



Seychelles' Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

Calendar year: 2021

Detailed Section

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

Release date: 28 February 2023

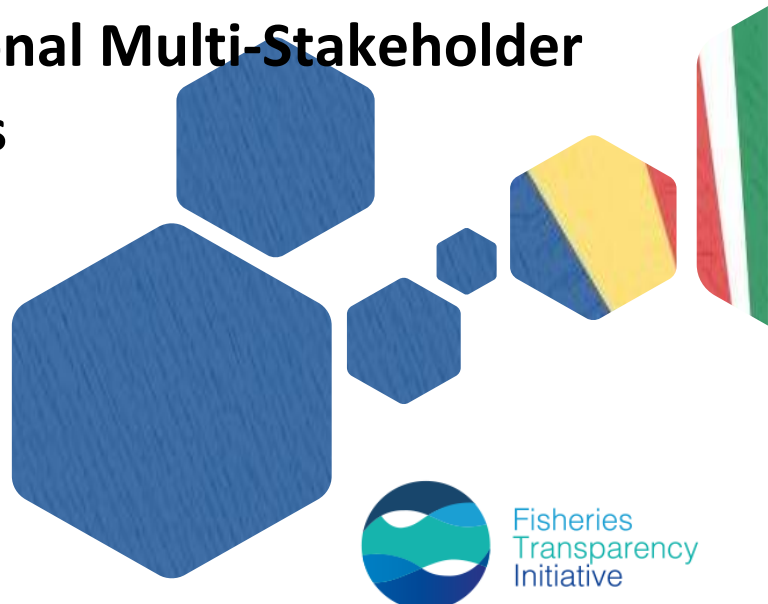


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This report was prepared by **Mrs Daniella Larue** from September 2022 – February 2023. Mrs Larue was appointed by Seychelles' FITI National Multi-Stakeholder Group as the Report Compiler for the 2021 FITI reporting process. On the 17th November 2022, the Seychelles Government submitted an extension request for publishing the report. This was granted by the FITI International Board on the 5th December 2022. The report was reviewed and approved by **Seychelles' FITI National Multi-Stakeholder Group** on 16th February 2023.

This is Seychelles' third report to the FITI, covering information relevant for the calendar year 2021. This report, hereafter referred to as Seychelles' 2021 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 2021 which has only been published as part of this FITI Report.

The report was funded by the **Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (SWIOFish3)** through a Global Environment Facility grant (TF-A5293) administered by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).



Detailed findings on the requirements for fisheries transparency in Seychelles [2021]

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.¹

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.

¹ 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
Seychelles must provide an online, up-to-date registry of:			
All national legislation related to the marine fisheries sector.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
All official policy documents related to the marine fisheries sector.	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 FiTI Report, remain available on the SFA and the MOFBE websites. They include the *Fisheries Act (2014)*, the *Fisheries Regulations (1987)*, the *Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy (2019)* and the *Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (2019)*. In 2021, two new pieces of legislation were enacted, both of which are summarised below:

The *Fisheries (Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery) Regulations (2021)* regulates co-management arrangements for the management of a fishery and empowers the Minister to make regulations prescribing measures for the proper management of a fishery.

The *Fisheries (Aquaculture) Regulations (2020)* came into effect in 2021 and regulates the aquaculture industry. Although, the term fisheries does not include aquaculture according to the Fisheries Act, this is included here for completeness.

These two pieces of legislation were uploaded on the SFA and MOFBE websites.

According to the National MSG, 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 and policy documents related to the marine fisheries sector. The National MSG encourages the national authorities 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 MOFBE websites publish key pieces of fisheries legislation². The MOFBE's website has a section dedicated to fisheries laws and regulations³. All documents relevant for year 2021 are published on the websites of the MOFBE and the SFA and this document list is *seen as complete*. The Aquaculture Regulations 2020, published in the Official Gazette in 2020, came into force in August 2021, a copy of which is published on the MOFBE website. SI 77 of 2021, namely the

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

³ <http://www.mofbe.gov.sc/resources/>

Fisheries (Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery) Regulations⁴, written into legislation in 2021 and came into effect in January 2022 in order to implement the Seychelles Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co-management Plan, is published on the SFA website as well as being available on the Official Gazette website.

Fisheries policy documents: As reported in Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report, a section of both the MOFBE and SFA websites is dedicated to fisheries policy documents and management plans.⁵ The fisheries policies published by the government that are publicly available online for the year 2021 are *seen to be complete*. No new policies were introduced in 2021.

- **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 Gazette⁶ was detailed in Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report and remained unchanged in 2021. 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 Portal⁷ 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 website⁸ 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 27th September 2016. These allow 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 MOFBE and SFA websites.

⁴ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/47-fisheries-act-regulations/169-fisheries-mahe-plateau-trap-and-line-fishery-regulations-2021>

⁵ <http://www.mofbe.gov.sc/resources/>

⁶ <https://www.gazette.sc/>

⁷ <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.

⁸ <https://www.nationalassembly.sc/bills>

1.2 Fisheries Tenure Arrangements

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
Seychelles must publish a summary description of laws and decrees on fisheries tenure arrangements, including the following information:			
i. 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;	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
ii. The fees, duration, transferability and divisibility of such rights and authorisations;	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
iii. 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;	Yes	No	Unknown
iv. The conditions applied to fishing authorisations including those relating to fishing effort and ecosystem impact, landings, transshipping and catch reporting;	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
v. 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.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially

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

During the 2020 FiTI reporting process, SFA published information on its website on fisheries tenure arrangements both as a webpage labelled *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* and as a downloadable document. The contents of this publication are detailed in

Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report, and SFA confirmed that the contents are still relevant for 2021⁹. The information on fisheries tenure arrangements is *seen as complete* by the National MSG. In the 2020 FiTI Report, it was noted that the processes and procedures for issuing of new licences for joining the sea cucumber fishery were not publicly available (as stated in the FAQ published on SFA's website). During this FiTI reporting process, the MOFBE explained that the sea cucumber fishery is a limited entry fishery and the current twenty-five (25) licences are based on historical fishing rights. Given the current status of the sea cucumber stocks where some species are observed to be overfished (see section 1.4: State of Fisheries Resources), no new entrants are being accommodated and therefore, there are no published procedures to join the fishery at this point. This clarification regarding the lack of publicly available information for the processes and procedures to join the sea cucumber fishery, is yet to be published on the SFA or the MOFBE website.

- **Fees, duration, transferability and divisibility of such rights and authorisations:** Relevant information available on the SFA website dates to 2020 and SFA confirms that the information on fees, duration, transferability and divisibility of fishing rights and authorisations was still applicable in 2021. The recommendation *2019-2_2* (made by the National as part of the 2019 FiTI Report) which states that *MOFBE 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)* remains unimplemented during this 2021 reporting cycle. The SFA has previously said that it will be addressed in 2022 and so any such publication of fees for fishing rights will be reflected in Seychelles' 2022 FiTI Report. The SFA explained that the departure of some key staff and leadership changes in the organisation have delayed the preparation of appropriate papers and publication of the fees for fishing rights.

- **The persons legally entitled to issue access rights and fishing authorisations:** There is still no publication from Seychellois authorities pertaining to individual persons that are legally entitled to issue commercial access rights and fishing authorisations. As pointed out in the 2020 FiTI Report, despite the fact that SFA has the legal mandate to issue licences for fishing and fishing-related activities, the Fisheries Act does not provide for the names of the persons legally authorised to issue licences and permits to be published¹⁰. SFA indicated that it shares a list of authorised signatories for vessel licensing purposes with IOTC, but this document cannot be publicly accessed. In the 2020 FiTI Report, the National MSG noted that the Fisheries Act does not make it mandatory for SFA to publish details of the fishing licences and permits it issues, and that SFA has gone the extra mile to publish such information through the large-scale vessel

⁹ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/faqs>

¹⁰ SFA gave an undertaking during the 2020 FiTI Reporting process that it will gazette the names of Authorised Officers legally authorised to issue licences and permits in 2022 to reduce possible risks of licencing frauds.

registry ¹¹ and the issued documents on small-scale fisheries licences ¹². One of the reasons for SFA's reluctance in gazetting names of authorised officers is that high staff turnover means that such a publication can become obsolete very quickly. It would require a high level of vigilance to ensure that published names of individuals legally entitled to issue commercial access rights and fishing authorisations remain current. Otherwise, the public could be misinformed.

- **Other conditions applicable to commercial fishing rights:** The conditions applicable to fishing rights in relation to transshipment and catch reporting, fishing effort, landings and ecosystems impact of fishing, prescribed in Part III of the Fisheries Act (2014), as well as under the Standard Requirements of the Fisheries Regulations (1987) are detailed in the Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report. There have been no changes in 2021.

For the small-scale fisheries (i.e. artisanal and semi-industrial longline), the extract of relevant licencing conditions is published in the Fisheries Comprehensive Plan and these were presented in the 2020 FiTI Report and remained unchanged in 2021.

- **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 the 2020 FiTI report, it was pointed out that details on fees charged, reporting requirements and provisions for terminating the authorisation are not available on this form or on the SFA website. During this FiTI reporting process, the MOFBE indicated that in 2021 negotiations started with companies managing Seychelles-flagged industrial vessels in order to reach an agreement for establishing procedures and rules for these vessels. The MOFBE explained that until recently, other than the licence, there was no framework for the oversight of Seychelles-flagged industrial vessels fishing in third countries or on the High Seas. The agreements under discussion will lay down procedures and rules and provide a framework for the reporting requirements of Seychelles-flagged vessels as part of Seychelles' obligations as a flag State. MOFBE indicated, that these agreements will come into effect in 2023. The plan is that by the end of 2023, all industrial vessels, Seychelles- or foreign- flagged, that are licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters, will be subject to an agreement.

- **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 2021.

¹¹ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/large-scale-fisheries-licence/summary/59-large-scale-fisheries-licence/188-large-scale-fishing-licenses-issued-in-2021>

¹² <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/small-scale-fisheries-licences/summary/54-small-scale-fisheries-licences/187-small-scale-fisheries-licences-issued-in-2021>

- During the 2021 FiTI reporting process, one instance of a public consultation process with respect to fisheries tenure arrangements was found (information of which is published on the MOFBE website)¹³. In August 2021, officials from the MOFBE and SFA met with stakeholders from the sea cucumber fishery to discuss proposals for the 2021/2022 sea cucumber fishery season. Proposals tabled at this consultation were: a 15% reduction in the total allowable catch (TAC) for the season from 375,000 pieces to 318,750 (which means a quota of 12,750 pieces for each of the 25 vessels licenced to fish), licence removal for the two least performing vessels and expressions of interest to identify their replacements including allocation of one licence for Praslin/La Digue and an upcoming stock assessment involving the fisher folk. The agenda and proposals from SFA are available as a link on the website but there are no minutes of the proceedings.

¹³ <http://www.mofbe.gov.sc/sea-cucumber-stakeholder-engagement-meeting/>

1.3 Foreign Fishing Access Agreements

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
Seychelles must publish the contracts of all foreign fishing access agreements (including their associated protocol(s)),			
that allow access for foreign vessels to fish in Seychelles' marine jurisdictional waters¹⁴	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
that allow Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish in a third country or the High Seas¹⁵	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
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.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes (only for EU agreements)
Documentation derived from any national stakeholder consultation undertaken with respect to the preparation, negotiation or monitoring of the agreements must be published, if available.	No		

- ➔ **Foreign fishing access agreements :** In 2021, 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 fish in Seychelles' waters in the absence of an agreement through the payment of a licence ¹⁶. *The MOFBE has indicated that an agreement with Dongwon Industries Co Ltd will be negotiated and signed by the end of 2023.* There are no agreements currently active that allow Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish on the High Seas. The agreements that were published on the SFA website as part of the 2020 reporting process remained available during this 2021 reporting process, notably those with the European Union¹⁷, and Mauritius¹⁸. There are certain private agreements where confidentiality clauses prevent such a publication. *The agreements valid in 2021 with*

¹⁴ It should be noted that foreign fishing access agreements do not grant access to Seychelles' territorial sea at all.

¹⁵ There are no agreements currently active that allow Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish on the High Seas.

¹⁶ 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."

¹⁷ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/57-eu-sey-fishing-agreement>

¹⁸ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/45-mau-sey-agreement>

Taiwan Deep-sea Tuna Longline Boat Owners and Exporters Association (TTA) and Top Fortune International (TFI), both contain confidentiality clauses which prevent Seychelles from divulging their contents without the prior knowledge and written approval of the other party. At the time of finalisation of this FiTI Report, the MOFBE informed that Seychelles government had completed renegotiating both agreements and the confidentiality clauses from both agreements will be removed, and the new agreements with TTA and TFI to be published by the end of 2022.

Although it falls outside the scope of this 2021 FiTI Report, it is nevertheless important to note that 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. The interim agreement, which ended in April 2022, provided for an increase in licence fees as follows:

- Mauritius purse seiners fishing in Seychelles' waters from USD110,000 to EUR143,000;
- Seychelles purse seiners fishing in Mauritius' waters from USD24,000 to EUR31,200;
- Longliners in the respective agreements: for a period of 6 months from USD 17,000 to EUR 22,750 and for a period of one year from USD30,000 to EUR 39,000.
- Supply vessels in the respective agreements from USD 3,000 to EUR 5,000.

The interim Agreements have also introduced an environment and research fee of EUR 2.25 per Gross Tonnage (GT) per purse seine vessel per year. There is also provision for the management of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in the waters of Seychelles and Mauritius. A new fishing access agreement between Seychelles and Mauritius has been finalised and signed and will be reflected in the 2022 FiTI reporting process.

➡ **Evaluation reports:** The EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement has been subject to regular evaluations and three such reports are published on the SFA website and were reported in the 2020 FiTI report ¹⁹. There were no new evaluation reports published in 2021. During this FiTI reporting process, MOFBE informed that government was undertaking an evaluation of the implementation of the Mauritius/Seychelles and EU/Seychelles fishing agreements, which will include looking at compliance with the conditions of the agreement.

¹⁹ 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?
Access agreements for foreign-flagged vessels to fish in Seychelles' waters			
European Union	Yes	Yes	Yes ²⁰
Mauritius	Yes	No	
Taiwan Deep-sea Tuna Longline Boat Owners and Exporters Association (TTA)	No	No	
Top Fortune International (TFI)	No	No	
Access agreements for Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish in third countries' waters			
Mayotte (EU)	Yes	Yes	Yes ²¹
Mauritius	Yes	No	

As part of this FiTI reporting process, the SFA published a summary of the key information for each of the foreign fishing agreements active in 2021 on its website²². This information was previously published in the FiTI Reports only.

²⁰ 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>

²¹ 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*.

²² <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/division/monitoring-control-and-surveillance/foreign-fishing-agreement-and-illegal-fishing?task=download.send&id=207&catid=64&m=0>

[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.

- ➔ **National 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 2021.

Recommendations

We, the National MSG, make the following recommendations to improve transparency regarding foreign fishing access agreements in Seychelles:

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2021-3_1	<i>The MOFBE should publish key information in a summarised form on all active fishing agreements.</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>March 2023</i>
2021-3_2	<i>The MOFBE should institute and publish a plan to evaluate each fishing access agreement at least once every three years.</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>June 2024</i>
2021-3_3	<i>The MOFBE should ensure that by December 2023, all industrial vessels fishing in Seychelles' waters including Seychelles- flagged vessels, do so subject to an agreement.</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>December 2023</i>

1.4 The State of the Fisheries Resources

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
Seychelles must publish the most recent national reports on the state of fish stocks	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 noted with satisfaction, that copies of all stock assessment reports produced by SFA since 2017, are published on its website.

In 2021, SFA produced four stock assessment reports relating to as many stock assessment exercises: two of these related to species of importance in the artisanal fishery, an independent assessment of resources in the sea cucumber fishery and stocks of commercially exploited spiny lobsters. Two of these stock assessments, the demersal species (artisanal trap and line fishery) and the independent assessment of resources in the sea cucumber fishery, featured on SFA's 2021 stock assessment work programme. They also formed part of SFA's stock assessment programme up to the year 2024, published on its website²³. All published stock assessment reports detail the methods used to assess the stocks in each case.

The stock status summary published in 2020²⁴ on the SFA website, and reported in the 2020 FITI Report, is still available and provides the status of fish species assessed in 2017 and 2019 by SFA as well as a summary of the stock status of species under the IOTC mandate in 2020²⁵. The stock status summary published on SFA website contains hyperlinks to individual stock assessment reports for all but one of the species concerned²⁶. For species under the IOTC mandate, the stock status presented in that summary, relates to 2020 but the hyperlinks lead to the relevant 2021 stock assessment reports on the IOTC website, which means that this stock

²³ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/fisheries/state-of-the-fisheries-resources/state-of-the-fisheries-resources-2?task=download.send&id=161&catid=58&m=0>

²⁴ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report?task=download.send&id=153&catid=53&m=0>

²⁵ <https://www.iotc.org/node/3379>

²⁶ This relates to the *Siganus spp.* for which stock assessment work was performed using the weight of evidence approach but for which a final report was not produced.

report is not updated. On the other hand, in 2021, the IOTC provided a stock information update for most species under its management.

In its 2021 Quarter 1 Research Newsletter²⁷ published on its website, SFA announced the launching of the Spanner Crab (*Ranina ranina* or krab ziraf in its local name) Project which aims to collect size and sex composition of the spanner crab catch and Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) information. The results will contribute to the formulation of a management plan to ensure sustainable management of the spanner crab fishery. A co-management approach is being used for the exercise. To note, the spanner crab has been exploited commercially since 1986 and stocks were last assessed in 1995.

In 2021, stock assessment information was available for 48 species and species groups compared to 23 in 2020. A graphical overview of this is provided in the summary section of this 2021 FITI Report. In short, of the 48 species for which stock status updates were available in 2021, 10 were considered *overfished*, of which 9 were also classified as *subject to overfishing* and 1 had *uncertain* fishing mortality status. Two species were classified as *subject to overfishing* but *not overfished*. 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 2 other species were *not subject to overfishing*. Information on the sea cucumber stocks indicate that of the 12 species studied, the two species of importance in the fishery 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*.

To facilitate public understanding, the National MSG provides details on the status of species whose stocks were updated via new assessments conducted in 2021:

- ➡ **Artisanal fisheries:** Two stock assessment reports for artisanal fisheries were produced in 2021. The Artisanal Fisheries Stock Assessment²⁸ 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 2020. The results of this stock assessment exercise were inconclusive resulting from small sample sizes. This was because of a reduction in sampling activities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent country-wide lock down in 2020. This report also presents a summary of stock assessment exercises conducted by SFA from 2016 to 2020 using the Weight of Evidence (WoE) method for the demersal handline, semi-pelagic handline, trap, semi-industrial longline, lobster and sea cucumber fisheries. It incorporates stock assessments results contained in the stock status summary published in 2020 and provides information on trends in the state of the stocks but stops short of providing the reasons for the changes. To note, stock status information relating to *Euthynnus affinis* (Kawakawa), *Thunnus albacares* (yellowfin tuna), *Thunnus obesus* (bigeye tuna) and *Xiphias gladius* (swordfish) are from IOTC.

²⁷ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report?task=download.send&id=116&catid=15&m=0>

²⁸ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/43-stock-assessment-reports/163-2021-artisanal-fisheries-stock-assessment>

The *Assessing Key stocks of the Seychelles artisanal trap and line fishery*²⁹ report presents the stock status of key species in the Seychelles artisanal fisheries based on catch data over the 2000 to 2019 period. The stock status of 8 single species or family groups (*Sphyraenidae*, *Sarda orientalis* and other bonito species, *Lutjanus sebae*, *Carangidae spp.*, *Siganidae spp.*, *Aprion virescens*, *aphareus rutilans* & other jobfish, *Epinephelus chlorostigma*, *L. bphar* & *L. gibbus*,) and 3 mixed species group (*Lethrinidae spp.*, mixed reef fish (other trap fish), *Serranidae spp.*, groupers) is presented. The report suggests that most artisanal fish stocks are at or above sustainable limits; *Siganidae* have not been overfished over the 2000-2019 period, but the mixed reef species (other trap fish) are now experiencing overfishing. The report further states that most pelagic and demersal species were overfished between 2005 and 2015, but key stocks are now at their maximum sustainable yield. The report recommends the development of management plans for 4 key artisanal species: *Carangidae*, *L. sebae*, jobfish caught with handlines and *Siganidae* caught with traps.

- **Sea Cucumber:** An independent assessment of the sea cucumber fishery was carried out during the 2021/22 sea cucumber season and the report³⁰ published on the SFA website during this FITI reporting process. The results of the 2004 stock assessment were used as a baseline as it was the last time a full-scale stock survey for the fishery was carried out. The results indicate that stocks of the white teatfish are heavily depleted and in 2021, the population was at approximately 10% of its 2004 stock level. Stocks of Pentard (flower teatfish) show signs of over-exploitation and the population has reduced by 50% since 2004 but is still stable. The population of prickly redfish had increased by approximately 52% compared to the 2004 level and stock of black teatfish is in a depleted state and has declined by approximately 84% compared to the 2004 population but there are indications that stocks maybe recovering. For the other species, the overall estimated population in 2021/22 of 77.7 million as 30% lower than the estimate in 2004 of 115.4 million and these species have not been exploited since 2017. The report made 10 recommendations, 5 of which relate to stock management of specific sea cucumber specie or groups of species and 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. The other 5 recommendations relate to various measures to be considered to improve sustainability of the fishery.

²⁹ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/43-stock-assessment-reports/183-assessing-key-fish-stocks-of-seychelles-artisanal-trap-and-line-fishery>

³⁰ <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>

☞ **Lobster:** A summary report of the 2020/2021 lobster fishing season is published on the SFA website ³¹. The 2021 report based on the fishery independent Participatory Lobster Monitoring Programme (PLMP) recorded an overall decrease in Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) and a decrease in relative abundance and biomass of legal sized lobsters (more than 7.5 cm carapace length). Of note is that undersized lobsters sampled numbered slightly more compared to legal sized lobsters. The decline in all indicators was attributed to the lobster fishery being opened for 2 consecutive fishing seasons coupled with suspected illegal fishing. The 2021 spiny lobster stock status report made the following key recommendations: (i) that the fishery remains closed for the 2021-2022 season to allow stocks to recover, (ii) that the annual PLMP survey is conducted in 2022 to evaluate and monitor the lobster stock status, (iii) monitoring, control and surveillance is strengthened to discourage illegal fishing activities during the closed fishing season and (iv) an education and awareness campaign is launched to educate the public on regulations of this fishery.

☞ **Tuna and tuna-like species:** Stock assessment of tuna and tuna-like species targeted by the industrial longline and purse seine fishery are undertaken by the IOTC. Seychelles contributes by providing sampling data collected during landings and transshipments. The results of the 2021 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 2020. The 2021 stock determination indicates a very high probability that the stock of Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) is *overfished* and is *subject to overfishing*, while the stock of Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) and Big eye (*Thunnus obesus*) are *not overfished* but *subject to overfishing*, and the stock of Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) is neither *overfished* nor *subject to overfishing*.

For Billfish, the IOTC 2021 stock status determination, indicated that stocks of Blue Marlin (*Makaira nigricans*) and Striped Marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*) were *overfished* and *subject to overfishing*. In 2021, the stock status of the Black Marlin (*Makaira indica*) could not be assessed whilst Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) stocks were classified as *not overfished* and *not subject to overfishing*, while the biomass and fishing mortality of the Indo-Pacific sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*) could not be assessed. The stock assessment report highlighted the continued increase in catches for this species as a cause for concern.

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

³¹ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report?task=download.send&id=126&catid=8&m=0>

(*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*.

[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.

Recommendations

We, the National MSG, make the following recommendations to improve transparency in the state of fisheries resources in Seychelles :

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2021-4_1	<i>SFA should update the fish stock status summary published on its website annually and latest at the same time it sends its report to the IOTC.</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>June 2023</i>

1.5 Large-Scale Fisheries

1.5.1 Vessel Registry

Transparency requirement	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
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:	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
i. The name of the vessel	Yes	Yes	Yes
ii. The legal owner of the vessel, including their address and nationality	Yes	Yes	Yes
iii. The registered port of the vessel	Yes	Yes	Yes
iv. The flag State of the vessel	Yes	Yes	Yes
v. The vessel's unique identification number(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
vi. The type of vessel, according to fishing gear or fishing method, following the definition set in the country's legislation	Yes	Yes	Yes
vii. The physical characteristics of the vessel, e.g. length, beam, tonnage, engine power	Yes	Yes	No
viii. The name of the vessel's agent, if applicable	Yes	Yes	Yes
ix. The access agreement under which the vessel is granted authorisation to fish, if applicable	Yes	Yes	Yes
x. The type of fishing authorisation held by the vessel	Yes	Yes	Yes
xi. 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	Yes	Yes	Unknown
xii. The duration of the fishing authorisation, indicating start and end date	Yes	Yes	Yes
xiii. The rights holder for whom the vessel is fishing, if applicable, including the name and nationality of the rights holder	Yes	Yes	Unknown
xiv. 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)	Yes	Yes	Unknown

The National MSG took note that there are multiple sources of information on industrial fishing vessels operating in Seychelles waters in 2021. The 2021 industrial vessel registry³² in Excel format published for the first time on SFA's website during the last period FITI report process is by the 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 2021 are the 2021 Fisheries Statistical Report³³ and the 2021 SFA Annual Report³⁴. A discrepancy is noted between the number of industrial longliners as recorded in the 2021 Vessel Registry (156) and in the 2021 Fisheries Statistical Report (188). SFA explained that the Vessel Registry captures vessels who paid and obtained their licence in 2021. This means that vessels which paid their licences in 2020, which were still valid for the most part of 2021, would not be captured on the registry unless they renewed their licence in 2021. The Fisheries Statistical Report, on the other hand, captures all licensed large-scale vessels fishing in 2021 and which submitted logbooks. Therefore, the latter provides a better representation of active, licenced large-scale vessels, that fished in Seychelles waters in a particular year. The MOFBE indicated that as from 2023, all licences will be issued for one year starting 1st January in order to minimise misinterpretation of licence information.

Table 5.1: Large scale vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters in 2021

Flag State	Large scale vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters in 2021			
	Longline	Purse seiner	Supply vessel	Grand Total
Taiwan (POC)	93	0	0	93
Seychelles	53	13	4	70
China	6	0	0	6
Spain	2	16	5	23
France	0	11	2	13
Mauritius	0	3	1	4
Korea	0	2	1	3
Italy	0	1	0	1
Portugal	1	0	0	1
Oman	1	0	0	1
Grand Total	156	46	13	215

³² <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/large-scale-fisheries-licence/summary/59-large-scale-fisheries-licence/188-large-scale-fishing-licenses-issued-in-2021>

³³ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/6-sfa-fisheries-bulletin/198-fisheries-statistical-report-year-2021>

³⁴ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/4-annual-reports/209-sfa-annual-report-2021>

Following analysis of the 2021 industrial vessel registry, the National MSG made the following additional observations:

The number of industrial fishing vessels increased from 180 in 2020 to 215 in 2021 mainly as a result of an increase in the number of Taiwan (POC) flagged, industrial longliners from 66 in 2020 to 93 in 2021.

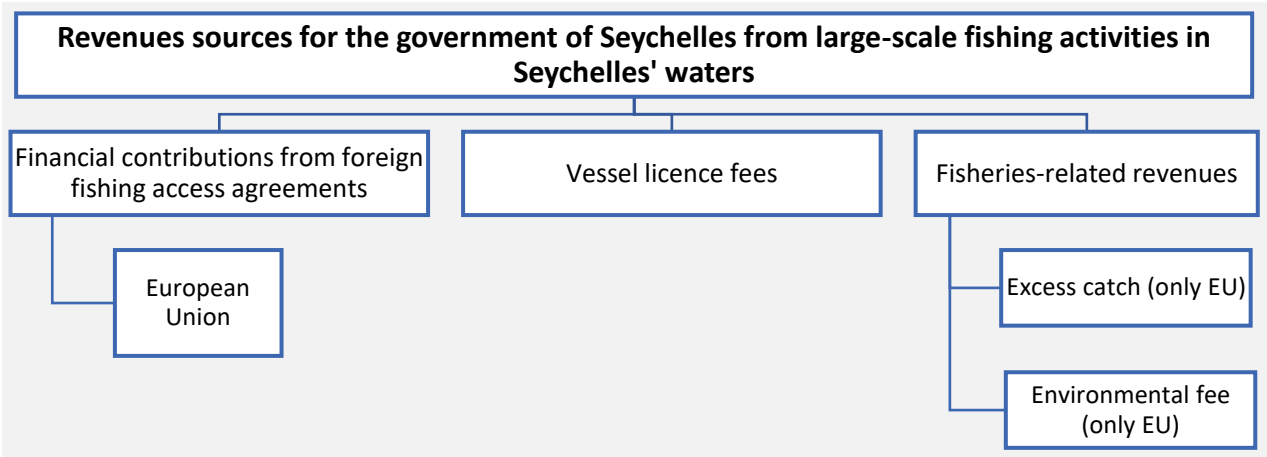
- i. *The legal owner of the vessel and their address and nationality:* Information on legal owners and their addresses is available for all vessels. The majority of legal owners have a Seychelles business address, which suggest that the ownership structures are possibly for tax efficiency purposes and do not necessarily reflect the true nationality of the beneficial owners. Information on the nationality of legal owners is not included in the registry. It is therefore not possible to compare the licensed large-scale vessels according to their flag State and their legal ownership. The issue of beneficial ownership information is addressed in section 1.12
- ii. *Physical characteristics:* Length and gross tonnage is available for all vessels but information on vessel width, engine type and power is incomplete. Details of the physical characteristics of the vessels were available as follows:
 - Vessel length: 215
 - Vessel width: 201
 - Gross tonnage: 215
 - Engine (type) and power: (210) 208
- iii. *Fishing agents:* The Fisheries Act requires all foreign owned vessels to have a local agent. All 215 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. All 213 foreign-owned licenced vessels, had record of their foreign agent (though this is not a requirement of the FITI Standard).
- iv. *Quantity and names of target species, permissible by-catch and discards:* All licenced vessels were authorised to target tuna and tuna-like species. For the year 2021, the Seychelles-flagged purse seiners were initially allocated 2,400 Mt each with 2,000 Mt set aside for new investors. Given that no new investors came forward in 2021, the 2000 Mt was distributed equally to all vessels that had achieved a 40% consumption of their original allocation. Ten vessels qualified and were allocated an additional 194 Mt of yellow fin, giving them each a total of 2,594 Mt. A global quota of 3,000 Mt was equally split between the fleet of Seychelles-flagged industrial longliners, averaging to approximately 50 Mt each.

- v. *Country and/or regions of the High Seas where fishing is authorised:* This information is relevant only for Seychelles-flagged vessels. In 2021, 15 Seychelles-flagged large-scale vessels were granted authorisation to fish on the High Seas and in other countries' EEZs.

1.5.2 Payments for fishing

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

The illustration of the various direct revenue sources to Government from large scale fishing vessels, presented in the 2020 FiTI report, is presented below and in the summary of this report.



SFA publishes online the licence payments made by large-scale fishing vessel operators allowing them to fish in Seychelles' waters in calendar year 2021 as part of the large-scale vessel registry³⁵.

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

³⁵ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/large-scale-fisheries-licence/summary/59-large-scale-fisheries-licence/162-industrial>

- 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.
- 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 was detailed in the 2020 FiTI Report and this did not change in 2021. 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:** The National MSG was able to verify all licence payments made for the year 2021. Details are included together with the large-scale vessel registry.

As stated in the 2020 FiTI 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 – only aggregated data is transferred to SFA.³⁶

³⁶ Transshipment and landing fees are collected at a rate of USD 4 per tonne by the Seychelles Port Authority.

1.5.3 Recorded catch data

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

In the 2020 FiTI Report, the attributes of published, annual retained catch data for all large-scale fishing vessels, was detailed. The data meets the FiTI Standard for both the purse seine fishery and industrial longline fishery and is published in the 2021 Fisheries Bulletin.

- ➔ **Catches of Seychelles-flagged vessels:** Data on retained catches of active Seychelles-flagged, large-scale fishing vessels for 2021 is available online, published in the 2021 Fisheries Statistical Report.³⁷ The available catch data is summarised below, disaggregated by species and geographical areas.³⁸

Catch data from all Seychelles-flagged purse seiners and longliners is provided for the entire calendar year 2021 based on 100% logbook return and is *perceived as complete*. This is significant as it is the first time since the publication of the first Seychelles FiTI report in 2020, that catch data for the longline fishery has been complete.

- Catch data for Seychelles flagged vessels published in the 2020 FiTI Report was incomplete as it was based on 82% logbook returns for Semester 1 (January to June 2020). Complete logbook data for Seychelles-flagged industrial longliners for 2020 was available and published in the 2021 Fisheries Statistical Report. Catch data for 2020 has been updated and is presented in appendix C. Logbook return from the industrial longline fishery reached 100% in 2021, for the second consecutive year.

³⁷ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/6-sfa-fisheries-bulletin/198-fisheries-statistical-report-year-2021>

³⁸ Note that figures have been rounded to the nearest Mt.

Table 5.2: Catch data for Seychelles-flagged industrial fishing vessels in 2021

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	3,285	1375.4	3,460	388.7	22,662	1,300	29,407	3,064
Skipjack	6,832		12,608		61,951		81,391	0
Bigeye	1,036	2432.6	1,281	642.7	8,913	2,751	11,230	5,826
Albacore	5		0		24		29	0
Swordfish		358		71		671	0	1,100
Marlin		152		17		239	0	408
Shark		164.6		42		371.8	0	578
Others	249	190	23	102.9	558	3256.8	830	3,550
Total	11,407	4,673	17,372	1,264	94,108	8,589	122,885	14,526

- ➔ **Catches of foreign-flagged vessels:** Data on retained catches from active foreign-flagged, large-scale fishing vessels for 2021 is available online, published in the 2021 Fisheries Statistical Report.
- **Purse seiner fishery:** The published catch information from all foreign-flagged purse seiner vessels *is perceived as complete*. Catches made in 2021 are summarised below (in Mt), disaggregated by species, flag State and geographical area³⁹. As stated above, the published catch data attributes meet the FiTI standard.

³⁹ Differences between total catch and column sums where these arise are due to rounding off.

Table 5.3: Catches of foreign-flagged industrial purse seine fishing vessels in 2021 (Mt)

Species	Catches in Seychelles' EEZ	Catches in other EEZs & High Seas, <i>calculated values</i>	Total Western Indian Ocean catches
Spanish-flagged vessels			
Yellowfin	4,373	40,686	45,059
Skipjack	5,007	88,584	93,591
Bigeye	1,141	15,458	16,599
Albacore	13	57	57
Others	88	1,849	1,937
Spanish catch (Mt)	10,622	146,621	157,243
French-flagged vessels			
Yellowfin	4,886	22,378	27,264
Skipjack	8,866	36,860	45,726
Bigeye	635	4,547	5,182
Albacore	15	46	61
Others	164	329	493
French catch (Mt)	14,566	64,160	78,726
Other-flagged vessels			
Yellowfin	2,552	15,289	17,841
Skipjack	3,445	28,558	32,003
Bigeye	363	3,705	4,068
Albacore	8	9	17
Others	39	99	138
Others catch (Mt)	6,407	47,660	54,067
Total catch (Mt)	31,595	258,441	290,036

- **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 2021 are summarised below (in Mt) disaggregated by species and geographical area:

Table 5.4: Catches of foreign-flagged, industrial longline fishing vessels in 2021 (Mt)

	Catches made in Seychelles' EEZ	Catches made in other EEZs & on the High Seas	Total Western Indian Ocean catches
Taiwan (POC)			
Yellowfin	2922.3	274.0	3196.3
Bigeeye	3818.3	399.1	4217.4
Swordfish	503.5	61.1	564.6
Marlin	241.0	37.0	278.0
Sharks	667.4	70.7	738.1
Others	402.0	51.2	453.2
Taiwan catch (POC)	8,555	893	9,448
Others			
Yellowfin	529.3	5.9	535.2
Bigeeye	437.1	7.7	444.8
Swordfish	119.0	2.6	121.6
Marlin	20.5	0.4	20.9
Sharks	163.2	1.2	164.4
Others	78.5	0.7	79.2
Others catch	1347.6	18.5	1366.1
Total catch	9902.1	911.6	10813.6

- **Landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports:** Data on landings and transshipments in national ports from large-scale fisheries for 2021 was available online, published in the 2021 Fisheries Statistical Report.
 - **Purse seine fishery:** Total landings and transshipments in Port Victoria by purse seine vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters in 2021 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 2021 (Mt)

Flag State	Landings	Transshipments	Total
Seychelles	15,993	97,070	113,063
Spain	10,275	147,047	157,322
France	23,853	44,285	68,138
Others (Italy, Mauritius, Korea)	12,169	37,298	49,467
Total	62,290	325,700	387,990

The published landing data for 2021 is *perceived as complete*. As previously noted in the 2019 and 2020 FiTI Reports and reiterated here once again, the published landing and transshipment data cannot be considered to be 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. The National MSG was informed that this transparency requirement poses a practical challenge, as catches made in different locations are stored in the same wells and can therefore not be physically separated.

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

- **Industrial longline fishery:** No data on landings and transshipments made in Seychelles' ports for 2021 have been published due to technical software issues as detailed in the 2020 FiTI Report.

Landing and transshipment data for all industrial longliners licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters is recorded 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.

- ➡ **Landings and transshipments in foreign ports:** Data on landings and transshipments in foreign ports by the large-scale sector for 2021 is partially available online, as published in the 2021 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 2021 data indicates that a total of 28,032 Mt of fish caught by purse seiners licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters, were landed or transhipped in foreign ports in 2021. This equates to 7% of the catch that is made by purse seine vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters.

Five foreign ports were used in 2021 for landings and transshipments: Diego Suarez (Madagascar), Port Louis (Mauritius), Mombasa (Kenya) and Others which include Abidjan (Ivory Coast) and Besan (South Korea), 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 compared to national ports.

- **Industrial longline fishery:** Such data for 2021 has not been published by Seychelles' authorities, even though the majority of data is being collated by SFA. SFA indicates that their level of confidence in the data is low as they do not have a system in place to assess its accuracy.

- ➔ **Discards:** Data on fish discards has been published in the Semester 2 2021 Fisheries Statistical Report for both the purse seine and the longline fisheries. ..
 - **Purse seine fishery:** Published discard data shows that, in 2021, a total of 1,950 Mt of discards were unloaded in Port Victoria and 108 Mt were unloaded in Port Louis, Mauritius, the only foreign port where discards were recorded.

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), others (rays, mantas, oil fish, etc) and incidences of interactions with sea birds and turtles.

The National MSG also took note that by the end of 2021, the Seychelles' authorities had not progressed work to verify the accuracy of discard information. [SFA's efforts to kick start the process is documented in the 2020 FiTI Report but the outcome of this exercise is unknown.](#)

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 2021 was submitted in November 2022⁴⁰. Links to recent IOTC reports are published on the SFA website⁴¹.

Fishing effort: Data on fishing effort of Seychelles-flagged and foreign-flagged large-scale vessels for 2021 was published online, through the 2021 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.

⁴⁰ <https://iotc.org/documents/SC/25/NR22E>

⁴¹ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/international-bodies>

- **Purse seine fishery:** Data on fishing effort is published as *days fished*. Published data for 2021 indicates that purse seine vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters spent a total of 9,671 days fishing in the Western Indian Ocean, of which 1,601 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 2020 and 2021, 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).

Table 5.6: Fishing effort for purse seine vessels licensed to fish in Seychelles' waters in 2020 and 2021 (*days fished*).

	2021			2020		
	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	476	2,551	3,027	960	2,261	3,221
Spain	415	2,813	3,228	825	3,123	3,948
France	451	1,554	2,005	797	1,159	1,956
Others	259	1,152	1,411	545	878	1,423
Total	1,601	8,070	9,671	3,127	7,421	10,548

- **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 66.6 million hooks in the Western Indian Ocean during 2021, of which 38.6 million were within Seychelles' EEZ.

The following table summarises fishing effort of industrial longline vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters for 2020 and 2021, disaggregated by flag State and geographical area where fishing took place.

Table 5.7: Fishing effort for longline fishery vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters in 2020 and 2021 (*no. of hooks set*).

	2021			2020		
	Fishing effort (hooks set) in ...			Fishing effort (hooks set) in ...		
	Seychelles' EEZ	other EEZ & on the High Seas (<i>calculated</i>)	Western Indian Ocean region	Seychelles' EEZ	other EEZ & on the High Seas (<i>calculated</i>)	Western Indian Ocean region
Seychelles	14,251,774	25,606,875	39,858,649	10,203,461	10,203,461	40,551,445
Taiwan (POC)	17,092,285	6,363,528	23,455,813	14,202,964	1,067,262	15,270,226
Others	3,240,996	55,973	3,296,969	1,491,252	62,600	1,553,852
Total	34,585,055	32,026,376	66,611,431	25,897,677	11,333,323	57,375,523

- ➔ **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 2021. Economic contributions of the industrial fisheries are presented in the 2021 SFA Annual Report which indicates that in 2021 industrial fisheries contributed SCR 2.5 billion to the local economy (representing 11.4% 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 2021 is published by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) through the Quarterly Merchandise Trade Bulletin Q4 2021 and in the Quarterly National Accounts Bulletin Q4, 2021⁴².
- ➔ The National MSG is of the view that information on the economic contribution of the large scale fisheries sector to Seychelles' economy is 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 MOFBE is collaborating with the National Statistics Bureau to prepare fisheries satellite accounts, which would provide a more comprehensive coverage of fisheries economic contribution. At the finalisation of this report, no date was given as to when this information will be available. The National MSG is of the view that the publishing of fisheries satellite

⁴² <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/economic-statistics/quarterly-national-accounts/2021>

accounts will 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.

1.6 Small-Scale Fisheries

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
Seychelles must publish the following information on its small-scale fisheries sector (as set out in the national legislation):			
i. Total number of small-scale fishing vessels, disaggregated according to categories of fishing or gear types.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
ii. Total number of fishing licences issued to small-scale fishing vessels, disaggregated according to categories of fishing authorisations.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
iii. 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.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
iv. 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.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
v. Quantity of catches, disaggregated according to species, categories of fishing authorisations and gear types.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
vi. Total volumes of discards, disaggregated according to species, categories of fishing authorisations and gear types.	No		
Seychelles must publish the most recent studies and reports on quantities and species of fish discarded by the small-scale fisheries sector, if available.	No		
Seychelles must publish evaluations or audits of the economic, social and food security contribution of the small-scale fisheries sector, if available.	Yes	Yes (online)	Yes

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


- **Small-scale fishing vessels:** This information is published in the 2021 Fisheries Statistical Report⁴³ where information is provided on the mean number of active vessels by sub-sector (artisanal and semi-industrial fishery) and by vessel type. Table 6.1 summarises the average number of artisanal fishing vessels active in 2020 and 2021 by vessel type. A breakdown according to gear types is not provided, as many boats in the small-scale fisheries are multi-gearred.

This information cannot be seen as complete, due to two major gaps:

- The information on the artisanal fishery (other than semi-industrial long-liners targeting pelagic species) relates to Semester 1 of 2021 only as the SFA was still sorting issues related to the upgrade of the data processing and reporting system for this fishery.
- Fishermen on foot are known to be operating in the small scale fisheries sector, however the report lists a nil return.

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

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

	2021	2020
Outboard	201	208
Whaler	62	61
Schooner	56	51
Semi-industrial long-liner (pelagic longline fishing)	35	35
Others	6	6
Semi-industrial longliner (artisanal fishing)	3	11
Pirogue	1	1
Inboard	0	0
Fisher on foot	0	0
Total	364	373

* Information is incomplete and relates to semester 1 2021 only.

⁴³ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/6-sfa-fisheries-bulletin/198-fisheries-statistical-report-year-2021>

- **Small scale fishing vessel licences:** SFA has published a downloadable Excel document on its website displaying lists of all small-scale fishing vessel licences and fishing activity licences issued in 2021⁴⁴ and this information is summarised in the table below for 2020 and 2021.

Table 6.2: Small scale fishing vessel licences and fishing activity licences issued in 2020 and 2021

Type of fishing licence	2021	2020
Artisanal	550	466
Net	53	40
Lobster	16	16
Semi-industrial longline fishing licence	48	30
Semi-industrial sea cucumber fishing licence	25	25
Total	692	577

- The licences are disaggregated according to fishery or fishing activity and include five lists as follows: artisanal fishery, net fishing activity licences, lobster fishery, semi-industrial longline fishery, lobster fishery and semi-industrial sea cucumber fishery. The attributes for each list are detailed in the 2020 FiTI Report.:
 - The published lists of vessels do not include 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 have no legal obligations to be registered).
- **Fishers engaged in the small-scale fishing sector:** Such information for 2021 has been collated by SFA and a summary is published online⁴⁵ and is reproduced in the table below for the three last years. The summary data shows that the number of registered 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. 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. SFA explained that fishers register in order to access concessions and only full-time fishers qualify for these. Consequently, fishers will be reluctant to admit to working part-time, if it means they will

⁴⁴ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/small-scale-fisheries-licences/summary/54-small-scale-fisheries-licences/187-small-scale-fisheries-licences-issued-in-2021>

⁴⁵ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/small-scale-fisheries-licences?task=download.send&id=151&catid=54&m=0>

lose these benefits. Such information is best obtained through occasional surveys, as was done in the *Employment Study and Capacity Needs Assessment*⁴⁶ presented in chapter 7.

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

	Male			Female		
	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019
Boat owner	52	86	21	11	28	10
Boat owner fisher	169	288	85	1	0	0
Fisher	369	584	124	4	4	2
Divers	104	115	32	0	0	0
Total	694	1,073	262	16	32	12


- **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 were published for the first time on the SFA website during this FiTI reporting process⁴⁷. Previously, this information was only published as part of the FiTI Reports. The total licence payment made for small-scale fisheries licences in 2021 amounted to SCR 526,900. The National MSG cross-checked payments information and made the following observations:
 - There were three artisanal fisheries licences which the National MSG were not able to link to a payment made in 2021. This suggests that there are vessels for which fishing licences were paid in 2021 which do not feature on the list of licences published by SFA.
- **Catches by the small-scale fishing sector:** This information is published in the 2021 SFA Annual Report and the 2021 Fisheries Statistical Report.
 - For the *artisanal fishery*, the 2021 data is incomplete as it relates to semester 1 only as SFA grapples with issues related to upgrading of the data processing and reporting system for this fishery. The catch data presented in the 2020 FiTI Report

⁴⁶ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report?task=download.send&id=172&catid=51&m=0>

⁴⁷ <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>

has been updated and presented in Appendix C. Catch data presented is disaggregated by species groups. Available catch information is also disaggregated by vessel type, month, gear type but not by individual species.

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

	<u>2021</u>	<u>% catch</u>
Carangues	558.92	24%
Job	248.54	11%
Maquereau Doux	212.08	9%
Bourgeois	332.38	14%
Capitaine	149.21	6%
Bonite	76.32	3%
Red Snapper	124.7	5%
Other Vielle	159.81	7%
Other Trap Fish	97	4%
Cordonnier	132.74	6%
Becune	120.15	5%
Other Pelagics	11.12	0%
Maconde	39.79	2%
Others	10.35	0%
Sharks & Rays	7.16	0%
Octopus	37.55	2%
Other Maquereau	2.77	0%
Crab	25.46	1%
Total	2346.05	100%

- For the *semi-industrial longline fishery*, the data is available in the 2021 SFA Fisheries Statistical Report and 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 semi-industrial longline fishery in 2020 and 2021 (Mt)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Yellowfin	1,572	1,277
Swordfish	99	135
Bigeye	50	55
Marlin	14	7
Others	7	7

Sailfish	17	3
Sharks	1	0
Total	1,760	1,485

Data for the lobster and sea cucumber fisheries is reported in the 2021 Fisheries Statistical Report and also in annual reports for the individual fishery. This is the first time that catch data from these two fisheries has been published as part of SFA's annual statistics and it implements [recommendation 2020_6_20](#) of the 2020 FiTI Report which requested SFA to publish catch data for the sea cucumber and lobster fishery as part of its Fisheries Statistical Report.

- ➔ **Lobster:** Catch data for the 2021/22 lobster fishing season is published online in the comprehensive annual lobster report⁴⁸. 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.

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>
Pronghorn Spiny Lobster	1.5	4.849	4.534
Long-legged Spiny Lobster	0.51	1.031	0.806
Painted Spiny Lobster	0.0374	0.253	0.078
Ornate Spiny Lobster	0	0.008	0.002
Total catch	2.0474	6.141	5.42

- ➔ **Sea cucumber:** Catch data for the 2020/21 and 2019/20 sea cucumber fishing seasons is presented in the 2021 Fisheries Statistical Report and summarised below. In the 2020/21 season, 334,904 pieces of sea cucumber were harvested representing a 15% decrease compared to the 2019/20 harvest. In terms of species composition, the 2021 harvest was

⁴⁸ <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>

made up of 73% Flower Teatfish, 18% White Teatfish and 11% Prickly Red. All species recorded a decline in numbers harvested with the White Teatfish recording the highest percentage decline at 17%. In terms of fishing effort, there were 155 trips in the 2020/21 fishing season, 2 less than in the 2019/20 fishing season..

Table 6.8: Sea cucumber catch by species in 2020 and 2021 (pieces)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Flower teatfish	243,169	268,047
White teatfish	53,241	66,491
Prickly red	38,494	37,061
Total catch	334,904	371,599

- **Discards by the small-scale fishing sector:** It was stated in the 2020 FiTI Report that 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 because it is insignificant and fish not used for human consumption are usually used as bait or as food for domestic animals. This remained unchanged in 2021.
- **Economic, social and food security contribution:** In 2021, two studies were published on the SFA website on the contribution of the small-scale fisheries sector to the economy. The “*Baseline Socioeconomic Study of Semi-industrial longline fleet*”⁴⁹ implemented in 2019 assessed the economic situation of the semi-industrial longline vessels. It concluded that profitability levels of vessels in the semi-industrial longline fishery were determined by volume of landings and to some extent level of effort, while high costs degrade the profitability of vessels if they remain unchecked. It was noted that profitability can be enhanced by improving physical productivity of fishing vessels.

The second study, published by SFA in 2021, is the *Economic Impact of the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry*⁵⁰ and is based on information from the 2019/2020 sea cucumber season. The study concluded that the sea cucumber fishery and industry contributed significantly to the economy and social development. In 2020, landings

⁴⁹ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/171-baseline-socio-economic-study-of-semi-industrial-longline-fleet>

⁵⁰ <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>

revenue was estimated to be SCR 52 million, fees collected amounted to SCR 1.8 million and the industry generated a value-added impact of SCR 43.5 million with the fishing component and processing/exporting components contributing SCR31.3 million and SCR 12.3 million respectively. On the social side, it estimated that the fishery and industry supported approximately 185 jobs generating an income of approximately SCR 29.7 million with the fishing component generating the most jobs (150) and income earnings (SCR 24 million). An estimated 486 individuals were impacted by the industry (118 locals for 143 households).

As noted in previous FiTI Reports, the GDP contributions of the fisheries sector for the year 2021 (though not disaggregated by sub-sector) is published by the government of Seychelles through the Q4 2021 Quarterly National Accounts Statistics produced by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and reported in the 2021 SFA Annual Report⁵¹.

[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.

Recommendations

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

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2021-6_1	<i>SFA should capture information on gender during annual registration and licence renewal of fisherman.</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>June 2023</i>
2021-6_2	<i>In addition to licence information, SFA should publish licence payment information for all sub-sectors in the small-scale fisheries sector</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>June 2023</i>
2021-6_3	<i>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</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>December 2023</i>

⁵¹ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/4-annual-reports/209-sfa-annual-report-2021>

	<p><i>species and volumes of fish discarded in the small-scale sector in the annual Fisheries Statistical Report, as it is done for catch and discard information for the other fisheries.</i></p>		
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1.7 Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade

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


- **Total quantity of fish and fish products produced:** The total quantity of fish and fish products produced for the year 2021 is published as part of the Production Indicator Q4 2021 Statistical Bulletin⁵² published by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The production figure provided (54,691 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. It is further noted that the information is not disaggregated by individual species as multiple species can be used to make the same product. In the the 2021 SFA Annual Report⁵³, the 2021 fish and fish products information is more complete and the figure is 60,738 Mt and fish catch is disaggregated by sector (artisanal, semi-industrial, sea cucumber) and additional fish products such as fish meal and fish oil are also included in the production figures. In addition, figures are presented

⁵² <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/economic-statistics/production-indicators/2021>

⁵³ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/4-annual-reports/209-sfa-annual-report-2021>

for the last four years. The catch data is also incomplete in the 2021 SFA Annual Report because of issues with compiling catch data from artisanal fisheries.

Table 7.1: Production of fish and fish products (Mt) in 2020 and 2021

	2021	2020
Artisanal catch	2346 *	3,460.0
Semi-industrial catch	1758	1484
Canned tuna	49937	52043
Smoked Fish	10	19
Fish meal	8005	9003
Fish oil	971	881
Sea cucumber	56.000	58.0
Others (Sharks & rays)	1	1074
Total domestic production	63084	68023

Source: NBS, Production Statistics Q1-2022 & SFA

* Data for 2021 relates to semester 1 only.

- ➔ **Imports of fish and fish products:** The total amount of imports of fish and fish products for 2021 is published as part of the Merchandise Trade 2021 Q4 Statistical Bulletin of the NBS.⁵⁴ 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 2021 stood at SCR 2,230,807,000. Information on the total imported weight and value is published in the 2021 SFA Annual Report and in 2021, a total of 74,021 Mt. of fish and fish products, representing SCR 2.267 billion in value, was imported and the bulk of this, 72,858 Mt or 98%, was frozen fish mostly destined for the tuna canning factory.

⁵⁴ <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/economic-statistics/merchandise-trade/2021>

Table 7.2: Volume and value of fish and fish products imported from 2019 to 2021

	2021		2020		2019	
	Volume (Mt)	Value (SCR'M)	Volume (Mt)	Value (SCR'M)	Volume (Mt)	Value (SCR'M)
Fish fresh or chilled	11	3	15	2.8	13	3
Fish frozen	72,858	2.134.2	73,991	2,111.3	58,321	1.271.7
Fish fillet & other fish meat	5	1	4	1.2	3	0,9
Fresh dried & salted/brine	43	7	32	4.8	32	5
Fish prepared and preserved	520	40				
Mollusc & Crustacean prepared or preserved	584	80.6	728	79.3	753	80
Total	74,021	2266.8	74768	2.199.3	59,122	1,360

- ➔ **Exports of fish and fish products:** The total quantity of exports of fish and fish products for 2021 is also published as part of the NBS' Merchandise Trade 2021 Q4 Statistical Bulletin. Published export data is disaggregated according to the Harmonized System Codes and falls into five categories, as shown below.⁵⁵ The NBS' published export data is not disaggregated to species level.⁵⁶

⁵⁵ 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).

⁵⁶ 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.

Table 7.3: Export value of fish and fish products, 2019-2021

	<u>Export country</u>	<u>Export value</u> <u>2021</u> <u>(SCR'000)</u>	<u>Export value</u> <u>2020</u> <u>(SCR '000)</u>	<u>Export value</u> <u>2019</u> <u>(SCR '000)</u>
Fresh and frozen fish	USA	50,308	49,776	17,714
	Spain	7,864	24,759	20,761
	UK	19,707	16,694	11,944
	Sri Lanka	7,190	16,399	27,566
	Reunion	549	11,603	7,298
	France	2,894	10,926	2,906
	Russian Federation	2,559	237	0
	<i>Others</i>	<i>207,250</i>	<i>143,651</i>	<i>135,818</i>
	Sub-total	298,319	274,045	224,007
Canned tuna	France	2,170,673	2,029,323	1,307,117
	UK	1,108,451	1,219,887	1,034,201
	Italy	746,717	555,385	475,773
	Germany	266,890	279,288	107,175
	<i>Others</i>	<i>383,455</i>	<i>298,257</i>	<i>173,273</i>
	Sub-total	4,676,186	4,382,140	3,097,539
Fish oil and fats	Iceland	5,299	12,742	12,131
	Switzerland	0	10,286	0
	Australia	0	3,899	61,807
	<i>Others</i>	<i>63,658</i>	<i>50,306</i>	<i>3,235</i>
	Sub-total	68,957	77,233	77,173
Fish meal	Australia	14,591	17,928	32,103
	Japan	1,318	11,274	13,461
	Sri Lanka	5,782	11,229	5,563
	<i>Others</i>	<i>129,244</i>	<i>133,396</i>	<i>63,799</i>
	Sub-total	150,935	173,827	114,926
Sea cucumber	Hong Kong	91,541	86,965	63,231
	Sub-total	91,541	86,965	63,231
Grand total		5,285,938	4,994,210	3,576,876

➔ **Employment in commercial fisheries sector:** There is as yet no accurate estimate of the number of people employed in Seychelles' commercial fisheries sectors. The National MSG was unable to determine whether such a total number is available in the government's systems at all. Employment figures for 2021 are published as part of NBS'

Q2 2022⁵⁷, Employment & Earnings Bulletin which gives an annual average employment in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector of 561 for 2021, which is a gross underestimation. Two studies, one related to employment and capacity assessment of the sector and the other on the economic impact of the sea cucumber fisheries, both published in the year 2021, provide some information on employment in the fisheries sector but the information is incomplete. In its 2019/2020 Annual Report⁵⁸, SFA estimated a total of 5,282 persons working in the fisheries and fisheries related sector at the end of 2020, which is an underestimation in light of the results of the *Employment Study and Capacity Needs Assessment for the Fisheries Sector in Seychelles* report⁵⁹ conducted in 2021 published on the SFA website. The capacity assessment study involved 5,282 stakeholders working in the fisheries sector across 17 sub-sectors, and states that the figure 5282 is a sample and not the census and there was no estimation of total employment in the commercial fisheries sector. The study concluded that the workforce in the fisheries sector is predominantly male (99%) reflecting traditionally assigned gender roles relating to various subsectors such as direct fishing, stevedoring, transportation, etc, although female representation in the non-fisher sub-sector is 36%. The study also established that the sector is predominantly composed of fulltime workers (85%) and 76% and 81% are full time workers in the fishers and non-fishers sector respectively. Over 90% of individuals in the sector are Seychellois.

The *Economic Impact of the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry*⁶⁰ report published in 2021 estimated that in 2019, the sea cucumber fishery directly supported 150 jobs of which 64% were Seychellois. At the processing level, the industry supported 35 jobs, out of which two thirds were locals, with 8 in managerial positions (75% male), 6 in administrative positions (83% female) and 8 in manual positions (100% male). The study noted that when workload is high, processing plants recruit casual day workers.

- ➔ **Employment in informal fisheries sectors:** No employment information for the informal fisheries sector is collated by the Seychelles' government. In the country's 2019 FITI Report, the National MSG stated its belief that Seychelles does not possess a substantial informal fisheries sector. As part of this FITI reporting process, the MOFBE confirmed that there exist an informal fisheries sector in Seychelles, especially in the sports and recreational fisheries which are presently not regulated. It indicated that a study is underway to assess the economic and social importance of this sector the results of which will guide future policies and regulation of this sector. This statement only

⁵⁷ <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/economic-statistics/employment-earnings/2022>

⁵⁸ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/4-annual-reports/177-sfa-annual-report-2019-2020>

⁵⁹ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report?task=download.send&id=172&catid=51&m=0>

⁶⁰ <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>

appears in this 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 MOFBE to clearly state whether an informal fisheries sector exists in Seychelles. This recommendation is instead currently only considered *partially implemented* as such a statement has been made but is only published in this FiTI Report.

[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 2021 in the Q2 2022, Employment & Earnings Bulletin ⁶¹ in the fisheries, agriculture and forestry sectors are combined, and it is not clear which components of the fisheries sector this involves. Three studies were published in 2021 that provided some information on wages in the fisheries sector: the *Employment Study and Capacity Needs Assessment for Fisheries Sector in Seychelles*, the *Baseline socioeconomic study of semi-industrial longline fleet*⁶² and the *Economic Impact of the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry*. The 2021 employment and capacity needs assessment study, which is by far the most comprehensive as it provides information across 17 sub-sectors in the fisheries sector, found that wage distribution was relatively uniform in the fisheries sector across wage brackets. However, the study found a substantial difference in wage distribution between fisher and non-fisher sub-sectors. Individuals in the fisher sub-sector tended to be in lower wage brackets i.e. earn wages averaging less than SCR 5,805/month and their wages tend to peak around SCR5,505 to SCR 8555. Meanwhile, wages within the non-fisher sub-sector fall within two main overall wage brackets less than SCR 5,805/month and the 3 highest wage bands SCR15,000/month and above. It also found proportionately more Seychellois workers at lower wage bands than foreign nationals. For the fisher sub-sector, Seychellois workers are distributed towards lower wage bands than foreign nationals and for non-fishers, distribution across wage brackets appear relatively similar but foreign workers appear relatively more common in the highest wage band (>SCR83,000/month). In relation to gender, male employees are found more commonly in both the lowest (< SCR5,805/month) and highest (>SCR83,000/month) wage bands than their female counterparts in both the fisher and non-fisher sectors.

- In the socio-economic study of semi-industrial longline fleet, average salaries of skippers were estimated at SCR 9,188/month. with Seychellois nationals earning an average of SCR

⁶¹ <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/economic-statistics/employment-earnings/2022>

⁶² <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/171-baseline-socio-economic-study-of-semi-industrial-longline-fleet>

14,715/month compared to their non-Seychellois counterparts who averaged SCR7805/month, although employers of the latter bore other employment related costs, which eventually raises their salaries. The sea cucumber economic impact study on the other hand, reported higher average wages among individuals in management positions (SCR 29,167 average) followed by those in manual posts (SCR 11,667 average) and administration posts (SCR 9,500 average). It indicated that foreign workers in the sea cucumber fishery earned a higher income compared to their local counterparts as additional explicit costs such as accommodation and food are incorporated in their salary. From a gender perspective, female management and administrative workers tended to earn less than their male counterparts but the gap was small.

Recommendations

We, the National MSG, make the following recommendations to improve transparency regarding post-harvest sector and fish trade in Seychelles:

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2021-7_1	<i>Given the importance of fisheries in providing quality jobs, the MOFBE 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.</i>	High	June 2025

1.8 Fisheries Law Enforcement

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
Seychelles must publish the following information relating to fisheries law enforcement:			
i. The national activities and strategies used for ensuring compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector with national legislation.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
ii. The financial and human resources deployed by the government to ensure compliance with national legislation.	Yes	Partially (Online and FiTI Report)	Partially
iii. The total numbers of inspections of fishing vessels at sea and in ports.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
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.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially

- **Activities and strategies for ensuring compliance:** In 2021, 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. SFA informed that work started on a National Plan of Action for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (NPOA-IUU) fishing. During the 2021 FiTI reporting process, the SFA indicated that it had secured funds under the EcoFISH project to finalise this plan for adoption as a national policy. The date for finalising the plan was not indicated.

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 2021 (or 2020).*

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

A recommendation was made by the National MSG for SFA to provide MOFBE 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 ([recommendation 2019-8_1](#)). Addressing this recommendation is due by December 2022. No information was available on how this had progressed in 2021.

- ➔ **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 authorities⁶³ to ensure compliance with national fisheries legislation was available for the year 2021.

Information from SFA's 2021 Annual Report shows that the MCS Division had *a total expenditure of SCR 28,812,730⁶⁴ for 2021*, of which

- 67% was derived from SFA's recurrent budget , and the other
- 33% from the sectoral support under the protocol of the EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement.

A recommendation was made by the National MSG for SFA to prepare and make available to MOFBE 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 (*recommendation 2019-8_2*). . SFA has said that it has taken the recommendation into consideration and will publish this information for the year 2022 by early 2023.

- ➔ **Inspections at sea and in ports:** Inspections data is published in the 2021 SFA Annual Report. This information is typically compiled quarterly by SFA, with annual totals published as part of the SFA Annual Report. However, 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 nine air patrols were conducted in conjunction with the Seychelles Air Force. The significant increase in number of inspections for the semi-industrial and artisanal vessels is a direct result of the implementation of the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co-management which requires inspection to enforce minimum size limit as well as bag limits.

⁶³ For example, SFA, Fish Inspection and Quality Control Unit, Seychelles Coast Guard, Air Force, and Environmental Health Section.

⁶⁴ MCS expenditure = MCS enforcement costs (SCR 9,465,376) + IUU Vessel costs – (SCR 181,978) + Wages & salaries for MCS Division (SCR 9,700,000) + EU Sectoral support (SCR 9,465,376)

Table 8.1: Types of inspections and patrols in 2021

Types of inspections and patrols	2021	2020
Inspection in port – Industrial vessels	69	41
Inspection in port – Semi-industrial vessels	512	8
Inspection in port – Artisanal vessels	565	327
Coastal patrols	26	16
Air patrols	9	8

- ➔ **Record of convictions and major offences⁶⁵:** 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 during 2020 and 2021, was collated by SFA, and published on its website, for the first time, during this FITI Reporting process⁶⁶. 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 owner of the vessel involved in the incident or the date it occurred. A list of foreign-flagged vessels which have been apprehended for IUU fishing is maintained by the MCS Division of SFA. The published list of convictions and major offences lists the foreign vessels apprehended in 2021 as a result of IUU fishing in Seychelles' waters, as well as the outcome of the subsequent court cases.

Recommendations

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

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2021-8_1	<i>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</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>June 2023</i>

⁶⁵ As offences were only scarcely published by SFA, the National MSG did not define the term 'major offences' for this FITI reporting process.

⁶⁶ <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>

	<i>of the company or vessel owner, the nature of the offence and the penalty imposed.</i>		
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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.	No		
Seychelles must publish the following information relating to the enforcement of labour standards:			
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

As part of this FiTI Report, the National MSG notes there is increasing international concern that some countries have poor levels of labour standards and that labour standards are not well enforced especially in regards to foreign workers. Given the high number of foreign investors and the increasing number of foreign workers in the fisheries sector, the National MSG is of the view that the Seychelles' government must make a concerted effort to ensure that local labour standards, applicable to the fisheries sector, are known and enforced.

- **Summary description of national laws on labour standards:** A summary description of Seychelles' labour standard laws applicable to national and foreign workers employed in the fishing sector (either at sea or for those in the post-harvest sector) did not exist in 2021. The National MSG recommended in its 2019 FiTI Report that this summary description is published by December 2021 (*Recommendation 2019-9_1*). *This*

recommendation has not been fulfilled yet. The National MSG noted that the delay in implementing this may be caused by the lack of capacity nationally and consequently there does not seem to be a Competent Authority to undertake this task.

- **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 MESA⁶⁷, but not yet on the website of MOFBE or SFA.

- **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 Plan⁶⁸, and the Seychelles Fisheries Policy and Strategy, which addresses *Employment, training, resourcing and human resource development*,⁶⁹. These are detailed in the 2020 FITI Report.

For 2021, MESA reported that it has 15 inspectors enforcing labour standards across all sectors of the economy, including fisheries. The budget⁷⁰ of the Labour Protection Programme⁷¹ for 2021 was SCR 7,314,000, of which 96% went towards wages and salaries of staff.

⁶⁷ <http://www.employment.gov.sc/labour-relation-division>

⁶⁸ 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 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.

⁶⁹ 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.'*

⁷⁰ The budget is published as part of the 2021 BUDGET: Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Fiscal Year Ending 31st December 2021, Part 1. Published by the Ministry of Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic Planning. Available online at: <http://www.finance.gov.sc/national-budget/43>.

⁷¹ 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.

- **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.

- **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, MOFBE or SFA. Through this FiTI reporting process, MESA reported that in 2021, there were three labour offences and eight grievances recorded for the fisheries sector.⁷² Of the three offences, one was related to health and safety issues and one related to minimum wage and in both cases the employers complied. The third case related to missing records and was still being processed when this report was being finalised.

Recommendations

We, the National MSG, make the following recommendations to improve transparency regarding labour standards in the fisheries sector in Seychelles:

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2021-9_1	<i>The MOFBE should advocate for the Seychelles’ government to allocate resources to evaluate labour standards applicable in the fisheries sector.</i>	High	December 2023

⁷² ‘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
Seychelles must publish information on:			
Type of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector	Yes	Yes (Online)	Partially
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	Partially	Partially
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.

However, to date, there is a lack of comprehensive information on subsidies in the fisheries sector *and the absence of an agreed definition in public documents, which puts into question the government's legal obligations for information disclosure.*

- **Subsidies given to large-scale fisheries in Seychelles:** During this 2021 FiTI reporting process, the MOFBE confirmed that there are no subsidies provided to Seychelles' large-scale fisheries sector, referring to the Regulations on Excise Tax, S.I 90 of 2018⁷³. Large-scale fishing vessels are able to buy fuel duty free in Port Victoria but this 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 2019 FiTI Report features a summary of the subsidies that are available to the small-scale fisheries. These remain unchanged for the year 2021. A 2017 report on the review of subsidies provided to the artisanal fisheries sector, commissioned by the SFA, was published on its website as part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process.⁷⁴

⁷³ <https://tradeportal.sc/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SI-90-of-2018-Excise-Tax-Fuel-Exemption-and-CoincessionsRegulations2018.pdf>

⁷⁴ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report?task=download.send&id=150&catid=53&m=0>

- **Fuel subsidies:** Information about the fuel incentive scheme (FIS) for the small-scale fishing industry is available on the SFA website⁷⁵. The value of fuel subsidies provided to small scale fisheries in 2021 is published in the 2021 SFA Annual Report. It indicates that in 2021, the value of fuel subsidies to the small scale fisheries sector stood at SCR 36.5 million, out of which SCR 24.9 million was to artisanal fishery and SCR 11.6 million was to the semi-industrial fishery. In the report on the *Economic Impact Study of the Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry*, it is reported that in 2019, the fuel subsidy reduced fleet level costs by SCR 1.5 million for the sea cucumber fishery. No information is available on fuel subsidies to the sea cucumber fishery specifically in 2020 and 2021 as the information on fuel subsidies to the semi-industrial artisanal fishery is not disaggregated. This *partially implements* recommendation 2019-10_2, *which requested that information on fuel subsidies to the sea cucumber fishery should be published by December 2022*. Based on information obtained from SFA during this 2021 FiTI reporting process, the information on fuel subsidies to the small scale fishery sector reported in the 2019 and 2020 FiTI Reports has to be re-stated and the updated figures are presented in appendix C. The updated figures indicate that SCR 42 million worth of fuel incentives were provided in 2019 compared to SCR 33.7 million in 2020. The high value in 2019 is as a result of 2018 claims being paid in the first quarter of 2019. The dip in 2020 reflects the impact of COVID-19 and the increase in 2021 is due to the resumption of economic activities post COVID-19.

- **Ice subsidies:** Information made available by SFA as part of this 2021 FiTI reporting process on the price of ice sold to fishermen compared to the general public is provided in the table below. The government subsidies on ice sold to fishermen was increased from April 2020 up to March 2021 as part of COVID-19 support extended to the fishing sector. However, the price of ice reverted to its pre-COVID rate in April 2021.

⁷⁵ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fisheries-scheme>

Table 10.1 showing price of ice, pre-, during and post-COVID (SCR).

Ice bag weight (Kg)	Pre-COVID-19		During COVID-19		Post-COVID-19	
	Price for fishers	Price for public	Price for fishers	Price for public	Price for fishers	Price for public (SCR)
15KG	10	30	5	30	10	30
25KG	15	40	7	40	15	40
50KG	30	80	15	80	30	80

Information provided by SFA as part of this FITI reporting process (in the table below) shows the cost of operating ice plants in Seychelles (excluding labour) during 2021 was SCR 8,571,185, while the earnings from the total sale of ice amounted to SCR 3,882,122. This equates to a total subsidy of [SCR 4,749,062.72](#) in 2021..

Table 10.2: Costs (excluding labour) of operating the ice plants in 2021 (SCR)

	2021	2020
	Expenditure/Revenue	Expenditure/Revenue
Sale of ice	3,882,122	2,721,156.12
- Costs of ice machines maintenance	(4,012,976.19)	-3,490,277.21
- Costs of electricity	(4,558,208.53)	-4,241,090.99
- Costs of water	(317,801.13)	-269,711.04
Total subsidy	-4,749,062.72	-5,279,923.12

Information on the value of subsidies provided to the fisheries sector is available for fuel and ice subsidies provided to the small scale fisheries sector and is presented in table 10.3 and summarised in the Summary Section of this 2021 FITI Report. Given that a comprehensive overview of subsidies in the fisheries sector is not available, this information is seen as incomplete.

Table 10.3 showing ice and fuel subsidies to the small scale fisheries sector in 2021

Items	2021	2020
Subsidized ice	4749063	5279923
Fuel subsidy	36,459,707.96	33731923.43
- Artisanal fishery	24,861,762.43	24,714,672.93
- Semi-industrial	11,597,945.53	9,017,250.50
Total	41,208,770.96	39,011,846.43

1.11 Official Development Assistance

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
Seychelles must publish the following information on public sector projects:			
related to fisheries (project value, purpose, output, project evaluations)	Yes	Yes (Online & 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 2021, compared to a wider variety of marine conservation-related projects. These projects are funded through a mixture of bilateral, multilateral and private donors. During this 2021 FiTI reporting process, the SFA published a list of donor-funded, fisheries and marine conservation projects it was implementing, on its website⁷⁶. This is the first time this has been done and provided a very good overview of fisheries and marine conservation projects being implemented by the SFA. The list provides information on project purpose, value, duration and evaluation. Out of the 22 projects listed, 15 were active in 2021, 16 were project activities under the World Bank funded SWIOFish3 Project, five were funded through SeyCCAT and one regional project was funded by FAO. This inventory does not capture fisheries and marine conservation projects being implemented by other government entities and some projects also feature on the list of SeyCCAT-funded projects active in 2021 that is published in Appendix C of this report.

- ➔ **Fisheries-related public sector development projects:** There were only two ODA-funded national fisheries public sector projects under implementation in 2021: the Project for Construction of Artisanal Fisheries in Mahe (phase 2) funded by JICA, which was completed in 2021 and the World Bank funded SWIOFish3 Project which is due to end in 2023. Little information on this is published online by Seychelles' national authorities and has therefore been compiled in Annex C of this FiTI Report.⁷⁷

There is no reference to the JICA funded project on the SFA webpage dedicated to fisheries infrastructure projects⁷⁸ although it does feature in the accounts in the 2021 SFA Annual Report. There is a SWIOFish3 Project page on the MOFBE website which

⁷⁶ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/21-other-reports/197-summary-of-fisheries-and-marine-conservation-donor-funded-projects>

⁷⁷ The National MSG would like to, once again, 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.

⁷⁸ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/division/project-management>

indicates that Seychelles is an executing entity and a link to the former's website⁷⁹, which provides details of the project objectives, components, funding sources, results and quarterly reports. SWIOFish3 project personnel indicate that their website is used to provide access to completed deliverables rather than track ongoing activities. A mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the SWIOFish3 project was done in 2021 and a copy of the evaluation report is available on its website⁸⁰. There has not been evaluation of individual projects.

Regional fisheries projects: Two regional fisheries projects from which Seychelles benefits include the Ecofish Programme⁸¹ (2018 – 2024) funded by the European Union at a cost of EUR 28 million. The total direct benefit for Seychelles for the year 2021 is not known. There is no mention of this project on the MOFBE 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 11th 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:** There are several marine conservation-related projects implemented in Seychelles, but there is no comprehensive overview of them provided by the government of Seychelles. There were five nationally-implemented marine conservation-related public sector projects that were under implementation by the Department of Energy and Climate Change in

⁷⁹ <https://www.swiofish3.sc>

⁸⁰ <https://swiofish3.sc/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Facing-Page-SWIOFish3-Mid-Term-Review-.pdf>

⁸¹ <https://www.ecofish-programme.org/> The programme is targeted at countries with marine fisheries in the Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Region. It's objective is to enhance equitable economic growth by promoting sustainable fisheries in the EA-SA-IO region.

2021 and they are listed in the 2021 Budget Book⁸² as part of the department's capital projects. 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 2021 such as those related to the Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning Process⁸³ and the Seychelles Climate Change Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT)⁸⁴ which are not implemented by SFA. 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 2021. 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 2021, is found in Appendix C. In 2021, SeyCCAT negotiated an independent grant through Ocean 5 that funds projects related to the implementation of Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning Initiative. Again in 2021, SeyCCAT commissioned a mid-term review (MTR) of its strategy 2018-2022⁸⁵, which is published 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 website of the Project Coordination Unit⁸⁶ within the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment 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,

⁸² http://www.finance.gov.sc/uploads/national_budget/2021%20BUDGET%20BOOK%20PART%201-%20ESTIMATES%20OF%20REVENUE%20AND%20EXPENDITURE%20%20FOR%20THE%20FISCAL%20YEAR%20ENDING%2031ST%20DECEMBER%202021.pdf

⁸³ <https://www.seymssp.com>

⁸⁴ <https://seyccat.org>

⁸⁵ <https://seyccat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SeyCCAT-Mid-Term-Review-FINAL-REPORT.pdf>

⁸⁶ <https://pcusey.sc/projects/>

no such documents are published online. The GEF website⁸⁷ 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 projects have so far been funded by GEF amounting to USD 52,371,749. Four new GEF-funded projects were approved in 2021 in which Seychelles would benefit, out of which only one is a national project, the other three being global and regional projects.

- A list of projects funded by the *World Bank* for Seychelles is also accessible online through the Bank's website⁸⁸ 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 2021.
- 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)*⁸⁹. However, 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 Report⁹⁰, but the data is not specific to fisheries or marine conservation.

Recommendations

We, the National MSG, make the following recommendations to improve transparency in official development assistance provided to the Seychelles' fisheries sector:

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2021-11_1	<i>The MOFBE should advocate to the rest of the government of Seychelles for updated information on overseas development assistance to government entities to be published in a central place for example as an addendum to the budget book.</i>	High	December 2024

⁸⁷ <https://www.thegef.org/country/seychelles>

⁸⁸ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/projects-list?searchTerm=Seychelles>

⁸⁹ <https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?QueryId=85349>

⁹⁰ https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/development-co-operation-profiles_2dcf1367-en

1.12 Beneficial Ownership

Transparency requirements	Availability	Accessibility	Completeness
Seychelles must publish information on the country's status regarding beneficial ownership transparency:			
i. The legal basis for beneficial ownership transparency in the country.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
ii. The country's legal definition of beneficial ownership.	Yes	Yes (Online)	Yes
iii. The availability of a public register of beneficial owners.	No ⁹¹	No (restricted access)	Unknown
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.	Yes	Yes (Online)	No
v. The current status and discussions around beneficial ownership transparency in fisheries.	Partially	No	No

➔ **Legal basis for and definition of beneficial ownership:** The 2020 FITI Report detailed the legal basis for and the definition of beneficial ownership, which in the fisheries sector is covered by the Fisheries Act (2014) and the [Beneficial Ownership Act \(2020\)](#) and [Beneficial Ownership Regulations \(2020\)](#)⁹². The latter established the legal basis for beneficial ownership registration beyond the requirements for licensing vessels and fishing activity permits provided for in the Fisheries Act.

➔ **Public register of beneficial owners:** By the end of 2021, Seychelles had a *central register* of beneficial owners. The Beneficial Ownership (BO) Act makes it a requirement for every legal person or legal arrangement to maintain an up-to-date register of beneficial owners at the principal place of business of its resident agent. Such information must be reported to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), which is responsible for populating the information in a central beneficial ownership database. This database became active on 5th July 2021 and resident agents have populated the database⁹³. However, the register and the database is not publicly available; instead,

⁹¹ 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.

⁹² 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.

⁹³ 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

the BO Act makes provision for institutions specified under the Act to access information (Section 13(4) and Section 14). The list of Competent Authorities does not include SFA.

- ➔ **Incorporating beneficial ownership in filings by companies:** With the implementation of the BO Act in 2021, local agents had until the 31st October 2021 to register the details of beneficial owners of offshore companies after which the Beneficial Ownership database was opened for the registration of domestic companies up to 31st January 2022. 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.

The National MSG determined that beneficial ownership transparency in fisheries has been overlooked in Seychelles, despite international policy debates and national obligations as detailed in the 2020 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 through the publication of licence information because they tend to be sole traders and usually trade in their own name. The exception is for semi-industrial fisheries where only vessel name is provided in published information and in a few instances in the sea cucumber fishery where the business name is indicated. However, review of the records at SFA show that the beneficial ownership information is captured during licence application for local licences i.e. artisanal fisheries, but it is not systematically made public. 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 had actual beneficial ownership information listed.*

- ➔ **Current status and discussions around beneficial ownership transparency in fisheries:** The BO Act is not industry-specific, it captures all legal persons or arrangements registered in Seychelles, both by the Financial Services Authority and the Registrar of Companies. 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 will be found in the central database. Presently, SFA can only have access

to this information by linking up with any of the 14 Competent Authorities. Information from the SFA indicates that it is in discussion with FIU to allow this to happen through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). However, SFA would still not be able to make this information public unless the BO Act is reviewed to allow this. The FIU informed that the BO Act is under review and given the transparency requirements in the fisheries industry, the MOFBE can prepare a policy paper to provide a mechanism to make public beneficial ownership information of fisheries businesses, contained in the central register. The Fisheries Act also requires SFA to collect beneficial ownership information upon the registering of fishing vessels, but the licence application forms for industrial fishing vessels, do not explicitly provide for the capture of beneficial ownership information. SFA is in the process of updating the application forms to ensure that beneficial ownership information is captured.

As per the requirement of the BO Act, efforts are underway on policy/implementation procedures for addressing beneficial ownership transparency in fisheries. During this 2021 FiTI reporting process, the MOFBE was in the process of identifying a firm to develop a Legal Framework for Joint Ventures and undertake a Gap-analysis of Beneficial Ownership for the Fisheries Sector. The information from this analysis will be used to develop legislation that would regulate joint ventures and address the disclosure requirements relating to beneficial ownership.

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
2021-12_1	<i>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.</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>December 2023</i>
2021-12_2	<i>MOFBE 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.</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>December 2023</i>

Annex A. Statement of the Report Compiler

I was appointed on the 28th August 2022 by the Seychelles' Department of Blue Economy to prepare Seychelles 2021 report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI). Funding for this assignment came from the Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (SWIOFish3). 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. Seychelles two previous FiTI Reports for 2019 and 2020, prepared by Dr Jude Bijoux, on the National MSG's behalf, provided baseline information on which the current report is built.

I consulted the staff of SFA extensively, as they provided the bulk of the information, and met with staff individually and as a group to present the outcome of the exercise. I found that whilst the staff generated information and reports and were very willing to share with the Report Compiler, getting the information published took some doing.

Shortly after I started this assignment, there were changes at the helm of the SFA and in addition, the person who had acted as the FiTI focal person for the preparation of the two previous reports left. This created much uncertainty and delay in provision of information from SFA. Mr Vincent Lucas was appointed FiTI Focal Person during the first week of November 2022, and his intervention vastly accelerated the flow of information. Another challenge is that some information is not systematically compiled and published information not regularly updated on the SFA website even when the updated reports are available. Some updated reports were only published during the reporting process after some follow-up. I share the previous Report Compiler's frustration where SFA's website layout is concerned: it is not easy to navigate and can be illogical and confusing at times.

Looking at the challenges faced by Dr Bijoux when compiling previous reports, I am pleased to report that a lot more information is compiled and validated compared to when the previous FiTI reports were being compiled. For example, when inspecting the industrial vessel records, it was clear that they had been reorganised to facilitate capture of the attributes required in the FiTI standard and to compile the vessel registry. In addition, the Accounts Section was planning on using the same approach to organise the 2022 small scale fisheries records. It is safe to say that the FiTI reporting process is assisting staff to see the value of the information they generate and publish and the need to ensure that information in the public domain is validated and remains updated. Furthermore, the improved timeliness in the publication of the 2021 Fisheries Statistical Report and the 2021 SFA Annual Report tremendously increased access to validated information and shortened the time taken to collect information.

I am also pleased to have worked with the SFA staff to publish some additional information which was previously only published as an interim measure in the FiTI report, such as small scale fisheries licence payments and fisheries related convictions and offences. Consequently, the appendices of the 2021 FiTI Report is greatly shortened. I wish to thank the SFA staff who

were very accommodating and keen to understand what was required of them to improve transparency going forward. Generally, I found stakeholders very receptive, whether it was government departments (MOFBE, MESA, FIU), project staff (SWIOFish3) and NGOs (SeyCCAT) to requests for information. I wish to thank all of them for taking time to engage with me and provide the requested information.

I wish to thank the National MSG, especially its chairman, Mr Philippe Michaud, for their support and input during report preparation and finalisation. Two meetings were held with members of the NMSG: the first meeting to discuss the first version of the report in December 2022 was not well attended. More members were present at the second meeting to finalise and approve the report in February 2023 and members made some suggestions on additional areas for reporting, which will be addressed in the next reporting cycle.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Dr Jude Bijoux, the Report Compiler of the 2019 and 2020 Seychelles' FiTI Reports, whom I consulted extensively at the advice of the NMSG chairman. With his guidance, I was able to easily locate information and significant informers. I am also thankful for his assistance to distill the FiTI methodology and reporting requirements.

Daniella Larue

FiTI Report Compiler for the calendar year 2021
Victoria, Seychelles

Annex B. Consultations for providing the FiTI Report

Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)

- ➔ Mr Philippe Michaud, Acting Chief Executive Officer (from November 2022)
- ➔ Mr Nichol Elizabeth, Chief Executive Officer (exited SFA in October 2022)
- ➔ Dr Ameer Ebrahim, Technical Fisheries Coordinator & Scientific Advisor (exited SFA in October 2022)
- ➔ Mr Vincent Lucas, Consultant, Fisheries Resources Management and Technical Coordination.
- ➔ Mr Johny Louys, Monitoring Control and Surveillance Manager
- ➔ Ms Karyss Auguste, Assistant Manager, Licence and Permit Section
- ➔ Mr Ronny Malvina, Assistant Manager, Enforcement Section
- ➔ Mr Sharif Antoine, Economist, Fisheries Economics Section
- ➔ Mrs Juliette Lucas, Statistics Manager, Fisheries Statistics Division
- ➔ Mr Rodney Govinden, Manager, Fisheries Research Section
- ➔ Ms Sara Fanchette, Management Accountant, Accounts Section
- ➔ Mrs Sandra Barbe, Financial Controller, Accounts Section
- ➔ Ms Betty Victor, Senior Technical Fisheries Coordinator
- ➔ Ms. Elisa Socrate, Principal Fisheries Officer

Independent Consultant

- ➔ Dr Jude Bijoux, Independent Consultant

Department of Fisheries

- ➔ Mr. Roy Clarisse, Principal Secretary

Financial Intelligence Unit

- ➔ Mrs Debra Port-Louis, Deputy Director

Department of Employment

- ➔ Mr Steve Monnaie, Director General Labour Relations
- ➔ Ms Suzanne Morel, Chief Policy Analyst
- ➔ Mrs Stephanie Boniface, Director Labour Monitoring and Compliance

- ➔ Ms Alda Aumeeruddy, Director, Industrial Relations

SeyCCAT

- ➔ Ms Marie-May Jeremie, Chief Executive Officer

National MSG (as part of group consultation on the 28th December 2022 and 16th February 2023)**National MSG members present were:**

- ➔ Mr Philippe Michaud, National FiTI Lead -Blue Economy
- ➔ Mr. Cyril Bonnelame, representing Transparency Initiative Seychelles
- ➔ Mr. Selwyn Edmond, representing the Industrial fleet
- ➔ Mr. Hubert Poirat attended on behalf of Ms. Eltina Dorizo, Youth Representative, Seychelles Maritime Academy
- ➔ Mr Chrystold Chetty, representing Transparency Initiative Seychelles
- ➔ Honorable Wallace Cosgrow, representing United Seychelles in the National Assembly
- ➔ Mr. Roy Clarisse, Principal Secretary
- ➔ Mr Anthony Savy De St. Maurice
- ➔ Dr Marie-Thérèse Purvis, representing Civil Society

Secretariat:

- ➔ Ms. Fatime Kanté, Department of the Blue Economy

Other invitees

- ➔ Mr Sven Biermann, Executive Director, FiTI Secretariat
- ➔ Mr Will May, Regional Coordinator (Western Indian Ocean), FiTI Secretariat

Annex C. Additional information for 2020, published only as part of this FiTI Report

Update of 2020 catch and effort data from the industrial fishery

SFA published the 2020 Fisheries Statistics Report after the 2020 FiTI report had been finalised. Therefore, the data in the finalised report on catches from the industrial fishery deviates from the information given in the 2020 FiTI Report, which was launched in December 2021. Updates are therefore provided in the tables below.

Table C.1: Catch data for Seychelles' flagged industrial vessels in 2020

Catch data for Seychelles flagged industrial vessels in 2020	Catches in Seychelles EEZ		Catches in foreign EEZs		Catches on the High Seas		Total catches	
	(Mt)		(Mt)		(Mt)		(Mt)	
	<i>Purse seiners</i>	<i>Long-liners</i>	<i>Purse seiners</i>	<i>Long-liners</i>	<i>Purse seiners</i>	<i>Long-liners</i>	<i>Purse seiners</i>	<i>Long-liners</i>
Yellowfin	8,012	3,170.70	6,305	813.6	16,185	3,791	30,502	7,775
Skipjack	15,824		16,094		43,567		75,486	
Bigeye	1,318	2,194.00	1,567	769.9	3,008	4,427	5,893	7,391
Albacore	4		0		4		8	
Swordfish		415.3		192		1113		1,721
Marlin		162.4		53		439		654
Shark		201.3		203.5		499		904
Others	72	231.4	34	119.6	236	3673.5	342	4,025
Total	25,230	6,375	24,000	2,152	63,000	13,942	112,231	22,469

Table C.2: Catch data for industrial longliners for 2020

Industrial longlines	Catches made in Seychelles' EEZ	Catches made in other EEZs & on the High Seas	Total Western Indian Ocean catches
Seychelles			
Yellowfin	3,170.70	4604.3	7,775
Bigeye	2,194.00	5197.1	7,391
Swordfish	415.3	1305.7	1,721
Marlin	162.4	491.6	654
Sharks	201.3	702.4	904
Others	231.4	3793.2	4,025
Seychelles catch	6,375	16,094	22,469
Taiwan (POC)			
Yellowfin	2213.3	141.2	2354.5
Bigeye	3594.1	348.7	3942.8
Swordfish	477.6	47.2	524.8
Marlin	230.7	30.3	261.0
Sharks	590.5	52.6	643.1
Others	384.4	24.1	408.5
Taiwan (POC) catch	7,491	644	8,135
Others			
Yellowfin	282.0	6.7	288.7
Bigeye	188.6	8.2	196.8
Swordfish	201.4	22.0	223.4
Marlin	14.3	0.8	15.1
Sharks	131.7	5.4	137.1
Others	29.5	1.7	31.2
Others catch	847.5	44.8	892.3
Total catch	14713.2	16783.2	31496.4

Re-stated annual catches by artisanal fishery in 2020

Table C.3: Re-stated annual catches by artisanal fishery by species (Mt) in 2020

	2020 updated
Carangues	1134.9
Job	483.9
Maquereau Doux	323.2
Bourgeois	236.5
Capitaine	225.2
Bonite	130
Red Snapper	138.7
Other Vielle	144.4
Other Trap Fish	139.6
Cordonnier	143.8
Becune	108.5
Other Pelagics	96.1
Maconde	67.2
Others	19.3
Sharks & Rays	15.9
Octopus	19.2
Other Maquereau	24.5
Crab	9.4
Total	3460.3

Restated fuel subsidies for 2019 and 2020 (SCR)

Year	Reported		Re-stated	
	SCR' 000,000	Artisanal	Semi-industrial	Total fuel subsidy
2019	43.3	31,032,182.87	10,937,152.50	41,969,335.37
2020	59.7	24,714,672.93	9,017,250.50	33,731,923.43
2021	16.55	24,861,762.43	11,597,945.53	36,459,707.96

Fisheries-related public sector development projects – active in 2021

Project title	Donor	Project value	Duration	Purpose	Evaluation
The Project for Construction of Artisanal Fisheries Facilities in Mahé Island (Phase 2)	Government of Japan through the Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) ⁹⁴	USD 12.3 million (~1.46 billion yen)	27 months (ending April 2021)-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extension of the quay by an additional 220 metres from its previous 110m - Installation of new ice plants, ice storage warehouse, mooring buoys, water and power supply, landing shed, drainage, access road - Technical support for designing the facilities and supervision of construction work 	<p>There is no mid-term evaluation report publicly available</p> <p>It is unknown whether such a project evaluation was conducted at all.</p>
Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (SWIOFish3)	World Bank	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.	Mid-term evaluation done in 2021.

⁹⁴ This information was confirmed by cross-referencing information with the International Aid Transparency Initiative http://data-transparency.org/ctrack.html?country_code=SC§or_group=313&year_min=2018#view=main

Summary of Marine Conservation ODA Projects implemented by MACCE in 2021

Project name	Project purpose	Implementing Entity	Executing Entity	Grant amount	Start date	Duration	Donor	Project evaluation
<i>Restoring marine ecosystem services by rehabilitating coral reefs to meet a changing climate future (Mauritius, Seychelles)</i>	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	November 2020	5 years	Adaptation Fund	Mid-term evaluation planned for 2023.
<i>Ridge to Reef - Integrated Management of Marine, Coastal & Terrestrial Ecosystems</i>	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	January 2020	6 years	GEF	Mid-term evaluation planned for 2023.

Project name	Project purpose	Implementing Entity	Executing Entity	Grant amount	Start date	Duration	Donor	Project evaluation
<i>Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change in Seychelles Project</i>	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	June 2014	6 years	Adaptation Fund	Mid-term evaluation undertaken in 2018 ⁹⁵ .
<i>PAF- Seychelles Protected Area Finance</i>	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	January 2016	5 years	GEF	Mid-term evaluation undertaken in 2018 ⁹⁶ . Terminal evaluation planned for 2021.
<i>Expansion and Strengthening of the Protected Area Subsystem of the Outer Islands of Seychelles and its Integration</i>	To promote the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and marine biodiversity in Seychelles' Outer Islands by	UN Development Programme	Department of Environment, in collaboration with NGOs and private sector companies	1.8 million	August 2014	5 years	GEF	Terminal evaluation undertaken in 2020.

⁹⁵ Report available at <https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/detail/8542>

⁹⁶ Report available at <https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/detail/8539>

<i>Project name</i>	Project purpose	Implementing Entity	Executing Entity	Grant amount	Start date	Duration	Donor	Project evaluation
<i>into the broader land and seascape</i>	expanding the protected areas system and strengthening protected area management, supported by broad-scale ecosystem planning and sustainable land management activities to conserve ecosystem functions.							

Summary of fisheries and marine conservation projects funded through SeyCCAT active in 2021



"Investing in Seychelles' blue future"

Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) ⁹⁷	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation ⁹⁸
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.	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.
Piloting voluntary fisheries zone closure on Praslin island for the benefit of the marine environment and fisher folks.	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.

⁹⁷ In these tables USD 1 is equivalent to SCR 13.5.

⁹⁸ All SeyCCAT grantees must include a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) component.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) ⁹⁷	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation ⁹⁸
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”.	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 on going, extended due to Covid 19 Delays
Marine Biodiversity Baseline assessment around Frigate Island, the eastern most Seychelles ‘Inner’ granitic island.	To improve the knowledge on the state of the marine environment around Frigate Island, with a view to implement a long-term marine monitoring protocol and ultimately create a marine protected area around Frigate Island.	Green Islands Foundation	30,000.00	01-09-19	15-10-21	Blue Bond	Project completed after an extension.
Pilot and integration of tracking, logbook and market traceability tools for co-management of the small scale fisheries sector in Seychelles	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 on going, extended due to Covid 19 Delays
Mapping coral population connectivity and ocean currents to inform management & policy of the coral reef system in Seychelles	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

Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) ⁹⁷	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation ⁹⁸
Roadmap to Blue Carbon opportunities in the Seychelles	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.
Fishing livelihood and fisheries management in the Mahe Granitic Island, Seychelles. A Cost -Benefit-Analysis on a value Chain Approach	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.
Reduction of ocean pollution through sea floor clean up, and education of fishermen and youths about the impact of ocean pollution	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	In the process of completion
Community based ecological wetland rehabilitation	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	Activities on going, project extended due to Covid 19 delays
River mapping and monitoring and mangrove habitat mapping project for	To provide a map for sustainable development of the coastal strip	Ministry of Environment, Energy and	7,407.41	15-11-19	31-05-22	Debt Swap	In the process of completion

Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) ⁹⁷	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation ⁹⁸
the sustainable development of Praslin island.	taking into account the natural flow of water bodies on the island.	Climate Change					
Feasibility study for SEYSSI - Seychelles Sustainable Seafood Initiative (Pronounced SEY SEA)	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
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	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	31-12-22	Blue Bond	On going

Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) ⁹⁷	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation ⁹⁸
Communication for Change (Comm4Change - C4C)	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
Feasibility study to determine the economic viability to operate a rock-oyster farm for commercial purposes in Seychelles	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
High-resolution 2D / 3D coastal mapping and monitoring using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and Structure-from-Motion photogrammetry techniques on the island of Mahé.	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	On going
Rapid assessment of fish biodiversity in shallow water (<40m) habitats of the Alphonse Group, Seychelles	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	In the process completion

Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) ⁹⁷	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation ⁹⁸
Exploration of the contribution of fishing to the socio-cultural wellbeing of Seychellois artisanal fishermen	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	In the process completion
Determining baseline information for the effective management of the Seychelles' small-scale octopus' fishery	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
The last dugongs in the Seychelles: baseline population assessment of Dugong dugong at Aldabra Atoll	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
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	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

Project Name	Project Purpose	Implementing Entity	Grant amount (USD) ⁹⁷	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation ⁹⁸
involvement of key economic partners.							

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 Oceans 5 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)	Start date	End Date	Donor	Project evaluation
Component 3. Enhance fishery assessment, monitoring and management regimes to support fisheries reforms and transparency.	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 2019 & 2020 FiTI Reports

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
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 now published on SFA's website
2019-3_3	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.
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	Large scale vessel registry published on SFA website in a spreadsheet format updated for 2021.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
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 longliner fishery for 2019.	High	Sep-21	Information published online on SFA website as part of Semester 1 – 2020 Fisheries Statistical Report.
2019-6_1	Small-Scale Fisheries	In addition to the information already provided, MOFBE 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 published on its website details as well as a summary table of total number of small-scale fisheries licences issued in 2021. A summary table of total number of fishers engaged in fishing sector is also published but does not make distinction on whether the fishers are part or full time.
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	The report is published on the SFA website e-library.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
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 MOFBE website.
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.
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.
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	High	Dec-21	All foreign fishing access agreements and associated protocols without confidentiality clauses have been published on the SFA website.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		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).			SFA also published a summary of a;; foreign fishing agreements that can be published.
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 assessment up to 2024 is now published on the SFA website.
2019-5_8	Large-Scale Fisheries - Recorded Catch Data	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	No such evaluations or audits are available.
2019-12_1	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	High	Dec-21	Rejected as no such committee exist.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		based on a participatory and transparent process, involving all interested bona fide stakeholders from government, industrial and artisanal fishing, and civil society.			
2019-5_6	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 discard data is collected by the authorities.	High	Sep-21	Discards data published as part of the 2020 Semester 2 Fisheries Bulletin. This is not disaggregated by species as information is not provided in a consistent manner to SFA.
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	2021 Catch data on sea cucumber and lobster fisheries is published in the 2021 Fisheries Statistical Bulletin.
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	High	Dec-21	SFA compiled an inventory of fisheries-related public sector projects funded through ODA. It was published on the SFA website during this FiTI report process.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		project evaluations, if applicable.			
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 this FiTI Report. However, it is not published on a website.
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	December 2022	Information on fuel subsidies was published for the small-scale fisheries sector in the 2021 Annual Report. The information was not disaggregated.

The following recommendations by the Seychelles' National MSG (due before December 2021) have only been *partially implemented* by Seychelles' national authorities:

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
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	Published on SFA website: application form, containing application conditions. Agreements will be introduced for Seychelles- flagged vessels which will include the oversight and reporting requirements
2019-7_1	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 2021 SFA Annual Report. Exports were presented by value and quantity and disaggregated by country of destination. Information is not disaggregated by species.
2019-5_3	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 2021 SFA Annual Report but it is not disaggregated by

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
					vessel although the information is available in a disaggregated form at the SFA.
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 for 2020 and 2021 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.
2019-10_2	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 subsidies 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 is published in the 2021 SFA Annual Report. Information on other subsidies to the small scale fisheries sector is not published. MFBE has confirmed that no subsidies are provided to the large scale fisheries.
2020-3_1	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	MOFBE should ensure that in the future all foreign fishing vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters	High	June 2022	The Seychelles government negotiated new agreements with TTA and TFI and

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		should do so only under an official signed agreement.			companies owning Seychelles-flagged purse seiners, which will be signed and published in 2022 and become effective in 2023. MOFBE indicated that following this, all fishing vessels, foreign or Seychelles-flagged, licensed to fish in Seychelles' waters, will do so under an agreement.
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 recorded 3 labour offences and 3 grievances committed by employers in the fisheries sector in 2021. The information has been published in FiTI Reports.
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	June 2022	The outcome of the stock assessments has been shared with stakeholders in the lobster ⁹⁹ and sea cucumber ¹⁰⁰ fisheries.
2020-5_1	Large scale fisheries	SFA should keep the large scale-vessel registry continually updated, at	Medium	December 2022	The published large-scale registry is not updated quarterly

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

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/17526/Ban+on+targetingwhite-teatSeychelles%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
		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.			but rather at the end of a calendar year. Information on the tuna quota and vessel beneficial owners are still missing
2020-5_2	Large scale fisheries	SFA should cross-check and verify the legal owner of the vessel recorded in the vessel registry are accurate and ensure that information of the owner's address and nationality is provided.	High	December 2022	SFA is reviewing the vessel licence application form to include an explicit section to capture beneficial ownership as opposed to just business ownership.
2019-5_7	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.

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
2019-2_2	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	Deferred by national authorities for implementation in 2022. It has been further deferred to 2023
2019-3_4		MFBE should publish information from previous (prior to 2019) and recent national stakeholder consultations undertaken with respect to the preparation, negotiation or monitoring of foreign fishing access agreements. Information related to future national stakeholder consultations should be published in a timely manner	Medium	Dec-22	It is uncertain if such consultations took place.
2019-4_2	Fisheries Resources	SFA should prepare and publish a periodic report(e.g. biennially) on the state of the maincommercial fish stocks in Seychelles	High	Dec-2022	This should have taken place in 2021 but has not started.
2019-5_5	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	Low	Dec-2022	Open

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		to obtain detailed information on catch data.			
2019-6_2	Small scale fisheries	MFBE should publish annual summaries of the socio-economic contribution of the small-scale fishing sector.	High	Dec-22	Open
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	Open
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	The summary description is yet to be published. It appears that there is a lack of capacity nationally to undertake this.
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	This is still outstanding

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2020-2_2	Fisheries Tenure arrangements	SFA should update the section on its website concerning Certificate of Authorisation to include information on the fees that is charged for such authorisation in addition to the reporting requirements and the provisions for terminating such authorisations.	High	June 2022	This is still outstanding
2020-2_3	Fisheries Tenure arrangements	SFA should prepare and 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 oversight or public consultation processes involved and the appeals process in case of refusal.	High	June 2022	This is still outstanding
2020-7_2	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	This is still outstanding.

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

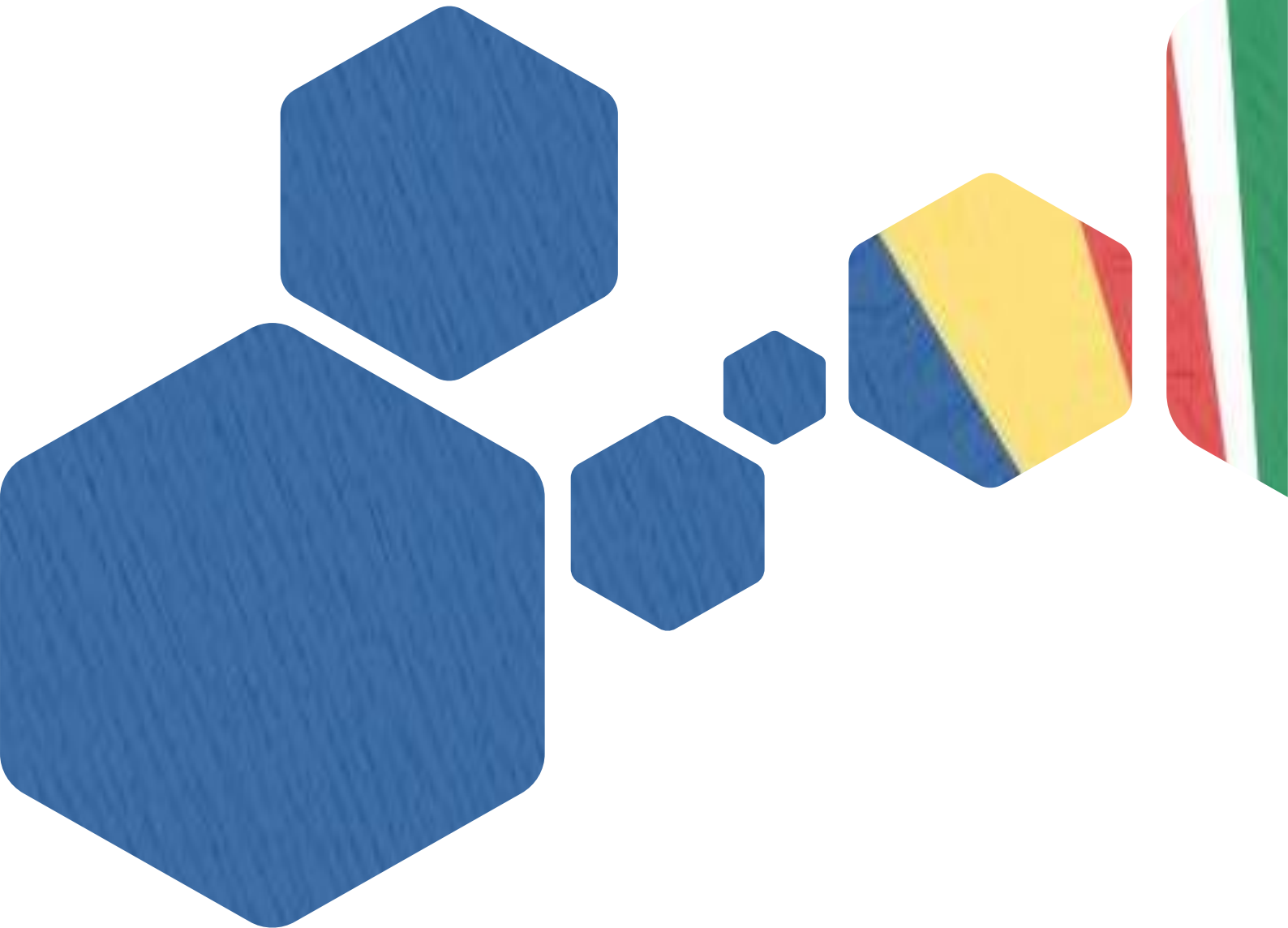
ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2019-7_2	Post-harvest sector fish trade	MFBE or SFA should publish annual employment information regarding Seychelles' commercial fisheries sector,	Medium	Dec-23	Open

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		disaggregated by gender and sub-sectors (e.g. industrial and artisanal fishing).			
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
2020-3_2	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	MOFBE 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.
2020-4_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	There is no update.
2020-4_3	The state of the fisheries resources	SFA should provide biennial updates on the stock status of the main	High	December 2024	Open

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
		species targeted by the small-scale fisheries.			
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	Open
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	December 2023	The 2021 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 incomplete data for that fishery.
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	This started where more data is now published in the Fisheries Statistical Report.
2020-9_1	Labour standards	MOFBE 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.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2020-12_1	Beneficial ownership	MOFBE 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	December 2023	This will be considered during the imminent review of the Fisheries Act.
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 semi-industrial fisheries.
2020-7_1	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	No updates provided
2020-7_3	Post-harvest sector fish trade	SFA in collaboration with MOFBE should on an annual basis publish a report to provide data on the economic contribution of fisheries in Seychelles.	High	December 2023	The 2021 SFA Annual Report contains a chapter on economic contribution of fisheries. The MOFBE is collaborating with NBS to publish the fisheries satellite accounts for 2019 and 2020.

ID	Thematic area	Description	Priority	Expected due date	Comments
2020-8_1	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.



Seychelles' Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

| Calendar year: 2021