



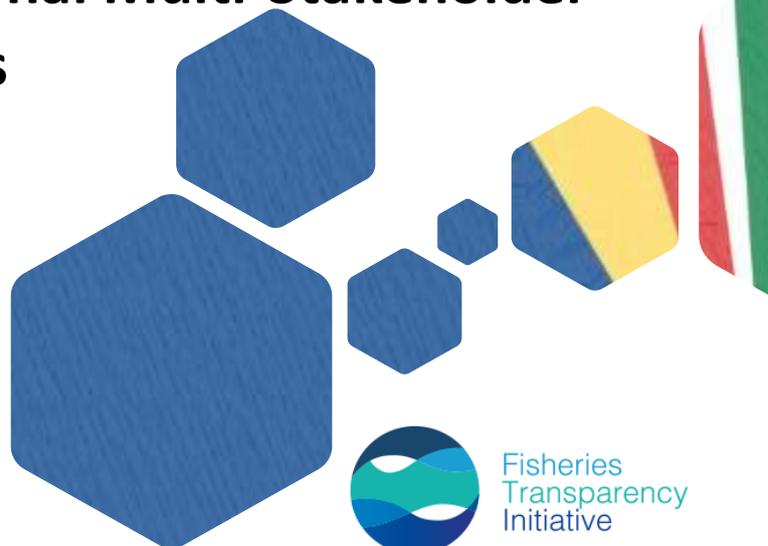
Seychelles' Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

Calendar year: 2020

Summary Section

**Report by the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder
Group (MSG) Seychelles**

Release date: 15th December 2021



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

Abbreviations

| | |
|--------------|---|
| BSFC | British/Seychelles Fisheries Commission |
| CBS | Central Bank of Seychelles |
| CEO | Chief Executive Officer |
| COA | Certificate of Authorisation |
| EEZ | Exclusive Economic Zone |
| EU | European Union |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations |
| FAQ | Frequently Asked Questions |
| FCP | Fisheries Comprehensive Plan |
| FINSS | Financial SaaS Solutions |
| FITI | Fisheries Transparency Initiative |
| FIU | Financial Intelligence Unit |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| IOT | Indian Ocean Tuna Limited |
| IOTC | Indian Ocean Tuna Commission |
| MCS | Monitoring, Control and Surveillance |
| MESA | Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs |
| MOFBE | Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy |
| MSG | Multi-Stakeholder Group |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| MSY | Maximum Sustainable Yield |
| Mt | Metric tonnes |
| NAS | National Assembly of Seychelles |
| NBS | National Bureau of Statistics |
| NRT | Net registered tonnage |
| ODA | Official Development Assistance |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| POC | Province of China |
| SCR | Seychellois Rupee |
| SEYLII | Seychelles Legal Information Institute |
| SFA | Seychelles Fishing Authority |
| TAC | Total Allowable Catch |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| VAT | Value Added Tax |

This 2020 FiTI Report was prepared by **Mr Jude Bijoux** from September – December 2021. Mr Bijoux was appointed by Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group as the Report Compiler for the 2020 FiTI reporting process. The report was approved by **Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group** on 6th December 2021.

This is Seychelles' second report to the FiTI, covering information relevant for the calendar year 2020. This report, hereafter referred to as Seychelles' 2020 FiTI Report, has been divided into **two distinct sections**: this present '*Summary Section*', which provides a high-level overview of the transparency assessment's key findings, and a '*Detailed Section*', which delves into greater detail according to each of the FiTI Standard's 12 transparency requirements.

The report was funded by the **Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (SWIOFish3)** through a Global Environment Facility grant (TF-A5293) administered by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

Foreword

The thoroughly positive reaction from both the local and international community to Seychelles' first report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) has been of great encouragement to our country's FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group.

I can safely say that the report has also enhanced Seychelles' credibility as a responsible fishing nation – such a worthy achievement must now be maintained and improved upon even further.



What is interesting is that the process of regularly reporting to the FiTI is helping to bring into focus the importance of improving the quality of information held internally by the government, as not every dataset that is available to our public authorities is complete enough to be published directly online. But with the FiTI 'pushing' for more data quality, the authorities can now more easily fulfil regular reporting obligations (such as those to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission) as well as better respond to ad-hoc inquiries from ordinary citizens.

I would like to point out that the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) has played a tremendous role in addressing issues around data gaps and data quality during this FiTI reporting cycle, and has equally taken huge steps in publishing the information it produces online so that all concerned stakeholders can better inform themselves of the fisheries issues relating to our country. I thank them for their dedication.

The hard work that went into compiling this 2020 FiTI Report – and the internal discussions it has already sparked – clearly show there is a growing interest from all sectors of society to resume ownership of our common resource. It has also highlighted certain gaps which exist and certain areas to which more attention should be afforded, such as beneficial ownership, subsidies, and data reporting – especially from the industrial longliners fishing in our waters.

Assessing transparency of government information tells us what is published and what is not, and also helps us understand gaps where information has not yet been collated by the government at all. This is a crucial first step, though one whose importance is not always immediately obvious. For example, raw catch data or the statistics found in a vessel registry do not tell us anything particularly interesting in themselves. It is how such information is used that makes all the difference. Ultimately, most people are not interested in reading catch data – they are concerned about whether fishing levels are sustainable or not. It is therefore hoped that the 2020 FiTI Report will support the effective implementation of the Mahé Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co-Management Plan, an important new management plan being implemented in Seychelles to achieve sustainability in the sector. By contributing to an improved understanding of our fisheries sector, the FiTI should enable us all to adopt the right attitudes and take positive measures. More transparency will help in terms of answering the 'real' big questions.

It is, however, true that much remains to be done to encourage stakeholders to become more familiar and engaged with the various areas of our fisheries industry. There are insufficient public debates around the sector as a whole, partly because of a lack of information on issues like the state of demersal stocks or the socio-economic importance of fisheries, but also because associations of fishers and fish processors are often poorly organised and so struggle to make their voices heard.

In any case, I am convinced we are on the right path, and that the FiTI process will greatly contribute towards improving good governance of the sector and making it even more vibrant and prosperous than it is today.

Finally, I wish to thank all those who have contributed towards the preparation of this report on time.

Philippe Michaud

Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy

Chair of the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group of Seychelles

1) Introduction

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 455 km², Seychelles is a large oceanic state, and a major player in the global tuna industry, with Port Victoria one of the busiest industrial fishing ports in the Western Indian Ocean. Seychelles is heavily reliant on its two main pillars of the 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.

While there are many aspects to achieve 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).



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

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 healthy marine environment.

Transparency has become a corner-stone 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 Roadmap' (2018-2030).

This is the second report of Seychelles to the FiTI, covering information relevant for the calendar year 2020. This report has been divided into two distinct sections: this present 'Summary Section', which provides a high-level overview of the transparency assessment's key findings, and a 'Detailed Section', which delves into greater detail according to each of the FiTI Standard's 12 transparency requirements.



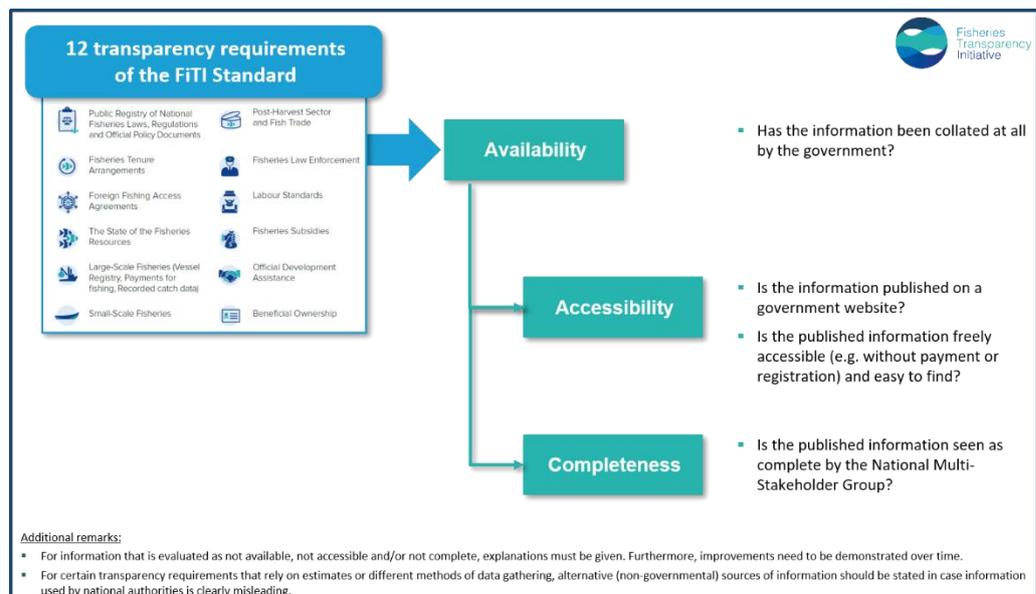
The purpose of this report is fourfold:

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.¹



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.

¹ 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.

The report has been produced by **Seychelles' FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG)**, a group comprised of 12 members, equally representing government, business and civil society. Together, this group is responsible for how the FiTI is implemented in Seychelles².

| Government representatives | Business representatives | Civil society representatives |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr Roy Clarisse | Mr Keith Andre | Mr Cyril Bonnelame |
| Honorable Chantal Ghislain | Mr David Bentley | Ms Gabriella Gonthier |
| Mr Philippe Michaud ³ | Mr Selwyn Edmond | Mr Grant Heyer |
| Honorable Philip Monthy | Mr Darrell Green | Dr Marie-Thérèse Purvis |

“ We, the FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group of Seychelles, seek to stimulate informed public debates on how the fisheries sector is managed in Seychelles. We therefore encourage all bona fide stakeholders that appreciate the enormous value and importance of marine fisheries in our country – the citizens of Seychelles, civil society organisations, media, academia and our national and international business and development partners – to engage in an active dialogue based on this report. ”

² The composition of the group remained identical to the Seychelles' last FiTI reporting period (calendar year 2019).

³ Chair of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group

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

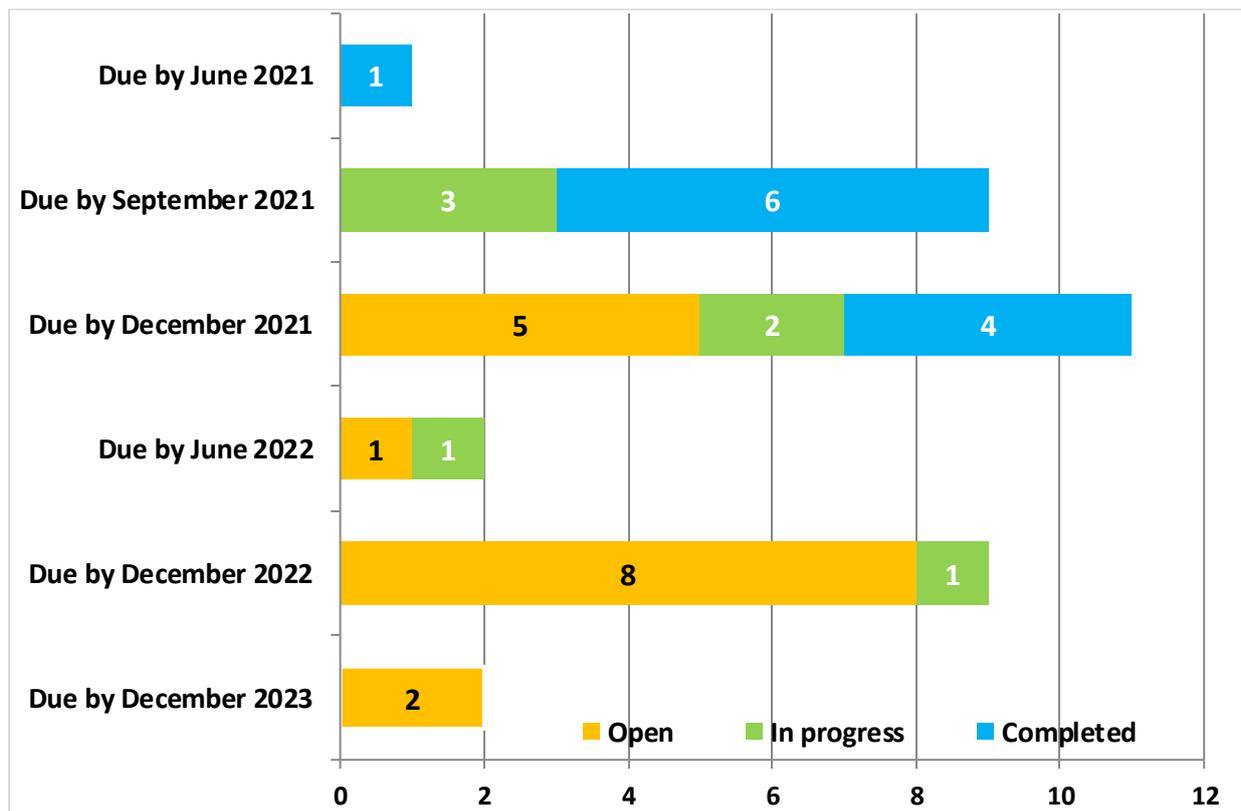
- ➔ ***Public disclosure of information cannot be directly equated to actual progress towards sustainable management of fisheries.*** In other words, poor levels of transparency may not be a sign of wrongdoing, but they rather highlight a potential opportunity to enhance disclosure to stakeholders. Likewise, 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.

2) 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 such 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.

In its **2019 FiTI Report** the Seychelles' National MSG determined **34 recommendations** aiming to further strengthen the country's leadership in fisheries transparency. The current implementation status (as of December 2021) of these recommendations is as follows:



A total of 11 recommendations have already been fully implemented by Seychelles' national authorities between the launch of the country's 2019 and 2020 FiTI Reports (April-December 2021). In addition, the implementation of six other recommendations is currently in progress.

An in-depth overview of the implementation status of all recommendations from Seychelles' 2019 FiTI Report can be found in Appendix D of the Detailed Section of this report.



3) Summary



Guided by the 12 requirements of the FITI Standard, the MOFBE and the SFA have made significant progress in terms of increasing the public availability of information on Seychelles' fisheries sector (e.g. via government websites).



A range of information which was either not published at all or only published in Seychelles' 2019 FITI Report (as an interim measure) is now publicly accessible on government websites, including:

- ➔ All *laws, regulations, policy documents and management plans* directly relating to or more broadly concerning the fisheries sector.
- ➔ The major *international fisheries treaties* to which Seychelles is a party.
- ➔ A summary of *fisheries tenure arrangements* for each of Seychelles' fisheries – in an easy-to-comprehend FAQ format.
- ➔ All *foreign fishing access agreements* not containing confidentiality clauses.
- ➔ All *evaluations* of fishing agreements undertaken over the past two years.
- ➔ A summary of the *status of fish stocks in Seychelles* and a schedule of future stock assessments up to the year 2024.
- ➔ A *large-scale vessel registry* and the names of licence holders for all categories of fisheries licences.
- ➔ *Licence payment* details for all large-scale fisheries vessels.



Furthermore, as part of this 2020 FiTI Report (in Annex C of the Detailed Section), a range of previously unpublished information is now publicly available, including:

- ➔ Updated data of *2019 recorded catches and fishing effort* from the industrial longline fishery.
- ➔ Catch and landing data from the *sea cucumber* and *lobster fishery* for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons .
- ➔ A list of vessels apprehended for *IUU fishing in Seychelles' EEZ* in 2020, along with the outcome of relevant court cases.
- ➔ A list of *ODA-funded projects* relating to marine conservation being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment in 2020, including information on any evaluations undertaken or planned.
- ➔ The total value of *fuel and ice subsidies* provided to the small-scale fisheries sector in 2020.
- ➔ The fishing *licence payments* made by small-scale fishing vessels.



However, information required by the FiTI Standard on several important fisheries issues is still not published – neither on a government website nor as part of this FiTI Report – or, if published, is seen as significantly incomplete. This impacts the ability of decision-makers and the general public to understand how specific fisheries management decisions are affecting the overall sustainability of Seychelles' fisheries sector. These include:

- ➔ The publication of two *private foreign fishing access agreements*, due to confidentiality provisions.
- ➔ Incomplete *catch, landing, transshipment, discards and fishing effort data for the industrial longline* for the year 2020.
- ➔ An official statement on whether an *informal fisheries* sector exists in Seychelles.
- ➔ Information on the provision of *subsidies* to Seychelles' large-scale fisheries sector, if any.
- ➔ An official *summary description of national labour standard laws* that apply to national and foreign workers employed in Seychelles' fisheries sector (both at sea and in the post-harvest sector).

As part of this 2020 FiTI Report, the National MSG identified a variety of reasons explaining weaknesses in the above information, and made clear recommendations to the Seychelles' government to strengthen transparency in these areas.



There is still no information published online by the government regarding procedures for applying to participate in the *sea cucumber fishery*.



In 2020, Seychelles passed laws and regulations for mandatory recording of *beneficial ownership*, thereby legally requiring Seychelles-registered companies involved in the fisheries sector to declare such information to national authorities.

“ Through the FiTI, we are shifting from a reactive model – where businesses or citizens have to come forward and ask for information – to a proactive approach, where government information is already published online.

This 2020 reporting period has also triggered a significant push for more data quality, increasing the ability of our government to make evidence-based policy recommendations and to instill credibility in published information. Trust in what the government is publishing is highly important, as rumours and suspicion often grow in the vacuum of verifiable information. Through the FiTI, we are in the process of making the Seychelles' fisheries one of the most transparent in the world. ”



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

Key information for 2020:

| | | | 2019 |
|--|----------|---|------|
| Major marine <i>fisheries laws and regulations</i> in Seychelles: | <u>2</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Fisheries Act (2014) ➔ Fisheries Regulations (1987) | 2 |
| Number of major official <i>policy documents</i> regarding marine fisheries: | <u>2</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Seychelles Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy (2019) ➔ Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (2019) – focused on small-scale fisheries | 2 |
| Number of <i>fisheries management plans</i> : | <u>2</u> | <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 |

Summary of transparency assessment:

| Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles? | | Is the available information published on a government website and freely <u>accessible</u> ? | | Is the available information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National MSG? | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 |
|  Yes |  Yes |  Yes |  To a large extent |  Yes |  To a large extent |



During the 2020 FITI reporting process, the website of the MOFBE came online. Through this website, PDF copies of all primary fisheries laws and regulations and other laws and regulations related to or having an impact on fisheries have been published⁴. The main fisheries laws and regulations have also been published on the SFA website⁵.

⁴ <http://www.mofbe.gov.sc/fisheries-legislations-and-regulations/>

⁵ <http://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-legislation-other-fisheries-related-documents>

In addition, all laws and regulations concerning fisheries must be published in the Official Gazette⁶.



Via their respective websites, both the MOFBE and SFA have published PDF copies of all relevant fisheries policies and strategy documents.



As part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process, the MOFBE has published on its website PDF copies of the main international treaties, policy instruments and best practices Seychelles is signatory to or adhering to⁷ – even though this is not a requirement of the FiTI Standard.

⁶ <https://www.gazette.sc>

⁷ <http://www.mofbe.gov.sc/resources>

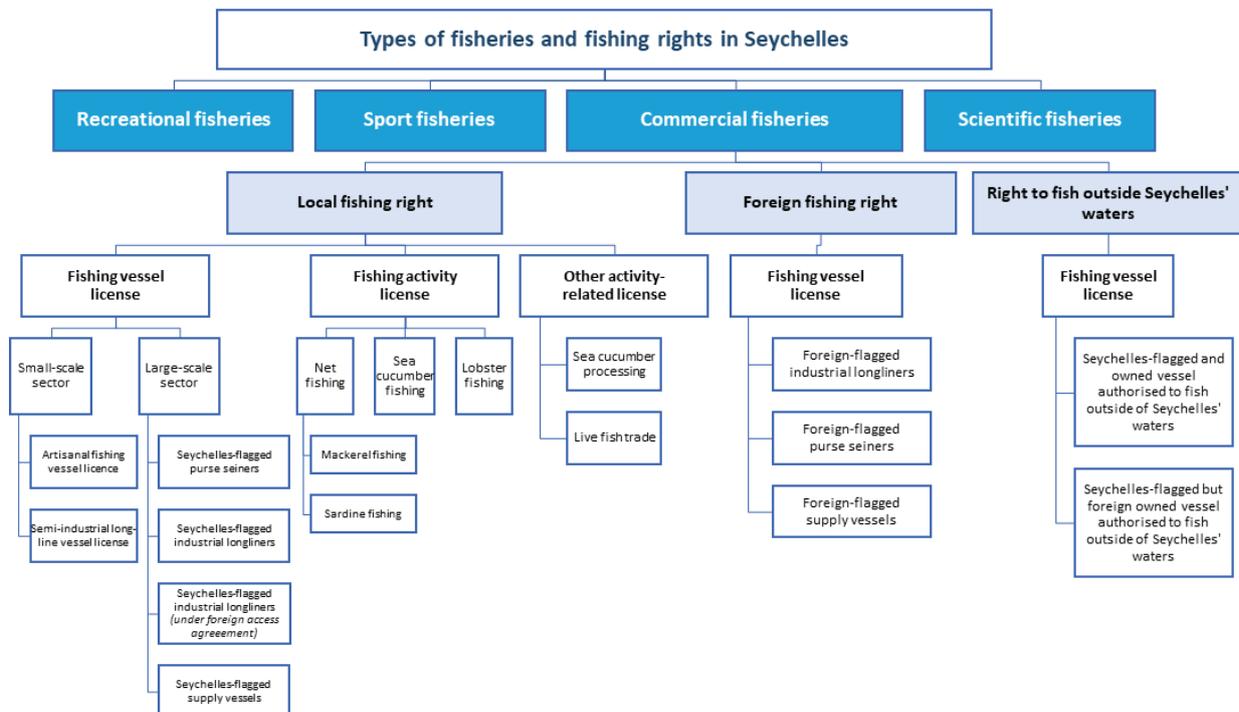


Fisheries Tenure Arrangements⁸

Key information for 2020:

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

Furthermore, the application procedures for fishing permits and authorisations have been partially updated for the small-scale sector and are summarised in the Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (2019). Between calendar year 2019 and 2020, no changes occurred in the types of fisheries and fishing rights that exist in Seychelles.



⁸ 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.

Summary of transparency assessment:

| Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles? | | Is the available information published on a government website and freely <u>accessible</u> ? | | Is the available information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National MSG? | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Yes | Partially | To a large extent | Partially | To a large extent | Partially |



As part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process, SFA has published on its website an intuitive FAQ on fisheries tenure arrangements for all fisheries in Seychelles⁹. The FAQ is based on the summary description of these arrangements that was compiled by the National MSG as part of the 2019 FiTI Report. The FAQ covers issues including permits/authorizations/fishing rights, fees, permit durations, transferability and divisibility of permits, allowable gears, catch limits, reporting requirements, targeted species and the right to sell catches.



As part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process, SFA has published on its website all licences issued for engaging in different fisheries, including the small-scale¹⁰ and large-scale fisheries¹¹.



SFA has published on its website the application form for the issuing of Certificates of Authorisation for Seychelles flagged-vessels to fish in third country waters or on the High Seas. The application form contains conditions for this authorisation but neither the reporting requirements nor provisions for terminating such authorisations.



There is still opacity around the exact procedures to be followed by those wishing to participate in Seychelles' sea cucumber fishery.

⁹ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/faqs>

¹⁰ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/small-scale-fisheries-licences/summary/54-small-scale-fisheries-licences/152-small-scale-fisheries-licences-2020>

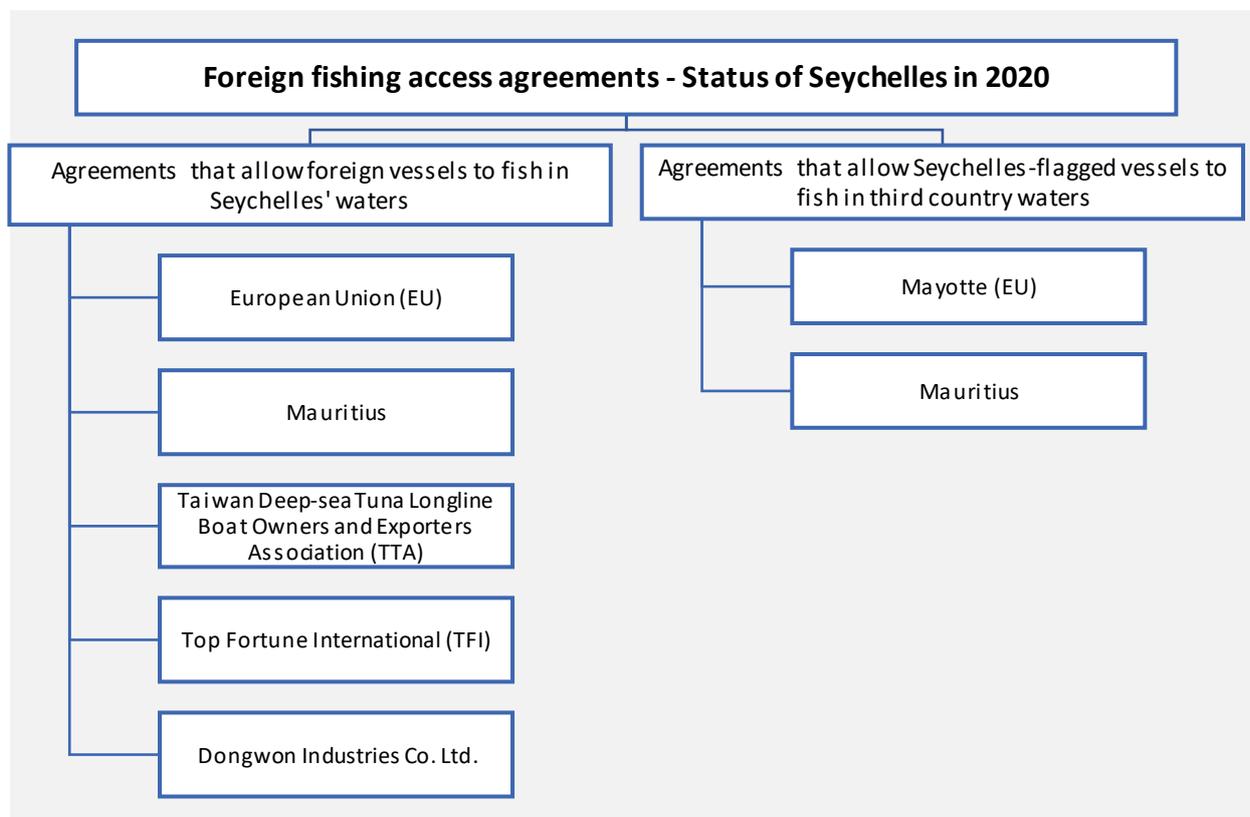
¹¹ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/large-scale-fisheries-licence/summary/59-large-scale-fisheries-licence/162-industrial>



Foreign Fishing Access Agreements¹²

Key information for 2020:

| | | 2019 |
|---|----------|----------|
| Agreements that allow foreign vessels to fish in Seychelles' waters: | <u>5</u> | <u>5</u> |
| Agreements that allow Seychelles-flagged vessels to fish in third country waters: | <u>2</u> | <u>2</u> |



| | | 2019 |
|--|---|----------|
| Number of studies or reports that provide evaluation or oversight of these agreements: | <u>3</u> | <u>1</u> |
| | ➔ All are related to the access agreement with the EU | |

¹² 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.

Summary of transparency assessment:

| Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles? | | Is the available information published on a government website and freely <u>accessible</u> ? | | Is the available information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National MSG? | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Yes | To a large extent | To a large extent | Partially | Partially | Unknown |



SFA has published on its website the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between Seychelles and the European Union (EU) for the 2020-2026 period, as well as the agreement between Seychelles and the EU providing Seychelles-flagged vessels access to the waters and marine biological resources of Mayotte¹³.



Both evaluations commissioned by SFA and undertaken in 2020 as part of the EU-Seychelles agreement have been published on the SFA website, along with the *ex-ante* and *post-ante* evaluation of the same agreement commissioned by the EU¹⁴.



The agreements with: i) Top Fortune International (TFI) and ii) Taiwan Deep-sea Tuna Longline Boat Owners and Exporters Association (TTA) that respectively allow Chinese and Taiwanese (POC) industrial longliners to fish in Seychelles' waters have not been published by the Seychelles' government due to confidentiality clauses.¹⁵ This lack of information continues to prevent an objective comparison of the value and impact of all foreign fishing access agreements signed by Seychelles.



There is still no written agreement (i.e. contract) between Seychelles and Dongwon Industries Co. Ltd.¹⁶ The MOFBE is yet to issue a timeframe as to when this agreement will be formalized in writing.

¹³ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/57-eu-sey-fishing-agreement>

¹⁴ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/22-eu-sey-performance-audit>

¹⁵ The Government of Seychelles has pledged that future fishing agreements will not contain confidentiality clauses restricting their publication (or the publication of their protocols).

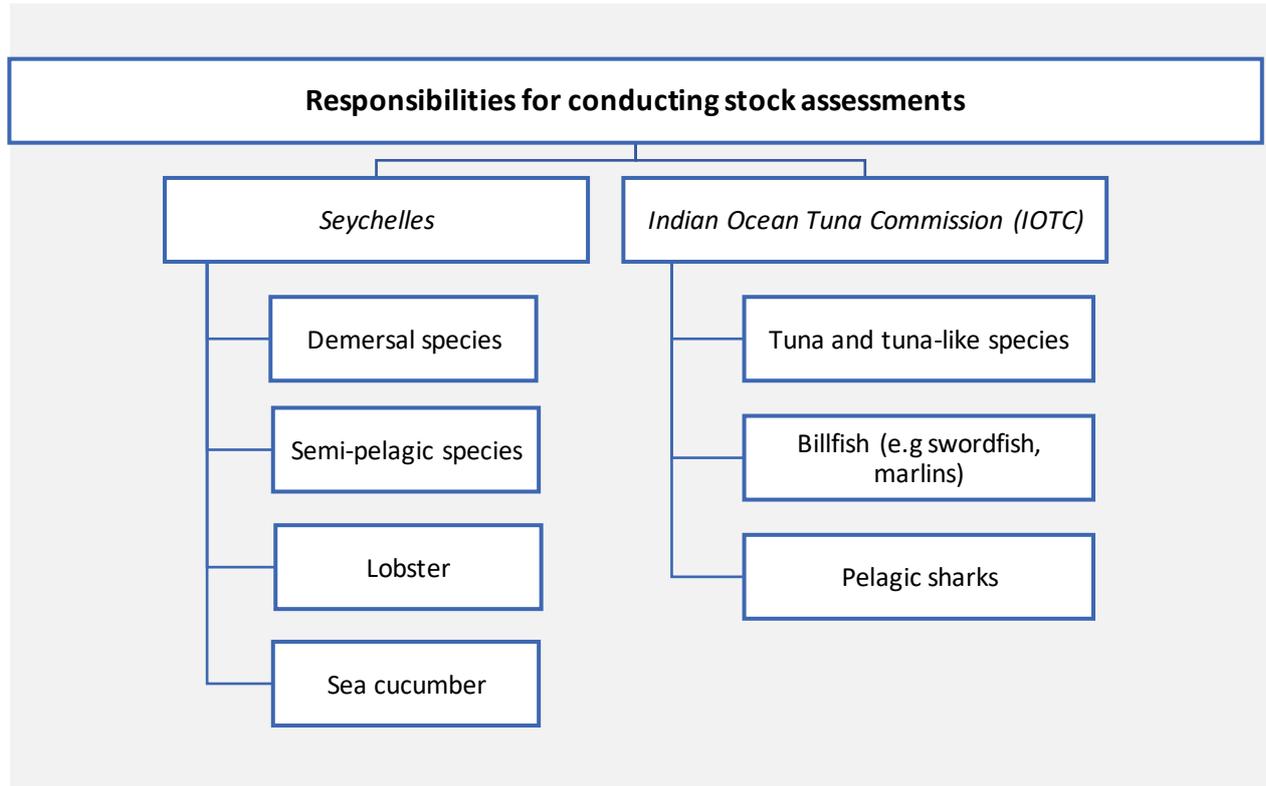
¹⁶ It is noted that section 11(4)(b) of the Fisheries Act allows for fishing in Seychelles' waters without an agreement: 'A licence under subsection (3) shall (a) be granted on payment of such fee as provided for in an international agreement under section 12; or (b) in the absence of an agreement under section 12, be granted on payment of the prescribed fee.'



The State of the Fisheries Resources

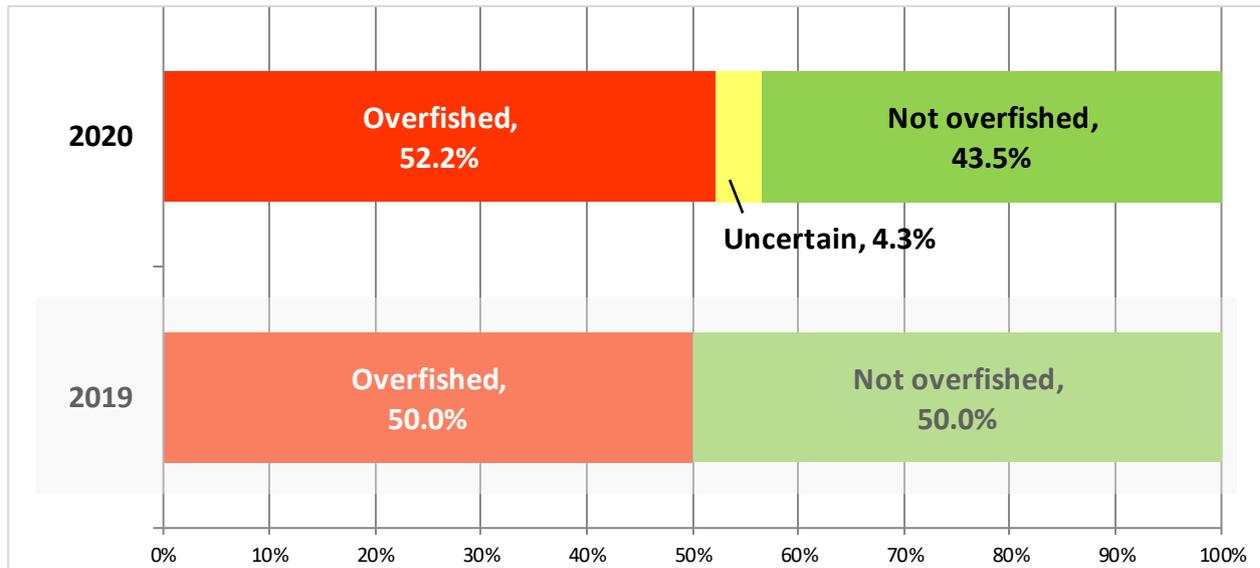
Key information for 2020:

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.

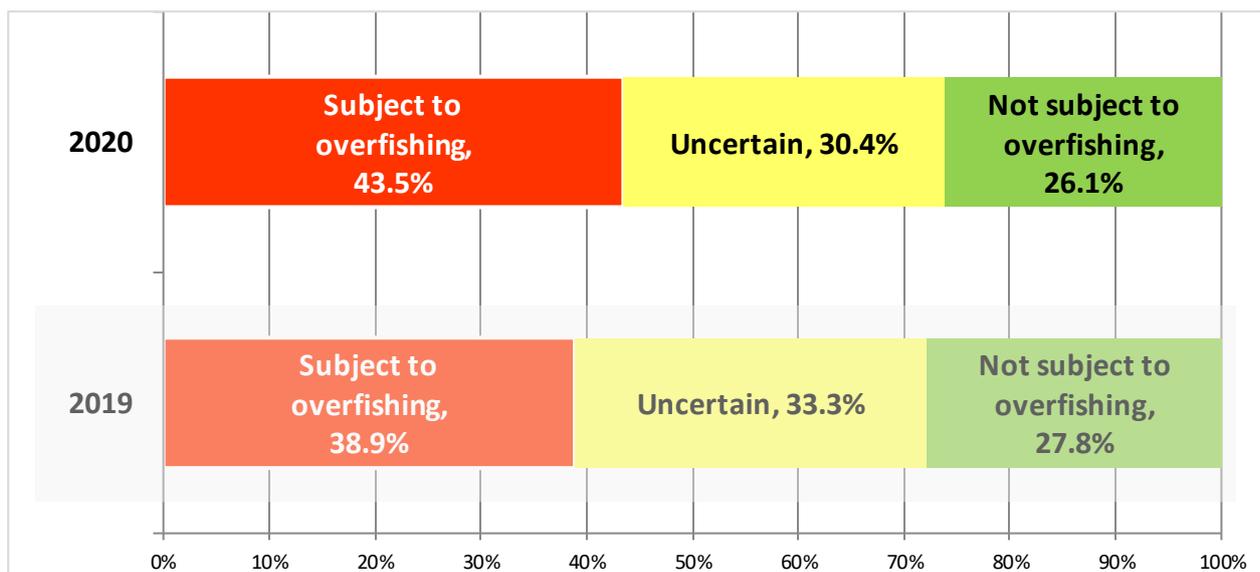


| | | | <u>2019</u> |
|--|-----------|---|-------------|
| Number of stock assessments published by national authorities in Seychelles: | <u>1</u> | ➡ <i>Lobster Survey Report 2020</i> | 1 |
| Number of species groups with stock status information (up to 2020): | <u>23</u> | <i>[For a complete listing, please refer to section 2.4 of the Detailed Section of this report]</i> | 18 |

thereof: Stock status (biomass)¹⁷



thereof: Fishing pressure in 2020¹⁸



¹⁷ **Stock status** indicates whether the biomass in 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.

¹⁸ **Level of 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.

| Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles? | | Is the available information published on a government website and freely <u>accessible</u> ? | | Is the available information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National MSG? | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Yes | To a large extent | Yes | No | Yes | No |



All stock assessment reports produced or commissioned by SFA over the last five years are now publicly available on the SFA website.¹⁹



As part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process, through its website SFA has summarised and published stock status information (up to the year 2020) for species falling under both the management mandate of the Seychelles' government and that of the IOTC²⁰.



As part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process, SFA has published planned stock assessment programmes up to the year 2024 on its website²¹.



A comprehensive national report on the overall status of fish stocks in Seychelles has not been compiled to date.

¹⁹ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/category/43-stock-assessment-reports>

²⁰ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report?task=download.send&id=153&catid=53&m=0>

²¹ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/fisheries/state-of-the-fisheries-resources/state-of-the-fisheries-resources-2?task=download.send&id=161&catid=58&m=0>



Large-Scale Fisheries



Who is allowed to fish? Large-scale vessel registry



Key information for 2020:

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

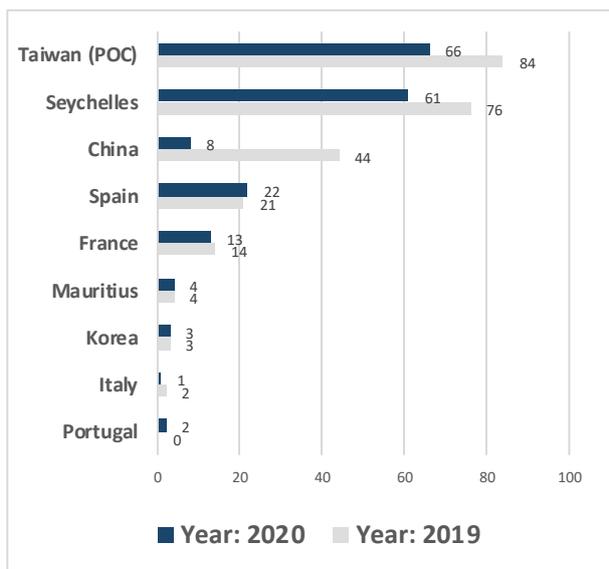
180

2019

248

Disaggregated according to *flag State*:

Disaggregated according to *vessel type*:



Industrial longliners, 123

Purse seiners, 44

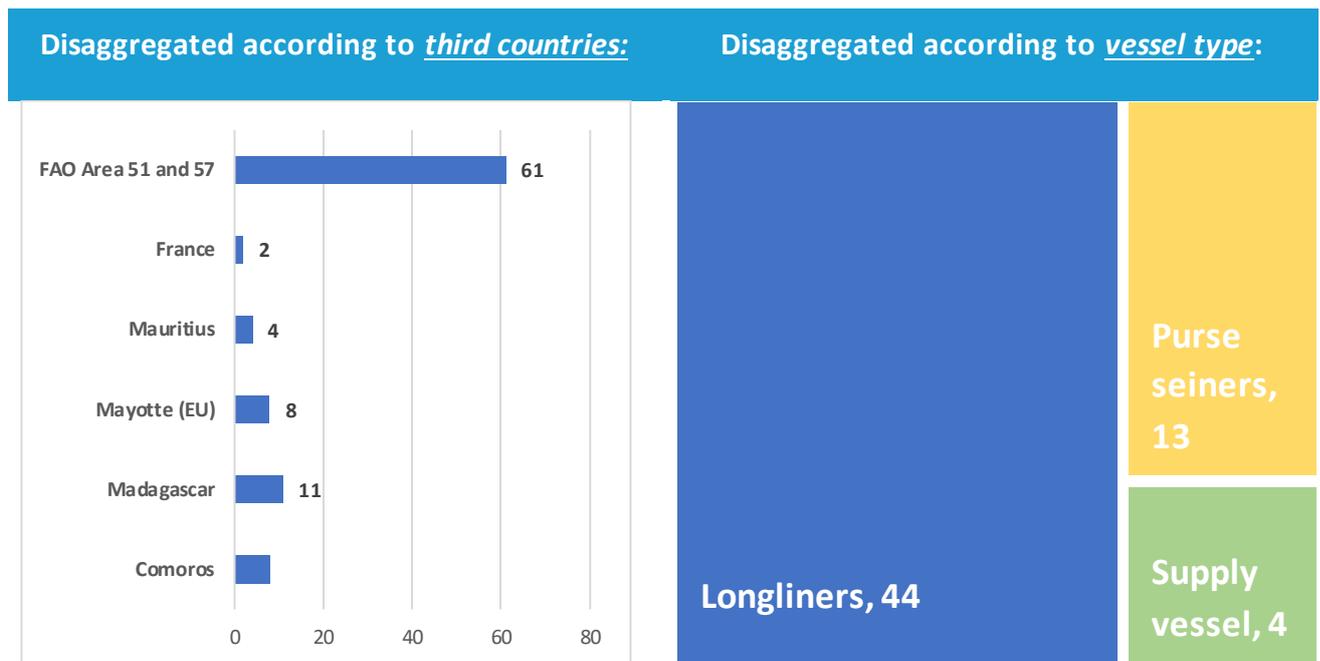
Supply vessel, 13

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

61

2019

76



Summary of transparency assessment:

| Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles? | | Is the available information published on a government website and freely <u>accessible</u> ? | | Is the available information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National MSG? | |
|--|--------------------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|
| <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> |
| | | | | | |
| Yes | To a large extent | Yes | No | To a large extent | No |

SFA collates information about large-scale vessels and lists them in an internal vessel record. This vessel registry has been published online by SFA as an Excel file as part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process²².

The assessment of SFA's internal vessel records, conducted as part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process, showed that all 180 vessels that were licenced in 2020 had been entered into said records.

For certain vessels, the 14 vessel attributes required by the FiTI Standard are not met meaning there are gaps in the data available in the published vessel registry.

²² <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/large-scale-fisheries-licence/summary/59-large-scale-fisheries-licence/162-industrial>



How much is paid for the right to fish? Payments from large-scale vessels



Key information for 2020:

| | | <u>2019</u> |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| EU sectoral support under the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA): | <u>SCR</u> <u>67,208,960</u> ²³ | SCR 40,021,750 ²⁴ |
| Annual lump sum for fishing opportunities in Seychelles' waters for up to 48 ²⁵ EU-flagged vessels under the SFPA: | <u>SCR</u> <u>48,334,750</u> ²⁶ | SCR 39,212,608 ²⁷ |
| Payments made by EU vessel operators for fishing licences in Seychelles' waters under the SFPA: | <u>SCR</u> <u>23,149,899</u> ²⁸ | Unknown ²⁹ |
| Additional payments made by EU large-scale vessels operators for excess catch in Seychelles' waters under the SFPA ³⁰ : | <u>28,185,698</u> ³¹ ⚠ | 61,750, 812 ³² |
| Additional payments made by the EU for excess catch taken by its vessels under the SFPA: | <u>Not yet available</u> | SCR 2,730,045 ³³ |

²³ The EU pays Seychelles a specific sum of EUR 2.8 million per year for the support and implementation of the country's sectoral fisheries policy and maritime policy. All EU payments are made in Euros and are converted in SCR on the day of the payment and is reflected in the SFA's account.

²⁴ Equivalent to EUR 2.5 million.

²⁵ For the year 2019, under the EU/Seychelles Partnership Agreement (2014 – 2020) it this figure was for up to 46 vessels (rather than 48), as outlined under the EU/Seychelles SFPA (2014-2020),

²⁶ The EU pays an annual sum equivalent to EUR 2.5 million for access to Seychelles' waters, equivalent to a reference tonnage of 50,000 tonnes per year.

²⁷ Equivalent to EUR 2.5 million.

²⁸ For 38 fishing vessels of which 26 purse seiners, 5 longliners and 7 supply vessels.

²⁹ Due to incomplete payment information made available to the National MSG by SFA.

³⁰ Only the EU makes payments to Seychelles for excess catch 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. However, excess catch payments cannot be published on a per vessel basis, due to a confidentiality clause in the EU/Seychelles SFPA: "The Parties shall ensure that only aggregated data related to fishing activities in the Seychelles fishing zone shall be made available to the public domain."

³¹ This figure only includes the payments which had been made prior to the finalisation of this FiTI Report (i.e. payments from 11 EU purse seiners).

³² Payments for excess catch from 26 EU purse seiners.

³³ SCR 2,332,785 is still outstanding and has not been paid by the EU.

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| | |  |
| Payment made by EU vessels for environmental management and observation of marine ecosystems under the SFPA: | <u>SCR 3,09,926</u> ³⁴ | Not applicable ³⁵ |
| Payments made by non-EU vessel operators for fishing licences in Seychelles' waters: | <u>SCR 69,871,590</u> | Unknown ³⁶ |
| Number of large-scale vessels for which licence payments could be verified as part of this reporting process: | <u>180 out of 180</u> (100%) | 142 out of 248 (57%) |

Summary of transparency assessment:

| Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles? | | Is the available information published on a government website and freely <u>accessible</u> ? | | Is the available information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National MSG? | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> |
|  Yes |  To a large extent |  To a large extent |  No |  To a large extent |  To a limited extent |

 Information on licence payments made by large-scale vessels operators for fishing activities in 2020 is now published on the SFA website as part of the vessel registry³⁷.

 The National MSG was able to verify all licence payments for the 180 large-scale vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters in 2020.

 The National MSG took note that the SFA Board of Directors is the decision-making body determining how funds obtained through industrial fishing access fees and excess catch is spent.

³⁴ Equivalent to EUR 165,384.34.

³⁵ The environmental management and observation of marine ecosystems fee did not exist under the 2014-2020 EU/Seychelles SFPA.

³⁶ Due to incomplete payment information made available to the National MSG by SFA.

³⁷ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/large-scale-fisheries-licence/summary/59-large-scale-fisheries-licence/162-industrial>



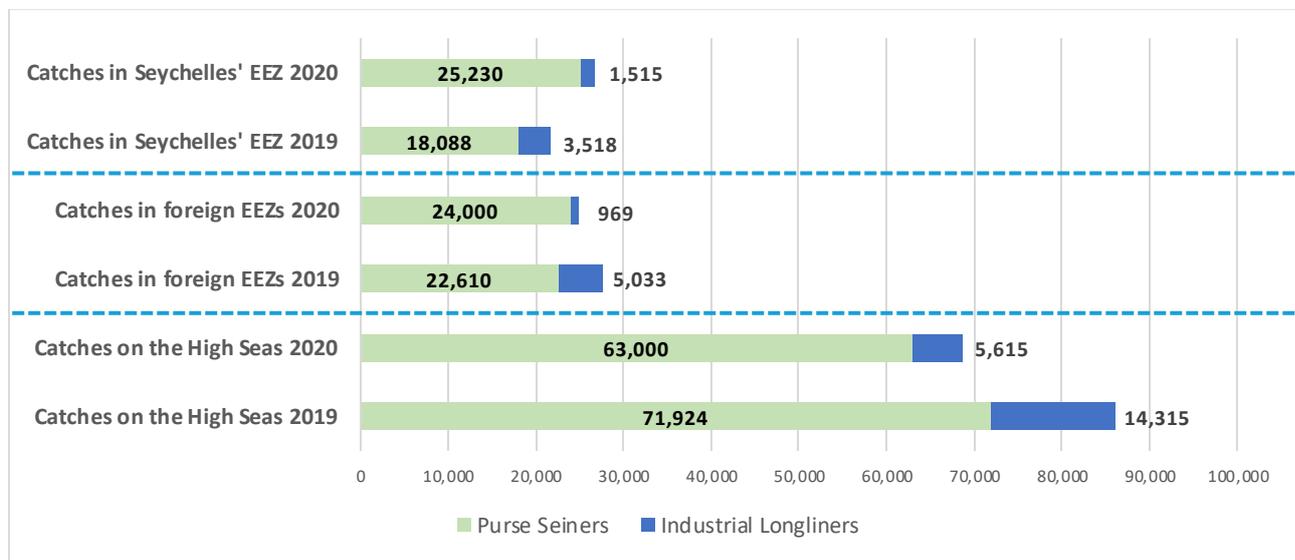
How much fish has been caught? Annual retained catches from large-scale vessels



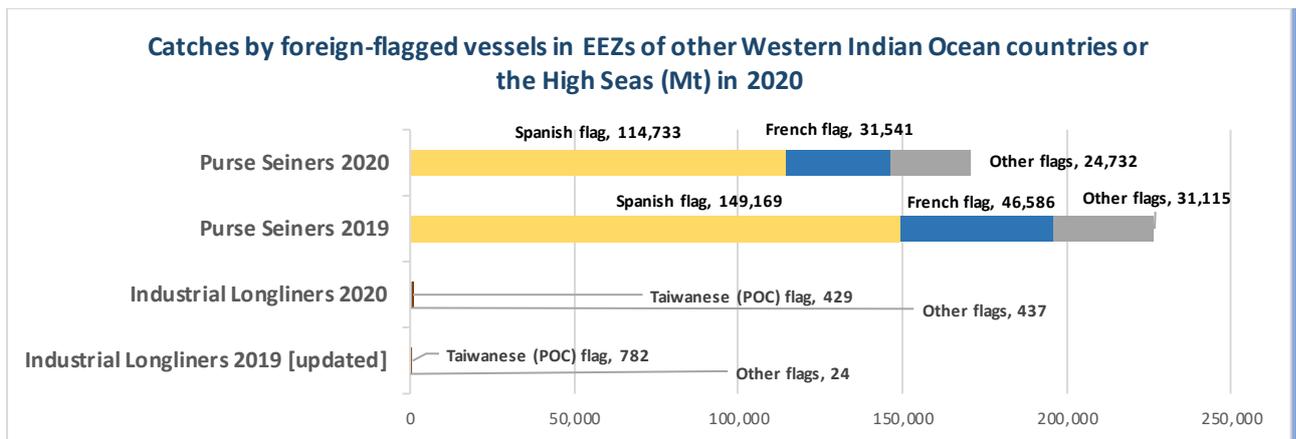
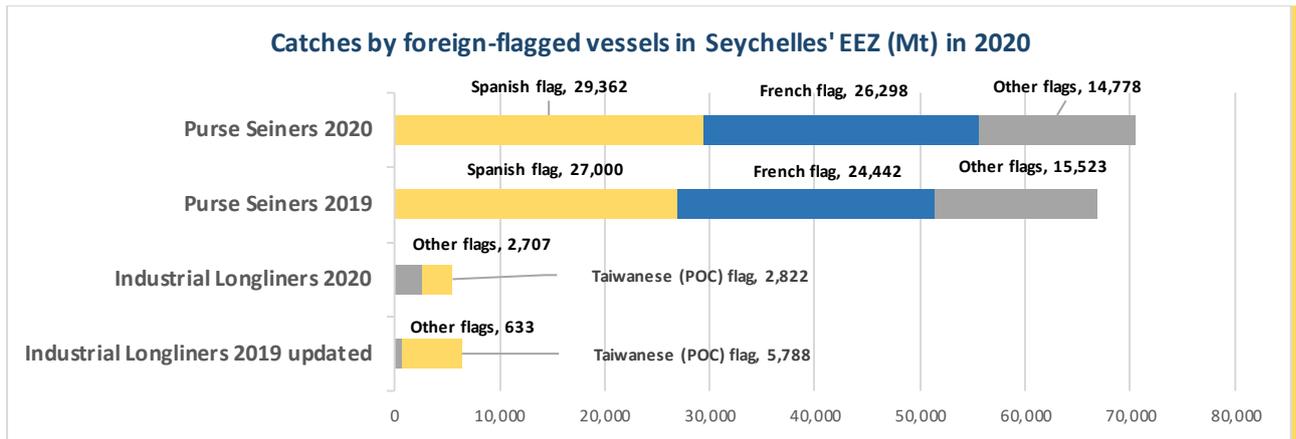
Key information for 2020:

The 2019 FITI Report showed incomplete catch data for the industrial longline fishery, in particular stemming from administrative challenges within SFA and unreturned logbooks. As part of this 2020 FITI Report, the 2019 data has been updated (where possible) – in-depth information is provided in Annex C of the Detailed Section.

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Annual retained catches by <u>Seychelles-flagged</u> vessels: | 120,330 Mt | <i>Information for 2020 is again incomplete, due to missing Semester 2 catch data from the industrial longline fishery.</i> | 142,715 Mt |
|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|



| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Annual retained catches by <u>foreign-flagged</u> vessels: | 295,987 Mt | <i>Information is incomplete, due to missing catch data from the industrial longline fishery.</i> | 301,062 Mt |
|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|



Annual landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports:

333,152 Mt

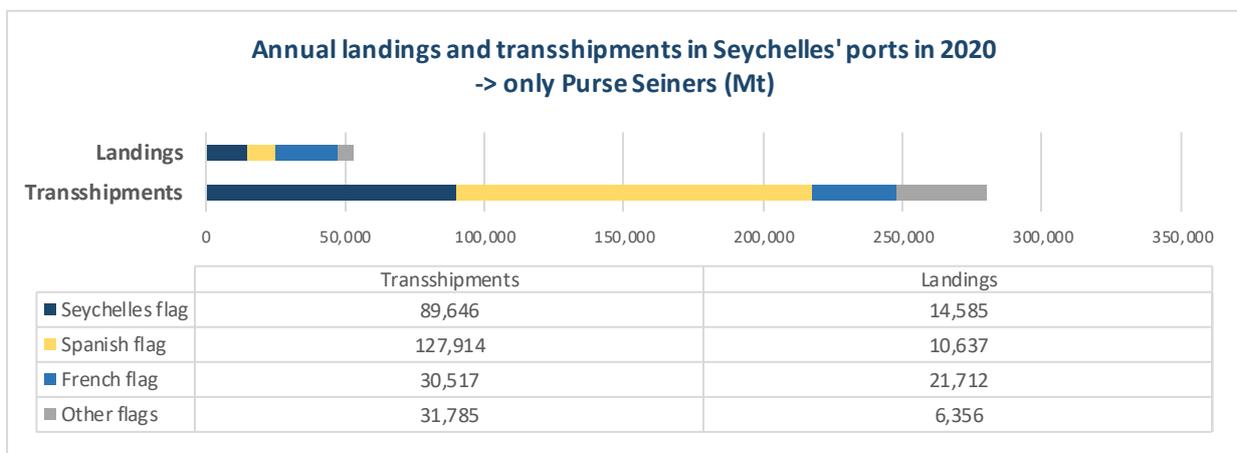
⚠️

Information is incomplete, as the data from the industrial longline fishery is not fully collated.

2019

387,707 Mt

⚠️



| | | | 2019 |
|--|--|--|--|
| Annual <u>landings</u> and <u>transshipments</u> in <u>foreign ports</u>: | <u>18,108 Mt</u>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Data refers only to fish caught by purse seiners licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters. Data from industrial longliners not published yet. ➔ Value corresponds to 5% of total catch from these purse seiners. ➔ Four foreign ports were used in 2020 for landings and transshipments: Diego Suarez (Madagascar), Port Louis (Mauritius), Mombasa (Kenya) and Busan (Korea). | <u>19,104 Mt</u>  |

| | | | 2019 |
|---|--|--|--|
| <u>Fishing effort</u> by <u>purse seine vessels</u> licenced to fish in <u>Seychelles' waters</u>: | <u>3,127 days spent fishing within Seychelles' EEZ</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Total of 10,548 days spent fishing in the Western Indian Ocean³⁸. | <u>2,577 days spent fishing within Seychelles' EEZ</u> |
| <u>Fishing effort</u> by <u>industrial longline vessels</u> licenced to fish in <u>Seychelles' waters</u>: | <u>7.5 million hooks deployed within Seychelles' EEZ</u>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Data covers only Semester 1 of 2020 (January – June). ➔ Total of over 18.5 million hooks deployed in the Western Indian Ocean³⁹. | <u>6 million hooks deployed within Seychelles' EEZ</u>  |

Summary of transparency assessment:

³⁸ The 10,548 days spent fishing in the Western Indian Ocean also includes the 3,127 days spent fishing within Seychelles' EEZ.

³⁹ The 18.5 million hooks deployed encompasses the 7.5 million hooks deployed within the Seychelles' EEZ.

| Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles? | | Is the available information published on a government website and freely <u>accessible</u> ? | | Is the available information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National MSG? | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> |
|  Yes |  To a large extent |  Yes |  To a large extent |  Partially |  Partially |



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



Catch data from the *purse seiner fishery* is perceived as complete, and is provided in a highly disaggregated form, which fulfils almost all requirements of the FITI Standard.



However, catch data from the *industrial longline fishery* is seen as significantly incomplete, as published data only includes Semester 1 (January – June 2020) catches for Seychelles' and Taiwanese (POC)-flagged vessels and Quarter 1 (January – March 2020) catches for other-flagged vessels, and also suffers from partially unreturned logbooks.

This is a major finding, as almost identical shortcomings were documented in the last FITI Report, covering information for the calendar year 2019. This lack of information significantly impacts the ability of Seychelles' national authorities to make evidence-based decisions, as well as public understanding around who catches what amount of fish in Seychelles' waters.

Furthermore, SFA does not extrapolate nominal catch data to compensate for unreturned logbooks and can therefore not estimate an annual total catch from this fishery.



Data on fish discards from the *purse seiner fishery* has been published in the Fisheries Statistical Report for the year 2020. However, this data is not disaggregated by species or species group.

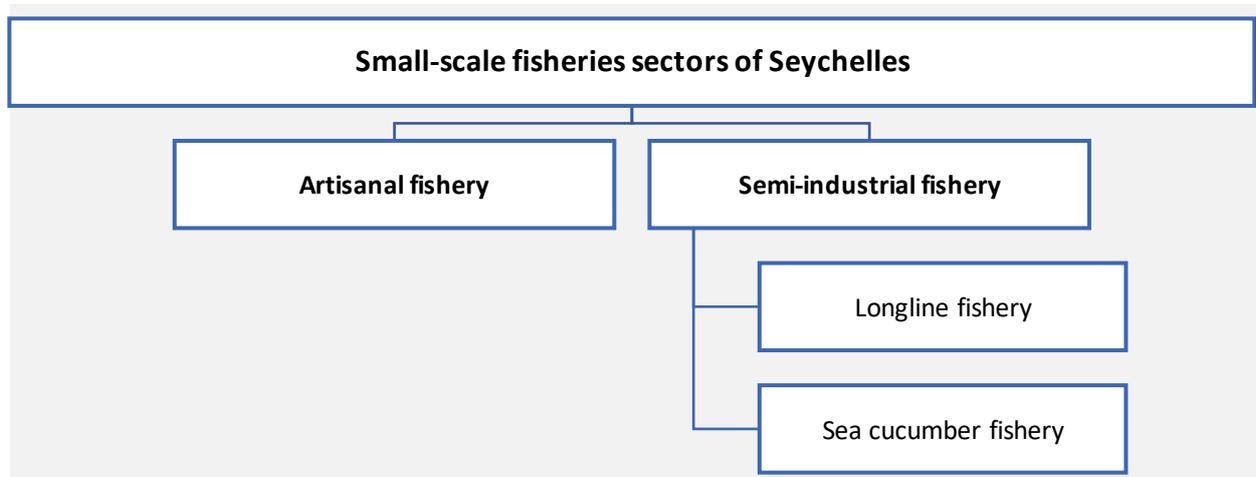
Data on discards from the *industrial longline fishery* is available to SFA but so far has not been published. SFA has stated that this data will be published in the Semester 2 – 2020 Fisheries Statistical Report.



Small-Scale Fisheries

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.



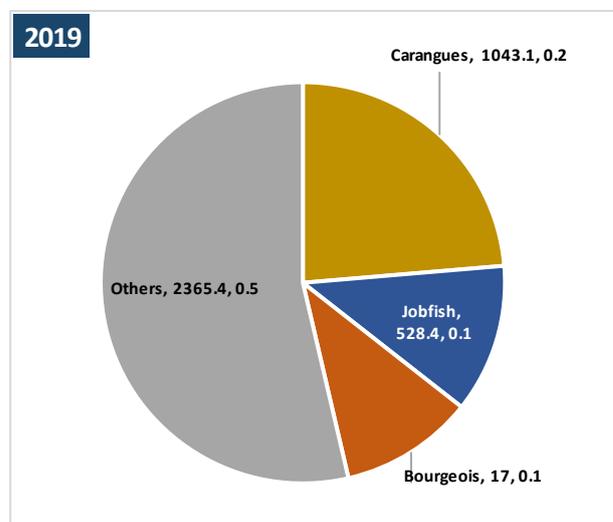
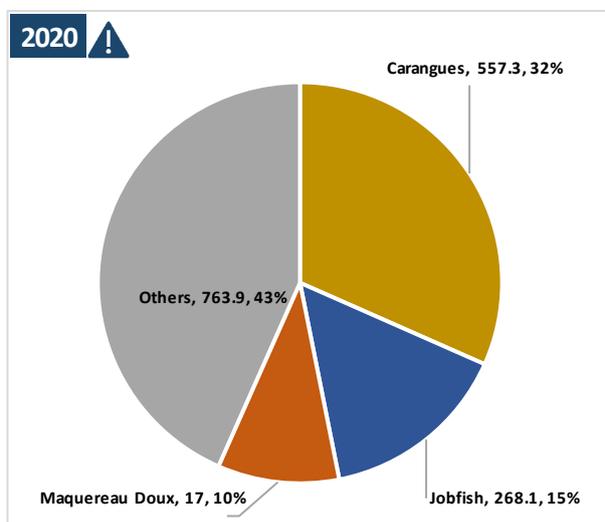
Key information for 2020:

| | | | <u>2019</u> |
|--|------------------|---|-------------|
| Average monthly number of active small-scale fishing <u>vessels</u> : | <u>328</u> ⚠️ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡️ 293 vessels in artisanal fishery ➡️ 35 vessels⁴⁰ in semi-industrial fishery <p><u>Data is seen as incomplete</u></p> | 503 ⚠️ |
| Number of fishing <u>licences</u> issued to small-scale fishing vessels: | <u>577</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡️ Artisanal: 466 ➡️ Semi-industrial: 30 ➡️ Net: 40 ➡️ Sea cucumber: 25 ➡️ Lobster: 16 | 203 ⚠️ |

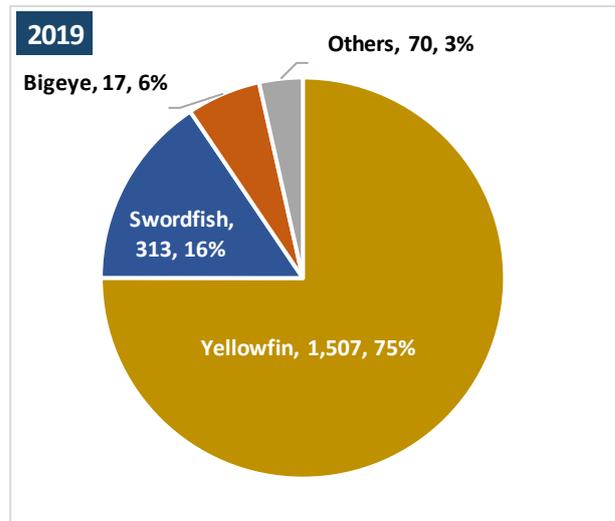
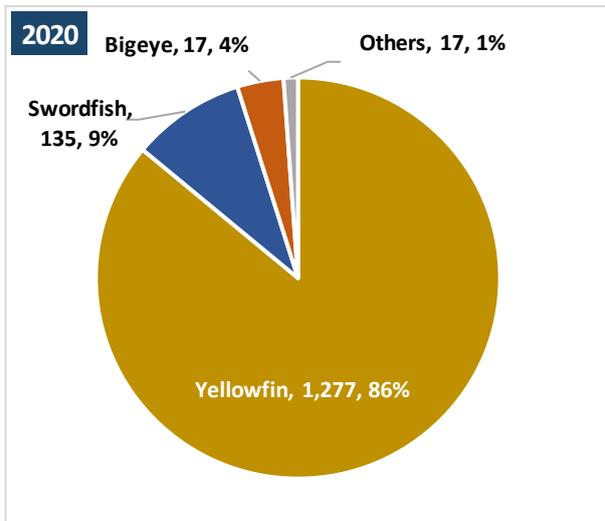
⁴⁰ Note that some of these vessels were licenced in 2019 and did not seek a new licence in 2020, hence the discrepancies with the number of licensed semi-industrial vessels licenced in 2020 noted in the same table.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------|
| <p>Number of <i>fishers</i> engaged in the fishing sector:</p> | <p><u>991</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Boat owner fishers: 288 (all males) ➔ Fishers: 588 (males: 584, females: 4) ➔ Divers: 115 (all males) <p><i>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 resulted in large number of people registering as fishers in 2020.</i></p> | <p>243</p> <p>⚠</p> |
| <p><i>Payments</i> for fishing licence fees made by small-scale fisheries:</p> | <p><u>SCR 524,450</u></p> | <p>➔ No payments are made by small-scale fisheries vessels for catches and landings</p> | <p>SCR 543,408</p> |
| <p>Quantity of <i>catches</i> made by small-scale fisheries:</p> | <p><u>3,246.4</u> <u>Mt</u></p> <p>⚠</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Artisanal fishery: 1,761.4 Mt (Semester 1 only) ➔ Semi-industrial fishery: 1,485 Mt <p><i>Data is seen as partially incomplete</i></p> | <p>6,558 Mt</p> <p>⚠</p> |

Catches by artisanal fishery (in Mt) – Major species



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



Summary of transparency assessment:

| Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles? | | Is the available information published on a government website and freely <u>accessible</u> ? | | Is the available information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National MSG? | |
|--|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|------------------|
| <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> |
| | | | | | |
| <i>To a large extent</i> | <i>To a large extent</i> | <i>Partially</i> | <i>To a limited extent</i> | <i>Partially</i> | <i>Partially</i> |

- Details of vessels licenced in 2020 for the artisanal fishery, semi-industrial fishery, net fishery, lobster fishery and sea cucumber fishery have all been published online by SFA during the 2020 FiTI reporting process⁴¹.
- Catches made during the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 season for the limited entry lobster and sea cucumber fisheries were made accessible by SFA and are published as part of this 2020 FiTI Report (as an interim measure).
- Fishing vessel licence and fishing activity licence payments received by SFA has been made available as part of the 2020 FiTI reporting process. Such payments are published on a per vessel basis in Annex C of the Detailed Section of this 2020 FiTI Report (as an interim measure).

⁴¹ <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/services1/fishing-licence/small-scale-fisheries-licences/summary/54-small-scale-fisheries-licences/152-small-scale-fisheries-licences-2020>



The 2020 catches from Seychelles' small-scale fisheries cannot be seen as complete as only Semester 1 (January-June) catch estimates have been published for the artisanal fishery. The Semester 2 (2020) Fisheries Statistical Report – which would have published the 2020 artisanal catch data for the period July-December – was in the process of being finalised for publication at the time this 2020 FiTI Report was completed.



No recent evaluations or audits of the economic, social and food security contributions of Seychelles' small-scale fisheries sector have been produced by the government of Seychelles.



Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade⁴²

Key information for 2020:

| | | | <u>2019</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <u>Total quantity</u> of fish and fish products produced: | <u>60,849 Mt</u> | Published as part of the NBS Production Indicator Q4 2020 Report. The total quantity is seen as <u>underreported</u> . The SFA Annual Report, which typically provides this information, has not been published yet. | Unknown |
| Total value of <u>imports</u> of fish and fish products: | <u>SCR 2.4 billion</u> | Most of the imported fish are frozen tuna sold by EU-flagged vessels to the local canning factory, as well as frozen tuna imported from a certified fishery in the Maldives. | SCR 1.566 billion |
| Total value of <u>exports</u> of fish and fish products: | <u>SCR 4.994 billion</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Canned tuna: 87.7% ➔ Fresh and frozen fish: 5.5% ➔ Fish meal: 3.5% ➔ Fish oil and fats: 1.6% ➔ Sea cucumber: 1.7% | SCR 3.577 billion |
| Total number of <u>people employed in commercial fisheries sectors</u> in Seychelles: | <u>Unknown</u> | A 2018 study showed that 6,900 people (including full-time and part-time employees) were employed in the industrial tuna fishery, thereof: 72% males, 28% females. | Unknown |
| Total number of <u>people employed in the informal fisheries sectors</u> in Seychelles: | <u>Unknown</u> | No official statement exists from Seychelles' national authorities on the extent of Seychelles' informal fisheries sector. The National MSG agreed that there is indeed such an informal fisheries sector. | Unknown |

⁴² Fish is the most traded agricultural product in the world (in monetary terms); the value of fish traded internationally is greater than that of many other food products, such as coffee, tea and sugar combined.

Summary of transparency assessment:

| Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles? | | Is the available information published on a government website and freely <u>accessible</u> ? | | Is the available information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National MSG? | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <i>Partially</i> | <i>To a large extent</i> | <i>Yes</i> | <i>To a large extent</i> | <i>Partially</i> | <i>Partially</i> |



Information on the quantity of fish and fish products produced by Seychelles for the year 2020 is published as part of the Production Indicator Q4-2020 Statistical Bulletin. However, the published information is highly aggregated.



Information on the quantity of exports and imports of fish and fish products has been published by the National Bureau of Statistics; however, this data is not always disaggregated by species, or by the country of origin or destination.



The SFA Annual Report 2020, a common source for trade-related fisheries data, is still not published as of today (December 2021).



An 'Employment and capacity needs assessment study for the fisheries sector in Seychelles' was conducted in 2020 and 2021, funded by the SWIOFish3 project. This study will provide more information on employment across different fisheries sub-sectors, including a gender breakdown. It was originally planned for this study to be published by mid-2021 but publication has been delayed due to technical issues.



Fisheries Law Enforcement⁴³

Key information for 2020:

| | | | <u>2019</u> |
|--|--|---|--|
| <u>Financial and human resources</u> deployed by the government to ensure compliance with national legislation: | <p>SCR <u>21,397,937</u></p> <p></p> | <p>➔ 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 through the sectoral support of the EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement.</p> <p>➔ Information from other relevant authorities is not available.</p> | <p>SCR 9,563,817</p> <p></p> |
| Number of <u>inspections</u> of fishing vessels at sea and in ports | <p><u>376</u></p> <p></p> | <p>➔ The SFA Annual Report, which typically provides this information, has not yet been published for 2020.</p> <p>➔ Data made available by the SFA on the inspections of artisanal vessels in Seychelles' ports was only available for Semester 2 of 2020.</p> | Unknown |
| Number of <u>convictions</u> for major offences in the fisheries sector: | <p><u>3</u></p> | 3 Sri Lankan vessels were apprehended for IUU fishing in 2020. All were subsequently prosecuted and convicted. | <p>6</p> <p></p> |

⁴³ 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 combating '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.

Summary of transparency assessment:

| Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles? | | Is the available information published on a government website and freely <u>accessible</u> ? | | Is the available information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National MSG? | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Yes | To a large extent | Partially | No | To a limited extent | No |



No comprehensive report covering national activities and strategies for ensuring compliance of fishing vessels and the post-harvest sector with national legislation existed for 2020. Furthermore, key compliance and policy instruments, such as the 'The National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing', remain incomplete.



A number of compliance and policy instruments exist and are available online which provide strategic directions guiding fisheries compliance⁴⁴.



A record of convictions for major offences in the fishing sector for 2020 is collated by SFA, but not published online. The convictions are published in Annex C of the Detailed Section of Seychelles' 2020 FITI Report (as an interim measure).

⁴⁴ These include:

- The Seychelles National Plan of Action for Sharks (2016-2020); <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/39-fisheries-plans-strategies/68-npoa-shark>
- The Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (2019); <https://www.sfa.sc/index.php/e-library/fisheries-report/summary/39-fisheries-plans-strategies/9-fisheries-comprehensive-plan>
- The Fisheries Policy and Strategic Plan (2019); <http://www.mofbe.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/Seychelles-Fisheries-Sector-Policy-.pdf>
- The MCS Plan for the Mahé Plateau Demersal Fishery Management Plan (2020); www.mofbe.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Mahe-Plateau-Demersal-Fishery-Management-Plan-MCS-Protocol.pdf



Labour Standards

Key information for 2020:

The public authority responsible for monitoring and enforcing laws on labour standards in Seychelles is the **Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs (MESA)**.

| | | | 2019 |
|--|---|--|---------|
| Financial and human resources deployed by the government to enforce laws on labour standards in the fisheries sector: | <p>SCR</p> <p>6,487,000</p> | <p>93% went towards wages and salaries of staff.</p> <p>15 inspectors of the MESA seek to enforce labour standards across all sectors of the economy, including fisheries.</p> | Unknown |
| Number of offences committed by employers in the fisheries sector that have been resolved by the authorities: | <p>0</p> | <p>MESA reported that there were no offences committed by employers in the fisheries sector that were detected or reported in 2020.</p> | Unknown |

Summary of transparency assessment:

| Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles? | | Is the available information published on a government website and freely <u>accessible</u> ? | | Is the available information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National MSG? | |
|--|------------|---|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 |
| <p>To a large extent</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>Partially</p> | <p>To a large extent</p> | <p>Partially</p> | <p>Partially</p> |



No summary description of national laws on labour standards, national strategies for enforcing labour standards or information on labour offences committed and resolved in the fisheries sector is available to facilitate public understanding.



Fisheries Subsidies⁴⁵

Key information for 2020:

| | | 2019 |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| Total value of <i>government financial transfers or subsidies</i> to the fisheries sector: | Unknown | Unknown |
| Value of <i>fuel subsidies</i> for <i>large-scale fisheries</i> : | Unknown | Unknown |
| Value of <i>fuel subsidies</i> for <i>small-scale fisheries</i> : | SCR 59.7 million | SCR 43 million |

Summary of transparency assessment:

| Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles? | | Is the available information published on a government website and <u>freely accessible</u> ? | | Is the available information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National MSG? | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| To a large extent | Yes | Partially | To a limited extent | To a limited extent | No |



Similar to the situation documented in Seychelles' 2019 FITI Report, very little information is published by national authorities about fisheries subsidies, failing to meet national requirements (e.g. the Access to Information Act), policy objectives (e.g. reducing subsidies dependency) as well as international expectations.



While no information was provided by Seychelles' national authorities about the value and scope of subsidies to its large-scale fisheries, the National MSG was able to confirm that the government sells fuel to industrial fishing vessels at duty-free rates. The sale of fuel at duty-free rates applies to all international vessels (not only those involved in fisheries).

⁴⁵ 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.



Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Key information for 2020:⁴⁶

| | | | <u>2019</u> |
|---|----------------|--|-------------|
| Number of <u>public sector projects</u> related to <u>fisheries</u> : | <u>2</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ SWIOFish3 (financed by World Bank) ➔ Extension of the Providence fishing port (financed by the Government of Japan) | 2 |
| Number of <u>public sector projects</u> related to <u>marine conservation</u> : | <u>Unknown</u> | This information is not locally collated apart for projects that are funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). | Unknown |
| Number of corresponding <u>evaluations</u> of these public sector projects: | <u>1</u> | Terminal evaluation of the GEF-financed Outer Islands Project undertaken in 2020. | Unknown |

Summary of transparency assessment:

| Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles? | | Is the available information published on a government website and <u>freely accessible</u> ? | | Is the available information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National MSG? | |
|--|-------------|---|---------------------|---|-------------|
| <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2019</u> |
| Yes | Yes | To a limited extent | To a limited extent | To a limited extent | No |



Very little visibility is given to fisheries-related public sector projects in Seychelles. There is almost no information on public sector projects being implemented on the websites of MOFBE and SFA, and no references exist to websites of funding or implementation partners. Thus, several externally-funded public sector projects related to fisheries, such as the World Bank's SWIOFish3 project, receive very little attention outside Seychelles' core fisheries community.

⁴⁶ Covering public sector projects funded by bilateral, multilateral and private donors.



There are several marine conservation-related public sector projects being implemented in Seychelles, but no comprehensive overview of them has been provided by the government of Seychelles.



Financial contributions received from the EU under the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement for the support and implementation of Seychelles' sectoral fisheries and maritime policy (EUR 2.8 million for 2020) represent compensation for fishing activities in fishing areas within Seychelles' EEZ. They are therefore not considered as ODA.



Beneficial Ownership⁴⁷

Key information for 2020:

| | | | 2019 |
|---|------------|---|-----------------------|
| Legal basis for beneficial ownership transparency in Seychelles: | Yes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ <i>Beneficial Ownership Act (2020)</i> ➔ <i>Beneficial Ownership Regulations (2020)</i>⁴⁸ | None |
| Rules and procedures for incorporating beneficial ownership in filings by agencies regulating access to fisheries: | Yes | All fisheries businesses have to provide beneficial ownership information as per the requirements of the <i>Beneficial Ownership Act (2020)</i> . | Not applicable |
| Availability of a public register of beneficial owners: | No | A central (though not public) registry of beneficial owners is being compiled by the <i>Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)</i> . | Not applicable |

Summary of transparency assessment:

| Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles? | | Is the available information published on a government website and freely <u>accessible</u> ? | | Is the available information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National MSG? | |
|--|----------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|
| 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 |
| <p>To a large extent</p> | Not applicable | <p>Partially</p> | Not applicable | <p>Partially</p> | Not applicable |



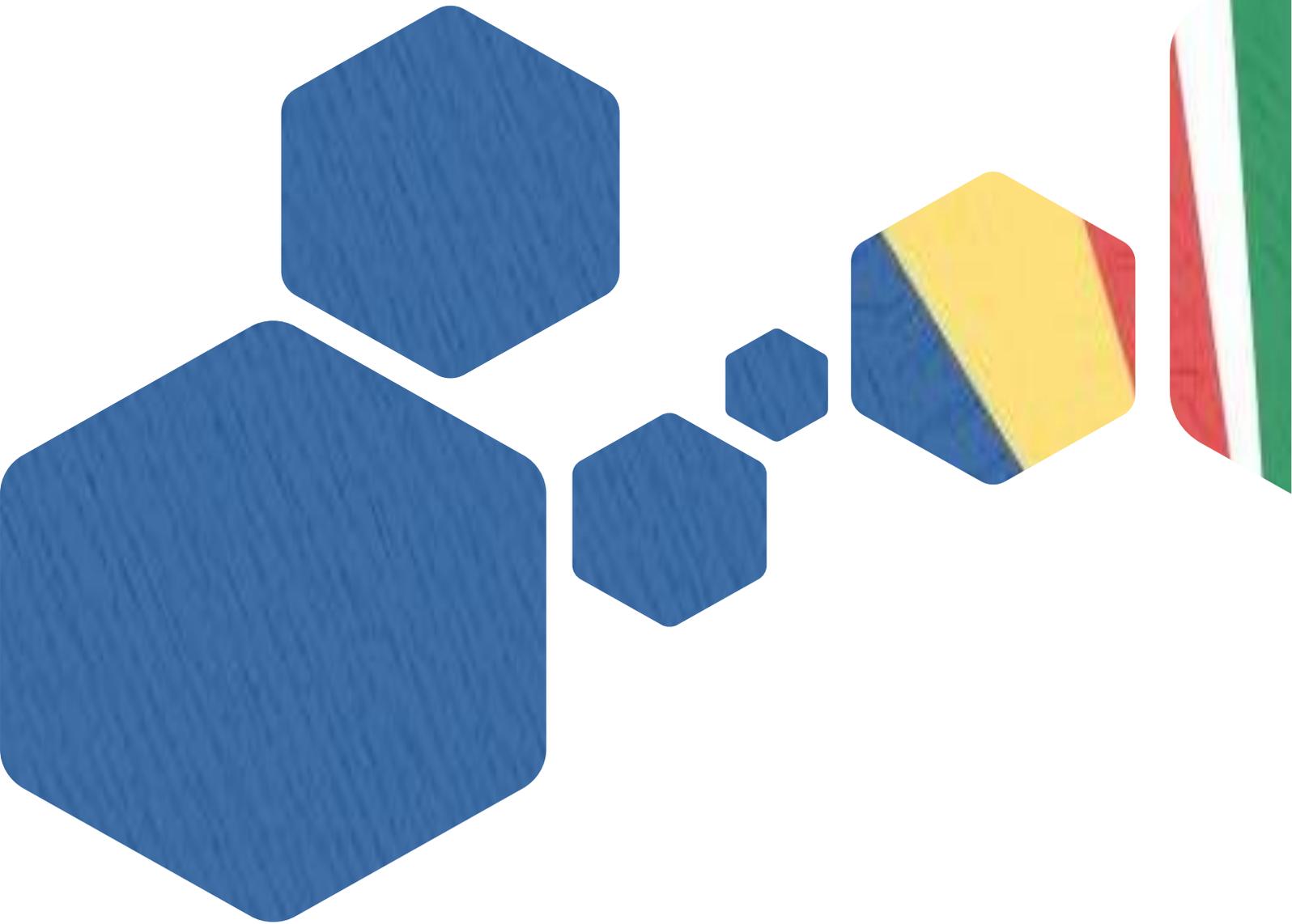
Declaration of beneficial ownership became a legal requirement in 2020 with the promulgation of the Beneficial Ownership Act and Regulations.

⁴⁷ 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.

⁴⁸ In addition, Beneficial Ownership Guidelines have been issued jointly by the Financial Services Authority and the Financial Intelligence Unit (2020).

-  A central registry of beneficial owners is being compiled by the FIU for all locally-registered businesses and companies, but there is currently no intention to make this registry publicly available.
-  SFA has long been required by Section 8(2)(r) of the Fisheries Act to keep records of beneficial owners as part of its record of fishing vessels but has only done so in a limited number of cases.
-  There is as no information publicly available on the process for verifying beneficial ownership information in Seychelles' fisheries sector.

More detailed information on each of these 12 thematic areas of Seychelles' fisheries management can be found in the detailed section of this FiTI Report. This detailed section also includes information relevant for 2020 which has only been published as part of this FiTI Report..



Seychelles' Report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

| Calendar year: 2020