cyril Bonnelame.

Among the notable transparency observations highlighted in the publicly available Seychelles Report to the FiTI is that large amounts of data on the Seychelles' fisheries sector are collated by national authorities like the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), but that in many instances these information are published online and readily accessible to the public. The FiTI reporting process partially addressed some of the accessibility gaps by working with the authorities to publish previously unpublished information on their websites, including information pertaining to fishing agreements including one with Mauritius, the status of fish stocks, as well as information relating to sea cucumber fishery and the license holders. It was noted that the process for transparent beneficial ownership in the fishing industry was ongoing.

On the downside, it was found that crucial information is still not available to the public, such as private fishing access agreements, registry for large-scale fishing vessels and information on fisheries subsidies to the large-scale fishing sector. Additionally, published catch information from large-scale and small-scale fisheries, was seen as incomplete. The report highlighted opportunities for improvement and included 34 recommendations the Seychelles FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group on key actions to be taken to improve fisheries transparency locally.

In 2021, the Seychelles also submitted its second report (for the calendar year 2020) to the FiTI. The second report indicated that 11 of the 34 recommendations made in the first report had been fully implemented by Seychelles' national authorities between the launch of the country's first report in April of 2021 and its second report in December 2021. In addition, the report noted that the implementation of six other recommendations were already in progress. Fisheries is the only sector in the Seychelles that is currently producing an annual transparency report based on internationally agreed standards



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

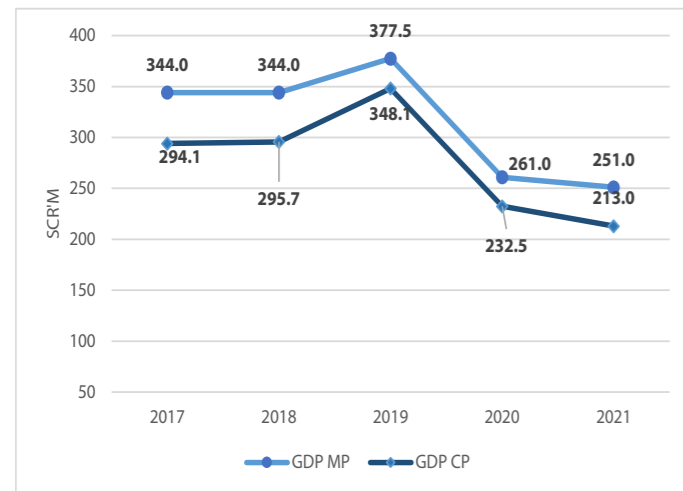


Overview

The fisheries sector contributes significantly to the country's wealth and is a crucial source of employment, export revenue, and food security. According to the System of National Accounts (SNA), the fisheries sector, which only represents the first point-of-sale value of artisanal and semi-industrial fisheries, contributed SCR251.0m to GDP at market prices in 2021, a 3.8% decrease from SCR261.0m in 2020.

GDP at constant prices fell by 8% in 2020, from SCR232.5m in 2020 to SCR213.0m in 2021, following a 33% drop in 2020 over 2019 (Fig.19). GDP contribution at market prices fell by 3.8% to SCR251.0m in 2021 after falling by 31% in 2020 compared to 2019. The fisheries sector contribution at current prices fell to 1.21% of the total GDP of SCR22.3b in 2021 compared to 1.29% of SCR21.2b in 2020.

Figure 19: GDP trend between 2017 and 2021 from National Statistics Bureau (NBS) Quarterly National Accounts Q1 2022.



Source: NBS, Quarterly National Accounts Q1, 2022.

Under the National Accounts, the contribution from industrial fisheries is captured under the Manufacturing of fisheries products as it only measures the gross value addition, in this case, canned tuna output or other related products. According to the NBS Quarterly National Accounts, Q1 2022, GDP at market price for this sector increased by 28% in 2021 to SCR1,014m, following a 30% increase in 2020 to SCR792.8m (Table 32). The combined contribution of the fishing sector and the manufacturing of fisheries products was 5.67% in 2021, up from 4.98% in 2020.

Table 32: GDP at market price for fisheries and fisheries-related sector (SCR'M)

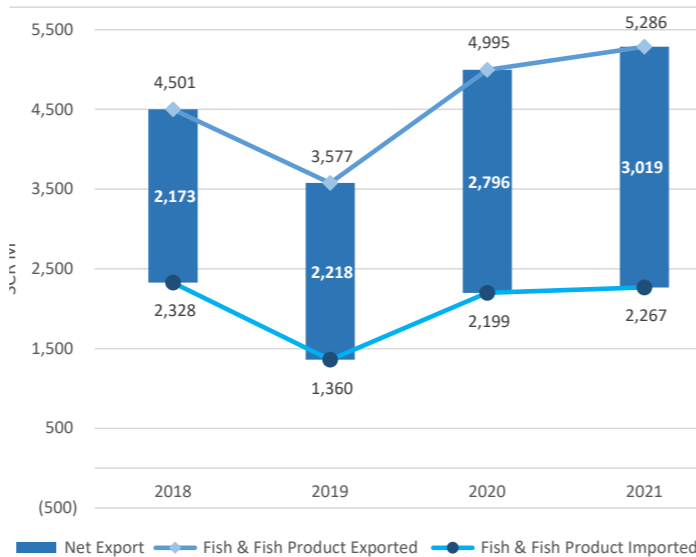
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Fisheries sector GDP	344.0	377.5	261.0	251.0
Manufacturing of fishery products	757.2	610.6	792.8	1,014.0
Total	1,101.2	988.1	1,052.8	1,265.0

Source: NBS, Quarterly National Accounts Statistics, Q1, 2022

The launch of the aquaculture sector in October 2021, in line with the Blue Economy Strategy of the Government of Seychelles, was a significant development in the fisheries sector for the year. This is part of the Government's plan to diversify the economy and improve food security in the country. The aquaculture industry anticipates improving fish and fish product quality while increasing export opportunities. The Central Common Cold Store (CCCS) facility, which took five years to complete with the help of local and foreign investors at US\$37 million, also became operational in December 2021. Clients can grade, sort, and store their fish at minus 20 or minus 40 degrees Celsius in the facility's 12,600 tonnes of cold rental storage. The facility expects to boost the fishing industry's output and create new job opportunities.

Fisheries export, which includes fresh and frozen fish, canned tuna, and other fisheries products, is a vital source of foreign currency earnings for the country and contributes to the country's balance of payment. The value of fish and fishery product exports increased by 6% from SCR4.99b in 2020 to a record SCR5.286b in 2021, contributing to 98% of total gross domestic export. The value of imported fish and fishery products fell by 3% in 2021 compared to 2020, to SCR2.267b. As a result, the net trade balance reached a new record of SCR3.019b in 2021, up 8% from SCR2.796b in 2020 as shown in Fig. 20 below.

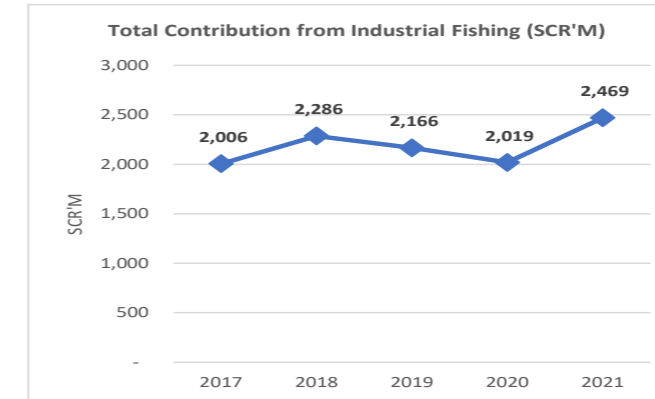
Fig 20: Trade balance for fish and fishery products (SCR'M)



Source: NBS, Merchandise Trade Q1, 2022

Total industrial fishery expenditure increased by 22% in 2021 over 2020 to a record SCR2.469b (Fig.21) due to a 24% increase in bunkering revenue of SCR321.1m. The increased bunkering revenue was due to increased activity and a 40% increase in global fuel prices, from US\$491.9 per Mt in 2020 to US\$691.3 per Mt in 2021. Over the same period, vessel expenditure increased by 38% (SCR158.6m).

Fig 21: Total annual contribution from industrial fishery expenditure.



Source: SFA

Production of fish and fish products includes both artisanal and semi-industrial fishing catches as well as the production of fish products. While the semi-industrial catch level increased by 18% in 2021 compared to 2020 following the country's re-opening after the Covid-19 lockdown and increased availability of flights for export, data for artisanal fisheries was not yet available at the time of producing the report. However, due to increased activity in 2021, the catch level is expected to be higher than in 2020.

Production of fish products, which includes canned tuna, fish oil, fish meal, smoked fish, sea cucumber and others, decreased by 6.5% from 63,079 Mt in 2020 to 58,978 Mt in 2021 (Table 33). Canned tuna production decreased by 4% from 52.043 Mt in 2020 to 49,937 Mt in 2021, contributing to 51% of the decrease of production (2,106 Mt). Production of fish oil, smoked fish, sea cucumber and others also decreased over the same period.

Table 33: Production of fish and fish products (Mt)

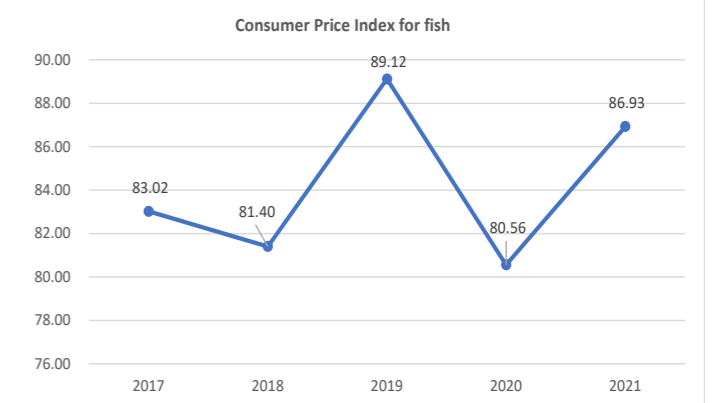
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Artisanal catch	4,187	4,411	3,460	- *
Semi-industrial catch	1,267	2,009	1,484	1,758
Production of fish products	60,900	54,857	63,079	58,980
Total	66,353	61,278	68,023	60,738

Source: NBS, Production Statistics Q1-2022 & SFA

* Artisanal data not available at the time of the report.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures inflation, increased from 80.56 to 86.93 for fish in 2021 as shown in Fig 22. This indicated a 7.9% increase in the price of fish over the 2020 period.

Fig 22: Consumer price index for fish



Source: NBS, CPI January 2022

A study to understand employment in the fisheries sub-sector and fisheries related sub-sector of the fishing industry showed that males dominate the fisheries sub-sector at 99% (1,782) compared to only 18 females. Thirty-six percent of female (1,240) are employed in the fisheries related sub-sector, while 2,204 males make up 64% of the total 3,444 employed in that sub-sector. The study also showed that Seychellois employees dominated the fishing sector at 3,947, with the fisheries sub-sector comprising about 91% Seychellois and the fisheries related sub-sector at 67%, with the foreign workers predominantly involved in the processing activities.

The study also showed that 33% of fisheries related sub-sector's workers earn less than SCR5,805 per month, while 22% earn above SCR15,000 as follows; SCR15,001-SCR35,666 at 18%, SCR35,667-SCR83,000 at 3%, and 1% above SCR83,000 per month. However, in the fisheries sub-sector, the majority (51%) are in the SCR5,805-SCR8,555 per month wage band, with no employees earning above SCR83,000 per month.



Domestic Production of Fish and Fish Products

Total domestic production of fish and fishery products includes canned tuna, fish meal, fish oil production, and the total catch of the artisanal and semi-industrial fisheries. As a result of issues faced with the upgrade of the data processing and reporting system for artisanal fisheries, the catch data for artisanal fishery was not available at the time of finalization of this report, thus only catch for semi-industrial is considered in this report.

Catch from semi-industrial fishery increased by 18% from 1,484 Mt in 2020 to 1,758 Mt in 2021 (Table 34), primarily due to increased demand from the hospitality industry and increased availability of flights for fisheries export after the restriction on the Covid-19 lockdown was removed. The 2021 catch remained 12% below the record 2,009 Mt catch of 2019.

Canned tuna production, on the other hand, fell by 4% in 2021 after reaching a record 52,043 Mt in 2020 due to increased international demand for canned food products during the Covid-19 lockdown period. Despite the reduction in 2021, production remained 9% higher than the 2019 production level of 45,812 Mt, demonstrating a three-year upward trend.

Table 34: Production of fish and fish products (Mt)

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Artisanal catch	4,187	4,411	3,460	NA*
Semi-industrial catch	1,267	2,009	1,484	1,758
Canned tuna	51,077	45,812	52,043	49,937
Smoked Fish	18	22	19	10
Fish meal	8,061	7,809	9,003	8,005
Fish oil	1,641	1,158	881	971
Sea cucumber	46	56	58	56
Others (sharks & rays)	57	-	1,074	1
Total domestic production	66,353	61,278	68,023	60,738

Source: NBS, Production Statistics Q1-2022 & SFA

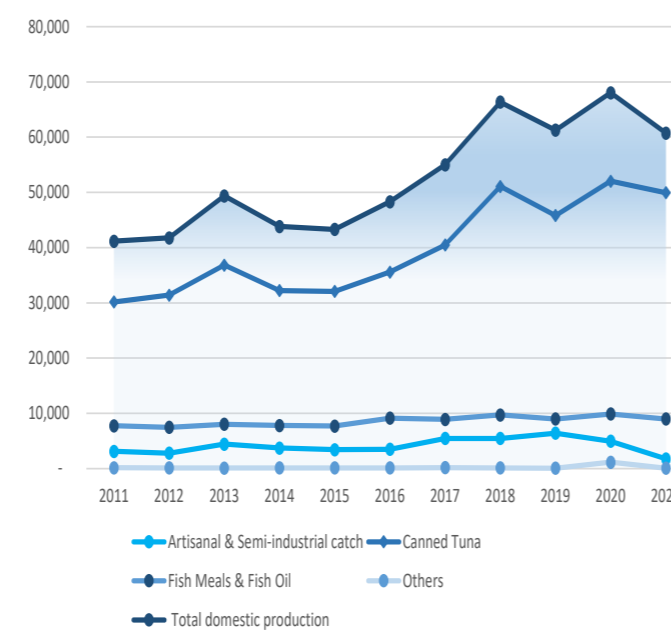
NA* Data for 2021 is not available at the time of production of this report

Production of dried sea cucumbers decreased by 3% to 56 Mt in 2021, while sharks and ray production decreased by 1,073 Mt over the same period

Fishmeal and fish oil are significant byproducts of the tuna canning industry. While fishmeal is a byproduct of the tuna factory trimmings, fish oil is a byproduct obtained during the reduction process that produces fish meals. The fishmeal production fell by 12.5%, from 9,003 Mt in 2020 to 8,005 Mt in 2021, and fish oil production, on the other hand, increased by 10.2% during the same period, from 881 Mt to 971 Mt.

Trend analysis of fish and fishery products' contribution over the last ten years shows an upward trend since 2014, with a slight decrease in 2019 and 2021 (Fig. 23). This trend closely matches that of canned tuna production, revealing a high correlation and significant effects of canned tuna on the total domestic output. In light of this discovery, the Government and SFA intend to expand fisheries value-added productions on the Ile Du Port fish processing zone (Zone 14), which will be operational by mid-2023. Artisanal, semi-industrial catch, fish meal, fish oil, and other fish products' production have less effect on the total output as they carry less weight in terms of volume produced.

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



Source: NBS, Production Statistics Q1, 2022

Revenue from Industrial Fisheries

Industrial fishing in the tuna industry remained one of the most important sources of foreign currency earnings for Seychelles, accounting for 11.4% of its direct current account receipts. The gross income from the industrial fishing sector is primarily derived from bunkering, foreign fishing vessels' expenditures on goods and services in Port Victoria, payments for licenses, and other financial compensations.

The contribution from the industrial fisheries sector increased by 22% from 2020 to reach a record revenue of SCR2.468b in 2021 (Table 35), recovering from the decrease in revenue in 2020, due to low fuel prices caused by lower demand during the Covid-19 lockdown. Increased revenue from bunkering and fishing vessel/company expenditures by 24% and 35%, respectively, contributed to the increase in overall revenue for the year.

Table 35: Annual contribution from industrial fishing (SCR'M)

Expenditure types	2018	2019	2020	2021
Bunkering	1,691.8	1,599.5	1,313.0	1,634.2
Fishing vessels/company expenditure	382.1	363.9	425.0	574.0
Licence/access fees, excess catch and sectoral support	211.5	201.8	278.3	249.4
Seamen compensation	1.1	0.9	2.1	3.0
Total contribution	2,286.5	2,166.1	2,018.5	2,468.9

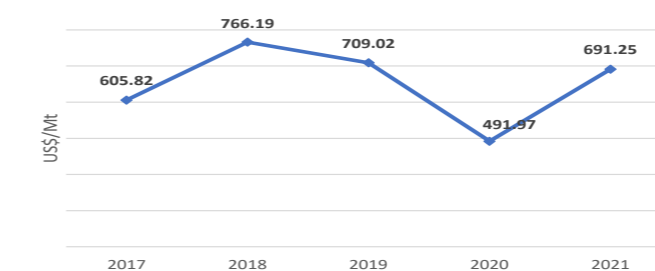
Source: SFA

The number of industrial vessel licenses issued decreased by four in 2021 (Table 36), including three supply vessels, in accordance with IOTC requirements. The purse seiner fleet increased by two, while the long liners decreased by one. The number of days spent in the port increased by 1,106 (26%), while revenue from fishing vessels and company expenditure increased by 27% as the level of activity in the industrial fishery increased. Despite a decrease in the volume of fuel purchased, bunkering revenue increased by 24% in 2021 due to increased price of fuel in US dollars, as shown in Fig.24 below.

Table 36: Number of industrial licenses issued, number of port calls, days spent, and volume of fuel sold.

	2018	2019	2020	2021
No. Industrial license issued	274	248	224	220
No. Port calls	820	831	768	851
Days spent in port	6,254	5,611	4,333	5,439
Fuel sale (Mt)	158,322	158,681	155,416	140,435

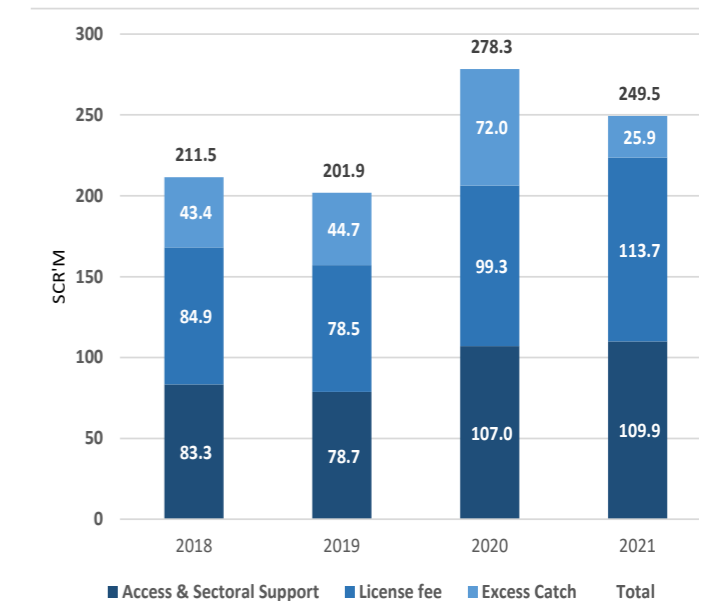
Fig 24: Price of fuel quoted by SEYPEC for the period Jan 2017-Dec 2021 (US\$)



Bunkering remained the largest contribution of revenue from industrial fishing, accounting for 67% in 2021, an increase of 2% over the 2020's contribution. Fishing vessels/company expenditures which accounted for 21% of total expenditure in 2020, contributed 22% of the total industrial revenue in 2021.

License fees, excess catch, and the EU Sectoral support fees decreased by 10% from SCR278.3m in 2020 to SCR249.4m in 2021 (Fig. 25). Sectoral support and access fees increased by 3% from SCR107m to SCR109.9m for the same period. The total license fees, which also included a new environmental and VMS communication fees of SCR5.6m in 2021, increased by 15% from SCR99.3m to SCR113.7m during the same period as shown in Fig 25 below. This was primarily due to the increased number of purse seiners in 2021. Excess catch decreased by SCR49.0m to reach SCR25.9m in 2021. The high value of license fee in 2020 was due to the collection of previous years dues and the devaluation of the Seychelles rupees. License fees increased by 26% from SCR85.4m in 2020 to SCR108.0m in 2021.

Fig 25: License/access fee, excess catch and sectoral support revenue breakdown



Source: SFA

Seamen compensation, increased by 39%, from SCR2.1m in 2020 to SCR3.0m in 2021 due to increased industrial activities.

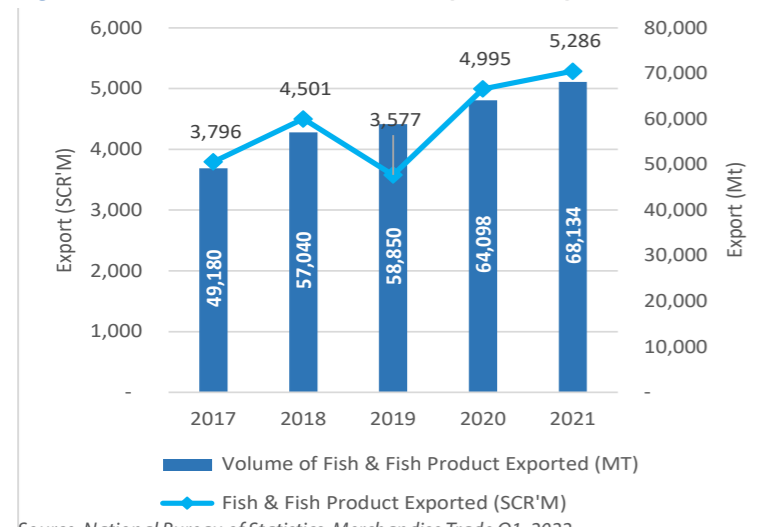
Trade in Fish and Fisheries Products

Fish and fisheries products are some of the most traded commodities in Seychelles, and as such, they constitute an important growth and income-generating activity for the national economy. External agents' demand for these valuable goods expects to rise further based on their nutritional benefits and commercial value. As a result, domestic exporters are encouraged to use innovative global outreach techniques to tap into potential markets.

Exports of fish and fisheries products

The total fish and fish product export volume grew by a further 6% in 2021 over 2020 to reach a record 68,134 Mt (Fig 26). Over the last 5 years, the volume of export has grown by 39%. The value of export also increased by 6% over the same period to reach a record SCR5.286b.

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



Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Merchandise Trade Q1, 2022

In 2021, the volume of fresh and frozen fish exports fell by 10% over 2020 to 9,957 Mt (Table 37), owing to a 19% drop in frozen fish exports. However, the volume of fresh and fillet fish exports increased significantly over the same period, from 67 Mt to 895 Mt, due to increased flights after the easing of Covid-19 restrictions and the introduction of a new cargo flight by Euro African Star Transport (EAST). The Total export value of fresh and frozen fish increase by 9% from SCR274m to SCR298m in 2021.

Table 37: Volume and value of fish and fish products exported

	2019		2020		2021	
	Volume (Mt)	Value (SCR'M)	Volume (Mt)	Value (SCR'M)	Volume (Mt)	Value (SCR'M)
Canned tuna	35,951	3,098	42,976	4,383	49,145	4,676
Fish oil	1,158	77	881	77	971	69
Fish meal	7,809	115	9,003	174	8,005	151
Fresh and frozen fish	13,886	237	11,180	274	9,957	298
Sea cucumber, shark fin and crustaceans	46	50	58	87	56	92
Total	58,850	3,577	64,098	4,995	68,134	5,286

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Merchandise Trade Q1, 2022

Thailand was the largest export destination for fresh and frozen fish in 2021 as shown the Table 38 below, accounting for SCR58.5m, or 20% of total exports in this category. Thailand's frozen fish market was established in 2020 and increased by 150% in 2021 over 2020. The second largest export market is the United States, which accounts for 17% of the total fresh/fillet fish exports at SCR51m, a 4% increase over 2020. Ghana and Tunisia became new frozen fish markets in 2021, while Canada became a new fresh/chilled fish market during the same period. Fresh or chilled fish exports to the United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, and Mauritius increased in 2021.

Table 38: Export Destination of fresh and frozen fish (SCR'M)

	2019	2020	2021
Thailand	-	23.4	58.5
United States of America (USA)	9.4	49.2	51.0
Ivory Coast	64.8	26.5	34.5
United Kingdom	5.5	16.5	19.7
Turkey	18.2	11.4	19.1
Ghana	-	-	12.2
Tunisia	-	-	10.4
Israel	2.8	19.9	10.3
Spain	22.3	24.6	7.9
Canada	-	-	7.8
Sri Lanka	27.8	16.4	7.2
Ecuador	-	10.3	7.2
United Arab Emirates	0.3	3.0	6.9
Mauritius	0.8	1.3	6.4
Others	85.5	71.5	38.8
Grand Total	237.5	274.0	298.0

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2022

Canned tuna exports, which accounted for 72% of total volume and 88% of total value in 2021, increased by 14% in volume from 42,976 Mt in 2020 to a new record 49,145 Mt in 2021. The value of exports also increased by 6% from SCR4.386b to a new record SCR4.676b in the same period. France remained the top destination for canned tuna exports in 2021, accounting for 46% (SCR2.170 billion), followed by the United Kingdom (23% (SCR1.110 billion), and Italy (16%). (SCR0.750b).

The volume of fish oil exports increased by 10% from 881 Mt in 2020 to 971 Mt in 2021. However, its value decreased by 10%, from SCR77m to SCR69m over the same period, due to the appreciation of the Seychelles rupees, in 2021. During the same year, Iceland remained a key market for fish oil, but exports to Switzerland and Australia declined due to Covid-19-related flight restrictions, while new export markets emerged.

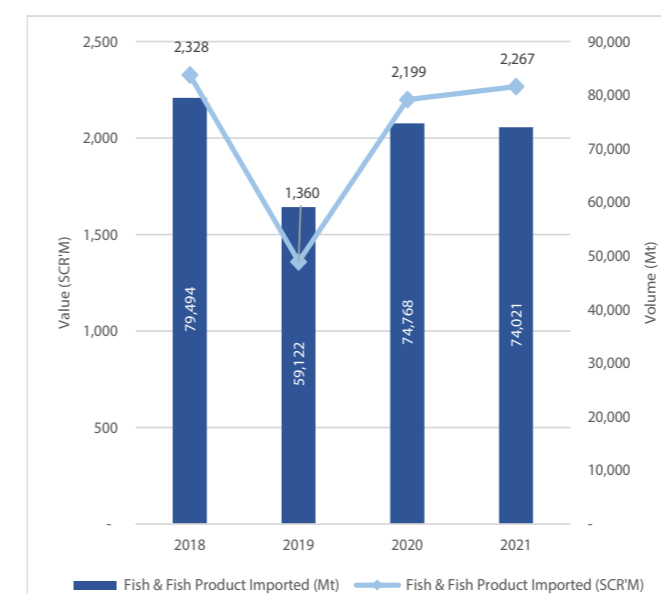
Following a record performance in 2020, fish meal volume and value decreased by 11% and 13% in 2021 to 8,005 Mt and SCR151m, respectively. Taiwan, Australia, and Bangladesh were the top three fish meal export destinations, accounting for 69% of total export.

Export of sea cucumber decreased by 3% in volume from 58 Mt in 2020 to 56 Mt in 2021. However, the value of export grew by a further 6% from SCR87m to SCR92 during the same period. Hong Kong remained the main destination for sea cucumber, accounting for 99.9% of the total value of sea cucumber exported.

Import of fish and fisheries products

The total import of fisheries products decreased by 1% in volume from 74,768 Mt in 2020 to 74,021 Mt in 2021 but increased by 3% in value from SCR2.199b to SCR2.267b over the same period as per Fig 27 below. The increase was driven by the recording of fish prepared and preserved by the National Statistics Bureau (NSB) under the fish import category as per Table 39.

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



Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Merchandise Trade Q1, 2022

Frozen tuna remained the dominant import commodity for the IOT factory for canning, accounting for 98% of total imports of fish and fishery products in terms of volume and 94% in value in 2021. Following the record increase in both frozen fish import volume and value in 2020 due to increased international demand for canned tuna, the import volume decreased by 1.5% and its value increased slightly by 1% in 2021. This could be attributed to rising fuel and shipping costs.

Table 39: Volume and value of fish and fish product imported

	2019		2020		2021	
	Volume (Mt)	Value (SCR'M)	Volume (Mt)	Value (SCR'M)	Volume (Mt)	Value (SCR'M)
Fish fresh or chilled	13	2.7	15	2.8	11	3.2
Fish frozen	58,321	1,271.7	73,991	2,111.3	72,858	2,134.2
Fish fillet & other fish meat	3	0.9	4	1.2	5	1.1
Fresh dried & salted/brine	32	5.1	32	4.8	43	7.2
Fish prepared and preserved					520	40.4
Mollusc & Crustacean prepared or preserved	753	80.0	728	79.3	584	80.6
Total	59,122	1,359.6	74,768	2,199.3	74,021	2,266.8

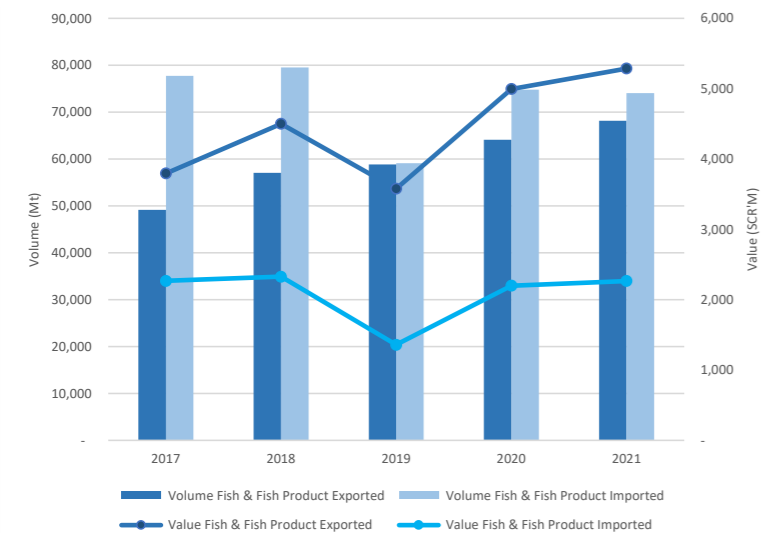
Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Merchandise Trade Q1, 2022

Other commodities not processed in the cannery are supplied to hotels, local markets, and as baits for the domestic fishing industry. Molluscs and crustaceans were the second-largest import category, accounting for SCR80.6m in 2021 (3.5%). Import's value increased by 2% in 2021, despite a 20% decrease in volume imported over the same period due to higher logistic prices. Other products, such as fresh fish, fish fillets, and dried fish, have low import volumes and values, therefore, have little impact on total imports.

Balance of Trade

The balance of trade calculates the flow of exports and imports over a specific period. Fig. 28 shows a consistent and high positive net export for fish and fish products from 2017 to 2021, with a record balance of SCR3.019b in 2021. The balance of payment increased by 8% from SCR2.796b recorded in 2020, demonstrating the critical importance of the fishing sector to the country's balance of payments.

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



Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Merchandise Trade Q1, 2022

Inflow of foreign currency

The fisheries industry constitute one of many channels through which foreign currency flows into and out of the economy. Foreign currency inflows inject various currencies into the economy, allowing households, businesses, and the government to import overseas products. Table 39 below shows an inflow of approximately SCR7,713 billion in 2021, accounting for 36% of current account receipts, a growth of 10% above 2020's contribution, primarily due to the increase in canned tuna exports for the year and the increase in revenue from the industrial tuna fishery.

Table 39: Inflow of foreign currency from export (SCR'M)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Visible Export	3,796	4,501	3,577	4,995	5,286
Revenue from industrial tuna fishery	2,006	2,286	2,166	2,019	2,469
Gross inflow from fisheries (a)	5,802	6,787	5,743	7,014	7,755
Current account receipts (b)	22,513	24,994	23,760	19,922	21,700
(a) as % of (b)	26%	27%	24%	35%	36%

Source: NBS, Merchandise Trade Q1, 2022, CBS Annual report 2021 and SFA

According to the Central Bank of Seychelles' annual report 2021, tourism earnings for the year were US\$310 million, up from US\$221 million in 2020, as a result of the country's re-opening following the Covid-19 lockdown. Table 39 above shows that the total gross inflow from fisheries in 2021 was \$459 million, based on an average exchange rate of SCR16.90 to the US dollar. As a result, the fisheries sector remained the primary foreign currency earner for the Seychelles economy in 2021, demonstrating the vital importance of fisheries and related activities to the national economy and the country's development. It also shows the need to further develop the sector's potential contribution to the economy.



Employment study and capacity needs assessment for the Seychelles' fisheries sector

SFA commissioned a study in 2021 to better understand the development in employment in Seychelles' fisheries sector and provide an update on people involved in this sector compared to the findings of past surveys. A previous 2014 survey estimated that 5,000 to 6,000 people were directly or indirectly employed in the fisheries and related sectors, representing around 10% of total formal employment in the country.

This new study collected data on from 5,282 people working in the fisheries sector across 22 economic activities, with 1,788 working in the fisheries sub-sector (1,278 artisanal, 132 semi-industrial, 130 invertebrates, and 5 aquaculture) and 3,494 working in the fisheries related sub-sector (1,748 processing, 1,072 related to shipping agencies).

Males dominated the fisheries sub-sector considerably at 99% compared to only 18 females, most likely due to its traditional role and labour-intensive aspect of this job. On the other hand, female representation in the fisheries related sub-sector was much higher at 36% (1,240); however, male employees still dominated the sub-sector at 2,240. The fishing industry employs 3,947 Seychellois making up 91% of the fisheries sub-sector and 67% of the fisheries related sub-sector compared to foreign employees. The higher proportion of foreign workers were recorded in activities related to processing.

The study also showed that 33% of fisheries related sub-sector workers earn less than SCR5,805 per month, while 22% earn above SCR15,000 as follows; SCR15,001-SCR35,666 per month at 18%, SCR35,667-SCR83,000 per month at 3%, and 1% above SCR83,000 per month. However, in the fisheries sub-sector, the majority (51%) are in the SCR5,805 and SCR8,555 per month wage band, with no employee earning above SCR83,000 per month.



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 parastatal organisation, created under the SFA Act 2004, and works closely with the Ministry of Fisheries. It is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the President of the Republic, which is responsible for its policy, control and management. The Chief Executive Officer has supervision over, and directs the day-to-day affairs of the Authority.

Organisation Structure

SFA's organisation structure as at end of December 2021 is presented below:

SFA Board of Director Chairperson: Radley Weber	
SFA Chief Executive Nichol Elizabeth	
Administration & Services	Operations
Deputy Chief Executive <i>Ashik Hassan</i>	Fisheries Resource Manager <i>Vincent Lucas</i>
Legal Advisor <i>Yannick Roucou</i>	Aquaculture Manager <i>Aubrey Lesperence</i>
Human Resource Manager <i>Jessy Roseline</i>	Development & Assessment Manager <i>Ronny Antat</i>
Procurement Manager <i>Samantha Ramanoelina</i>	Port & Control Manager <i>Steve Asba</i>
Financial Controller <i>Sara Fanchette</i>	Facilities Manager <i>Georgie Nicette</i>
IT Manager <i>Alvynas Vidot</i>	Monitoring Control & Surveillance Manager - <i>Johnny Lous</i>
Health & Safety Manager <i>Michael Gill</i>	Fisheries Research Manager <i>Rodney Govinden</i>
Amin Manager <i>Elvis Stravens</i>	Fisheries Statistic Manager <i>Juliette Lucas</i>
Security Manager <i>Steve Nourrice</i>	Fisheries Economic Manager <i>Michel Marguerite</i>
Property Manager <i>Marlene Kahn</i>	Technical Fisheries Coordinator & Scientific Advisor - <i>Dr. Ameer Ebrahim</i>
International Collaboration Manager <i>Nan Constance</i>	Property Manager <i>Derrick Monthy</i>

Corporate governance

The SFA act 2004 sets out governance requirements which the Authority has to comply with, and SFA has ensured that it complied over the two-year period.

Authority meeting

There were 15 ordinary board meetings in 2021 with members attendance as per below.

Board member	No. Meetings	Board member	No. Meetings
Radley Weber (Chairman)	15	Beatty Hoarau	14
Eugene Vidot	11	Roy Clarisse	12
Marc Gonthier	8	Audrina Dine	13
Joseph Tirant	12	Aubrey Harris	15
Franky Laporte	15		

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/Sey Protocol. The financial audit for the period 2019/2020 was finalised at the end of March 2022 and that for 2021 was finalised in October 2022. The EU/Sey audit for 2018 & 2019 installment and for the 2014-2020 performance was completed in December 2020. The next Sectoral Support audit is due in 2022.

Corporate planning and reporting

The Authority is required to submit its annual corporate plan to the PEMC and thereafter monitor and report on their performance. The corporate plans were submitted to PEMC after approval of the board and monthly/quarterly/semi-annual performance reports were submitted as required. The Annual report for 2019/2020 was submitted in 2022 as a result of the undertaking of a complete audit for the period.

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 2021 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 the SFA.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Department continued to support the SFA's management team in attracting, developing, and retaining high performing employees in 2021 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

SFA carried out a detailed need assessment for all departments in 2018 to support its transition to Autonomy status, which it achieved on 1st January 2019. In 2021, 22 positions were filled as per the Table 40 below.

Table 40: New Recruitment for 2019-2021

	2019	2020	2021
Secretariat	3	3	4
Human Resources	6	6	6
Accounts	3	5	1
IT	0	0	1
Research	3	4	0
Aquaculture	5	2	1
Post Harvest & Value Addition	1	2	2
Port Management/Development	11	2	5
Projects	3	1	0
Statistics	1	0	2
Monitoring Control & Surveillance	2	11	0
Total	38	36	22

SFA recruited key management positions such as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Internal Auditor, Property Manager, Deputy Financial Controller, Security Manager and other support staff in 2021. There were 13 resignations during the year. At the end of 2021 SFA had 217 staff.

Training and development

HR seeks to fosters a healthy, safe, well-equipped, and productive work environment for all SFA staff, and provide opportunities for staff to increase their knowledge and develop their full potential. During the year 19 staff were registered on full time courses as per the Table 41 below.

Table 41: No. Staff participated in training & workshops 2021

	Status	2021
Certificate level	Ongoing	2
Advanced Certificate level	Ongoing	1
Diploma	Ongoing	9
BSc. Degree	Ongoing	4
Post Graduate Diploma	Completed	1
Master's Degree	Ongoing	1
Grow FTP UNESCO Fellowship	Ongoing	1
Total		19

Several staff also participated in several local short courses during the year, and also attended international meetings and the Expo 2020 in Dubai, UAE.

Establishing Performance Indicators

During the year, the HR Section implemented a standard procedures for recruitment, training agreements and organizational development.

Corporate Social Responsibility

SFA staff participated in different activities at the orphanages and senior citizens residents of state-operated facilities across Mahé to commemorate World Food Day on the 16th of October 2021. Staff donated food to the residents to promote the consumption of local fish and allow the residents to explore the different fish recipes and meals.

2022 Outlook

In 2022 the HR section will continue to build the capacity to support the SFA's strategic plan and work with the management team to develop and implement performance management across the company.



Staff participate in CSR program at North East Point regional home

Environmental, Occupational Health & Safety

The Environmental/Occupational Health and Safety (EH&S) section of SFA 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 services providers to the fishing industry.

Guided by health and safety laws and regulation, 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 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.

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 departmental 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.



In 2021, the EH&S Section completed several key projects and implement several procedures. These included the following:

- Ensured that all new recruits underwent medical/toxicology test before being confirmed in post.
- Carried out regular evaluation and risk assessment of all potential hazard.
- Organised Binaural First Aider Refresher Course for all new candidates and ensuring that each department has a certified first aid respondent.
- Demarcated all exit route, emergency exits, and fire assembly points.
- Implemented maintenance servicing list for all fire extinguishers.
- Implemented basic Ice plant safety protocol including installation of fire safety gears on the ice plant facilities managed by SFA.

- Actioned on non-conformance following the audits of Ice plants to ascertain risk level and identify any potential hazard. This included the disposal/containment of all ammonia waste.
- Introduced windsocks at Providence and Bel Ombre to indicate the direction of the wind. This is crucial in case of an Ammonia leakage.
- Carried out a full inventory on all the existing markets on Mahe, Praslin and La Digue in order to ensure the highest level of quality and hygiene.

Environment occupational health & safety policies and guidelines

During the year the Section produced the following policies and guidelines:

- Produced the Protocol for Disposal of Hazardous (ammonia) Waste Product and other Materials. This followed the national audit for ammonia refrigeration inspection.
- Developed the Preparedness and Response Guideline. This guideline details the SFA response in the event of an emergency in order to initially contain and ultimately bring under control any incident which gives rise to an emergency.
- Completed the Emergency Plan, the Emergency Principles and Procedure, and Responding to Emergency Situations procedure.
- Developed the Standard Operating Procedures for Waste Identification Collection and Removal, including Hazardous Waste Derivatives.
- Established procedures to collect ice from ice bins.

Environment Health & Safety reports produced

The Section produced the following reports/communications in 2021:

- Produced report on the cleaning work undertaken on the Warehouse C1 and C2;
- Produced a risk assessment report for all the different departments/ sections of SFA;
- Produced the Covid-19 vaccination status report for the SFA.

Health & Safety Training completed

The Section organised the following training during the year:

- First Aid Refresher Training Facilitator facilitated by the Red Cross.
- Ammonia Training, facilitated by Mr. Robert Rose (RMP).

2021 Outlook

For 2022, the EH&S Section will start to set 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.



Disposal of ammonia at SFA ice-plant

Agreements, Policies and Regulations

Policies and regulations

The authority is responsible for developing and updating local policies, as well as ensuring that they are followed. The Authority is also a member of international commissions and must ensure compliance with them.

Local policies & regulations

In 2021, the Authority completed several new or revised policies and regulations in line with the development goals of SFA. These included:

- The Mahé Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Regulations, 2021 was published in the Official Gazette on 13th September 2021. It was officially launched on 1st of October 2021 and the regulations came into force on 1st January 2022.
- The Aquaculture Regulations 2020 came into force on the 1st August 2021.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) to establish a framework to facilitate collaboration in areas of mutual interest regarding the shark NPOA.

International agreements

The Authority carried out the requirements of current agreements and negotiated new ones with numerous partners in 2021 while ensuring that they complied with regulations, the adoption of best practices, and any prospective development areas.

European Union (EU)/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partner Agreement

February 2020-January 2026 Agreement

The EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement for the period 2020-2026 was signed in February 2020. Under the agreement, Seychelles expects to benefit from EUR58.2m over a 6-year period (EUR9.7m annually). This includes EUR31.8m, an increase of EUR1.1m from the previous 2014-2020 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 tonnages 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, including 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 is made up of the following:

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

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. A balance of EUR 0.54m of the fund was disbursed in 2021 for the above programs.

An annual budget of EUR 0.4 million was allotted under the new agreement to increase the visibility of the EU/Seychelles SFPA initiative as a means of accountability to both the population of Seychelles and the European Union. With the help of this budget, the partners will be able to create a communication and visibility plan and hold at least one joint general visibility event per year for EU-SEY.

The total budget for 2021 from the sectoral support program was EUR 3.87m as per Table 42 below. At the end of October 2021, 75% of the budget had been utilised thus qualifying for the disbursement of EUR 2.8m plus EUR 0.97m unused budgets of 2021 for the 2022 development program.

Table 42: Budget utilisation 2021 (as at 31.10.2021)

	2021 Budget (EUR'M)	2021 payment (EUR'M)	Budget execution Oct 2021
Development & implementation of fisheries & aquaculture management plan	1.42	0.86	61%
Fisheries infrastructures development for artisanal and industrial sector	1.70	1.36	80%
Capacity building	0.17	0.14	80%
Covid-19 response program	0.54	0.54	100%
Communication and visibility	0.04	0.01	18%
Total	3.87	2.90	75%

Joint Commission meeting

The first EU/Seychelles Joint Commission Meetings under the new protocol took place by video conferencing on the 3rd of April 2021. The difficulties IOTC is facing in protecting the Yellowfin tuna and the threat from the largest European merchants to outlaw yellowfin tuna from the Indian Ocean were among the main topics of discussion during the conference. The need for the SFPA to be more visible was also discussed during the meeting, and it was decided that collaborative activities would be planned throughout the year, the first one taking place on Tuna Day and the second on World Ocean Day.

The compensation of Seychellois seafarers who served on European Union (EU) fishing vessels under earlier protocols was discussed during the second Joint Committee Meeting, which took place in Seychelles on November 24 and 25, 2021. It was approved to compensate 121 Seychellois seamen who got fixed salary that did not fulfill ILO standards with 73% of the amount requested. The EU evaluated the different projects being carried out in accordance with the convention, as well as the collaboration within the framework of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, during the conference. The EU also approved a payment of EUR 2.8m under the sectoral support programme.



Participants at the 2nd EU/Seychelles SFPA meeting.

MOU with FAO

In November 2021, the FAO and the SFA signed a Memorandum of Understanding on their joint efforts to combat abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG). To lessen bycatch in fisheries and reduce harm to the environment, Seychelles is required under the MOU to manage fishing gear that is deployed and used onboard vessels, such as FADs, as well as the retrieval of lost ones.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

Seychelles participated in various meetings during the year as an active member of the IOTC. This included a special session from the 8th to 12th of March 2021 and the 25th commission sessions which took place virtually from the 7th to 11th June 2021.

Members discussed their concerns of the current status of yellowfin tuna and the deficiencies relating to the harvest control rule for Skipjack tuna during the meeting.

Three Conservation and Management Measures were taken during the 25th session. These included:

- An interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of competence (21/01), where limits were applied depending on the level of catch of Yellowfin by Contracting Party and Cooperating Non Contracting Party (CPC). Seychelles as a Small Island Developing States is required to reduce its catch by 10% compared to the average catch of 2017-2019. Larger states have to reduce their catch by 21%. Other measures included the reduction in the number of supply vessels in purse seine operation by 31 December 2022 and the phasing out or conversion of gillnet fishing vessels to other gears.
- A programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels (21/02). This regulation encourages transshipment in ports but applies strict compliance for transshipment at sea.
- Harvest control rules for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence (21/03). This aims to maintain the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission skipjack tuna stock in perpetuity.



(L to r) Messrs Lucas, Clarisse and Michaud during the press conference after the IOTC's 25th session held between 7th and 11th July 2021

EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement

2nd Joint Committee Meeting - Taking stock of the partnership

Representatives from the EU and Seychelles met in Victoria, Seychelles, on November 24–26 to review the 2020–2026 Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA).

During the Joint Committee meeting, the Parties reviewed the state of play in relation to EU fishing activities in Seychelles waters, cooperation under the sectoral support programme, as well as cooperation in the framework of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

The parties examined every project completed as part of the Protocol's first annual work program and came to consensus on the second annual work program's priorities, objectives, and activities. The meeting clearly highlighted that the artisanal sector and local communities' benefits from the sectoral support, and consequently contribute to employment and food security in the country.

Between February 2020 and October 2021, around €5.7 million of EU support had been implemented under the previous and current protocols, demonstrating a very high level of execution. The main activities realised were the implementation of the fisheries and aquaculture management plans and of monitoring, control and surveillance in Seychelles waters. Key activities include building of infrastructures to benefit local fishing communities, such as fisheries facilities at La Retraite, landing sites and fish market at Perseverance and the aquaculture broodstock facility in Providence; in Cascade, Anse Aux Pins, Baie Ste. In Baie Ste. Anne and Grand Anse Praslin, other EU-funded fisheries infrastructure projects are under way. The financial support provided to the Seychelles Bureau of Standards and to the Maritime Academy have also allowed for the training of skilled professionals and a number of other capacity building activities.

The participants also discussed how to move away from mostly transshipment-focused businesses toward becoming a hub for fish processing, with the goal of making fisheries the second pillar of the national economy.

With new policy frameworks promoting sustainable practices for industrial, semi-industrial, and artisanal fisheries and aimed at expanding export opportunities, the sectoral support funds will help build infrastructure and services in support of a new processing zone at Ile du Port and strengthen private sector engagement. The two Parties underlined their support for the rise of Seychellois entrepreneurship in the seafood industry, notably in the value chain for tuna, which will afterwards contribute to the nation's employment and food security.



La Retraite fisheries facility inaugurated in April 2021 (Picture: Seychelles Nation)

Section 6

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND STATEMENTS

Enhance the organization financial, administrative and risk management capability



General Information 2021

DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS OF THE AUTHORITY During 2021 Period

- Cyril Bonnelame (Chairperson) (Resigned Feb 2021)
- Eugene Vidot
- Keith Andre (Resigned Feb 2021)
- Roy Clarisse
- Rebecca Loustau-Lalanne (Resigned Feb 2021)

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

- Nichol John Elizabeth

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

Seychelles International Mercantile Banking Corporation Ltd.

Statement of Financial Performance - 2021

Financial result summary 2021

The Authority reported a surplus of SCR121.7m at the end of 2021, an 11% decrease over the SR137.3m reported in 2020. Despite the reduction in surplus, the Authority was able to pay a dividend of SCR75m to the Government of Seychelles compared to SCR50m and SCR25m paid in 2020 and 2019 respectively.

Over the year 2021, SCR267.14m was recorded as prime source of income as shown in Table 43 below. This was a slight reduction of 1.4% from SCR270.86m in 2020.

Table 43: Income

SCR'M	Actual 2021	Actual 2020	Actual 2019
Income for ice operations	3.88	2.62	4.67
Income from sea cucumber fishery	1.46	1.60	1.34
Net & container fees	4.71	6.47	5.17
Fees from non-embarking seamen	2.92	4.49	0.56
Registration & license fee (local)	0.53	0.52	0.54
Registration & license fee (foreign)	108.01	133.77	108.04
Sectoral support program	63.33	48.33	-
VMS management and communication fee	2.41	1.85	2.85
Rental	6.12	7.39	7.58
Sale of Fuel	22.54	19.33	22.58
Fuel incentive received	16.56	11.30	10.94
Excess catch surcharge	25.85	79.79	60.80
Environmental fees	4.38	3.10	-
Observer income	0.93	-	-
IPD income	3.26	-	-
IRD income	0.05	-	-
Lobster Licenses & compliance fee	0.07	(0.06)	0.07
Other revenue	0.01	0.06	0.07
Total	267.14	270.86	225.19

The appreciation of the Seychelles Rupees against the Euro (the main currency collected in industrial fisheries) by 37%, from SCR26.43 in 2020 to SCR16.60 in 2021, had significant impact on the income in 2021. This contributed to the decrease in income from foreign vessels registration and license fees, excess catch and non-embarking seamen fees.

The Sectoral Support income increased by SCR15m over 2020 (31%) as a result of effective completion of projects under the scheme for the year. This included fund brought

forward from the 2014-2020 agreement, as well as the full usage of the SCR0.5m allocated for the food security program as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As a result of increased fishing activities in 2021 compared to 2020, combined with a rise fuel price, revenue from sale of fuel increased by 17% in 2021 to reach SCR22.54m. This also contributed to the increase of 46% in fuel incentives received by the SFA.

In 2021, SFA's total expenditure increased by 34% from SCR156.67m in 2020 to SCR209.62m as shown in Table 44 below. Employees fees increased as a result of the ongoing recruitment in line with SFA strategic plan of building core competencies.

Table 44: Expenditure

SCR'M	Actual 2021	Actual 2020	Actual 2019
Employee costs	68.93	61.71	45.44
Operating and other expenses	41.54	27.18	21.25
Research and development costs	5.15	15.72	17.24
Monitoring Control Surveillance and Enforcement costs	9.47	10.36	5.52
Fisheries facilities development	67.65	66.83	48.21
Foreign exchange (loss)/gain	16.88	(25.13)	1.02
Total	209.62	156.67	138.68

Operating and other expenses increased as a result of provisions for credit of SCR8.3m, increased rental cost due to the move of the SFA Headquarters to Espace Building and increased security fees due to enhanced security at all SFA's premises. The decreased of SCR10.4m in Research and development expenditure compared to 2020 is a due to completion of major research facilities for Aquaculture in 2020.

With the easing of the Covid-19 restrictions and the re-launching of the tourism industry, the Seychelles Rupees appreciated in 2021, leading to a foreign exchange loss of SCR16.88m compared to a gain of SCR25.13m in 2020 when it depreciated.

Capital work in progress stood at SCR13.82m for 2021 compared to SCR2.61m in 2020, resulting in an increase of 5.7% in Total Fixed Asset of SFA, to SCR282.77m. Trade receivables on the other hand stabilised at SCR26.11m from SCR58.2m in 2020 after the exercise to ensure past invoices were raised in 2020. Overall Total Asset of SFA increased by 5%, from SCR577.76m in 2020 to SCR607.69m in 2021.

Directors Report - 2021

The Directors present their report together with the audited financial statements of Seychelles Fishing Authority ("the Authority") for the year ended December 31, 2021.

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

	2021	2019
	SR	SR
Surplus for the year:	121,748,581	152,049,340

Dividends

An Interim dividend of SR. 75 million was declared and paid during the year (2020: SR. 50 million). The Directors did not propose any final dividend for the financial year under review (2020: SR. nil).

Property, Plant and Equipment

Additions of SR. 27,338,859 to property, plant and equipment during the year comprised buildings, office and research equipment, motor vehicles and ice plants (2020: SR. 28,363,301). Disposal comprised of a truck carried at Nil book value.

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Due to certain discrepancies inherited from the prior years, the Authority has engaged a professional firm to carry out a physical count of property, plant and equipment including an impairment exercise to enable the Authority to adjust the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment currently in the books to approximate its fair value. Until the completion of this assignment, Current 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. The said assignment is expected to be completed by the next financial year.

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.

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 Commission ('PEMC') Act, 2013.

The PEMC Act, 2013 requires the Authority to state whether its financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRS'). The Board of Directors recognizes the lapses in the management and 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. 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.

As fully stated above, 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 2 years to completion.

Events after the reporting date

Following the Board resolution dated 12th March 2022, a number of Treasury balances totaling SR. 2,582,749.90 in the books of SFA were written off and the adjustments were reflected in the audited accounts for the year 2020. However, the Board also resolved to seek reimbursement of these

Directors Report - 2021

funds from Treasury as these funds were meant for projects. A total of SR 440,457.92 was reimbursed and these would be reflected in the 2022 accounts.

Internal Auditor

In accordance with the PEMC Act, 2013, an Internal Auditor had been appointed. The internal audit function operates unimpeded and independently from operational management, appraises, evaluates and when necessary, recommends improvements to the systems of internal control. The Internal Auditor forms part of the Internal Audit Committee which is chaired by a Board member.

Prior year adjustment

The Authority has been carrying forward certain old balances for the last few years which were not fully reconciled. During the financial year under review reconciliation that were completed comprised, Rental deposits, Sundry Debtors, IRP, IRD and Observers. All past errors were corrected by restating each of the affected financial statement line items for the prior periods in terms of changes in accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates, and errors without affecting current year surplus.

The change did not have an impact on the statement of profit or loss for the financial year under review or the Authority's operating, investing and financing cash flows.

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 - 2021

This report is made solely to the members of Seychelles Fishing Authority, "the Authority", as a body, in terms of our engagement to conduct the audit on their behalf. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters which we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Seychelles Fishing Authority set out on pages 86 to 102, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2021, 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 and express an independent opinion on these financial statements.

In our opinion, except for the financial effect, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary in respect of matters discussed in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements set out on pages 86 to 102, give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company at December 31, 2021 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with requirements of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act, 1984 and Generally Accepted Accounting Standards in Seychelles.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

(i) Property, Plant and Equipment

Asset Register is still incomplete, and the following discrepancies were noted:

- Cost and depreciation in the asset listing maintained by the Authority contain certain fully depreciated assets that date back to the year 1998 which may no longer be in use.
- No adjustments were made for an impairment exercise carried out by the Authority, if any.
- Depreciation charged on assets acquired from Grants are not matched with transfers to Deferred Grants to nullify the impact on the Statement of profit or loss each year.

Due to the aforesaid discrepancies brought forward from 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.

(ii) Capital work in progress

Detailed breakdown of the individual assets generated from Capital work in progress is not available for our verification. Internal controls and procedures need to be strengthened in this area.

(iii) Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables include amounts long outstanding due to delay in preparation of invoices by the Authority resulting in substantial overdue balances. Furthermore, provision for credit impairment was not made in the books of the Authority from year to year resulting in substantial provision required to be made during the financial year under review. This also demonstrates that the Authority does not have effective policies and procedures with respect to credit for impairment to fall in line with IFRS 9 in the future.

An amount of SR. 30,071 included in other receivables brought forward from the year 2019 are overdue and the Management is of the opinion that they are fully recoverable. Due to nonavailability of adequate information, we could not extend normal audit checks nor alternate audit procedure to satisfy ourselves with respect to its recoverability at the balance sheet date.

(iv) Deferred Grants

Deferred grants represent unamortised balance of Property, Plant and Equipment acquired by the Authority through various Grants. The Authority does not have up to date Deferred Grant schedule corresponding to the net book value of Property, Plant and Equipment acquired through Grants to demonstrate that depreciation charge of assets acquired from Grants is matched with the amount credited to the Statement of profit or loss resulting nil impact on the results for each financial year.

(v) Fisheries facilities development - Fuel expenses

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.

Independent Auditor Report - 2021

(vi) Value Added Tax ('VAT')

The Authority is registered for VAT effective October 1, 2020. The Authority did not segregate VAT output at the time of revenue recording but calculated at the end of the financial year. Similarly, VAT input allowable is not separated from expenses at the time of recording individual transactions and net VAT payable was not transferred to VAT payable at the end of each month on a cash basis. This procedure could result in non-compliance of VAT regulations and their payment due dates that could be picked up during future SRC audit. We could not determine the amount of non-compliance, if any, due to their recording in bulk at the end of the financial year.

(vii) Business Tax

The Seychelles Revenue Commission via their email dated February 21, 2022 provided the Authority a list of revenues that would attract Business Tax effective the financial year ended December 31, 2019. As per the guidelines of the Authority, certain revenues net of allowable expenses of the Authority are taxable effective the financial year 2019. Since the Authority had already completed and released the financial statements for the year 2019 and were ready to release the financial statements for the year 2020, an estimated provision was made in the financial statements for the year 2020 to cover for Business Tax payable for the year 2019 and 2020 including Corporate Social Responsibility and estimated penalties that were adjusted in the year 2021. In the absence of clear and explicit regulations with respect to taxable incomes stated in the Business Tax Act, 2009 (as amended), we relied on the guidance obtained by the Authority from the Revenue Authorities.

(viii) Depreciation charge of SR. 23,566,293 and amortisation from deferred grants of SR. 11,365,784

We noted that the current policies with respect to rates of depreciation charge and amortisation rate applied for their transfer to Deferred Grants is not consistent resulting in a mismatch between net book value of property, plant and equipment acquired from Grants and debits to Deferred Grants.

(ix) Salaries

In terms of the Income and Monetary Benefits Tax Act, 2010, all allowances paid in cash are subject to deduction of Income Tax at the rate applicable on a progressive income basis. We have noted that the Authority did not deduct Income Tax on certain allowances paid during the year. An estimated provision has been made on certain allowances and the

Authority is obtaining clarifications with respect to certain allowances. Actual amount of Income tax payable will differ from the estimated provision due to the nature of progressive income tax application. No provision is made for penalties, if any, that may be imposed by the Revenue Authorities at a later date for non-compliance.

(x) Prior Year Adjustment

The Authority has been carrying forward certain old balances for the last few years which were not fully reconciled, during the financial year under review reconciliation were completed with respect to Rental deposits, Sundry Debtors, IRP, IRD and Observers. Differences arising from the reconciliation were corrected by restating each of the affected financial statement line items for the prior periods in terms of changes in accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates, and errors without affecting current year surplus. This is the result of inadequate internal controls that existed in the system.

(xi) Policies and procedures

The Authority formulated policies and procedure in certain areas but those were not approved by the Board during the financial year under review. We test checked incomes, operating and other expenses and work in progress with their authorisations that were formulated in line with those policies and procedures. 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.

(xii) Control environment

In the absence of internal control documentation with respect to recording work in progress, their capitalisation, revenue and approval for expenses, the Authority's system of internal control is dependent upon the close involvement of the Directors who take financial, management and other decisions from time to time that do not necessarily provide us a complete audit trail. We therefore had to rely upon specific and general representations from Directors where sufficient appropriate audit evidence in respect of certain financial areas could not be reasonably obtained.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Standards in Seychelles. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Seychelles, and we have fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Independent Auditor Report - 2021

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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, Public Finance Management Act 2012 and the Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission ('PEMC') Act, 2013 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 affairs. In preparing the financial statements, the Board is also 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.

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.

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

Independent Auditor Report - 2021

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.

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.

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 the Basis for Qualified opinion set out on pages 82 to 84 of this audit report, 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



BAKER TILLY
Chartered Accountants

Statement of Financial Position 2021

Statement of Financial Position As at December 31, 2021

	Notes	2021 SR	Restated 2020 SR
ASSETS			
Non-current Assets:			
Property, plant and equipment	5	268,953,707	264,888,604
Capital Work in progress	6	13,818,511	2,614,492
Investment	7	54,986	54,986
Fisheries Development Fund	8	57,660,637	56,035,664
		340,487,841	323,593,746
Current Assets			
Inventories	9	1,056,331	537,233
Trade and other receivables	10	26,111,470	58,298,815
Cash and cash equivalent	11	240,324,364	195,332,987
		267,492,168	254,169,036
Total Assets		607,687,472	577,762,782
EQUITY AND LIABILITY			
Equity and Reserves			
Assigned capital	12	1,122,800	1,122,800
Retained surplus		173,236,106	126,487,525
Total Equity		174,358,906	127,610,325
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred grants	13	240,529,474	232,643,149
Credit held for future projects	14	56,815,694	68,509,178
Credit held for Fisheries Development Fund	8	57,660,637	56,035,664
Excess transfer to consolidated fund	15	11,628,168	11,888,039
		366,633,973	369,076,030
Current liabilities			
Other payables and accruals	16	65,418,509	57,076,427
Tax provision	17	1,276,084	24,000,000
		66,694,593	81,076,427
Total Liabilities		433,328,566	450,152,457
Total Equity and Liabilities		607,687,472	577,762,782

The notes on pages 90 to 102 form an integral part of these financial statements and Independent Auditor's report on pages 82 to 85.

Statement of Profit or Loss 2021

Statement of Profit or Loss For year ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 SR	Restated 2020 SR
Income			
Revenue	18	267,142,697	263,829,583
Other Income	19	14,808,839	2,192,315
Grants utilised		38,876,262	43,034,797
		320,827,848	309,056,695
Expenditure			
Employee costs	20	(68,928,951)	(61,712,267)
Operating and other expenses	21	(41,536,545)	(27,181,229)
Research and development costs	22	(5,146,066)	(15,716,795)
Monitoring Control Surveillance and Enforcement costs	23	(9,465,376)	(10,363,942)
Fisheries facilities development	24	(67,649,320)	(66,826,709)
Foreign exchange (loss)/gain		(16,876,416)	25,126,995
		111,225,174	152,382,748
Surplus before depreciation and amortisations		111,225,174	152,382,748
Amortisation of deferred grants	13	11,365,784	11,841,205
Depreciation	5	(23,566,293)	(12,974,613)
Surplus for the year - As previously stated		99,024,665	151,249,340
Tax Expense		22,723,916	(24,000,000)
Surplus for the year as previously stated		121,748,581	127,249,340
Prior year adjustment	27	-	10,055,460
Surplus for the year - As Restated		121,748,581	137,304,800

The notes on pages 90 to 102 form an integral part of these financial statements and Independent Auditor's report on pages 82 to 85.

Statement of Cash Flow 2021

Statement of Cash Flow For year ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 SR	Restated 2020 SR
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Surplus for the year		99,024,665	151,249,340
Adjustments for:			
Prior year adjustment			10,055,460
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	5	23,566,293	12,974,613
Amortisation		(11,365,784)	(11,841,205)
Movement in credit impairment provision	10	8,338,219	17,508
Movement in employee benefit obligations provision	15	2,455,134	2,883,266
Operating profit before working capital changes		122,018,527	165,338,982
Changes in working capital:			
Inventories	9	(519,097)	(363,396)
Trade and other receivables	10	23,849,123	(29,842,231)
Other payables and accruals	16	8,342,082	14,014,563
Net cash inflow from operating activities		153,690,635	149,147,918
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Additions to property, plant and equipment	5	(27,338,859)	(28,363,301)
Movement in capital work in progress	6	(11,204,019)	22,817,385
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(38,542,878)	(5,545,916)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Grants received	13	19,252,109	6,456,107
Derecognition of Ile Du port from Capital Work In Progress	6	-	(25,952,446)
Movement in credits held for future projects	14	(11,693,484)	19,279,514
Employee Benefits paid during the year	15	(2,715,005)	(837,273)
Dividend Paid		(75,000,000)	(50,000,000)
Movement in Fisheries Development Fund	8		
Net cash outflow from financing activities		(70,156,380)	(51,054,098)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		44,991,377	92,547,904
Movements in cash and cash equivalents:			
At January 1,		195,332,987	102,785,083
Increase/(decrease)		44,991,377	92,547,904
At December 31,	11	240,324,363	195,332,987

Statement of Changes in Equity 2021

Statement of Changes in Equity For year ended 31 December 2021

	Assigned Capital SR	Excess Transfer To Consolidated Fund SR	Total SR
Balance at January 1, 2021 - As Restated	1,122,800	126,487,525	127,610,325
Surplus for the year	-	121,748,581	121,748,581
Dividends		(75,000,000)	(75,000,000)
Balance at December 31, 2021	1,122,800	173,236,106	174,358,906
Balance at January 1, 2020 - As previously stated	1,122,800	39,182,725	40,305,525
Prior year adjustment	-	10,055,460	10,055,460
Balance at January 1, 2020 - As restated	1,122,800	49,238,185	50,360,985
Surplus for the year		127,249,340	127,249,340
Dividends		(50,000,000)	(50,000,000)
Balance at December 31, 2020 - As restated	1,122,800	126,487,525	127,610,325

The notes on pages 90 to 102 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, 2021

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 2 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.

(c) 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 (2020: 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, 2021

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, 2021

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

Business tax expense 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.

Current tax is the amount of tax payable on certain specific incomes (net of related expenses) derived by the Authority during a financial year and certain incomes and expenses being exempt for tax purposes. Tax charge is computed based on the guidelines provided by the Revenue Authorities since the Business Tax Act, 2009 does not clearly set out regulations relating to certain activities carried out by the Authority. No provision is made in these financial statements 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:

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Currencies	Exchange rates		Changes in %	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
United States Dollars	14.70	21.58	31.89%	-53.05%
Euro	16.60	26.43	37.20%	-65.29%

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

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

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.

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, 2021

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, 2020	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
Additions	7,868,965	12,765,396	4,620,323	2,084,175	27,338,859
Disposal	-	-	-	(335,642)	(335,642)
At December 31, 2021	254,341,294	81,055,308	68,849,857	23,683,030	427,929,489
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION					
At January 1, 2020	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
Charge for the year	5,244,475	9,934,130	7,250,551	1,137,137	23,566,293
Disposal	-	-	-	(335,642)	(335,642)
At December 31, 2021	43,464,437	43,932,197	52,048,838	19,822,847	159,268,319
NET BOOK VALUE					
At December 31, 2021	210,876,857	37,123,111	16,801,019	3,860,183	268,661,170
At December 31, 2020	208,252,367	34,291,845	19,431,247	2,913,145	264,888,604

6. Capital work in progress

(a) Movement during the year

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
At January 1,	2,614,492	25,431,877
Expenditure during the period	22,996,841	3,135,061
Capitalised during the year	(11,792,822)	-
Derecognition of Ile du port project to Deferred Grants (note (b))	-	(25,952,446)
At December 31,	13,818,511	2,614,492

(b) Analysed as per project:

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Aquaculture facilities	179,088	179,088
Dredging work at Glacis	587,266	-
Fisheries projects on Mahè and Praslin	8,341,131	-
Fuel depot and security kiosk	812,161	-
La Retraite development	-	1,333,792
SFA Headquarters	-	654,868
Other projects	3,898,865	446,744
Total	13,818,511	2,614,492

Notes to the Financial Accounts For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

(c) In the year 2020, project cost of SR. 25,952,446 incurred for the development of Ile du Port infrastructure for the Government of Seychelles that was utilised from grants received from the European Union was derecognised to Deferred Grants as there was no asset created for the Authority from the amounts incurred (also refer Note 13 (a)).

7. Investment in financial assets

	2021	2020
	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. The loan portfolio is funded by the Seychelles Fishing Authority and the loan portfolio is administered by the Development Bank of Seychelles. These loans are granted over 1 to 10 years and bear interest at rate of 3% per annum.

The Fund was audited by BDO Associates, Chartered Accountants for the financial year 2021 and the audit opinion signed on May 9, 2022 was obtained by the Fund Administrator Development Bank of Seychelles. Based on the audited financial statements of the Fund, the Authority's financial statements were adjusted to align with the draft audited financial statements.

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

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Balance held with Development Bank of Seychelles	19,824,781	19,713,818
Loans and receivables	37,724,897	36,237,993
Receivables from Development Bank of Seychelles	321,998	413,051
Payables and accruals	(210,039)	(315,998)
EU retention fee payable	(1,000)	(13,200)
	<u>57,660,637</u>	<u>56,035,664</u>

Analysed as under:

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Funds under management	66,213,891	66,213,891
Revenue deficit (note (d))	(8,553,254)	(10,178,227)
	<u>57,660,637</u>	<u>56,035,664</u>

(a) Loans and receivables

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Gross loans and receivables	55,365,965	54,337,223
Less: interest in suspense	(3,401,842)	(3,587,778)
Less: provision for credit impairment (note (b))	(14,239,226)	(14,511,452)
	<u>37,724,897</u>	<u>36,237,993</u>

(b) Provision for credit impairment

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
At January 1,	(14,511,452)	(11,640,780)
Increase in provision for credit impairment	272,226	(2,870,672)
At December 31,	<u>(14,239,226)</u>	<u>(14,511,452)</u>

(c) Prior adjustment

In the year 2020, the Authority rectified the mismatch between the liability reported as 'Fisheries Development Fund' and the contra asset 'Funds held under Fisheries Development Fund' in the balance up to the financial year 2019 by adjusting the difference to the year 2019 as a prior year adjustment since the movements to this account were not adjusted in financial statements of the Authority for more than 3 years.

	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>-</u>

Notes to the Financial Accounts For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

(d) Movements in fund

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Income		
Interest income	1,962,230	470,639
At December 31, Application fees received	11,500	3,000
	<u>1,973,730</u>	<u>473,639</u>
Expense		
Management fees	(592,098)	(549,227)
Audit fees	(28,750)	(28,750)
Bank charges	(135)	-
Reversal/Charge for credit impairment	272,226	(2,870,672)
	<u>(348,757)</u>	<u>(3,448,649)</u>
Profit/Loss of the year	1,624,973	(2,975,010)
Revenue deficit brought forward	(10,178,227)	(7,203,217)
Revenue deficit carried forward	<u>(8,553,254)</u>	<u>(10,178,227)</u>

9. Inventories

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
At cost		
Fuel	467,613	537,233
Stationery	588,718	-
	<u>1,056,331</u>	<u>537,234</u>

10. Trade and trade receivables

	2020	2019
	SR	SR
Gross trade receivables	26,143,397	52,908,250
Less: provision for credit impairment (note (a))	(9,204,207)	(865,988)
Net trade receivables	16,939,190	52,042,262
Prepayments for fuel purchase	2,048,562	-
Due from Government of Seychelles	1,944,387	1,944,387
Other receivables	5,179,335	4,312,167
	<u>26,111,473</u>	<u>58,298,816</u>

(a) As at December 31, 2021, trade receivables other than those for which provision for credit impairment was made in these financial statements were not fully impaired.

(b) The aged analysis of these trade receivables is as follows:

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Due within one year	19,407,971	43,953,925
Due beyond one year but less than 2 years	2,422,416	4,297,863
Due beyond two years but less than 5 years	3,494,317	3,838,169
Due beyond 5 years	818,692	818,292
	<u>26,143,396</u>	<u>52,908,249</u>
Movements in provision for credit impairment:		
At January 1,	(865,988)	(848,480)
Increase in provision for credit impairment	(8,338,219)	(17,508)
At December 31,	<u>(9,204,207)</u>	<u>(865,988)</u>

(c) The Company does not hold any collateral as security.

11. Cash and cash equivalent

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Cash on hand	65,350	708,629
Bank Balances	183,630,328	126,115,180
Balances with CBS	56,628,686	70,381,942
As previously stated	<u>242,197,128</u>	<u>197,205,751</u>
Prior year adjustment (note 27)	-	(1,872,764)
As restated	<u>240,324,364</u>	<u>195,332,987</u>

Certain trading and operating account balances held with the Treasury Department totaling to SR. 1,872,764 (2020: 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.

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

13. Deferred grants

Deferred Grants for Property, plant and equipment

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
At the beginning of the year	232,643,149	263,980,693
Received from other projects	-	389,841
Received from European Union	19,252,109	6,066,266
	251,895,258	270,436,800
Less: Amortisation for the year	(11,365,784)	(11,841,205)
Derecognition of Ile du port infrastructure for Government (note a)	-	(25,952,446)
	240,529,474	232,643,149
Analysed as:		
European Union	140,530,801	127,029,896
Japanese Corporation	94,727,517	99,029,612
African Development Bank	1,619,259	1,713,344
Government and other projects	3,651,897	4,870,297
	240,529,474	232,643,149

(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 2020, 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

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Movements in balances during the year:		
At January 1,	68,509,178	49,229,664
Received during the year	46,247,880	67,208,960
Available for utilisation	114,757,058	116,438,624
Utilised during the year:		
Fisheries facilities development	(22,551,163)	(12,529,231)
Research and development costs	(5,146,066)	(15,716,795)

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Monitoring control, surveillance and enforcement costs	((9,465,376)	(10,363,942)
Transfer to deferred grants for capital assets	(19,252,109)	(6,066,266)
Prior year adjustment	-	(4,894,649)
Exchange rate fluctuation	(1,526,650)	1,641,437
	56,815,694	68,509,178

Source of funding for the above projects:

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
European Union	54,462,769	65,130,966
Japanese Corporation	-	4,414,175
Other projects	2,352,925	3,858,686
As previously stated	56,815,694	73,403,827
Prior year adjustment (note 27)	-	(4,894,649)
	56,815,694	68,509,178

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 as 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.

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

15. Employee benefit obligations

(a) Statement of financial position

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Movements during the year:		
At January 1,	11,888,039	9,842,046
Provision made for the year (note (c))	2,455,134	2,883,266
Paid during the year	(2,715,005)	837,273
At December 31,	11,628,168	11,888,039

(b) This represents provision 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).

16. Other payables and accruals

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
License fees received in advance	47,126,818	41,667,309
Annual leave provision	4,437,128	4,421,098
Accrued expenses and other payables	8,305,351	17,221,595
VAT payable	5,549,212	800,000
	65,418,509	64,110,002
Prior year adjustment (note 18)	-	(7,033,575)
	65,418,509	57,076,427

17. Tax provision

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
(a) Tax liability		
At January 1,	24,000,000	-
Reversal of prior year over provision	(22,813,135)	-
Tax expense (note (b))	89,219	24,000,000
At December 31,	1,276,084	24,000,000
(b) Tax charge		
Current tax based on the profit for the year (Note c, d and e)	-	-
Provision for Business tax and estimated penalties	-	(23,813,135)
Corporate social responsibility tax (note (e))	(89,219)	(186,865)
Reversal of over provision in prior year	22,813,135	-
	22,723,916	(24,000,000)

(c) Tax rates

First SR. 1,000,000 25% of taxable profit
Balance 30% of taxable profit

(d) Tax profits

Based on the applicable regulations of Business Tax Act, 2009 (as amended), not all revenues are taxable. The Authority obtained specific guidelines from the Revenue Authorities who confirmed that the following revenue streams are taxable and other revenue streams are exempt from Business Tax:

- Taxable revenue streams comprised sale of ice, fuel, lubricants, and other related activities, net repairs, income from leasing properties and rental income derived from container and gears storage.
- Expenses incurred directly in earning assessable income are allowed to be set off against that income to arrive at the taxable profits..
- Depreciation is allowable on assets that have a useful life exceeds one year and that are used, available for use or held wholly or partly to derive taxable business income.

(e) Changes in tax and tax rates

Effective the financial year ending December 31, 2022, business tax rates changed to 15% on the first SR. 1 million of taxable income and 25% on excess of SR. 1 million. Corporate Responsibility Tax (a tax charge in addition to Business Tax) at 0.5% of the turnover in addition the business tax was repealed effective April 20, 2021.

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

18. Revenue

	2021	2020	2021	2020
	SR	SR	SR	SR
Income for ice operations	3,882,122	2,616,514	3,340,140	
Income from sea cucumber fishery	1,463,568	1,604,776	4,450	584,952
Net & container fees	4,707,717	6,071,848	189,440	359,966
Fees from non-embarking seamen	2,919,415	4,486,002	695,652	398,900
Registration & license fee (local)	533,500	523,950	2,253,531	18,525
Registration & license fee (foreign)	108,014,118	85,433,995	6,443,204	
Sectoral support program	63,328,322	48,334,750	905,421	
VMS management and communication fee	2,412,453	1,845,963	418,956	547,369
Rental	6,115,391	9,644,537	14,808,839	2,192,315
Sale of fuel	22,542,849	15,657,004		
Fuel incentives	16,556,467	9,194,775		
Excess catch surcharge	25,852,864	75,183,419		
Environmental Fee	4,377,652	3,100,550		
Observer income	927,602			
IPD income	3,257,115			
IRD income	46,342			
Compliance fee	70,200	71,500		
Aquaculture production levy fee	50,000			
Aquaculture concession	85,000	60,000		
Prior year adjustment (note 16):				
Rental		(2,251,986)		
Sale of fuel		3,686,110		
Fuel incentive received		2,109,880		
Excess catch surcharge		3,614,571		
Compliance fee		(125,000)		
Prior year amount adjusted		7,033,575		
As restated	267,142,697	263,829,583		

19. Other income

	2021	2020	2021	2020
	SR	SR	SR	SR
Sundry income	249,431	76,803		
Dividend income	308,614	205,800		

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Interest income	3,340,140	
Divers, farmers and fishermen registration fee	4,450	584,952
Sales of oil and lubricants	189,440	359,966
Profit on disposal of assets	695,652	398,900
Auction sale income	2,253,531	18,525
Seaman compensation	6,443,204	
Penalty fee for illegal fishing	905,421	
EEZ application fees	418,956	547,369
	14,808,839	2,192,315

20. Employee costs

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Salaries and wages	66,075,914	58,313,030
Members' emoluments (note (a))	397,903	515,971
Provision for employee benefit obligation (note 15)	2,455,134	2,883,266
	68,928,951	61,712,267

(a) Board Members' emoluments:

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Nirmal Shah - Chairperson (January 2020)	-	8,000
Cyril Bonnelame - Chairman (February to March 2020)	-	16,000
Cyril Bonnelame - Chairman & interim CEO (April to Oct 2020)	-	225,000
Radley Weber - Chairperson (Current)	50,303	
Eugene Vidot - Board member (January to December 2020)	41,800	45,200
Keith Andre - Board member (January to December 2020)	-	45,200
Roy Clarisse - Board member (January to December 2020)	41,800	83,278
Rebecca Loustau-Lalanne - Board member (January to December 2020)	-	82,493
Nan Constant - Board secretary (January to December 2020)	13,200	10,800
Aubrey Harris - Board member	41,800	
Beatty Hoarau - Board member	41,800	

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	2021	2020	2021	2020
	SR	SR	SR	SR
Marc Gonthier - Board member	41,800		16,531	143,731
Joseph Tirant - Board member	41,800			
Audrina Dine - Board member	41,800			
Franky Laporte - Board member	41,800			
	397,903	515,971	41,536,545	27,181,229

b. Salaries and wages comprise of gross salaries, wages, allowances, leave salary, employer pension contribution, staff insurance and other staff welfare.

c. 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).

21. Operating and other expenses

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Auditor's remuneration	287,248	239,700
Advertising and sales promotion	2,292,893	422,467
Provision for credit impairment	8,338,219	17,508
Contracted services	2,331,157	1,862,527
Electricity and water charges	2,072,709	380,312
Fuel and local conveyance	792,126	1,315,140
Indian ocean tuna commission expenses	1,419,565	1,627,104
Insurance	192,793	408,228
IUU Vessel costs	181,978	879,379
Printing, stationery and postage	878,768	835,779
Rental expenses	6,234,904	2,731,017
Write off of old treasury balances/(reversal of prior year payables)	-	2,582,750
Repairs and maintenance	2,392,486	2,620,847
Security expenses	6,293,318	4,187,253
Training expenses	2,253,336	3,332,963
Travelling expenses	558,498	439,095
Telephone and internet	2,539,208	1,988,487
Vehicle expenses	969,347	274,948
Bank charges	246,283	232,292
Office cleaning expenses	1,046,674	627,387
Conferences, seminars and workshops	136,757	24,051
Official entertainment	61,746	8,264

22. Research and development costs

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Aquaculture Master Plan project	1,714,242	12,540,002
Research boat expenses - repairs and maintenance	750,061	394,688
Utilities	791,791	1,513,165
Sundry research projects	1,889,971	1,268,940
	5,146,065	15,716,795

23. Monitoring control, surveillance and enforcement costs

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Satellite communication costs	6,226,741	7,589,393
Patrol expense	3,238,635	2,774,549
	9,465,376	10,363,942

24. Fisheries facilities development

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Fuel expenses (note (a))	40,175,341	25,101,020
Fishing boat owner association - coastal fishery development	222,967	241,842
Publication and awareness	263,267	115,720
Training and university costs	-	13,883
Workshop, conferences and travelling	60,665	61,250
Infrastructure development	-	6,066,266
Seamen expenses	97,510	218,100
Seamen salary adjustment	12,735,186	8,919,703
Renovation and maintenance of fishing facilities	3,734,069	4,864,656
Utilities	9,725,418	9,543,524
Other fisheries support expense (note (b))	634,898	3,680,745
Support provided to Seychelles Maritime Academy	-	8,000,000
Other expenses	-	-
	67,649,320	66,826,709

Notes to the Financial Accounts

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

- 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.

25. Capital commitments

	2021	2020
	SR	SR
Approved and contracted regarding work in progress	20,279,817	15,754,678
Approved but not contracted	-	-
	<u>20,279,817</u>	<u>15,754,678</u>

26. Contingent liabilities

There were no other contingent liabilities as at December 31, 2021 (2020 : SR. Nil).

27. Prior year adjustment

The Authority has been carrying forward certain old balances for the last few years which were not fully reconciled. During the financial year under review reconciliations that were completed comprised: Credits held for future projects, Rental deposits, Sundry Debtors, IRP, IRD and Observers. All past errors were corrected by restating each of the affected financial statement line items for the prior periods in terms of changes in accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates, and errors without affecting current year surplus.

The change did not have an impact on the statement of profit or loss for the period or the Authority's operating, investing and financing cash flows.

	As previously stated	As restated	Impact
		SR	SR
Cash and cash equivalents (Also see note 11)	197,205,751	195,332,987	(1,872,764)
Credits held for future projects (Also see note 14)	(73,403,827)	(68,509,178)	4,894,649
Other payables and accruals (Also see note 16)	(64,110,002)	(57,076,427)	7,033,575
	<u>59,691,922</u>	<u>69,747,382</u>	<u>10,055,460</u>
Net difference credited to retained surplus as prior year adjustment			<u>10,055,460</u>

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.

28. 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 had impacted and continued its impact on business operations, including employees, customers, partners, and communities, and there was substantial uncertainty in the nature and degree of its continued effects over the financial year 2021.

The impact of COVID-19 is expected to continue in the year 2022 for at least first half of the year before the conditions return to normalcy. The Directors are of the opinion that the impact of COVID19 will not impact the going concern of the Authority as there was no negative impact on the Authority's business due to the pandemic. However, the growth of the Authority's business was affected due to the pandemic.

Section 7

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Glossary of Terms

ADFIS	Agriculture Disaster and Fisheries Insurance Scheme	EURm	Euro million
AFS	Annual Financial Statements	Exp	Expenditure
ALDFG	Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise, Discarded Fishing Gear	FADs	Fish Aggregated Devices
AMR	Anti Microbial Resistance	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
AMSSI	Association of Members of the Sea Cucumber Industry in Seychelles	FBOA	Fishermen and Boat Owners Association
BAQF	Brood stock Acclimation and Quarantine Facility	FCP	Fisheries Comprehensive Plan
CBS	Central Bank of Seychelles	FCS	Fisheries Enforcement Section
CCCS	Central Common Cold Store	FDF	Fisheries Development Fund
CEFAS	Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	FIS	Fuel Incentive Scheme
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	FITI	Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI)
CIF	Cost Insurance & Freight	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
CMM	Conservation and Management Measures	GIS	Geographic Information System
COA	Certificate of Authorisation	GVA	Gross Value Added
COFI	Committee of Fisheries	HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
CNRS	Centre National de Recherche Scientifique	HLAC	High-Level Aquaculture Committee
CPI	Consumer Price Index	HR	Human Resources
CPUE	Catch per Unit Effort	HRIS	Human Resources Information System
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	ICT	Information & Communication Technology
DBS	Development Bank of Seychelles	ILO	International Labour Organisation
DBMS	Database Management System	IOT	Indian Ocean Tuna
DFAD	Drifting Fish Aggregated Devices	IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
EAST	Euro African Star Transport	IPHS	Ile Du Port Handling Services
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	IRD	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
EM	Electronic Monitoring	IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	JICA	Japanese Corporation Agency
EIS	Environment Information System	LIENS	Littoral Environnement et Societes
ERS	Electronics Reporting System	MACCE	Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment
Est	Estimated	MCS	Monitoring and Control Section
EU	European Union	MLUH	Ministry of Land Use and Habitat
		MMP	Mariculture Master Plan

Glossary of Terms

MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	SIH	Système D'Informations Halieutiques
MRAG	Marine Resources Assessment Group	SIOFA	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
MSP	Marine Spatial Plan	SIS	Seychelles Intelligence Services
Mt	Metric tonne	SMA	Seychelles Maritime Authority
NBS	National Bureau of Statistic	SNA	System for National Accounts
NGO	Non Government Organisation	SPDF	Seychelles Peoples Defence Forces
NMSG	National Multi-stakeholders Group	SR	Seychelles Rupee
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration	SRC	Seychelles Revenue Commission
NPOA	National Plan of Action	SSDS	Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health	STC	Seychelles Trading Company
PEMC	Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission	SWIO	South West Indian Ocean
PHVA	Post-Harvest & Value Addition	SWIOFC	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Committee
PLMP	Participatory Lobster Monitoring Programme	SWIOFish	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries
R&D	Research and Development	SWIOFish3	Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation	TAC	Total Allowable Catch
RFMOS	Regional Fisheries Management Organizations	TGMI	The Guy Morel Management Institute
ROS	Regional Observer Scheme	ToR	Terms of Reference
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle	U.A.E	United Arab Emirates
SADC	Southern African Development Community	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
SCG	Seychelles Coast Guard	UniSey-BERI	University of Seychelles Blue Economy Research Institute
SCHA	Sea Cucumber Harvesting Association	UNODC	United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
SCR'000/m/b	Seychelles Rupee thousand/million/billion	US\$m	US Dollar million
SR'000/m/b	Seychelles Rupee thousand/million/billion	USA	United States of America
SEFT	Seychelles Electronic Funds Transfer	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
SIB	Seychelles Investment Board		
SIF	Seychelles Island Foundation		

SEYCHELLES FISHING AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 449 – Fishing Port
Victoria – Mahé – Seychelles

Tel: (248) 4670 300

Fax: (248) 4224 508

Email: management@sfa.sc

Website: www.sfa.sc