

MINUTES OF 10th MEETING

National Multi-Stakeholder Group

Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

Date: Wednesday 31st March 2021
Venue: Virtual and Physical meeting
Time: 09:00 hours

Present:

1. Mr. Philippe Michaud, National FiTI Lead-Blue Economy
2. Mr. Cyril Bonnelame, Transparency Initiatives Seychelles
3. Mr. Roy Clarisse, Principal Secretary- Department of Fisheries
4. Ms. Gabriella Gonthier, Youth Representative
5. Mr. Grant Heyer, representing the Civil Society Organisations-Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles (CEPS).
6. Mr. Vincent Lucas- Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)
7. Mr. Selwyn Edmond, representing the Industrial fleet
8. Mrs. Marie-Thérèse Purvis- Civil Society Organizations- Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles- (CEPS)- joined by zoom
9. Mr. Darrell Green – Praslin Fishermen - joined by zoom

Invitees/Alternate:

1. Mr. Anthony Savy- 1st Alternate to Mr. Edmond representing the Industrial fleet- joined by zoom
2. Mr. Peter Purvis, 2nd Alternate to Mr. Edmond representing the Industrial fleet
3. Ms. Stephanie Radegonde- Alternate to PS Clarisse, Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy
4. Dr. Jude Bijoux, Fisheries Biologist
5. Ms. Fatime Kante- National FiTI desk officer, Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy
6. Mr. Abel Sorry, Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy

Absent with Apologies:

1. Mr. James Lesperance JHL Group Ltd
2. Mr. Keith Andre, Fishermen Boat Owner's Association (FBOA)
3. Mr. Philip Monthy, Honorable Member of the National Assembly representing the ruling party in the National Assembly
4. New representative Member of the National Assembly representing the Opposition Party

Agenda:

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting
2. Presentation Recommendations on FiTI Requirements
3. Any Other Business

| | Recommendation | Priority | Completion Date | Notes |
|----------|--|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2019-1_1 | MFBE should determine and implement a publication strategy to ensure that all national and international fisheries laws, regulations and official policy documents are published online, up-to-date, easy to locate and searchable. | HIGH | DEC 2021 | - |
| 2019-2_1 | MFBE or SFA should publish a summary description on the different types of fisheries that exist in Seychelles, and their corresponding license arrangements. The National MSG encourages the national authorities to utilise the summaries provided in this FiTI Report as a starting point for this aspect. | HIGH | DEC 2021 | Remove MFBE from text |
| 2019-2_2 | MFBE should publish in the Official Gazette the fees that need to be paid for all types of fisheries rights existing under the law. This also includes changes to current fee structures | HIGH | DEC 2021 | |
| 2019-2_3 | SFA should publish a list of all fisheries permit holders (including for the sea cucumber fishery), with information on the type of permit they hold, fees | HIGH | SEPT 2021 | |

| | | | | |
|----------|---|--------|-----------|--|
| | which have been paid and the start and end date of their permit(s) | | | |
| 2019-2_4 | MFBE or SFA should publish online the rules and procedures for nationally-flagged vessels to obtain authorisations to fish in a third country or the High Seas, along with the reporting requirements and the provisions for terminating such authorisations. | HIGH | SEPT 2021 | |
| 2019-3_1 | MFBE should publish online all foreign fishing access agreements and associated protocols. | HIGH | DEC 2021 | The statement also need to also take into account confidentiality clause that might exist in some of the current agreements. |
| 2019-3_2 | MFBE should publish online all studies or reports related to the evaluation or oversight of these agreements, which have either been undertaken by national authorities or foreign parties. | HIGH | SEPT 2021 | - |
| 2019-3_3 | SFA should publish any assessment regarding compliance of fishing vessels with the terms and conditions set forth in their respective access agreement, once available. | MEDIUM | SEPT 2022 | - |
| 2019-3_4 | MFBE should publish information from previous (prior to 2019) and recent national stakeholder consultations undertaken with respect to the preparation, negotiation or monitoring of foreign fishing access agreements. | MEDIUM | Dec 2022 | The recommendation should focus on publishing consultations from future assessments |

| | | | | |
|----------|---|------|-----------|--|
| 2019-4_1 | SFA should publish the reports and the results of all stock assessments undertaken in the last four years on their website. | HIGH | JUNE-2021 | |
| 2019-4_2 | SFA might consider preparing and publishing a periodic report (e.g. bianually) on the state of the main commercial fish stocks in Seychelles. | HIGH | DEC-2022 | Statement should read as: <i>SFA should prepare and publish a periodic report (e.g. biennially) on the state of the main commercial fish stocks in Seychelles.</i> |
| 2019-4_3 | SFA should publish any future fish stock assessment programmes it is planning to undertake, and the research that is needed to support these assessments. | HIGH | DEC 2021 | Statement should read as: <i>SFA should publish on its website any future fish stock assessment programmes it is planning to undertake, and the research that is needed to support these assessments.</i> |
| 2019-5_1 | SFA should publish an up-to-date, online registry of all nationally-flagged and foreign-flagged large-scale vessels authorised to fish in Seychelles' marine jurisdictional waters, and of all nationally-flagged large-scale vessels authorised to fish in third countries' marine jurisdictional waters and on the High Seas. The vessel registry must include all 14 vessel attributes, as defined in the FiTI Standard. | HIGH | SEPT 2021 | |
| 2019-5_2 | This online vessel registry, once published, should be linked to relevant parameters and conditions of the | HIGH | SEPT 2021 | |

| | | | | |
|----------|---|------|-----------|--|
| | underlying licenses (e.g. licensing period, fees paid, species to be taken, areas to be fished, etc. | | | |
| 2019-5_3 | SFA should publish, on an annual basis, all payments (e.g. for fishing licence, certificate of authorisation, excess catch, and environmental fee) on a per vessel basis made by large-scale fishing vessels, including the four information requirements of the FiTI Standard | HIGH | JUNE 2022 | Statement should read as: <i>SFA should publish on its website, on an annual basis, all payments (e.g. for fishing licence, certificate of authorisation, excess catch, and environmental fee) on a per vessel basis made by large-scale fishing vessels, including the four information requirements of the FiTI Standard.</i> |
| 2019-5_4 | SFA should publish all missing information for catches, landings, transshipments from the industrial longliner fishery for 2019 | HIGH | SEPT 2021 | |
| 2019-5_5 | SFA should set up an online database containing annual retained catches and transshipments and landing at local and foreign ports disaggregated by flag state, species or species groups, gear type and catch location (national waters, third country waters, High Seas) in order for interested stakeholders to obtain detailed information on catch data | LOW | DEC 2022 | |
| 2019-5_6 | SFA should publish data on discard from the industrial-long line fishery disaggregated as per the FiTI requirements, and from the purse seiner | HIGH | SEPT 2021 | |

| | | | | |
|----------|---|------|-----------|--|
| | fisheries by port of unloading, and by species or species groups Furthermore, a note should be added in the introduction of the Fisheries Statistical Reports to provide information on how discard data is collected by the authorities | | | |
| 2019-5_7 | MFBE should publish annual summaries of the socio-economic contribution of the large-scale fishing sector | High | DEC 2022 | |
| 2019-5_8 | MFBE should publish on its website national evaluations or audits of the economic, social and food security contributions of the large-scale fishing sector, once available (e.g. the upcoming study on employment in fisheries) | High | DEC 2021 | |
| 2019-6_1 | In addition to the information already provided, as outlined above, MFBE or SFA should publish the: ⇐ total number of small-scale fisheries licences, and ⇐ the total numbers of fishers engaged in the fishing sector, including gender information and whether fishers are engaged in full-time work, seasonal or part time fishing, occasional fishing or recreational fishing | HIGH | SEPT 2021 | |
| 2019-6_2 | MFBE should publish annual summaries of the socio-economic contribution of the small-scale fishing sector. | HIGH | DEC 2022 | |

| | | | | |
|----------|---|--------|----------|---|
| 2019-7_1 | Given the paramount importance of fish trade for Seychelles, MFBE or SFA needs to ensure that annual information on the quantity of fish and fish products produced, as well as information on imports and exports, are published online in a timely manner. Such information should be disaggregated by species, as well as the country of destination/origin. | HIGH | DEC 2022 | |
| 2019-7_2 | MFBE or SFA should publish annual employment information regarding Seychelles' commercial fisheries sector, disaggregated by gender and sub-sectors (e.g. industrial and artisanal fishing) | MEDIUM | DEC 2023 | |
| 2019-7_3 | MFBE should clearly state whether an informal fisheries sector exists in Seychelles | MEDIUM | DEC 2021 | |
| 2019-8_1 | MFBE or SFA should provide regular information on national strategies and activities applied to ensure compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector | MEDIUM | DEC 2022 | Statement should read as: <i>SFA should provide regular information on national strategies and activities applied to ensure compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector to the MFBE, which will have the responsibility for publishing such information. .</i> |
| 2019-8_2 | MFBE or SFA should publish the financial and human resources deployed by the government to ensure compliance with national and international legislation in the | MEDIUM | DEC 2023 | Statement should read as: <i>SFA should prepare and make available to the MFBE the financial and human resources deployed by the government to</i> |

| | | | | |
|-----------|--|--------|-----------|---|
| | fisheries sector (at least on an annual basis). | | | <i>ensure compliance with national and international legislation in the fisheries sector (at least on an annual basis). The MFBE will be responsible for publishing such information.</i> |
| 2019-8_3 | MFBE or SFA should publish offences in the fisheries sector in a timely manner. This should include the name of the company or vessel owner, the nature of the offence and the penalty imposed | MEDIUM | DEC 2022 | Statement should read as: <i>SFA should publish offences in the fisheries sector in a timely manner. This should include the name of the company or vessel owner, the nature of the offence and the penalty imposed.</i> |
| 2019-9_1 | MFBE or SFA should publish online an official summary description of national laws on labour standards applicable for national and foreign workers employed in the fishing sector at sea and in the post-harvest fisheries sector in Seychelles. | HIGH | DEC 2021 | Statement should read as: <i>MFBE should publish online an official summary description of national laws on labour standards applicable for national and foreign workers employed in the fishing sector at sea and in the post-harvest fisheries sector in Seychelles.</i> |
| 2019-9_2 | SFA should obtain and publish information from the MESA on offences committed by employers in the fisheries sector, as well as mitigating actions taken. | HIGH | DEC 2021 | |
| 2019-10_1 | The 2017 report that reviewed subsidies provided to the artisanal fisheries sector', commissioned by SFA, | MEDIUM | SEPT 2021 | Statement should read as: <i>SFA should publish on its website the 2017 report that reviewed subsidies</i> |

| | | | | |
|-----------|--|------|----------|---|
| | should be published online. | | | <i>provided to the artisanal fisheries sector' which they had commissioned.</i> |
| 2019-10_2 | Information on the types, values and recipients of government financial transfers or subsidies to the fisheries sector in Seychelles (both large-scale and small-scale fisheries) should be published by MFBE or SFA. | HIGH | DEC 2022 | The statement should be focussed on fuel subsidies which is the main type of subsidies provided to the fisheries sector and is also the easiest to calculate. |
| 2019-11_1 | The MFBE or the SFA should publish an up-to-date list of fisheries-related public sector projects, funded by bilateral, multilateral and private donors. This list should include information on the projects' value, purpose and outputs, as well as corresponding project evaluations, if applicable | HIGH | DEC 2021 | Statement should read as: <i>The MFBE and the SFA should together publish an up-to-date list of fisheries-related public sector projects, funded by bilateral, multilateral and private donors. This list should include information on the projects' value, purpose and outputs, as well as corresponding project evaluations, if applicable.</i> |
| 2019-12_1 | The MFBE should determine a policy on beneficial ownership declarations in the fisheries sector. This should be based on a participatory and transparent process, involving all interested bona fide stakeholders from government, industrial and artisanal fishing, and civil society. | HIGH | DEC 2021 | Statement should read as: <i>The MFBE and the SFA should together publish an up-to-date list of fisheries-related public sector projects, funded by bilateral, multilateral and private donors. This list should include information on the projects' value, purpose and outputs, as well as corresponding project evaluations, if applicable.</i> |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| | | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Add a glossary of terms, to include definitions of terms such as fisheries discard and by-catch, artisanal, commercial, recreational and sports fishing, informal fisheries sector, etc...</p> <p>Ref. the Recommendations at 6.1 and 6.2 Are fine, except to specify SFA at 6.1 Priority – High, by Dec 2021 for both.</p> <p>Ref. the Recommendations at 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 For 7.1 and 7.2 - specify either SFA or MFBE - depending on which of the two organisations has primary responsibility. 7.3 is a rather odd recommendation; it has been assumed throughout this report that there is an informal fisheries sector. The recommendation should read as follows: the MFBE should define more clearly what is meant by the ‘informal fisheries sector’ in the context of Seychelles.</p> <p>Recommendations 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 These recommendations should be reworded to suggest that the various aspects mentioned here should form part of the SFA’s annual report: Eg. In its annual report the SFA must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>provide regular information on national strategies and activities applied to ensure</i> | | <p>Dr. Marie-Thérèse Purvis</p> |
|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------|

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | <p><i>compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>declare the financial and human resources deployed by the government to ensure compliance with national and international legislation in the fisheries sector and the manner in which this was done, and</i> - <i>publish offences in the fisheries sector in a timely manner. This should include the names of the company or vessel owner, the nature of the offence and the penalty imposed.</i> <p>Finally, some reservations about Annex A, Statement of the Report compiler.</p> <p>I think it somewhat goes counter to what has been said in the 'Foreword' in that it suggests that it was a bit of a battle to get the MSG on board (though this may well be the truth!). Maybe the focus should be more on the methodology used, general participation and hopes for the future - eg. we now have a template, and the next report should be easier.</p> | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|

Having no other matters to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12 o'clock.