



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

Global Tuna Alliance (GTA)

→ Educational webinar for GTA partners

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12 May 2021 | Zoom

Focus of today's webinar

1

Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) – At a Glance

2

Seychelles 1st FiTI Report

3

Current status & Outlook

Sustainable fisheries need transparency!

“Lack of basic transparency could be seen as an underlying facilitator of all the negative aspects of the global fisheries sector – IUU fishing, fleet overcapacity, overfishing, ill-directed subsidies, corruption, poor fisheries management decisions, etc.”

**United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO),
State of the World Fisheries Report 2010**

Starting points for the Fisheries Transparency Initiative



What information on marine fisheries must be provided by governments in the public domain?

How will this information be perceived as credible?

Global consensus after 2 years stakeholder discussions



12 transparency requirements



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



Fisheries Tenure Arrangements



Foreign Fishing Access Agreements



The State of the Fisheries Resources



Large-Scale Fisheries (Vessel Registry, Payments for fishing, Recorded catch data)



Small-Scale Fisheries



Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade



Fisheries Law Enforcement



Labour Standards



Fisheries Subsidies



Official Development Assistance



Beneficial Ownership

Key principles of the FiTI



Transparency needs trust! National FiTI implementations and international governance is based on multi-stakeholder participation



Progressive improvement: Public authorities must disclose available information; where gaps exist, improvements must be shown over time



Strengthening of source system: The FiTI Report does not seek to substitute or duplicate existing efforts by national authorities

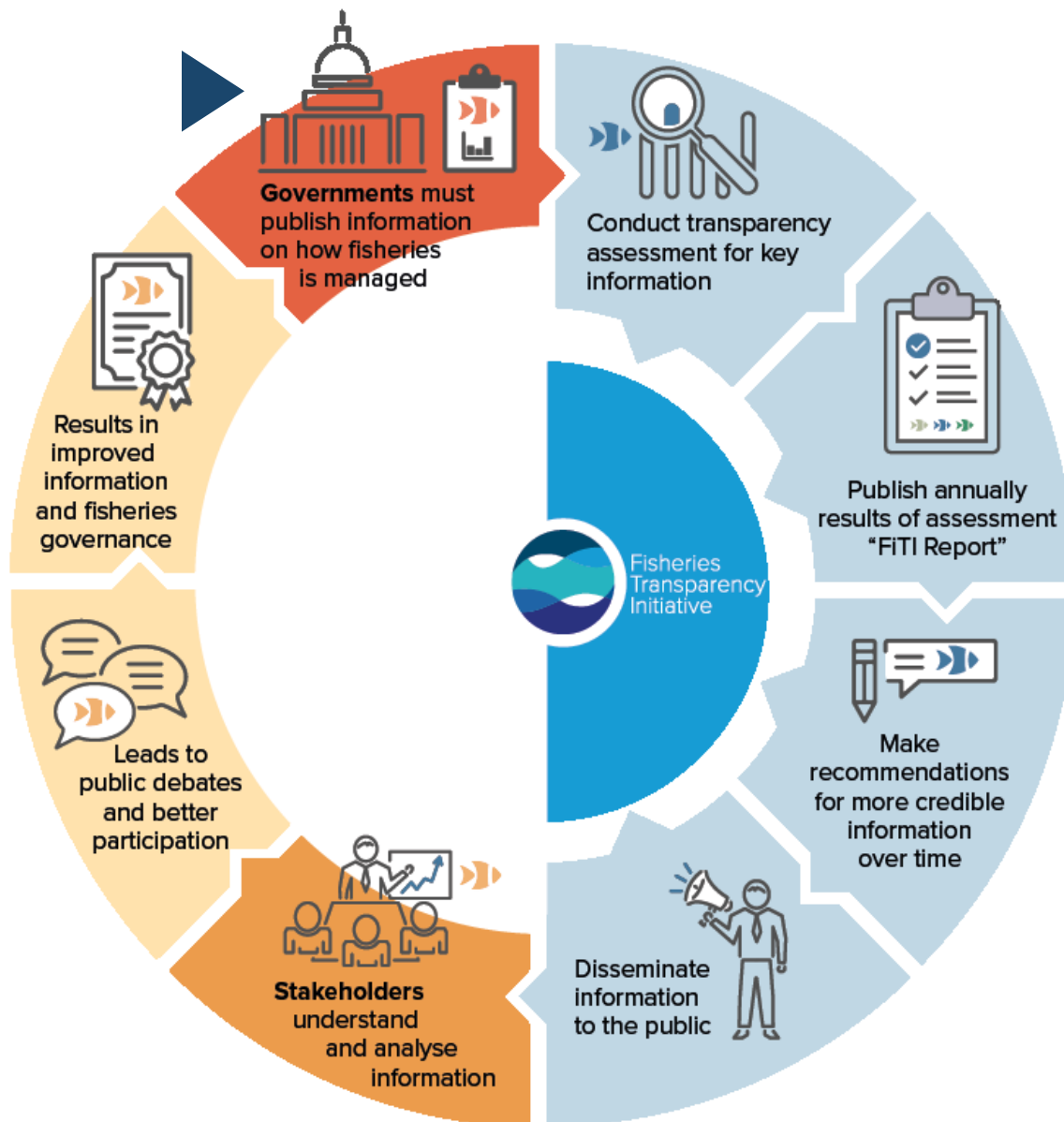


No scoring: the FiTI Report will not provide an overall score of how good/bad the country performs



Informed public debates: The impact of FiTI depends on how information is made available, requested, understood and used

Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) – At a Glance



The FiTI provides an internationally recognized framework (*i.e. FiTI Standard*) that defines for the first time which information on fisheries management should be published online by governments.

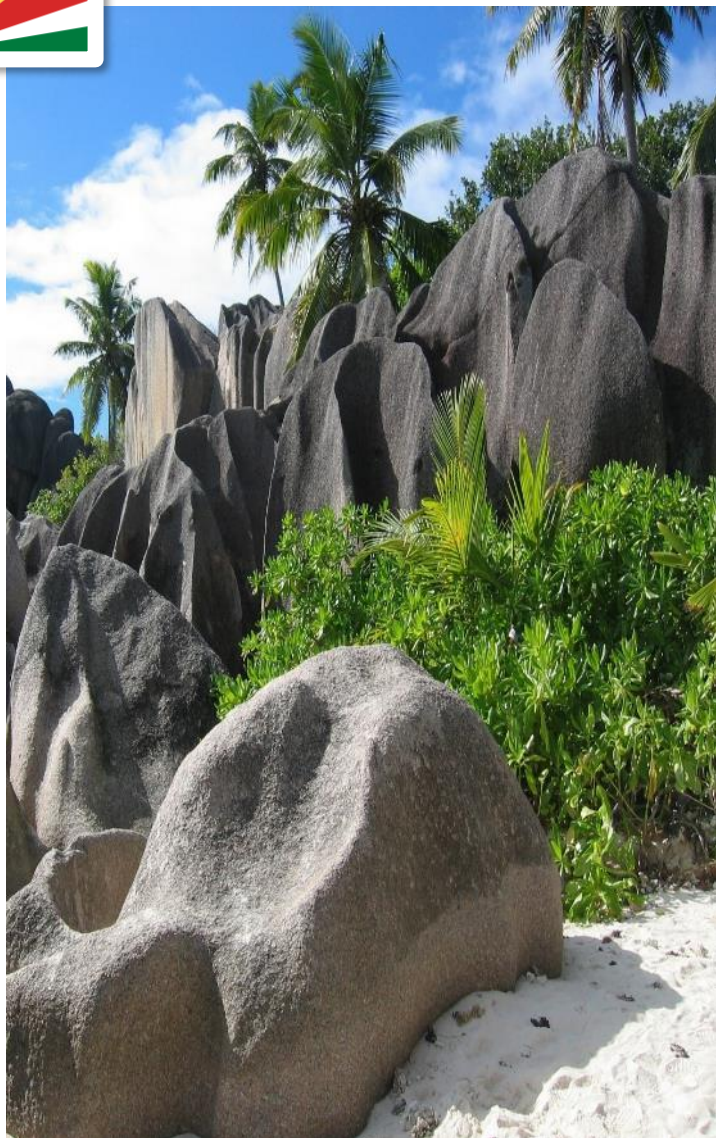
Marine fisheries

Voluntary

Global

Country's jurisdictional waters

FiTI and Seychelles



- ➔ **Seychelles is an (underappreciated) 'Tuna Economy'**
 - ➔ **Financial contributions from fishing agreements and licenses less than 10% of the total economic benefits from tuna**
-
- ➔ **FiTI Candidate status:** April 2020
 - ➔ **FiTI Lead Ministry:** Department of Blue Economy
 - ➔ **Submission of 1st FiTI Report:** April 2021
 - ➔ **Submission of 2nd FiTI Report:** December 2021

Objectives of FiTI Report

1

To ASSESS SEYCHELLES' LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE against the 12 transparency requirements of the FiTI Standard.

→ **AVAILABILITY:** Has the information been collated at all by the government?

→ **ACCESSIBILITY:** Is the information published on a government website and freely accessible?

→ **COMPLETENESS:** Is the published information seen as complete by the National MSG?

2

To SUMMARISE KEY INFORMATION ON SEYCHELLES' FISHERIES SECTOR in order to increase public understanding and appreciation of it.

3

To PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS to Seychelles' national authorities on how the publication of information can be further improved.

Seychelles' level of compliance with the FiTI Standard



- » A large amount of data on Seychelles' fisheries sector is collated by national authorities (e.g. SFA) – but often not published online
- » As part of this FiTI Report, previously unpublished information is now available online (e.g. *fishing agreement with Mauritius, status of fish stocks, license holders for sea cucumber fishery*)
- » Procedures for beneficial ownership transparency in fisheries sector in progress



- » Crucial information is still not available to the public, such as:
 - Private fishing access agreements
 - Registry for large-scale fishing vessels
 - Information on fisheries subsidies to the large-scale fishing sector (if any)
- » Published catch information from large-scale and small-scale fisheries is seen as incomplete

Seychelles' level of compliance with the FiTI Standard

Detailed example

'Annual retained catch data'

Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles?	Is the information published on a government website and freely <u>accessible</u> ?	Is the information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National Multi-Stakeholder Group?
		
To a large extent	To a large extent	Partially



SFA collects and publishes (mainly through its Fisheries Statistical Report) a large amount of data regarding catches, landings, transshipments and fishing efforts from the large-scale fisheries.



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.



Catch data from the *industrial longline fishery* is seen as significantly incomplete, as published data only includes Semester 1 (January – June 2019) catches for the Seychelles' and Taiwanese (POC)-flagged vessels and Quarter 1 (January – March 2019) catches for other-flagged vessels, and also suffers from partially unreturned logbooks.

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.



Though data on fish discards from the *purse seiner fishery* has been published in the Fisheries Statistical Report for the year 2019, this data is not disaggregated by species or species group.

Key information on Seychelles' fisheries sector

5

Agreements allowing foreign vessels to fish in Seychelles' waters

248

Licensed large-scale fishing vessels

503 

Active small-scale fishing vessels

(Data is seen as incomplete)

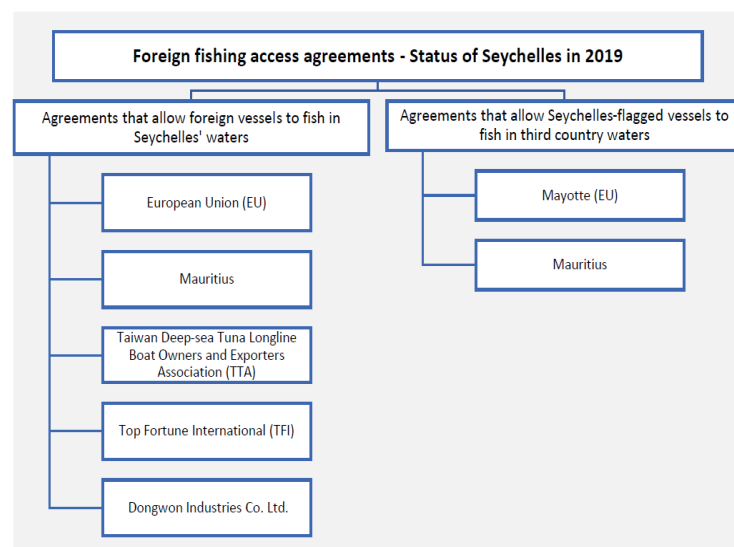
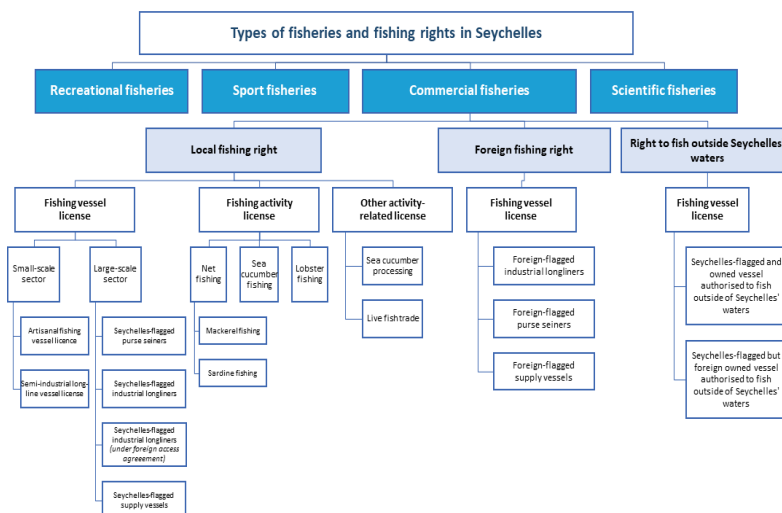
50%

Local fish species groups assessed as 'overfished' (based on level of fishing pressure)

SCR 1.6 billion
Imports of fish/fish products

SCR 3.6 billion
Exports of fish/fish products

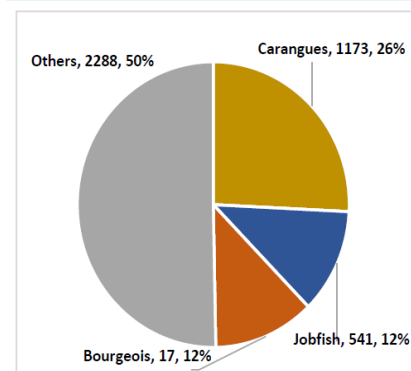
SCR 43 million
Fuel subsidies for small-scale fisheries



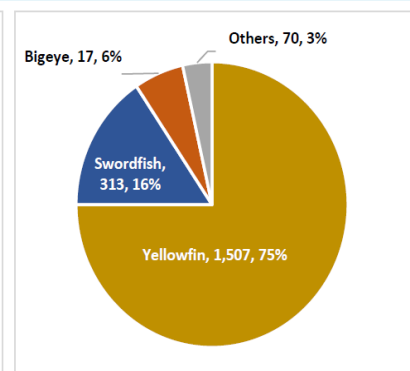
Summary of stock status of species (assessed by SFA since 2017)

Species	Common name	Creole name	Period	Year of publication	Fishing mortality	Stock status	Biomass
<i>Lutjanus sebae</i>	Emperor red snapper	Bourzwa	2017	2018	Subjected to overfishing	Overfished	
<i>Epinephelus chlorostigma</i>	Brown-spotted grouper	Vyey Makonde	2017	2018	Uncertain	Overfished	
<i>Aprion virescens</i>	Green jobfish	Zob gri	2017	2018	Uncertain	Overfished	
<i>Siganus spp.</i>	Rabbitfish	Kordonyen	2017	2018	Not subjected to overfishing	Not overfished	
<i>Carangoides fulvoguttatus</i>	Yellowspotted trevally	Karang plat	2017	2018	Uncertain	Overfished	
<i>Carangoides gymnotethus</i>	Bludger	Karang balo	2017	2018	Uncertain	Overfished	
<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>	Kawakawa	Bonit fol	2017	2018	Not subjected to overfishing	Not overfished	
<i>Panulirus penicillatus</i>	Pronghorn spiny lobster	Oumar	2019	2019	Uncertain	Not overfished	
<i>Panulirus longipes</i>	Long-legged spiny lobster	Oumar	2019	2019	Uncertain	Not overfished	
<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>	White teatfish	Kokosye blan	2017	2017	Subjected to overfishing	Overfished	
<i>Holothuria sp.</i>	Flower teatfish	Banbara pentard	2017	2017	Subjected to overfishing	Overfished	
<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	Yellowfin tuna	Ton Zonn	2016	2017	Subjected to overfishing	Overfished	
<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	Big eye	Ton gro lizye	2016	2017	Not subjected to overfishing	Not overfished	
<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	Skipjack tuna	Ton reye	2016	2017	Not subjected to overfishing	Not overfished	
<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Swordfish		2017	2017	Not subjected to overfishing	Not overfished	
<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>	Indo-Pacific sailfish	Dyab lavwal	2016	2017	Subjected to overfishing	Not overfished	
<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	Blue marlin	Marlin	2016	2017	Subjected to overfishing	Not overfished	
<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>	Striped marlin	Marlin	2016	2017	Subjected to overfishing	Overfished	

Catches by Artisanal fishery (in Mt)
Top 3 species



Catches by semi-industrial fishery (in Mt)
Top 3 species



Key information on Seychelles' fisheries sector



Who is allowed to fish?
Large-scale vessel registry



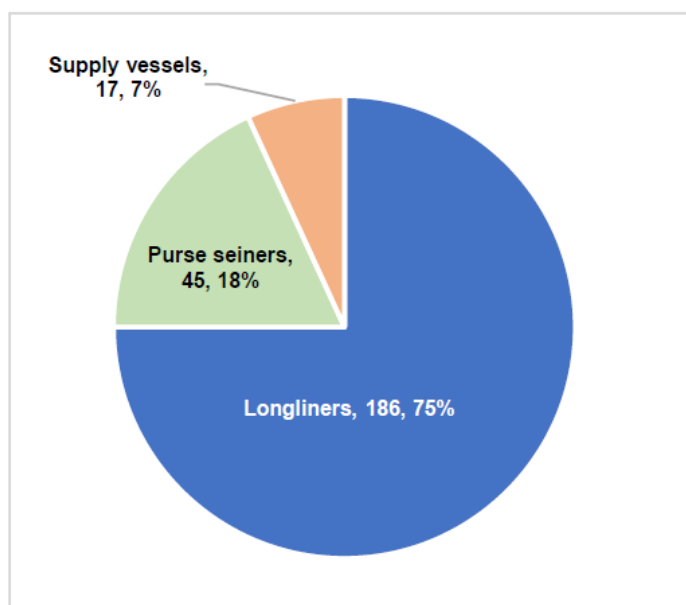
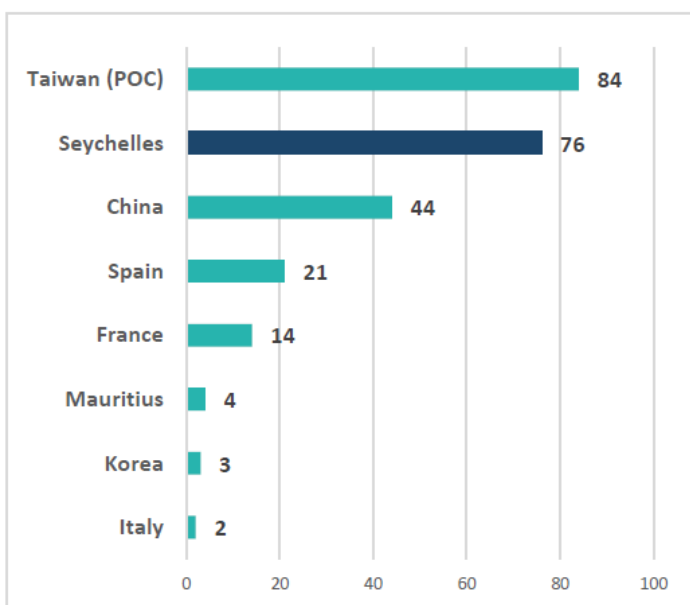
Key information for 2019:

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

248

Disaggregated according to flag State:

Disaggregated according to vessel type:



Key information on Seychelles' fisheries sector



How much fish has been caught?

Annual retained catches from large-scale vessels



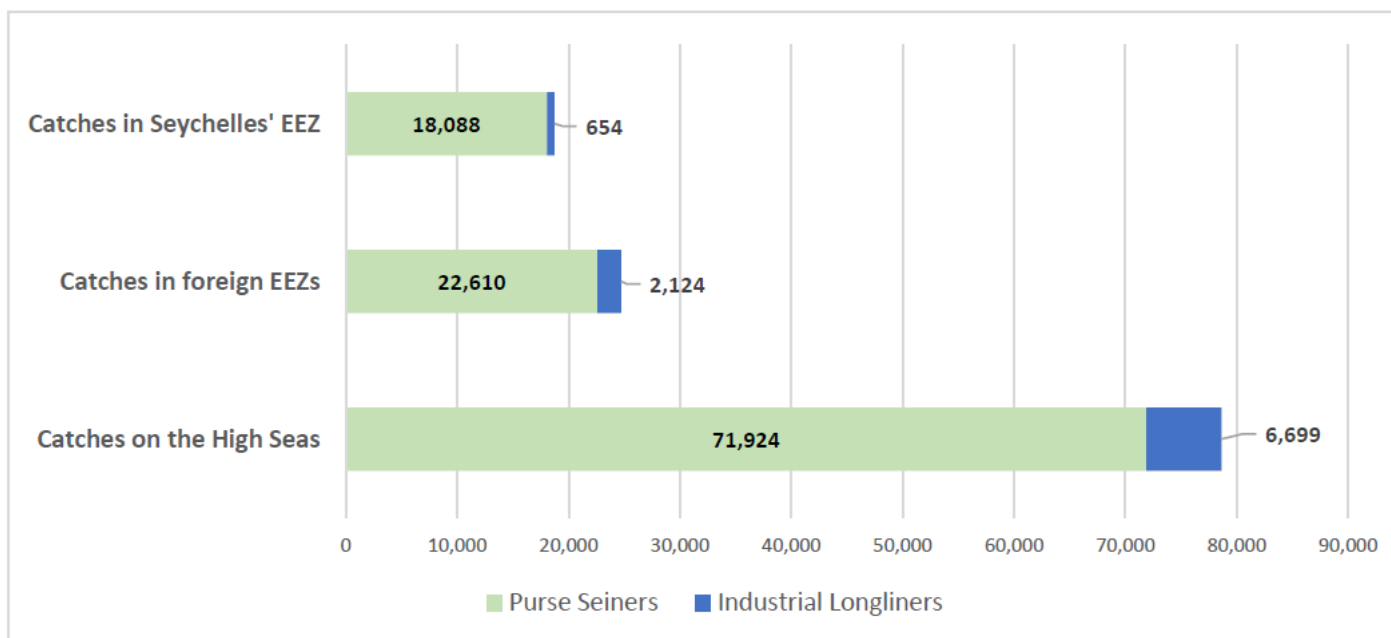
Key information for 2019:

Annual retained catches by
Seychelles-flagged vessels:

122,099 Mt



Information is incomplete, due to missing catch data from industrial longline fishery.



Key information on Seychelles' fisheries sector

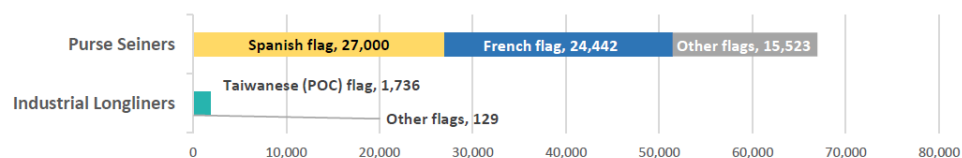
Annual retained catches by foreign-flagged vessels:

295,987 Mt



Information is incomplete, due to missing catch data from industrial longline fishery.

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



Fishing effort by purse seine vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters:

2,577 days spent fishing within Seychelles' EEZ

➔ Total of 10,116 days spent fishing in the Western Indian Ocean

Fishing effort by industrial longline vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters:

6 million hooks deployed within Seychelles' EEZ



➔ Data covers only Semester 1 of 2019 (January – June)

➔ Total of over 21 million hooks deployed in the Western Indian Ocean

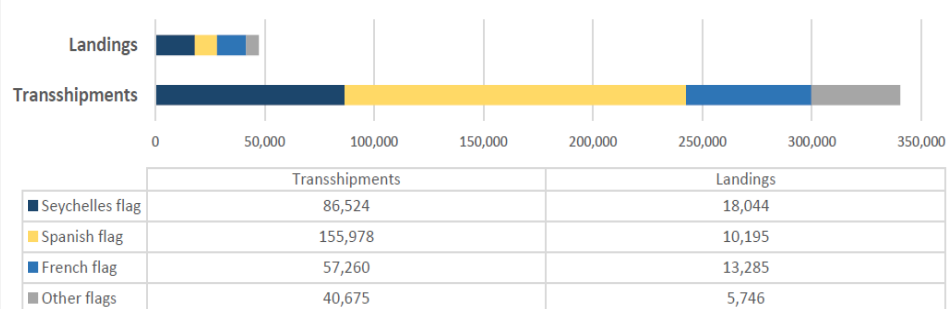
Annual landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports:

387,707 Mt



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

Annual landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports - only Purse Seiners (Mt)



Total value of imports of fish and fish products:

SCR 1.566 billion

➔ Total import weight is 76,441 Mt [values from 2016; 99.6% of import weight was frozen tuna for the canning factory]

➔ Most of the imported frozen tuna are from the sale of EU-flagged vessels to the local canning factory and from certified fishery in the Maldives.

Total value of exports of fish and fish products:

SCR 3.577 billion

Thereof:

➔ Canned tuna: 86.5%

➔ Fresh and frozen fish: 6.3%

➔ Fish meal: 3.2%

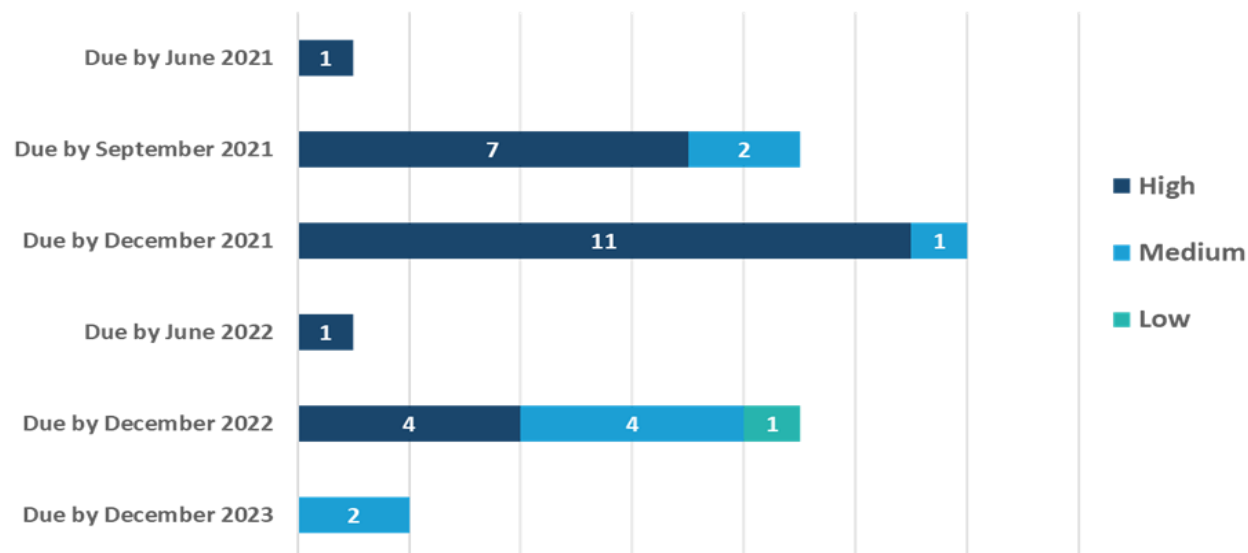
➔ Fish oil and fats: 2.2%

➔ Sea cucumber: 1.8%

Recommendations to Seychelles' national authorities

Number of recommendations to Seychelles' government to improve transparency in fisheries management:

34



Recommendations

We, the National MSG, make the following recommendations to improve transparency regarding foreign fishing access agreements:

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2019-3_1	MFBE should publish online all foreign fishing access agreements and associated protocols. ⁴⁸	High	December 2021
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	December 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	September 2021
2019-3_4	MFBE should publish information from previous (prior to 2019) and recent national stakeholder	Medium	December 2022

Recommendations

We, the National MSG, make the following recommendations to improve transparency regarding the country's large-scale vessel registry:

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2019-5_1	SFA should publish an up-to-date, online registry of all Seychelles-flagged and foreign-flagged large-scale vessels authorised to fish in Seychelles' marine jurisdictional waters, and of all Seychelles-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	September 2021
2019-5_2	This online vessel registry, once published, should be linked to relevant parameters and conditions of the underlying licences (e.g. licensing period, fees paid, species to be taken, areas to be fished, etc.).	High	September 2021

Current status

As of 10 May 2021

FiTI Compliant countries	FiTI Candidate country	FiTI Committed countries	In discussions / Targets countries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mauritania ■ Seychelles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cabo Verde ■ Senegal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ [Bolivia] ■ Colombia ■ Costa Rica ■ Ecuador ■ Peru ■ Mexico <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Morocco ■ São Tomé and Príncipe <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Comoros ■ Madagascar ■ Maldives ■ Mauritius <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bangladesh ■ Lebanon

New programmes



TAKING STOCK – Online Transparency of Fisheries Management Information

Assessing the level of information published online by governments against the FiTI Standard, beyond already engaged countries



BeneFiTing – Market and Non-Market based incentives for fisheries transparency

Stimulate the provision of benefits for enhanced transparency, such as from seafood certifications, sourcing policies, trade regulations etc.

How to stimulate market pressure for similar FiTI Reports from other ‘tuna countries’?



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Thank you for your attention!



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