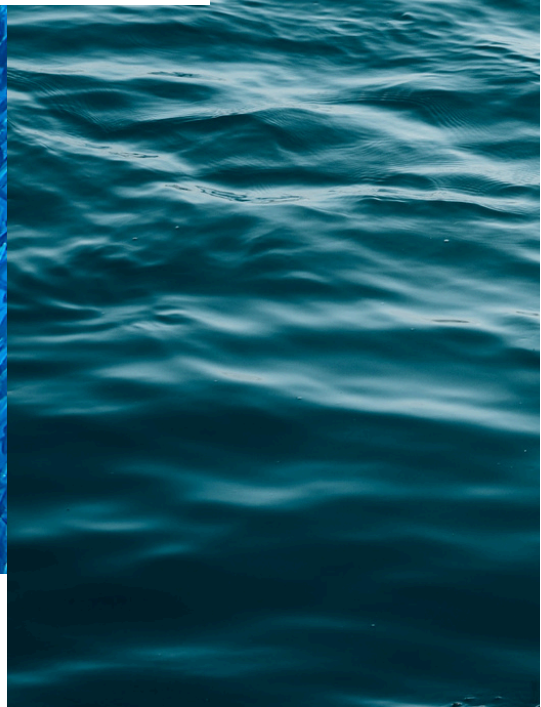


2023 SUMMARY



SEYCHELLES

Report by the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) Seychelles to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

Release date: 20 February 2025

The 2024 report has been produced by Seychelles' [FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group \(MSG\)](#), which consists of 15 members representing the government, business, and civil society. This group is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the FiTI in Seychelles.

Currently, the MSG lacks a government representative following the resignation of the Ministry of Finance's delegate. The Green Island Foundation also withdrew their representation and was subsequently replaced by the Danny Faure Foundation.

Government Representatives	Business Representatives	Civil Society Representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy¹ Department of Fisheries Department of Blue Economy² Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Association of Fish Processors & Exporters of Seychelles Seaward Fishing Bel Ombre Fishermen Association Glacis Fishermen Association Aquarius Shipping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transparency Initiative Seychelles Sustainability for Seychelles Nature Seychelles Seychelles Maritime Academy⁴ Danny Faure Foundation⁵

This 2023 FiTI Report was prepared by [Mrs. Daniella Larue](#), who was appointed by the National MSG as the Report Compiler from August to December 2024. The report was approved by [Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group](#) on 22 January 2025.

This is Seychelles' fifth FiTI Country Report, covering information relevant for the calendar year 2023. This report, hereafter referred to as Seychelles' 2023 FiTI Report, has been structured as follows:

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

The production of the report was funded by the FiTI International Secretariat.

1 Chair of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group
 2 Appointed 4 October 2024
 3 Appointed 30 August 2024
 4 Appointed 6 September 2024
 5 Appointed 27 November 2024



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Abbreviations

AFS: Audited Financial Statements

CBS: Central Bank of Seychelles

CEO: Chief Executive Officer

COA: Certificate of Authorisation

EEZ: Exclusive Economic Zone

EU: European Union

FADs: Fish Aggregation Devices

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

FCP: Fisheries Comprehensive Plan

FiTI: Fisheries Transparency Initiative

FINSS: Financial SaaS Solutions

FIU: Financial Intelligence Unit

FSA: Financial Services Authority

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

GT: Gross tonnage

IOT: Indian Ocean Tuna Limited

IOTC: Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

ITZ: International Trade Zone

MACCE: Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment

MCS: Monitoring Control and Surveillance

MESA: Ministry of Employment and Social

Affairs

MFBE: Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy

MSG: Multi-Stakeholder Group

MSY: Maximum Sustainable Yield

Mt: Metric tonnes

NAS: National Assembly of Seychelles

NBS: National Bureau of Statistics

ODA: Official Development Assistance

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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

TAC: Total Allowable Catch

TFI: Top Fortunate International

TTA: Taiwan Deep-sea Tuna Longline Boat Owners and Exporters Association

UNDP :United Nations Development Programme

VAT: Value Added Tax

Foreword



This marks my fifth and final foreword as Chair of Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG).

Early next year, I will conclude my second and final term in this role. It has been a profound honour to serve alongside a team of dedicated citizens who have voluntarily devoted countless hours to promoting the transparency of fisheries information in Seychelles.

I am especially grateful for those members' insightful comments and valuable recommendations which have enriched our work. The level of engagement within the National MSG reflects a growing sense of ownership of the FiTI process among stakeholders.

Since Seychelles attained FiTI candidacy status in 2019, I am pleased to note significant progress in transparency and participation within the fisheries sector. Notably, all fisheries access agreements are now publicly available—a key milestone in advancing openness. While much information about the sector has been accessible since the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) was established in 1984, the structured framework provided by the 12 transparency requirements of the FiTI Standard has brought greater clarity and alignment.

I am confident that Seychelles' efforts and achievements in the FiTI process have positively contributed to enhancing the country's international reputation for good governance. This is exemplified by Seychelles' first-place ranking in the 2023 Ibrahim Index of African Governance, where it recorded the largest improvement in accountability and transparency across the continent.

Looking ahead, the continuation of the FiTI process, now part of Seychelles' commitments to the Open Government Partnership (OGP), offers great potential to deepen stakeholder involvement in the sustainable governance of the nation's fisheries resources. I frequently remind colleagues that the adoption of FiTI Standards, particularly by SFA and the Department of Fisheries, should not be seen as additional work. However, challenges remain, particularly in making the FiTI country report more relevant, accessible, and impactful. Addressing this will require humility and vision. Stakeholder expectations are diverse, reflecting a wide range of socio-economic interests. It is essential that the FiTI process ensures credible and verifiable data, which in turn supports sound public policy. Effective communication of this



information is crucial to presenting an accurate and comprehensive picture of the industry. The essence of the FiTI process is not to assign blame but to foster constructive proposals and tangible improvements for the benefit of the Seychellois people.

One area requiring greater focus is the economic, social, and food security contributions of the large-scale fishing sector. Current reporting on this sector's impact on Seychelles' economy remains insufficient, limiting the information available to policymakers. Highlighting the true significance of fisheries to the broader economy will help secure adequate resources to generate more equitable wealth and opportunities.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the members of the National MSG, the FiTI National Secretariat, and the SFA for their dedication to enhancing transparency and participation in fisheries governance. This aligns with the vision of Minister Jean-François Ferrari, who aspires for Seychelles to be the world's most transparent nation in fisheries management.

I also wish to express my deep appreciation to Report Compiler Mrs. Daniella Larue for her professionalism and tireless efforts in ensuring the contributions of all stakeholders are reflected, paving the way for sustainable fisheries management and equitable ocean governance.

Philippe Michaud
Chairperson, National Multi-Stakeholder Group

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 as 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 prioritised the nationalising 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.

There are many aspects to achieving 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).

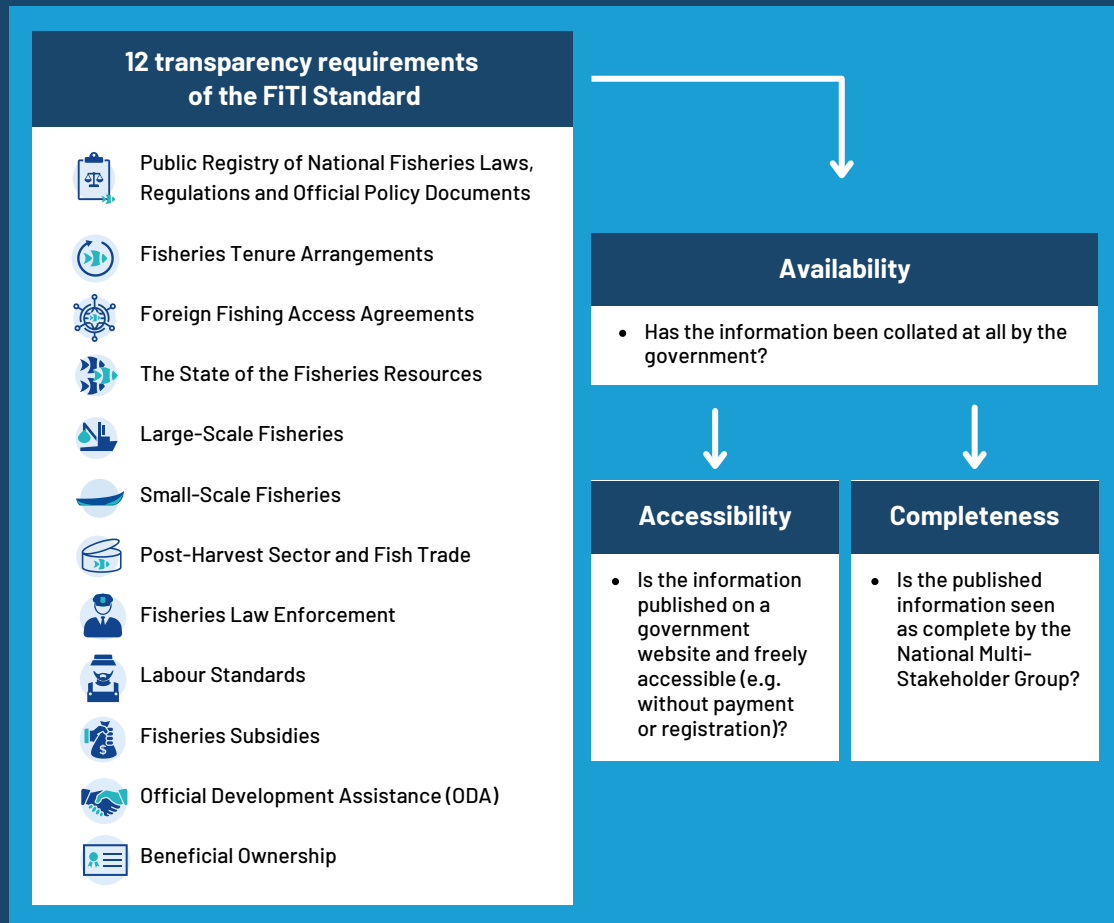
The purpose of this report is fourfold:

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.⁶



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.

6 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, strongly advocates for a bold and inclusive vision for sustainable fisheries, driven by transparency and active stakeholder participation. The publication of this fifth FiTI report marks a significant milestone in promoting accountability and progress in fisheries governance. However, continued success requires sustained support, leadership, and resources from the government and partners. Complementary initiatives, such as the Open Government Partnership, strengthen this momentum, fostering trust and collaboration. Together, these efforts pave the way for a resilient and sustainable fisheries sector that benefits Seychelles' economy, communities, and environment. ”

–Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group



Public access to fisheries information published by the Seychelles' government continues to increase. Fisheries information published over previous reporting cycles remains available in the public domain and is being continually updated, especially via government websites belonging to the Seychelles Fisheries Authority (SFA) and the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MFBE). The Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) was launched in July 2023 and is still a work in progress. Once fully operational, it promises to radically increase and improve access to fisheries information.

- In addition to the documents listed in previous FiTI Reports, the following are now published on government websites:
 - The Harvest Strategy Policy and Management Standards for Seychelles' Fisheries (2023);
 - The Seychelles National Aquaculture Policy 2023 -2027, which updates the 2018 policy.
 - The new SFA Strategic Plan 2022-2027;
 - All Foreign Fishing Access agreements both bilateral and non-bilateral;
 - The Research Plan 2021-2025 which sets out the priority areas for research, to underpin stock assessment decisions;

- A list of convictions and offences in the fisheries sector from 2020 to 2023 along with relevant court cases;
 - Studies on the economic contribution of sub-sectors in artisanal fishery – this includes information relating to the small-scale longline fleet, sea cucumber fishery and sports and recreational fishery;
 - An official summary of national labour standards applicable to both national and foreign worker in Seychelles' fisheries sector, including those at sea and in the post-harvest sector, has now been published.
 - The outcome of a gap analysis on Beneficial Ownership in the Fisheries Sector, commissioned by the MFBE, has been published on the MFBE website. It provides key insights into the issue and offers recommendations for future policymaking.
 - The Public Sector Support to the Fisheries Sector Report, commissioned by the MFBE and published in 2023, provides comprehensive information on subsidies in the Seychelles fisheries sector for the period 2014 to 2021.
- Catch data for artisanal fishery for the period 2018 to 2023 has been published following the upgrading of SFA's data processing system for that fishery. This enhancement provides more accurate and detailed information, significantly improving data quality and reliability.
 - The 2023 Fisheries Bulletin now publishes comprehensive estimates of the total volume of local fishery production, now that the issue with publishing small-scale artisanal catch data has been resolved and the data is published along with the catch data for the sea cucumber and lobster fisheries.
 - The post titles/designations of officers within SFA who are authorised to issue fishing licence have been published on the SFA website.
 - Additional information on employment in specific sub-sectors is now available through published studies on the artisanal fishery and industrial tuna fishery. Furthermore, this FiTI report provides insights into employment within Seychelles' ITZ.
 - As part of the 2023 Detailed FiTI Report, in annex C, a range of unpublished information is now publicly available including:
 - The list of 11 fisheries and fisheries-related businesses operating in Seychelles ITZ and their number of employees for the years 2021-2023.
 - A list of ODA-funded projects relating to fisheries and marine conservation being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment in 2023, including information on any evaluations undertaken.
 - The list of fisheries and marine conservation projects, funded by ODA through SeyCCAT, and active in 2023.



- Work progressed to strengthen the regulatory framework for fisheries management through a series of initiatives including a gap analysis of beneficial ownership, review of the Fisheries Act and Fisheries Regulations, review of the Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy 2019-2023 and development of a regulatory framework for joint ventures (split into laws and policies).
- Since 2021, Seychelles has maintained a central register of beneficial owners for all legal persons and legal arrangements, including businesses in the fisheries sector. However, this information is not publicly available.



Following the restructuring of the Project Coordination Unit's (PCU) within the MACCE in July 2022, its website, which previously provided a comprehensive list of conservation and other environment-related projects, dating from 2007, is offline, resulting in limited visibility of marine conservation projects being implemented or coordinated by government.

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. These include:

- The outcome of stakeholder consultations relating to the review of the Fisheries Act 2014 and Fisheries Regulations 1987 is not published.
- The confirmation of the existence of an informal fisheries sector by MFBE is not published on any government website.
- The official summary description of national labour standard laws published on the Employment Department's website, excludes the laws applicable to workers in Seychelles ITZ who are not subject to the Employment Act.



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

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2023

	2023		2022
Major marine fisheries laws and regulations in Seychelles	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries Act (2014) Fisheries Regulations (1987) Aquaculture Regulations (2020) Fisheries (Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery) Regulations (2021) 	4
Major official policy documents regarding marine fisheries	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seychelles Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy (2019) Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (2019) - focused on small-scale fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Management Standards for Seychelles' Fisheries (2023) Seychelles National Aquaculture Policy 2023 -2027 	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?	
2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022



KEY



Yes



To a large extent



Partially



To a limited extent



No



The MFBE website remains updated with all laws and regulations directly related to marine fisheries. No new legislation was enacted in 2023.

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

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



Several initiatives that started in 2022 to review the policy and regulatory framework for fisheries management were completed in 2023, including:

- Review of the Fisheries Act 2014 and the Fisheries Regulations 1987;
- The Seychelles Fisheries Authority Bill which will replace the Seychelles Fishing Authority Establishment Act 1984, was presented and debated in the National Assembly;
- A gap analysis on beneficial ownership in the fisheries sector;
- Review of the Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy was completed.

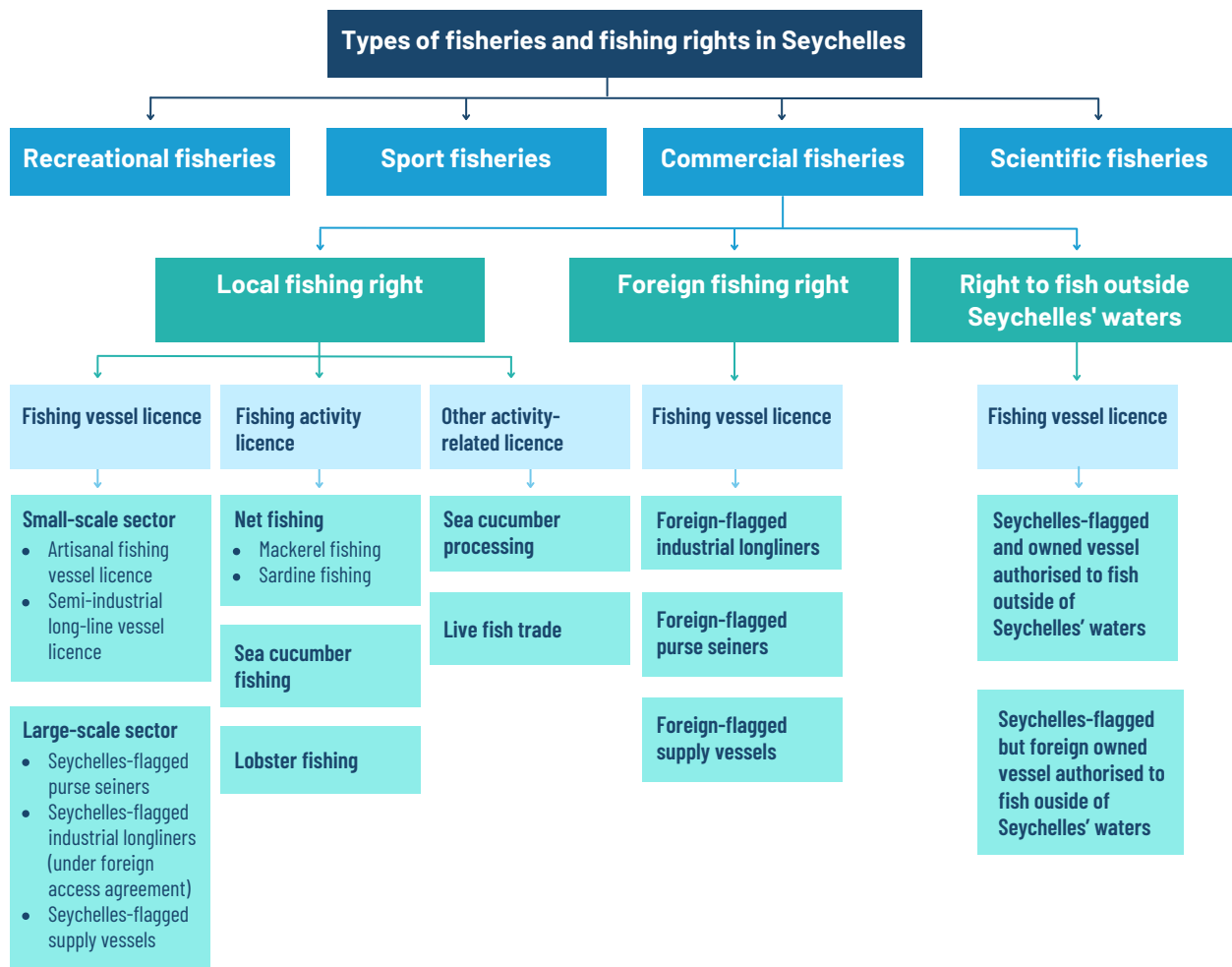


Fisheries Tenure Arrangements⁷

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2023

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

Furthermore, the Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (FCP) 2019 partially updated and summarised the application procedures for fishing permits and authorisations for the small-scale sector. For calendar year 2023, no changes occurred in the types of fisheries and fishing rights that exist in Seychelles.



⁷ 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?	
2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022



- The post titles/designation of the officers within SFA who are authorised to issue commercial access rights and fishing authorisations in Seychelles, have been published on the SFA website. The Fisheries Act does not provide for the names of these individuals to be gazetted.
- An updated FAQ on fisheries tenure arrangements for all fisheries in Seychelles is available on the SFA website. It reflects key regulatory changes, including the implementation of the Fisheries (Mahé Plateau Trap and Line Fishery) Regulations, 2021, which took effect in January 2022. The FAQ also covers the review of the Total Allowable Catch for the sea cucumber fishery for the 2022/2023 season and the revised licence fees for industrial fishing vessels introduced from 2022 onwards.
- Clarifications for the absence of processes and procedures to join the sea cucumber fishery are published as part of the FAQ on fisheries tenure arrangements on the SFA website.
- The two Sustainable Fisheries Agreements with management companies of Seychelles-flagged vessels took effect in 2023. A sample of the agreements are available on the SFA website. These agreements outline the required fees for fishing authorisation in third-country waters and on the high seas, along with reporting obligations and conditions for termination.
- The SFA has published the required fees for all types of fisheries rights established under the law, including updates to fee structures that took effect in 2023. There is no requirement for these fees to be gazetted in addition to appearing in respective enabling policies, regulations and agreements.



- In 2023, the SFA began working on licensing frameworks for the spanner crab and the sport and recreational fisheries, following assessment outcomes. This work is still ongoing.



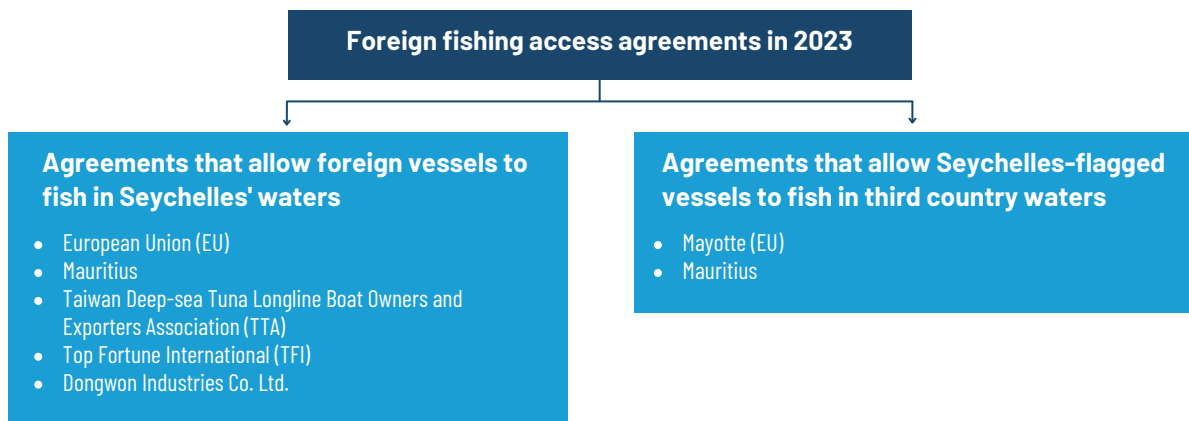
- There is no systematic documentation and publication of stakeholder consultations relating to fishing rights. Whilst these events are reported in the media and some summarised in the SFA Annual Report, the agenda, participant records, and discussion summaries are not publicly available.



Foreign Fishing Access Agreements⁸

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2023

	2023		2022
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 evaluations or oversight of these agreements	0		0



⁸ 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?	
2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022



- The summary of key information for each of the foreign fishing agreements active in 2023 is published on the SFA website and remains up to date.
- The agreements with Top Fortune International (TFI) and Taiwan Deep Sea Tuna Longline Boat Owners and Exporters Association (TTA) and took effect in 2023, and are published on the SFA website.
- In 2023, the MFBE negotiated and signed a new fisheries agreement with Dongwon Industries Co. Ltd , which becomes effective in 2024. A sample of the agreement is published on the MFBE & SFA websites.
- The three available evaluation reports on the EU/Seychelles Partnership Agreement, published during the 2020 FITI Reporting process, remain available on the SFA website.



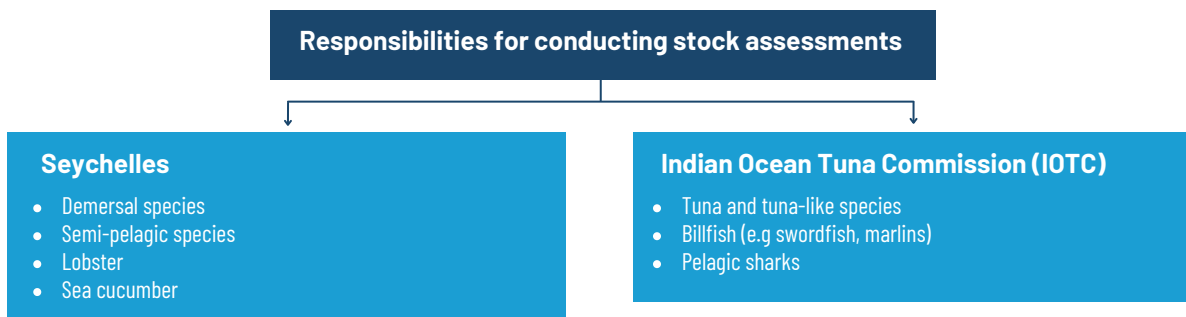
- In 2022 the MFBE commissioned an assessment of the fishing agreements with Mauritius and the EU to evaluate the benefits and impacts of these agreements. The Consultant's contract was terminated, and the evaluation was not completed.



The State of the Fisheries Resources

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2023

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.



	2023	2022
Stock assessments published by national authorities in Seychelles	3	3
Species groups with stock status information (up to 2021 and published in 2022 & 2023)	48	48



Fishing pressure⁹

Not subject to overfishing



Subject to overfishing



Uncertain



The fishing pressure status of most of the species of importance in artisanal fisheries (7/12) and sea cucumber fishery (9/12) was determined to be uncertain. Stock status of 9 species, 6 of these sharks, was unknown.

Biomass¹⁰

Not overfished



Overfished



Uncertain



The stock status of most of the species remained the same as in 2022.

⁹ **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.

¹⁰ **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 2019)

Species	Common Name	Creole Name	Period	Year of Publication	Stock Status	
					Fishing mortality	Biomass
Fisheries resources of the artisanal fishery assessed by SFA						
Lutjanus sebae	Emperor Red Snapper	Bourzwa	2019	2021		
Epinephelus chlorostigma	Brown Spotted Grouper	Vyey Makonde	2019	2021		
Aprion virescens	Green Jobfish	Zob gri	2019	2021		
Siganus spp.	Rabbitfish	Kordonyen	2019	2021		
Carangoides fulvoguttatus	Yellow Spotted Travelly	Karang plat	2019	2021		
Carangoides gymnostethus	Bludger	Karang balo	2019	2021		
Sphyraenidae spp	Becune	Bekin	2019	2021		
Sarda orientalis & other bonito species	Bonito	Bonit	2019	2021		











KEY (fishing pressure):	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain	Subject to overfishing
KEY (biomass):	Not overfished	Uncertain	Overfished



Lutjanus bohar, L. gibbus	Red snapper		2019	2021		
Lehtrinidae spp	Capitaine		2019	2021		
Other trap fish (mixed reef fish species)	Incl. Parrot fish, goat fish & wrasse families		2019	2021		
Other Serranidae spp	Groupers	Vyey	2019	2021		
Lobster species						
Panulirus penicillatus	Pronghorn spiny lobster	Oumar	2021	2021		
Panulirus longipes	Long-legged spiny lobster	Oumar	2021	2021		
Sea cucumber species						
Holothuria fuscogilva	White teatfish	Kokosye blan	2021	2021		
Holothuria sp.	Flower teatfish	Pentard	2021	2021		
Thelenota ananas	Prickly redfish	Sanpye	2021	2021		



The State of the Fisheries Resources

Holothuria nobilis	Black teatfish	Kokosye nwanr	2021	2021		
Holothuria fuscopunctata	Elephant trunkfish	Safran	2021	2021		
Holothuria atra	Lollyfish	Spork, Spork koray, Disan	2021	2021		
Holothuria edulis	Pinkfish		2021	2021		
Holothuria scabra	Sandfish	Kokonm	2021	2021		
Holothuria lessoni	Golden sandfish	Kokonm	2021	2021		
Actinopyga mauritiana (complex)	Surf redfish	Red surf, Yellow surf, Brisan	2021	2021		
Actinopyga miliaris	Hairy blackfish	Spork	2021	2021		
Actinopyga echinites	Deepwater redfish	Spork	2021	2021		
Species under the IOTC mandate						
Thunnus alalunga	Albacore	Albakor	2022	2023		
Katsuwonus pelamis	Skipjack tuna	Ton reye	2023	2023		

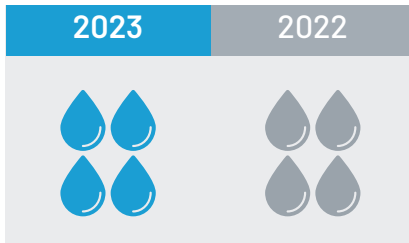


Thunnus obesus	Big eye tuna	Ton gro lizye	2022	2023		
Thunnus albacares	Yellowfin tuna	Ton Zonn	2021	2023		
Xiphias gladius	Swordfish	Espadron	2023	2023		
Makaira nigricans	Blue marlin	Espadron	2022	2023		
Tetrapturus audax	Striped marlin	Espadron	2021	2023		
Istiophorus platypterus	Indo-Pacific sailfish	Dyab Lavwal	2022	2023		
Euthynnus affinis	Kawakawa	Bonit fol	2023	2023		
Thunnus tonggol	Longtail tuna		2023	2023		
Scomberomorus guttatus	Indo-Pacific king mackerel		2021	2023		
Scomberomorus commerson	Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel		2023	2023		
Prionace glauca	Blue shark		2021	2023		

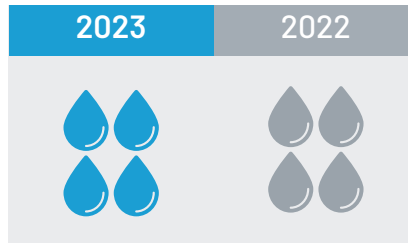


TRANSPARENCY STATUS

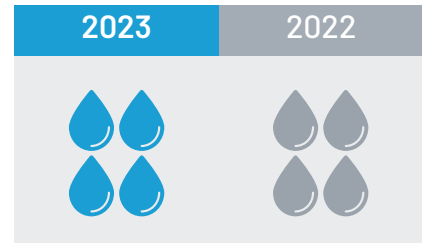
Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?



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



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



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

The plan of stock assessments up to 2024, is still available on SFA's website.

Summary information on published stock status information for species falling under both the management mandate of the Seychelles government and that of the IOTC, published in 2020 on the SFA website, is still available and has been updated to reflect stock assessment updates from 2021 and 2022.

SFA published its 5-year research plan spanning the period 2021 to 2025 which details its plans to collect the data required on vulnerable species for stock assessment purposes.



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.

There were no updates in 2023 regarding fishing pressure and stock status, as it remained the same as in 2021 and 2022.



Large-Scale Fisheries



WHO IS ALLOWED TO FISH?

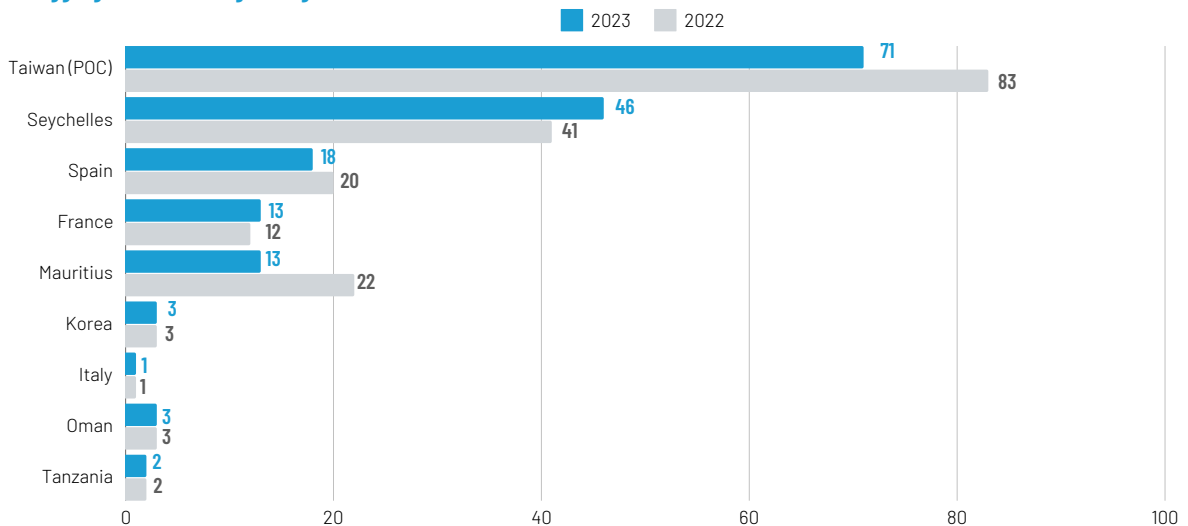
KEY INFORMATION FOR 2023

Number of large-scale vessels authorised to fish in Seychelles' waters

2023 170

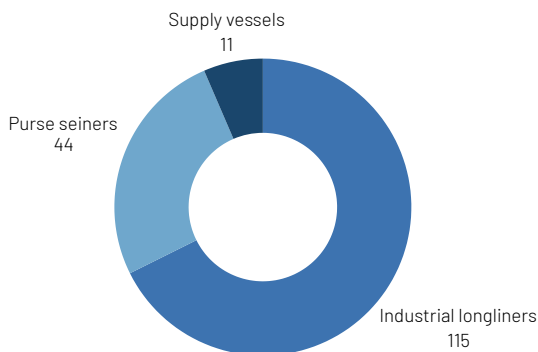
2022 187

Disaggregated according to flag state

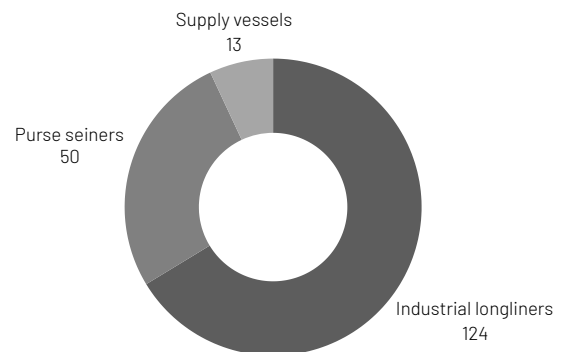


The decrease in the number of fishing vessels from 187 to 170 is due to a decrease in Mauritius-Flagged, Spanish-flagged and Taiwan (POC)-flagged longliners from 22, 20 and 83 in 2022 respectively to 13, 18 and 71 in 2023.

Disaggregated according to vessel type (2023)



Disaggregated according to vessel type (2022)





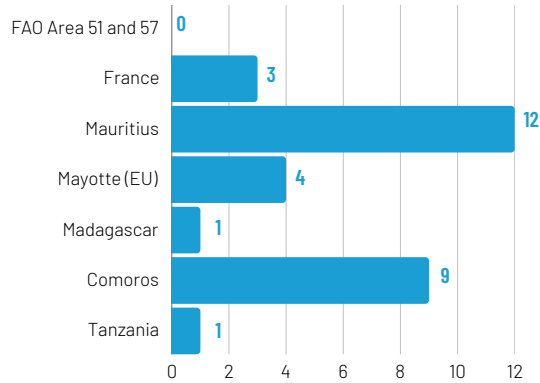
Large-Scale Fisheries

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

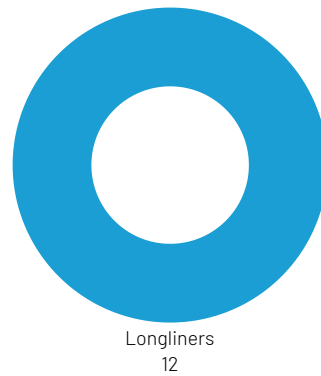
2023 12

2022 18

Disaggregated according to third countries/areas (2023)



Disaggregated according to vessel type (2023)



TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?

2023



2022



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

2023



2022



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

2023



2022



SFA maintains complete, updated records on large scale vessels licensed to fish in Seychelles' waters. An updated registry in the form of a searchable Excel database, meeting the FITI standard for information on large scale vessels and their licence payments, is published on the SFA website.

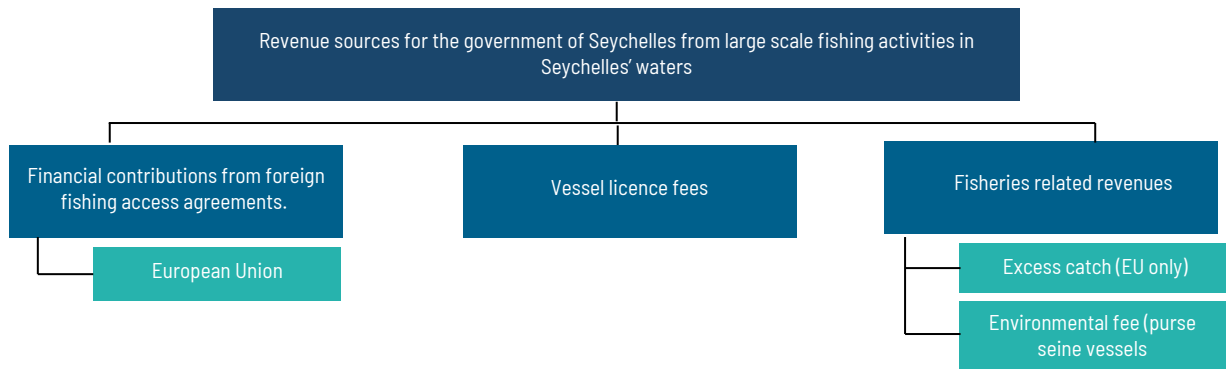
Assessment of SFA's internal vessel records showed that all 170 vessels licensed in 2023 were included on this online vessel registry and all the 14 attributes as required by the FITI standard are captured for all vessels.



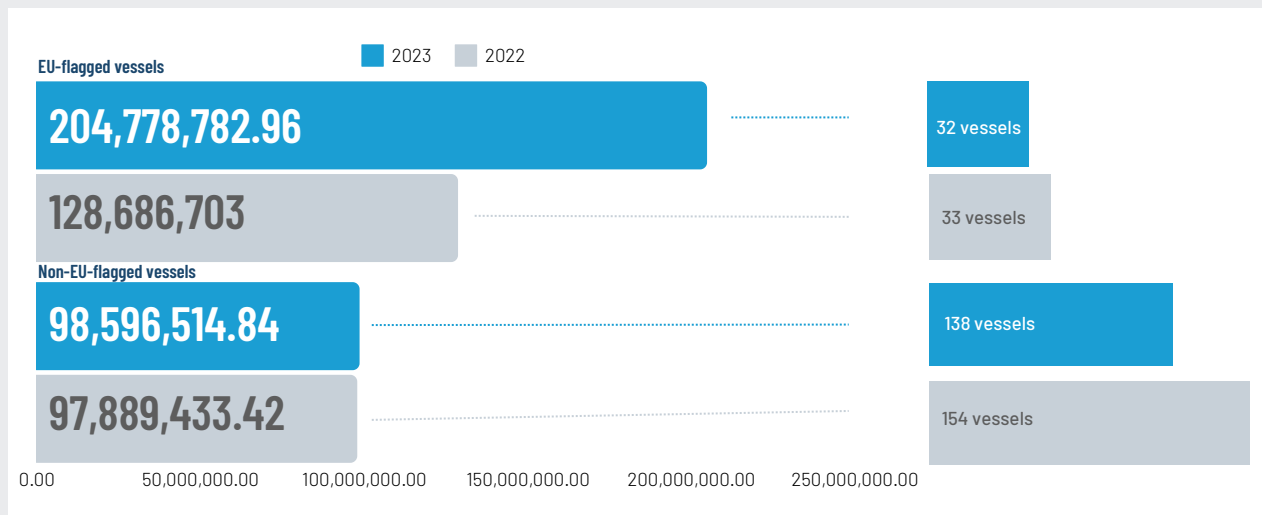
HOW MUCH IS PAID FOR THE RIGHT TO FISH?

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2023

Revenue sources for the government of Seychelles from large-scale fishing activities in Seychelles waters



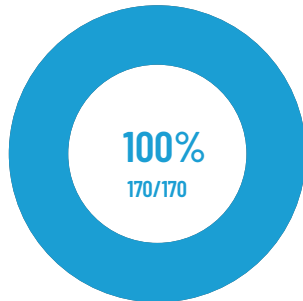
Payments from large-scale vessels authorised to fish in Seychelles' waters (in SCR)



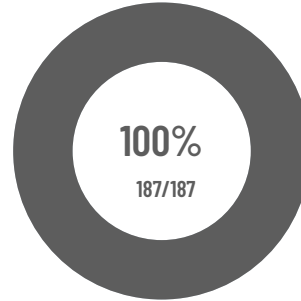
Payments for EU-flagged vessels are under several headings, such as sectoral support, fishing opportunities and excess catch. For more information, please refer to the detailed breakdown on the next page. Payments made for non-EU-flagged vessels relate to fishing licence in Seychelles' waters and environment management fee for purse seiners under all new fishing agreements. Income from EU-flagged vessels increased because of the increase in the additional payments for excess catch by vessel owners from SCR13,002,498 in 2022 to SCR 77,403,851.61 in 2023. This is also accompanied by an increase in the additional payment for excess catch made by the EU for its vessels from SCR 6.1 million in 2022 to SCR 15.7 million in 2023.



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



2023



2022

Data breakdown: EU-flagged vessels (in SCR)

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



In 2023, the European Union 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 2022. The difference in absolute amounts from 2022 to 2023 is because of foreign currency fluctuations. All EU payments are made in Euros and are converted in SCR the day of the payment (reflected in SFA's audited accounts).

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



In 2023, the EU paid a 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 2022. However, the value in 2023 is 6% lower because of the fluctuation in foreign exchange rates; in 2022 the payment was converted at SCR 15.74 to the Euro versus SCR 14.80 to the Euro in 2023.

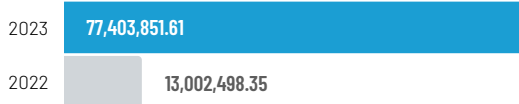
Payments made by EU-flagged vessel operators for fishing licences in Seychelles' waters under the SFPA



The payment values for 2023 correspond to a total of 32 fishing vessels: 26 purse seiners and 6 supply vessels, versus payments in 2022 which relate to 33 vessels.



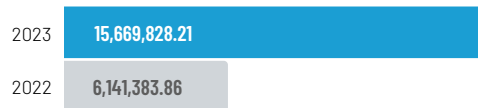
Additional payments made by EU-flagged vessel operators for excess catch in Seychelles' waters under the SFPA



EU-flagged vessels make a non-refundable, advance payment which is for 700Mt. If their catch exceeds this tonnage, they pay for the excess catch. There is no refund for catches below this tonnage.

The additional payments value for 2023 corresponds to payments for excess catch from 26 EU purse seiners (French - 10; Spanish - 15, Italy - 1). However, excess catch payments cannot be published on a per vessel basis due to a confidentiality clause in the EU/Seychelles SFPA.

Additional payments made by the EU for excess catch under the SFPA



To note that only the EU makes payments to Seychelles for excess catch of its vessels 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.

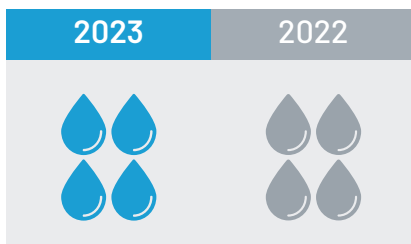
Payment made by EU-flagged vessels for environmental management and observation of marine ecosystems under the SFPA



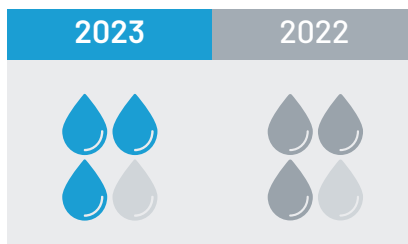
The environmental management and observation of marine ecosystems fee was introduced under the 2020-2026 EU/Seychelles SFPA. It has since been introduced for all purse seiners under all new fisheries agreements and payable by purse seiners only. In 2023, the total amount for the environment management fee received from EU-Flagged vessels was SCR3,992,156.62.

TRANSPARENCY STATUS

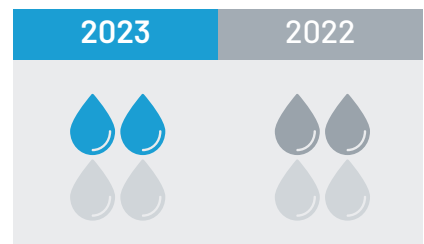
Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?



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



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





Large-Scale Fisheries



Licence payments by large scale vessel operators in 2023 is included in the vessel registry available on the SFA website.

Some of the payments made by 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 2023 audited financial statements. Environment fee and excess catch payments made by EU-flagged vessels are also detailed in these notes.



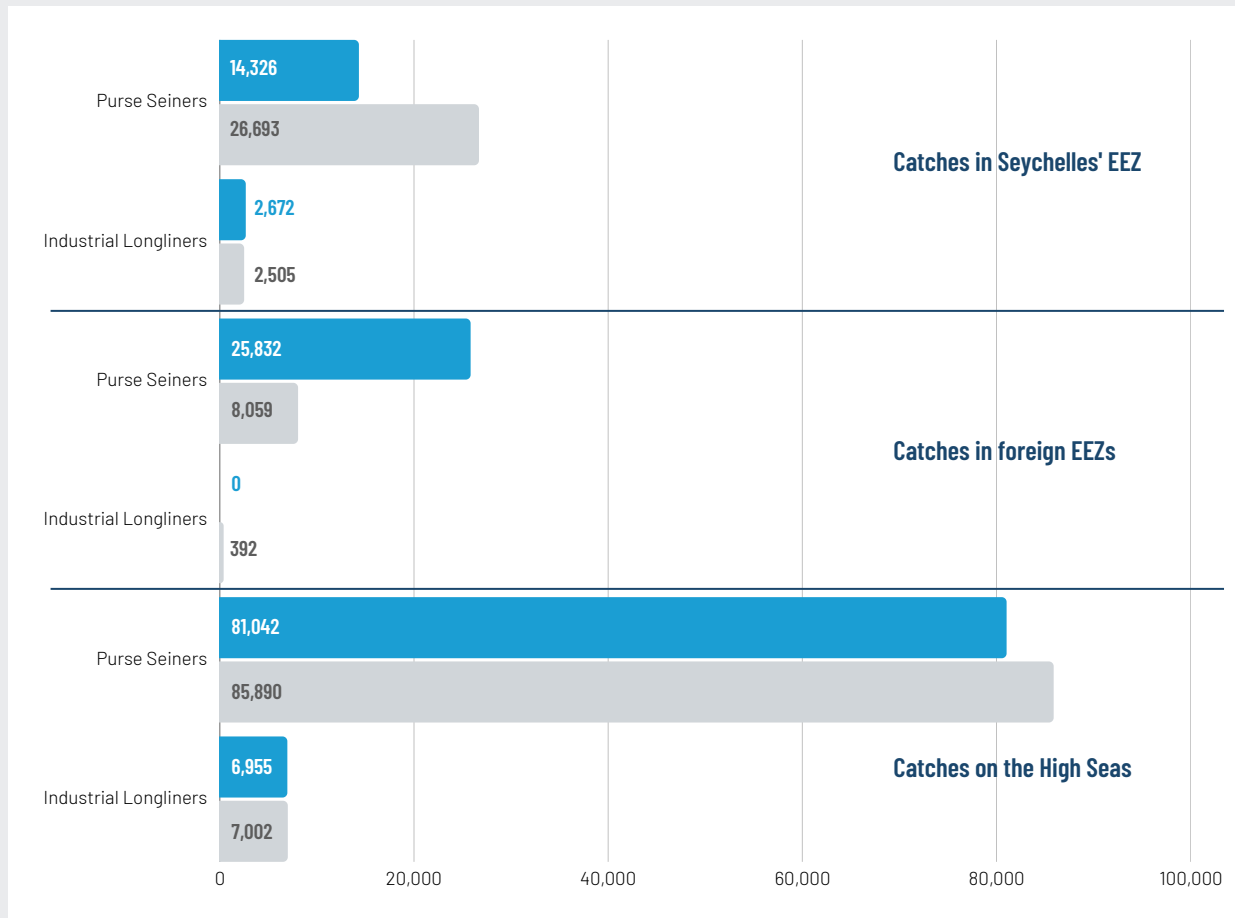
HOW MUCH FISH HAS BEEN CAUGHT?

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2023

Annual retained catches by Seychelles-flagged vessels

2023 130,827 Mt

2022 130,541 Mt



KEY

2023

2022



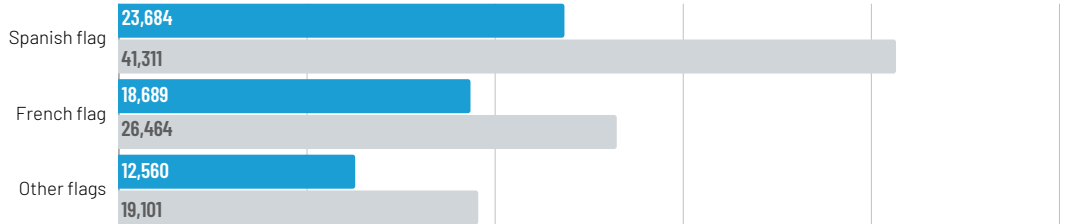
Annual retained catches by foreign-flagged vessels

2023 260,416 Mt

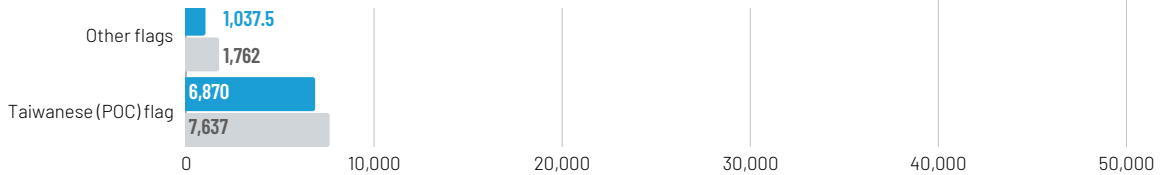
2022 292,718 Mt

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

Purse Seiners

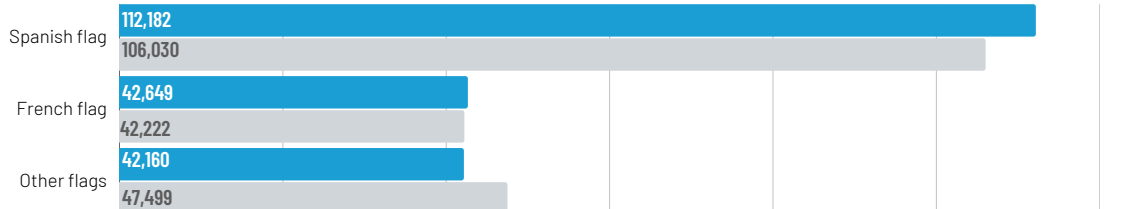


Industrial Longliners



Catches by foreign-flagged vessels in EEZs of other Western Indian Ocean countries or the High Seas (Mt) in 2023

Purse Seiners



Industrial Longliners



KEY

2023

2022

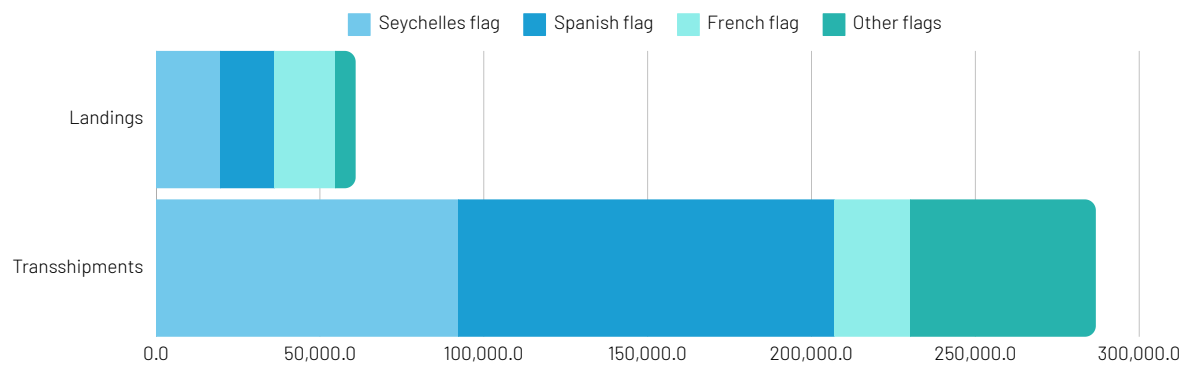


Annual landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports

2023 **347,669 Mt**  **2022** **373,396 Mt**

This data relates to purse seiners only. Data for longliners is not collated for publication.

Annual landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports in 2023




Annual landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports in 2023 (Mt)







	Transshipments	Landings
Only Purse Seiners (Mt)		
Seychelles flag	92,336	19,793
Spanish flag	114,752	16,485
French flag	23,181	18,616
Other flags	56,492	6,014




KEY INFORMATION FOR 2023

	2023		2022
Annual landings and transshipments in foreign ports	 28,267 Mt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data refers to purse seiners licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters. Data from industrial longliners was not available. Value represents 8% of total catch from purse seiners. Three foreign ports were used for transshipments and landings in 2023: Diego Suarez (Madagascar), Port Louis (Mauritius) & Mombasa (Kenya). 	 31,549 Mt
Fishing effort by purse seine vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters (days spent fishing within Seychelles' EEZ)	2,837 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 11,326 days was spent fishing in the Western Indian Ocean. 	2,972 days
Fishing effort by industrial longline vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters (hooks deployed within Seychelles' EEZ)	21.8 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total of 37.8 million hooks deployed in the Western Indian Ocean. 	32.4 million

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?	
2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
					

 Indicating incomplete data



Large-Scale Fisheries



Through its Fisheries Statistical Report, SFA publishes a large amount of data regarding catches, landings, transshipments and fishing effort of large-scale fisheries.

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 has been published for three consecutive years now in the Fisheries Statistical Reports. In addition, since 2022, SFA has been disaggregating the discard data and presenting the bycatch data separately. In 2023, the Statistics Department revised the methodology to include bycatch data in the calculation of the Additional Catches statement of Fees for 2022 and improved bycatch data reporting in the purse seine fishery, and made efforts to enhance data reporting by the semi-industrial fishery vessels.



The MFBE 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.

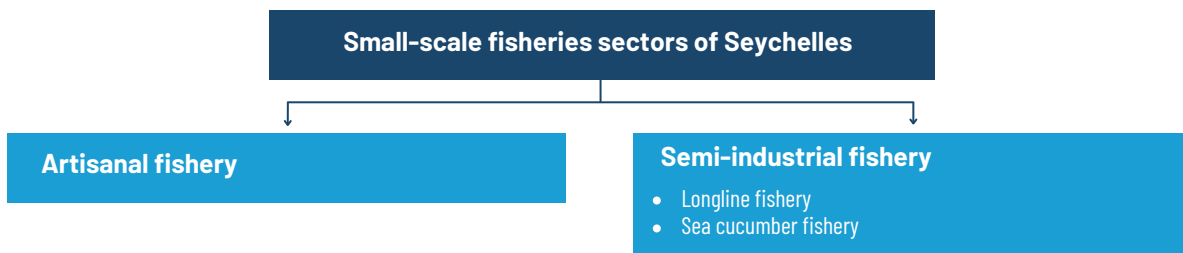
The implementation of Seychelles Maritime Single Window (MSW) by the Seychelles Ports Authority in 2024 will make available transshipment and landing fees on a per vessel basis.



Small-Scale Fisheries

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2023

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.



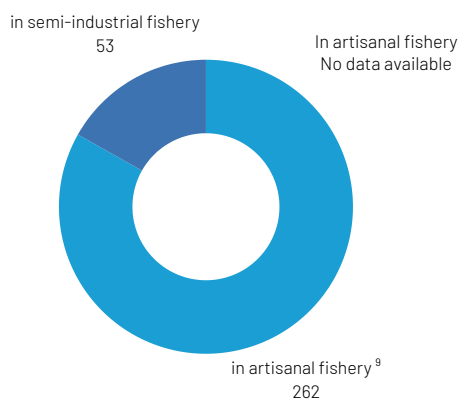
The SFA upgraded its data processing system for the artisanal fishery and has consequently reprocessed historical artisanal fishery data to produce more refined and disaggregated statistics. Data for the years 2019 to 2021 have been restated and the tables included in Annex C of the Detailed Report.

Average monthly number of active small-scale fishing vessels

2023 315

2022 362

Small-scale vessels in 2023

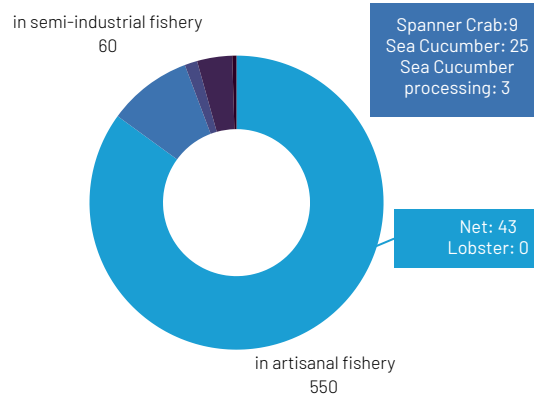


Number of fishing licences issued to small-scale fishing vessels

2023 690

2022 673

Licences issued to small-scale fishing vessels in 2023

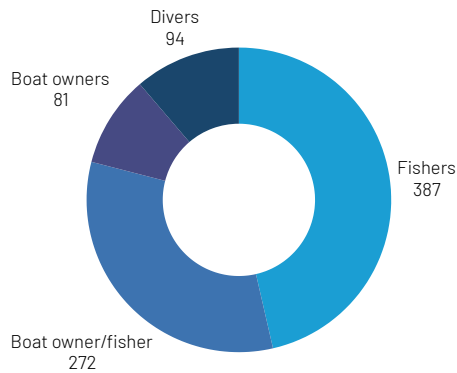




Number of fishers engaged in the fishing sector



2023 licences issued to small-scale fishing vessels



It is not known how many of these fishers are active on a regular basis. COVID-19 related government benefits provided to the fisheries sector is thought to have resulted in large numbers of people registering as fishers in 2020, which has since stabilised post-COVID.

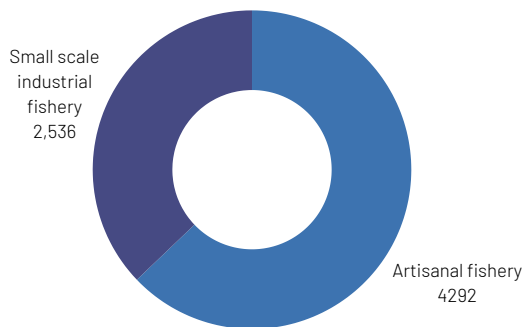
Payments for fishing licence fees made by small-scale fisheries (in SCR)

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



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

2023.....6828 Mt



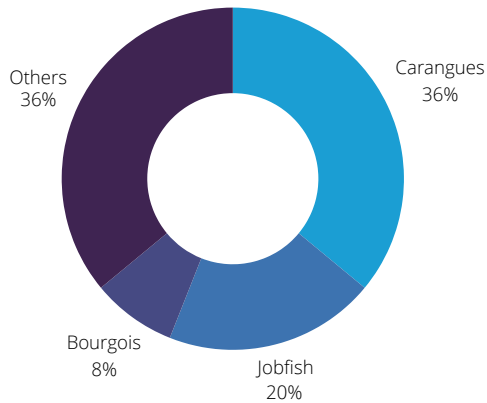
2022.....6175 Mt



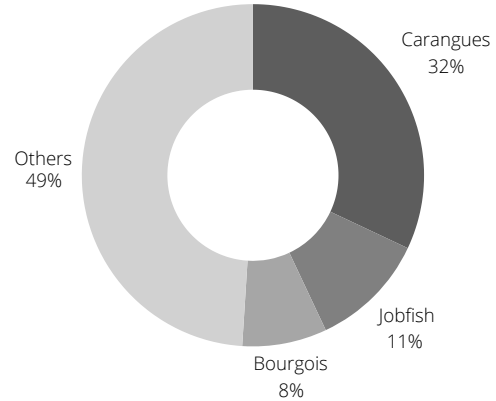


Catches by artisanal fishery (in Mt) - Major species

2023

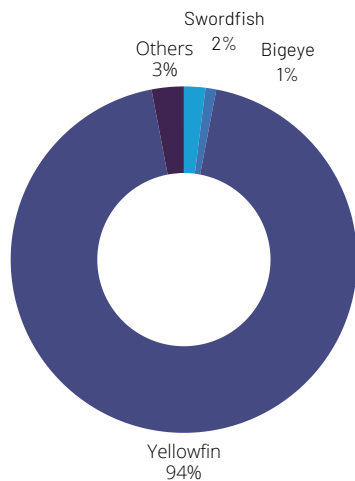


2022

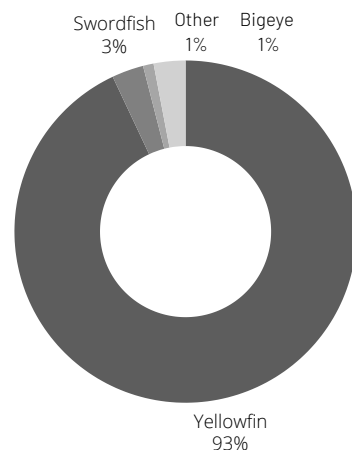


Catches by semi-industrial fishery (in Mt) - Major species

2023



2022



TRANSPARENCY STATUS

Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?

2023



2022



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

2023



2022



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

2023



2022





The SFA upgraded its data processing system for the artisanal fishery and has consequently reprocessed historical artisanal fishery data to produce more refined and disaggregated statistics. Restated data on catches in small-scale artisanal fishery is now available for the years 2018 to 2023. This now provides more accurate and detailed insights into the artisanal fishery and marks a significant improvement in data quality and reliability, which will benefit future analyses and policymaking.

The 2023 Fisheries Bulletin now publishes comprehensive estimates of the total volume of local fishery production, with the small-scale artisanal catch data along with the catch data for the sea cucumber and lobster fisheries.

An explanation was provided in the 2022 Fisheries Statistical Report for the absence of information on discards in the artisanal fishery.

The updated database containing licence information, payment information relating to fishing vessels and fishing activities, along with information on artisanal fishing licences is published on the SFA website. For small-scale fisheries, the 2023 update also contains information on gender for fishers, boat owners and divers.

Three studies on the contribution of the small-scale fisheries sector to the economy relating to the semi-industrial longline fleet, the sea cucumber fishery and industry and sport and recreational fishery, are still available on the SFA website.



SFA explained that it is not practical to collect information on the employment status of registered fishermen, 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.

SFA has indicated that catch data from the sport and recreational fishery will be progressively included in subsequent statistical reports which will provide a more complete estimate of the total volume of local fishery production.



Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2023

	2023		2022
Total quantity of fish and fish products produced	54,832 Mt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compiled based on figures published by NBS. The 2023 SFA Annual Report, does not include production figures. 	54,826 Mt

The figure published in the 2022 FITI report of 50,724 Mt was incomplete because data for the small-scale fisheries was unavailable. It has been re-stated here following updated figures published in the 2023 Fisheries Statistical Report.

Total value of imports of fish and fish products

2023 **SCR 2.0 billion**

2022 SCR 2.1 billion

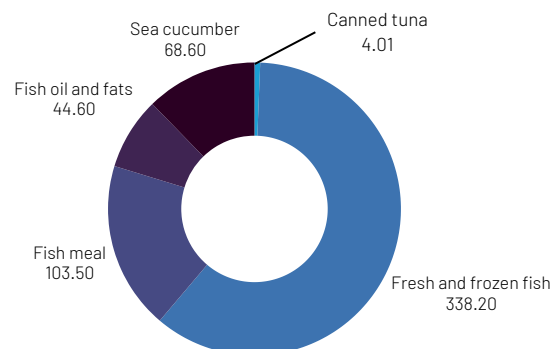
Most of the imported fish are frozen tuna sold by EU-flagged vessels to the local canning factory.

Total value of exports of fish and fish products

2023 **SCR 4.1 billion**

2022 SCR 4.5 billion

2022 value of exports of fish and fish products (SCR)



The export volume of fish and fish products declined by 19% in 2023, reaching 58,025 Mt. However, the export value dropped by only 9%, primarily due to the depreciation of the rupee against major currencies.



	2023	2022
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 established that the workforce is composed of 85% full time workers and 76% of fishers were full time compared to 81% non-fishers. It did not estimate total employment. The 2019 Economic Impact Study of the Sea Cucumber Fishery and Industry found that 185 jobs were supported by the fishery and the industry, the majority of which (64%) were Seychellois. The 2018 study Employment and Prospect in the Industrial tuna Fishery Sector of the Republic of Seychelles found that in the first half of 2018, there were 6,900 persons, both full time and part-time, working in the industrial tuna fishery, of which 72% were male and 28% female. 	Unknown
Total number of people employed in the informal fisheries sectors in Seychelles	<p>Unknown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MFBE confirmed the existence of an informal fisheries sector during the 2021 FiTI reporting process. The 2022 Assessment of the Economic and Social Importance of Seychelles' Sport and Recreational Fishery, estimated that the sports fishing sector may account for approximately 2.2% employment or 1,153 jobs. 	Unknown

TRANSPARENCY STATUS

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2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022



Information on fish exports was published in NBS' Merchandise Trade 2023 Q4 Statistical Bulletin, disaggregated by export destination.

Several studies implemented in the last 5 years have contributed progressively more information on employment in the fisheries sector:

- The Employment and Capacity Needs assessment study for the fisheries sector, published in 2021, provided information on the distribution of employees across different fisheries sub-sectors by gender and an estimation of full time and part-time workers in the fisheries sector. It provides the most comprehensive information on wages among fishers and non-fishers.
- The Baseline socioeconomic study of semi-industrial longline fleet, and the Seychelles Sea Cucumber Fishery and industry on the other hand, provided information on number of employees and wage estimates in these respective sub-sectors.
- The Assessment of the Economic and Social Importance of Seychelles' Sport and Recreational Fishery, published in 2022, provided an estimate of employment in the sport and recreational fishery.
- The Employment and Prospect in the Industrial tuna Fishery Sector of the Republic of Seychelles produced by the Blue Economy Department in 2018, is a comprehensive employment study of the industrial tuna fishery and established the number of employees in that fishery in 2018.

Information received from the ITZ Section in the FSA and published in the Detailed Report provides up-to-date information on employment for fisheries and fisheries-related businesses operating in the ITZ.



The MFBE confirmed during the 2021 FiTI Reporting process that there exists an informal fisheries sector, especially in the sports and recreational fishery, which is presently not regulated.



Information on the quantity of fish and fish products produced by NBS in its Q4 2023 Production Indicator is incomplete as it includes only catch data for semi-industrial longliners, canned tuna and smoked fish. Detailed information can be found in the 2023 SFA Annual Report.

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

The MFBE's pronouncement on the existence of an informal fisheries sector, made as part of the 2021 FiTI reporting process, has not been published on any government website.

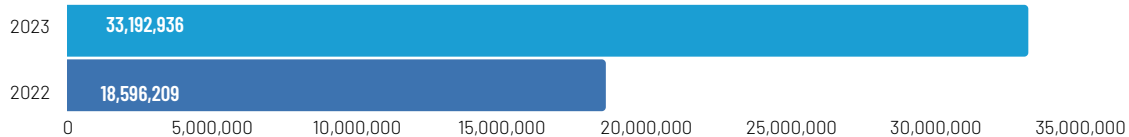


Fisheries Law Enforcement¹¹

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2023

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 activities through the sectoral support of the EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement.
- Information from other relevant authorities is not available.



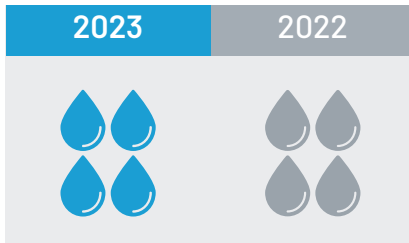
	2023		2022
Number of inspections of fishing vessels at sea and in ports	147	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This figure relates to import inspections as follows: Industrial vessels: 24; semi-industrial: 59; artisanal: 64; Coastal patrols: 17; there were no air patrols. 	128
Number of convictions for major offences in the fisheries sector	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Seychellois and 2 Sri Lankan vessels were apprehended for illegal fishing in 2023. All 6 crew members of the Seychellois vessel were charged and served and served a 2-year sentence and the vessel was forfeited. The 2 Sri Lankan vessels were suspected to have fished illegally in the Seychelles' waters. 	6

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

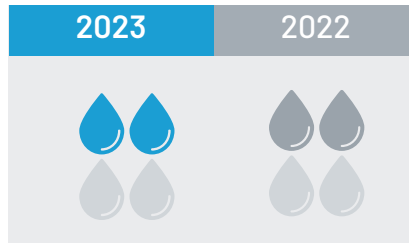


TRANSPARENCY STATUS

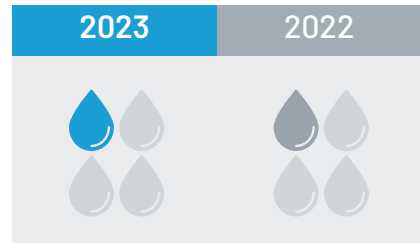
Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?



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



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



The updated record of convictions of major offences in the fishing sector as well as a list of foreign vessels apprehended because of IUU fishing, which occurred between 2020 and 2023, is available on SFA’s website.

In 2023, the SFA started work to finalise the “National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing’ and write it into national policy, with funding from the UNDP EcoFish Programme.



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 2022 or the previous FITI reporting periods. The SFA has not indicated when this will be available although funding has been secured.



Labour Standards

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2023

The public authority responsible for monitoring and enforcing laws on labour standards in Seychelles is the MESA. The Employment Act is not applicable to employees working in ITZ, which is regulated under the ITZ (Employment Regulations) by the FSA.

	2023		2022
Financial and human resources deployed by the government to enforce laws on labour standards in the fisheries sector	SCR 7,827,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 96% went towards staff wages and salaries 12 inspectors of the MESA seek to enforce labour standards across all sectors of the economy, including fisheries. 2 employees in the International Trade Zone Section in the FSA are dedicated to enforcing labour matters within Seychelles ITZ. 	SCR 7,501,000
Number of offences committed by employers in the fisheries sector that have been resolved by the authorities	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 offences with MESA. 	6 (2 offences with MESA and 4 with FSA)

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?	
2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022



Labour Standards



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 fisheries sector, is published on the Employment Department's website.



The published 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 fisheries sector does not take into consideration the specific provisions covering ITZ employees, which, in the fisheries sector is important, because of the large number of fisheries and fisheries-related companies operating in the ITZ.

Work on the domestication of the ILO Convention on Work in Fishing has stalled because no Competent Authority has been designated to lead the exercise.



Fisheries Subsidies¹²

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2023

	2023		2022
Total value of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector	SCR 52.4 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This figure is made up of: Fuel subsidy: SCR 42.8 M; Ice subsidy: SCR 9.6M. A study on public sector support covering the period 2014 to 2021, estimates government support over this period to be at least SCR 1.3 billion ranging from SCR 108.4 million to SCR 200.5 million annually. 	SCR 50.1 million
Value of fuel subsidies for large-scale fisheries:	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MFBE confirmed that there are no direct subsidies provided to Seychelles' large-scale fisheries sector. 	0
Value of fuel subsidies for small-scale fisheries	SCR 42.8 million <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artisanal fishery- 23.7 million; Semi-industrial fishery- SCR 19.1 million 		SCR 41.5 million <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artisanal fishery- 26.3 million; Semi-industrial fishery- SCR 15.2 million

Additional information on fuel subsidies is provided in the Detailed Report.

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?		Is the available information published on a government website and freely accessible?		Is the available information seen as complete by the National MSG?	
2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022



The Public Sector Support to the Fisheries Sector Report, commissioned by the MFBE, was published in 2023 and provides comprehensive information on subsidies in the Seychelles fisheries sector for the years 2014 to 2021.

Published Information on fuel subsidies provided to the small-scale fisheries sector in 2023 was partially disaggregated, and information allows identification of the value of fuel subsidies provided to the artisanal fishery sector as distinct from the semi-industrial fishery sector.

The 2017 report on the review of subsidies provided to the artisanal fisheries sector, is still available on the SFA website.



As noted in Seychelles' previous FiTI Reports, published information on subsidies is limited to support given to the small-scale fisheries, includes only fuel and ice subsidies and continues to fall short of national information requirements (e.g. the Access to Information Act), policy objectives (e.g. reducing subsidies dependency) as well as international expectations.

There is no published statement on a government website to confirm the absence of direct subsidies to the large-scale fisheries sector.

Despite disaggregation of fuel subsidies to the small-scale fisheries sector, there is no disaggregation of subsidies given to the semi-industrial sub-sector to show specifically fuel subsidies provided to the sea cucumber fishery.



Official Development Assistance (ODA)

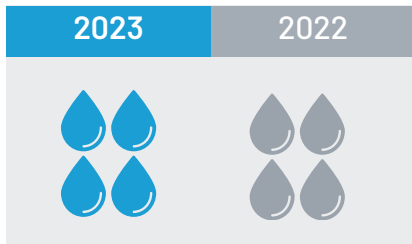
KEY INFORMATION FOR 2023

	2023	2022
Number of public sector projects related to fisheries	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWIOFISH3 (financed by World Bank). • Extension of the Providence Fishing Port (financed by the Government of Japan). • Support for business development and investment opportunities in fisheries (Financed by FAO). • Organisation of BlueInvest in Seychelles (Financed by European Commission - Directorate General for International Partnerships (INTPA)). 	5
Number of public sector projects related to marine conservation	<p>Unknown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This information is not collated except for projects funded by GEF. SFA has compiled a list of all projects it is implementing. 	Unknown
Number of corresponding evaluations of these public sector projects	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term review of the SWIOFISH 3 project undertaken in 2021 SWIOFISH 3 project end of project evaluation was published in 2024. 	1

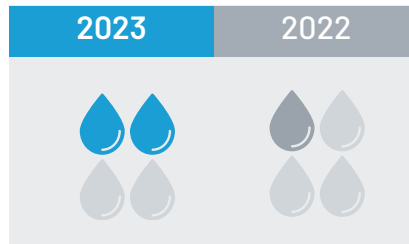


TRANSPARENCY STATUS

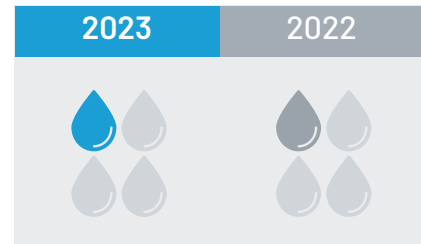
Is the information available to the government of Seychelles?



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



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



The list of donor-funded, fisheries and marine conservation projects being implemented by SFA updated to reflect projects active in 2023 is published on its website.

There is a SWIOFish3 Project page on the MFBE website under the Programmes tab with links to all the reports produced under this project. A mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the SWIOFish3 project, done in 2021. The end of project evaluation report was being finalised during this FITI reporting process and is now available online on the MFBE website.

Marine conservation and fisheries related projects, funded by SeyCCAT, which were active in 2023, have been published in annex C of the Detailed Report. SeyCCAT being a public-private trust, its funding comes from a mixture of ODA and government of Seychelles and therefore does not represent ODA in the strictest sense. However, the information contributes to understanding the breadth of projects being implemented with outside assistance.



There is limited visibility on the environment and climate change projects being implemented by the MACCE. The PCU which coordinated projects within this Ministry was restructured in July 2022 and its website, which provided a comprehensive list of conservation and other environment-related projects, dating from 2007, has been offline since.

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



Beneficial Ownership¹³

KEY INFORMATION FOR 2023

	2023		2022
Legal basis for beneficial ownership transparency	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficial Ownership (Amendment) Act 2023. Beneficial Ownership (Amendment) Regulations. 	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 whose legal structures are registered in Seychelles 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	Partially	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficial ownership information for information for vessels and businesses in small scale fisheries is published with online licence information. The FIU maintains a central register of beneficial owners, but it is not public. 	No

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?	
2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022

¹³ 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.



Beneficial Ownership



The SFA has updated its application forms to capture beneficial ownership information in the licence application process, in line with the Fisheries Act (2014). The 2023 license information for small scale fisheries contains information on beneficial owners, and it is published on the SFA website.

In 2022, SFA signed an MOU with FIU to allow the former to access beneficial ownership information from the central register of businesses in the fisheries sector.

The outcome of a Gap-analysis of Beneficial Ownership for the Fisheries Sector, commissioned by the MFBE is published on the MFBE website. The results will inform policies to address disclosure requirements in regard to beneficial ownership in the sector.



Since 2021, the FIU has 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.



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

Despite signing an MOU with FIU, there is no policy framework in place to guide SFA's access to and retrieval of beneficial ownership information from the central register of beneficial owners.

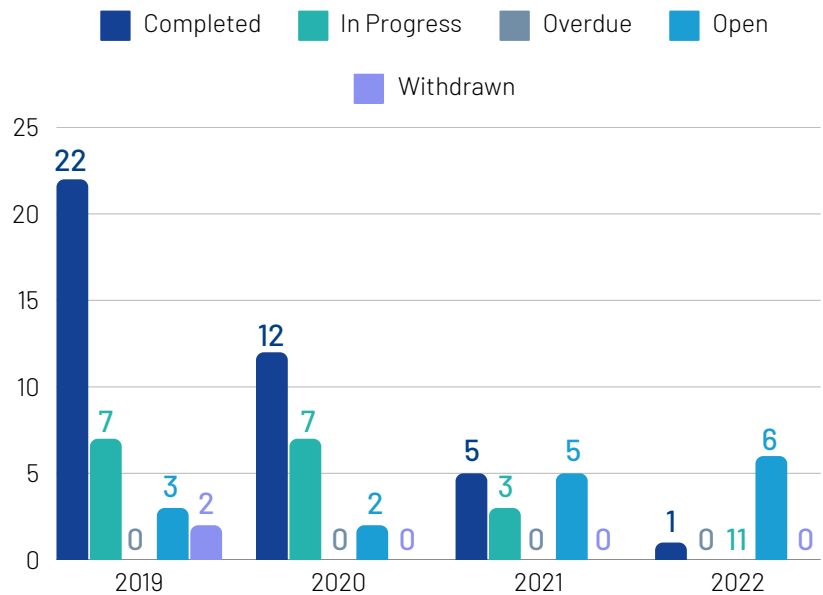
Progress

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 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, 21, 13 and 7 recommendations in its 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 FiTI Report respectively, aiming to further strengthen the country's leadership in fisheries transparency. The NMSG reviewed previously unimplemented recommendations: two from the 2019 report were withdrawn as they could not be implemented as presented and the due dates for four were reassessed. The current implementation status (as of December 2023) of the remaining recommendations is as follows:



A total of 40 recommendations have already been fully implemented by Seychelles' national authorities between the launch of the country's 2019 and 2023 FiTI Reports (February 2020-August 2024). In addition, the implementation of seventeen other recommendations are currently in progress.

An in-depth overview of the implementation status of all recommendations from Seychelles' 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 FiTI Reports can be found in annex D of the Detailed Report.



Annex

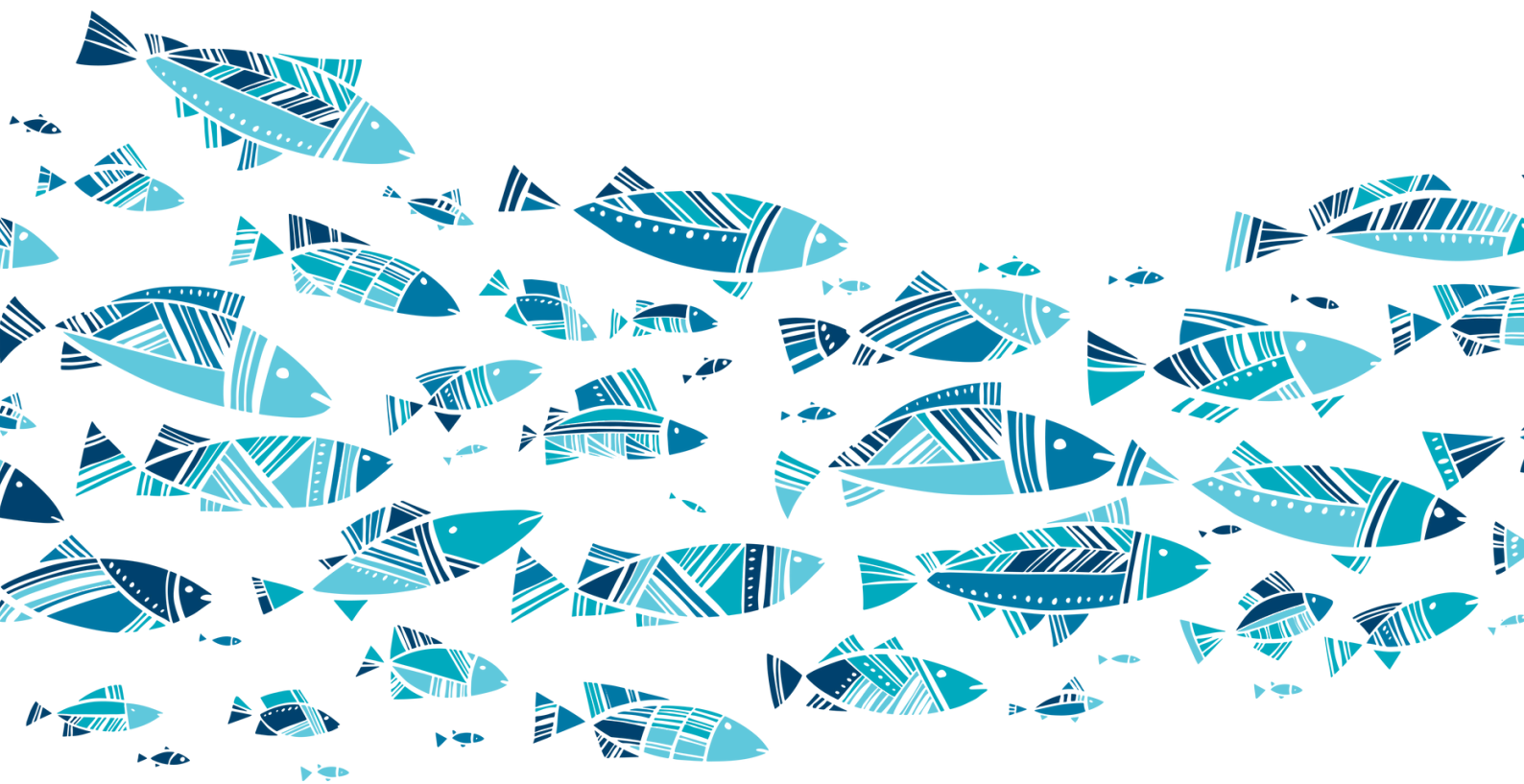
In order to facilitate the understanding and usage of this report, the National MSG seeks to emphasise the following core characteristics:

- **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 '2023 Summary' the FiTI National MSG has also compiled a '2023 Detailed Report', which delves into greater detail according to each of the FiTI Standard's 12 transparency requirements. This Detailed Report also includes information relevant for 2023 which has only been published as part of this FiTI Report.

Both reports (i.e. Summary and Detailed) are available for download on the websites of the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy as well as the Seychelles Fisheries Authority.

The information contained in this report is freely accessible and provided free of charge. It may be downloaded, reused, and shared without conditions or restrictions by any interested party.





2023 SUMMARY REPORT

Seychelles' Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

