



**SEYCHELLES
FISHERIES
AUTHORITY**

Seychelles Fisheries Authority

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT 2018

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2024

PUBLISHED AND SUBMITTED FEBRUARY 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) was created in August 1984 by the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act 1984, as the executive arm of the Government of Seychelles in the field of fisheries, to develop the fishing industry to its fullest potential and to safeguard the resource base for sustainable development.

The Authority became a financially autonomous State-Owned Enterprise in January 2019. Subsequently, the authority initiated a comprehensive process to revise and modernize the SFA Establishment Act. This initiative was important not only to align the SFA with the Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission Act at that time but also to update the functions of the Authority, which had evolved since 1984.

The *Seychelles Fisheries Authority Act, 2024* was officially assented to by the President of the Republic of Seychelles on 23rd July 2024 and gazetted on 29th July 2024. It introduces several key changes, including changing the name of the Authority from the Seychelles Fishing Authority to the Seychelles Fisheries Authority to better reflect its functions.

The Act provides for the authority to oversee the efficient management and sustainable development of the fisheries sector on a par with international norms, standards, and best practices and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Authority works closely with the Ministry of Fisheries and is governed by a Board of Directors, which is responsible for its policy, control, and management oversight. A Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has supervision over and directs the day-to-day affairs of the Authority.

1.1 Details of SFA's Information Officer

As per the requirement of the Access to information Act 2018, the SFA appointed Mrs. Tresa Bastienne as the Information officer from 1st May 2024, to date. Mrs. Bastienne replaces Ms. Julia Malbrook who was the previous Information Officer.

2. MISSION AND VISION OR MANDATE OF THE ORGANISATION

2.1. Our Vision

"Excellence in sustainable fisheries management and sector development"

2.2 Our Mission

"Ensure optimal utilization of the fisheries resources for the benefit of the Seychellois people through sustainable management, ecosystem-based approaches, and integrated sector development"

2.3 Functions

The Seychelles Fisheries Authority (SFA) is the leading agency dedicated to the sustainable management and development of the Seychelles' rich marine resources. For over four decades, SFA has been at the forefront of ensuring the responsible stewardship of our fisheries, balancing economic growth with the preservation of our marine ecosystems.

The functions of the SFA as defined in article (5) of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act (1984) are to:

- (a) promote, develop and regulate fisheries;
- (b) advise the government on all matters related to fisheries;
- (c) assist in the formulation of national policies with respect to fisheries and lead the implementation of these policies;
- (d) assist in negotiations and represent Seychelles on matters related to fisheries;
- (e) promote and conduct scientific and development research related to fisheries;
- (f) enter into agreements in consultation with the authority responsible for ports, for the management or joint management of ports, harbors and related facilities;
- (g) administer the laws relating to fisheries and aquaculture and regulations made thereunder and other written laws relating to fisheries; and
- (h) advise the government on the manpower training requirements of Seychelles with regard to the fisheries sector.

2.4 Core values

- **Transparency & Accountability:** Being open and honest about our actions and taking responsibility for our decisions.
- **Integrity:** Doing the right thing and demonstrating ethical behaviour in any situation.
- **Reliability & Consistency in service delivery:** Providing a service that is dependable and maintaining our quality of service over time.
- **Positivity:** Applying a positive mental attitude to the work we do and aiming for excellence.
- **Stewardship & inclusivity:** Taking initiatives to make things better for our organization while welcoming and respecting the dignity of all.

3. ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS (AS PER SECTION 54 OF THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT)

SR No	ATI ACT REQUIREMENTS	No
1)	The total number of ATI requests for access received;	3
2)	<u>TYPE OF INFORMATION</u>	
	The number of requests for personal information	3
	The number of request for public domain information	0
	The number of request for third party information	0
	The number of request for commercial and confidential Information	0
	The number of request for law enforcement information	0
	The number of request for privileged documents	0
	The number of request for protection of life and safety of an individual information	0
	The number of request for National Security and defence	0
	The number of request for International relations	0
	The number of request for Economic interest of the state	0
	The number of request for Academic or professional examination and recruitment process information	0
	The number of request for proposal submitted to Cabinet	0
3)	The number of requests for access granted in full;	3
4)	The number of requests for access refuse in full;	0
	The number of requests for access refuse in part;	0
5)	The number of times each provision of Part III (EXEMPTIONS) was relied on to refuse access in full;	0
	The number of times each provision of Part III (EXEMPTIONS) was relied on to refuse access in part;	0
6)	The number of request abandoned after request	0
7)	The number of request but no records exist	0

8)	The number of cases in which the periods stipulated in section 11 were extended in terms of section 12;	0
9)	The number of review applications lodged with the head of the information holder;	0
10)	The number of reviews lodged on the ground that a request for access was regarded as having been refused in terms of section 14;	0
11)	The number of cases in which, as a result of a review, access was given to information;	0
12)	The number of request transferred to another Public Body	0

I.	<p><i>A description of the steps or efforts taken by the head of the body to encourage all officers of that body to comply with the provisions of this Act;</i></p> <p>Adhering to the provisions of the Access to Information Act (ATIA) is of paramount importance for the head of the SFA, who is committed to fostering good governance by enhancing transparency, accountability, and integrity in all facets of the authority's daily responsibilities.</p> <p>Ensuring the accessibility of information is a principal priority for the authority. SFA diligently strives to comply with its obligations under the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) concerning transparency. SFA is a member of the National Multistakeholder Group of the initiative and accordingly is also part of the National Open Governance Partnership Committee.</p>
II.	<p><i>Any facts which indicate an effort by the body to administer and implement the spirit and intention of the Act according to its submitted plan;</i></p> <p>In 2024, the SFA has proactively addressed all requests made under it and has ensured that all inquiries are resolved within the prescribed time frames.</p> <p>To enhance information sharing, the SFA conducted a thorough communication review aimed at identifying gaps in its communication practices, particularly with respect to access to information.</p> <p>Furthermore, we affirm that all obligations recommended by the Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission (PEMC) are fully up to date.</p> <p>As part of our commitment to improving accessibility to information, the SFA has undertaken a comprehensive revamp of its website to enhance user-friendliness. Work has already commenced on updating the new website with relevant information.</p>

	<p>III. Particulars of any penalties imposed against any person under this Act; YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (If yes, list down)</p> <p>No penalties have been imposed against any person under this Act</p>
	<p>IV. Particulars of any disciplinary action taken against any person under this Act; YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (If yes, list down)</p> <p>No disciplinary action has been taken against any person under this Act.</p>

4. THE CATEGORIES OF INFORMATION (AS PER SECTION 55 OF THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT)

LIST OF CATEGORIES	LOCATION OF THE INFORMATION
1. manuals, policies, procedures or rules or similar instruments which have been prepared for, or are used by, officers of the body in discharging that body's functions, exercising powers and handling complaints, making decisions or recommendations or providing advice to persons outside the body with respect to rights, privileges or benefits, or to obligations, penalties or other consequences, to or for which persons may be entitled or liable;	Website: www.sfa.sc Available upon request on: info@sfa.sc
2. the name, designations and other particulars of the Information Officer of the public body, including his or her contact details and electronic addresses where persons may submit requests for information;	Website: www.sfa.sc Available upon request on: info@sfa.sc
3. any prescribed forms, procedures, processes and rules for engagement by members of the public with the public body	Website: www.sfa.sc Available upon request on: info@sfa.sc
4. the particulars of any arrangement, statutory or otherwise, that exists for consultation with, or representation by, members of the public in relation to the formulation or implementation of its policies, or similar documents;	Website: www.sfa.sc Available upon request on: info@sfa.sc
5. detailed information on the design and execution of any subsidy programmes implemented with public funds, including the amounts allocated and expended, the criteria for accessing the subsidy, and the beneficiaries	Website: www.sfa.sc Available upon request on: info@sfa.sc
6. all contracts, licences, permits, authorisations and public-private partnerships granted by the public body;	Website: www.sfa.sc Available upon request on: info@sfa.sc
7. reports containing the results of surveys, studies or tests, including scientific or technical reports and environmental impact assessment reports, prepared by the public body;	Website: www.sfa.sc Available upon request on: info@sfa.sc
8. The particulars of its organisations, functions and duties;	Website: www.sfa.sc Available upon request on: info@sfa.sc
9. Information containing interpretations or particulars of acts or policies administered by the body;	Website: www.sfa.sc Available upon request on: info@sfa.sc
10. The annual report submitted to the information commission under section 54 of this act;	Website: www.sfa.sc Available upon request on: info@sfa.sc
11. Any other relevant information	Website: www.sfa.sc Available upon request on : info@sfa.sc

5. CHALLENGES

During 2024, the SFA experienced minimal challenges in implementing the Access to Information Act of 2028. However, it became evident that not all staff was aware of the act, which led to many inquiries being submitted without reference to it. This lack of awareness potentially reduced the number of requests that could have been recorded.

The launch of the Fisheries Information Management System has been instrumental in providing the public with access to fisheries-related data. However, technological barriers were encountered throughout the year. There were also instances when members of the public were unable to access certain information on the new SFA website, which is still undergoing updates.

Since my appointment as Information Officer in May, I have not received any formal training and have had to depend on guidance from information officers at other organizations.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

I strongly recommend that training be conducted by the Office of the Information Commission with staff of relevant organizations. Such training is crucial for ensuring that staff members comprehend the provisions of the Act.

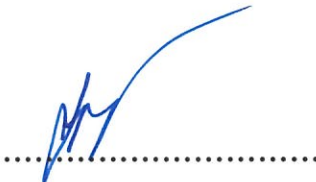
Additionally, I suggest increasing public awareness initiatives. These efforts will facilitate a better understanding among the public of their rights under the Act and the means by which they can access pertinent information.

7. DECLARATION

I declare that in accordance to Section 54 of the Access to Information, Act 2018, the Annual Report are to the best of my knowledge, true, accurate and complete as per the requirements.

Tresa Bastienne		
Name of Information Officer	Signature	Date

I confirm that this Annual Report is verified and true, accurate and complete to my knowledge as the Head of Information Holder of the Seychelles Fisheries Authority on the date stated below.

Dr. Jan Robinson	
Name of Head of Information Holder	Signature

Dated this *14th February* 2025.



OFFICIAL STAMP