



# Seychelles' Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

Calendar year: 2022

## Detailed Section

**Report by the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder  
Group (MSG) Seychelles**

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This report was prepared by **Mrs Daniella Larue** from – December 2023 to March 2024. Mrs Larue was appointed by Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group as the Report Compiler for the 2022 FiTI reporting process. The report was reviewed and approved by **Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group** on 14 April 2024.

This is Seychelles' fourth report to the FiTI, covering information relevant for the calendar year 2022. This report, hereafter referred to as Seychelles' 2022 FiTI Report, has been divided into **two distinct sections**: a '*Summary Section*', which provides a high-level overview of the transparency assessment's key findings, and this present '*Detailed Section*', which delves into greater detail according to each of the FiTI Standard's 12 transparency requirements. This detailed section also includes information relevant for 2022 which has only been published as part of this FiTI Report.

The report was funded by the **Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)**.



## Detailed findings on the requirements for fisheries transparency in Seychelles [2022]

The need for governments to share information on fisheries is already described in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the FAO's subsequent Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Since then, the importance of collating and sharing information with all stakeholders has been a message conveyed in other landmark documents on fisheries reforms.<sup>1</sup>

The FiTI provides a unique global framework (i.e. the FiTI Standard) to help coastal countries to increase the credibility and quality of national fisheries information and demonstrate their commitment to improving fisheries governance.

The FiTI Standard covers 12 thematic areas of fisheries management (also referred to as transparency requirements) and is applicable to all countries.

The FiTI does not intend to replace or duplicate existing government websites, but rather supports the continued development and maintenance of these public resources.

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<sup>1</sup> Such as the 2012 Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests and the 2015 Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

## 1.1 Public Registry of National Fisheries Laws, Regulations and Official Policy Documents

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must provide an online, up-to-date registry of:</b>			
<b>All national legislation related to the marine fisheries sector.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
<b>All official policy documents related to the marine fisheries sector.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes

### Major legislations and policies for Seychelles' fisheries sector:

The major legislations and policies governing the Seychelles' fisheries sector that were summarised and presented in the 2020 and 2021 FiTI Reports, remain available on the SFA and the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MFBE) websites. They include the *Fisheries Act (2014)*, the *Fisheries Regulations (1987)*, the *Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy (2019)*, the *Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (2019)* and two pieces of legislation enacted, in 2021: the *Fisheries (Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery) Regulations (2021)* and the *Fisheries (Aquaculture) Regulations (2020)*.

No new pieces of legislation or policies were enacted or came into force in 2022.

*The National MSG is of the view that the Government of Seychelles has met all of the requirements of FiTI concerning the publication of an online and up-to date registry of national legislations, policy documents related to the marine fisheries sector. The national authorities are encouraged to keep this information up to date and frequently raise awareness of the public and operators in the fisheries sector on the policies and legal requirements in place for different fisheries sub-sectors.*

➔ **Fisheries laws and regulations:** Both the SFA and the MFBE websites publish key pieces of fisheries legislation <sup>2</sup>. The section of the MFBE's website dedicated to fisheries laws and regulations remains updated <sup>3</sup>. All documents relevant for year 2022 are published on the websites of the MFBE and the SFA and this document list is *seen as complete*.

The process to review and update the Fisheries Act 2014 and the Fisheries Regulations 1987 started in 2022 and the first draft of the new pieces of legislation were discussed at a stakeholder workshop held in November 2022. A summary of the discussions is available from SWIOFish3, who funded the exercise, but it is not published on any government website. The MFBE indicated that, in addition to addressing existing gaps and loopholes

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/47-fisheries-act-regulations>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.MFBE.gov.sc/resources/>

and conflicting and inconsistent provisions in the present legislation, the review aims to modernise the framework for regulating fisheries and aquaculture management and development, provides for the implementation of regional and international obligations and standards and domesticates conventions Seychelles is party to, implemented in the fisheries sector, in particular the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). In 2022, work also started on the development of a regulatory framework for joint ventures in the fisheries sector and regulations will be included as part of the reviewed Fisheries Act and Fisheries Regulations.

Although they fall outside the scope of this 2022 FiTI Report, nevertheless the following developments are noteworthy: [the Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill 2023 and the Fisheries Regulations 2023](#) were approved by Cabinet in December 2023. These draft legislations have been published in the Official Gazette <sup>4</sup>, the MFBE <sup>5</sup> and the National Assembly <sup>6</sup> websites. These will replace the Fisheries Act 2014 and Fisheries Regulations 1987. In tandem, the Seychelles Fisheries Authority Bill 2023 was also approved by Cabinet in 2023 and it will replace the Seychelles Fishing Authority Establishment Act 1984. These will be addressed in the 2023 FiTI Report.

- **Fisheries policy documents:** The section of both the MFBE and SFA websites dedicated to fisheries policy documents and management plans, as reported in Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report, remained updated.<sup>7</sup> The fisheries policies published by the government that are publicly available online for the year 2022 are *seen to be complete*. In 2022, work to develop the *Harvest Strategy Policy and Management Standards for Seychelles' Fisheries*, started and the policy came into effect in 2023. The policy provides for the development of a harvest strategy for all fisheries both commercial and non-commercial and in addition to regular stock assessments, it provides for the establishment of fisheries management units using a co-management approach. The Harvest Strategy Policy is published on both the SFA and the MFBE websites <sup>8</sup>. Also in 2022, work started to review the *Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy 2019-2023*. The MFBE explained that the review is being undertaken within the context of promoting the improvement of policy performance, accountability, learning and evidence-based decision-making for the better management of the Seychelles fisheries sector. The outcome of this review will be addressed in the 2023 FiTI reporting process.

- **Online registry of national laws and regulations:** Access to copies of laws and regulations on the website of the Office of the Attorney General and the Official Gazette<sup>9</sup>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gazette.sc/sites/default/files/2023-11/Bill%2023%202023%20-%20Fisheries%20and%20Aquaculture%20Bill%202023.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.MFBE.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Bill-23-2023-Fisheries-and-Aquaculture-Bill-2023-1.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nationalassembly.sc/bills>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.MFBE.gov.sc/resources/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.MFBE.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Harvest-Strategy-Policy-and-Management-Standards-2023.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gazette.sc/>

was detailed in Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report and remained unchanged in 2022. At the time of preparation of this report, the online publication of the Official Gazette contained Gazettes only for the years 2019 onwards. The eDoc Repository on the eGovernment Portal<sup>10</sup> has a dedicated section for 'Acts and Regulations' and could represent an additional avenue to provide access to laws and regulations. However, it appears that this facility is not used systematically by government departments and agencies and no fisheries related legislations feature on there.

- **National Assembly documents:** As reported in Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report, the National Assembly of Seychelles (NAS) official website<sup>11</sup> provides access to bills that are introduced to the NAS along with videos of all sittings of the NAS and public hearings of certain assembly committees, starting from 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016. These allow for verification of issues raised during debates concerning introduction and amendments to fisheries laws and regulations.
- **International treaties, policy instruments and best practices:** As relayed in the 2020 FiTI Report, the list of major international fisheries and fisheries-related instruments and treaties that Seychelles is party to or abiding to, is published on both the MFBE and SFA websites.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** *Although not a requirement of the FiTI standard, the NMSG is of the view that visibility of stakeholder engagement in the development of policies and laws and regulations in the fisheries sector is of paramount importance. The NMSG notes that Cabinet insists on public consultation as an integral part of the process for the promulgation of new laws and regulations and the review of existing legal instruments. Other than summaries in the 2022 SFA Annual report, there is no evidence of the stakeholder engagements undertaken by SFA or the MFBE, as part of the process for the development and/or review of policies, laws and regulations. At a minimum, the agenda for these consultations, the list of participants and a summary of the issues raised by stakeholders, which in all cases are available internally and would have been shared with stakeholders, should be published.*

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<sup>10</sup> <http://gov.sc/edoc/pubs/pub.aspx>. The eDoc Repository has sections dedicated to: Acts & Regulations, Annual Financial Audited Reports, Annual Reports, Guidelines, Plans, Policies, Quarterly Reports, Strategic Plans and White Papers.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.nationalassembly.sc/bills>

## Recommendations

We, the National MSG, make the following recommendations to improve transparency regarding fisheries tenure arrangements in Seychelles:

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2022-1_1	<i>SFA and MFBE should publish records pertaining to stakeholder consultations conducted as part of the process to review policies, laws and regulations. The agenda, the list of participants, the main presentation and a summary of issues raised by stakeholders should be published.</i>	High	December 2025

## 1.2 Fisheries Tenure Arrangements

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish a summary description of laws and decrees on fisheries tenure arrangements, including the following information:</b>			
i. <b>A description of the rights and authorisations applicable by law or decree, including those based on an individual or collective quota system, for commercial, recreational, scientific or exploratory fisheries or for cultural use, and for access to and use of traditional sites, for landing fish, for temporary fish camps, for fish processing, or for other traditional use;</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
ii. <b>The fees, duration, transferability and divisibility of such rights and authorisations;</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
iii. <b>The persons that are legally entitled to issue access rights and fishing authorisations, the mandatory administrative procedures required to determine their issue, and the nature of any oversight or public consultation processes involved;</b>	Yes	No	Unknown
iv. <b>The conditions applied to fishing authorisations including those relating to fishing effort and ecosystem impact, landings, transshipping and catch reporting;</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
v. <b>The procedures and rules for authorising a Seychelles-flagged vessel to fish in a third country or on the High Seas, including information on the fees paid to the national government for providing this authorisation, reporting requirements and the provisions for terminating such authorisations.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially

### ➤ **Description of rights and authorisations applicable by law or decree, etc:**

SFA has both a webpage and a downloadable document labelled Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on its website on fisheries tenure arrangements, the contents of which



were detailed in Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report <sup>12</sup> . The webpage and downloadable document summarise the types of fisheries that exist in Seychelles and their corresponding licence arrangements and have been updated for 2022. The reasons for the lack of publicly available information on the processes and procedures for joining the sea cucumber fishery, is now published as part of the FAQ on fisheries tenure arrangements on the SFA website. In response to concerns about the spanner crab fishery, work started on a licensing framework for this fishery in 2022, which will be finalised in 2023.

The information on fisheries tenure arrangement is *seen as complete* by the National MSG.

- **Fees, duration, transferability and divisibility of such rights and authorisations:** The summary of local and foreign fishing licence arrangements published on the SFA website during the 2021 FiTI reporting process and updated during this reporting process, contains information on fees, duration, transferability and divisibility of all licences <sup>13</sup> . It reflects the recent changes in fee structure and the new fisheries agreements negotiated in 2022 and which came into force in April 2022 onwards. It also indicates the source of the information, which is either a policy, a regulation or an agreement. The National MSG is of the view that this fulfils recommendation *2019-2\_2* which states that *MFBE should publish in the Official Gazette the fees that need to be paid for all types of fisheries rights existing under the law (also including changes to current fee structures)* as there is no requirement under the present Fisheries Act and Fisheries Regulations to additionally gazette these fees.
- **The persons legally entitled to issue access rights and fishing authorisations:** The National MSG found no publications from Seychellois authorities pertaining to individual persons that are legally entitled to issue commercial access rights and fishing authorisations. The Fisheries Act does not provide for the names of the persons legally authorised to issue licences and permits to be published <sup>14</sup>. The National MSG noted that SFA can publish the names of its staff who are authorised to issue such permits and authorisations <sup>15</sup> on its website and considers this a good arrangement as there is no provision in the present legislation to gazette this information.
- **Other conditions applicable to commercial fishing rights:** The conditions applicable to fishing rights are prescribed in Part III of the Fisheries Act (2014), as well as under the Standard Requirements of the Fisheries Regulations (1987) and conditions in

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/faqs>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/fisheries-report-other-document?task=download.send&id=145&catid=33&m=0>

<sup>14</sup> SFA indicated that it will publish the names of Authorised Officers legally authorised to issue licences and permits in 2022 to reduce possible risks of licencing frauds. This list will not be gazetted as it is not a requirement under the Fisheries Act applicable in 2022.

<sup>15</sup> SFA indicates that all letters granting licences to undertake industrial fishing are signed by the CEO or Deputy CEO of SFA, and licences and permits for artisanal and other fishing activities are signed by Licensing Officers.

relation to transshipment and catch reporting, fishing effort, landings and ecosystems impact of fishing, are elaborated in the Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report. Changes in 2022, include the introduction of an environment management fee for purse seiners, dedicated to environmental management and observation of marine ecosystems in Seychelles waters. This fee, which originally applied only to EU Flagged vessels, has now been introduced for purse seiners under the Seychelles-Mauritius Fishing Agreement, which came into force in 2022.

For the small-scale fisheries (i.e. artisanal and small-scale longline), the relevant licensing conditions are published in the Fisheries Comprehensive Plan and were presented in the 2020 FiTI Report. The implementation of the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fisheries Co-management Plan officially commenced on the 1st January 2022 but full operational implementation was delayed until October 2022. It implements management measures provided in the *Fisheries (Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery) Regulations 2021*. The measures are summarised in the 2022 SFA Annual Report <sup>16</sup> and reflected in the FAQ on fisheries tenure arrangements on SFA's website.

- ➔ **Procedures and rules for authorising a nationally flagged vessel to fish in a third country, or the High Seas:** Under the “Services” tab on the SFA website, under “Certificate of Authorisation”, it is stated that vessels operating in waters outside the flag State’s EEZ must obtain a permit, and an application form is also provided which states the conditions for authorisation. In 2022, the MFBE signed Sustainable Fisheries Agreements with management companies of Seychelles-flagged industrial vessels. The agreements detail the fees to be charged, reporting requirements of vessels authorised to fish in third-party waters and on the High Seas and include provisions for terminating the authorisation in case of breach. The agreements provide a framework for the oversight of Seychelles-flagged industrial vessels fishing in third countries or on the High Seas and their reporting requirements as part of Seychelles’ obligations as a flag State. The agreements will come into effect in 2023 but were provisionally implemented in 2022 and a sample is published on the SFA website <sup>17</sup>. This implements recommendation *2019-2\_4*, which states that *SFA should publish online the rules and procedures for Seychelles-flagged vessels to obtain authorisations to fish in a third country or the High Seas, along with the reporting requirements and the provisions for terminating such authorisations.*
- ➔ **Oversight and public consultation processes:** The oversight requirements as provided in the Fisheries Act for the fisheries tenure arrangements regarding the *local commercial fishing licences* (as well as *sport fishing licences*) and *foreign commercial fishing licences*, were detailed in the 2020 FiTI Report and remained unchanged in 2022.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/4-annual-reports/242-sfa-annual-report-2022>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/sustainable-fisheries-agreement-seychelles-and-company-for-purse-seine-and-support-fishing-vessels/category/65-sustainable-fisheries-agreement-seychelles-and-company-for-purse-seine-and-support-fishing-vessels>

There were several instances of public consultation in 2022 which had a bearing on fisheries tenure arrangements.

- In the first quarter of 2022, SFA officials met with sea cucumber fishers to present the results of the past four fishing seasons and the 2021 independent survey of sea cucumber stocks <sup>18</sup> . Following on from this, the 2022-2023 Sea Cucumber fishing season was opened from 15 October 2022 to June 2023. New stock management measures introduced to stakeholders included a review of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the different species in line with the recommendations of the 2021 sea cucumber independent survey. The new measures include complete closure of the white teatfish fishing for the next 3 years; the introduction of a golden sandfish quota of 4,000 pieces per vessel; a 20% increase in the prickly redfish quota and a 5% reduction in the flower teatfish quota. The updated quota is summarised in the 2022 SFA Annual Report and on the FAQ on fisheries tenure arrangements on SFA's website <sup>19</sup> .
- Information from within SFA indicates that in 2022, work started to update the Fisheries Act 2014 and the Fisheries Regulations 1987. The first draft of the updated legislations was discussed at a stakeholder workshop held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022. There is no documentation in the public domain relating to these consultations.

## Recommendations

We, the National MSG, make the following recommendations to improve transparency regarding fisheries tenure arrangements in Seychelles:

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2022-2_1	<i>SFA should consider having a media page, similar to the one maintained on the MFBE website, to capture all events initiated by the SFA including workshops and other outreach activities. Media items should be dated and presented in chronological order and the platform should support searches of entries from previous periods.</i>	High	December 2025

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/17526/Ban+on+targetingwhite-teatSeychelles%27+sea+cucumber+fishing+season+opens+on+October+>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/fisheries/sea-cucumber>

2022-2_2	<i>SFA should systematically publish basic information relating to the various stakeholder engagement events it hosts. At the very least, the agenda, list of participants, presentations made to stakeholders should be published. A summary of the issues raised by stakeholders would also improve understanding of stakeholders' level of engagement.</i>	High	June 2025
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### 1.3 Foreign Fishing Access Agreements

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish the contracts of all foreign fishing access agreements (including their associated protocol(s)),</b>			
that allow access for foreign vessels to fish in Seychelles' marine jurisdictional waters <sup>20</sup>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
that allow Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish in a third country or the High Seas <sup>21</sup>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
<b>Seychelles must publish studies or reports undertaken by national authorities or foreign parties to an agreement providing evaluation or oversight of the agreement, if available, including those that describe the number of fishing authorisations issued, the reported catch of these vessels and any assessment of compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes (only for EU agreements)
<b>Documentation derived from any national stakeholder consultation undertaken with respect to the preparation, negotiation or monitoring of the agreements must be published, if available.</b>	No		

➔ **Foreign fishing access agreements:** In 2022, Seychelles had *four agreements allowing foreign vessels to fish in its waters*, and *two agreements allowing Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish in third country's waters*. Foreign fishing vessels from Dongwon Industries Co. Ltd (South Korea) fish in Seychelles' waters in the absence of an agreement through the payment of a licence<sup>22</sup>. *The MFBE has negotiated an agreement with Dongwon Industries Co Ltd in 2023 which will come into effect in 2024*. There are no agreements currently active that allow Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish on the High Seas.

All foreign fishing agreements have been published on the SFA or the MFBE websites; notably those with the European Union<sup>23</sup> and Mauritius<sup>24</sup> which were valid in 2022. The Seychelles-Mauritius fishing access agreements expired in February 2022 and an interim agreement was negotiated to extend for 60 days pending finalisation of a new agreement.

<sup>20</sup> It should be noted that foreign fishing access agreements do not grant access to Seychelles' territorial sea at all.

<sup>21</sup> There are no agreements currently active that allow Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish on the High Seas.

<sup>22</sup> Section 11(4)(b) of the Fisheries Act (2014) makes provisions for foreign fishing vessels not falling under any fishing agreement to access Seychelles' waters, stating: "A licence under subsection (3) shall in the absence of an agreement under section 12, be granted on payment of the prescribed fee."

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/57-eu-sey-fishing-agreement>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/45-mau-sey-agreement>

A one-year agreement was subsequently negotiated <sup>25</sup>, which took effect in April 2022, and provided for an increase in licence fees as follows:

- Licence fee of EUR143,000 for tuna purse seiners for one year for up to 20 purse seiners;
- Licence fee of EUR 22,750 for longliners for a period of 6 months and EUR 39,000 for one year for up to 20 tuna longliners.
- Licence fee of EUR 5,000 for supply vessels for one year. The number of supply vessels shall be according to IOTC resolution referred to in section 5 on industrial Fisheries.

The new agreement has also introduced an environment and research fee of EUR 2.25 per Gross Tonnage (GT) per purse seiner vessel per year. There is also provision for the management of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in Seychelles' waters.

The agreements with Taiwan Deep-sea Tuna Longline Boat Owners and Exporters Association (TTA) and Top Fortune International (TFI), were renegotiated in 2022 and took effect in 2023. The confidentiality clauses have been removed and both agreements <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> have been published on the SFA website and will be reflected in the 2023 FITI reporting process. A summary of all foreign fishing agreements granting access to fish in Seychelles waters, valid in 2022 onwards, is published on the SFA website <sup>28</sup>.

As a result of the negotiations and the new fishing agreements signed in 2022, as from January 2024, all foreign fishing vessels, licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters, will do so under an officially signed agreement in fulfilment of recommendation [2020-3\\_1](#) which requested *the MFBE to ensure that in the future all foreign fishing vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters should do so only under an officially signed agreement.*

- ➔ **Evaluation reports:** The three evaluation reports which were published in 2020 pertaining to the EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement remained available in 2022 <sup>29</sup>. No new evaluation reports have been published. MFBE commissioned an evaluation of the implementation of the Mauritius/Seychelles and EU/Seychelles fishing agreements in 2022, which will include looking at compliance with the conditions of the agreements.

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report?task=download.send&id=230&catid=45&m=0>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/top-fortune-marine-international-ltd/category/63-top-fortune-marine-international-ltd>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/62-taiwan-deepsea-tuna-longline-agreement>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/division/monitoring-control-and-surveillance/foreign-fishing-agreement-and-illegal-fishing?task=download.send&id=227&catid=64&m=0>

<sup>29</sup> The evaluation reports can be accessed here: <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/22-eu-sey-performance-audit>

Signatory party	Agreement published online by Seychelles' government?	Evaluation of agreement conducted?	Evaluation published online by Seychelles' government?
<b>Access agreements for foreign-flagged vessels to fish in Seychelles' waters</b>			
European Union	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>30</sup>
Mauritius	Yes	No	
Taiwan Deep-sea Tuna Longline Boat Owners and Exporters Association (TTA)	Yes	No	
Top Fortune International (TFI)	Yes	No	
<b>Access agreements for Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish in third countries' waters</b>			
Mayotte (EU)	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>31</sup>
Mauritius	Yes	No	Yes

[Best available information] The National MSG found no instances relating to the assessments of the impact of these foreign fishing access agreements, where information used by national authorities is clearly misleading, or could be improved by considering alternative sources of information, such as studies by non-governmental organisations, the private sector or academic institutions.

<sup>30</sup> The following evaluations and assessments of the EU/Seychelles Fisheries Partnership Agreement have been published on the SFA website:

- *Performance audit evaluation of the implementation of the sectoral support provided under the 2014-2020 protocol of the EU/Seychelles Fisheries Partnership Agreement (2020)*; commissioned by SFA. This report focused primarily on the implementation of Seychelles' activities financed through the sectoral support under the 2014-2019 agreement, with a strong emphasis on the impacts generated by funded infrastructure projects and on budget execution.
- *Performance audit evaluation of the implementation of the sectoral support provided for the years 2018 and 2019 under the 2014-2020 protocol of the EU/Seychelles Fisheries Partnership Agreement (2020)*; commissioned by SFA.

It is emphasised that neither of these reports (nor any other known report) have assessed the compliance levels with the terms and conditions of the fisheries agreements.

A more detailed report, namely the *'Ex-post and ex-ante evaluation study of the fisheries partnership agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles and of its implementing protocol* was commissioned by the European Union in 2019. The report provides an analysis of Seychelles' fisheries sector and financial analysis of various aspects of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement. During the process of preparing this FiTI report, this report was published on the website of the SFA.

The evaluations can be accessed at: <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/22-eu-sey-performance-audit>

<sup>31</sup> The evaluation forms part of the above mentioned report: *Ex-post and ex-ante evaluation study of the fisheries partnership agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles and of its implementing protocol*.

- ➔ **Stakeholder consultation:** No documentation derived from national stakeholder consultations regarding the preparation, negotiation or monitoring of foreign agreements was collated or published by the government of Seychelles in 2022. That year, Seychelles negotiated new agreements with Mauritius, TTA and TFI. All discussions were done primarily within the government, through the involvement of different governmental ministries and agencies.

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2022-3_1	<i>The MFBE must include public consultation as part of the process to prepare, negotiate and monitor foreign fishing access agreements and publish the outcome of these.</i>	High	December 2027



## 1.4 The State of the Fisheries Resources

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish the most recent national reports on the state of fish stocks</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Including any information on trends in the state of stocks and conclusions on the reasons for change.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Studies or reports undertaken by national authorities that assess the sustainability of fishing.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Information on the methods and data used to assess fish stocks must be described.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Information on ongoing or planned efforts to update and expand fish stock assessments must be described.	Yes	Yes	Yes

*Acknowledging the importance of information on stock status, the National MSG once again, noted with satisfaction that copies of all stock assessment reports produced by SFA since 2017, are published on its website, in addition to a stock status summary*<sup>32</sup>.

The stock status summary, first published in 2020 on SFA's website, has been updated to reflect stock assessment information available in 2020 and 2021. It provides the status of fish species assessed from 2018 and contains hyperlinks to individual stock assessment reports for all of the species concerned. Details of the methods used to undertake the stock assessments are available as part of these more comprehensive reports. For species under the IOTC mandate<sup>33</sup>, the stock status information presented in that summary, relates to 2022 with hyperlinks to the relevant 2022 stock assessment reports on the IOTC website. In 2022, the IOTC provided a stock information update for all species under its management.

In its stock assessment programme up to the year 2024, published on its website<sup>34</sup>, SFA planned to undertake four stock assessments in 2022: demersal species of importance in the artisanal handline fishery, spanner crab, lobster and sea cucumber. In 2022, SFA produced four stock assessment reports: *Stock Assessments of three Key Demersal Species in the Artisanal Fishery*<sup>35</sup>, the *Spanner Crab Sampling Programme Report 2021-2022*<sup>36</sup>, the *Report on Spiny Lobster Fishery for the 2021-2022 Season*<sup>37</sup> and the *Seychelles sea cucumber survey 2021/22 – sample*

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report?task=download.send&id=153&catid=53&m=0>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.iotc.org/node/3379>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/43-stock-assessment-reports/214-stock-assessments-of-three-key-demersal-species-in-the-artisanal-fishery>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/220-spanner-crab-sampling-programme-report-2021-2022>

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/8-sfa-technical-report/181-report-on-the-spiny-lobster-fishery-summary-of-fishing-activity-for-the-2021-2022-season>

*design, analysis of survey data and management recommendations* <sup>38</sup>. The latter, which is the outcome of an independent assessment of resources in the sea cucumber fishery, was reported in the 2021 FiTI Report. All published stock assessment reports detail the methods used to assess the stocks in each case.

In 2022, SFA launched a stock assessment survey of the mud crab (*Scylla serrata*) as well as an assessment of the mangrove fishery on Mahe, Praslin and Silhouette <sup>39</sup>. The stated objective is to determine whether mud crabs can be sustainably exploited for future aquaculture development, such as fattening, in Seychelles, and whether there is a need to regulate the fishery. The stock assessment was to be done over 12 months and the assessment questionnaire was posted on the Seychelles Aquaculture website <sup>40</sup>.

In 2022, SFA initiated a study to determine baseline information for the effective management of the small-scale octopus fishery <sup>41</sup>. The aim of the project is to implement a comprehensive octopus research project on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue to determine the biological, ecological, and socioeconomic aspects of this fishery. The results will be used to inform and review potential management measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Octopus fishery.

In 2022, stock assessment information was available for 48 species and species groups. A graphical overview of this is provided in the summary section of this 2022 FiTI Report. Changes in stock status are recorded only for species under the IOTC mandate. In short, of the 48 species for which stock status updates were available in 2022, 11 were considered *overfished*, of which 10 were also classified as *subject to overfishing* and one had *uncertain* fishing mortality status. One species was classified as *subject to overfishing* but *not overfished* and one was *subject to overfishing* with *uncertain* biomass status. Out of the 12 species and species groups of importance in the artisanal fisheries for which stock assessment results are available, 9 were determined to have *uncertain* biomass of which 7 also had *uncertain* fish mortality status and 3 other species were *not subject to overfishing*. Information on the sea cucumber stocks indicate that of the 12 species for which information is available, the two species of importance in the fishery (white teatfish and flower teatfish) were both *overfished* and *subject to overfishing*. Nine species have *uncertain* mortality status of which 3 also had *uncertain* biomass stock status whilst the other 6 were *not overfished* and one species was *not subject to overfishing* and *not overfished*.

*The National MSG notes that whilst the Government of Seychelles has met all of the requirements of FiTI in respect of publishing all the recent national reports on the state of fish stocks, access remains an issue. The NMSG notes that whilst stock status information is communicated to the main stakeholders, most of the published information do not reach wider stakeholders and the public and may be too technical to be useful to them. The NMSG welcomes*

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/182-seychelles-sea-cucumber-survey-2021-22-sample-design-analysis-of-survey-data-and-management-recommendations>

<sup>39</sup> <https://seychellesaquaculture.com/category/assessments/>

<sup>40</sup> <https://seychellesaquaculture.com/2022/09/21/mud-crab-stock-assessment/>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.undp.org/mauritius-seychelles/news/undp-partners-sfa-first-regional-octopus-fishery-workshop-seychelles>

*the initiative to produce the annual Lobster Flyer, which makes scientific information more accessible to the public.*

To facilitate public understanding, the National MSG provides details on the stock status of species which were updated via new assessments conducted in 2022:

- ➔ **Artisanal fisheries:** The Artisanal Fisheries Stock Assessment <sup>42</sup> report presents the stock status of 3 key indicator species of the demersal handline fishery namely *Aprion virescens* (green jobfish), *Epinephelus chorostigma* (brown spotted grouper) and *Lutjanus sebaie* (Emperor red snapper) conducted in 2022. Compared to 2021, the 2022 stock assessment is based on larger sample sizes: *Aprion virescens* 1919 versus 418 in 2021; *Epinephelus chorostigma* 716 versus 209 in 2021 and for *Lutjanus sebaie* the sample was deemed sufficient to carry out analyses at the plateau level. Sampling locations were also expanded to include fish markets compared to previous years where sampling activities focused only on the Victoria and Providence artisanal fishing ports. The report suggests that there is indication of high fishing pressure for *Aprion virescens* whereas for *Epinephelus chorostigma*, results were inconclusive. For *Lutjanus sebaie*, the report concluded that despite a reduction in fishing pressure, there is a possibility that this specie remains overexploited.
- ➔ **Sea Cucumber:** The outcome of the independent assessment of the sea cucumber fishery carried out during the 2021/22 sea cucumber season, which is published on the SFA website <sup>43</sup> was reported on in the 2021 FiTI Report. The results showed significant declines in the population of species of importance in the local sea cucumber fishery. Five out of the ten recommendations related to mitigation of the declining stock status include: immediate cessation of white teatfish fishing and monitor in 3 years' time; reduce Pentard quota by 10% and urgently implement a targeted stock assessment; carry out additional stock modelling on prickly redfish and continue to monitor the recovery of Black teatfish; and investigate the potential reintroduction of underexploited or recovered species with additional catch reporting requirements. These recommendations have led to the review of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) quota for the 2022-2023 Sea Cucumber fishing season, which opened on the 15 October 2022 <sup>44</sup> and the outcome of which will be addressed in the 2023 FiTI reporting process.

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/43-stock-assessment-reports/163-2021-artisanal-fisheries-stock-assessment>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/182-seychelles-sea-cucumber-survey-2021-22-sample-design-analysis-of-survey-data-and-management-recommendations>

<sup>44</sup> [file:///C:/Users/hp/Dropbox/My%20PC%20\(DESKTOP-A58LOLL\)/Downloads/Gazette%20No%2064%20-%2010th%20October%202022.pdf](file:///C:/Users/hp/Dropbox/My%20PC%20(DESKTOP-A58LOLL)/Downloads/Gazette%20No%2064%20-%2010th%20October%202022.pdf)

- **Lobster:** A summary report of the 2021/2022 lobster fishing season is published on the SFA website <sup>45</sup> and the contents further summarised as a Lobster Flyer 2022 <sup>46</sup> also published on the SFA website. By presenting the scientific information in a more simplified format, the flyer makes the information relating to the lobster fishery much more accessible to the public at large. Both the 2021 <sup>47</sup> and 2022 Lobster Flyers are published on SFA's website, which allows comparison and monitoring of trends in the performance of the fishery.

The 2022 lobster report is based on fisheries dependent data, collected from the spiny lobster fishery during the 2021/2022 season, which was opened for only 2 months compared to the typical three-month duration previously, as a measure to reduce the fishing pressure on the stocks. The 2021 fisheries independent surveys had showed a decline in all stock indicators. A decrease in both fishing trips and total catch was observed compared to the two previous fishing seasons and the latter was the third lowest catch recorded since 1992. Lobster abundance, determined by the catch per Unit Effort (CPUE), declined by 22% and 28% compared to the 2020/2021 and 2019/2020 fishing seasons, respectively. The report postulates that the decline may potentially be because of the continued fishing pressure, considering that the lobster fishery has been opened for three consecutive years, and suspected illegal fishing. In general, a noticeable decrease in the number of undersized lobsters was observed; only 39 undersized lobsters were recorded, representing 1.7% of the total lobsters sampled, attributable to increased fishers' awareness of the need to respect the regulations in place and the improved monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) efforts this season. The recommendations include closure of the 2022-2023 lobster season, undertaking a Participatory Lobster Monitoring Programme (PLMP) in 2024 to evaluate and monitor lobster stock status, strengthening monitoring, control and surveillance to discourage illegal fishing activities and instituting an education and awareness campaign to educate the public on the regulations of this fishery. A stock assessment survey is planned for 2023.

- **Spanner crab:** The Spanner Crab Sampling Programme Report 2021-2022 <sup>48</sup> presents analyses of the fisheries dependent data, collected during the sampling period 2021/2022. The report noted that there were only 5 to 6 fishing vessels actively fishing for spanner crabs during the sampling period. It reports a decline in the amount of catch landed by commercial fishers over time, which it attributes to several factors including fishing intensity, market demands, seasonal variation in environmental factors. The report indicates that from the Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) (kg/day) analyses, the stocks

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<sup>45</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/8-sfa-technical-report/181-report-on-the-spiny-lobster-fishery-summary-of-fishing-activity-for-the-2021-2022-season>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/15-research-newsletter/184-lobster-flyer-2022>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/15-research-newsletter/132-lobster-fishing-season-2020-2021>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/220-spanner-crab-sampling-programme-report-2021-2022>

appear to be stable; male crabs are significantly larger than female crabs and in general 73% of catch sampled were males. The author calls for caution in interpreting the catch and CPUE results presented, as in the absence of a catch and effort logbook for the spanner crab fishery, information on effort is based on fishers' estimations, which can be inaccurate. It notes that the spanner crab fishery remained unmonitored for 30 years and the sampling programme was only recently implemented and recommended continuous monitoring before drawing further conclusions. Other limitations identified include difficulty to cover all landing sites because of the absence of a system to identify spanner crab fishers and a lack of staff resulting in no sampling done for 2 months. Following the concerns identified in this report, SFA worked on a licensing framework for spanner crab fishery, which was implemented in 2023 and will be addressed in the 2023 FiTI reporting process.

- **Tuna and tuna-like species:** Stock assessment of tuna and tuna-like species targeted by the industrial longline and purse seine fishery and the small-scale industrial fishery are undertaken by the IOTC. Seychelles contributes by providing sampling data collected during landings and transshipments. The results of the 2022 stock assessments do not indicate any marked changes in the stock levels of the four main tuna species exploited by large-scale industrial fisheries and to a lesser extent, artisanal fisheries, compared to 2021. The 2022 stock determination indicates a very high probability that the stock of Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) and Big eye (*Thunnus obesus*) are *overfished* and are *subject to overfishing*, while the stock of Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) and Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) are neither *overfished* nor *subject to overfishing*.

For Billfish, the IOTC 2022 stock status determination, indicated that stocks of Blue Marlin (*Makaira nigricans*) and Striped Marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*) are *overfished* and *subject to overfishing*. In 2022, the stock status of the Black Marlin (*Makaira indica*) could not be assessed whilst Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) and Indo-Pacific sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*) stocks are *not overfished* and *not subject to overfishing*.

For neritic tunas and mackerels, stocks of longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) and narrow-barred spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) were determined to be *overfished* and *subject to overfishing*, stocks of Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*) and Indo-Pacific king mackerel (*Scomberomorus guttatus*) were determined to be *not overfished* and *not subject to overfishing*. The biomass and fish mortality of bullet tuna (*Auxis rochei*) and frigate tuna (*Auxis thazard*) could not be assessed.

For sharks, the stock status of six out of seven species, could not be assessed. They are Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), Scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), bigeye thresher shark (*Alopias superciliosus*) and pelagic thresher shark (*Alopias pelagicus*). The stock status of the blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) was determined to be *not overfished* and *not subject to overfishing*.

The National MSG notes that SFA's work programme for future stock assessments up to the year 2024, is still available on its website. It provides a link to the IOTC schedule of future stock assessments up to 2023 <sup>49</sup>.

[Best available information] The National MSG found no instances relating to the state of fisheries resources, where information used by national authorities is clearly misleading, or could be improved by considering alternative sources of information, such as studies by non-governmental organisations, the private sector or academic institutions.

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2022-4_1	<i>The SFA must develop a communication strategy that provides for communication channels to disseminate stock status information to meet the specific needs of its various stakeholders, taking into consideration that not all of its main stakeholders are able to access information electronically.</i>	High	December 2027

<sup>49</sup> This information is also available on the IOTC website on the following link: [https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/science/Schedule\\_of\\_stock\\_assessments\\_for\\_IOTC\\_species.pdf](https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/science/Schedule_of_stock_assessments_for_IOTC_species.pdf)

## 1.5 Large-Scale Fisheries

### 1.5.1 Vessel Registry

Transparency requirement	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must provide an online, up-to-date registry of all Seychelles-flagged and foreign-flagged large-scale vessels authorised to fish in the country's marine jurisdictional waters, and of all Seychelles-flagged large-scale vessels authorised to fish in third countries' marine jurisdictional waters and on the High Seas, including the following information:</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
i. <b>The name of the vessel</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
ii. <b>The legal owner of the vessel, including their address and nationality</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
iii. <b>The registered port of the vessel</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
iv. <b>The flag State of the vessel</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
v. <b>The vessel's unique identification number(s)</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
vi. <b>The type of vessel, according to fishing gear or fishing method, following the definition set in the country's legislation</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
vii. <b>The physical characteristics of the vessel, e.g. length, beam, tonnage, engine power</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
viii. <b>The name of the vessel's agent, if applicable</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
ix. <b>The access agreement under which the vessel is granted authorisation to fish, if applicable</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
x. <b>The type of fishing authorisation held by the vessel</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
xi. <b>The quantity and names of target species, permissible by-catch and discards that the vessel is authorised to fish, if specified in the vessel's fishing authorisation</b>	Yes	Yes	Unknown
xii. <b>The duration of the fishing authorisation, indicating start and end date</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
xiii. <b>The rights holder for whom the vessel is fishing, if applicable, including the name and nationality of the rights holder</b>	Yes	Yes	Unknown
xiv. <b>The country and/or regions of the High Seas where the vessel is authorised to fish (applicable to Seychelles-flagged vessels operating in third countries or on the High Seas)</b>	Yes	Yes	Unknown

The National MSG notes the multiple sources of information on industrial fishing vessels operating in Seychelles waters in 2022. The 2022 industrial vessel registry<sup>50</sup> in Excel format is by far the most comprehensive, with fields for all vessel attributes as required by the FiTI Standard as well as licence payments made by vessel operators or their agents. The number and types of industrial vessels from the registry is summarised in the table below according to flag State.

Other sources of information on the industrial fishing vessels that were operating in Seychelles waters in 2022 are the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report<sup>51</sup> and the 2022 SFA Annual report<sup>52</sup>. The 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report indicates that 250 licenced industrial fishing vessels fished in Seychelles' waters in 2022. The discrepancy between the figures in the Vessel Registry (187) and in the Fisheries Statistical Report (250) was explained in the 2021 FiTI report namely that the Vessel Registry captures vessels who paid and obtained their licence in that year whereas the Fisheries Statistical Report, captures all licensed large-scale vessels who submitted logbooks and this includes those vessels who did not obtain or renew their licence that year. SFA has confirmed that as from 2023, all licences will be issued for one year starting 1<sup>st</sup> January in order to minimise misinterpretation of licence information.

Another important source of information available during this FiTI reporting process is the Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) developed by SFA which was launched in July 2023. Information about FIMS, its objectives and functionalities and how it was developed features on both the SFA<sup>53</sup> and the MFBE<sup>54</sup> websites. It is a digital platform aimed at improving access to fisheries information, in terms of accessibility, availability and timeliness. It encompasses data on fish stocks, fishing effort, catch data, vessel monitoring, compliance records, and relevant socioeconomic information. A series of FAQs provide detailed information to users on accessing FIMS and on contributing data to it. It states that access is primarily granted to authorised users involved in fisheries management although, non-sensitive data is made available to the public in an aggregated form. The entities that will have data access externally, based on official requests, include the Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS), the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), and the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA). Its implementation partly fulfils recommendation *2020-5\_5*, for *SFA to put in place an online system for making available data on catch, effort, landing and transshipment so that the data can be more easily interpreted and can fulfil all FiTI requirements that are possible*. During this FiTI reporting process, the platform was still at work-in-progress stage.

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<sup>51</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/6-sfa-fisheries-bulletin/224-fisheries-statistical-report-year-2022>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/4-annual-reports/242-sfa-annual-report-2022>

<sup>53</sup> <https://sfa-fims.traseable.com/about>

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.MFBE.gov.sc/the-launching-ceremony-of-the-fisheries-information-management-system-fims/>



Table 5.1: Large-scale vessels licensed to fish in Seychelles' waters in 2022

Flag State	Longline	Purse seiner	Supply vessel	Grand Total
Taiwan (POC)	83	0	0	83
Seychelles	25	13	3	41
China	0	0	0	0
Spain	1	15	4	20
France	0	10	2	12
Mauritius	13	7	2	22
Korea	0	2	1	3
Italy	0	1	0	1
Portugal	0	0	0	0
Oman	2	1	0	3
Tanzania, United Republic of	0	1	1	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>187</b>

Source: 2022 large-scale vessel registry

Following verification of the 2022 industrial vessel registry, the National MSG made the following additional observations:

The number of industrial fishing vessels decreased by 28 from 215 in 2021 to 187 in 2022 as a result of a number of shifts as follows: a decrease in the number of industrial vessels by flag states: Seychelles -29; Taiwan (POC) – 10; China – 6; Spain – 3; and one each for France and Portugal; whilst 13 vessels changed flags from Seychelles (12) and Spain (1) to Mauritius and 2 new licences each were issued to vessels registered under Oman and the United Republic of Tanzania. The industrial fishing vessel fleet has seen an reduction of 32 industrial longliners and an addition of 4 purse seiners in 2022. To note that the number of supply vessels was maintained at 13 down from 16 in 2020, in compliance with IOTC resolution 19/01 which sets minimum limits in the number of purse seiners that a supply vessel can support.

- i. *The legal owner of the vessel and their address and nationality:* Information on legal owners and their addresses is available for all vessels and as pointed out in earlier FiTI reports, the majority of legal owners are corporates and have a Seychelles business address<sup>55</sup>. The issue of beneficial ownership information is addressed in section 1.12 – Beneficial Ownership. This means that recommendation [2020-5\\_2](#) which states that *SFA should cross-check and verify the legal owner of the vessel recorded in the vessel registry*

<sup>55</sup> The FiTI Standard provides for *the legal owner of the vessel* to be included in the vessel registry and not *the beneficial owner*.

*are accurate and ensure that information of the owner's address and nationality is provided*, has been fully implemented.

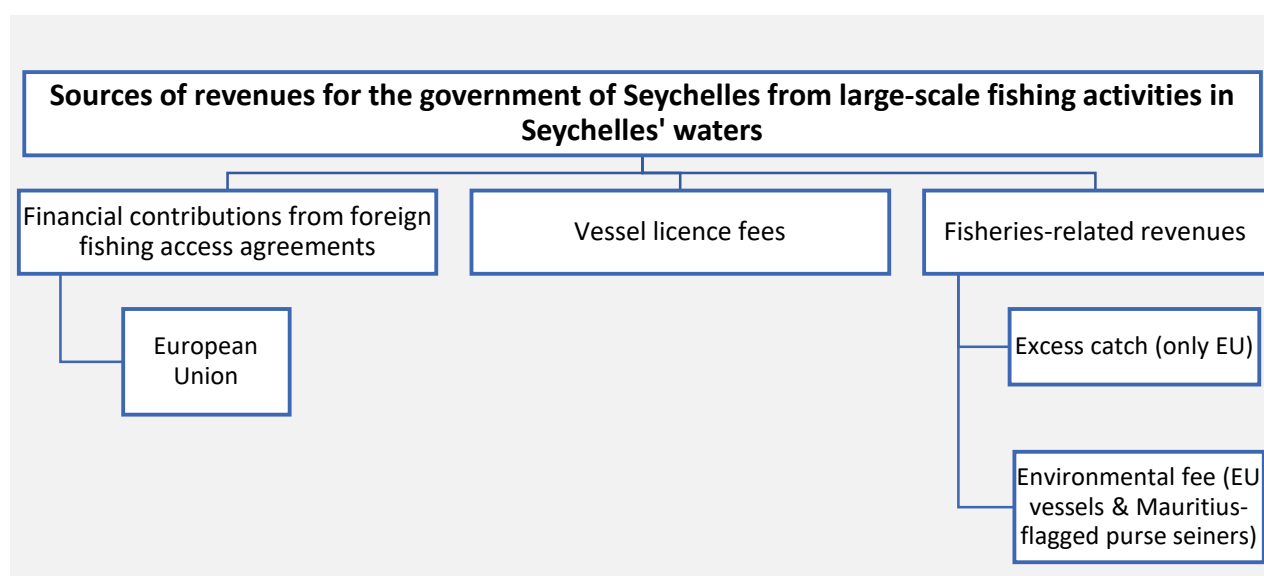
- ii. *Physical characteristics*: The capture of the physical characteristics of vessels has improved and in 2022, complete information was available for all vessels. Details of the physical characteristics were available for the following number of vessels :
  - Vessel length: 187
  - Vessel width: 187
  - Gross tonnage: 187
  - Engine (type) and power: (187) 187
- iii. *Fishing agents*: All 187 licenced vessels, whether foreign-owned or locally-owned, had record of their local agent, although there is no legal obligation for locally owned vessels to do so, the Fisheries Act requires all foreign owned vessels to have a local agent.
- iv. *Quantity and names of target species, permissible by-catch and discards*: All licenced vessels were authorised to target tuna and tuna-like species and the quota for Yellow fin tuna for the Seychelles fleet in 2022 is 39,577Mt. However, due to payback of over-catch in 2020 and 2021, the 2022 quota was lowered to 36,587Mt. This was distributed as follows: purse seiners were allocated 2400Mt per vessel totalling 31,200Mt, a global quota of 3,000Mt was equally split between the fleet of Seychelles-flagged industrial longliners and small-scale longliners and the remaining 2,387Mt was set aside for potential new investors in the tuna fishery.
- v. *Country and/or regions of the High Seas where fishing is authorised*: This information is relevant only for Seychelles-flagged vessels. In 2022, 18 Seychelles-flagged large-scale vessels were granted authorisation to fish on the High Seas and in other countries' EEZs.

The National MSG noted, with satisfaction, that records for the vessel registry are fully updated and all required information is captured for each licenced industrial vessel fishing in Seychelles' waters. This fulfils recommendation *2020-5\_1* which states that *SFA should keep the large-scale-vessel registry continually updated, at least on a quarterly basis, and ensure that all information required is available for each vessel licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters. This should be done through the update of the licence application form and for SFA to ensure that all information is provided before issuing licences.*

### 1.5.2 Payments for fishing

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish accessible and complete information on payments made by each vessel listed in the vessel registry for their fishing activities</b>			
i. <b>The name of the natural person or legal entity that made the payment.</b>	Yes	No	Unknown
ii. <b>The name of the national authority who received the payment.</b>	Yes	Yes (FiTI Report)	Yes
iii. <b>The date on which payment was received by the national authority.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
iv. <b>The purpose of the payment.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes

Given the economic importance of fisheries for Seychelles, the National MSG has outlined this simplified illustration of the various direct revenue sources provided to government by large-scale fishing vessels:



SFA publishes the licence payments made by large-scale fishing vessel operators allowing them to fish in Seychelles' waters in calendar year 2022. This information is published as part of the large-scale vessel registry and is available on the SFA website <sup>56</sup>.

Analysis of licence payment data in the published large-scale fishing vessel registry by the National MSG brought out the following:

- ➔ Complete licence payment information was available for all vessels that featured on the published registry. The purpose of the payment was clearly identified in all cases as **licence fees** and the information was followed by the name of the vessel and the SFA-assigned vessel number. As stated in section 1.2 Fisheries Tenure Arrangements, the

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/services1/fishing-licence/small-scale-fisheries-licences/summary/54-small-scale-fisheries-licences/240-vessel-registers-licences-2022>

agreement signed with management companies of Seychelles-flagged vessels provides for the fees to be paid by these vessels, which includes large-scale, joint-venture fishing vessels. It is published on the SFA website and therefore fulfils recommendation [2020-5\\_3](#) which required SFA to officially pronounce the licence fee for large-scale joint-venture fishing vessels.

- ➔ **Natural person or legal entity making payments:** Information on the natural person or legal entity making payments (which would usually be the vessel's foreign agent), for large-scale fishing activities in Seychelles' waters is not captured. As pointed out in the 2020 FiTI Report, the name of the vessel's local agent is on record as the payee in the majority of cases instead of the foreign vessel agent or owner, who actually makes the payment.
- ➔ **Name of the national authority who received the payment:** The payment process for collecting vessel licence fees, outlined in the 2020 FiTI Report, remained unchanged. All payments are made centrally through the Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS), which then remits the money to the SFA upon the latter producing invoicing and payment confirmation information.
- ➔ **The purpose of the payment:** Payment details were supplied by the Finance Department and inserted in the large-scale vessel registry. The National MSG was unable to verify physical records for the licence payments made for the year 2022 because the records could not be accessed.

The values for excess catch payments made by EU-flagged fishing vessel operators and by EU for excess catch taken by its vessels under the SFPA, published in the 2021 FiTI Summary Report, have been restated for 2020 and 2021. Consequently, tables for payments by large-scale vessels, excess catch payments by EU-flagged vessel operators and excess catch payments made by the EU for these two years, had to be restated and are published in annex C of this report.

Payments of *excess catch* cannot be published on a per vessel basis for EU vessels as per the terms of the EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement. *Port fees* are also not available on a per vessel basis to the fisheries authorities, as they reside with the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA) – only aggregated data is transferred to SFA<sup>57</sup>. The SPA is in the process of digitising its processes and implementing the Maritime Single Window (MSW) through the Port Victoria Management Information System (PVMIS). By July 2024, all industrial fishing vessels using Port Victoria will be doing so on the PVMIS digital platform and SPA has confirmed that information, including fees on transshipment and landing, will be available and easier to share on a per vessel basis.

<sup>57</sup> In 2022, transshipment and landing fees were collected at a rate of Euro 4 per Mt and Euro 3 per Mt respectively by the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA).

## Recommendations

We, the National MSG, make the following recommendations to improve transparency regarding catches made by large-scale fisheries:

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2022-5_1	<i>SFA should work with the Seychelles Ports Authority to ensure that by December 2024, information on transshipment and landing fees is transmitted to SFA on a per vessel basis.</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>December 2025</i>

## 1.5.3 Recorded catch data

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish the following information from vessels listed in its vessel registry:</b>			
i. <b>Catches by Seychelles-flagged vessels: The quantity of annual recorded retained catch according to species or species groups, as well as marine jurisdictional waters, High Seas and third country waters</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
Disaggregated by fishing authorisations or gear type	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
Disaggregated by marine jurisdictional waters, High Seas and third country waters	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
ii. <b>Catches by foreign-flagged vessels: The quantity of annual recorded retained catch according to species or species groups</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
Disaggregated by fishing authorisations or gear type	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
Disaggregated by flag State	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
iii. <b>Landings in national ports: The quantity of annual recorded landings in national ports according to species or species groups caught in the country's marine jurisdictional waters</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
Disaggregated by fishing authorisations or gear type	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
Disaggregated by flag State	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
iv. <b>Transshipments and landings in foreign ports: The quantity of annual recorded transshipments at sea or landings in foreign ports according to species or species groups caught in the country's marine jurisdictional waters</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
Disaggregated by fishing authorisations or gear type	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
Disaggregated by flag State	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
<b>Seychelles must publish information on recorded quantities of discards according to species or species groups.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
Disaggregated by fishing authorisations or gear type	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially

Disaggregated by flag State	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
Seychelles must publish the most recent studies and reports on recorded <i>fishing effort by vessels</i> , disaggregated by fishery or gear type and by flag state, if available.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
Seychelles must publish evaluations or audits of the <i>economic, social and food security contribution</i> of the large-scale fishing sector, if available.	No	No	No

The attributes of published, annual retained catch data for all large-scale fishing vessels were detailed in the 2020 FiTI Report. The data meets the FiTI Standard for both the purse seine fishery and industrial longline fishery and is published in the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report. In this report, SFA cautioned that since 2021, it encountered technical issues with its purse seine data processing software which did not allow for species composition corrections. Hence, the species composition information presented for 2021 and 2022 here may change in future reports following species composition correction.

- **Catches of Seychelles-flagged vessels:** Data on retained catches of active Seychelles-flagged, large-scale fishing vessels for 2022 is available online, published in the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report <sup>58</sup>. The available catch data is summarised below, disaggregated by species and geographical areas <sup>59</sup>.

Catch data from all Seychelles-flagged purse seiners and longliners is provided for the entire calendar year 2022 based on 100% logbook return and is *perceived as complete*. Logbook return from the industrial longline fishery reached 100% in 2022, three years in a row.

Table 5.2: Catch data for Seychelles-flagged industrial fishing vessels in 2022

Species	Catches in Seychelles EEZ		Catches in foreign EEZs		Catches on the High Seas		Total catches	
	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)
	Purse seiners	Long-liners	Purse seiners	Long-liners	Purse seiners	Long-liners	Purse seiners	Long-liners
Yellowfin	9,490	1,124.00	1,580	99.3	19,908	1,671	30,978	2,894
Skipjack	14,803		6,062	0.0	57,385		78,250	0

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/6-sfa-fisheries-bulletin/198-fisheries-statistical-report-year-2021>

<sup>59</sup> Note that figures have been rounded to the nearest Mt.

Bigeye	2,277	839.8	413	170.6	7,384	2,872	<b>10,074</b>	<b>3,882</b>
Albacore <sup>60</sup>	0		0	0.0	0		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Swordfish		168.6		13.7		598.1	<b>0</b>	<b>780</b>
Marlin		82.7		11.9		243	<b>0</b>	<b>338</b>
Shark		135.2		0.5		280.1	<b>0</b>	<b>416</b>
Others	123	154.6	4	95.5	1,213	1,338.50	<b>1,340</b>	<b>1,589</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,693</b>	<b>2,505</b>	<b>8,059</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>85,890</b>	<b>7,002</b>	<b>120,642</b>	<b>9,899</b>

- ➔ **Catches of foreign-flagged vessels:** Data on retained catches from active foreign-flagged, large-scale fishing vessels for 2022 is available online, published in the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report.
- **Purse seiner fishery:** The published catch information from all foreign-flagged purse seiner vessels *is perceived as complete*. Catches made in 2022 are summarised below (in Mt), disaggregated by species, flag State and geographical area<sup>61</sup>. As stated above, the published catch data attributes meet the FITI standard.

Table 5.3: Catches of foreign-flagged industrial purse seine fishing vessels in 2022 (Mt)

Species	Catches made in Seychelles' EEZ	Catches in other EEZs & High Seas,	Total Western Indian Ocean catches
	(Mt)	calculated values <sup>[1]</sup>	(Mt)
<b>Spanish-flagged vessels</b>			
Yellowfin	14,531	27,780	<b>42,311</b>
Skipjack	22,418	65,497	<b>87,915</b>
Bigeye	4,102	12,191	<b>16,293</b>
Albacore	2	0	<b>2</b>
Others	258	562	<b>820</b>
<b>Spanish catch (Mt)</b>	<b>41,311</b>	<b>106,030</b>	<b>147,341</b>
<b>French-flagged vessels</b>			
Yellowfin	13,129	12,990	<b>26,119</b>
Skipjack	11,859	24,964	<b>36,823</b>
Bigeye	1,120	3,514	<b>4,634</b>
Albacore	11	13	<b>24</b>
Others	345	741	<b>1,086</b>
<b>French catch (Mt)</b>	<b>26,464</b>	<b>42,222</b>	<b>68,686</b>

<sup>60</sup> Albacore catch for longliners included in "Others"

<sup>61</sup> Differences between total catch and column sums where these arise are due to rounding off.



Other-flagged vessels[2]			
Yellowfin	8,409	12,984	21,393
Skipjack	9,392	29,522	38,914
Bigeye	1,165	4,197	5,362
Albacore	6	7	13
Others	129	789	918
Others catch (Mt)	<b>19,101</b>	<b>47,499</b>	<b>66,600</b>
<b>Total catch (Mt)</b>	<b>86,876</b>	<b>195,751</b>	<b>282,627</b>

- **Industrial longline fishery:** The published retained catch data for the foreign-flagged longline fishery is *complete*, as it is based on 100% logbook return.

Reported catches by foreign-flagged longliners in 2022 are summarised below (in Mt) disaggregated by species and geographical area:

Table 5.4: Catches of foreign-flagged, industrial longline fishing vessels in 2022 (Mt)

	Catches made in Seychelles' EEZ	Catches made in other EEZs & on the High Seas[1]	Total Western Indian Ocean catches
<b>Taiwan (POC)</b>			
Yellowfin	2438.2	135.7	2573.9
Bigeye	3131.0	296.1	3427.1
Swordfish	454.7	38.6	493.3
Marlin	278.0	25.1	303.1
Sharks	727.9	58.6	786.5
Others	607.4	31.8	639.2
Taiwan (POC) catch	<b>7,637</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>8,223</b>
<b>Others[2]</b>			
Yellowfin	1168.5	59.4	1227.9
Bigeye	392.8	40.6	433.4
Swordfish	61.5	4.0	65.5
Marlin	27.5	0.4	27.9
Sharks	29.0	0.7	29.7
Others	82.2	1.7	83.9
Others catch	<b>1761.5</b>	<b>106.8</b>	<b>1868.3</b>

Total catch	9398.7	692.7	10091.4
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➔ **Landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports:** Data on landings and transshipments in national ports from large-scale fisheries for 2022 was available online, published in the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report.

- **Purse seine fishery:** Total landing and transshipment in Port Victoria by purse seine vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters for 2022 is summarised below (in Mt), disaggregated by Flag State.

Table 5.5: Landings and transshipments in Port Victoria by purse seine vessels by flag State in 2022 (Mt)

Flag State	Landings	Transshipments	Total
Seychelles	15,659	98,580	114,239
Spain	14,966	124,997	139,963
France	20,369	38,826	59,195
Others (Italy, Mauritius, Korea)	7,109	52,890	59,999
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,103</b>	<b>315,293</b>	<b>373,396</b>

The published landing data for 2022 is *perceived as complete*. As noted in all previous FiTI reports, the published landing and transshipment data is not in full accordance with the FiTI Standard, as the data is not disaggregated in a manner that allows catches made in Seychelles' waters to be separated from those made in other national jurisdictions or on the High Seas. This transparency requirement poses a practical challenge, as catches made in different locations are stored in the same wells and therefore cannot be physically landed/transhipped separately.

However, the landings and transshipments data set is disaggregated by several other attributes (month, flag State, fish species, fish size, landing destination, fishing agreement) as outlined in the 2020 FiTI Report.

- **Industrial longline fishery:** No data on landings and transshipments for industrial longline fishery, made in Seychelles' ports, have been published due to technical software issues outlined in the 2020 FiTI Report. To note that the data is captured on landing and transshipment forms, which are submitted to the MCS Division of SFA for verification prior to onward submission to the IOTC. However, the information is not collated for publication. The SFA has indicated during this FiTI reporting process, that transshipment and landings for longline fishery will be published starting in 2024.

- ➔ **Landings and transshipments in foreign ports:** Data on landings and transshipments in foreign ports by the large-scale sector for 2022 is partially available online, as published in the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report.

Similar to landings and transshipments in national ports, the data for foreign ports cannot be disaggregated in a manner that allows catches made in Seychelles' waters to be separated from those made in other national jurisdictions or on the High Seas.

- **Purse seine fishery:** Published 2022 data indicates that a total of 31,549 Mt of fish caught by purse seiners licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters, were landed or transhipped in foreign ports in 2022. This equates to 8% of the catch that is made by purse seine vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters.

Only two foreign ports were used in 2022 for landings and transshipments: Diego Suarez (Madagascar) and Port Louis (Mauritius), in order of volume landed. In addition to the port, the data set is further [disaggregated](#) by intervals during the year, fish species and discards. The data is not disaggregated by flag State, even though this information is collated by SFA, as landings and transshipments in foreign ports are minimal.

- **Industrial longline fishery:** Such data for 2022 has not been published by Seychelles' authorities, even though the majority of the data is being collated by SFA. SFA indicates that their present statistical system does not capture transshipment and landing data for the longline fishery and therefore they are unable to validate logbook data submitted by vessel captains. SFA indicated during this FiTI reporting process that they are using a new statistical software that will allow publication of transshipment and landings by longline fishery in foreign ports in 2024.

- ➔ **Discards:** Data on fish discards has been published in the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report for both the purse seine and the longline fisheries.

- **Purse seine fishery:** Published discard data shows that, in 2022, a total of 176 Mt of discards were unloaded in Port Victoria and 46 Mt in Port Louis, Mauritius, the only foreign port where discards were recorded. The drastic decrease in discards unloaded in Port Victoria from 1,859 MT in 2021 to 176 Mt in 2022 is due to the fact that past discards figures used to include bycatch. SFA indicates that it is now disaggregating the discards figure and presenting the bycatch data separately. Seen in this light, the sum of bycatch (1,972 Mt) and discards (1,879 Mt) in 2021 is about the same as the 2022 figure (Bycatch: 3,725 Mt; Discards: 176 Mt).
- In addition to port information, this data set is further [disaggregated](#) by month, quarter, semester and year, but not by species or species groups (as required by the FiTI Standard). SFA informed the National MSG that at present it is not possible to

publish discard data from the purse seine fishery disaggregated by species as this information is received by SFA in a non-disaggregated format.

- **Longline fishery:** Published discard data for the longline fishery presents the number of discards rather than the volume but it is disaggregated by species: tuna, sharks (7 species are listed) and others (rays, mantas, oil fish, etc).
- Finally, discards of non-fish species are recorded by both the purse seine and industrial longline fishery and reported to the IOTC through the annual National Reports to the Commission's Scientific Committee. For sharks, marine turtles, sea birds, and marine mammals, reports also include information on whether the animal is discarded alive or dead. The Seychelles National Report to the IOTC for the calendar year 2022 was submitted in November 2023 <sup>62</sup>. Links to recent IOTC reports are published on the SFA website <sup>63</sup>.

The National MSG also took note that by the end of 2022, the Seychelles' authorities had not released the outcome of the project to verify the accuracy of discard information submitted by industrial longliners. As outlined in the 2020 FITI Report, SFA piloted Electronic Monitoring on industrial longliners as from 2019 in order to address the lack of observations at sea for this fishery.

➔ **Fishing effort:** Data on fishing effort of Seychelles-flagged and foreign-flagged large-scale vessels for 2022 was published online, through the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report. For both, the purse seine and industrial longline fishery, SFA collects and archives data on fishing effort by individual vessel. However, the authorities have never published such data.

- **Purse seine fishery:** Data on fishing effort is published as *days fished*. Published data for 2022 indicates that purse seine vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters spent a total of 9,579 days fishing in the Western Indian Ocean, of which 2,972 days were spent fishing within Seychelles' EEZ.

Table 5.6 summarises fishing effort of purse seiners licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters for the years 2021 and 2022, disaggregated by flag State and geographical area where fishing took place.

Fishing effort data is also disaggregated by month, quarter, semester, year and the agreement under which the access regime is defined (European Community, others).

<sup>62</sup> <https://iotc.org/documents/SC/25/NR22E>

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/international-bodies>

Table 5.6: Fishing effort for purse seine vessels licensed to fish in Seychelles' waters in 2021 and 2022 (*days fished*).

Purse seiners	2022			2021		
	Fishing effort (days fished) in...			Fishing effort (days fished) in...		
	Seychelles' EEZ	other EEZs & the High Seas (calculated)	the Western Indian Ocean region	Seychelles' EEZ	other EEZs & the High Seas (calculated)	the Western Indian Ocean region
Seychelles	838	2,096	2,934	476	2,551	3,027
Spain	981	2,291	3,272	415	2,813	3,228
France	694	1,089	1,783	428	1,577	2,005
Others	459	1,131	1,590	259	1,152	1,411
Total	2,972	6,607	9,579	1,578	8,093	9,671

- **Industrial longline fishery:** Fishing effort data is published as the number of *hooks set* and disaggregated by vessel flag State, whether set in Seychelles EEZ or the Western Indian Ocean region as a whole, by month, quarter and year and by access regime. Published data indicates that the industrial longline vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters deployed over 54 million hooks in the Western Indian Ocean during 2022, of which 32.3 million were within Seychelles' EEZ.

Table 5.7: Fishing effort for longline fishery vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters in 2021 and 2022 (*no. of hooks set*).

	2022			2021		
	Fishing effort (hooks set) in ...			Fishing effort (hooks set) in ...		
	Seychelles' EEZ	other EEZ & on the High Seas (calculated)	Western Indian Ocean region	Seychelles' EEZ	other EEZ & on the High Seas (calculated)	Western Indian Ocean region
Seychelles	7,804,074	19,942,739	27,746,813	14,251,774	25,606,875	39,858,649
Taiwan (POC)	21,890,895	1,649,336	23,540,231	21,089,171	2,366,642	23,455,813
Others	2,657,722	225,148	2,882,870	3,240,996	55,973	3,296,969
Total	32,352,691	21,817,223	54,169,914	38,581,941	28,029,490	66,611,431

### ➔ **Evaluation or audits of the economic, social and food security contribution of the large-scale fishing sector:**

No evaluations of the *economic contribution* of the Seychelles' large-scale fishing sector have been undertaken for 2022. Economic contributions of the industrial fisheries are presented in the 2022 SFA Annual Report which indicates that in 2022 industrial fisheries contributed SCR2.95 billion to the local economy (representing 9% of the country's current account receipts) and was one of the leading sources of foreign currency earnings.

Data on the contribution of the fisheries industry to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2022 is published by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) through the Quarterly Merchandise Trade Bulletin Q4 2022<sup>64</sup> and in the Quarterly National Accounts Bulletin Q4, 2022<sup>65</sup>.

The National MSG is of the view that information on the economic contribution of the large-scale fisheries sector to Seychelles' economy remains under-reported. This limits information available to decision-makers especially when it comes to allocation of resources to support the sustainable development of this fishery. The collaboration between MFBE and the National Statistics Bureau (NSB) to prepare fisheries satellite accounts, has suffered a set-back. At the finalisation of this report, no date was given as to when this exercise will be completed. The National MSG is of the view that the publishing of fisheries satellite accounts will provide a more comprehensive coverage of fisheries economic contribution and greatly improve understanding of the importance of fisheries to the local economy.

[Best available information] The National MSG found no instances relating to the assessments of catches and information on by-catch/discards, as well as evaluations of social and economic impacts of Seychelles' large-scale fisheries, where information used by national authorities is clearly misleading, or could be improved by considering alternative sources of information, such as studies by non-governmental organisations, the private sector or academic institutions.

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<sup>64</sup> <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/38-economic-statistics/13-merchandise-trade/127-2022>

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/1525-quarter-3-2023-gdp/viewdocument/1525>

## 1.6 Small-Scale Fisheries

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish the following information on its small-scale fisheries sector (as set out in the national legislation):</b>			
i. <b>Total number of small-scale fishing vessels, disaggregated according to categories of fishing or gear types.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
ii. <b>Total number of fishing licences issued to small-scale fishing vessels, disaggregated according to categories of fishing authorisations.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
iii. <b>Total number of fishers engaged in the fishing sector, indicating the gender of fishers and the proportion that are engaged in full-time work, seasonal or part time fishing, occasional fishing or recreational fishing.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
iv. <b>Total payments made from small-scale fisheries relating to fishing authorisations, catches and landings, disaggregated according to categories of fishing authorisations or gear types, indicating the recipient of these payments.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
v. <b>Quantity of catches, disaggregated according to species, categories of fishing authorisations and gear types.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online and FITI Report)	Partially
vi. <b>Total volumes of discards, disaggregated according to species, categories of fishing authorisations and gear types.</b>	No		
<b>Seychelles must publish the most recent studies and reports on quantities and species of fish discarded by the small-scale fisheries sector, if available.</b>	No		
<b>Seychelles must publish evaluations or audits of the economic, social and food security contribution of the small-scale fisheries sector, if available.</b>	Yes	Yes Online	Partially

The small-scale fishing sector in Seychelles comprises two sub-sectors:

The *artisanal fishery* comprises all domestic fisheries, including boats ranging in length from 4 to 15 m. The main gears used by the artisanal fishing fleet include hook and line, drop-lines, traps and nets that are used to catch a diverse array of demersal and pelagic fish species.

The *small-scale longline fishery* comprises medium-sized vessels ranging from 14 to 23 metres in length. Their main target species are tuna and tuna-like species such as yellowfin tuna, broadbill swordfish and big eye tuna with marlin and sharks as the primary bycatch species.

The National MSG notes that Seychelles' fisheries legislation applicable in 2022 is silent on the need to publish information on the number of vessels operating in the small-scale fisheries.

➔ **Small-scale fishing vessels:** This information is published in the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report where information is provided on the mean number of active vessels by sub-sector (artisanal and small-scale fishery) and by vessel type. Table 6.1 summarises the average number of small-scale fishing vessels active in 2020 and the restated 2021 data by vessel type (the data published in the 2021 FiTI Report related to semester 1 only). Data for artisanal fishery for 2022 is unavailable as SFA is still grappling with the issues related to the upgrade of the data processing and reporting system for this fishery. Updated information was only available for the small-scale longline fishery and there was an average of 53 vessels participating in that fishery in 2022. A breakdown according to gear types is not provided, as many boats in the small-scale fisheries are multi-gearred.

Information on small-scale fishing vessels cannot be seen as complete because no information is published for artisanal fishery (other than small-scale long-liners targeting pelagic species) in 2022 and fishermen on foot are known to be operating in the small-scale fisheries sector, however the report lists a nil return.

Table 6.1 Mean number of small-scale fishing vessels by type in 2021

	2020	2021
Outboard	208	191
Whaler	61	57
Schooner	51	42
Semi-industrial long-liner (pelagic longline fishing)	35	41
Others	6	5
Semi-industrial longliner (artisanal fishing)	11	1
Pirogue	1	1
Inboard	0	0
Fisher on foot	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>338</b>

➔ **Small-scale fishing vessels licences:** Details of small-scale fishing vessel and fishing activity licences, issued in 2022 <sup>66</sup>, are available as a downloadable Excel document published on SFA's website, and this information is summarised in the table below for

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/boat-owners-fishermen-registration/fishermen-s-registration/summary/61-fishermen-s-registration/179-list-of-registered-fishers-2022>



2021 and 2022. There were fewer small-scale fishing vessel licences issued in 2022. Whilst the number of lobster and sea cucumber fishing licences remained the same, there was a decrease in the number of artisanal vessel licences from 550 in 2021 to 529 in 2022 and an increase in small-scale longline fishing licences from 48 in 2021 to 53 in 2022. The licences are disaggregated according to fishery or fishing activity and include five lists as follows: artisanal fishery, net fishery, lobster fishery, small-scale longline fishery, sea cucumber fishery and semi-industrial sea cucumber fishery. The 2020 FiTI Report outlined the attributes of each list.

- ➔ The published lists of vessels do not include sport fishery (hire craft vessels) organising fishing trips for paying visitors (which need to be registered with and licenced by the Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority (SMSA)) and non-commercial vessels used for recreational fishing, which as of 2022, had no legal obligation to be registered.

Table 6.2: Small-scale fishing vessel licences and fishing activity licences issued in 2021 and 2022

Type of fishing licence	2022	2021
Artisanal	529	550
Net	50	53
Lobster	16	16
Small-scale longline fishing licence	53	48
Small-scale sea cucumber fishing licence	25	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>692</b>

During this FiTI reporting process, government announced a moratorium on the importation and chartering of longline fishing vessels for use in the small-scale tuna fishery from August 2023 to June 2024<sup>67</sup>. The challenges being encountered in this fishery was given as the reason for the decision, which included fishing port congestions, lack of capacity to provide inputs and to provide accommodation for foreign crew and lack of clear development strategies for the small-scale longline fishery. This will be addressed in the 2023 reporting process.

- ➔ **Fishers engaged in the small-scale fishing sector:** Such information for 2022 has been collated by SFA and a summary is published online<sup>68</sup> and is reproduced in the table below for the last three years. The summary data shows that the number of registered

<sup>67</sup> <https://www.nation.sc/articles/18907/cabinet-approves-moratorium-on-importation-and-chartering-of-longline-fishing-vessels>

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/small-scale-fisheries-licences?task=download.send&id=151&catid=54&m=0>

fishers increased dramatically in 2020 possibly in response to the COVID-19 relief employment benefits that were being made available to fishers. The numbers went back down in 2021 and is now going back up again possibly as a result of normalisation of businesses following COVID. SFA tracks the number of commercial fishers through its fishermen registration programme but information on whether the registered fishers are full-time, part-time or occasional fishers is not captured at registration. The explanation for not capturing such information was provided in the 2021 FiTI Report. Some information on full and part-time fishermen was gleaned through the *Employment Study and Capacity Needs Assessment*<sup>69</sup> detailed in the 2021 FiTI Report.

Table 6.4: Number of fishers engaged in the small-scale fishing sector by gender, 2022

	Male			Female		
	2022	2021	2020	2022	2021	2020
Boat owner	57	52	86	37	11	28
Boat owner fisher	324	169	288	4	1	0
Fisher	414	365	584	5	4	4
Divers	116	104	115	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>32</b>

- **Payments made from the small-scale fishing sector:** Payment information from the small-scale fisheries sector is collated by SFA on a per licence per vessel basis. Payment information relating to fishing vessels and fishing activities along with information on artisanal fishing licences are published on the SFA website<sup>70</sup>. The total licence payment made for small-scale fisheries licences in 2022 amounted to SCR 536,000.
- **Catches by the small-scale fishing sector:** This information is published in the 2022 SFA Annual Report and the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report.
  - For the *artisanal fishery*, for reasons stated earlier, data for 2022 is unavailable and the 2021 catch data, restated, is presented in table 6.5. The catch data published in the 2021 FiTI report was incomplete. Catch data presented is disaggregated by species groups and available catch information is also disaggregated by vessel type, month, gear type but not by individual species..

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report?task=download.send&id=172&catid=51&m=0>

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/small-scale-fisheries-licences/summary/54-small-scale-fisheries-licences/208-2021-small-scale-fisheries-licence-payments>

Table 6.5: Annual catches by artisanal fishery by species (Mt) in 2021

	<b><u>2021 (restated)</u></b>	<b><u>% catch</u></b>
Carangues	1013.1	22%
Job	605.8	13%
Maquereau Doux	339.7	7%
Bourgeois	642.7	14%
Capitaine	294.5	6%
Bonite	131.5	3%
Red Snapper	237.5	5%
Other Vielle	219.4	5%
Other Trap Fish	245.1	5%
Cordonnier	296.7	6%
Becune	232.5	5%
Other Pelagics	30.8	1%
Maconde	81.1	2%
Others	32.8	1%
Sharks & Rays	15.8	0%
Octopus	42.8	1%
Other Maquereau	4.3	0%
Crab	115.6	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4581.7</b>	<b>100%</b>

- For the *small-scale longline fishery* the data published in the 2022 SFA Fisheries Statistical Report, is based on 100% logbook return and is seen as complete. Catch data is disaggregated by month, species (Yellowfin, Bigeye, Swordfish and sail fish) and species group (Marlins, Sharks, others).

Table 6.6: Annual catches for the small-scale longline fishery in 2021 and 2022 (Mt)

	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
Yellowfin	1,572	1,920
Swordfish	99	72
Bigeye	50	20
Marlin	14	28
Others	7	9
Sailfish	17	14
Sharks	1	10
	<b>1,760</b>	<b>2,073</b>

Data for the lobster and sea cucumber fisheries is reported in the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report for the second consecutive year as well as in annual reports for the individual fishery.

- ➔ **Lobster:** Catch data for the 2021/22 lobster fishing season is published online in the comprehensive annual lobster report <sup>71</sup>. In that report, catch data is compared to the 2020/2021 and 2019/2020 lobster fishing seasons and is summarised below. During the 2021/22 open season, a total of 2.05 Mt was recorded, 67% and 62% below the 2020/21 and 2019/20 catch respectively. The 2021/22 catch is reported to be lower than the historical mean of 4.24 Mt (1992-2022). This was for a total of 103 fishing trips, compared to 242 and 196 trips for the 2020/21 and 2019/20 seasons, respectively. In terms of catch composition, the Pronghorn Spiny Lobster remains the dominant species making up 73% of total catch compared to 79% and 84% of the total catch for the 2020/21 and 2019/20 seasons, respectively. The report also presents and compares information on fishing sites, carapace length and sex for the three fishing periods. In terms of access to information, SFA also summarises the results of the lobster fishing season in a flyer published on its website <sup>72</sup>. Information is presented in a very user-friendly format that can be easily accessed by a lay person. Flyers for the last four fishing seasons are available, allowing easy comparisons of the results of the lobster fishery over this period.

Table 6.7. Lobster catch by species for the last 3 fishing seasons (Mt)

	<u>2021/2022</u>	<u>2020/2021</u>	<u>2019/2020</u>
<b>Pronghorn Spiny Lobster</b>	1.5	4.849	4.534
<b>Long-legged Spiny Lobster</b>	0.51	1.031	0.806
<b>Painted Spiny Lobster</b>	0.0374	0.253	0.078
<b>Ornate Spiny Lobster</b>	0	0.008	0.002
<b>Total catch</b>	<b>2.0474</b>	<b>6.141</b>	<b>5.42</b>

- ➔ **Sea cucumber:** Catch data for the 2021/2022, 2020/21 and 2019/20 sea cucumber fishing seasons is presented in the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report and summarised below. In the 2021/22 season, 294,011 pieces of sea cucumber were harvested representing a 12% decrease compared to the 2019/20 harvest. In terms of species composition, the 2022 harvest was made up of 72% Flower Teatfish, 17% White Teatfish and 11% Prickly Red. All species recorded a decline in numbers harvested with the White Teatfish recording the

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/8-sfa-technical-report/181-report-on-the-spiny-lobster-fishery-summary-of-fishing-activity-for-the-2021-2022-season>

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/8-sfa-technical-report>

highest percentage decline at 19%. In terms of fishing effort, there were 140 trips in the 2021/22 fishing season, 15 less than in the 2020/21 fishing season..

Table 6.8: Sea cucumber catch by species in 2020 to 2022 (pieces)

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Flower teatfish	212,870.0	243,169.0	268,047.000
White teatfish	49964	53241	66491
Prickly red	31177	38494	37061
<b>Total catch</b>	<b>294,011</b>	<b>334904</b>	<b>371599</b>

- **Sport and recreational fishery:** In the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report, SFA indicated that information on recreational and sport fishery will be included progressively in future editions.
- **Discards by the small-scale fishing sector:** The government of Seychelles does not collect any statistics or publish studies on the species and volumes of fish discarded in the small-scale sector. A statement to that effect was published in the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report, which states that there are no discards in the artisanal fishery as the fish that are not sold are used as bait or are kept for own consumption by the fishers.
- **Economic, social and food security contribution:** The two studies published on the SFA website in 2021 on the contribution of the small-scale fisheries sector to the economy, namely, the “*Baseline Socioeconomic Study of Small-scale longline fleet*”<sup>73</sup> and the *Economic Impact of the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry*<sup>74</sup>, are still available on the SFA website. The *Assessment of the Economic and Social Importance of Seychelles’ Sport and Recreational Fishery*<sup>75</sup> implemented in 2022, published on its website, evaluates the economic and social importance of the recreational fishery sub-sector and assesses the opportunities it offers for furthering the country’s blue economy vision. It concluded that the total expenditures of the recreational fishery are substantial and consisted of new money introduced to the Seychelles economy through recreational fishery and associated tourism and the fishing related expenditures of resident fishers. It estimated that the total annual expenditures related to the fishery amounted to between USD 167.3 million and USD 196.4 million and the total economic impact amounted to between USD 36.0 million and USD 48.5 million per annum and total contribution to income per annum amounted to between USD 80 and 93.9 million. Key recommendations

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/171-baseline-socio-economic-study-of-small-scale-longline-fleet>

<sup>74</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/131-economic-impact-of-the-seychelles-sea-cucumber-fishery-and-industry>

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report?task=download.send&id=216&catid=51&m=0>

included the introduction of a comprehensive monitoring programme for the sport and recreational fishery including fishing competitions; undertaking stock assessments for the demersal species targeted by the fishery and the introduction of regulatory measures such as species and total bag limits, closed seasons and zones and a more comprehensive assessment of the fishery to obtain a more holistic economic picture of the recreational fishery.

As noted in previous FiTI Reports, the GDP contributions of the fisheries sector for the year 2022 (though not disaggregated by sub-sector) is published by the government of Seychelles through the Q4 2022 Quarterly National Accounts Statistics <sup>76</sup> produced by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and reported in the 2022 SFA Annual Report.

[\[Best available information\]](#) The National MSG found no instances relating to Seychelles' small-scale fisheries, where information used by national authorities is clearly misleading, or could be improved by considering alternative sources of information, such as studies by non-governmental organisations, the private sector or academic institutions.

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<sup>76</sup> [file:///C:/Users/hp/Dropbox/My%20PC%20\(DESKTOP-A58L0LL\)/Downloads/Quarter%203%202023%20GDP%20Final.pdf](file:///C:/Users/hp/Dropbox/My%20PC%20(DESKTOP-A58L0LL)/Downloads/Quarter%203%202023%20GDP%20Final.pdf)

## 1.7 Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish information on the post-harvest sector and fish trade:</b>			
i. <b>Total quantity of fish and fish products produced, disaggregated by species and fish products.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
ii. <b>The total quantity of imports of fish and fish products, disaggregated by species and fish products, indicating the country of their origin.</b>	Yes	Yes (online)	Partially
iii. <b>The total quantities of exports of fish and fish products, disaggregated by species and fish products, indicating the country of their destination.</b>	Yes	Yes	Partially
iv. <b>The total number of people employed in commercial fisheries sectors, including the number of men and women working in specific sub-sectors.</b>	Uncertain		
v. <b>The total number of people employed in informal fisheries sectors, including the number of men and women working in specific sub-sectors.</b>	Uncertain		
<b>Seychelles must publish reports or studies on wages in the post-harvest sector, if available.</b>	No		

- **Total quantity of fish and fish products produced:** The total quantity of fish and fish products produced for the year 2022 is published as part of the Production Indicator Q4 2022 Statistical Bulletin <sup>77</sup>, published by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The production figure provided (44,793 Mt) only accounts for fish catch, production of canned tuna and smoked fish. The fish catch data is incomplete as it does not cover all landing sites and only captures week-day landings and since 2020, fish catch data is limited to only small-scale industrial fishery. In addition, the information is not disaggregated by individual species as multiple species can be used to make the same product. In the 2022 SFA Annual Report, the 2022 fish and fish products information is more complete and the figure given is 50,724 Mt and fish catch is disaggregated by sector (artisanal, small-scale, sea cucumber) and additional fish products such as fish meal and fish oil are also included in the production figures. Further, figures are presented for the last four years. The catch data is also incomplete in the 2022 SFA Annual Report because of the absence of data for artisanal fisheries.

<sup>77</sup> <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/38-economic-statistics/17-production-indicators/125-2022>

- **Imports of fish and fish products:** The total amount of imports of fish and fish products for 2022 is published as part of the Merchandise Trade 2022 Q4 Statistical Bulletin of the NBS <sup>78</sup>. It reports only the total monetary value of imports, using the Harmonized System Codes, and does not cover the weight, species or country of origin of the imports. However, these aspects are documented by the NBS, and passed on to SFA, which incorporates them into its annual report. The import value for 2022 stood at SCR 2,128,434,000. Information on the total imported weight and value is published in the 2022 SFA Annual Report and in 2022, a total of 68,826 Mt of fish and fish products, representing SCR 2.137 billion in value, was imported and the bulk of this, 98% in terms of volume and 94% in terms of value, was frozen fish mostly destined for the tuna canning factory.
- **Exports of fish and fish products:** The total quantity of exports of fish and fish products for 2022 is also published as part of the NBS' Merchandise Trade 2022 Q4 Statistical Bulletin. Published export data is disaggregated according to the Harmonized System Codes and falls into five categories, as shown in the table below.<sup>79</sup> The NBS' published export data is not disaggregated to species level.<sup>80</sup>

Table 7.1: Export value of fish and fish products, 2021-2022

	<u>Export country</u>	<u>Export value 2022</u> <u>(SCR'000)</u>	<u>Export value 2021</u> <u>(SCR'000)</u>
Fresh and frozen fish	USA	37,917	50,308
	Spain	51,266	7,864
	UK	19,302	19,707
	Sri Lanka	316	7,190
	Reunion	550	549
	France	8,379	2,894
	Russian Federation	-	2,559
	<i>Others</i>	180,107	207,250
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>297,837</b>	<b>298,319</b>
Canned tuna	France	2,241,499	2,170,673
	UK	846,226	1,108,451

<sup>78</sup> <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/38-economic-statistics/13-merchandise-trade/127-2022>

<sup>79</sup> Data on the *total quantity of exports* is available as an annual sum for the five categories. The *total monetary value of export (in SCR)* is provided as an annual sum, as well as per quarter. The *monetary value of exports broken down for some of the most important export destination countries* is also published (see below).

<sup>80</sup> The National MSG assumes that data for species groups could be available from records kept as part of the issuance of phytosanitary certificates (all exports) by the Fish Inspection and Quality Control Unit of the Seychelles Bureau of Standards, as well as catch certificates (exports above 20 kg) issued by SFA. However, this information is not published and was not reconciled as part of this FITI Report.



	<u>Export country</u>	<u>Export value 2022</u> <u>(SCR'000)</u>	<u>Export value 2021</u> <u>(SCR'000)</u>
	Italy	490,983	746,717
	Germany	150,282	266,890
	Others	278,763	383,455
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>4,007,753</b>	<b>4,676,186</b>
Fish oil and fats	Iceland	1,484	5,299
	Others	30,974	63,658
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>32,458</b>	<b>68,957</b>
Fish meal	Australia	15,907	14,591
	Japan	-	1,318
	Sri Lanka	-	5,782
	Others	77,433	129,244
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>93,340</b>	<b>150,935</b>
Sea cucumber	Hong Kong	64,162	91,541
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>64,162</b>	<b>91,541</b>
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>4,568,104</b>	<b>5,285,938</b>

The National MSG notes that an accurate estimate of the number of people employed in Seychelles' commercial fisheries sectors is one of the fundamental pieces of information to allow an accurate estimate of the economic importance of this sector. It further notes that despite the absence of an up-to-date figure on total employment in the fisheries sector, there have been several attempts in the last 5 years to establish the number of persons employed in specific sub-sectors.

- **Employment in commercial fisheries sector:** No employment information for the commercial fisheries sector is collated by the Seychelles' government. Employment figures for 2022 are published as part of NBS' Q4 2022 <sup>81</sup>, Employment & Earnings Bulletin which gives an annual average employment in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector of 588 for 2022, which at best, is a gross underestimation.

During this FiTI reporting process, the MFBE published on its website the "*Employment and Prospect in the Industrial tuna Fishery Sector of the Republic of Seychelles*" study report, produced by the Blue Economy Department in 2018 <sup>82</sup>. The main objective of the study was to establish the number of persons by gender employed in the industrial tuna

<sup>81</sup> <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/economic-statistics/employment-earnings/2022>

<sup>82</sup> <http://www.mofbe.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Blue-Economy-Employment-Report-1.pdf>

fishery, and the number of prospective jobs. This very comprehensive study, covered the harvest and post-harvest sectors, the service sector, port services, logistics, quality control, ship surveyor, repair and maintenance, ship chandling, institutions and NGOs in the fishing sector. It established that in the first half of 2018, there were 6,900 persons, both full time and part-time, working in the industrial tuna fishery, of which 72% were male and 28% female. At the time, 1590 or 23% were employed in the harvest sector (fishing) and they were mainly expatriates. It also established that at the time, the canning factory (IOT) was the largest female employer with 1420 women of which 79% were expatriates, whilst the stevedoring service was the largest Seychellois male employer with 1000 workers. The report forecast continued growth in the number of employees in the industrial tuna fishery and estimated an additional 300 jobs to be created based on projects in the pipeline then. It concluded that low wages was one of the reasons for the low participation of Seychellois in the industrial tuna fishery and recommended a review of the salary structures. It also recommended repeating this employment study every two years given the economic importance of the sector.

Another comprehensive assessment of employment in the fisheries sector was the *Employment Study and Capacity Needs Assessment for the Fisheries Sector in Seychelles*<sup>83</sup> reported in the 2021 FiTI report, which is still available on the SFA website. The study involved 5,282 stakeholders working in the fisheries sector across 17 sub-sectors, but it did not estimate total employment in the sector. It provides the most comprehensive information on wages in the fisheries sector. Recent studies published on SFA's website in 2021 and 2022 have estimated the number of employees in specific sub-sectors in the commercial fisheries sector. They are the *Economic Impact of the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry*<sup>84</sup> report, which estimated the number of persons employed in the sea cucumber fishery and the *Baseline socio-economic study of semi-industrial longline fleet*<sup>85</sup>, which estimated the number of persons employed in the small-scale longline fishery.

During this FiTI reporting process, information received from the International Trade Zone Section in the Financial Services Authority (FSA), indicate that out of 19 businesses operating in Seychelles' International Trade Zone (ITZ), 8 operate fisheries or fisheries-related businesses. The list of the 8 fisheries and fisheries-related businesses in the ITZ and their number of employees for the years 2020 to 2022 is presented in annexe C. All 8 businesses operate in the post-harvest sector and table 7.2 presents a summary of the total number of employees in the ITZ, the total number of persons and the number of expatriates employed in fisheries and fisheries-related businesses for 2020 to 2022. In 2022, out of a total of 2,268 persons employed in the ITZ, 2,177 or 96% worked in fisheries and fisheries-related businesses. In addition, 1,552 or 71% of employees in fisheries and

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<sup>84</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/131-economic-impact-of-the-seychelles-sea-cucumber-fishery-and-industry>

<sup>85</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/171-baseline-socio-economic-study-of-semi-industrial-longline-fleet>

fisheries-related businesses are expatriate workers, the bulk of which (1,468 or 95%) are employed by the Indian Ocean Tuna Limited (IOT). With 1896 employees, IOT is one of the largest, if not the largest employer in Seychelles.

Table 7.2 : Number of employees working in Seychelles ITZ from 2020 to 2022

	<b>2020*</b>	<b>% total</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>% total</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>% total</b>
<b>Total employees</b>	1568		2275		2268	
<b>Employees in fisheries businesses</b>	1520	97%	2229	98%	2177	96%
<b>Expat employees in fisheries businesses</b>	1455	96%	1519	68%	1552	71%

\*Figure for number of Seychellois employees at IOT was not available

- **Employment in informal fisheries sectors:** No employment information for the informal fisheries sector is collated by the Seychelles' government. During the 2021 FiTI reporting process, the MFBE confirmed that an informal fisheries sector in Seychelles did exist, especially in the sports and recreational fisheries which are presently not regulated. This statement has only appeared in the 2021 FiTI Report and has not yet been published on any government website. Doing so would fulfil *Recommendation 2019-7\_3* of Seychelles' 2019 FiTI Report, which *encouraged MFBE to clearly state whether an informal fisheries sector exists in Seychelles*. This recommendation is currently considered *partially implemented*.

The outcome of a study to assess the economic and social importance of the sports and recreational sector, "Assessment of the Economic and Social Importance of Seychelles' Sport and Recreational Fishery", was published on SFA's website in 2022. In this report, it is estimated that the sports fishing sector may account for approximately 2.2% of employment or 1,153 jobs. One of its key recommendations was for a more comprehensive assessment of employment in the sector noting that one of the study limitations was that it did not include deckhands and stewards serving the big game fishing boats, or the catering agencies servicing these vessels, when assessing employment.

[Best available information] The National MSG found no instances relating to employment statistics in Seychelles' informal sector, where information used by national authorities is clearly misleading, or could be improved by considering alternative sources of information, such as studies by non-governmental organisations, the private sector or academic institutions.

- ➔ **Wages in the post-harvest sector:** The NBS publishes average earnings figures for 2022 in the Q4 2022, Employment & Earnings Bulletin <sup>86</sup> in the fisheries, agriculture and forestry sectors are combined, and it is not clear which components of the fisheries sector this involves. The three studies published in 2021 that provided some information on wages in the fisheries sector are still available on the SFA website. The studies are: the *Employment Study and Capacity Needs Assessment for Fisheries Sector in Seychelles*, the *Baseline socioeconomic study of small-scale longline fleet*<sup>87</sup> and the *Economic Impact of the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry*.

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<sup>86</sup> <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/economic-statistics/employment-earnings/2022>

<sup>87</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/171-baseline-socio-economic-study-of-small-scale-longline-fleet>

## 1.8 Fisheries Law Enforcement

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish the following information relating to fisheries law enforcement:</b>			
i. <b>The national activities and strategies used for ensuring compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector with national legislation.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
ii. <b>The financial and human resources deployed by the government to ensure compliance with national legislation.</b>	Yes	Partially (Online and FiTI Report)	Partially
iii. <b>The total numbers of inspections of fishing vessels at sea and in ports.</b>	Yes	Yes	Partially
<b>Seychelles must publish an up-to-date record of convictions for major offences in the fisheries sector (of the last five years), indicating the name of the company or vessel owner, the nature of the offence and the penalty imposed.</b>	Yes	Yes	Partially

- **Activities and strategies for ensuring compliance:** In 2022, no comprehensive report was produced on the national activities and strategies used to ensure compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector with Seychelles' legislation.

Despite its legal mandate, under the SFA Establishment Act (1984) and the Fisheries Act (2014) for Monitoring, Control & Surveillance (MCS) and its central role in directing surveillance activities, the SFA is yet to publish an overall MCS strategy. In 2022, the SFA secured funds under the EcoFISH project to finalise the National Plan of Action for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (NPOA-IUU) fishing for adoption as a national policy. The plan is expected to be finalised in 2024.

Several compliance and policy instruments do exist, providing strategic direction regarding fisheries compliance. *These are detailed in the 2019 FiTI report. No new compliance-related strategy documents were produced in 2022.*

The National MSG notes, once again, that while there were activities being undertaken to monitor certain aspects of the post-harvest sector such as inspections and verifications, there was no overall strategy in place to guide these activities.

A recommendation was made by the National MSG for SFA to provide MFBE with regular information regarding the national strategies and activities applied to ensure compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector, in the 2019 FiTI Report ([2019-8\\_1](#)). Addressing this recommendation was due by December 2022 and no information was available on how this had progressed.

- ➔ **Financial and human resources deployed to ensure compliance:** The National MSG found that no consolidated information on the financial and human resources deployed by all relevant national authorities <sup>88</sup> to ensure compliance with national fisheries legislation was available for the year 2022.

Information from SFA as part of this FiTI Report shows that the MCS Division had *a total expenditure of SCR 14,899,309* <sup>89</sup> for 2022, of which

- 59% was derived from SFA's recurrent budget, and the other
- 41% from the sectoral support under the protocol of the EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement.

In the 2019 FiTI report, the National MSG recommended that SFA prepares and makes available to MFBE the financial and human resources deployed by the government (including other agencies apart from SFA) to ensure compliance with national and international legislation in the fisheries sector (at least on an annual basis) by December 2023 (2019-8\_2). As part of this reporting process, SFA informed the National MSG that it has already initiated discussions with the National Information Sharing and Coordination Centre (NISCC) and the Seychelles Coast Guard (SCG) to gather this information and better coordinate their enforcement activities, including through training activities. SFA has pledged to publish this information for the year 2022 by early 2023.

- ➔ **Inspections at sea and in ports:** This information is compiled quarterly by SFA, with annual totals published as part of the SFA Annual Report. In addition, as part of this FiTI reporting process, SFA made information on the quantity and types of inspections and patrols accessible, which is summarised in the table below. The SFA explained that the high number of in port inspections in 2021 was possible because COVID restrictions at the time meant that most of the work was concentrated in port. With the lifting of restrictions, the staff moved to other activities, leading to a drastic reduction in in-port inspections in 2022.

Table 8.1: Types of inspections and patrols in 2022

Types of inspections and patrols	2021	2022
Inspection in port – Industrial vessels	69	17
Inspection in port – Small-scale vessels	512	61
Inspection in port – Artisanal vessels	565	50

<sup>88</sup> For example, SFA, Fish Inspection and Quality Control Unit, Seychelles Coast Guard, Air Force, and Environmental Health Section.

<sup>89</sup> Inclusive of basic staff salary amounting to SCR 9,854,983. This figure represents the budget allocated to MCS in 2022 and *not* the expenses and therefore differs from the figure in the 2022 SFA Annual Report, which presents calculated expenses. Not all allocated funds were expended in 2022.

Coastal patrols	26	5
Air patrols (hours)	9	0
<i>*17 actual boarding of vessels, 15 OLT (documents review via email)</i>		

- **Record of convictions and major offences** : A record of convictions of major offences in the fishing sector as well as a list of foreign vessels apprehended as a result of IUU fishing, which occurred between 2020 and 2023 is published on SFA's website<sup>90</sup>. The list provides some details on the type of offences recorded and actions taken by SFA and, in a limited number of cases, the name of the vessel involved. There are no details provided on the vessel owners or the date the incident occurred. A list of foreign-flagged vessels which have been apprehended for IUU fishing is maintained by the MCS Division within SFA. This partly implements *recommendation 2021\_8\_1*, which states that *SFA should publish an up-to-date record of convictions and major offences in the fisheries sector over the last 5 years indicating the name of the company or vessel owner, the nature of the offence and the penalty imposed.*

## Recommendations

We, the National MSG, make the following recommendations to improve transparency regarding catches made by large-scale fisheries:

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2022-8_1	<i>The MFBE should commission a comprehensive study to identify the activities being undertaken by national authorities to ensure compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector with Seychelles legislation and the financial and human resources deployed to achieve this.</i>	High	June 2026

<sup>90</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/division/monitoring-control-and-surveillance/foreign-fishing-agreement-and-illegal-fishing?task=download.send&id=206&catid=64&m=0>

## 1.9 Labour Standards

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
Seychelles must publish a summary description of national laws on labour standards applicable to national and foreign workers employed in the fishing sector at sea and in the post-harvest fisheries sector.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
<b>Seychelles must publish the following information relating to the enforcement of labour standards:</b>			
i. The public authorities responsible for monitoring and enforcing laws on labour standards.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
ii. Documents, including policy statements and evaluations, regarding a national strategy, if applicable, or related activities for enforcing the laws on labour standards in the fisheries sector, including total figures on the financial and human resources deployed by the government.	Yes	Yes (Online and FiTI Report)	Partially
iii. The role and legal standing of anybody that has a governmental mandate to receive labour-related complaints from workers in the fishing sector and in the post-harvest sector.	Yes	Yes	Yes
iv. The total number of offences committed by employers in the fisheries sector that have been resolved by the authorities.	Yes	Yes (FiTI Report)	Yes

The National MSG notes the highly publicised issue relating to the compensation paid to Seychellois seafarers working on EU vessels from 2011 to 2019. This is an indication of the existence of labour issues of concern in the fisheries sector, especially in relation to the working conditions of fishermen. The National MSG is of the view that the Seychelles' government must expedite the domestication of the ILO Convention on Work in Fishing, in order to ensure that minimum, internationally recognised labour standards in the fishing sector can be implemented and enforced.

- **Summary description of national laws on labour standards:** A summary description of Seychelles' laws on labour standards, applicable to national and foreign workers employed in Seychelles, based on the Employment Act 1995, is now available on the Employment Department's website <sup>91</sup>. The Employment Department indicated that national laws on labour standards applicable for national and foreign workers

<sup>91</sup> <http://www.employment.gov.sc/component/edocman/employment-legislation-presentation-2023>



employed in the fishing sector, at sea or in the post-harvest sector, are currently the same as for all other workers. It is noted that the International Trade Zone Act 1995<sup>92</sup> provides for the non-applicability of the Employment Act 1995 to employees working in Seychelles ITZ, which has its own employment regulation, the International Trade Zone (Employment) Regulations 1997<sup>93</sup> and the ITZ (Conditions of Employment) Order which regulate employment in that sector. Overall, the provisions of the ITZ (Employment) Regulation mirror those of the Employment Act except for issues of workers' overtime, the maximum allowable deduction from workers' wages, employment benefit (13<sup>th</sup> month salary) is discretionary and it provides for an ITZ Employment Council to replace the mediation process provided in the Employment Act 1995. Therefore, recommendation 2019-9\_1, is only *partially fulfilled* as the summary of labour laws does not take into consideration the specific provisions covering ITZ employees, which, in the fisheries sector is important, because of the large fisheries and fisheries-related companies operating in the ITZ.

In the 2020 FITI Report, the NMSG recommended (*recommendation 2020-9\_1*) for the government to work towards the domestication of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention by December 2024. The Employment Department indicated during this FITI reporting process that the gap analysis has been done and validation workshops held. The gap analysis has not been published yet. However, work has stalled as the Competent Authority to lead the implementation of this exercise is still to be decided.

- ➔ **Enforcement of labour standards:** The *Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs* (MESA) is responsible for monitoring and enforcing laws on labour standards in the fisheries sector in Seychelles (as well as in other sectors). A statement to that effect is clearly published on the information page related to the Labour Relation Division of the MESA<sup>94</sup>, but not yet on the website of MFBE or SFA.

As pointed out earlier, the Employment Act does not apply to the ITZ Sector, and the ITZ (Employment) Regulation 1997 provides for the FSA to administer the labour laws in the sector. This is not clearly stated on the FSA website.

- ➔ **Documents, including policy statements and evaluations, regarding a national strategy, if applicable, or related activities for enforcing the laws on labour standards in the fisheries sector:** Policy statements in regard to labour and employment issues in the fisheries sector are included in the Fisheries Comprehensive Plan<sup>95</sup>, and the Seychelles Fisheries Policy and Strategy, which addresses

<sup>92</sup> <https://fsaseychelles.sc/legal-framework/legislations>

<sup>93</sup> <https://fsaseychelles.sc/legal-framework/legislations>

<sup>94</sup> <http://www.employment.gov.sc/labour-relation-division>

<sup>95</sup> The Fisheries Comprehensive Plan states: 'As part of its flag State responsibility, employment and labour conditions on board Seychelles industrial fishing vessels must meet the minimum international recognised

*Employment, training, resourcing and human resource development*<sup>96</sup>. These are outlined in the 2020 FiTI Report.

For 2022, MESA reported that it had 13 inspectors enforcing labour standards across all sectors of the economy, including fisheries. The budget<sup>97</sup> of the Labour Protection Programme<sup>98</sup> for 2022 was SCR 7,501,000, of which 96% went towards wages and salaries of staff, which was the same proportion as for 2021.

- **Mandate to receive labour complaints:** Complaints related to workers' grievances are usually channelled through the Labour Relation Division of the MESA. No explicit reference is made to receive labour-related complaints from workers in the fishing and post-harvest sector. The ITZ (Employment) Regulations 1997 provides the FSA the power to receive grievances and to rule on employment cases in the ITZ and for the setting up of the SITZ Employment Council with the power to enquire about employment conditions in the ITZ. Labour complaints are routed through the ITZ Section within the FSA.
  
- The Employment **Department** clarified that when it comes to fishing vessels, the department's authority to regulate labour laws extend only to Seychelles-flagged vessels. During this FiTI reporting process, discussions with the Apostolat de La Mer, a Catholic Church affiliated NGO and the Seychelles Transport and Seafarers Association, indicated that these two organisations have handled complaints and grievances of non-Seychellois seamen, although, they do not keep any records. The Apostolat de La Mer indicated that it eventually directs complaints or grievances to the Employment Department. However, it would appear that complainants usually opt to resolve their issues through alternative channels.

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*standards. The respective government agencies - SFA, SMSA and the Department of Employment - will collaborate to subject Seychelles-flagged fishing vessels to comply with these standards, and also to the basic wage conditions either provided by Seychelles legislation or minimum standard set by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), whichever is highest and under no circumstance be below ILO standard.'* The Plan also identifies the ratification of the ILO work in fishing convention no.188 (adopted in 2007) as a follow-up action.

<sup>96</sup> Statement on labour issues from the Seychelles' Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy: *'The Government will promote and implement good practices relating to labour (i.e., ILO Work in Fishing Convention and Work in Fishing Recommendation, 2007 (No. 199)) and working conditions on vessels registered and flying the Seychelles flag, on the entire Seychelles fleet, including industrial longliners in particular.'*

<sup>97</sup> <http://www.finance.gov.sc/national-budget/47>: The budget is part of the 2022 BUDGET: Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Fiscal Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, Part 1. Published by the Ministry of Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic Planning.

<sup>98</sup> The purpose of the Labour Protection Programme of the Department of Labour is to: (i) ensure that worker vulnerability is reduced through adherence to decent work principles and improved compliance and enforcement of national labour laws in workplaces; (ii) support policies and practices that promote sound labour relations; (iii) to promote health and safety in the workplace to regulate dangerous activities; and (iv) to foster stable industrial relations and workplace productivity.

- **Number of offences committed by employers in the fisheries sector that have been resolved by the authorities:** No such information is published, neither by MESA, MFBE or SFA. Through this FiTI reporting process, MESA reported that in 2022, it recorded no labour offences and two grievances for the fisheries sector<sup>99</sup>. In addition, the FSA recorded the following number of grievances from 2000 to 2022: 2020 -2; 2021 – 4 and 2022 – 6. Whereas, they recorded 3 offences in 2021 and 2 in 2022.

## Recommendations

We, the National MSG, make the following recommendations to improve transparency regarding catches made by large-scale fisheries:

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2022-9_1	<i>The Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs should update the summary of labour laws published on its website to take into consideration the provisions of the ITZ (Employment) Regulations, which in the fisheries sector is important, because of the large fisheries and fisheries-related companies operating in the ITZ.</i>	Medium	June 2025

<sup>99</sup> 'Offences' are detected/established by the labour inspectors and enforced, whereas 'grievances', are complaints brought forth by employees, which may constitute offences not sufficiently proven to be addressed by enforcement and which are consequently 'resolved' (if possible) by way of mediation.

## 1.10 Fisheries Subsidies

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish information on:</b>			
Type of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector	Yes	Yes (Online)	Unknown
Value of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector	Yes	Partially (Online and FiTI Report)	Partially
Recipients of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector	Yes	No	Unknown
Average annual value of any fuel subsidies per unit of fuel in nominal and percentage terms.	Yes	Partially (FiTI Report)	Unknown

As pointed out in the 2020 FiTI Report, the Government of Seychelles, through the Seychelles Fisheries Policy and Strategy, expressed the need to focus on '*Building efficiency in the industry*', listing several strategies aimed at addressing overcapacity and subsidy dependency in the small-scale fisheries sector.

To date, regularly published information has been limited to subsidies to the artisanal fisheries sector and include only fuel and ice subsidies. During the 2022 FiTI reporting process, MFBE indicated that it had commissioned a study to evaluate public support to the Seychelles fisheries sector. The main objective of the study is to provide information on subsidies provided to all subsectors in fisheries and quantify all public support programs rather than limiting it to the inputs of fuel and ice. The study aims to provide comprehensive information on subsidies in the fisheries sector, information which is invaluable to meet government's obligation for information disclosure. The report is due to be ready in 2023 and it will be taken up in the 2023 FiTI reporting process.

➔ **Subsidies given to large-scale fisheries in Seychelles:** During the 2021 FiTI reporting process, the MFBE, confirmed that there were no subsidies provided to Seychelles' large-scale fisheries sector <sup>100</sup>. It was explained that large-scale fishing vessels purchase fuel duty-free in Port Victoria, which is not a privilege specific to the fisheries sector as all international vessels enjoy this benefit. This statement is yet to be published on a government website.

➔ **Subsidies given to small-scale fisheries in Seychelles:** The summary of the subsidies that are available to the small-scale fisheries, contained in the 2019 FiTI Report,

<sup>100</sup> <https://tradeportal.sc/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SI-90-of-2018-Excise-Tax-Fuel-Exemption-and-CoincessionsRegulations2018.pdf>

is still relevant for the year 2022. The 2017 report on the review of subsidies provided to the artisanal fisheries sector', published on SFA's website as part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process <sup>101</sup>, is still available.

- **Fuel subsidies:** Information about the fuel incentive scheme (FIS) for the small-scale fishing industry is available on the SFA website <sup>102</sup>. The value of fuel subsidies provided to small-scale fisheries in 2022 is published in the 2022 SFA Annual Report. It indicates that in 2022, the value of fuel subsidies to the small-scale fisheries sector stood at *SCR41,520,269.45*, out of which SCR26,276,775.24 was to artisanal fishery and SCR15,243,494.21 was to the small-scale longline fishery. No information is available on fuel subsidies to the sea cucumber fishery specifically as the information on fuel subsidies to the small-scale artisanal fishery is not disaggregated. The recommendation *2019-10\_2, which requested that information on fuel subsidies to the sea cucumber fishery should be published by December 2022*, is yet to be implemented
- **Ice subsidies:** The price of ice sold to fishermen compared to the general public reverted to its pre-COVID rate in April 2021. The rates are published in the detailed section of the 2021 FiTI Report. The value of ice subsidies to the artisanal fishery sector for 2020 to 2022 is published on SFA's website <sup>103</sup> and reproduced below. It indicates that the cost of operating ice plants in Seychelles (excluding labour) during 2022 was SCR 14.5 million, while the earnings from the total sale of ice amounted to SCR 5.88 million. This equates to a total subsidy of *SCR 8.6 million* in 2022. The costs of water and electricity for 2021 have been re-stated to reflect the increase in tariff of these utilities.

Table 10.1: Costs (excluding labour) of operating the ice plants in 2021 and 2022 (SCR)

	2021	2022
	Expenditure/Revenue (SCR)	Expenditure/Revenue (SCR)
Sale of ice	3822122.00	5880000.00
- Costs of ice machines maintenance	-4,012,976.19	-2,330,000.00
- Costs of electricity	-9,131,423.15	-11,630,267.34
- Costs of water	-562,368.07	-531,876.75
<b>Total subsidy</b>	<b>-9,884,645.41</b>	<b>-8,612,144.09</b>

<sup>102</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fisheries-scheme>

<sup>103</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/e-library/fisheries-report?task=download.send&id=239&catid=21&m=0>

## 1.11 Official Development Assistance

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish the following information on public sector projects:</b>			
related to fisheries (project value, purpose, output, project evaluations)	Yes	Yes (FiTI Report)	Partially
related to marine conservation (project value, purpose, output, project evaluations)	Yes	Yes (FiTI Report)	Unknown

*The National MSG found that there are only a limited number of fisheries public sector projects which were funded through ODA in 2022, compared to a wider variety of marine conservation-related projects.* These projects are funded through a mixture of bilateral, multilateral and private donors.

The SFA published a list of donor-funded, fisheries and marine conservation projects it was implementing, on its website <sup>104</sup>, which provides an overview of fisheries and marine conservation projects it was implementing in 2022. The list provides information on project purpose, value, duration and evaluation. All the 24 projects listed were active in 2022, 17 were project activities under the World Bank funded SWIOFish3 Project, two were funded through SeyCCAT and one regional project was funded by FAO. This inventory does not capture fisheries related activities and spending through aid to other sectors such as agriculture and coastal development or support for marine conservation. Some projects from this list also feature on the list of SeyCCAT-funded projects active in 2022, published in annex C of this report.

- ➔ **Fisheries-related public sector development projects:** There were five ODA-funded, national fisheries public sector projects under implementation in 2022. Only two of these are mentioned in government publications: the Project for Construction of Artisanal Fisheries in Mahe (phase 2) funded by JICA, which was due to be completed in 2021 and the World Bank funded SWIOFish3 Project which is due to end in 2023. The JICA funded project is mentioned as a line item in the notes to the 2022 audited accounts published in the 2022 SFA Annual Report. There is a SWIOFish3 Project page on the MFBE website which indicates that Seychelles is an executing entity and a link to the former's website <sup>105</sup>, which was offline during this FiTI reporting process. A mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the SWIOFish3 project was done in 2022 and published on the SWIOFish3 website, which was offline <sup>106</sup>. There is no evidence that there has been evaluation of individual projects.

<sup>104</sup> <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/197-summary-of-fisheries-and-marine-conservation-donor-funded-projects>

<sup>105</sup> <https://www.swiofish3.sc>

<sup>106</sup> <https://swiofish3.sc/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Facing-Page-SWIOFish3-Mid-Term-Review-.pdf>

Information on ODA funded projects in Seychelles can be searched on the *d-portal* of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) <sup>107</sup>, which provides information by country or by publisher, on development activities and budgets published to the IATI. Based on information from this portal, there were three additional ODA projects funded by FAO, European Commission – Directorate General for International Partnerships (INTPA) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID), active in 2022, which do not feature on any government websites. In the case of USAID, information on the AITI portal shows that projects implemented in 2021 related to countering IUU fishing, amounting to USD 142,745. Information on these projects have been compiled in annex C of this FITI Report <sup>108</sup>.

**Regional fisheries projects:** Two regional fisheries projects from which Seychelles benefits include the Ecofish Programme82 (2018 – 2024) funded by the European Union at a cost of EUR 28 million. The total direct benefit for Seychelles for the year 2022 is not known. There is no mention of this project on the MFBE or SFA websites. However, some of the project meetings held in Seychelles are covered as news items on both websites. The *Project for Enhancing Livelihoods, Food Security and Maritime Safety through Increased Resilience of Fishing Communities Dependent on Coral Reef Fisheries in the African Coastal Countries of the Indian Ocean* funded by FAO and the Japanese Government at a cost of USD 4.4 million, is another regional project included on the list of ODA projects published on the SFA website.

**EU Economic Partnership Agreement:** Seychelles is benefitting from a long-term technical assistance programme to support the implementation of the European Union and Eastern and Southern Africa (EU-ESA) interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). This is funded through a grant of EUR 10 million from the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund. The objective is described as aiming *‘to reinforce the capacity of key partners to better implement trade and regional integration agreements and support private enterprises in the manufacturing, agriculture and fisheries sectors to boost their production and produce higher value products with high export potential – through diversification and through innovation.’* However, there is no mention of this agreement on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism nor on any other government of Seychelles' websites.

- ➔ **Conservation-related public sector development projects:** The government of Seychelles is yet to provide a comprehensive list of all marine conservation-related projects implemented in Seychelles in one central repository. The Department of Energy and Climate Change was implementing three marine conservation-related public sector

<sup>107</sup> [https://d-portal.org/ctrack.html?country\\_code=SC&sector\\_group=313&year\\_min=2010#view=ended](https://d-portal.org/ctrack.html?country_code=SC&sector_group=313&year_min=2010#view=ended)

<sup>108</sup> The National MSG would like to emphasise that financial contributions received from the European Union under the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement with Seychelles signed in 2020 (refer to section 2.3) for the support and implementation of Seychelles' sectoral fisheries and maritime policy relate to fishing activities in fishing areas within Seychelles' EEZ and should therefore not be considered as ODA.

projects in 2022 and they are listed in Part 1 of the 2022 Budget Book <sup>109</sup>. A summary of these projects and related evaluations is provided in Annex C of this report.

It is known that there are other ODA-financed marine conservation projects under implementation in 2022 such as those related to the Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning Process <sup>110</sup> and the Seychelles Climate Change Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT)<sup>111</sup> which are not implemented by the public sector but where government agencies are implementing partners. These initiatives have their own websites but information is not always updated and project characteristics such as project value and whether any evaluations have been undertaken is not readily available.

*The National MSG determined that it goes beyond the scope of this report to compile a comprehensive list of ODA projects related to fisheries and marine conservation that were under implementation in 2022. Instead, several agencies that fund and/or implement conservation-related public sector projects are listed. It is uncertain whether other projects exist, what their values are, how their implementation and impact is evaluated etc.*

- A list of marine conservation and fisheries projects, funded by SeyCCAT and active in 2022, is found in annex C. A mid-term review (MTR) of its strategy 2018-2022 <sup>112</sup>, commissioned in 2021, is still available on its website. It also commissioned impact evaluation of projects it funded between 2015 and 2020 and the results have not been published. All SeyCCAT grantees must include a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) component.
- The Project Coordination Unit's website <sup>113</sup>, within the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment was offline during this FiTI reporting process. It provides a comprehensive list of conservation and other environment-related projects, dating from 2007. Most of these projects have been funded by the *Global Environment Facility (GEF)* and implemented by the *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*. Project objectives, start and end date, funding agency, grant amount, project manager and current status are displayed. Hyperlinks for technical reports, project evaluation reports and other documents produced as part of the implementation of these projects are provided, but for a number of projects, no such documents are published online. The GEF website <sup>114</sup> also provides a list of all national, regional and global projects through which Seychelles has benefited. While not all the projects are marine-based, most of them have implications for the management of Seychelles' marine environment. Twenty-nine (29) national

<sup>109</sup> [http://www.finance.gov.sc/uploads/national\\_budget/2022%20Budget%20Book%20%20Part%201-%20Assumptions%20and%20Objectives%20of%20the%202022%20Budget.pdf](http://www.finance.gov.sc/uploads/national_budget/2022%20Budget%20Book%20%20Part%201-%20Assumptions%20and%20Objectives%20of%20the%202022%20Budget.pdf)

<sup>110</sup> <https://www.seymsp.com>

<sup>111</sup> <https://seyccat.org>

<sup>112</sup> <https://seyccat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SeyCCAT-Mid-Term-Review-FINAL-REPORT.pdf>

<sup>113</sup> <https://pcusey.sc/projects/> (this is not working)

<sup>114</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/country/seychelles>



projects have so far been funded by GEF amounting to USD 52,371,749. One new GEF-funded national project was approved in 2022.

- A list of projects funded by the *World Bank* for Seychelles is also accessible online through the Bank's website<sup>115</sup> that provides details of project titles, committed amount, approval date, status and the date the information was last updated. Projects can be filtered according to a number of attributes, including sector, which allows for the selection of 'Fisheries' sector projects. One new national World Bank-funded project was approved in 2022.
- Information regarding total ODA provided to Seychelles since 2010 can also be obtained through the website of the *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)*<sup>116</sup>. Data is only available for the period 2010 to 2017. Information on bilateral aid and that provided by major foundations can also be obtained online through the OECD's Development Co-operation Profiles Report<sup>117</sup>, but the data is not specific to fisheries or marine conservation.

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<sup>115</sup> <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/projects-list?searchTerm=Seychelles>

<sup>116</sup> <https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?QueryId=85349>

<sup>117</sup> [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/development-co-operation-profiles\\_2dcf1367-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/development-co-operation-profiles_2dcf1367-en)

## 1.12 Beneficial Ownership

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
<b>Seychelles must publish information on the country's status regarding beneficial ownership transparency:</b>			
<b>i. The legal basis for beneficial ownership transparency in the country.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
<b>ii. The country's legal definition of beneficial ownership.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
<b>iii. The availability of a public register of beneficial owners.</b>	No <sup>118</sup>	No (restricted access)	Unknown
<b>iv. The rules and procedures for incorporating beneficial ownership in filings by companies to corporate regulators, stock exchanges or agencies regulating the access to fisheries.</b>	Yes	Yes (Online)	No
<b>v. The current status and discussions around beneficial ownership transparency in fisheries.</b>	Yes	No	Unknown

- Legal basis for and definition of beneficial ownership:** The legal basis for and the definition of beneficial ownership in the fisheries sector is provided for in the Fisheries Act (2014) and the [Beneficial Ownership Act \(2020\)](#) and [Beneficial Ownership Regulations \(2020\)](#)<sup>119</sup> and was detailed in the 2020 FITI Report. The Beneficial Ownership Regulations (2020) established the legal basis for beneficial ownership registration beyond the requirements for licensing vessels and fishing activity permits provided for in the Fisheries Act 2014. As of 30 December 2022, the [Beneficial Ownership \(Amendment\) Act 2023](#)<sup>120</sup> and the [Beneficial Ownership \(Amendment\) Regulations](#) have been enacted, to ensure ongoing compliance with international standards set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and OECD.
- Public register of beneficial owners:** A *central register* of beneficial owners has been available in Seychelles since the end of 2021. The Beneficial Ownership (BO) Act provides for every legal person or legal arrangement registered by the Registrar of Companies or the Financial Services Authority (FSA), to maintain an up-to-date register of beneficial owners at the principal place of business of its resident agent. Such information

<sup>118</sup> Access to the Beneficial Ownership Database is not public and is restricted by the Beneficial Ownership Act (2020) and Beneficial Ownership Regulations (2020) to a number of Competent Authorities defined in the Beneficial Ownership Act.

<sup>119</sup> Furthermore, a Beneficial Ownership Guideline was jointly published in December 2020 by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to provide practical guidance on the identification of beneficial owners to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

<sup>120</sup> <https://www.seychellesfiu.sc/FIU/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Consolidated-Beneficial-Ownership-Act-2020-to-30-December-2022.pdf>

must be reported to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) which is responsible for populating the information in a central beneficial ownership database <sup>121</sup>. However, the register and the database is not publicly available and the BO Act provides for institutions specified under the Act to access the information (Sections 13(4) and 14) and SFA is not included on the list of Competent Authorities. It is important to note that section 2(b) provides that the Act <sup>122</sup> *shall not apply to a legal person which is formed, incorporated or established outside of Seychelles, unless the overseas company has registered under the Companies Act*. In the fisheries sector, this would exclude foreign owned vessels from registering their BO information on the central register, unless they have registered under the Companies Act.

- ➔ **Incorporating beneficial ownership in filings by companies:** The BO Act provides that *within 30 days of incorporation, the details of beneficial owners of every legal person and legal arrangement registered with the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the Registrar of Companies (RoC), should be added to the Central BO register by the registered agent*. To note, the onus is on the legal person or the legal arrangement and not the registered agent to identify their beneficial owners. Changes in beneficial ownership have to be added to the central register within 30 days of occurrence.

As stated in the 2021 FiTI report, information on beneficial ownership in the fisheries sector is, to a large extent, publicly available for operators in the small-scale fisheries sector. SFA reviewed its application forms in 2022 to ensure that it captures beneficial ownership information during licence application for local licences i.e. artisanal fisheries and this information is publicly available through the publication of licence information for small-scale fisheries. For industrial fishing vessel licences, application forms capture the name of business owners, who are usually corporates and corporate shareholders and in very rare instances information on the beneficial owners is captured. *Very few of the Seychelles-flagged vessels in the IOTC Record of Currently Authorised Vessels have actual beneficial ownership information listed.*

- ➔ **Current status and discussions around beneficial ownership transparency in fisheries:** The majority of Seychelles-flagged industrial fishing vessels are owned by locally registered corporate entities and as such, *if a fishing vessel is owned by a legal person or arrangement registered in Seychelles, that legal person/arrangement is subjected to the BO Act and their beneficial ownership information captured in the central database*. The same does not apply to foreign owned vessels, whose BO information can only be captured on licence application forms. Despite SFA updating its application forms

<sup>121</sup> A Beneficial Ownership Database Registration Guidelines is published on Financial Intelligence Unit website to facilitate the registration process.

[https://www.seychellesfiu.sc/FIU/Legislations/Guidelines/BO\\_Database\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://www.seychellesfiu.sc/FIU/Legislations/Guidelines/BO_Database_Guidelines.pdf)

<sup>122</sup> <https://seylit.org/akn/sc/act/2020/4/eng@2020-03-06>

internally to capture BO information, this has not been implemented for industrial fishing vessels. Information to be captured and published on individual industrial fishing vessels is usually part of the fisheries agreement negotiations and the licence application form reflecting this, is included as an annexe to the respective fisheries agreements. Application forms for all valid fishing agreements in 2022 do not explicitly provide for the capture of beneficial ownership information.

It is to be noted that in 2022 there were many initiatives underway to review policies to address beneficial ownership transparency in fisheries. Presently, SFA can only have access to BO information of Seychelles-flagged fishing vessel owners by linking up with any of the 14 Competent Authorities stated in the BO Act. In 2022, it signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the FIU to gain access to this information. However, policies and a framework for collaboration need to be worked out before the MOU can be operationalised. The SFA would still not be able to make this information public unless the BO Act is reviewed to allow this. In addition, this arrangement will not address capture of beneficial ownership information of foreign-owned vessels.

In 2022, the MFBE with funding from SWIOFish3, retained the services of a firm to undertake a Gap-analysis of Beneficial Ownership for the Fisheries Sector and develop a Legal Framework for Joint Ventures in the sector. The first stakeholder workshop to discuss the preliminary findings from this exercise was held in November 2022 and additional workshops held in 2023. The MFBE indicated that the outcome of these initiatives will inform policies on beneficial ownership in the fisheries sector and the review of the Fisheries Act 2014 and Fisheries Regulations 1987. The outcome of these two initiatives will be addressed in the 2023 FiTI reporting process.

## Annex A. Statement of the Report Compiler

I was appointed on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to work on the 2022 report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI), by the Seychelles' Fisheries Authority (SFA), who also funded this assignment. This report was compiled based on the guidelines provided by two important reports published by the FiTI secretariat, namely: (i) The FiTI Standard and (ii) Guidance Note #2 Compiling FiTI Reports. It builds on Seychelles three previous FiTI Reports for 2019, 2020 and 2021 prepared by the National MSG.

This is my second year compiling the FiTI report and less time was allocated for the process and therefore, there was a need at the onset to speed up. Following contract signing, I effectively started work in December, which was not very convenient as generally staff take their leave to coincide with the long school holidays, so requests for information and meetings were not attended to until the second week of January 2024 and in some cases much later. This meant that the stakeholder consultations took place in 2024, which posed another challenge as there was some confusion between 2022 and 2023 events and activities.

For the 2022 process, Ms Betty Victor, Senior Technical Coordinator in SFA's Fisheries Management and Technical Coordination Department was, was appointed FiTI Focal Person at the onset and she ably dispatched information requests within SFA and advocated for responses to them, and for updated information to be published. The biggest challenge remains information that is not systematically compiled and published information not regularly updated on the SFA website even when the updated reports are published. The difference this time is that I was working with SFA staff who had been through past FiTI processes and understood the requirements for reporting. They assisted to advocate for updated information to be published, which was much appreciated. Another plus, is that the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report and the draft 2022 SFA Annual Report were available at the start of the assignment, which means validated information was readily available. The Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) promises to become an essential information source although it was still work-in-progress during this FiTI process.

I am pleased to have worked with the SFA staff to update some of the published information including the fisheries related convictions and offences, summary of foreign fishing agreements and FAQ webpage on fishing tenure arrangements. I am especially pleased to have worked with the Financial Services Authority (FSA), and welcome their commitment to publishing employment information for Seychelles ITZ regularly. I am encouraged by the receptivity of the two NGOs Apostolat de La Mer and the Seychelles Transport and Seafarers' Association to the idea of keeping records to complement and assist to validate, information published by government agencies. I wish to thank staff of MESA, SWIOFish3 and SeyCCAT for their prompt response to information requests.

I am indebted to the National MSG, especially its chairman, Mr Philippe Michaud, for their support and input during report preparation and finalisation, and to Kim Samy, Programme Development Officer in the Blue Economy Department, who ably coordinated and organised

the meetings and circulated reports for the MSG's consideration. In total four meetings were held with members of the NMSG: the first meeting to approve my appointment as Report Compiler and the subsequent three meetings to discuss progress in compiling the report, the last of which was to approve the report and its recommendations. All meetings were well attended compared to meetings in the previous reporting cycle and there was increased engagement of members that contributed to improved reporting.

I would also like to thank Dr Jude Bijoux, the Report Compiler of the 2019 and 2020 Seychelles' FiTI Reports, who was working on the SFA Annual report during the reporting process, for his guidance and support.

**Daniella G Larue**

FiTI Report Compiler for the calendar year 2022  
Victoria, Seychelles

## Annex B. Consultations for providing the FiTI Report

### Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)

- ➔ Dr Jan Robinson, Chief Executive Officer
- ➔ Mr Roddy Allisop, Monitoring Control and Surveillance Manager
- ➔ Mr Vincent Lucas, Head of Department, Fisheries Resource Management and Technical Coordination Section
- ➔ Ms Betty Victor,
- ➔ Ms Karyss Auguste, Manager, Licence and Permit Section
- ➔ Mrs Juliette Lucas, Statistics Manager, Fisheries Statistics Division
- ➔ Mr Rodney Govinden, Manager, Fisheries Research Section
- ➔ Ms Sara Fanchette, Management Accountant, Accounts Section
- ➔ Ms. Petrina Esparon, Financial Accountant, Accounts Section
- ➔ Ms Jacinthe Matombe, Senior Licensing Officer
- ➔ Ms Sandra Grandcourt, Licencing Officer
- ➔ Mrs Antoinette Marie-Therese, Senior Licensing Officer

### Department of Fisheries

- ➔ Mr. Roy Clarisse, Principal Secretary, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy

### Department of Employment

- ➔ Ms Susan Morel, Chief Policy Analyst, Policy, Planning and Monitoring & Evaluation section

### Apostolat de La Mer

- ➔ Mr Albert Napier, Manager

### Seychelles Federation of Workers' Union/ Seychelles Transport and Seafarers' Association

- ➔ Mr Antoine Robinson, Secretary General

### Financial Services Authority

- ➔ Mr Karl Herminie, Director, International Trade Zone and Hire Purchase Section

### **Seychelles Ports Authority**

- ➔ Mr David Bianchi, Director General for Strategy and Business Development

### **National MSG (as part of group consultation held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022)**

#### **National MSG members present were:**

- ➔ Mr Philippe Michaud, National FiTI Lead-Blue Economy
- ➔ Mr Roy Clarisse, MFBE representative
- ➔ Mr. Sewlyn Edmond, Seaward Co. (Pty) Ltd, representing large-scale fisheries sector
- ➔ Mr Rodney Nichole, Bel Ombre Fishermen Association
- ➔ Mr Muditha Gunathilake, representing APESH
- ➔ Mr Faizal Suleiman, Glacis Fishermen's Association
- ➔ Dr Marie-Therese Purvis, representing the Civil Society Organisations-Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles (CEPS).
- ➔ Mrs Wilna Accouche, representing Island Conservation Society
- ➔ Mr Antoine Marie Moustache, representing Nature Seychelles.

#### **Other observers present were:**

- ➔ Ms Betty Victor, SFA representative
- ➔ Ms Julia Malbrook- PR and Communication Officer, SFA
- ➔ Ms Gervais Verlaque, Youth Representative

**Two earlier drafts of the FiTI Report were circulated to all members of the FiTI National MSG for review and comments.**

**Regular consultations with the FiTI International Secretariat were also conducted.**



## Annex C. Additional information for 2022, published only as part of this FiTI Report

### Update of 2021 landings and transshipments data


In the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report, 2021 landings and transshipment data was updated for and therefore the data in the 2021 FiTI Report has to be restated.

Flag State	Landings	Transshipments	Total
Seychelles	16,888	97,070	113,958
Spain	10,279	147,047	157,326
France	24,315	44,285	68,600
Others (Italy, Mauritius, Korea)	12,360	37,298	49,658
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,842</b>	<b>325,700</b>	<b>389,542</b>

### Additional payments made by EU-flagged vessel operators for excess catch

Payment source	2021	2020
Additional payments for excess catch - vessel operators	28,185,694	70,446,914
Additional payments Excess catch by EU under the SFP	0	4,736,505

## Fisheries and fisheries related businesses operating in Seychelles ITZ, 2020-2022



	2022			2021			2020		
	Expatriate	Seychellois	Total	Expatriate	Seychellois	Total	Expatriate	Seychellois	Total
Indian Ocean Tuna Limited	1,468	428	1,896	1,435	513	1,948	1,424	Not Available	1,424
Ile Du Port Handling Services	47	76	123	47	76	123			
Central Common Cold Store	2	74	76	2	74	76			
Trivium Packaging (Seychelles) Ltd	21	32	53	21	32	53	22	51	73
Tuna Fishing Company	4	10	14	4	10	14	5	11	16
Tuna Logistics Services Ltd	4	1	5	4	1	5	-	-	-
MW Brands (Seychelles) Ltd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Total</u>	<u>1,546</u>	<u>621</u>	<u>2,167</u>	<u>1513</u>	<u>706</u>	<u>2,219</u>	<u>1,451</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>1,513</u>

## Fisheries-related public sector development projects active in 2022

Project title	Donor	Project value	Duration	Purpose	Evaluation
The Project for Construction of Artisanal Fisheries Facilities in Mahé Island (Phase 2)	<a href="#">Government of Japan through the Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA)</a> [1]	USD 12.3 million (~1.46 billion yen)	27 months (ending April 2021)-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extension of the quay by an additional 220 metres from its previous 110m</li> <li>- Installation of new ice plants, ice storage warehouse, mooring buoys, water and power supply, landing shed, drainage, access road</li> <li>- Technical support for designing the facilities and supervision of construction work</li> </ul>	<p>There is no mid-term evaluation report publicly available</p> <p>It is unknown whether a project evaluation was conducted at all.</p>
Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (SWIOFish3)	<b>World Bank</b>	USD 5 million	September 2017 to June 2023	To improve management of marine areas and fisheries in targeted zones and strengthen fisheries value chains in Seychelles.	No project evaluation undertaken in or before 2020. Mid-term evaluation done in 2021.
Support for business development and investment opportunities in fisheries	<b>FAO</b>	USD252,000	15/11/2021 to 14/11/2023	To contribute to addressing challenges that entrepreneurs are facing at the point of entry and in doing business particularly within the fisheries post-harvest sector	It is unknown whether evaluation is built into the project.
Organisation of BlueInvest in Seychelles <sup>123</sup>	<b>European Commission – Directorate General for International</b>	USD 437,518	August 2021 to December 2022	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for	It is unknown whether evaluation is built into the project.

<sup>123</sup>Information is available on the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI): [https://data.iati.org/ctrack.html?country\\_code=SC&sector\\_group=313&year\\_min=2018#view=ended](https://data.iati.org/ctrack.html?country_code=SC&sector_group=313&year_min=2018#view=ended)

<u>Project title</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Project value</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Evaluation</u>
	<b>Partnerships (INTPA)</b>			Sustainable Development	
Countering Illegal Fishing Transshipments in African Small Island Developing States	<b>US Agency for International Development (funding)</b> <b>UNODC - implementing</b>	USD 6,464	October 2021 to May 2022	To provide programme support to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in two African Small Island Developing States (SIDS)	It is unknown whether evaluation is built into the project.

## Summary of Marine Conservation ODA Projects implemented by MACCE in 2022 <sup>124</sup>

<i>Project name</i>	<i>Project purpose</i>	<i>Implementing Entity</i>	<i>Executing Entity</i>	<i>Grant amount</i>	<i>Start date</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Donor</i>	<i>Project evaluation</i>
<b><i>Restoring marine ecosystem services by rehabilitating coral reefs to meet a changing climate future (Mauritius, Seychelles)</i></b>	To reduce the adverse impact of climate change on local communities and coral reef-dependent economic sectors in Mauritius and Seychelles through coral reef restoration with thermal tolerant corals as adaptation to climate change.	UN Development Programme	Mauritius: Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, and Shipping Seychelles: Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment	USD 10 million	Nov-20	5 years	Adaptation Fund	Mid-term evaluation planned for 2023.
<b><i>Ridge to Reef -Integrated Management of Marine, Coastal &amp; Terrestrial Ecosystems</i></b>	To manage and conserve the flow of marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystem services in targeted islands of Seychelles for multiple benefits through the Ridge-to-Reef approach	UN Development Programme	Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment	USD 3.9 million	Jan-20	6 years	GEF	Mid-term evaluation planned for 2023.


<sup>124</sup> This information can be found in Part 1 of the 2022 Budget book published by the Ministry of Finance:


[http://www.finance.gov.sc/uploads/national\\_budget/2022%20Budget%20Book%20%20Part%201-%20Assumptions%20and%20Objectives%20of%20the%202022%20Budget.pdf](http://www.finance.gov.sc/uploads/national_budget/2022%20Budget%20Book%20%20Part%201-%20Assumptions%20and%20Objectives%20of%20the%202022%20Budget.pdf)

<i>Project name</i>	<i>Project purpose</i>	<i>Implementing Entity</i>	<i>Executing Entity</i>	<i>Grant amount</i>	<i>Start date</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Donor</i>	<i>Project evaluation</i>
<b><i>Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change in Seychelles Project</i></b>	To reduce the vulnerability of Seychelles to climate change, focusing on two key issues—water scarcity and flooding.	UN Development Programme	Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment	USD 6 million	Jun-14	6 years	Adaptation Fund	<a href="#">Mid-term evaluation undertaken in 2018[1].</a>
<b><i>PAF- Seychelles Protected Area Finance</i></b>	To improve the financial sustainability and strategic cohesion of Seychelles protected area system while also dealing with emerging threats and risks to biodiversity in a shifting national economic environment.	UN Development Programme	Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment in close collaboration with Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA), Seychelles Island Foundation (SIP) and Ministry of Finance	USD 6.5 million	Jan-16	5 years	GEF	<a href="#">Mid-term evaluation undertaken in 2018. Terminal evaluation planned for 2021.</a>


*"Investing in Seychelles' blue future"*


## Summary of fisheries and marine conservation projects funded through SeyCCAT active in 2022


Project Name		Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
<b>Spatial ecology and response to catch-and-release of recreationally targeted fish species on St. François and Alphonse Atolls, Alphonse Group, Seychelles Outer Islands: Implications for conservation and management.</b>		To examine the spatial ecology and Catch and release response of Giant Trevally on St. François and Alphonse Atolls, Alphonse Group.	Alphonse Foundation	74,074.07	01-07-18	30-06-22	Debt Swap	Project Completed after an extension.
<b>Piloting voluntary fisheries zone closure on Praslin island for the benefit of the marine environment and fisher folks.</b>		To show to the government and the general public that marine areas managed locally by the community can be as effective as those managed by government and NGOs.	Praslin Fisheries Association	64,977.78	01-07-18	15-03-22	Debt Swap	Project completed after an extension.
<b>Abundance, habitat selection and movements at sea of the Red-footed Booby (<i>Sula sula</i>) as informative tools for conservation management within the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan".</b>		To collect data on abundance, distribution and habitat selection at sea of the RFB breeding on Farquhar Atoll and non-breeding RFB at St Francois.	Islands Conservation Society	74,074.07	01-03-19	28-02-23	Debt Swap	Project activities completed, project under administrative procedures for closure.


Project Name		Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
<b>Marine Biodiversity Baseline assessment around Fregate Island, the eastern most Seychelles 'Inner' granitic island.</b>		To improve the knowledge on the state of the marine environment around Fregate Island, with a view to implement a long-term marine monitoring protocol and ultimately create a marine protected area around Fregate Island.	Green Islands Foundation	30,000.00	01-09-19	15-10-21	Blue Bond	Project completed after an extension.
<b>Pilot and integration of tracking, logbook and market traceability tools for co-management of the small-scale fisheries sector in Seychelles</b>		Establish a sustainable management plan of the resources for artisanal and small-scale fisheries.	Fisherman and Boat Owner Association	74,074.07	01-08-20	31-12-23	Blue Bond	Project activities completed, project under administrative procedures for closure.
<b>Mapping coral population connectivity and ocean currents to inform management &amp; policy of the coral reef system in Seychelles</b>		To determine the connectivity of coral populations across Seychelles to inform management and policy of coral reef systems.	Seychelles Islands Foundation	74,074.07	28-02-22	21-05-22	Blue Bond	Project completed. Objective 3 cancelled and refunded SCR 70,000
<b>Roadmap to Blue Carbon opportunities in the Seychelles</b>		To explore the Seychelles' Blue Carbon future, by developing a first-pass assessment of potential Blue Carbon opportunities in the Seychelles and building local capacity and literacy on Blue Carbon	The James Michel Foundation	74,074.07	01-10-19	30-04-22	Blue Bond	Project completed after an extension.




Project Name		Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
<b>Fishing livelihood and fisheries management in the Mahe Granitic Island, Seychelles. A Cost -Benefit-Analysis on a value Chain Approach</b>		A Cost -Benefit-Analysis on a value Chain Approach for fishers on Mahe.	Keith Andre	39,481.48	01-01-20	30-06-22	Blue Bond	Project completed after an extension.
<b>Reduction of ocean pollution through sea floor clean up, and education of fishermen and youths about the impact of ocean pollution</b>		To reduce ocean pollution through sea floor clean up, and education of fishermen and youths about the impact of ocean pollution	Marcus Quatre	50,202.22	15-05-21	30-07-22	Blue Bond	Project completed
<b>Community based ecological wetland rehabilitation</b>		To address degradation of critical habitats by taking a landscape level ecosystem approach	Terrestrial Restoration Action Society	68,106.79	15-04-20	30-04-23	Debt Swap	Project activities completed, project under administrative procedures for closure.
<b>River mapping and monitoring and mangrove habitat mapping project for the sustainable development of Praslin island.</b>		To provide a map for sustainable development of the coastal strip taking into account the natural flow of water bodies on the island.	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change	7,407.41	15-11-19	31-05-22	Debt Swap	Project completed

Project Name		Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
<b>Feasibility study for SEYSSI - Seychelles Sustainable Seafood Initiative (Pronounced SEY SEA)</b>		To conduct a feasibility study on the introduction of a sustainable fisheries guide, that will enable hotel and restaurant users to choose the more sustainable seafood option for their consumption based on the best available and dynamic scientific data obtained from reports and scientific studies	Sheena Talma	7,402.30	01-04-21	30-03-23	Blue Bond	Project on going, extended due to Covid 19 Delays
<b>Research and Development of Hatchery Culture of the Tropical Echinoderm HOLOTHURIA SCABRA and HOLOTHURIA sp. "PENTARD" in the Republic of Seychelles for the consequent application in Sustainable Commercial Production</b>		To develop location specific hatchery techniques for producing juvenile Sea cucumbers for large-scale commercialization in a Pilot Hatchery.	Harmony Investments	74,039.61	01-09-21	31-12-23	Blue Bond	Project activities completed, project under administrative procedures for closure.
<b>Communication for Change (Comm4Change - C4C)</b>		Through enhanced scientific communication, valuable lessons on the links within ecosystems as well as between humans and nature will be shared to benefit the fisheries sector, the nascent blue economy, and the Seychellois.	Seychelles Islands Foundation	74,074.07	01-04-21	31-05-22	Debt Swap	Project completed

Project Name		Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
<b>Feasibility study to determine the economic viability to operate a rock-oyster farm for commercial purposes in Seychelles</b>		To determine that the farming of rock-oyster could become a new commercial seafood product for the local market and eventually become an income generating industry for the country as an export item.	Jacques Belle	74,037.04	01-06-21	01-06-23	Blue Bond	On going
<b>High-resolution 2D / 3D coastal mapping and monitoring using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and Structure-from-Motion photogrammetry techniques on the island of Mahé.</b>		Improve the management of coastal zones and informed decision-making processes on Mahé Island through innovative, improved and efficient coastal monitoring, data analyses and data sharing to enable better planning and the prevention or mitigation of coastal erosion.	Jonathan Pinchart	74,070.74	15-06-21	14-06-23	Debt Swap	Project completed
<b>Rapid assessment of fish biodiversity in shallow water (&lt;40m) habitats of the Alphonse Group, Seychelles</b>		To better understand the fish biodiversity and species assemblage of different shallow water	Alphonse Foundation	7,151.48	01-02-22	10-09-22	Blue Bond	Project completed
<b>Exploration of the contribution of fishing to the socio cultural wellbeing of Seychellois artisanal fishermen</b>		The goal of this study is for artisanal fisherman to find articulations for and be able to represent their concerns and priorities about their socio cultural wellbeing as key stakeholders in Seychelles fisheries	Sustainable Synergies	7,407.41	16-11-21	16-11-22	Blue Bond	Project completed
<b>Determining baseline information for the effective management of the Seychelles' small-scale octopus' fishery</b>		The overall aim is to conduct comprehensive research on the small-scale artisanal octopus' fishery.	Seychelles Fishing Authority	121,851.85	01-09-22	01-09-24	Blue Bond	On going

Project Name		Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
<b>The last dugongs in the Seychelles: baseline population assessment of <i>Dugong dugong</i> at Aldabra Atoll</b>	To create a solid knowledge base of Aldabra's dugong population (Seychelles' only known population) through a comprehensive Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)-based survey.	Seychelles Island Foundation	148,148.15	01-06-22	31-05-24	Debt Swap	On going	
<b>Strengthening coastal resilience against climate change induced coastal degradation through the application of science-based planning processes and the design of sustainable protection measures with the involvement of key economic partners.</b>	To build resilience and reduce vulnerability against climate change in three hotel resorts, their neighbours and local communities in Seychelles.	Inspire for tomorrow Consultancy	73,962.96	14-03-22	13-03-24	Debt Swap	On going	
<b>Development of key biodiversity and fisheries indicators and baseline to inform the management of MSP Zone 2 protected areas on the Mahé Plateau and Amirantes Bank.</b>	The Goal of this project is to provide a key biodiversity and fisheries indicator and baseline to support the informed and adaptive management of Zone 2 marine protected areas on the Mahé Plateau and Amirantes bank with the synergistic benefit of contributing to the sound management of Zone 1 areas and the national serranid fishery.	John Nevill	47,703.70	01-03-23	31-10-24	Blue Bond	On going	
<b>Upscaling coral conservation &amp; restoration, R&amp;D and public education by building a land based coral aquaculture facility</b>	The overall goal for this project is to preserve marine protected areas in order to reduce the impact of climate change on reef dependent communities in the Seychelles by fast tracking coral reef restoration through the use of farmed colonies of resilient coral	Nature Seychelles	129,555.56	28-08-23	31-07-25	Blue Bond	On going	

Project Name		Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
		species grown rapidly in a land-based aquaculture facility.						
<b>Strengthening protection for the Marine National Parks in the Seychelles using photogrammetry as a tool to support the conservation activities of SPGA</b>		Complete an in-depth detailed analysis of the health of marine biodiversity of the MPAs with the aim to compare MPAs and unprotected areas to assist SPGA and Seychelles governing bodies in better managing the MPAs around Mahe.	GVI Seychelles	148,072.86	1-10-23	30-09-25	Blue Bond	On going
<b>Piloting the use of radar monitoring to promote effective management of 3 remote Marine Protected Areas</b>		To improve the effective management of three remote Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) located around the Outer Islands of Alphonse, Astove, and Farquhar by using technology to ensure reliable and efficient monitoring and surveillance of these sites.	Islands Development Company (IDC)	146,542.15	18-09-23	17-09-25	Blue Bond	On going
<b>Lizye Lo Lanmer</b>		The overall goals of the project are: To enable Seychelles citizen and resident to collect robust oceanographic observations on water colour based on Forel-Ule index; To educate and raise awareness in Seychelles on Ocean colour; To create a database of ocean colour based on the Forel-Ule index in Seychelles EEZ with a focus on MPA as defined in SMSP i.e. both zone 1 and 2	Giberte Gendron	7,407.41	01-04-23	30-04-24	Blue Bond	On going

### Other Grants

Apart from the SeyCCAT Blue Grants Fund, the Trust also administers a number of other donor-funded grants. One of these is the Oceans5 funded project entitled “*Enabling the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan*”. One of the components of this project relates to sustainable fisheries and its details are captured in the table below.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) 1:13.5	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
<b>Component 3. Enhance fishery assessment, monitoring and management regimes to support fisheries reforms and transparency.</b>	Support fishery stock assessment of 5 species.	Executing Agency Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT)  Implemented through SFA	USD 260000	01/07/2021	December 2024	Oceans5	Project on-track

## Annex D. Detailed implementation status of recommendations from previous FiTI Reports

The following recommendations by the Seychelles' National MSG have **been cancelled as they cannot be implemented as worded** by Seychelles' national authorities.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
<b>2019-12_1</b>	Beneficial Ownership	Follow up with the committee working on beneficial ownership declaration in the fisheries sector and determine a policy on beneficial ownership declarations for the sector. This should be based on a participatory and transparent process, involving all interested bona fide stakeholders from government, industrial and artisanal fishing, and civil society.	High	Dec-21	No such committee exist.  Has been superseded by the following recommendations:  <b>2020-12-1:</b> MFBE should update the Fisheries Act to put penalties in place for operators not providing beneficial ownership information for vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters  <b>2021-12-2:</b> MFBE should advocate for policy review in relation to the implementation of the Beneficial Ownership Act in order to allow beneficial ownership information related to fisheries businesses, contained in the central registry of beneficial owners, maintained by FIU, to be made public
<b>2019-3_4</b>	Foreign Fishing Agreements	MFBE should publish information from previous (prior to 2019) and recent national stakeholder consultations undertaken with respect to the	Medium	Dec-22	Superseded by recommendation <b>2022-3-1</b>  All fisheries agreements have been renegotiated and came into force from 2021 onwards.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		preparation, negotiation or monitoring of foreign fishing access agreements. Information related to future national stakeholder consultations should be published in a timely manner			There are no records of stakeholder consultations for any of these. The last to be renegotiated is the agreement with Don Wang Industries, which will come into force in 2024. All agreements last 6 years, which means that this recommendation will remain unimplemented potentially until the next round of renegotiations in 2026/7.

The following recommendations by the Seychelles' National MSG have already **been fully implemented** by Seychelles' national authorities (as of December 2022):

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
<b>2019-2_2</b>	Fisheries Tenure Arrangements	Publish in the Official Gazette the fees that need to be paid for all types of fisheries rights existing under the law. This also includes changes to current fee structures.	High	Dec-21	The fees to be paid as part of fisheries rights are published in the summary of local fisheries licences on SFA's website. There is no requirement for the fees to be Gazetted.
<b>2019-3_3</b>	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	Publish any assessment regarding compliance of fishing vessels with the terms and conditions set forth in their respective access agreement, once available.	Medium	Sep-21	No such assessment exists.



ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2019-4_1	State of the Fisheries Resources	Publish the reports and the results of all stock assessments undertaken in the last four years on their website.	High	Jun-21	All stock assessment reports from 2017 onwards are published on SFA's website
2019-5_1	Large-Scale Fisheries - Vessel Registry	Publish an up-to-date, online registry of all Seychelles-flagged and foreign-flagged large-scale vessels authorised to fish in Seychelles' marine jurisdictional waters, and of all Seychelles-flagged large-scale vessels authorised to fish in third countries' marine jurisdictional waters and on the High Seas. The vessel registry must include all 14 vessel attributes, as defined in the FiTI Standard.	High	Sep-21	The large-scale vessel registry published on SFA website in a spreadsheet format, is updated for 2022 and meets the FiTI standard.
2019-5_2	Large-Scale Fisheries - Vessel Registry	This online vessel registry, once published, should be linked to relevant parameters and conditions of the underlying licences (e.g. licensing period, fees paid, species to be taken, areas to be fished, etc.).	High	Sep-21	Published vessel registry has licence payment information and (for Seychelles-flagged vessels) information on areas of the High Seas and Third country EEZ where fishing is allowed.
2019-5_4	Large-Scale Fisheries - Recorded Catch Data	Publish all missing information for catches, landings, transshipments from the industrial	High	Sep-21	Information published online on SFA website as part of Semester 1 – 2020 Fisheries Statistical Report. No data on

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		longliner fishery for 2019.			transshipments and landings for longline industrial fishery is published.
2019-6_1	Small-Scale Fisheries	In addition to the information already provided, MFBE or SFA should publish the: - total number of small-scale fisheries licences, and - the total numbers of fishers engaged in the fishing sector, including gender information and whether fishers are engaged in full-time work, seasonal or part time fishing, occasional fishing or recreational fishing.	High	Sep-21	SFA publishes on its website details as well as a summary table of total number of small-scale fisheries licences issued in 2022.  A summary table of total number of fishers engaged in the fishing sector is also published and include information on gender but does not distinguish part or full time fishers.
2019-10_1	Fisheries Subsidies	Publish online the 2017 report that reviewed subsidies provided to the artisanal fisheries sector' which they had commissioned.	Medium	Sep-21	This report is published on the SFA website e-library.
2019-1_1	Public Registry of National Fisheries Laws, Regulations and Official Policy Documents	Determine and implement a publication strategy to ensure that all national and international fisheries laws, regulations and official policy documents are published online, up-to-date, easy to locate and searchable.	High	Dec-21	All national and international fisheries laws, regulations and official policy documents are published online on the MFBE website.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2019-2_1	Fisheries Tenure Arrangements	Publish a summary description of the different types of fisheries that exist in Seychelles, and their corresponding licence arrangements. The National MSG encourages the national authorities to utilise the summaries provided in this FITI Report as a starting point for this aspect.	High	Dec-21	A summary description of fisheries tenure arrangements has been published in the form of an FAQ on the SFA website and has been updated to reflect the implementation of the Mahe Plateau Co-management Plan which came into effect in 2022.
2019-2_3	Fisheries Tenure Arrangements	Publish a list of all fisheries permit holders (including for the sea cucumber fishery), with information on the type of permit they hold, fees which have been paid and the start and end date of their permit(s).	High	Sep-21	This was published as part of the 2021 Reporting process and in 2022 as part of the vessel registries.
2019-3_1	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	Publish online all foreign fishing access agreements and associated protocols. In case an agreement or expectation of confidentiality exists between the parties to an agreement, these agreements must be made public within 3 years from becoming a FITI Candidate country (i.e. in Seychelles' case, by March 2023 latest).	High	Dec-21	All foreign fishing access agreements and associated protocols have been published on the SFA website. Agreements negotiated with TTA and TFI in 2022 have the confidentiality clause removed and they are published on the SFA website and will take effect in 2023.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2019-3_2	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	Publish online all studies or reports related to the evaluation or oversight of these agreements, which have either been undertaken by national authorities or foreign parties.	High	Dec-21	The three reports related to the evaluation or oversight of the EU/Seychelles fishing agreements are published on the SFA website.
2019-4_3	State of the Fisheries Resources	Publish online any future fish stock assessment programmes planned for undertaking, and the research needed to support these assessments.	High	Dec-21	The programme of future stock assessments up to 2024 is now published on the SFA website.
2019-5_8	Large-Scale Fisheries	Publish online national evaluations or audits of the economic, social and food security contributions of the large-scale fishing sector, once available (e.g. the upcoming study on employment in fisheries).	High	Dec-21	The report of the <i>Employment Study &amp; Capacity Needs Assessment for the Fisheries Sector in Seychelles</i> was published on SFA's website in 2022.  The 2018 study <i>Employment and Prospect in the Industrial tuna Fishery Sector of the Republic of Seychelles</i> , the outcome of an employment study of the industrial tuna fishery was published during this FITI reporting process.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2020-6_2	Small-scale fisheries	SFA should publish the data on catch in the sea cucumber and lobster fishery as part of its Fisheries Statistical Report.	High	September 2022	Catch data on sea cucumber and lobster fisheries has been published in the 2021 and 2022 Fisheries Statistical Reports.
2019-11_1	Official Development Assistance	Publish an up-to-date list of fisheries-related public sector projects, funded by bilateral, multilateral and private donors. This list should include information on the projects' value, purpose and outputs, as well as corresponding project evaluations, if applicable.	High	Dec-21	SFA published a database of fisheries-related projects funded through ODA, it was implemented as part of the 2021 FiTI report process. This has been updated to reflect projects active in 2022.
2020-10_1	Fisheries Subsidies	SFA should provide on an annual basis a breakdown of total fuel subsidies provided to the different types of fisheries.	High	Dec-2022	Information on fuel subsidies was published for the small-scale fisheries sector in the 2022 Annual Report and the information was disaggregated into artisanal and small-scale longline fishery.
2019-2_4	Fisheries Tenure Arrangements	Publish online the rules and procedures for Seychelles-flagged vessels to obtain authorisations to fish in a third country or the High Seas, along with the reporting requirements and the provisions for terminating such authorisations.	High	Sep-21	Agreements were negotiated in 2022 and will take effect in 2023 with management companies of Seychelles-Flagged vessels. A sample agreement and its annex is published on the SFA website and it provides for reporting requirements and

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
					provisions for termination of authorisation.
<b>2019-5_3</b>	Large-scale fisheries	SFA should publish on its website, on an annual basis, all payments (e.g. for fishing licence, certificate of authorisation, excess catch, and environmental fee) on a per vessel basis made by large-scale fishing vessels, including the four information requirements of the FiTI Standard.	High	Jun-22	Fishing licence payment information is available per vessel in the Vessel Registry. Information on excess catch and the environmental fee is published in the 2022 SFA Annual Report but it is not disaggregated by vessel although the information is available in a disaggregated form at the SFA. Doing so will violate the terms of the respective fishing agreements.
<b>2019-10_2</b>	Fisheries subsidies	Information on the types, values and recipients of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector in Seychelles (both large-scale and small-scale fisheries) should be published by MFBE or SFA, in particular regarding fuel subsidies, which is the main type of subsidy provided to the fisheries sector in Seychelles.	High	Dec-22	Information on the value of ice and fuel subsidies only to the small-scale fisheries sector has been published in the 2021 and 2022 SFA Annual Reports. Information on other subsidies to the small-scale fisheries sector is not published. MFBE has confirmed that no fuel subsidies are provided to the large-scale fisheries.
<b>2020-3_1</b>	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	MFBE should ensure that in the future all foreign fishing vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters should do so only	High	Jun-2022	As of January 2023, all foreign fishing vessels, fishing in Seychelles' waters, do so under an agreement, in some instances provisional.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		under an official signed agreement.			In 2022, the Seychelles government negotiated new agreements with TTA and TFI and management companies of Seychelles-Flagged purse seiners, An agreement has also been negotiated and signed with Dongwon Industries, which will come into effect in 2024.
2020-4_1	State of the fisheries resources	SFA should put in place a campaign to raise awareness of the stock status of fisheries that are under threat of overfishing.	High	Jun-2022	The outcome of the stock assessments has been shared with stakeholders in the lobster <sup>125</sup> and sea cucumber <sup>126</sup> fisheries. Details of these stakeholder engagements are yet to be published on a government website.
2020-5_4	Large-scale fisheries-payments for fishing	SFA should devise a strategy to ensure that the Fisheries Statistical Reports are published in a timely manner so that data on catch, effort, landing and transshipment are more accessible.	Medium	Dec-2023	The Fisheries Statistical Report and SFA Annual Report were both published during the FITI reporting process which improved availability of validated information. However, there were issues with the technology and reporting of data for the artisanal fishery, which meant

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<http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/14283/Lobster+season+in+Seychelles+faces+challenges+from+unlicensed+fishers%2C+catching+of+small+crustaceans>

<sup>126</sup> <http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/17526/Ban+on+targeting+white-teat+at+Seychelles%27+sea+cucumber+fishing+season+opens+on+October+#:~:text=Sea%20cucumber%20fishery%20in%20Seychelles,full%20moon%20and%20new%20moon>

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
					incomplete data for that fishery.
2021_3_3	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	The MFBE should ensure that by December 2023, all industrial vessels fishing in Seychelles' waters including Seychelles- flagged vessels, do so subject to an agreement.	High	Dec-2023	New fishing agreements were negotiated with TTA and TFI effective January 2023.  Sustainable fisheries agreements have been signed with all management companies of Seychelles-flagged vessels effective January 2023. The agreement with Dongwon Industries becomes effective in 2024.
2020-2_2	Fisheries Tenure arrangements	SFA should update the section on its website concerning Certificate of Authorisation to include information on the fees charged for such authorisation in addition to the reporting requirements and the provisions for terminating such authorisations.	High	June 2022	A sample of the <i>Sustainable Fisheries Agreement</i> signed with management companies of Seychelles-flagged vessels, is published on the SFA website. It contains provisions for reporting and termination of authorisation.
2020-5_3	Large-scale fisheries- payments for fishing	SFA should officially pronounce the licence fee for large-scale joint-venture fishing vessels.	Medium	December 2023	The fees are published through the <i>Sustainable Fisheries Agreement</i> with Seychelles-flagged vessels published on SFA's website.
2020-5_2	Large-scale fisheries	SFA should cross-check and verify the legal owner of the	High	December 2022	All information on the legal owner of vessels on the vessel registry is



ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		vessel recorded in the vessel registry are accurate and ensure that information of the owner's address and nationality is provided.			provided along with nationality and address.
2021_6_1	Small-scale fisheries	SFA should capture information on gender during annual registration and licence renewal of fisherman.	Medium	Jun-2023	Gender information was available for all licensees, boat owners, divers and fisherman on the 2022 database published on the SFA website during this FITI reporting process.
2021_6_2	Small-scale fisheries	In addition to licence information, SFA should publish licence payment information for all sub-sectors in the small-scale fisheries sector	Medium	Jun-2023	Payment information is included on the 2022 database for licensees in the small-scale fisheries sector.
2021_3_1	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	The MFBE should publish key information in a summarised form on all active fishing agreements.	High	March 2023	A summary of foreign fishing assess agreements granting access to fish in Seychelles' waters is published is SFA's website.
2021_6_3	Small-scale fisheries	With a view to improve the comprehensiveness of information on the small-scale fishery, SFA should publish a statement on the reason for not collecting statistics or publish studies on the species and volumes of fish discarded in the small-scale sector	Medium	December 2023	The SFA included a note in the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report explaining that there are no discards in the artisanal fishery as the fish that are not sold are used as bait or are kept for own consumption by the fishers.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		in the annual Fisheries Statistical Report, as it is done for catch and discard information for the other fisheries.			

The following recommendations by the Seychelles' National MSG (due by December 2022) have only been *partially implemented* by Seychelles' national authorities:

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
<b>2019-5_5</b>	Large-scale fisheries-recorded catch data	SFA should set up an online database containing annual retained catches and transshipments and landings at local and foreign ports, disaggregated by flag state, species or species groups, gear type and catch location (national waters, third country waters, High Seas) in order for interested stakeholders to obtain detailed information on catch data.	Low	Dec-2022	FIMS, launched in 2023, will provide information on licenses, economic contribution of fisheries, annual catch volume, export and imports and fisheries management regulations
<b>2019-5_6</b>	Large-Scale Fisheries - Recorded Catch Data	Publish data on discards from the industrial longline fishery disaggregated as per the FITI requirements, and from the purse seiner fishery by port of unloading, and by species or species groups. Furthermore, a note should be added in the introduction of the Fisheries Statistical Reports to provide information on how	High	Sep-21	Discards data published as part of the Fisheries Bulletin since 2020. This is not disaggregated by species as information is not provided in a consistent manner to SFA.  There is no published information on how discard data is collected by the authorities.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		discard data is collected by the authorities.			
<b>2019-5_7</b>	Large-scale fisheries-recorded catch data	MFBE should publish annual summaries of the socio-economic contribution of the large-scale fishing sector	High	Dec-22	Information on revenue generated by large-scale fisheries and contribution to the country's foreign exchange is published in SFA's annual report.
<b>2019-6_2</b>	Small-scale fisheries	MFBE should publish annual summaries of the socio-economic contribution of the small-scale fishing sector.	High	Dec-22	Three studies on the socio-economic contribution of the small-scale fishing sector are now published on SFA website, one each relating to the small-scale longline fleet, sea cucumber fishery and industry and sport and recreational fishery. No annual summary has been published yet.
<b>2019-7_1</b>	Post-harvest sector fish trade	Given the paramount importance of fish trade for Seychelles, MFBE or SFA needs to ensure that annual information on the quantity of fish and fish products produced, as well as information on imports and exports, are published online in a timely manner. Such information should be disaggregated by species, as well as the country of destination/ origin.	Medium	Dec-22	Quantity of fish and fish products and fish imports and exports were published in the 2022 SFA Annual Report. Exports were presented by value and quantity and disaggregated by country of destination. Information is not disaggregated by species.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2019-8_3	Fisheries law enforcement	SFA should publish offences in the fisheries sector in a timely manner. This should include the name of the company or vessel owner, the nature of the offence and the penalty imposed.	Medium	Dec-22	During this FITI reporting process, SFA published the list of convictions and offences in the fisheries sector between 2020 and 2024 on its website. Information on the nature of the offence and the penalty imposed is included along with the vessel name. The name of the vessel owner is not included.
2019-7_3	Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade	Clearly state whether an informal fisheries sector exists in Seychelles.	Medium	Dec-21	A statement on the existence of an informal fisheries sector in Seychelles from the government is included in the 2021 FITI Report. However, it is not published on a website.
2019-9_1	Labour Standards	Publish online an official summary description of national laws on labour standards applicable to national and foreign workers employed in the fishing sector at sea and in the post-harvest fisheries sector in Seychelles.	High	Dec-21	A summary of the labour laws applicable nationally including in the fisheries sector, has been published on the Employment Department's website. However, there is a significant number of fishing industry employees working in the ITZ to whom the Employment Act does not apply. Therefore, this summary is incomplete.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2019-9_2	Labour Standards	Obtain and publish information from the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs on offences committed by employers in the fisheries sector, as well as mitigating actions taken.	High	Dec-21	The MESA and FSA recorded 2 labour grievances each, committed by employers in the fisheries sector in 2022. The information is only published in FiTI Reports.
2020-3_2	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	MFBE should put in place a strategy to review the implementation of all foreign fishing access agreements including an assessment of compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreements and make publicly available a report containing the findings.	Medium	June 2023	An exercise to assess the implementation of the fishing agreements with Mauritius and the EU started during the 2021 FiTI reporting process.
2020-5_1	Large-scale fisheries	SFA should keep the large-scale-vessel registry continually updated, at least on a quarterly basis, and ensure that all information required is available for each vessel licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters. This should be done through the update of the licence application form and for SFA to ensure that all information is provided before issuing licences.	Medium	December 2022	The published large-vessel registry is not updated quarterly but rather at the end of a calendar year.  However, the FIMS, can potentially provide continually updated information on industrial fishing vessels, although the information does not fully meet the FiTI standard.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2020-5_5	Large-scale fisheries-payments for fishing	SFA should put in place an online system for making available data on catch, effort, landing and transshipment so that the data can be more easily interpreted and can fulfil all requirements of FiTI that are possible.	Medium	June 2023	SFA launched FIMS in 2023. However, some of the data do not meet the FiTI standards e.g. information on industrial vessels.
2020-7_3	Post-harvest sector fish trade	SFA in collaboration with MFBE should on an annual basis publish a report to provide data on the economic contribution of fisheries in Seychelles.	High	Dec-2023	The 2022 SFA Annual Report contains a chapter on economic contribution of fisheries.  The MFBE is collaborating with NBS to publish the fisheries satellite accounts for 2019 and 2020.
2020-6_1	Small-scale fisheries	SFA should undertake a study to determine the economic, social and food security contribution of the small-scale fishing sector.	Medium	Dec-2023	Two studies were published in 2021 relating to the sea cucumber and the small-scale fisheries and one study in 2022 on sport and recreational fishery
2020-12_1	Beneficial ownership	MFBE should update the Fisheries Act to put penalties in place for operators not providing beneficial ownership information for vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters.	High	Dec-2023	A gap analysis on beneficial ownership in the fisheries sector was undertaken in 2022 and the results will inform the review of the Fisheries Act and Fisheries Regulations.
2021_8_1	Fisheries Law enforcement	SFA should publish an up-to-date record of convictions and major	High	June 2023	During the 2022 FiTI reporting, SFA published records of

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		offences in the fisheries sector over the last 5 years indicating the name of the company or vessel owner, the nature of the offence and the penalty imposed.			convictions and major offences in the fisheries sector for 2020 to 2023 (4 years). The name of the vessel owner is not included.
2021_12_1	Beneficial ownership	SFA should review its licence application forms to ensure that information on beneficial ownership is captured for all its licensees, in compliance with the Fisheries Act and the Beneficial Ownership Act.	High	December 2023	Beneficial ownership information is captured for all small-scale licensees.  In 2022, several initiatives started to address the disclosure of beneficial ownership information in the fisheries sector. A gap analysis was conducted and work started on the development of a regulatory framework for joint ventures.  The review of the Fisheries Act and Fisheries Regulations is expected to address the issue of disclosure of beneficial ownership in the sector.

Additionally, the following recommendations by the Seychelles' National MSG have **not yet been implemented** by Seychelles' national authorities (due before December 2022), and are therefore considered **overdue**:

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2019-4_2	Fisheries Resources	SFA should prepare and publish a periodic report(e.g. biennially) on the state of the main commercial fish stocks in Seychelles	High	Dec-2022	This should have taken place in 2021 but has not started.
2019-8_1	Fisheries law enforcement	SFA should provide regular information on national strategies and activities applied to ensure compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector to MFBE, which will have the responsibility for publishing such information.	Medium	Dec-22	Report on MCS activities is included in SFA's Annual report.
2020-2_1	Fisheries Tenure arrangements	Due to high staff turn-over in Seychelles national authorities, it is not recommended for SFA to gazette the names of the people authorised to issue fisheries licence as was previously recommended in recommendation 2019-2_2. Instead, it is recommended that SFA makes it clear the Authority can authorise its staff to issue fishing licences/permits.	High	June 2022	Open
2020-2_3	Fisheries Tenure arrangements	SFA should publish on its website the mandatory administrative procedures required to evaluate applications of different types of fishing vessel licences and fishing activity licence, the nature of any	High	June 2022	Open



ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		oversight or public consultation processes involved and the appeals process in case of refusal.			
<b>2020-7_2</b>	Post-harvest sector fish trade	SFA should work with the Ministry of Health to collect and make available data related to dive accidents in the sea cucumber fishery.	High	June 2022	Open

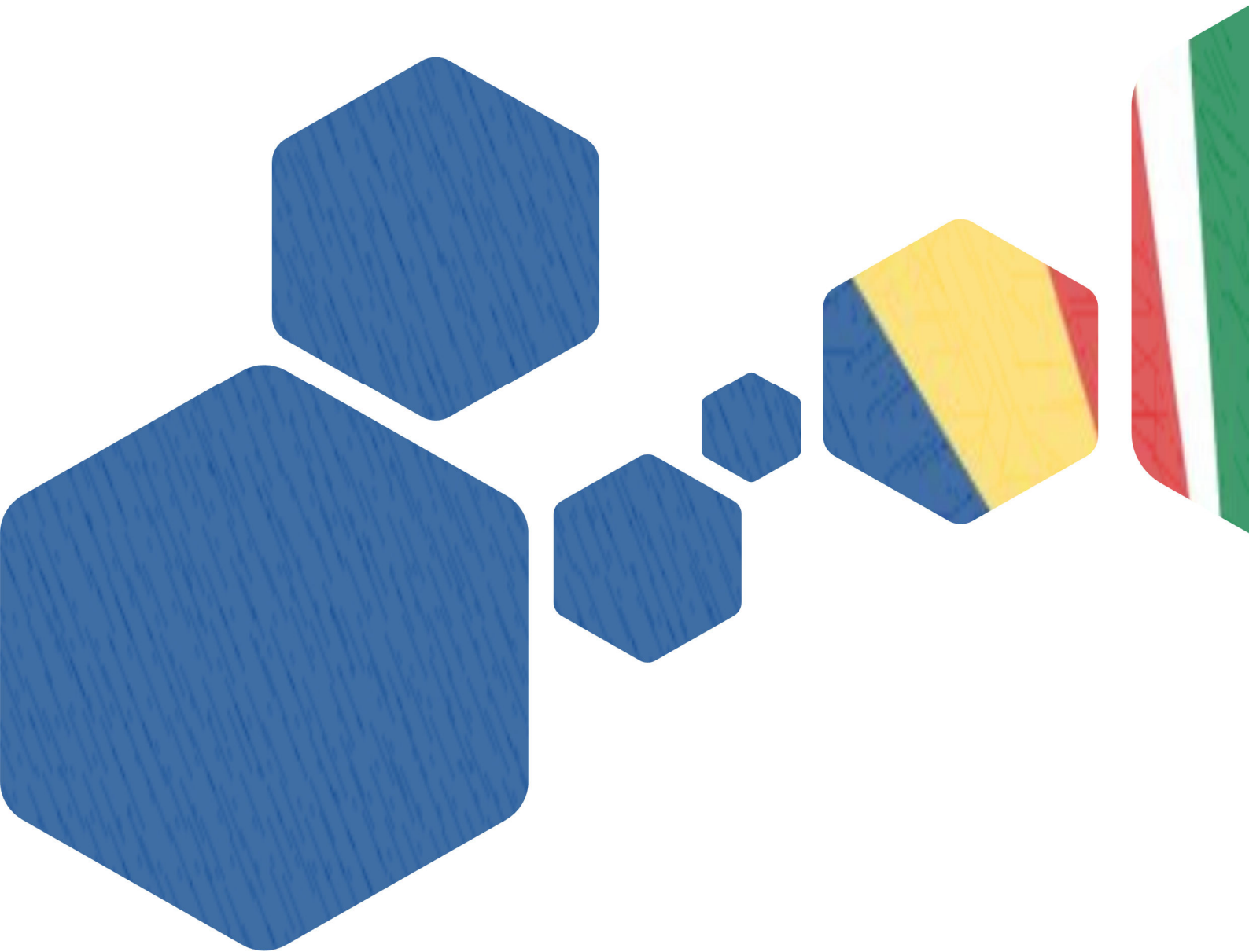
The following recommendations from previous FITI reports will **become due in future reporting cycles**.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2019-7_2	Post-harvest sector fish trade	MFBE or SFA should publish annual employment information regarding Seychelles' commercial fisheries sector, disaggregated by gender and sub-sectors (e.g. industrial and artisanal fishing).	Medium	Dec-23	Open
2019-8_2	Fisheries law enforcement	SFA should prepare and make available to MFBE the financial and human resources deployed by the government to ensure compliance with national and international legislation in the fisheries sector (at least on an annual basis). MFBE will be responsible for publishing such information.	Medium	Dec-23	Open
2020-4_2	The state of the fisheries resources	SFA should establish a research plan to collect required data on vulnerable species for stock assessment purposes. This research plan should be published online by SFA.	High	June 2023	Open.
2020-4_3	The state of the fisheries resources	SFA should provide biennial updates on the stock status of the main species targeted	High	December 2024	Open

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		by the small-scale fisheries.			
<b>2020-9_1</b>	Labour standards	MFBE should work towards the domestication of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention.	High	December 2024	A gap analysis has been done and validation workshops held. The Competent Authority to lead the implementation of this exercise is still to be decided.
<b>2020-7_1</b>	Post-harvest sector fish trade	SFA should work with the Fish Inspection and Quality Control Unit (FIQCU) of the Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) to ensure that more disaggregated data is available on the export of fish. This should also include disaggregation of export by species and those being exported as by-catch.	High	December 2023	Open
<b>2020-8_1</b>	Fisheries law enforcement	SFA in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders should prepare and implement a clear strategy for the enforcement of fisheries regulations in the small-scale fisheries, large-scale fisheries and to deter IUU fishing. This strategy should however not be made publicly available.	Medium	June 2024	Work started on the preparation of a National Plan of Action (NPOA) Against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing. In 2022, SFA secured funds under the EcoFISH programme to complete this and write it into policy.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2021_3_2	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	The MFBE should institute and publish a plan to evaluate each fishing access agreement at least once every three years.	Medium	June 2024	Open
2021_4_1	State of fisheries resources	SFA should ensure that information in the public domain on the conditions of the different fisheries is updated. Any new conditions can be communicated through a press release which can then be posted on SFA's website.	High	December 2024	Open
2021_7_1	Post-harvet & fish trade	Given the importance of fisheries in providing quality jobs, the MFBE must conduct a census of persons employed in the fisheries sector or other exercise to obtain a fair estimate of the number of persons employed in the fisheries sector.	High	June 2025	Open
2021_9_1	Labour standards	The MFBE should advocate for the Seychelles' government to allocate resources to evaluate labour standards applicable in the fisheries sector.	High	December 2023	Open

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2021_11_1	Official development assistance	The MFBE should advocate to the rest of the government of Seychelles for updated information on official development assistance to government entities to be published in a central place for example as an addendum to the budget book.	High	December 2024	Open
2021-12-2	Beneficial ownership	MFBE should advocate for policy review in relation to the implementation of the Beneficial Ownership Act in order to allow beneficial ownership information related to fisheries businesses, contained in the central registry of beneficial owners, maintained by FIU, to be made public.	High	December 2023	A gap analysis on beneficial ownership in the fisheries sector was undertaken in 2022 and the results will inform the review of the Fisheries Act and Fisheries Regulations.



# **Seychelles' Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)**

**| Calendar year: 2022**