



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

Seychelles'

Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

2021 SUMMARY

Release date: 28 February 2023



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

The report has been produced by [Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group](#), a group comprised of 12 members, equally representing government, business and civil society. Together, this group is responsible for how the FiTI is implemented in Seychelles¹.

Government Representatives	Business Representatives	Civil Society Representatives
Mr Philippe Michaud ² Mr Roy Clarisse Honorable Wallace Cosgrow Honorable Philip Monthy	Mr Keith Andre Mr David Bentley Mr Selwyn Edmond Mr Darrell Green	Mr Cyril Bonnelame Ms Eltina Dorizo Mr Grant Heyer Dr Marie-Therese Purvis

This 2021 FiTI 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, Seychelles submitted an extension request for publishing the report by end of February 2023. This was granted by the FiTI International Board on 5th December 2022.

The report was approved by [Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group](#) on 16th February 2023.

This is Seychelles' third FiTI Report, 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:

- this present 'Summary Section', which provides a high-level overview of the transparency assessment's key findings,
- and a 'Detailed Section', which delves into greater detail according to each of the FiTI Standard's 12 transparency requirements.

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).

1 The composition of the group remained identical to the Seychelles' last FiTI reporting period (calendar year 2021).

2 Chair of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group



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Abbreviations

AFS: Audited Financial Statements

COA: Certificate of Authorisation

EEZ: Exclusive Economic Zone

EU: European Union

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

FCP: Fisheries Comprehensive Plan

FiTI: Fisheries Transparency Initiative

FIU: Financial Intelligence Unit

IOT: Indian Ocean Tuna Limited

IOTC: Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

MCS: Monitoring Control and Surveillance

MESA: Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs

MOFBE: Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy

MSG: Multi-Stakeholder Group

MSY: Maximum Sustainable Yield

Mt: Metric tonnes

NBS: National Bureau of Statistics

ODA: Official Development Assistance

POC: Province of China

SCR: Seychellois Rupee

SEYLII: Seychelles Legal Information Institute

SeyCCAT: Seychelles Climate Change Adaptation Trust

SFA: Seychelles Fishing Authority

SWIOFish3: Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project

TFI: Top Fortunate International

VAT: Value Added Tax

Foreword



It is obvious that Government understands the benefits that the state and the country can derive from up-to-date and credible information on the fisheries sector.

I am pleased to have led the preparation of Seychelles Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) Report for calendar year 2021, the third such report to date.

This third FiTI reporting process revealed the Seychelles' government's commitment to improving the quality of its information on fisheries and fishing activities and the strides it has made to fill important information gaps. Since the publication of the 2019 report, much progress has been achieved. These include additional unpublished information now being publicly available such as fishing licences made by small-scale fishing vessels, a list of fisheries and marine conservation projects funded by overseas development assistance being implemented by the SFA and previously unpublished fisheries agreements have also been renegotiated so that their contents can be published. Consultancies have also been commissioned to address areas needing more objective attention such as the evaluation of certain fishing agreements. In addition, the process is bringing improvement in data capture where record keeping has improved to reduce missing data; for example, application forms are being reviewed to capture beneficial ownership information for industrial vessels.

Under the leadership of Mr. Jean-Francois Ferrari, Minister for Fisheries and the Blue Economy, the Department of the Blue Economy, with portfolio responsibility for FiTI, recognised the importance of FiTI in promoting good governance and as a tool for the development of a sustainable and equitable fisheries sector. The Seychelles Fishing Authority and the Department of Fisheries have ensured that as much information as possible is publicly and readily available and the recommendations made in past FiTI Reports are implemented to close information gaps. To the casual observer, this may seem like a straightforward endeavour but the exercise is dogged by challenges including a lack of human technical capacity, frequent changes in personnel, contractual, financial and time constraints.



A case in point is the renegotiation of the private fishing agreements to ensure removal of confidentiality clauses to allow the terms of such agreements to be made public. This necessitated the cooperation of both parties to find common grounds that are mutually beneficial and fielding of senior officials who could devote time to conduct the negotiations. This was achieved and new agreements are available that will fill an important information gap.

This third FiTI Report reflects mainstreaming of transparency in the Seychelles fisheries sector, i.e., the process has become more about updating information in the report rather than filling in large information gaps. The next step is to work towards making use of the data and ensuring that published information feeds into public debates and policy development. This can be facilitated by making information more accessible through improving website layouts so that they are more intuitive to the information needs of the public. Some additional reports, where complex scientific information is distilled for public consumption, would be useful. This will also be made easier by the Seychelles Fishing Authority launching a new Fisheries Management Information System during the middle of this year.

This report is the result of the efforts of the Report Compiler, whose dedication to the task has been remarkable, and also to the work of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), whose members' individual contribution varied greatly. It is obvious that Government understands the benefits that the state and the country can derive from up-to-date and credible information on the fisheries sector. The industrial fishery participation was sustained and that of the artisanal sector, apart from one fishermen's association, was disappointing. The interest of the civil society needs to be considerably reinforced.

Finally, I wish to thank all those who have contributed towards the preparation of the report and validation of the information therein.

Philippe Michaud

Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy

Chair of the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group of Seychelles

Introduction



The FiTI is a global multi-stakeholder partnership that defines for the first time the information that national authorities must publish on the marine fisheries sector. By making fisheries management more transparent and inclusive, the FiTI promotes informed public debates on fisheries policies and supports the long-term contribution of the sector to national economies and the well-being of citizens and businesses that depend on a health marine environment.

Seychelles, an island group in the western Indian Ocean, is comprised of 115 islands spread over an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 1.37 million km².

Despite having a land mass of just 455km², Seychelles is a large oceanic state, and a major player in the global tuna industry, with Port Victoria one of the busiest industrial fishing ports in the Western Indian Ocean. Seychelles is heavily reliant on the two main pillars of its economy: tourism and fisheries.

In view that marine fisheries are such a key contributor to the social, economic and cultural fabric of Seychelles, the fisheries sector plays a central role in the nation's developmental agenda, from successive National Development Plans to strategies for socio-economic growth. Seychelles has also prioritized the nationalizing of the international agenda on sustainable fisheries, such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

There is a widely shared understanding of the need to achieve sustainably managed marine fisheries. But coastal states, like Seychelles, face a complex challenge: ensuring that fishing and fish trade contribute to income, employment, food and nutrition security, while also conserving marine biodiversity for future generations.

While there are many aspects to achieve sustainable fisheries, the public availability of information is essential. Transparency does not only contribute to improved decision-making by public authorities – it can also highlight underlying factors of unsustainable fisheries. National authorities, private fishing companies, local fishing communities, investors, retailers and partner countries engaged in fishing agreements stand to benefit from increased transparency. Promoting these positive features of fisheries lies at the heart of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI).

Transparency has become a cornerstone of Seychelles' endeavours to transit towards a sustainable ocean economy; and it is a core principle of the country's 'Blue Economy: Strategic Policy Framework and Road map' (2018-2030).

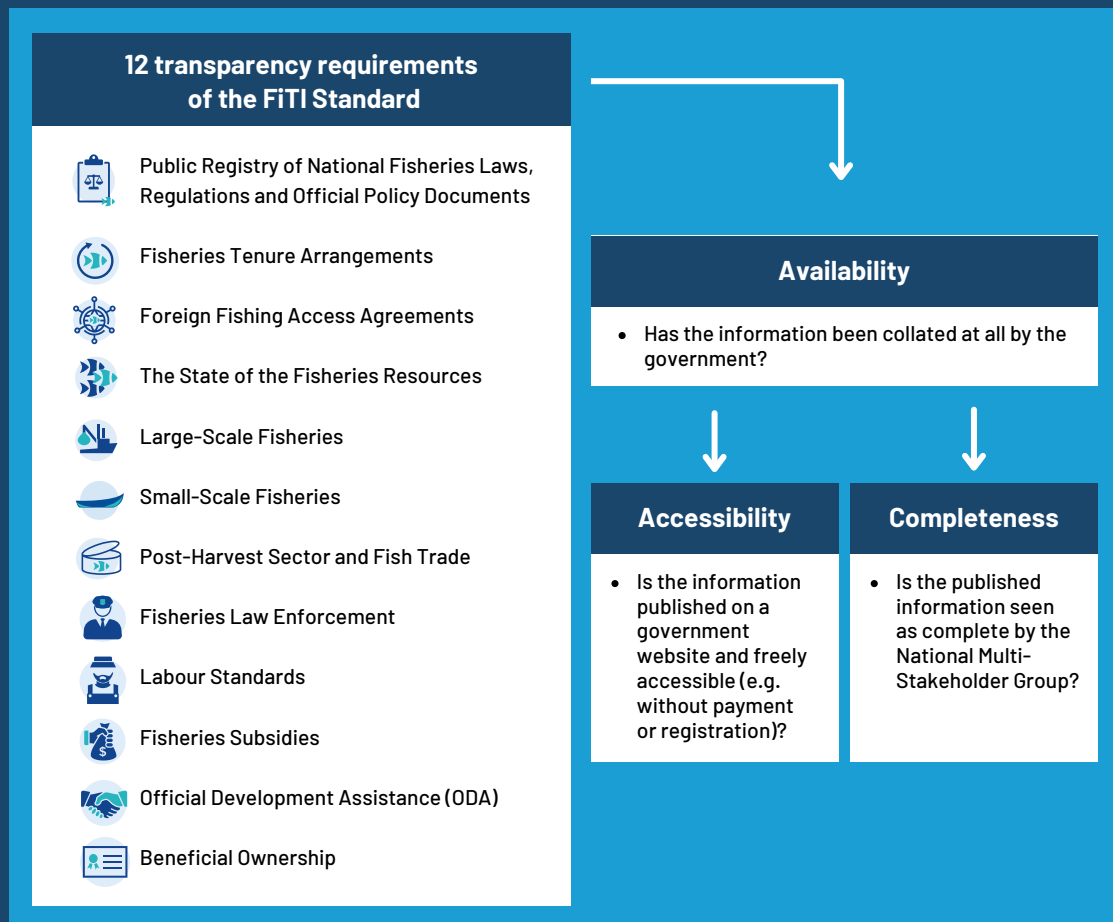
The purpose of this report is fourfold:

1

To **SUMMARISE KEY STATUS INFORMATION** on Seychelles' fisheries sector to increase public understanding and appreciation.

2

To **ASSESS SEYCHELLES' LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE** against the 12 transparency requirements of the FiTI Standard.³



3

To **PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS** to Seychelles' national authorities on how information in the public domain can be further increased.

4

To **REVIEW** progress by Seychelles' national authorities to implement past recommendations from the country's FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group.

³ The **FiTI Standard** is an internationally recognised transparency framework that defines for the first time what information on fisheries should be published online by the national authorities. The FiTI Standard was developed over the course of a 2-year global consultation process with representatives from fishing nations, industrial and artisanal fishing, civil society and intergovernmental organisations.

Summary

“ We, the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group of Seychelles, cognisant of the fact that good governance is a journey and not a destination, have seen evidence in this third FiTI reporting process, that Seychelles is progressing on its journey to improve transparency in the fisheries sector.

We call upon all stakeholders, especially the civil society organisations, to make use of all mechanisms now at their disposal, to fully engage in this process and claim their right as a legitimate contributor to the stewardship of our fisheries resources. We also urge government to continue providing its support to the national FiTI process. ”

—Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group



Fisheries information published by the Seychelles' government over previous FiTI reporting cycles remains available in the public domain. In addition, public access to new information relating to the Seychelles' fisheries sector continues to increase, especially via government websites such as those belonging to the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) and the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MOFBE).

For example, the following is now publicly accessible on government websites:

- Catch and landing data from the sea cucumber and lobster fisheries for the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 seasons.
- Updated data of 2020 recorded catches and fishing effort from industrial longline fishery.
- Details of payments from EU and EU-flagged industrial vessels are included in the notes to SFA's audited financial statements contained in its annual report.
- The value of ice and fuel subsidies provided to the small-scale fisheries sector is presented in the annual report.
- Information on licenses and license payments for the artisanal fishery operators.
- All stock assessment reports undertaken by SFA since 2017.

- An inventory of fisheries and marine conservation projects funded through overseas development assistance and being implemented by the SFA.
- A list of convictions and offences in the fisheries sector in 2020 and 2021 along with relevant court cases.

Information on the total volume of local fishery production continues to improve. In 2021, complete catch and effort data was published for all the fisheries except for artisanal fishery. For industrial vessels, catch data was based on 100% logbook returns for the second consecutive year.

As part of this 2021 FiTI Report, the MOFBE confirmed that:

- no specific subsidies are provided to Seychelles' large-scale fisheries sector. It is noted that the sale of fuel to industrial fishing vessels is free of duty, and this economy-wide concession is applicable to all international vessels, and not only those involved in fisheries;
- an informal fisheries sector exists in Seychelles, especially in the sports and recreational fishery which is presently not regulated. However, the MOFBE stated that a study is underway for assessing its economic and social importance, of which the result will help guide future policies or legislation for this sector;
- no processes and procedures are published for entry into the sea cucumber fishery as no new entrants can be accommodated, given that it is a limited entry fishery and the current status of some species of sea cucumbers are observed to be overfished.

As part of this 2021 FiTI Report, in Annex C of the Detailed Section, a range of information is now publicly available including:

- The list of fisheries and marine conservation projects, funded by overseas development assistance through SeyCCAT, which were active in 2021.
- Updated 2020 catch data from Seychelles' artisanal fisheries as well as industrial fisheries.
- Restated 2019 and 2020 fuel subsidies for small-scale fisheries.
- A newly compiled list of fisheries and marine conservation projects, funded by overseas development assistance through SeyCCAT, which were active in 2021.



There is a central economy-wide register of beneficial owners for all legal persons and legal arrangements owning businesses in Seychelles including businesses in the fisheries sector. However, access is given only upon request to competent authorities, for the administration or enforcement of their relevant legislations in order to fight financial crimes. The list of competent authorities currently does not include the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA).



Information required by the FiTI Standard on several important fisheries issues remains unpublished either on a government website or as part of this FiTI Report, or if published is seen as significantly incomplete. This impacts Seychelles decision makers' ability to understand how specific fisheries management decisions are affecting the overall sustainability of Seychelles' fisheries sector. These include:

- The publication of two private foreign fishing access agreements (with Taiwan Deep-sea Tuna Longline Boat Owners and Exporters Association (TTA) and Top Fortune International (TFI), due to confidentiality provisions it is noted that in November 2022, the government of Seychelles re-negotiated these two agreements and removed the confidentiality clauses. These agreements have recently been published.
- An official summary description of national labour standard laws that apply to national and foreign workers employed in Seychelles' fisheries sector (both at sea and in the post-harvest sector) as a result of a lack of capacity nationally to undertake the exercise.
- Beneficial ownership information for businesses in the fisheries sector is not systematically collated by national authorities.



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

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021

	2021		2020
Major marine fisheries laws and regulations in Seychelles	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries Act (2014) Fisheries Regulations (1987) Aquaculture Regulations (2020) Mahé Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Regulations (2021) 	2
Major official policy documents regarding marine fisheries	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seychelles Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy (2019) Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (2019) - focused on small-scale fisheries 	2
Fisheries management plans	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mahé Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co-Management Plan (2020) National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (2016-2020) 	2

TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?		Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?		Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?	
2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020

KEY



Yes



To a large extent



Partially



To a limited extent



No



The MOFBE and SFA websites are updated with all laws and regulations with a direct bearing on marine fisheries. Two new pieces of legislation were published in 2021:

- the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Regulations (2021), enacted in 2021 and came into force in January 2022, is published on the SFA website; and
- the Aquaculture Regulations (2020), which came into force in 2021, is published on the MOFBE website.

In addition, all laws and regulations are published in the Official Gazette.

All other relevant fisheries policies and strategy documents are published on the MOFBE and SFA websites.

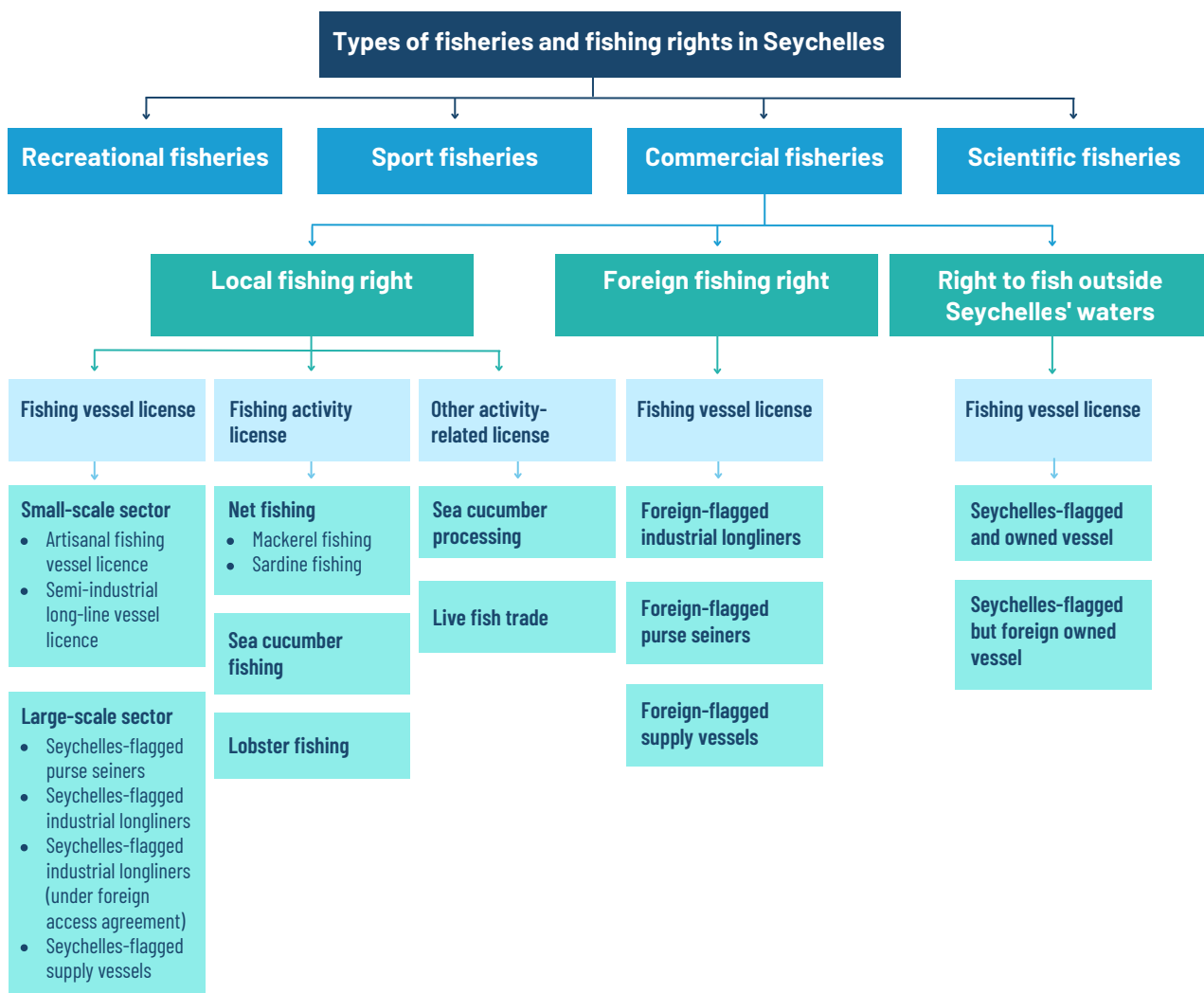


Fisheries Tenure Arrangements⁴

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021

The Fisheries Act (2014) is the main piece of legislation structuring rights, authorizations, procedures, and dispensation for all types of fisheries in Seychelles. Many of the articles concerning rights and authorizations in the Act are elaborated in the Fisheries Regulations (1987).

Furthermore, the Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (FCP) 2019 partially updated and summarized the application procedures for fishing permits and authorisations for the small-scale sector. For calendar year 2021, no changes occurred in the types of fisheries and fishing rights that exist in Seychelles.



⁴ Fisheries tenure agreements define who can use which fish resources, for how long, and under what conditions, amongst other features. Such agreements are one of the most critical aspects of sustainable fisheries management. Fisheries tenure systems define how and why governments allocate rights for fishing.



TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?		Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?		Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?	
2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020



Clarifications for the absence of processes and procedures to join the sea cucumber fishery, provided by the MOFBE, are included in this 2021 FiTI Report. MOFBE explained that no processes and procedures are published for entry into this fishery at this point because no new entrants can be accommodated, given that it is a limited entry fishery, and the current status of the sea cucumber stocks where some species are observed to be overfished.

The FAQ on fisheries tenure arrangements for all fisheries in Seychelles published on the SFA website during the 2020 FiTI reporting process is still available on the SFA website and the information was applicable to 2021.

One instance of a consultation with stakeholders of the sea cucumber fishery to discuss proposals for the 2021/2022 sea cucumber fishery season was published. The agenda and the new proposals were published as a link on the SFA website.



In 2021, the MOFBE started negotiations with management companies of Seychelles-flagged vessels with a view to have an agreement in place to cover procedures and rules for Seychelles-flagged industrial vessels including fees, reporting requirements and termination of authorization procedures. These will come into effect in 2023.



There is still no publication from Seychellois authorities pertaining to individual persons that are legally entitled to issue commercial access rights and fishing authorisations in Seychelles. Constant staff turnover and recent leadership changes at the SFA, is making this challenging.

There are still no published details on the fees charged, reporting requirements and provisions for terminating the authorization of a Seychelles flagged vessel to fish in third party countries or the High Seas. Agreements to cover Seychelles-flagged vessels are due to be instituted in 2023.

The clarifications for the absence of processes and procedures to join the sea cucumber fishery, provided by the MOFBE during the 2021 FiTI reporting process, is yet to be published on the SFA or the MOFBE website.

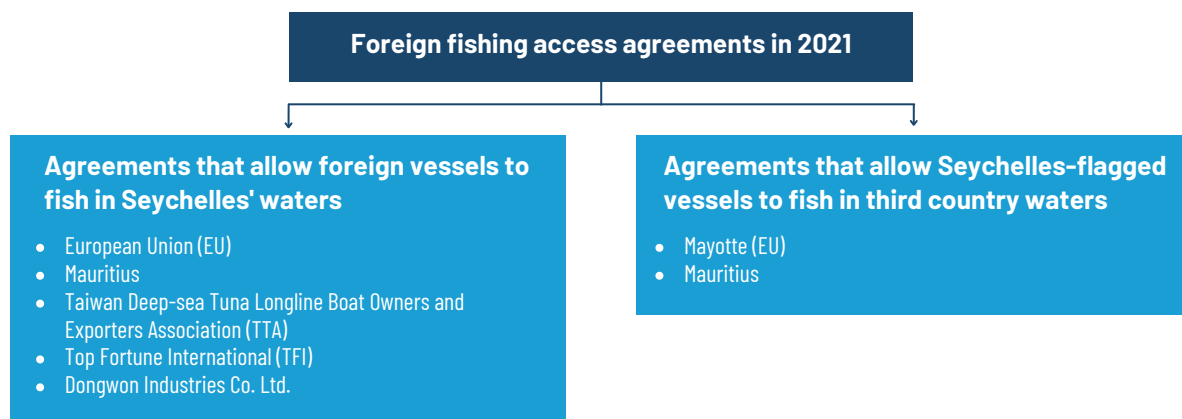
The minutes of the proceedings of the consultation with sea cucumber stakeholders held in August 2021, to discuss proposals for the 2021/2022 sea cucumber fishery season, is not published.



Foreign Fishing Access Agreements⁵

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021

	2021		2020
Agreements that allow foreign vessels to fish in Seychelles' waters	5	[See below]	5
Agreements that allow Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish in third country waters	2	[See below]	2
Number of studies or reports that provide evaluation or oversight of these agreements	0		3



⁵ A foreign fishing access agreement refers to a contractual arrangement entered into by a coastal state (e.g. Seychelles) and a foreign party, that allows for fishing vessels to operate in the country's marine jurisdictional waters (i.e. Territorial Sea and EEZ). Such a foreign party can either be a foreign government, a union of foreign governments (such as the EU), a private company, or an association of private companies. These agreements provide fishing opportunities in return for payments or investments, and usually set out the conditions that regulate fishing activities.



TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?		Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?		Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?	
2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020



A summary of the key information for each of the foreign fishing agreements active in 2021 has been published on the SFA website. This was previously published as part of the 2020 FITI report.

The three available evaluation reports on the EU/Seychelles Partnership Agreement, reported in the 2020 FITI Report, remain available on the SFA website.



The agreements with Top Fortune International (TFI) and Taiwan Deep Sea Tuna Longline Boat Owners and Exporters Association (TTA) have been renegotiated to remove the confidentiality clauses and will be published before the end of 2022.

The MOFBE has commissioned an assessment of the fishing agreements with Mauritius and the EU and this will include looking at the compliance with the conditions of the agreement.



There is still no written agreement (i.e. contract) between Seychelles and Dongwon Industries Co. Ltd. The MOFBE has indicated that an agreement will be negotiated and signed by the end of 2023.



The State of the Fisheries Resources

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021

Given that a variety of different species are pursued as part of fishing activities undertaken in Seychelles' waters, the following simplified chart outlines the responsibilities for conducting stock assessments.

Responsibilities for conducting stock assessments

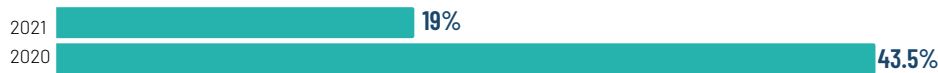


	2021	2020
Stock assessments published by national authorities in Seychelles	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Fish Stocks of Seychelles' Artisanal Trap and Line Fishery, 2021 • Seychelles sea cucumber survey 2021/22 • Artisanal fisheries, 2021 • Spiny lobster fishery - Survey Report 2021 	1
Species groups with stock status information (up to 2021)	48 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (See table below) Compared to 2020, stock information for 2021 is now available on 25 additional species and species groups. Thereof 6 species of importance in artisanal fisheries, 10 sea cucumber species, 7 shark species, 1 billfish species and 2 tuna and mackerel species. 	23



Fishing pressure⁶

Not subject to overfishing



Subject to overfishing



Uncertain



Unknown



In addition to information on 25 additional species, stock status of 5 species of importance in the artisanal fisheries previously determined as overfished, was determined as uncertain (4) and not overfished (1). For the 6 additional artisanal species for which information was available, 4 were determined as uncertain and 2 not overfished. Stock status of 3 out of 12 sea cucumber species was determined as uncertain. Stock status of 9 species, 6 of these sharks, was unknown.

Biomass⁷

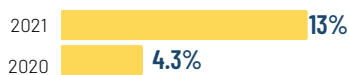
Not overfished



Overfished



Uncertain



Unknown



The fishing pressure status of the majority of the species of importance in artisanal fisheries 7 of 12 and the sea cucumber fishery 9 of 12 was determined to be uncertain. Whilst the total number of species subject to overfishing has increased to 13, the total number of species assessed has increased hence the apparent decrease in percentage subject to overfishing. Stock status of 9 species, 6 of these sharks, was unknown.

⁶ **Fishing pressure** indicates whether a stock is being subject to excessive fishing or not. Subject to overfishing indicates a stock has a fishing mortality (harvest) rate that is higher than the MSY. Not subject to overfishing indicates that the fishing mortality is not affecting the MSY.

⁷ **Biomass** indicates whether the stock is able to support the largest long-term average catch or yield under the existing environmental conditions. This long-term average catch or yield is commonly referred to as the maximum sustainable yield (MSY). *Overfished* indicates that the biomass is below the level able to support the MSY. Vice versa, *not overfished* indicates the stock biomass is at a level capable of sustaining the MSY.



Summary of stock status of species (assessed by SFA since 2017)

Common Name	Creole Name	Period	Year of Publication	Stock Status	
				Fishing pressure	Biomass
Emperor Red Snapper	Bourzwa	2019	2021		
Brown Spotted Grouper	Vyey Makonde	2019	2021		
Green Jobfish	Zob gri	2019	2021		
Rabbitfish	Kordonyen	2019	2021		
Yellow Spotted Travelly	Karang plat	2019	2021		
Bludger	Karang balo	2019	2021		
Kawakawa	Bonit fol	2021	2021		
Becune	Bekin	2019	2021		

KEY (fishing pressure) Not subject to overfishing Uncertain Subject to overfishing

KEY (biomass) Not overfished Uncertain Overfished



Common Name	Creole Name	Period	Year of Publication	Stock Status	
				Fishing Mortality	Biomass
Bonito	Bonit	2019	2021		
Red snapper	-	2019	2021		
Capitaine	-	2019	2021		
Incl. Parrot fish, goat fish & wrasse families	-	2019	2021		
Groupers	Vyey	2019	2021		
Yellowfin tuna	Ton Zonn	2021	2021		
Big eye tuna	Ton gro lizye	2021	2021		
Skipjack tuna	Ton reye	2021	2021		
Swordfish	Espadron	2021	2021		



Common Name	Creole Name	Period	Year of Publication	Stock Status	
				Fishing Mortality	Biomass
Indo-Pacific sailfish	Dyab Lavwal	2021	2021		
Blue marlin	Espadron	2021	2021		
Striped marlin	Espadron	2021	2021		
Albacore	Albakor	2019	2021		
Blue shark	-	2021	2021		
Indo-Pacific king mackerel	-	2021	2021		
Longtail tuna	-	2021	2021		
Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	-	2021	2021		



Common Name	Creole Name	Period	Year of Publication	Stock Status	
				Fishing Mortality	Biomass
Pronghorn spiny lobster	Oumar	2021	2021		
Long-legged spiny lobster	Oumar	2021	2021		
White teatfish	Kokosye blan	2021	2021		
Flower teatfish	Pentard	2021	2021		
Prickly redfish	Sanpye	2021	2021		
Black teatfish	Kokosye nwanr	2021	2021		
Elephant trunkfish	Safran	2021	2021		



TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?		Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?		Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?	
2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020



All stock assessment reports produced or commissioned by SFA from 2017 to 2021 are now publicly available on the SFA website.

The plan of stock assessments up to 2024, published during the 2020 FITI report, is still available on SFA's website.

The two stock assessment reports undertaken in 2021 have both been published on SFA's website.

Summary information on stock status information published in 2020 for species falling under both the management mandate of the Seychelles government and that of the IOTC is still available on the SFA website.



A comprehensive national report on the overall status of fish stocks in Seychelles has not been compiled to date. Staff turnover at the SFA is delaying the preparation of this report.

Summary information on published stock information report, published in 2020, is not updated.

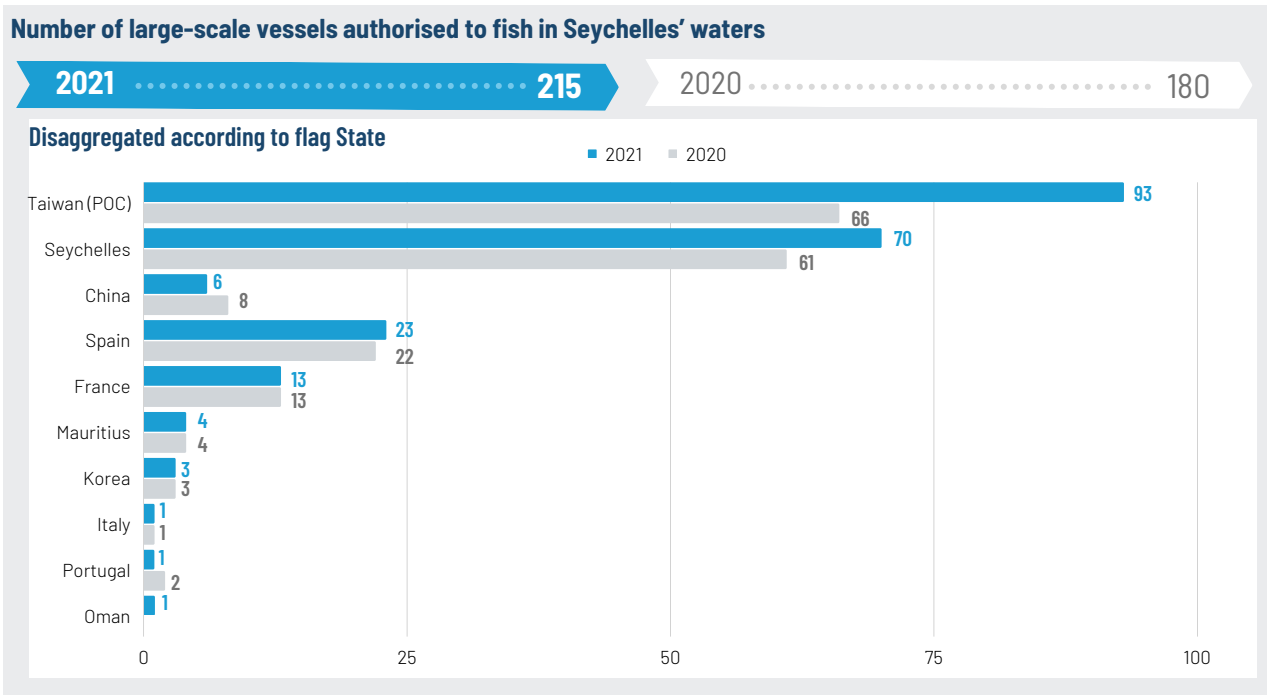


Large-Scale Fisheries



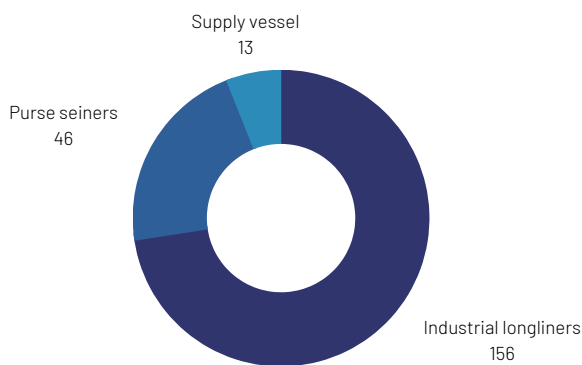
WHO IS ALLOWED TO FISH?

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021

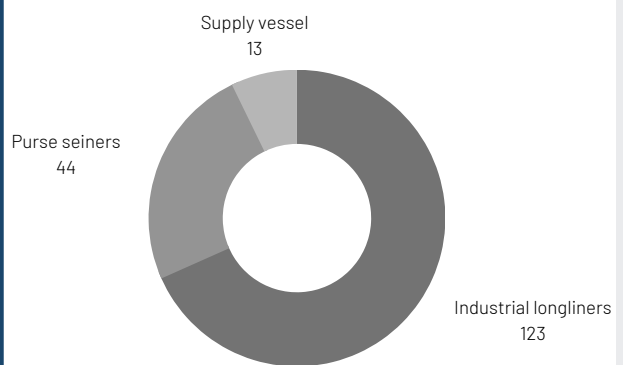


The increase in the number of large scale fishing vessels from 180 to 215 is due to an increase in Taiwan (POC)-flagged longliners from 66 in 2020 to 93 in 2021.

Disaggregated according to vessel type (2021)



Disaggregated according to vessel type (2020)





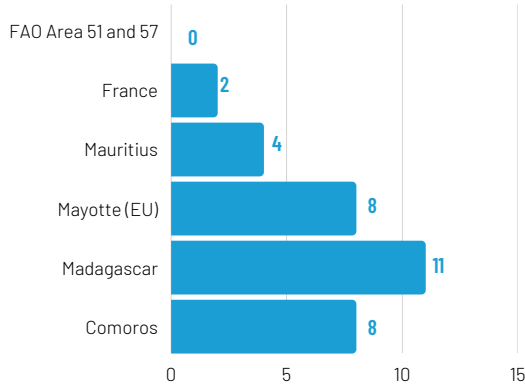
Large-Scale Fisheries

Number of Seychelles-flagged large-scale vessels authorised to fish in third country waters and on the High Seas

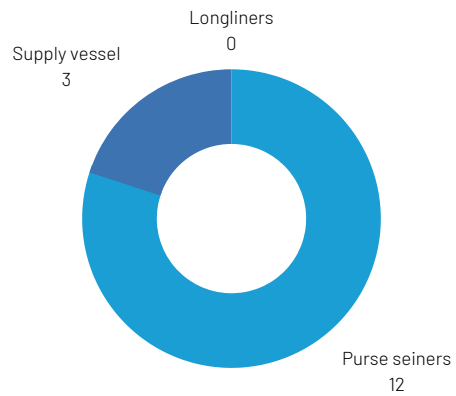
2021 15

2020 61

Disaggregated according to third countries/areas (2021)



Disaggregated according to vessel type (2021)



TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?

2021



2020



Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?

2021



2020



Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?

2021



2020





Large-Scale Fisheries



As pointed out in Seychelles 2020 FITI Report, SFA maintains complete, updated records on large scale vessels licensed to fish in Seychelles' waters. An updated registry in the form of a spreadsheet is published online on the SFA website. Information in this registry adheres mostly to the vessel attributes of the FITI Standard.

Assessment of SFA's internal vessel records showed that all 215 vessels licensed in 2021 were included on this online vessel registry.



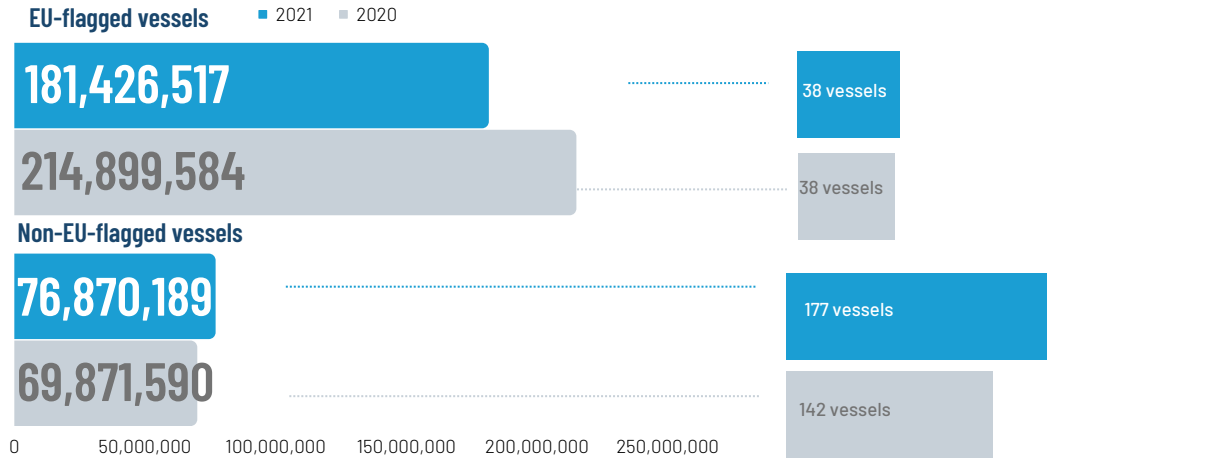
There are gaps in the data of the published large-scale vessel registry. For example, the yellow fin tuna quotas, allocated to Seychelles-flagged vessels, is not included.



HOW MUCH IS PAID FOR THE RIGHT TO FISH?

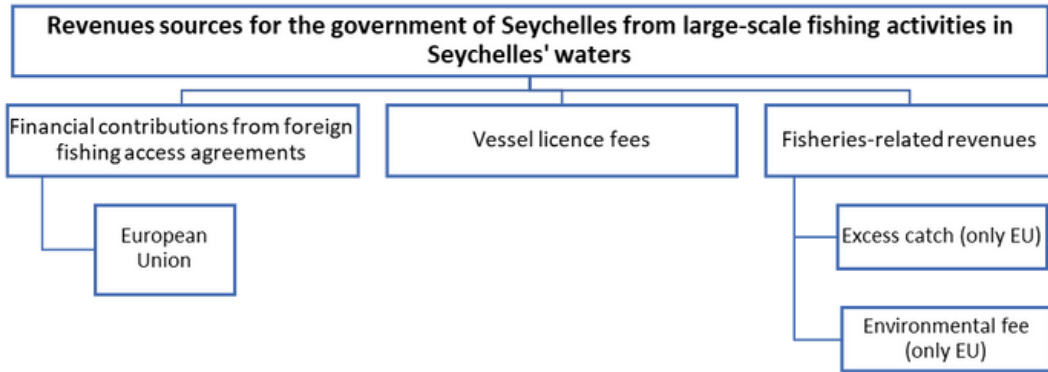
KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021

Payments from large-scale vessels authorised to fish in Seychelles' waters (in SCR)

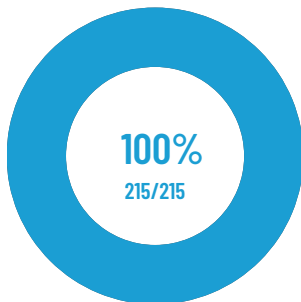


Payments for EU-flagged vessels consist of several categories, such as sectoral support, fishing opportunities and excess catch. For more information, please refer to the detailed breakdown on the next page. Payments made for non-EU-flagged vessels relate solely to fishing licenses in Seychelles' waters.

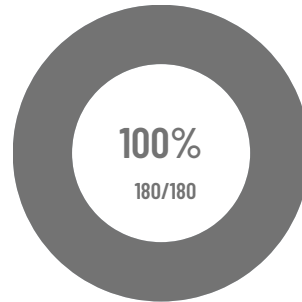
A 37% change in the value of the Seychelles Rupee from SCR 26.43 in 2020 to SCR 16.60 in 2021 significantly impacted income from EU-flagged vessels in 2021.



Large-scale vessels for which licence payments could be verified as part of this reporting process



2021



2020



Data breakdown: EU-flagged vessels (in SCR)

Sectoral support under the EU Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA)



In 2021, the EU paid Seychelles EUR 2.8 million to support the implementation of the country's sectoral fisheries and maritime policies, which is the same amount paid in 2020. The difference in absolute amounts from 2020 to 2021 is due to foreign currency fluctuations. All EU payments are made in Euros and are converted in SCR the day of the payment (reflected in the SFA's accounts).

Annual lump sum for fishing opportunities in Seychelles' waters for EU-flagged vessels under the SFPA



In 2021, the EU paid an annual sum equivalent to EUR 2.5 million for access of up to 48 EU-flagged vessels to Seychelles' waters, equivalent to a reference tonnage of 50,000 tonnes per year. The same rate applied in 2020.

Payments made by EU-flagged vessel operators for fishing licences in Seychelles' waters under the SFPA



These payments values for 2021 correspond to a total of 38 fishing vessels: 26 purse seiners, 5 longliners and 7 supply vessels. The difference in absolute amount is a reflection of the foreign exchange fluctuations at the start of 2021.

Additional payments made by EU-flagged vessel operators for excess catch in Seychelles' waters under the SFPA⁸



It is to be noted that only the EU makes payments to Seychelles for excess catch in Seychelles' waters. According to the current protocol (2020-2026), the total amount to be paid by the EU increases by EUR 50 for each additional tonne of catch that exceeds the annual reference tonnage (50,000 tonnes) afforded to EU vessels fishing in Seychelles' waters.

However, excess catch payments cannot be published on a per vessel basis, due to a confidentiality clause in the EU/Seychelles SFPA: "The parties shall ensure that only aggregated data related to fishing activities in the Seychelles fishing zone shall be made available to the public domain."

The low payments in 2021 compared to 2020 may be as a result of a possible change in fishing strategy to avoid large yellowfin which is highly abundant inside the Seychelles EEZ. This could lead to the vessels exhausting their yellowfin quota. Instead, the vessels fished more on drifting FADs outside the Seychelles EEZ where the most abundant species on FADs are skipjack.

⁸ In the Audited Financial Statements of the 2021 SFA Annual Report, the figure for excess catch payment aggregates the vessel and EU payments. The value given for 2020 is SCR 75,183,419 and for 2021 is SCR 25,852,864.



Large-Scale Fisheries

Additional payments made by the EU-flagged vessels for excess catch under the SFPA



The high value in 2020 was a result of collection of previous years' dues.

The value for 2021, as published in Note 18 (Revenue) to the 2021 SFA Audited Financial Statements (AFS), is low compared to the prior year value of SCR 72,833,155. The previous figure of SCR 28,185,698 in the Seychelles 2020 FiTI report was based on partial information available at the time of report finalisation. The value for 2021 corresponds to payments for excess catch from 29 EU industrial fishing vessels (Purse seiners: French - 11; Spanish - 16, Italy - 1; Longliners: Spanish - 1)

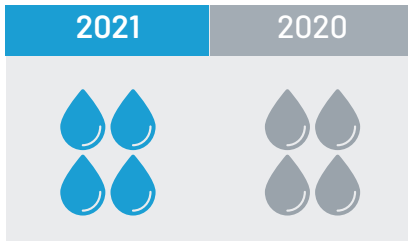
Payment made by EU-flagged vessels for environmental management and observation of marine ecosystems under the SFPA



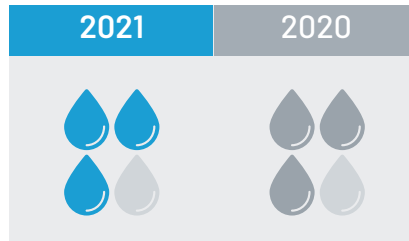
The 2021 value is equivalent to EUR 175,128. The environmental management and observation of marine ecosystems fee was introduced under the 2020-2026 EU/Seychelles SFPA.

TRANSPARENCY STATUS

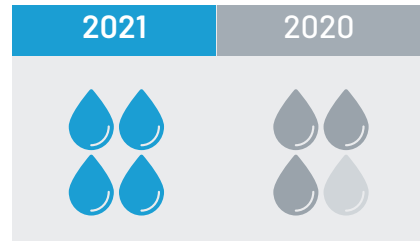
Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?



Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?



Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?



As pointed out in Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report, license payments by large scale vessel operators in 2021 is included in the vessel registry available on the SFA website.

Some of the payments made by the EU for fishing rights, sectoral support and for excess catch for EU-flagged vessels under the SFPA, is published in the notes to SFA's 2021 audited financial statements. Environment fee and excess catch payments made by EU-flagged vessels are also detailed in these notes.



The 2021 SFA Annual Report was published within a reasonable time after year end which means that information which is usually available and detailed only in this report, such as fish production figures, income and expenditure information, was available during the 2021 FiTI reporting process.

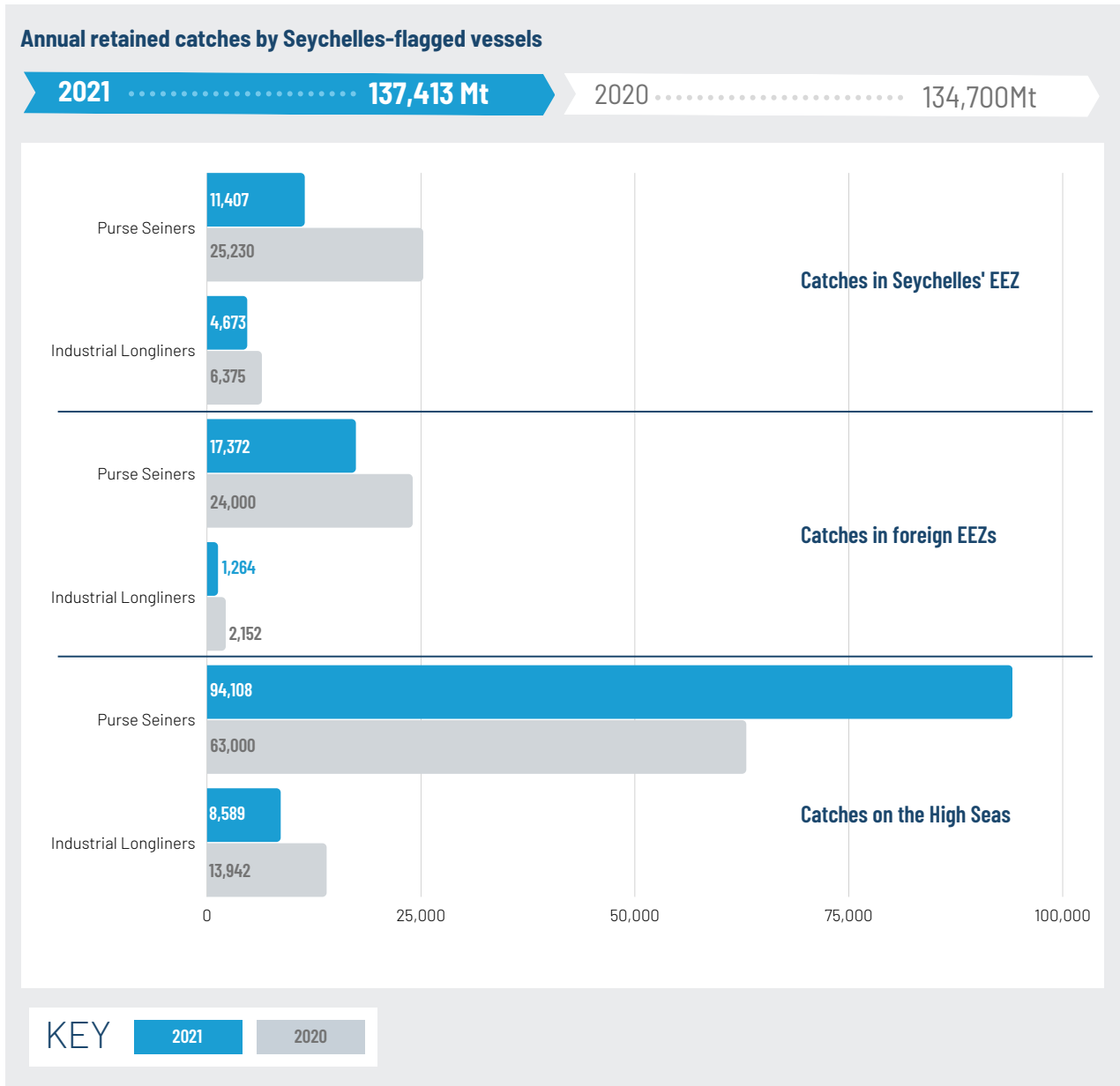


HOW MUCH FISH HAS BEEN CAUGHT?

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021

The 2020 FiTI Report showed incomplete catch data for the industrial fisheries, in particular stemming from administrative challenges within SFA which meant that catch data for the first semester only was available at the conclusion of the reporting process.

As part of this 2021 FiTI Report, the 2020 data has been updated and information is provided in Annex C of the Detailed Section.





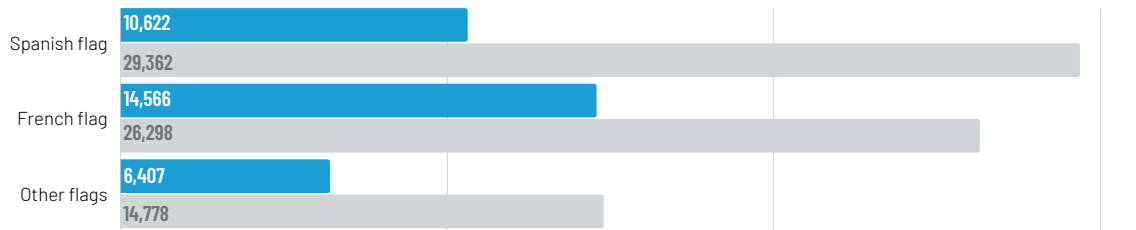
Annual retained catches by foreign-flagged vessels

2021 **301,744 Mt**

2020 246,532 Mt

Catches by foreign-flagged vessels in Seychelles' EEZ (Mt)

Purse Seiners

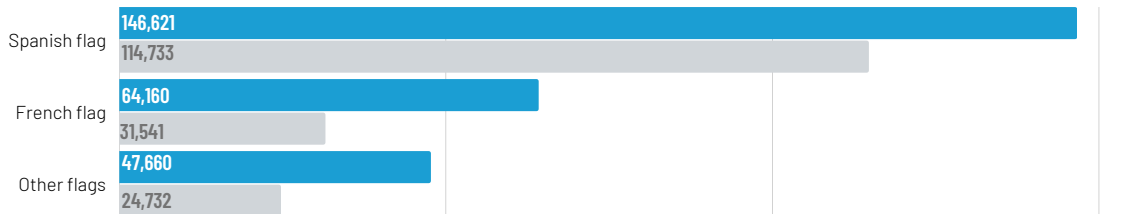


Industrial Longliners

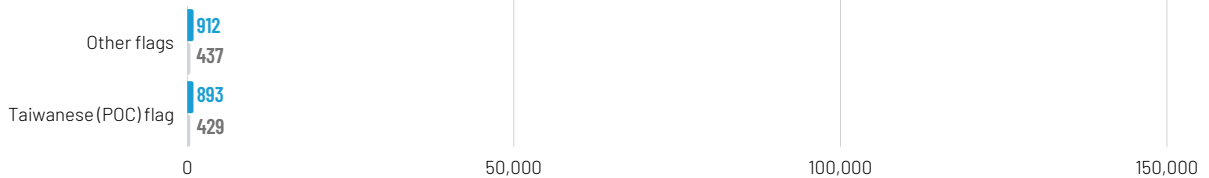


Catches by foreign-flagged vessels in EEZs of other Western Indian Ocean countries or the High Seas (Mt) in 2020

Purse Seiners



Industrial Longliners



KEY

2021

2020

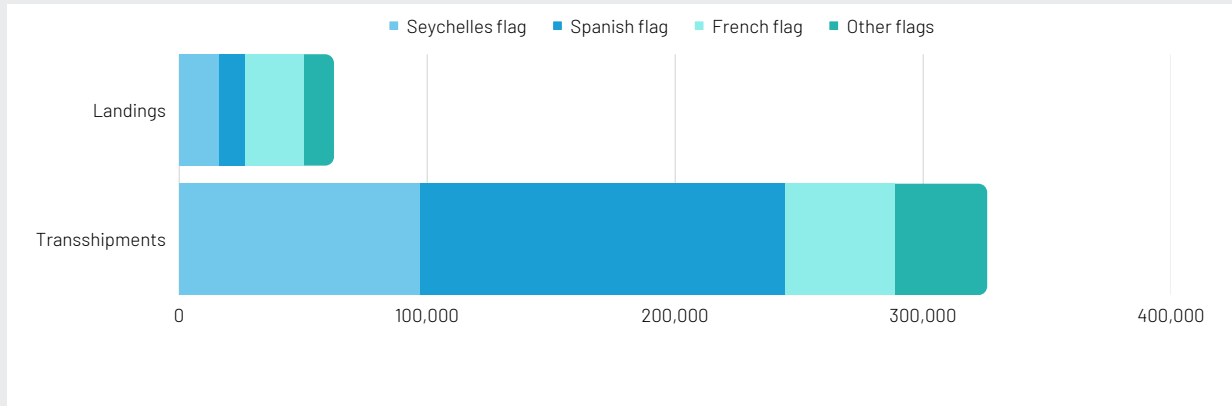


Annual landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports

Information is incomplete, as the data from the industrial longline fishery has been submitted but not yet collated by Seychelles' national authorities.

2021 **387,992 Mt** ⚠️ **2020** **333,152 Mt** ⚠️



Annual landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports in 2021-> only Purse Seiners (Mt)




	Transshipments	Landings
Only Purse Seiners (Mt)		
Seychelles flag	97,070	15,993
Spanish flag	147,047	10,275
French flag	44,285	23,853
Other flags	37,298	12,169



KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021

	2021		2020
Annual landings and transshipments in foreign ports	 28,032 Mt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data only refers to purse seiners licensed to fish in Seychelles' waters. Data from industrial longliners is available to SFA but has not been published due to low level of confidence in the data. Value represents 7% of total catch from purse seiners. Five foreign ports were used for transshipments and landings in 2021: Diego Suarez (Madagascar), Port Louis (Mauritius), Mombasa (Kenya), which include Abidjan (Ivory Coast) and Besan (South Korea). 	 18,108 Mt
Fish discards by purse seine vessels	2,058 Mt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,950 Mt unloaded in Port Victoria 108 Mt unloaded in Port Louis (Mauritius) 	Data not available
Fishing effort by purse seine vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters (days spent fishing within Seychelles' EEZ)	1,601 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 9,671 days were spent fishing in the Western Indian Ocean. 	3,127 days
Fishing effort by industrial longline vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters (hooks deployed within Seychelles' EEZ)	38.6 million hooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data in the 2020 FITI Report covered Semester 1 of 2020 only. This is updated here. A total of 66.6 million hooks were deployed in the Western Indian Ocean. 	25.9 million hooks

 Indicating incomplete data



TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?

Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?

Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?

2021		2020		2021		2020		2021		2020	
4 blue water drop icons		4 grey water drop icons		4 blue water drop icons		4 grey water drop icons		4 blue water drop icons		4 grey water drop icons	



As pointed out in Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report, through its Fisheries Statistical Report, SFA publishes a large amount of data regarding catches, landings, transshipments and fishing effort of large-scale fisheries.

For two consecutive years, catch data for large scale fisheries is complete, based on 100% logbook returns for both the purse seiners and industrial longliners. In addition, the data is highly disaggregated and fulfils almost all the requirements of the FiTI Standard.

Data on fish discards from the industrial longline fishery was published in the 2020 Fisheries Statistical Report.



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. No date was given as to when this will be available.



Landings and transshipment data (in Seychelles' as well as foreign ports) is not published by Seychelles' authorities, even though the majority of data has been submitted to SFA. Reasons given for not publishing this information are technical data processing issues as well as low confidence in the submitted data.



Small-Scale Fisheries

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021

Small-scale fisheries in Seychelles (often also referred to as local fisheries) is defined in the Fisheries Comprehensive Plan as ‘a fishery using vessels less than 24 metres in length overall carrying out fishing activities within Seychelles’ territorial waters and EEZ and to a lesser extent on the high seas.’ The economic, social and cultural contributions of small-scale fishing are significant for Seychelles, as is its role in ensuring food security in terms of animal protein for the population of the country.

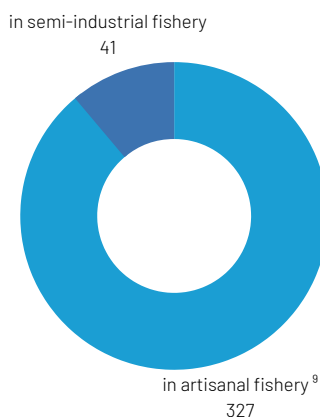


Average monthly number of active small-scale fishing vessels

2021 **368** ⚠

2020 371

Small-scale vessels in 2021

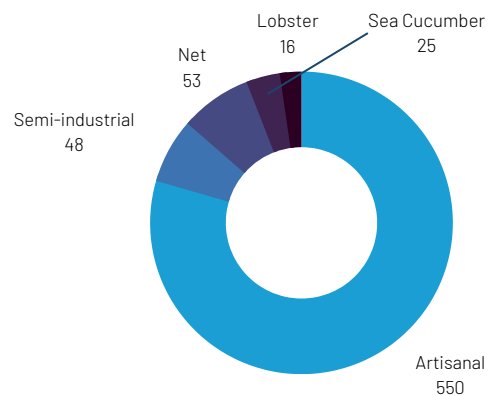


Number of fishing licences issued to small-scale fishing vessels

2021 **692**

2020 577

Licences issued to small-scale fishing vessels in 2021



⁹ Information relates to semester 1 2021 only.

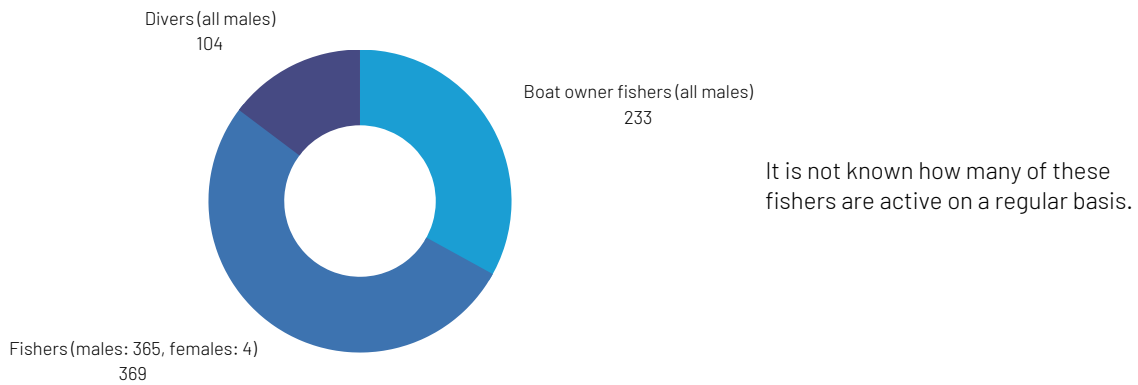
⚠ Indicating incomplete data



Number of fishers engaged in the fishing sector



Number of small-scale fishers in 2021



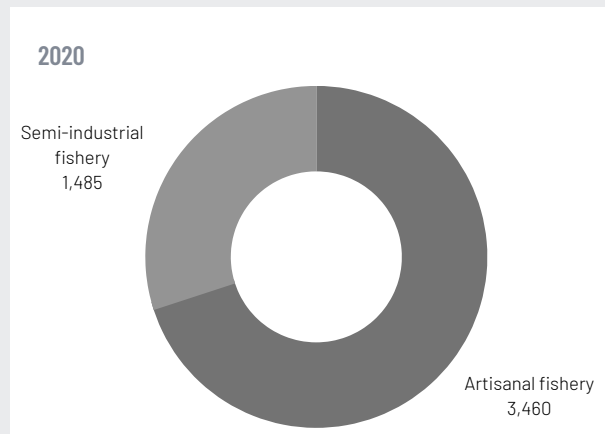
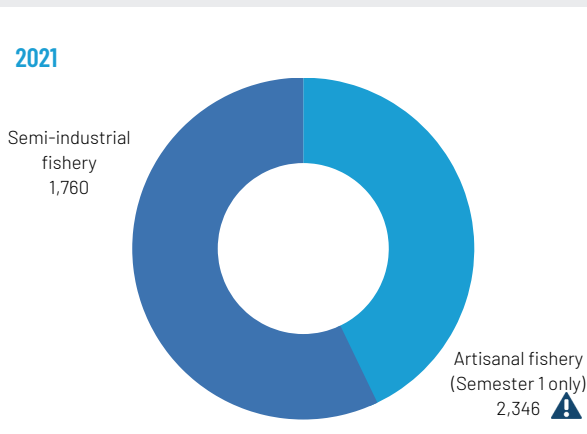
Payments for fishing licence fees made by small-scale fisheries (in SCR)

No payments are made by small-scale fishers for catches and landings.



Quantity of catches made by small-scale fisheries (in Mt)

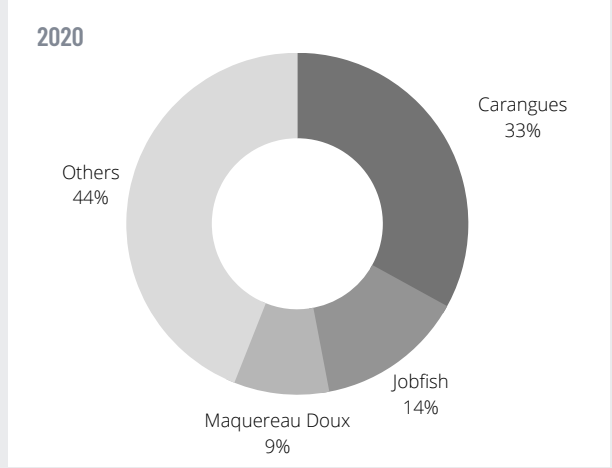
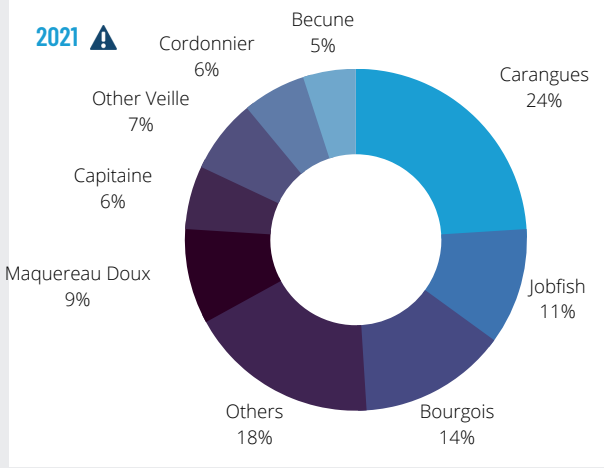
Catch data for artisanal fishery is incomplete due to data processing and reporting issues for this fishery.



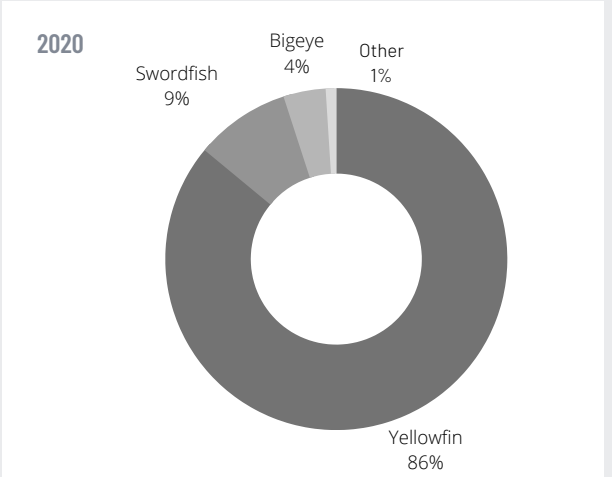
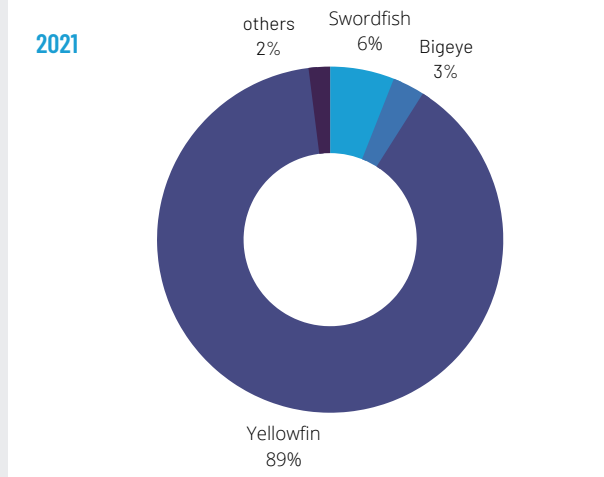
Indicating incomplete data



Catches by artisanal fishery (in Mt) - Major species

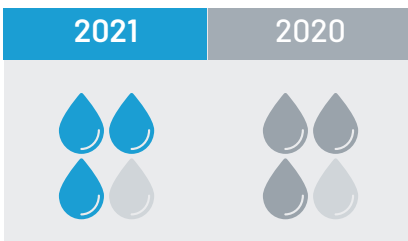


Catches by semi-industrial fishery (in Mt) - Major species

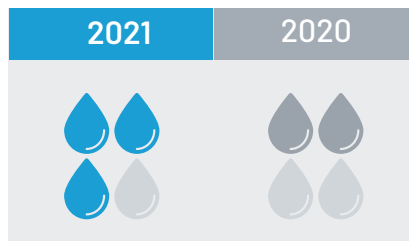


TRANSPARENCY STATUS

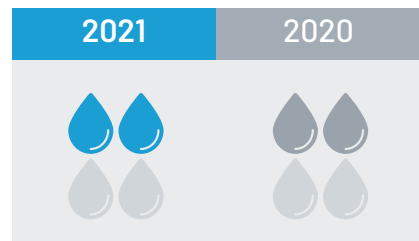
Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?



Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?



Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?



 Indicating incomplete data



Catch data for the sea cucumber and lobster fisheries was included in the 2021 Fisheries Bulletin, which means that the publication now provides a complete estimate of the total volume of local fishery production.

In addition to license information which had been published earlier, payment information relating to fishing vessels and fishing activities along with information on artisanal fishing licenses were published for the first time on the SFA website during this FITI reporting process.

Two studies on the contribution of the small-scale fisheries sector to the economy were published in 2021:

- The “Baseline Socioeconomic Study of Semi-industrial longline fleet” implemented in 2019 (and published on the SFA website)
- The Economic Impact of the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry (also published on the SFA website).



SFA has explained that it is not practical to collect information on the employment status of registered fishers, as the requirement to be registered to qualify for concessions will mean that all fishers will indicate that they are working full time at registration. Information on employment status is best obtained through occasional surveys.




Information on gender is not captured for registered, artisanal fishers.

The published 2021 catch data for the artisanal fishery relates to semester 1 data only and therefore cannot be seen as complete. SFA is facing challenges related to upgrading of the data processing and reporting system for this fishery.



Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade¹⁰

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021

	2021	2020
Total quantity of fish and fish products produced	 63,084 Mt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published in the 2021 SFA Annual Report, which is more complete compared to the NBS figure. 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. However, catch data is incomplete in the 2021 SFA Annual Report because of issues with compiling catch data from artisanal fisheries. 	68,023 Mt

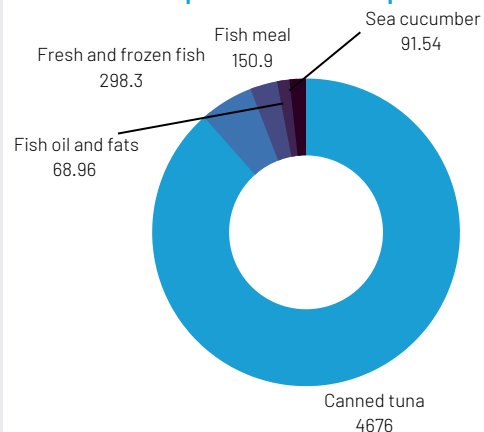
The figure published in the 2020 FITI report of 60,023Mt was incomplete because data for the small-scale fisheries was incomplete. It has been re-stated here following updated figures published in the SFA 2021 Annual Report. The 2021 figure is also deemed to be incomplete because of incomplete catch data on the artisanal fisheries (see section 1.6).

Total value of exports of fish and fish products

2021 **SCR 5.286 billion**

2020 **SCR 4.994 billion**

2021 value of exports of fish and fish products



Total value of imports of fish and fish products

Most of the imported fish are frozen tuna sold by EU-flagged vessels to the local canning factory, as well as frozen tuna imported from a certified fishery in the Maldives.



¹⁰ Fish is the most traded agricultural product in the world (in monetary terms); the value of fish traded internationally is greater than that of many other food products, such as coffee, tea and sugar combined.



	2021	2020
Total number of people employed in commercial fisheries sectors in Seychelles	<p>Unknown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2021 'Employment Study and Capacity Needs Assessment for the Fisheries Sector in Seychelles' did not estimate employment in the whole sector. It established that the workforce is composed of 85% full time workers and 76% of fishers were full time compared to 81% non-fishers. The 2019 study on the 'Economic Impact of the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry found that 185 jobs were supported by the fishery and the industry, the majority of which (64%) were Seychellois. 	Unknown
Total number of people employed in the informal fisheries sectors in Seychelles	<p>Unknown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of this 2021 FITI Report, the MOFBE confirmed that an informal fisheries sector exists in Seychelles, especially in the sports and recreational fishery which is presently not regulated. However, the MOFBE stated that a study is underway for assessing its economic and social importance, of which the result will help guide future policies or legislation for this sector. This confirmation has not been published yet on a government website. 	Unknown

TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?		Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?		Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?	
2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020



Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade



Information on the quantity of fish and fish products produced by Seychelles for the year 2021 was published in SFA's 2021 Annual Report and fish catch information is disaggregated by sector (artisanal, semi-industrial and industrial), with fish products such as fish oils and fish meal also included.

Information on imports of fish and fish products was published in the 2021 SFA Annual Report and provided information on both the value and quantity of imports. Information on fish exports was published in NBS' Merchandise Trade 2021 Q4 Statistical Bulletin, disaggregated by export destination but not by species level.

Several studies have been published which provide information on the number of employees in specific sub-sectors and on wages in the fisheries sector:

- The 'Employment Study and Capacity Needs Assessment for the Fisheries Sector in Seychelles' published in 2021, has provided information on the distribution of employees across different fisheries sub-sectors, a gender breakdown, an estimation of full time and part-time workers in the fisheries sector and comprehensive information on wages among fishers and non-fishers.
- The 'Baseline Socioeconomic Study of Semi-industrial Longline Fleet' and the 'Economic Impact of the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry' study on the other hand, provided information on numbers of employees and wage estimates in these respective sub-sectors.



There is still no reliable figure on the total number of employees in the Seychelles fisheries sector in both the commercial and informal fisheries sectors.



Fisheries Law Enforcement¹¹

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021

Financial and human resources deployed by the government to ensure compliance with national legislation

- This value includes the operational and staff budget for the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Division of SFA as well as funds provided to support MCS through the sectoral support of the EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement.
- Financial information from other relevant authorities is not available.
- Information on human resources is not available.



	2021	2020
Number of inspections of fishing vessels at sea and in ports	1,146 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a significant increase in number of inspections for semi-industrial and artisanal vessels as a direct result of the implementation of the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co-Management plan which requires inspection to enforce minimum size limits as well as bag limits. 	376
Number of convictions for major offences in the fisheries sector	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Sri Lankan vessels were apprehended for IUU fishing in 2021. One was successfully prosecuted, and two cases were set aside. 	3

¹¹ Non-compliance with national fisheries laws is a major challenge to sustainability and equitability across the sector. While significant international attention has been given to combatting 'illegal, unreported and unregulated' (IUU) fishing, the implementation of effective national law enforcement activities in the fisheries sector, including on penalties and prosecutions, is an equally important aspect



TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?		Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?		Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?	
2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020



As part of the 2021 FITI reporting process, SFA published on its website, the 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.

As detailed in Seychelles' 2020 FITI Report, several compliance and policy instruments exist and are available online which provide strategic directions guiding fisheries compliance.



The SFA has secured funding to complete the "National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing", and write it into national policy.



There is no comprehensive report covering national activities and strategies for ensuring compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector with national legislation for 2021. SFA has not indicated when this will be available although funding has been secured.



Labour Standards

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021

The public authority responsible for monitoring and enforcing laws on labour standards in Seychelles is the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs (MESA).

	2021		2020
Financial and human resources deployed by the government to enforce laws on labour standards in the fisheries sector	SCR 7,314,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 96% went towards staff wages and salaries. 15 inspectors of the MESA seek to enforce labour standards across all sectors of the economy, including fisheries. 	SCR 6,487,000
Number of offences committed by employers in the fisheries sector that have been resolved by the authorities	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MESA indicated 1 offence related to Health and safety and 1 to non-payment of minimum wage. The employers complied in both cases the third case relates to missing records and is still being processed. 	0

TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?

2021	2020

Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?

2021	2020

Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?

2021	2020



The publishing of 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 sector, has been delayed because of a lack of capacity nationally.



Fisheries Subsidies¹²

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021

	2021		2020
Total value of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector	SCR 41.2 million	<p>According to the MOFBE, subsidies are only given to Seychelles' small-scale (artisanal and semi-industrial) fisheries. No specific subsidies are given to large-scale fisheries.</p> <p>Fuel subsidy: SCR 36.5M Ice subsidy: SCR 4.75M</p>	SCR 39.0 million
Value of fuel subsidies for large-scale fisheries:	0	MOFBE confirmed that there are no subsidies provided to Seychelles' large-scale fisheries sector.	Unknown
Value of fuel subsidies for small-scale fisheries	SCR 36.5 million	<p>Thereof:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artisanal fishery: 24.9 million • Semi-industrial fishery: SCR 11.6 million 	<p>SCR 33.7 million</p> <p>Thereof:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artisanal fishery: 24.7 million • Semi-industrial fishery: SCR 9 million

The figure of SCR 59.7 million for total ice and fuel subsidies provided in Seychelles 2020 FiTI Report was based on a calculation error, which SFA rectified during the 2021 FiTI reporting process.

¹² Subsidies have become one of the most controversial subjects in debates on fisheries reforms. Perhaps more than any other single factor, subsidies are seen as the source of a range of problems, such as overfishing, illegal fishing and unfair benefit sharing.



TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?

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Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?

2021		2020		2021		2020		2021		2020	
4 blue water drops		4 grey water drops		2 blue water drops, 2 grey water drops		2 blue water drops, 2 grey water drops		4 blue water drops		4 grey water drops	



During this FITI reporting process, the MOFBE confirmed that there are no specific subsidies provided to Seychelles' large-scale fisheries sector. It is noted that the sale of fuel to industrial fishing vessels is free of duty, and this concession is applicable to all international vessels, not only those involved in fisheries.

Published Information on fuel subsidies provided to the small-scale fisheries sector in 2021 was partially disaggregated and information allows identification of the value of fuel subsidies provided to the artisanal sector as distinct from the semi-industrial sector.



Similar to the situation documented in Seychelles' previous FiTI Reports, very little information is published online by national authorities about fisheries subsidies, failing to meet national requirements (e.g., the Access to Information Act), policy objectives (e.g., reducing subsidies dependency) as well as international expectations.

Despite disaggregation of fuel subsidies to the small-scale fisheries sector, there is no disaggregation of subsidies given to the semi-industrial sector, failing to illustrate the extent of fuel subsidies given to the sea cucumber fishery.



Official Development Assistance (ODA)

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021¹³

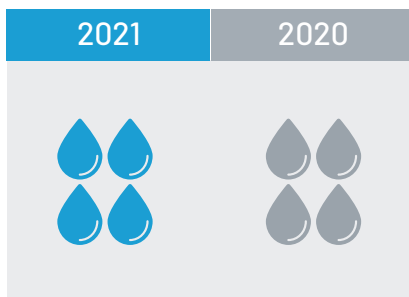
	2021		2020
Number of public sector projects related to fisheries	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWIOFish3 (financed by World Bank) • Extension of the Providence fishing port (financed by the Government of Japan) 	2
Number of public sector projects related to marine conservation	Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are several marine conservation-related projects implemented in Seychelles but information on them is not collated except for projects funded by GEF. A list of some of the marine conservation projects under implementation in 2021 can be found in Annex C of the Detailed Section, though this should not be considered a comprehensive list. 	Unknown
Number of corresponding evaluations of these public sector projects	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term review of the SWIOFISH 3 project undertaken in 2021 	1

¹³ Covering public sector projects funded by bilateral, multilateral and private donors.

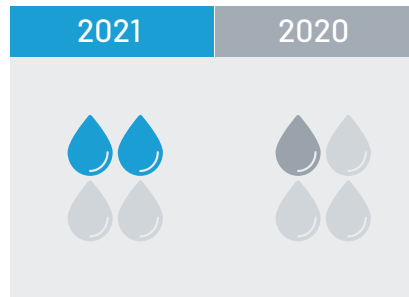


TRANSPARENCY STATUS

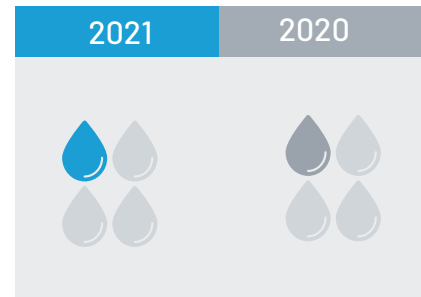
Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?



Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?



Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?



SFA has published a list of all donor-funded fisheries and marine conservation projects it is implementing on its website as part of this FITI reporting process.

A copy of the report on the mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the SWIOFish3 project, done in 2021 is available on its website. There has not been evaluation of individual projects.

In 2021, SeyCCAT commissioned a mid-term review (MTR) of its strategy 2018-2022 and a copy is published on its website. SeyCCAT also commissioned impact evaluation of projects it funded between 2015 and 2020 but the results have not been published. All SeyCCAT grantees must include a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) component.



There is no central repository for information on fisheries and marine conservation-related public sector projects being implemented in Seychelles.

Beneficial Ownership¹⁴

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2021

	2021		2020
Legal basis for beneficial ownership transparency	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficial Ownership Act (2020) Beneficial Ownership Regulations (2020)¹⁵ 	Yes
Rules and procedures for incorporating beneficial ownership in filings by agencies regulating access to fisheries	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries businesses set up as legal arrangements have to provide beneficial ownership information as per the requirements of the Beneficial Ownership Act (2020). 	Yes
Availability of a public register of beneficial owners	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) maintains a central register of beneficial owners, but it is not publicly accessible. 	No

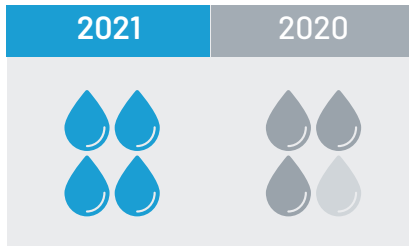
14 A beneficial owner is the natural person who ultimately owns or controls a business or transaction. In fisheries, the demand for beneficial ownership transparency is linked to a range of policy concerns. Perhaps this is most notable in terms of the fight against illegal fishing and corruption, but it also includes efforts to expose the extent of tax evasion, economic concentration and foreign ownership in the sector.

15 In addition, Beneficial Ownership Guidelines have been issued jointly by the Financial Services Authority and the Financial Intelligence Unit (2020).

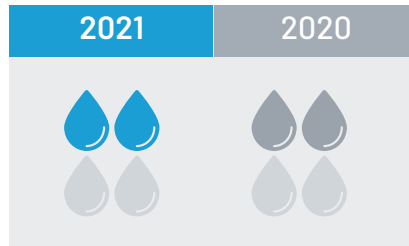


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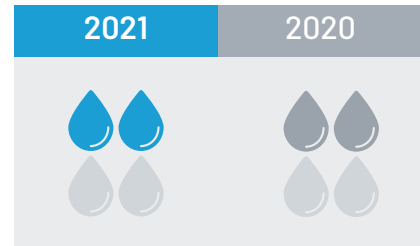
Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?



Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?



Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?



In 2021, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) populated a central register of beneficial owners for all local businesses registered as legal arrangements or legal persons, which is kept updated by local agents.

The MOFBE has started the process to develop a legal framework for Joint Ventures and a Gap-analysis of Beneficial Ownership for the Fisheries Sector. This will provide information to allow introduction of legislation to regulate joint ventures and address disclosure requirements in regards to beneficial ownership in the sector.

SFA is in the process of updating application forms for industrial fishing vessel license to ensure beneficial ownership information is captured in light with the Fisheries Act (2014).



SFA has long been required by Section 8 (2)(r) of the Fisheries Act to keep records of beneficial owners as part of its record of fishing vessels, but this has not been systematically enforced.

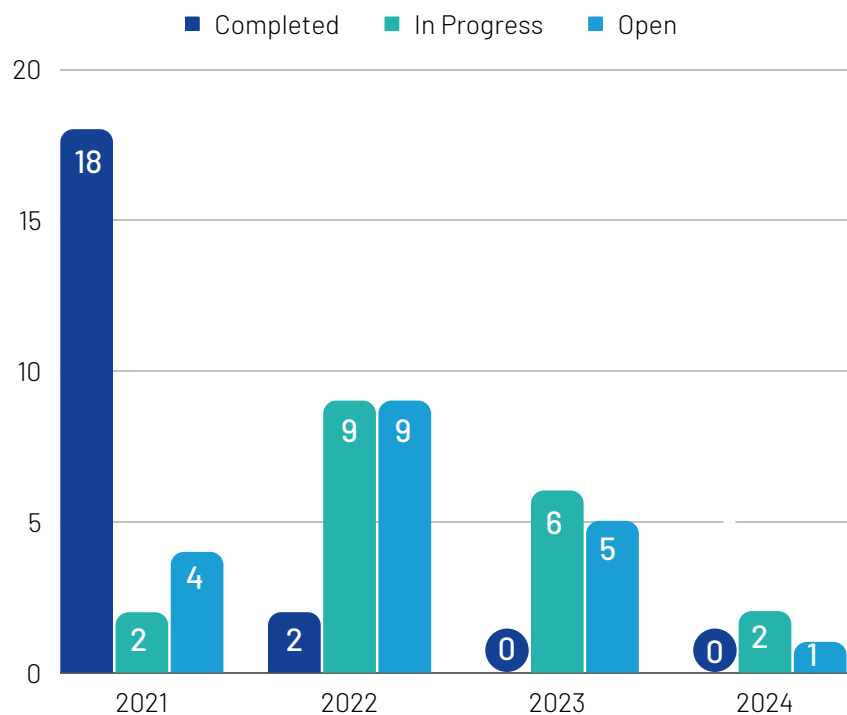
Progress

in implementing past recommendations

The objective of the FiTI is to support countries to progressively improve levels of transparency across their marine fisheries sector. In other words, the FiTI does not expect countries to have complete data for each of the FiTI Standard's 12 transparency requirements from the outset. Instead, national authorities must disclose the information they have, and where important gaps exist, demonstrate improvements over time.

Wherever such information gaps exist, the National MSG is responsible for jointly agreeing upon recommendations to address them. Monitoring the implementation of the recommendations it issues to the Seychelles' government stands out as a core function of Seychelles' National MSG.

The Seychelles' National MSG determined 34 and 19 recommendations in its 2019 and 2020 FiTI Report respectively, aiming to further strengthen the country's leadership in fisheries transparency. The current implementation status (as of December 2022) of these recommendations is as follows:



An in-depth overview of the implementation status of all recommendations from Seychelles' 2019 and 2020 FiTI Reports can be found in Appendix D of the Detailed Section of this report.

As part of the 2021 FiTI reporting process, Seychelles' National MSG determined 22 new recommendations to national authorities to further improve transparency in fisheries management.

A vertical photograph on the left side of the page shows an underwater scene. The water is clear and blue, with ripples and light reflections on the surface. Several fish, likely sea bream, are visible swimming in the water. The fish are silver with dark stripes along their sides. The overall tone is bright and natural.

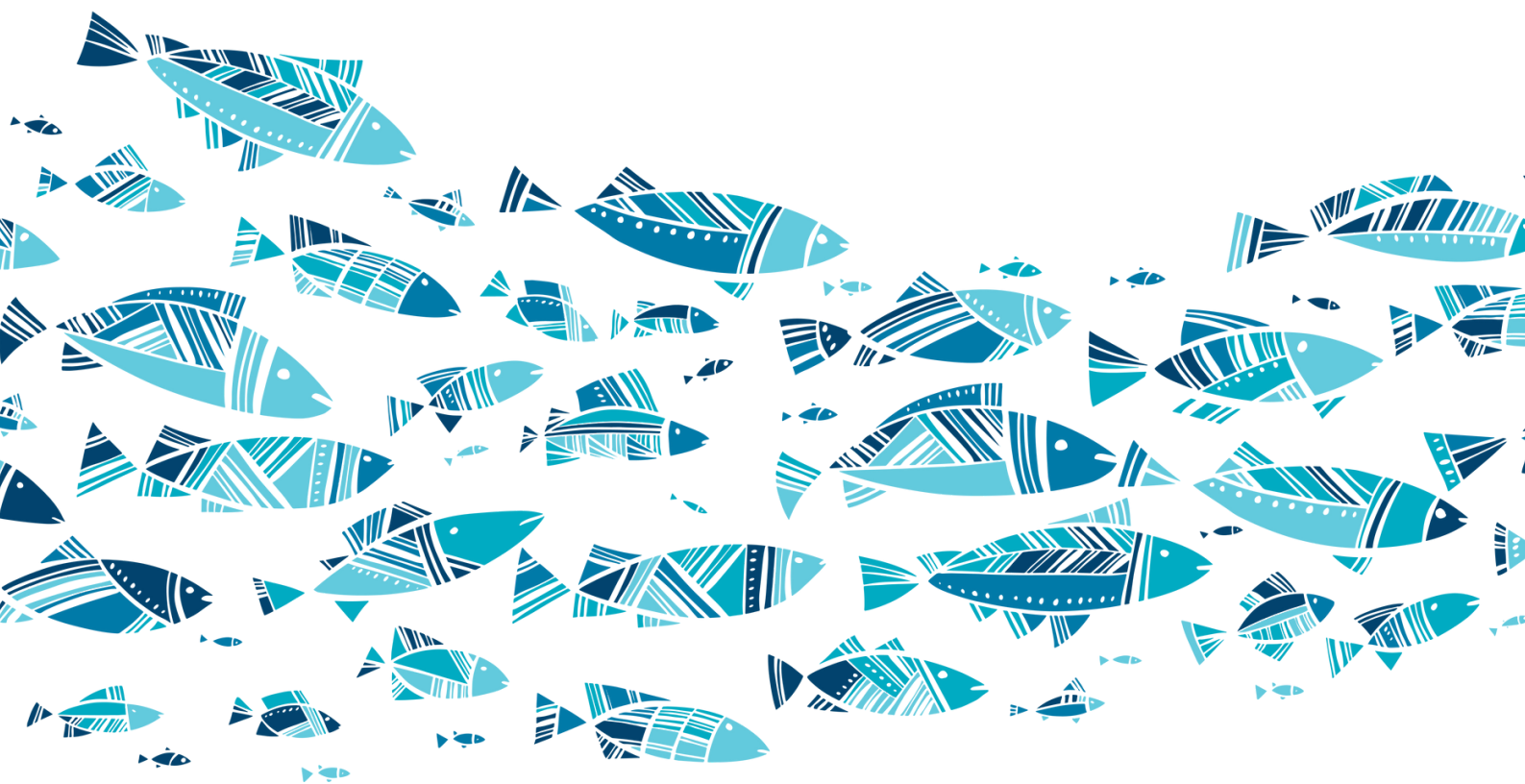
Annex

In order to facilitate the understanding and usage of this report, the National MSG seeks to emphasise the following core characteristics:

- **Public disclosure of information cannot be directly equated to actual progress towards sustainable management of fisheries.** In other words, poor levels of transparency may not be a sign of wrongdoing, but they rather highlight a potential opportunity to enhance disclosure to stakeholders. Likewise, high levels of public access to information illustrate strong disclosure systems, but this may not reflect operational and implementation success regarding the sustainability of marine fisheries. *Consequently, Seychelles' annual FiTI Reports are not an end in themselves. Instead, they are an opportunity to take stock of current disclosure practices against an internationally recognised transparency framework, with a view to starting a conversation with all relevant stakeholders in Seychelles' fisheries sector.*
- **This report does not highlight mistakes or weaknesses in decision-making, nor bad fishing practices.** It does, however, offer an important means to raise levels of openness and public access to information which can support all stakeholders in maintaining or achieving robust democratic governance and accountability within Seychelles' fisheries sector.
- **This report does not substitute or duplicate existing efforts by national authorities, such as the Seychelles Fishing Authority's Annual Report or its statistical bulletins.** Instead, the FiTI emphasises the need for national authorities to develop and strengthen their own systems for collating and publishing information online in a complete and accessible manner. The focus is therefore on summarising the status and levels of transparency around core aspects of Seychelles' marine fisheries sector.
- **Ultimately, the impact of these annual FiTI Reports does not lie in the act of publishing information.** The reports rely on how such information is used and on the willingness of decision-makers to listen to the ideas and concerns of stakeholders on how marine fisheries should be managed. The National MSG therefore welcomes the fact Seychelles' commitment to the FiTI is also anchored in its wider commitment to open governments, highlighted in particular via the country's national action plan to the Open Government Partnership.

In addition to this Summary Section, the FiTI National MSG has also compiled a Detailed Section, which delves into greater detail according to each of the FiTI Standard's 12 transparency requirements. The Detailed Section also includes information relevant for 2021 which has only been published as part of this FiTI Report.

Both sections (i.e. Summary and Detailed) are available for download on the website of the Seychelles Fishing Authority.





2021 SUMMARY SECTION

Seychelles' Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

