

Dan nou Kazye



**THE SEYCHELLES FISHING AUTHORITY
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This Month's Highlight

The official opening of the Echinoderm
Containerized Hatchery

The Seychelles' first echinoid hatchery



• The cutting of inaugural ribbons

The Aquaculture department records new achievement with a first containerized hatchery for sea urchins and sea cucumbers.



• The segmented basins one of several equipment in the 20 ft & 40ft facility.



• The Minister Ferrari, French Ambassador and CEO of SFA among the first to visit the hatchery.

The SFA's Aquaculture department opens its first ever echinoid containerized hatchery capable of producing between 18 000 and 288 000 of juvenile sea cucumbers and sea urchins per cycle. The department unlocks another milestone in the development of aquaculture sector.

The opening ceremony was an opportunity for representatives of SWIOFish3, SFA board members and other stakeholders to view the facility that at present houses only larvae.

The proud achievement of the department was celebrated (29.02.24) with the cutting of the inaugural ribbon by the Minister for Fisheries and Blue Economy- Jean Francois Ferrari, the French Ambassador representing the EU- Olivia Berkeley Christmann, the CEO of SFA- Dr. Jan Robinson and the Head of the Aquaculture department- Aubrey Lesperance.

The hatchery is a modern containerized incubator to produce sea urchins and sea cucumbers from the larval stage to juvenile stage before being transferred to larger areas for grow out phase until harvest.

Echinoderm, the term used to describe species such as sea urchin and sea cucumbers are in great demand globally.

The facility consists of two 20 ft containers and one 40 ft container which comprises of tanks and incubating equipment.

The project costing SCR1.7 million is being funded under the 3rd Southwest Indian Ocean fisheries governance and shared growth project (SWIOFish3).

The project is a step forward in achieving the key objectives of the Mariculture Master Plan. Over the years, the government through SFA's Aquaculture Department has developed a Broodstock, Acclimation, and Quarantine facility primarily focused on finfish farming within the sector. It has also developed the Sea urchin Research Facility based at the Seychelles Maritime Academy and it has also operationalized 2 open ocean sea cages just about 300m away from the Providence Fishing port. The Aquaculture Department has also successfully sought funding to purchase a service boat which is used to collect broodstock, carry out environmental monitoring at the various sea-based sites, scouting for new sites, servicing the open ocean sea cages among other tasks.

During the opening ceremony, both Minister Ferrari and the CEO of SFA acknowledged the efforts of the aquaculture staff. They made mention to the great importance of this new facility and encouraged locals to venture in the aquaculture business and make use of such infrastructures.

'If we are to realise the full potential of the aquaculture sector, we need public sector investment and we need most importantly private sector investment. With the support of partners, including those represented here, there has already been substantial investment in the planning, capacity building, research and policy and regulatory frameworks in the recent years. And with infrastructures such as this, we are going further to try and provide support to the private sector to realise the potential that the sector has to offer,' said CEO Robinson.

Leading a masculine team of Fisheries Technicians

After 20 years in the job, Mervin is now a fisheries technician supervisor..



• The Fisheries Technicians of SFA



- The data entry feed into various strategic tasks of the SFA



- A team of 11 members with a big responsibility

It's a cold, challenging and sometimes hostile environment yet the dangers are not merely what can be experienced when out at sea. The fishing vessels are docked safely in the iconic fishing port but the movements on board are like those of busy bees keeping their Queen bee safe, which in this case is keeping the fishes caught safe and transferred to the right location.

The handful of men working as fisheries technicians of the SFA working under the leadership of Mervin Elizabeth need to flex their muscles to put aside the harsh conditions, the cold, the cultural clashes, and the day-to-day resistance of Stevedores and sometimes even the captains of the vessels.

Their job is to make daily inspections of the vessel wells to measure and weigh different species of tuna caught on vessels. The team is separated into three groups as per the three main flags the vessels are carrying, those are the Spanish, Seychelles, and French flags. The logbooks are collected from the captain and the wells are emptied so that proper assessment of its composition can be made. The data is then inserted into a software called Frecuencia da talas.

After 20 years in the job, Mervin now a fisheries technician supervisor has ridden different types of waves of challenges, but his passion does not halter because he has reached the mature stage of his career whereby, he better understands and values the contribution fisheries technician make to the analysis of data, policy, management plans and national decision making in the fisheries sector.

'Our job is very important, and we need to be very professional. We are aware that the information that we provide to the statistical section goes as far as the IOTC,' said Mervin.

The intellectual aspect of our job is to also have a sound understanding of regulations and enforcement measures as well as data analysis.

The software frecuencia da talas has helped modernise and make our job more efficient. Yet it would be pleasing to reach the stage where our duties become paperless, we would be using tablet to make live data entries.

'Information technology can be very useful in various steps of our duties. We could even receive vessel logbooks via email well before the vessels arrive in port,' he muses.

Another profound wish of Mervin is for his team to dream big and seek to advance in their career.

SFA Exercise Club Resumes



• The team warming up.

The moral aim of the group is to continuously build on each progress made.



• The Tuesday fitness sessions at fitness trail.



• The Thursday Cardio session with Mervin.

The SFA Fitness club resumes classes this February. The club has now reorganized into two sessions per week with two instructors.

The Tuesday mid-day session is led by Mike Lesperance. Mike is an experienced football player in the St Louis Football Club and this started from his love for soccer at a very young age. He has so far conducted three sessions of outdoor exercises which focuses on endurance and muscle building.

“The Tuesday fitness sessions at fitness trail includes laps, push ups, sit ups, squats and other forms of exercise. The moral aim of the group is to continuously build on each progress made. Our objective is to be better than how we started off at the beginning of the year. Exercise helps with mental and physical wellbeing and this why I adopt the same principals learnt in the St Louis Football Club with the SFA team. I always keep in mind that each club member has their own mindset and I use this in my approach to motivate each club member.”

A lot of progress has been made since we started last year, and with more colleagues joining the club, we hope to get more participants to achieve their goals.

The Thursday mid-day session is led by Mervin Elizabeth. He is an experienced exercise instructor with a passion for physical and mental well-being. Over the years, he has gained experiences by working with esteemed coaches such as Steven Freminot SEICW, Regis for Tropical Heat Gym, Alain Joubert, Iven Moise, Terry Payet, and Gerry Legras and this has help shaped his approach to fitness instruction.

Mervin routines are characterized by high-intensity cardio workouts designed to push your limits and maximize results. “I believe in making fitness enjoyable, incorporating activities such as walking sessions, volleyball games, and running exercises into my classes. By combining intensity with fun, I aim to create a dynamic and engaging environment where participants can thrive both physically and mentally.

He emphasizes the importance of not only physical fitness but also mental resilience. “My objective for all my students is to achieve both physical and mental fitness, enabling them to tackle the challenges of everyday life with confidence. I focus on enhancing mental toughness and improving VO2 max to help individuals cope with any obstacle that comes their way.”

He also owns a fitness club called TRAILS.

The fitness club is working towards setting a new trend in SFA. Showing most staff one can spare at least two hours per week to burn out some calories, release some stress and connect with colleagues. So, let’s join this journey towards holistic well-being, where fitness meets fun, and challenges transform into opportunities for growth.

The Glacis gear store project begins



The over 70 fishermen and boat owners of the Glacis community will soon benefit from 13 new gear stores. The long-awaited project delayed due to access to land has now started at next to the current temporary facilities.

The project will comprise of 13 gear stores, an access drive, boundary wall and fish bins estimated at the cost of SCR 2.7 million and is being funded by the European Union under the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement, Sectoral Support Programme.

Due to the significance of the project to the people of Glacis, a groundbreaking ceremony was organized to kick start the project. The Minister for Fisheries, and the Blue Economy, Mr. Jean-Francois Ferrari together with the MNA of Glacis, Regina Esparon laid the foundation stone. An act that repelled a sense of responsibility and harmony among the fishermen and their association.

Present at the ceremony were the French Ambassador, Olivia Berkeley Christmann, the CEO and Deputy CEO of SFA, Glacis Fishermen Association and representatives from the Glacis District Administration.

The contract has been awarded to Thunder Construction and is expected to be completed in one year.

In his statement at the ceremony, Minister Ferrari said that this project has been a longtime coming and expressed his contentment that it is now being materialized. "The fishermen of Glacis have been patient and with this new milestone, we encouraged you to use the facility properly."

Minister Ferrari also commended SFA especially the Project team for their hard work and dedication in realizing this project that will make the working environment of fishers more conducive.



Enhanced MCS processes to assist in sustainable fisheries and products.



The Monitoring, Surveillance and Control (MCS) department participated in the regional training on the Illegal Unreported Unregulated training aim at improving MCS processes against the illicit practice to ensure sustainable fisheries for fisheries products to be exported to the EU. The training entitled ECOFISH took place at the Berjaya Beau Vallon bay hotel on the 28th and 29th February 2024.

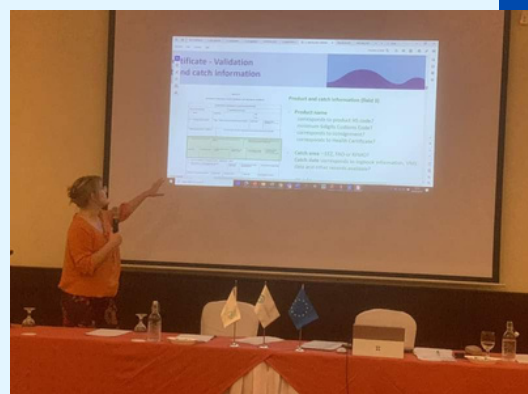
The training is important for the Seychelles and the SFA to carry out systematic checks and verifications prior to validating catch certificates. This will allow SFA to ensure the compliance of exported fisheries products with applicable rules.

The marine fisheries workshop organised by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) is aimed at providing sustainable fisheries in the region and enhance balanced economic growth, addressing climate change and enhancing biodiversity.

With the support of European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), IOC is striving to offer constant training to improve the monitoring, surveillance, and control service in the fisheries sector in order to achieve the general objective of a more sustainable fisheries industry.

After the series of trainings both organisations (IOC and EFCA) aims to establish of a regional risk assessment framework.

The workshop comes at an opportune time when the MCS department is to organise the workshop for the National Plan of Action for Illegal Unreported Unregulated fishing (NPOA-IUU) early March.



The University of Seychelles Graduates

Still energetic, passionate & wanting more professionals to join SFA



Kendrah Labonte

Diploma in Journalism- 3 years



I started this course when I was in my previous employment. It was on a part time basis; three days (Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays). The remaining days, I gathered the practical knowledge of journalism, in the SBC newsroom. I covered and edited news events. It was very challenging, since this job entailed long working hours and a one requires a great deal of energy. Sometimes I did not even have time to study. So, I had to develop discipline in my studies to be able to complete the assignments given.

My course was entirely focused on broadcast media, and I had limited knowledge about PR duties. However, the experiences I have gained during my time at SBC with daily tasks of writing reports and conducting interviews, has given me a better understanding of how to write internal communiques and how to communicate effectively with others.



Rona Arrisol

BSc (Hons) Food Safety and Environmental Health- compressed to 2 years.



The course was done online through the University of Mauritius (UOM) from Wednesday until Friday. I was fortunate to be released by SFA to attend the online classes from home. Normal class hours were from 8 am until 4 pm however there were instances where classes would end as late as 9 pm. This was especially the case for the part-time lecturers.

The most valuable principle I adopted was time management. I had to manage work duties, family life and studies were my biggest challenges. It pained me to isolate myself from my kids to attend to assignments, however I had no choice. Some weekends and family time were scarce. Sometimes I would wait for my kids to go to sleep to work on assignments until early in the morning and sleep for a maximum of three hours. How did I make it? It was only through God's interventions and strength and the support of my loving husband, that I was able to complete the course and graduate with First Class Honours.

One of PDQA's mandates is to promote best handling practices and food safety standards throughout the fish supply chain. Under the mandate, various activities are undertaken for its achievement such as conducting hygiene training, assessing the plan layout of aspiring investors and conducting food safety Research and Development (R&D) projects. The knowledge acquired during the course are stepping stone in accomplishing the PDQA's mandate.

The New La Retraite Fishermen's Association

A new team with a new vision



The La Retraite Fishermen's Association has been in existence for some time but have not been active. The new working group would like to reinitiate activities, meetings and other discussions related to the Association.

The newly energized team met to re-elect of a new Executive Committee and the adopt a new Constitution, discuss and in future implement some projects beneficial to the Fishermen community of La Retraite.

Composition of the Association

Chairperson CLIFFORD J. MONDON
 Vice-Chairperson CATHERINE JEAN-BAPTISTE
 Treasurer DOMINIQUE ALBERT

Secretary ANNIFA FRANCOURT
 Ordinary Member ROBERT AZEMIA
 Ordinary Member MARTIN AZEMIA
 Ordinary Member STEVE HOAREAU
 Ordinary Member TREVOR PAYET

The Association's vision is to ensure proper use, standardize and improve safety of the:

- **-FISH MARKET**

Assign a fee & rules and regulations for usage of the area.

- **OPEN SPACE FROM FISH MARKET TO OLD PEOPLE'S HOME BORDERING MAIN ROAD**

Fencing to ensure of unauthorized access inside fish market.

- **FISH MARKET - FISH OFFLOADING PONTOON**

The entrance of the pontoon will be chained with a 'No Unauthorized Access' notice affixed to it.

- **BERTHING PONTOON**

Install 4 fire extinguishers.

Fire safety training.

Assign a fee for berthing of vessels.

- **FENCED GEAR STORE AND ICE PLANT AREA**

Building of quay wall

- **SLIPWAY**

Building a proper slipway.



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The SFA Newsletter

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