

DAN NOU KAZYE

The Seychelles Fishing Authority Newsletter



'Responsible for Sustainable Fishing'



Top News



SFA organizes first fishing competition

ICCP holds first meeting



Minister visits English River project

SFA Staff put their skills to the test in exciting fishing competition



About 20 courageous staff embarked on a thrilling journey onboard SFA's L'amitie and Aqual vessel, for one of our most exciting activities marking SFA's 40th anniversary. This was a friendly fishing competition putting their fishing skills to the test, against the Glacis Fishermen Association, one of our most active stakeholders.



The SFA team consisted of 3 groups, the L'amitie group, Aqual group and Mahe Maru group, whereas the Glacis Fishermen Association participated with 4 fishing vessels.



The participants were all set with their hook, line, pole and bait, leaving the Victoria artisanal port at 4 am. Rough seas didn't stop the staff from striving for a successful catch. After more than 9 hours at sea, the vessels started reaching the port with their catch from 1 pm onwards.

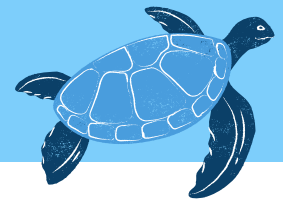


The catch from each vessel was weighed, measured and documented, with the help of assessors from Oceania Fisheries, another of SFA's partners. The prizes up for grabs included awards for Best Fish Quality, Biggest Catch, and Best Overall Total Catch.

When it came to the results, experience played a significant role in determining the winners. The fishermen from Glacis secured prizes for all three categories. However, the SFA team performed admirably, securing 2nd or 3rd place in each category.

By the end of the day, the activity accomplished its goal by providing a fun bonding experience for staff from different sections, where they also got the chance to test their skills and experience the nature of artisanal fishing. Jacqueline Ramjauny, a member of the L'amitie team, expressed that despite the rough sea and unpleasant weather, she had the time of her life—a sentiment shared by others who are looking forward to a future fishing trip.





Minister gets insight on English River fisheries development project

The countdown has begun for the commencement of the first phase of the English River fisheries development project. The Minister for Fisheries and the Blue Economy, Minister Jean Francois Ferrari was on site recently to get an overview of the project before it starts in June. The first phase will include dredging and reclamation work that will be undertaken by the UCPS company for 8 months, at SCR 3.5 million.

The contractor will reclaim an area of 500 sqm and carry out dredging to improve the channel leading to the proposed facility and to expand the basin for mooring purposes.

This project, funded by the European Union, aims to provide the English River fishing community with improved facilities for selling fish and storing gears. The community will benefit from a new fish market, gear stores, and pontoons as part of the overall project.



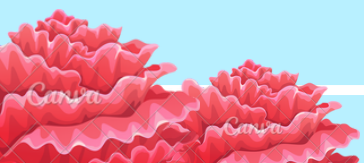
First ICCP meeting for the year 2024

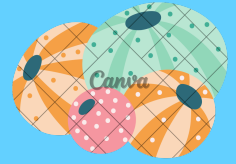
The Mahé Plateau Line and Trap Fishery Co-Management Plan (ICCP) committee had its first meeting of the year this month to discuss the progress of the plan for the sustainability of marine resources on the plateau, particularly the Red Snapper and Job fish (Zob Gri). During the meeting, the committee received an update on the developments since the 22nd ICCP meeting held in November last year. This included the work of the SFA Liaison Officer with the fishing community, the release of promotional videos of the plan, and the production of certified rulers to be used by the fishers.



A significant point of discussion was an update on the monitoring, control, and surveillance activities in relation to compliance with the 2021 Fisheries Regulations. Members debated the reasons why the MCS department did not record many infractions in the first quarter of the year compared to last year. A total of 71 inspections were conducted, covering sites such as markets and artisanal landings, as well as undertaking land and coastal patrols. A total of 13 infractions were recorded, all related to vessel markings.

Regarding compliance with the regulations, the MCS Department highlighted its constraints due to shortages of resources for enforcement, particularly on Praslin. The Chief Executive Officer of SFA reassured the committee that the authority is working to improve and ensure adequate resources for enforcement.





National Aquaculture Policy 2023–2027 officially launched

The Aquaculture Department has introduced its second policy guiding the industry for the next 4 years. The goal of the 'Seychelles National Aquaculture Policy' (SNAP) 2023–2027 is to support a well-managed and environmentally responsible aquaculture industry in Seychelles, an industry that would contribute to food security and wealth creation in the country.

The policy was officially launched by the Minister for Fisheries and the Blue Economy at a ceremony held at the Seychelles Maritime Academy (SMA).



The policy has 7 statements ensuring that all investors in aquaculture on the inner and outer islands operate responsibly and respect the environment. The statements cover aspects including good governance, environmental sustainability, coordinated support for development, investment, products and marketing, building human capital throughout the aquaculture value chain, and research and development.

The SNAP will be reviewed every five years to remain relevant and appropriately focused on the sustainable development of the sector.



License officers learn more about license and registration procedure

Three license officers from the License and Permit section got the opportunity to widen their knowledge on the registration system for Sustainable small-scale fisheries in the South-West Indian Ocean region. The workshop which was organized by the COI and ECOFISH aimed to enhanced fisheries policy, regulatory and governance frameworks and to strengthened fisheries MCS capacities.

Apart from Seychelles, there were seven other countries present, and they all learnt on the license and registration procedure of each respective countries, challenges face, and the way forward that the SWIO countries need to agree on a common system of registration. They all agreed to start it as a pilot project in one region of one country, and then migrate this system to all regions and at a later stage to all SWIO countries. The workshop was funded by the European Union and was held in Madagascar on the 21st -22nd May.



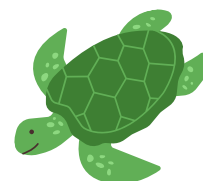


Tuckshop Operators' hands-on approach to fish-based snacks

Tuna pâté, triggerfish sausage (kebab), triggerfish stuffed with spicy bread, mini tuna burgers, and triggerfish quiche were all on the menu at the tuckshop operators training held by the Product Development and Quality Assurance Department early this month. The PDQA lab was packed with 30 tuckshop operators from different schools, learning the necessary skills to prepare and promote the use of a variety of fish-based snacks.

This activity was a collaboration between the Seychelles Fishing Authority, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. It was organized to coincide with World Tuna Day, celebrated on the 2nd May.

During the one-day training, the tuckshop operators learned the importance of offering a diverse range of fish-based snacks in their school tuckshops, as well as on fish quality and proper fish handling and storage techniques. Additionally, they honed their skills in the kitchen by following step-by-step guidance from the PDQA chef to make the snacks. Finally, they had the opportunity to enjoy the snacks they prepared at the end of the training.



SFA men enhance their knowledge on prostate cancer

In order to sensitize men on prostate cancer, a screening activity was organized by the Health and Safety section together with the Ministry of Health. This was done through blood tests were 8 men participated. Prostate cancer is a cancer that occurs in the prostate. It is rare in men younger than 40, but the chance of having prostate cancer rises rapidly after age 50.

During this activity, other tests were also done such as blood pressure, blood sugar and mass BMI were staff had the opportunity to participate.



The Senior Health and Safety officer, Miss Marthe Faure encourages all staff to exercise and practice healthy lifestyles.



Let the celebrations begin!

Our Chief Executive Officer, Dr Jan Robinson appeared on 'Bonzour Sesel' at the beginning of the month to officially kick off the celebrations for the Seychelles Fishing Authority's 40th anniversary. This was an opportunity to let the public know what's to come and what to look forward to.

Apart from the calendar of activities, the presenter, Ms Sylvie Ah Time was intrigued by the development of SFA over the years and its contribution to the fisheries sector on both local and international levels. When envisioning the future, Mr. Aubrey Lesperance, who accompanied CEO Robinson on the show, answered questions on the newly launched Aquaculture sector paving the way for sustainable means to address the seafood demands.



Calendar of activities

SEYCHELLES FISHING AUTHORITY 40TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT: CHARTING SUSTAINABLE HORIZONS

<p>MAY 13</p> <p>Song Competition for a new theme song (13th May - 21st June)</p>	<p>JUNE 03</p> <p>Poster competition based on SFA 40th anniversary theme (03rd - 28th June)</p>
<p>JUNE 21</p> <p>Fisheries Festival (National Day Celebration) - Praslin</p>	<p>JULY 19</p> <p>Sports Day together with stakeholder's.</p>
<p>JULY 19</p> <p>Family Quiz</p>	<p>AUGUST 08-09</p> <p>SFA Exhibition/Scientific Symposium - Seychelles Maritime Academy</p>
<p>AUGUST 16</p> <p>Open Day for students-Bring your child to work</p>	<p>AUGUST 31</p> <p>Official ceremony/reception of the SFA's 40th anniversary</p>

Also watch out for our internal quiz in the SFA newsletter related to the SFA 40th anniversary.

Managers attend budget training



In preparation for the 2025–2027 budget, the Finance Section held a training session for all managers this month. The objective of the training was to support the organization’s efforts to cut organizational expenses, improve investment strategies, and effectively manage resources to sustain growth and achieve the organization’s objectives.

The section emphasized the importance of having such training, which cultivates a sense of fiscal responsibility and accountability. “A well-prepared budget guides financial decisions, shapes resource allocation strategies, and ultimately drives towards the realization of SFA goals,” says Sara Fanchette, the Financial Controller.

During the session, the financial officers also went over priority areas for 2025, which include increasing monitoring and enforcement activities, beefing up the Fisheries Management Section to further engage, develop and monitor the impact of various management plans, and activities of the fisheries research department as the key section to support the management plans.



Call for management of shark fishery

The survey on the Artisanal Shark Fishery on the Mahe Plateau showed the need for consistent monitoring to effectively manage the activity. Consultant Mr. John Nevill led the survey, which aimed to monitor the catch of elasmobranchs (sharks, guitarfish, and rays) in artisanal fisheries. This involved monitoring the main Victoria market and working with fisher partners to improve catch data by assessing catch at landing sites. The data was then compared to a similar survey done in 2013.

The results indicated a significant decrease in shark fishery between 2013 and 2023, in catch diversity, and average size among common species. Mr. Nevill cautioned against drawing definite conclusions from two surveys done 9 years apart and stressed that this did not indicate a fishing problem but rather a management issue.

He also highlighted the importance of species-specific data collection and proposed establishing routine monitoring of Elasmobranch fishery for several years to guide accurate management measures.

This assessment will help the SFA develop sampling plans for monitoring elasmobranch catches from the artisanal fishery and also facilitate the implementation of a rapid monitoring protocol in the future.



Another milestone unlocked for the statistics department



For the first time, data from all industrial and semi-industrial fisheries will be managed by one data management system. Starting from the 1st of July, statistics technicians will use the OBSERVE Software to capture data for all Longline fisheries. This new system replaces the Fisheries Information Statistical System (FINSS) developed in 2005 and the AVDTH which has been used since 2000.

Technicians involved in data management of purse seine, industrial and semi-industrial longline fisheries have recently received training on how to capture and verify data using the software, covering logbook, landing/transshipment, well plan, and length frequency and bycatch.

The transition to the Observe software marks a significant milestone for the statistics department in its efforts to modernize the SFA fisheries statistical system. The Observe data management system previously used for the Observer program since 2013, will now be manage all fisheries data for purse seine fishery including supply vessel and Fad logbook data, as well as semi-industrial and industrial longline fisheries.



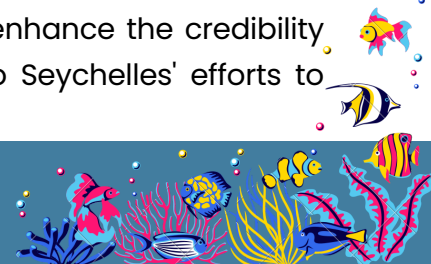
FiTI report – “Seychelles on the right track”

The most recent Seychelles 2022 Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) Report reveals a significant improvement when it comes to information available in the public domain. The report released late last month is the 4th report Seychelles has published as a FiTI member country, with the 1st report published in 2019.

The report compiler, Mrs. Daniella Laure, noted that since the 1st report, a total of 69 recommendations have been made, out of which 32 have been implemented. The improvements include more updated and complete information on the Seychelles Fishing Authority’s website and the publication of fishing agreements.

The Chairperson of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group Mr. Phillippe Michaud said that while Seychelles is only partly compliant with the 12 FiTI requirements, the progress made over the years has been remarkable and meaningful.

The goal is for Seychelles to further improve its fisheries governance and enhance the credibility and quality of national fisheries information. All of which will contribute to Seychelles' efforts to become a fully compliant member of FiTI.





A fun day at sea for the President's Village kids



What began as a request for fishing gears turned into a fun-filled fishing trip for a group of 20 children from the President's Village Home. Onboard the SFA Lamitie, the children between the ages of 10 and 16, participated in a 3-hour fishing trip that was extended for 2 days. The aim of this activity was to actively involve the children in fisheries activities and foster an early interest in the industry.

The 3-hour fishing trip proved to be an educational experience for the children, as they were given hands-on lessons on how to use bait and fishing gear. Upon their return, the children were beaming with pride as they disembarked with the day's catch, which included a 'sirizyen', a 'kaptenn blan', and a 'sousout' on the first trip and a 'zob', a 'baksou' and another 'sousout' on the second trip.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the fishing trip, expressing that they acquired a lot of interesting knowledge and skills. They are eagerly looking forward to the possibility of repeating the activity during their next holiday.

Fisheries Research Department helps the public discover our ocean

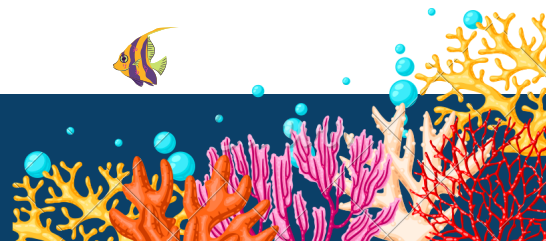


Marine conservation was the hot topic at the ocean-based 'Dekouver Nou Losean' event recently held at the National History Museum. The event, a 2 day exhibition, aimed at showcasing the beauty and diversity of coastal and marine environments provided the perfect opportunity for SFA's Fisheries Research Department to showcase their work.



The team participated with their interactive displays, actively engaging the public. These include otolith slides for aging fish and viewing under a microscope for adults and students, while the younger audience was captivated by underwater videos and plastic replicas of various marine animals.

The public also got the chance to clarify their queries and discuss environmental protection and conservation efforts.

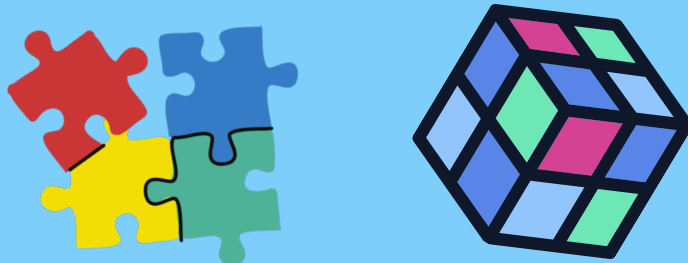


Team building and Labour Day celebrations



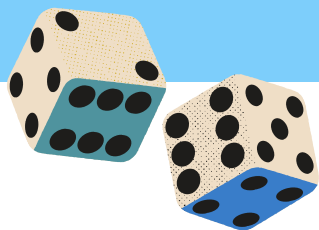
SFA 40th Anniversary Quiz

1. In which year SFA received it's first Research vessel and what was the name of the vessel?
2. When was the Providence Fishing Port officially opened (Please give date, month and year.



Send your answers to the PR team.

- The answers of the quiz and the name of the winner will be revealed in the next newsletter.
- Prizes will be presented to winners in the 40th anniversary official event on the 31st August 2024.
- Names of participants with right answers will be added in a drawbag.



Answer of last month's quiz

1. Who was the first Executive Chairman of SFA? **Mr Maxime Fayon**
2. SFA building was inaugurated in which year? **1989**

Winner of last month's quiz: Mrs. Annisha Lesperance



Healthy tip from the Health and Environment Club

Reduce the use of processed foods.
Ultra-processed foods (UPFs) are foods containing ingredients that are significantly modified from their original form.

Stay healthy, go Natural.



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Contact the PR team to book a slot in the SFA newsletter for any internal communication and awareness of:

- Departmental events and trainings
- Processes and procedures
- Upcoming committee and club events etc..

