

MINUTES 23rd MEETING
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
OF THE
MAHÉ PLATEAU TRAP AND LINE FISHERY CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN

Seychelles Trading Centre (STC) Conference Hall, Victoria, Mahé

Thursday 2nd May 2024

10:00 A.M.

Introduction

The 23rd meeting of the Implementation Committee for the Co-Management Plan (ICCP) of the Mahé Plateau demersal trap and line fishery was held at the Seychelles Trading Centre, Victoria, Seychelles, on the 2nd of May 2024.

Opening to the meeting

Mr. Roy Clarisse, Principal Secretary (PS) of the Department of Fisheries at the Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy (MoFBE), opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and apologizing for the delay in hosting the first meeting originally scheduled for February in view of circumstances beyond the control of the ICCP Secretariat. He suggested rearranging the meeting schedule to accommodate the four meetings planned for 2024 due to the time lost earlier in the year. Additionally, he also asked the participants to do a round of introductions.

Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Roy Clarisse, from the Department of Fisheries, MoFBE. Apologies were received from the representative of Fishtech, Seychelles Sports Fishing Club (SSFC) and the alternate representative of the Recreational Fishers. The agenda as presented in Appendix 1 was approved, with an agreed change in the order of items on the agenda. Item 6 on the agenda was discussed as item 5. The minutes reflect the order of the meeting. The list of documents circulated in advance of the meeting is detailed in Appendix 2.

There were 25 participants in the meeting, including 11 ICCP members and three other stakeholders or observers. Participants were free to use any of the three national languages. The list of participants is included in Appendix 3.

Developments since the last meeting

Elisa Socrate (SFA) presented the progress documented in the working paper ICCP23/WD/2.

Liaison officer

Tressa Bastienne (Fisheries Liaison Officer) reported on her collaboration with the Anse Boileau Fishermen's Association and the fishing competition held on December 9, 2023. The competition was used to promote understanding of the Mahé Plateau trap and line co-management plan.

Communication

Raymond Clarisse (Creative Events and Media) delivered final videos to the Secretariat, which will soon be aired based on the approved budget.

Release Ruler Certification

The ICCP requested certification of release rulers by the Seychelles Bureau of Standards to ensure legal compliance and precision.

The delegates were informed that the rulers are pending certification by the Seychelles Bureau of Standard (SBS) before distribution.

Legislation Update

The draft Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill was gazetted on November 13, 2023. The MoFBE and SFA presented the Bill to the National Assembly Bills Committee on March 1, 2024, with amendments to be made based on feedback.

MCS Update

The MCS department provided updates on patrol and enforcement actions from January to March 2024, including efforts to register traps and conduct maritime and land patrols.

Socio-economic Impact Assessment

The SWIOFish3 project resumed in January 2024 with Dr. Jude Bijoux leading the assignment, expected to be completed by June 28, 2024. Dr. Bijoux presented an update as part of Agenda item 5.

Fisheries Research

A long-term sampling program for key species is underway, with a second survey conducted in March 2024. A draft report summarizing 2023 findings is under revision.

Marketing opportunities for finfish Products of the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co-management plan

Consultant José Peiró Crespo prepared a paper on marketing opportunities for finfish products under a consultancy supported by SWIOFish3. Recommendations of the consultancy were discussed in a special meeting of the ICCP on February 29, 2024. No additional comments were received from the ICCP by the set deadline.

Mr. Crespo's report highlighted challenges such as erratic fishery supply, informal value chains, and high operating costs. Recommendations included strengthening fishermen's associations, eco-labelling, certification, and establishing pilot auction sites.

Discussion and Recommendations

The committee discussed strengthening fishermen's associations for better marketing and forming a small working group to review and implement the report's recommendations.

Concerns about overfishing and the export of red snapper were raised, with clarification that less-targeted species could be marketed locally.

MCS Monitoring and voluntary compliance to the Fisheries Regulations 2021

Updates were provided on MCS activities, including patrols and enforcement actions to ensure compliance with the 2021 Fisheries Regulations.

Challenges with trap registration and marking were discussed, along with recommendations for community-based MCS approaches and adaptive operations to enhance compliance and enforcement.

Conclusion:

The meeting concluded with recommendations to strengthen fishermen's associations, review marketing strategies, and enhance MCS efforts to ensure sustainable.

Complaints and Reports:

- The MCS Manager mentioned a lack of specific complaints regarding hotlines for the Mahé Plateau.
- Mr. Alissop reported two instances of undersized red snapper, primarily in La Retraite, and a case of Dorado at Anse La Mouche.

Law Enforcement Challenges:

- Annex 1 outlines staff constraints in implementing management measures.
- The Green Island Foundation sought details on a lawsuit involving undersized red snapper.
- Law enforcement officers face harassment, particularly in La Retraite and Providence.
- Annex 2 distributed to inform fishermen that it is an offense to obstruct the work of a law enforcement officer.

Patrols and Cooperation:

- Shortage of staff for land patrols on Praslin and La Digue.
- Discussion on involving Seychelles Police to assist with enforcement.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SFA and Seychelles Police needs further action.

Legal Cases and Spot Fines:

- Update on legal cases concerning undersized red snappers.
- Issues with the prioritization of these cases by the police.
- Spot fines under the new Fisheries Act could simplify enforcement once the Fisheries Bill is adopted.

Public and Fishermen Awareness:

- Efforts to educate the public on not buying undersized fish.
- Proposal to air new promotional materials developed by Creative Media Design Studio.

Trap Regulations:

- Discussions on the registration and marking of traps.
Issues with non-standardized mesh sizes and theft of traps.

Recruitment and Training:

- Efforts to involve the younger generation in fishing.
- Proposal to include youth on fishing trips for career development.

Enforcement and Patrols:

- Ongoing challenges in conducting effective patrols due to staff and budget constraints.
- Suggestions for more seasonal and nightly patrols to address illegal activities.

Fishing Vessel Operations:

- Discussion on active and non-active fishing vessels and the need to investigate reasons for inactivity, primarily attributed to labour shortages.

Key Decisions:

1. Enforcement Actions:

- Continued legal action against offenders in La Retraite and Providence.
- Exploration of spot fines once the Fisheries Bill is adopted.

2. Cooperation with Police:

- Continued discussions on leveraging district police for enforcement.
- Consideration of involving Praslin Fishers Association members in enforcement activities.

3. Public Awareness Initiatives:

- Airing of new promotional materials across various platforms.
- Increased sensitization of the public on the importance of not buying undersized fish.

4. Improved Monitoring and Regulation:

- Steps to calibrate release rulers for standard enforcement.
- Consideration of measures to protect spawning sites and regulate additional species in future phases of the plan.

5. Recruitment and Training:

- Efforts to involve the younger generation in fishing.
- There was proposal to include youth on fishing trips for career development.

Socio-economic assessment of the impact of fisheries regulations.

- Dr. Jude Bijoux updated on the ongoing study's progress, indicating broad support for measures with minimal perceived economic and social impact.

Review of 1st phase of Co- management Plan, Performance Management System, and compliance to fisheries regulations after first year of full enforcement. Discuss on legislative changes to these regulations for 2024.

Performance Management System (PMS) Overview:

Mr. Vincent Lucas presented the fishery's performance using preliminary data.

Key indicators included ecological (e.g., CPUE), governance (communication and education), and social components (incentive programs).

Performance indicators like CPUE for rebuilding Bourgeois and Zob Gris stocks showed stability, meeting target references.

Data Issues:

- There were delays in data processing due to system changes at SFA.
- The latest available data was from 2021, with 2022 data in backlog.

Legislative Changes and Future Steps:

- Updating CPUE for 2021 and 2023 to assess stock management progress.
- Proposal to update performance indicators and consider attainable indicators for accurate analysis.
- Emphasis on reducing fishing mortality with policies targeting specific maturity lengths (LM50).
- Compliance to Fisheries Regulations

Adherence to Regulations:

Mr. Roddy Allisop presented compliance levels, calculated from inspections and infractions.

Challenges in enforcement due to insufficient staff and misidentification of fish species.

Recommendations for Improvement:

- Undercover operations suggested to address infractions.
- Enhanced collaboration with the police department to support inspections.

Education and Awareness:

- Need for continuous education and simplification of technical language for better engagement with the fishing community.
- Plans for a more comprehensive presentation in Creole for future meetings.

Key Decisions

- **Proceed with data updates and review for the second phase of the Co-management Plan.**
- **Implement recommendations to improve compliance enforcement and community education.**
- **Continue collaboration with police to strengthen inspection and enforcement efforts.**

Proposed ICCP programme for 2024 - Public meeting - SFA open day

Ms. Socrate presented the ICCP work program for 2024, including a need to review timelines due to delays. Proposed events include SFA open day to engage with the public and present work programs.

- **Workplan Details:**
 - Four ICCP meetings and two stock assessment subcommittee (SAS) meetings planned.
 - Second ICCP meeting rescheduled to the week of July 18, 2024.

- Committee members encouraged to suggest events fitting the SFA calendar, which will be shared by the Secretariat.
 - Roche Caiman fishermen association representative proposed a session on the Lopinyon program, however the same did not receive consensual support of the ICCP.
- **Other Matters**
- Fishing Traps:
 - Concerns raised about small buoys on fishing traps posing safety risks and being hard to notice, especially at night.
 - Suggestions included adding reflectors to buoys and establishing designated yacht passage channels to avoid fishing traps.
 - Discussion on yacht passage regulations and proper tagging of fishing traps.
 - Proposal for surface-setting of fishing traps and fines for theft, though opinions varied on effectiveness.
 - Issues with tagging, mesh size, and tampering with traps noted.
 - Plan to maintain a list of registered trap fishers to address these issues.

Decision Points

- Agreement to reschedule the second ICCP meeting to the week of July 18, 2024.
- Planning for an SFA open day and additional events in the work program.
- Further discussions on fishing trap regulations to follow the endorsement of the Fisheries Act.

- **Next Meeting**

The 24th ICCP meeting will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at the STC Conference Room, Latanier Road, Victoria.

Appendix 1

Agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

23rd IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (ICCP) OF THE MAHE PLATEAU TRAP AND LINE FISHERY CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN (MPTLFCP)

Seychelles Trading Company (STC), Victoria, Mahe
Thursday 2 May 2023: 1000-1400 Hrs

- 1. Opening to the Meeting**
Remarks by the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MFBE)/Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)
- 2. Adoption of the agenda**
To be moved by the Chairperson.
- 3. Developments since the last meeting**
The ICCP will be briefed on the developments since the 22nd ICCP meeting (2 November 2023) including continuing fisher communications and other relevant matters from SFA and from the Secretariat.
- 4. MCS monitoring and compliance to the Fisheries Regulations 2021.**
The SFA MCS Section will update the meeting on the results of patrols and enforcement actions undertaken since its last report to the 22nd ICCP.
- 5. Socio-economic assessment of the impact of fisheries regulations.**
The Socio-economic Impact Assessment of the trap and line fishery co-management plan commenced in February 2022. The study seeks to determine the impacts of the regulatory measures, develop scenarios as a basis to examine future changes, examine stakeholder perceptions that may affect compliance, and determine strategies to reduce the adverse effects of the measures. The consultant had submitted the draft final report which was under review by the Project Steering committee. There were some concerns regarding the quality of the report, in which Members of the ICCP requested a formal response from the Chair of the Project steering committee on providing on the way forward concerning the socio- economic impact assessment study. The ICCP will be appraised of the development of the report.
- 6. Market opportunities of the fish resources of the Co-management Plan**
At its 18th meeting the ICCP approved a SWIOFish3 proposal to have a study of market opportunities of the fish resources of the Co-management Plan. The TOR was shared by email for members to review, whereby Mr. Jose Peiro Crespo was awarded the contract to prepare an option paper on marketing opportunities for finfish products of the Mahe Plateau trap and line fishery of Seychelles on behalf of the Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy. An update will be provided.

- 7. Review of 1st phase of Co- management Plan, Performance Management System, and compliance to fisheries regulations after first year of full enforcement. Discuss on legislative changes to these regulations for 2024.**

The Committee will review the level of compliance to the fisheries regulations under the first phase and may make recommendations in relation to the performance of the fishery in terms of meeting its objectives under the Performance Management System (PMS), report on the level of compliance, and may suggest changes to regulations of the Co-management Plan.

- 8. Proposed ICCP Plan for 2024 including public meetings and a Seychelles Fishing Open Day.**

- 9. Other matters**

- 10. Date and place of the next meeting.**

Appendix 2

List of Documents circulated in advance of the meeting.

Working documents

- ICCP23/WD/1. Agenda
- ICCP23/WD/2. Developments since the last meeting
- ICCP23/WD/3. MCS Monitoring and compliance to the Fisheries Regulations 2021
- ICCP23 /WD/4. Proposed ICCP programme for 2024 - Public meeting - SFA open day

Information documents

- ICCP23/ID/1. List of Documents
- ICCP23/ID/2 Minutes of the 22nd ICCP meeting of 2 November 2023
- ICCP23/ID/3 Final options paper_ Marketing opportunities Mahe Plateau fishery
- ICCP23/ID/4 Performance Management System Mahe management plan

Appendix 3

List of Participants

Members, other Stakeholders and Secretariat

Members	
Rodney Nicole	Bel Ombre Fishermen Association
Ray Payet	Lasosyasyon Peser La Digue
Darell Green	Praslin Fishermen Association
Shantilal Dhanjee	Hire Craft (Fishing) Representative
Kevin Moumou	Min of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE)
Wilna Accouche	Green Island Foundation (GIF)
Nancy Onginjo	Seychelles Fishermen and Boat Owners Association
Faizal Suleman	Recreational Fisher Representative
Terrence Labrosse, Neddy Labrosse	Roche Caiman Fishers Association
Jan Robinson	Chief Executive Officer (SFA)
Roy Clarisse	Department of Fisheries (MOFBE)
Other Stakeholders / Observers	
Martin Kennedy	Seychelles Hospitality and Tourism Association
José Peiró Crespo	Fisheries consultant
Jude Bijoux	Consultant, Fisheries and Marine Consultancy Services
Secretariat	
Elisa Socrate	Assistant-Manager, Resource Management (SFA)
Joanne Lucas	Fisheries Officer, Resource Management (SFA)
Daniel Bristol	Fisheries Officer, Resource Management (SFA)
Stephanie Hollanda	Fisheries Scientist, Research (SFA)
Tresa Bastienne	Liaison Officer, Senior Liaison Officer (SFA)
Vincent Lucas	Head of Department, Fisheries Resource Management & Technical Coordination Department (SFA)
Karyss Auguste	Assistant Manager, License and Permit Section (SFA)
Emilie Augustin	Senior Fisheries Statistical Technician (SFA)
Claire Pierre- Louis	Senior Fisheries Statistical Technician (SFA)
Roddy Allisop	Head, Fisheries Monitoring Centre (SFA)
Absent with excuse	
Michael Arnephie	Recreational Fisher Representative
Mervin Dugasse	Seychelles Sports Fishing Clubs
Jean- Claude Hoareau	Fishtech

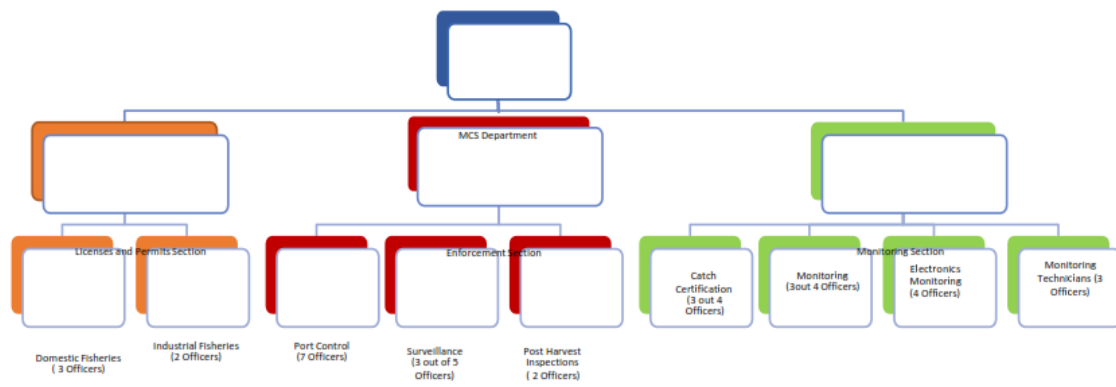
Appendix 4

Approved 2024 workplan of the ICCP and SAS

Co-management meeting for 2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Dates	4 12 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Agenda/ ICCP 23rd meeting - Review of 1st Phase of co-management Plan, Revision of co-management plan and PMS, Compliance to fisheries regulations after first year of full enforcement, Discuss legislative changes to fisheries regulations for 2024, Proposed ICCP 2024 Plan					18	25						
Stock Assessment Sub-Committee Report of Performance Measurement System						13						
Agenda/ ICCP 24 - midyear progress in implementation, a review of the Co-management Plan and Market opportunities for fish resources of the Co-management Plan and the Progress report of SAS.							4	11				
Agenda / ICCP 25 - Consideration of implementation of Phase 2 of Co-									5	12		
Stock Assessment Sub-Committee - Review of the recreational sport fishers' Bag										10		
Agenda/ ICCP 26 - Proposed plan for the ICCP in 2025.											7	14

Key
█ Call for meeting
█ ICCP Meeting
█ SAS Meeting

Annex 1



Annex 2



SEYCHELLES FISHING AUTHORITY
P.O Box 449,
Fishing Port, Mahé,
Republic of Seychelles
Telephone: 4670300 Fax: 4224508 E-mail: management@sfa.sc



Notice

Following recent events, the Seychelles Fishing authority ("SFA") would like to remind vessel owners, fishermen and the general public that insulting or verbally abusing authorized fisheries officers while they are carrying out their duties is an offense under the law.

The authorized officers work to protect our marine resources and ensure compliance with fisheries laws and regulations. Therefore, any insult or verbal abuse towards them will result in legal consequences, including fines or other penalties.

The SFA counts on your support to ensure that the authorized officers are treated with respect and provided cooperation at all times.



Responsible Fishing For Sustainability