Future stock assessment programmes

The below table provides a summary of the current and future stock assessment programmes that SFA is planning to undertake. A summary of the research work currently being undertaken to support these assessments is also provided.

Fisheries resources	Fishery	Year	Description	Research
Demersal species	Artisanal - Trap and handline	2021	An assessment of the main demersal fish stock is ongoing and is expected to be completed in mid-December. The study is being done through a consultancy funded by SWIOFish3. The stock assessment will derive abundance indices and estimates of biomass and biological reference points to determine the status of key species and species groups.	Catch assessment surveys are in place to collect catch and effort information from the fishery. Size frequency sampling is undertaken for 3 key indicator species.
Sea cucumber	Sea cucumber	2021 & 2022	A fishery independent assessment of the sea cucumber resource is ongoing. Surveys will be undertaken by SFA in close collaboration with sea cucumber fishers to assess the abundance of the resource and provide information on the status of the stocks. The study is being funded by the SFA (SFA budget & EU Sectoral support funds) and SWIOFish3 and will be completed by the end of June 2022.	Data collection programmes are in place to collect catch and effort information from the fishery through logbooks.
Demersal species (Emperor red snapper, Green jobfish & Brownspotted grouper)	Artisanal - Handline	2022 (Annually)	Length frequency data collected annually for 3 key indicator species will be analysed using length-based assessments to determine the level of fishing mortality and derive the exploitation rate. Reference points relating to fishing mortality are derived to determine the stock status.	Size frequency sampling is undertaken for 3 key indicator species.
Spanner crab	Crab fishery	2022 & 2023	A fishery independent survey of the spanner crab resource on the Mahé Plateau will be undertaken to determine the abundance, biomass and distribution of the stock. The study will be funded by the SFA (SFA budget & EU Sectoral support funds) and Oceans5.	A biological sampling programme is undertaken to collect information on the composition of the catch (size structure, sex ratio, maturity)

| Lobster | Lobster Fishery | 2022 | The annual Participatory Lobster Monitoring Programme (PLMP) will be undertaken in October 2022. The PLMP is a fisheries independent survey carried out in collaboration with fishers at 20 sites around Mahé. The aim of the survey is to monitor the changes in abundance and biomass of the lobster stock and assess the status of the stock. | The PLMP survey is undertaken annually. Biological information (size, weight, sex, maturity) are collected. A tagging programme is also implemented during the survey. |
| Lobster | Lobster Fishery | 2024 | A fishery independent survey of the lobster resource around Mahé and the inner islands will be undertaken to determine the abundance, biomass and distribution of the lobster stock. The study will be funded by the SFA (SFA budget & EU Sectoral support funds) and Oceans5. | |

Details of stock assessments planned by the IOTC up to 2023 can be obtained at: https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/science/Schedule_of_stock_assessments_for_IOTC_species.pdf