



# DAN NOU KAZYE

The Seychelles Fisheries Authority Newsletter



'Excellence in Sustainable Fisheries Management and Sector Development'



## Top News

Promoting Sustainable Seas: SFA Participates in Agriculture and Food Fair

Seychelles Strengthens Legal Framework with Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 2025



EU and Seychelles Deepen Ties Through Sustainable Fisheries Agreements

## Seychelles Fisheries Authority Celebrates Sustainable Fisheries at the National Day Agriculture and Food Fair

The Seychelles Fisheries Authority made a vibrant and impactful presence at the recent National Day Agriculture and Food Fair held at the Roche Caiman Sports Complex. Over the two days, the Authority's booth was a hub of activity, drawing large crowds eager to learn about Seychelles' rich marine resources, sustainable fishing practices, and innovative seafood products.

SFA's participation was orchestrated through four of its specialized departments. The Aquaculture Department displayed a variety of marine species. Visitors were fascinated by live specimens such as sea cucumbers, sea urchins, mud crabs, and mangrove snappers. These species exemplify Seychelles' diverse aquaculture potential and its focus on sustainable harvesting and farming practices.

The Fisheries Management Department highlighted the Mahe Plateau co-management plan, emphasizing its role in ensuring the sustainability of critical fish stocks. The booth focused particularly on the management of red snapper and green jobfish. Information was provided on size limits and bag limits regulations designed to allow fish populations to mature and reproduce, thereby promoting sustainable fishing practices.

The Fisheries Research Department captured visitors' curiosity with displays of different marine species they have studied, especially the anatomy of the spiny lobster. An engaging exhibit featured live fish otoliths tiny calcified structures found in the inner ear of fish that visitors could examine under microscopes. Otoliths are vital for understanding fish age and growth patterns, making them important tools in stock assessment and management.

The Product Development and Quality Assurance showcased a variety of frozen fish products, including fish burgers, fish fingers, fish balls, and fish croquettes. These familiar, convenient foods attracted many visitors who appreciated the delicious options for local cuisine. The department's booth was bustling, with tasting sessions and the opportunity to buy the frozen products.

Throughout the fair, SFA's booth was buzzing with visitors from local families to industry professionals each eager to learn about Seychelles' marine resources, the importance of sustainable fishing practices, and innovations in seafood processing. The engagement was evident in the lively interactions, questions posed by visitors, and the general enthusiasm for Seychelles' marine wealth.

SFA's stand was part of a broader exhibit representing the entire fisheries industry, which included other government departments such as the Blue Economy Department and the Department of Fisheries, as well as key private sector stakeholders. Notable participants included the Indian Ocean Tuna (IOT), Ocean Basket Seychelles, Tropical Tuna Company, and Amirante Fisheries.



# Seychelles Gazette's Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 2025: A New Era for Marine Resource Management

The Seychelles Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 2025 has officially been gazetted, marking a major milestone in the country's journey towards sustainable and modern fisheries governance. The new legislation, which replaces the Fisheries Act 2014, strengthens the legal foundation for marine resource management and positions Seychelles to meet evolving regional and international obligations.

Work on the Act began in 2018 under the World Bank-funded SWIOFish3 Project and was completed in two key phases. Phase 1 focused on aligning Seychelles' legal framework with international agreements such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) resolutions, UNCLOS, the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), and the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). Phase 2 expanded domestic provisions to better regulate local fisheries and aquaculture activities.

The drafting process was highly consultative, incorporating input from a wide range of stakeholders across the sector. Despite delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for a comprehensive legal review with the Attorney General's Office, the Act was officially enacted on 27 June 2025. Its expanded scope increasing from 79 to 146 sections introduces significant improvements in governance, compliance, and sustainability.

[23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025] Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 27  
 REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES SUPPLEMENT TO THE GAZETTE ACT



FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ACT, 2025  
 (Act 3 of 2025)

I assent



Wavel Ramkalawan  
 President

16<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES IN ALL AREAS OVER WHICH THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES EXERCISES JURISDICTION AND SOVEREIGN RIGHTS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXERCISE OF EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF FISHING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES OF SEYCHELLES NATIONALS IN AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION, INCLUDING PERSONS AND VESSELS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DOMESTICATION OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS, OBLIGATIONS AND STANDARDS AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

ENACTED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PART I - PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2025 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notice published in the Gazette, appoint.

[23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025] Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 38  
 REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES SUPPLEMENT TO THE GAZETTE ACT

(ii) in areas or for fish stocks in relation to which there are no applicable conservation or management measures and where such fishing activities are conducted in a manner inconsistent with State responsibilities for the conservation of living marine resources under international law;

"instrumented buoy" means a buoy with a clearly marked reference number allowing identification of its owner and equipped with a satellite tracking system to monitor its position;

"international agreement" means a treaty, convention or other form of agreement or arrangement legally binding on Seychelles and entered into with another State or other States or any regional economic integration organisation or entity, and may be concluded at the international, regional, sub-regional or bilateral level;

"international conservation and management measure" means any legally binding measure to conserve or manage one or more species of fish that is adopted by any relevant RFMO or international agreement applicable to Seychelles;

"International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea" or "SOLAS" means the convention adopted on 1 November 1974, as amended, under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization, governing the safety of ships at sea;

"joint venture vessel" means a fishing vessel which —

- (a) is registered in Seychelles under the Merchant Shipping Act (Cap 127);
- (b) exceeds 18 metres in length overall;
- (c) is licensed for tuna and tuna-like species, and other species in accordance with condition of the licence;

[23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025] Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 39  
 REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES SUPPLEMENT TO THE GAZETTE ACT

(d) is wholly beneficially owned by a company established under any written law of Seychelles and having a place of business in Seychelles; or

(e) has at least 51 per cent of the actual effective shares are beneficially owned by a citizen of Seychelles;

"land" in relation to fish —

(a) means the transfer of any fish or fish product from a fishing vessel, other than a transshipment; and

(b) includes the transfer of fish or fish products from a fishing vessel to a port, landing site, container, vehicle, aircraft or other facility;

"landing site" for the purposes of section 93 means a port, wharf, beach or any other location approved by the Authority for the unloading of fish and fish products by a local fishing vessel;

"large-scale drifnets" means gillnets or other nets or a combination of nets that are more than 2.5 kilometres in length whose purpose is to entmesh, entrap, or entangle fish by drifting on the surface of, or in, the water column;

"local fishery or fisheries" means a fishery conducted by local vessels which are licensed for the permitted activities as specified under the schedule;

"local fishing vessel" means a fishing vessel with a length overall of less than 24 metres —

- (a) that is registered as such under the Merchant Shipping Act (Cap 282); or
- (b) with an overall length of 10 metres or less, identified as such under the Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority Act (Act 2 of 2020); or

Key reforms include a stronger legal framework for aquaculture, integration of electronic monitoring and reporting systems to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, a new vessel classification system, and the ability for officers to issue fixed penalties directly. These updates not only improve enforcement and efficiency but also reinforce Seychelles' commitment to sustainable fisheries and marine conservation.

## EU and Seychelles Reinforce Sustainable Fisheries Partnership

The European Union and Seychelles reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable fisheries during a Joint Committee meeting held in Victoria from 24 to 26 June. The meeting brought together representatives to review the progress of two key agreements: the EU-Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) and the agreement granting Seychelles-flagged vessels access to the waters of Mayotte.



These discussions were part of the sixth and third sessions, respectively. The EU delegation was led by Mr. Luis Molledo from the European Commission, while Mr. Roy Clarisse, Principal Secretary for Fisheries, represented Seychelles.

During the meeting, both parties reviewed access arrangements for fishing fleets and the implementation of sectoral support projects. Mr. Clarisse noted the significance of the partnership's uninterrupted 40-year history and its broader relevance in areas such as combating IUU fishing and collaboration in regional fisheries management, particularly through the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). Mr. Molledo praised the tangible results achieved through financial support and policy cooperation, highlighting the alignment between EU and Seychelles fisheries strategies.

Tuna fishing remains a key pillar of the Seychelles economy, contributing about 20% of the country's GDP and employing 17% of the population directly or indirectly. The current SFPA protocol, valid until February 2026, allows EU vessels to catch a reference tonnage of 50,000 tonnes annually in Seychelles' waters in exchange for an annual contribution of EUR 5.3 million, with EUR 2.8 million dedicated to sustainable fisheries and small-scale sector development. Both sides hailed the SFPA as a model for responsible fisheries governance, grounded in transparency, scientific advice, and mutual respect. Initial talks have also begun regarding a new protocol under the SFPA.



In parallel, the third session of the joint committee on the EU-Seychelles Mayotte access agreement focused on the legal and scientific frameworks governing Seychelles' fishing operations in Mayotte's waters, an outermost region of the EU. Signed in 2014 and tacitly renewed in 2020, the agreement allows Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish within sustainable limits under EU and IOTC rules. This access arrangement supports fleet viability and regional cooperation by integrating Indian Ocean fisheries governance across jurisdictions. Both parties emphasized the importance of maintaining responsible fishing in Mayotte's waters as part of a broader commitment to marine sustainability and international collaboration.

## SFA Hosts Validation Workshop for New Fisheries Economics Module



The IT Section and Statistics & Economic Department, held a Validation Workshop at Olympic House to present and review the new Fisheries Economics Module under the Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS). The online module is designed to simplify and digitalize services for boat owners and fisheries companies, including applications for tax concessions, fuel subsidies, and vessel insurance, as well as providing access to a central registry of people, companies, and vessels. Stakeholders were given the opportunity to test the system's first version and offer feedback ahead of its planned rollout in the fourth quarter of 2025.

The workshop, facilitated by FIMS lead consultant Mr. Kenneth Katafono, also brought together representatives from fishers associations, who shared feedback on current challenges in service delivery. Timeliness of approvals emerged as a key concern, with participants expressing strong support for the module's potential to address this issue. Suggestions for additional features were also welcomed, with many praising SFA's efforts toward digital transformation in the sector.



Mr. Katafono also presented a Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) data management system developed for the Pacific region, which could be adapted for future phases of FIMS in Seychelles. The system includes components for permits, catch documentation, vessel inspections, and trade processes. Representatives from SFA's IT, MCS, Fuel Claim, and Statistics teams were in attendance, underscoring the Authority's commitment to modernizing fisheries services through integrated digital solutions.

## SFA Launches Feasibility Study to Restore Sea Cucumber Populations

The Aquaculture Department has officially started its sea cucumber stock enhancement project with a stakeholders meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at the STC Conference room. The workshop introduced the concept of the project, to explore the potential of stock enhancement to its industry stakeholders, divers, skippers, processors, researchers, and policymakers, and gathered valuable feedback.



This technique involves breeding sea cucumbers in hatcheries and releasing the juveniles into the wild to rebuild natural populations. The approach has already seen success in countries like Japan and Oman, and could offer ecological and economic benefits for Seychelles.



Discussions included the technical challenges of culturing species like white teatfish (kokosye blan), long-term funding strategies, and how fishers might benefit from increased quotas or new fishing grounds. Stakeholders also shared local knowledge on juvenile sightings and suitable habitats for future releases.

Several participants suggested using marine protected areas or no-take zones to improve juvenile survival rates, and expressed interest in assisting with future restocking efforts. These contributions are being mapped to guide upcoming field trials. The SFA clarified that while white teatfish will be attempted, the project will also focus on species that are more practical to culture during this early phase.



The initiative is jointly funded by SeyCCAT and SFA and remains in its feasibility stage. Recently, four SFA aquaculture staff completed a training program in the Philippines focused on raising sea cucumber juveniles. Broodstock collection has already started, with the first spawning trial expected in July. The workshop concluded with strong engagement and enthusiasm from all sectors of the sea cucumber industry, and two additional workshops are planned as the project progresses collaboratively.

## SFA and Coast Guard raise awareness on IUU Fishing a Maritime Academy

To mark the International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, the SFA and the Seychelles Coast Guard held a joint awareness session with first-year students at the Seychelles Maritime Academy. The event took place at the SMA auditorium and focused on educating students about the ongoing threats posed by IUU fishing and the national efforts to combat it.



The Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) Department of the SFA led informative presentations outlining the strategies and tools used to monitor and deter illegal fishing activities in Seychelles' waters. The SCG reinforced these messages by sharing real-life case studies and operations, while also encouraging students to consider a career with the Coast Guard in support of marine resource protection.

Students responded with strong interest, acknowledging that they were previously unaware of the scale of IUU fishing in the country. Many expressed a desire to contribute by promoting sustainable fishing practices, such as educating local fishers about fish maturity sizes and the impact of harvesting juvenile fish. The session not only raised awareness but also inspired students to be part of the solution.



## SFA staff benefit from Health Awareness session on Hypertension and Diabetes

The Health and Safety section, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, recently organized a health awareness session for its staff focused on hypertension, diabetes, and mental well-being. The session aimed to sensitize staff about the importance of taking care of their health, both physical and mental.

Facilitated by Mrs. Julita William, Programme Manager for Diabetes at the Ministry of Health, the session covered national statistics on hypertension and diabetes, which she described as alarming. Mrs. William encouraged staff to adopt healthier habits through balanced diets, regular exercise, and mental health care as key steps to preventing chronic illnesses.

Staff members who attended expressed that the session was eye-opening, especially regarding the importance of mental health.



Many noted they felt better informed about how neglecting mental well-being can have serious consequences, and they appreciated the practical tips shared for maintaining a healthy lifestyle.



## SFA Hosts 2024 AGM: Reflecting on Progress and Planning Ahead

The SFA recently held its 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM), gathering key stakeholders to review the past year's achievements and set the stage for future initiatives. The event was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy, Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade, PEMC, SKS Chartered Accountants, and SFA's leadership team. Chairman Mr. Radley Weber opened the session by reaffirming the AGM's role in promoting transparency and celebrating SFA's continued leadership in regional fisheries governance.



Financial Controller Ms. Sara Fanchette presented the Audited Financial Statements, noting a loss of SCR 9.4 million primarily due to amortization and depreciation, an interim dividend payout of SCR 25 million, and a cash reduction of SCR 34.4 million. Five audit qualifications were reported, with issues related to fixed assets, outstanding VAT with the Seychelles Revenue Commission, and the absence of formal policies and procedures. SKS Chartered Accountants were reappointed as external auditors for 2025.

The AGM also highlighted SFA's infrastructure investments and risk management efforts. Presenters Mr. Nel Richard and Ms. Nan Constant outlined ongoing capital upgrades to improve service delivery, while Deputy CEO Mr. Aubrey Lesperance discussed SFA's risk strategy, addressing both operational and financial risks. CEO Dr. Jan Robinson shared key milestones, including the adoption of the Seychelles Fisheries Authority Establishment Act (2024), the timely completion of audited accounts, and the launch of a new brand identity during the Authority's 40th anniversary celebrations.

Despite these achievements, Dr. Robinson acknowledged ongoing challenges, such as climate impacts, administrative delays, and funding constraints. He stressed the need for adaptive leadership and improved cost recovery mechanisms to support sustainable fisheries management.

The meeting concluded with a presentation of SFA's corporate social responsibility initiatives, showcasing the Authority's commitment to community engagement and marine conservation. With a clear strategic focus, SFA remains committed to leading sustainable growth within the Blue Economy.

## SFA engages SALS students in Career Awareness session



The SFA recently engaged with second-year students from the School of Advanced Level Studies (SALS) through a career profile talk session held at the SALS conference room in Anse Royale. The session brought together representatives from several SFA departments, including Human Resources, Accounts, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, Fisheries Research, and Ports and Facilities, who shared insights into their roles and the diverse career paths available within the organization.

The primary aim of the session was to raise awareness among students about the range of employment opportunities at SFA.

Staff members also shared their personal career journeys, emphasizing that a background in fisheries is not a prerequisite for joining the organization, as many roles require skills in fields such as finance, human resources, science, and logistics.

The event was well received by the over 30 students in attendance, who actively engaged with the speakers and asked questions about salaries, internships, site visits, and subject choices relevant to SFA careers. This was the first such outreach activity for the year, with plans to hold similar sessions in the future based on interest and demand.

## Young Explorers Set Sail for Sustainability

The Fisheries Research Department warmly welcomed a group of enthusiastic students from the Little Explorers Club aboard the SFA Research Vessel, R/V L'Amitié, for an exciting educational visit.

The activity was part of the project "Little Explorers Promoting Climate Action Through a Transformative Learning Programme on Marine Life and Fisheries", led by Gaea Conservation Network Seychelles and funded under the SeyCCAT BGF7 grant. The initiative aims to educate youth on marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries, and the impacts of climate change.

Throughout the visit, the young explorers learned essential safety practices at sea, explored fishing techniques like line fishing, knot tying, and hook preparation, and discovered the importance of sustainability in preserving marine resources.

This hands-on experience left a lasting impression on the students, deepening their appreciation for ocean conservation. The SFA proudly supports such initiatives that inspire the next generation to protect our oceans.



Photo credit: Ms. Janine Henriette

## SFA highlights sustainable Aquaculture at Ocean's day Fair

The Aquaculture Department took part in the second Oceans Day Fair, held at Camion Hall under the theme "A Sustainable Ocean." The event provided an excellent platform to showcase the development of sustainable aquaculture in Seychelles and engage with the public on ocean-related issues.

The SFA's stall attracted strong interest from students and members of the public, who explored the display to learn more about aquaculture's role in supporting food security and marine conservation. The team also hosted interactive activities, including guessing games, which added a fun and educational element to the experience.

Through its participation, the SFA reinforced its commitment to promoting sustainable practices and raising awareness of aquaculture's potential in building a resilient and ocean-friendly future for Seychelles.



## SFA donates tuna cubes to promote fish consumption among youth

SFA, through its Fisheries Research Department, donated 33 packets of tuna cubes to three children's foyers on Mahé as part of its efforts to promote fish consumption among younger generations. The benefiting institutions were Foyer de Nazareth, Foyer de la Solitude, and Foyer de la Providence.

This initiative aims to encourage healthier eating habits by making nutritious, locally sourced fish more accessible to children. Representatives from the foyers expressed their sincere appreciation to the SFA for the generous gesture, highlighting the important role that a nutritious diet plays in supporting children's growth and development.

The department has indicated that similar donation exercises are planned for the future, reinforcing its commitment to community outreach and public health through the promotion of sustainable seafood consumption.





## Healthy tip from the Health and Safety Section

### Mental Health and Wellbeing Definition

Mental health refers to a state of well-being in which individuals realize their abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively, and contribute to their community. It is an integral component of overall health and well-being, influencing how we think, feel, and act.

Wellbeing, particularly mental wellbeing, encompasses how we respond to life's challenges, including our emotional responses and actions. It is about feeling good and functioning well, which includes emotional wellness and the ability to handle stress effectively.

Together, mental health and well-being are crucial for personal and community development, emphasizing the importance of both in leading a fulfilling life.

To improve mental well-being, consider these five steps:

1. Connect with others: Build relationships to enhance your sense of belonging and self-worth.
2. Be physically active: Regular exercise can boost your mood and mental health.
3. Learn new skills: Engaging in new activities can improve self-esteem and provide a sense of achievement.
4. Give to others: Helping others can create a sense of purpose and improve your own wellbeing.
5. Pay attention to the present moment: Mindfulness practices can help you manage stress and improve your mental state.

Taking care of your mental wellbeing is essential for leading a fulfilling life.



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

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