



# **SEYCHELLES FISHING AUTHORITY**

**PUBLICATION INFORMATION MANUAL 2023**

**Access to Information Act 2018**

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**THIS PUBLICATION MANUAL IS USEFUL FOR THE PUBLIC TO:**

1. Check the nature of the records which may already be available at (name of the public body), without the need for submitting a formal ATIA request.
2. Have an understanding of how to make a request for access to a record of the (name of the public body):
3. Access all the relevant contact details of the persons who will assist the public with the records they intend to access.
4. Know all the remedies available from the (name of the body) regarding request for access to the records, before approaching the information commission.
5. The description of the services available to members of the public from the (name of the body), and how to gain access to those services.
6. A description of the guide on how to use ATIA, as updated by the information commission and how to obtain access to it.
7. If the body will process personal information, the purpose of processing of personal information and the description of the categories of data subject and of the information or categories of information relating thereto.
8. Know if the (name of the body) has planned to transfer personal information outside the Republic of Seychelles and the recipients or categories of recipients to whom the personal information may be supplied; and
9. Know whether the (name of the body) has appropriate security measures to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the personal information, which is to be processed.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SEYCHELLES FISHING AUTHORITY**

The Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) was created in August 1984 by the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act. This was at a time when the industrial tuna fishing sector started to expand. At its creation, the SFA's mission was to develop the fishing industry to its fullest potential and to safeguard the resource base for sustainable development.

To note, Seychelles has one of the largest Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Western Indian Ocean. Hence, fishing has played a major role in the lives of the people. Revenue from fisheries have been a key contributor to the national growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita. It ranks Seychelles amongst the top in Africa as it provides an important source of employment, export revenue and ensures the local food security.

- The functions of the Authority laid out in Section 5 of the SFA (Establishment) Act are:
- To promote, organize and develop fishing, fishing industries and fishing resources in the Seychelles.
- To assist in the formulation of the national policy with respect to fishing, fishing industries, and fishing resources and in the implementation of that policy.
- To conduct negotiations, or engage in meetings, seminars, or discussions, with regards to fishing or fisheries or the establishment or operation of fishing industries, whether at a national or international level, on behalf of the Republic or otherwise.
- To identify the manpower training requirements of the Seychelles with regards to fishing and fishing industries; and
- Those mentioned in any other written law.

The Authority is governed by a Board of Directors and led by a Chief Executive Officer appointed by the President of the Republic. The Authority is the executive arm of the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue economy on matters relating to fisheries management. The recent Board of Directors was appointed in February 2021, chaired by Mr. Radley Weber and the new Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Jan Robinson was appointed in October 2023. He is seconded by a Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Ashik Hassan who was appointed in December 2021.

Hence, it has a very important role for the country as it is managing the second most important pillar of the Seychelles economy. The SFA works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MFBE), the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MACCE), the Seychelles Coast Guard (SCG), the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA), the Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority (SMSA) and other government institutions, fishermen and boat owners' associations, local and international NGOs, Universities, suppliers, development agencies and other partners. Stakeholder consultations are held on a regular basis regarding the development of the sector.

The SFA's motto seeks to address sustainability both on a national level and in its daily activities.

The SFA is also governed by the Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy 2019, which states that one of the government's main objectives is to 'foster optimum utilization of fisheries and aquaculture resources to ensure ecological and socioeconomic sustainability in resource-use and domestic development, while recognizing traditional norms.'

Currently SFA has eight departments under its core functions as well as support services to ensure that it can undertake the above-mentioned functions. It operates with a team of highly qualified and experienced staff with a dynamic set of skills and academic knowledge. In January 2019, the SFA became an autonomous state-owned enterprise (SOE) which generates and manages its own revenues and expenditures. The main programmes of the SFA revolves around its core function of managing fisheries and provision of services to serve the fishing sector.

SFA requires a structure and staff that supports its existence through a range of technical fields, including fisheries science and management, natural resources economics, statistics, programming and database management, biology, and ecology, as well as administrative and technical support for research vessels, monitoring and surveillance platforms, laboratories and IT. Only by maintaining sufficient capacity will SFA be able to address challenges such as overfishing, overcapitalization and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, which requires the strengthening of fisheries governance and capacity for the implementation of operational management plans for each fishery, as specified in the Fisheries Act (2014). Fisheries co-management and civil society engagement constitute an important component of sharing governance responsibilities, but also require dedicated SFA support for capacity building, monitoring and administration. SFA is further called upon to support the development of infrastructures, services, and training for the sector, while also being responsive to emerging issues such as harmful algal blooms and climate change. The importance of education and training cannot be underestimated if SFA is to deliver on this varied mandate.

SFA also prides itself in being an organization that promotes a conducive and motivating work environment. It further extends its values to the community it serves through various community projects such as mangrove planting, cleaning of bays and beaches as well as contributing 1.7 million Seychelles rupees to the 7th of December 2023 Disaster Fund.

## **MISSION AND VISION OF THE SFA**

### **The vision of SFA is:**

Excellence in sustainable fisheries management and development.

### **The mission is:**

To ensure optimal utilization of the fisheries resources for the benefit of the Seychellois people through sustainable management, ecosystem-based approaches, and integrated development.

The core principles of the Authority aim to enable the authority to implement its mandate in a manner which promotes good governance, transparency, participation, and accountability and according to the internationally recognized best practices in fisheries management.

### **Mandate of the Seychelles Fishing Authority**

The SFA mandate, as provided under Section 5 (a) of the SFA (Establishment) Act, 1984 and Section 4 of the Fisheries Act, 2014, is to maintain sustainable fisheries resources management and fisheries development and can be detailed as followed.

- Fisheries resources development and management
- Fisheries research
- Fisheries statistics
- Fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance
- Fisheries licensing
- Fisheries infrastructure development
- Fisheries post-harvest development
- Aquaculture development
- By-catch management/ control

**Mandates under Section 6 of the SFA (Establishment) Act, 1984:**

- Fishing port management
- Property management
- VMS installation and maintenance
- Fuel sales to fishermen
- Fuel incentive claims and refund
- Ice production and sales

**Its core values are:**

To implement the SFA mandate in a manner which promotes good governance, transparency, participation, and accountability and to the internationally recognized best practices in fisheries management as per below listed:

- Integrity and professionalism
- Adaptability
- Inclusiveness and teamwork
- Leadership
- Stewardship
- Equity

## **KEY CONTACT DETAILS FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION OF THE SFA**

### **The Information Officer**

Name: Ms. Julia Malbrook  
Tel: 4670338  
Email: [julia.malbrook@sfa.sc](mailto:julia.malbrook@sfa.sc)

### **The Head of Information Holder**

Name: Dr Jan Robinson  
Tel: 4670312  
Email: [ceo@sfa.sc](mailto:ceo@sfa.sc)

### **The Head Office Contact**

Postal Address: Fishing Port, Mahe, P.O BOX 449

Physical Address: Fishing Port, Victoria, Mahe

Telephone: 4670300

Email: [management@sfa.sc](mailto:management@sfa.sc)

Website: [www.sfa.sc](http://www.sfa.sc)

Description of all remedies available in respect of an ATIA or failure to act by the Seychelles Fishing Authority.

Firstly, SFA make sure that it replies to requests within the mandated period. In case of this not being possible, we offer or request an extension from the aggrieved party.

The manuals referred to in subsection 53 (1) shall include the categories of information that the information holder will proactively disclose and those which will be made available only through the formal request process.

The information manual shall, together with the information required in subsection 53 (2), include the following information about the information holder —

- a) A description of the structure and its functions, powers, and duties.
- b) Physical and electronic contact details of the information officer and the head of the information holder.
- c) The guidelines developed by the information commission under section 51(2).
- d) A description of any arrangement or provision for a person to make recommendations or to otherwise participate in the formulation of policy or the exercise of powers or performance of duties by the information holder.
- e) A description of remedies available in respect of an act or omission by the information holder; and
- f) The manner of payment of any reproduction fees, and transcription fees.

An Information Holder shall —

- (a) Update and publish its information manual whenever material changes to the information therein occur, but at least every 2 years; and
- (b) Submit the updated information manual to the Information Commission.

## CATEGORIES OF RECORDS OF THE SEYCHELLES FISHING AUTHORITY

Categories	Document Type	Available on website	Available Upon ATIA request
Tender Document	- Advertised Tender - Name Of Success Bidder		-Tenders are advertised in local newspapers. - Information about successful Bidders are under the responsibility of Procurement Oversight Unit (POU).
Legislations / Regulations		√	
Strategic Documents (Plans and Reports)	- Organisational profile (overview, objectives, functions) - Annual Reports - Fishing Agreements - Fisheries Plans & Strategies. - Sey-EU agreement Audits	√	√
International Reports	- FiTi Report - Seychelles Report to IOTC	√	√
Certificates and Licences	-Authorisation -Registration of Concession for Boat Owners/Processor Exporter	√	√
Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS)	-Licences -Economic contribution -Import and Export Fisheries - Management plans	√	
Personal Information	-Fishers Licences -Employee files		√
Commercial/Internal Documents	-Board of Directors Meeting Minutes		√

## SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE SFA

Services	Responsible to	Description	How to access those services
Licences and permits	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance		FAQ-SFA Website
Monitoring, Control and Surveillance	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance		
Fisheries Management	Fisheries Resources Management & Fisheries Technical Coordination	Ensuring that fishing and other fishing activities are in accordance with the Fisheries Act and Regulations and other international arrangements/ agreements to which Seychelles is a party.	
Fish sampling	Fisheries Research		Via email or Physical request
Value Addition-Quality Assurance	Product Development & Quality Assurance (PDQA)	Technical advice to investors in the fish processing and Fish Added Value Sector	Via email or Physical request
Development of Aquaculture Industry	Aquaculture	Technical advice to investors in the Aquaculture sector	Via email or Physical request
Sale of Ice	Ports Management and Facilities	Sale of ice for fishing trips	At equipped fishing ports
Sale of Fuel	Ports Management and Facilities	Fuel for fishing trips	At equipped fishing ports
Fuel Concessions		Assessing credit facilities to the fisheries sector.	Via email or Physical request
Value Added and Trade Tax concession		Government SI Tax concession on fuel and other fishing and fisheries activity.	Via email or Physical request
Fuel incentive scheme			Via email or Physical request
Infrastructure Development	Project & EU Collaboration	Assess the needs and develop infrastructure for fishing communities	
Economic Management	Statistics and Fisheries Economics		

Fisheries Insurance Scheme		A voluntary insurance to a value up to 2 million rupees	Via email or Physical request
Fisheries Research	Fisheries Research	<p>-To guide the development of research initiatives and to improve knowledge on the stock status and ecosystems that support fisheries.</p> <p>-To inform the development of fisheries management plans</p>	

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE FORMULATION OF THE POLICY**

Public Involvement in the formulation of policy or the exercise of powers or performance of duties by the Seychelles Fishing Authority.

One of the Seychelles Fishing Authority's value is inclusivity and constant dialogue with all its stakeholders. Through the newly recruited Liaison Officer (October 2023) two-way communication is being done daily with all concerned parties. All projects follow strict protocol of continuous communication. The SFA remains available through digital requests such as emails as and walk in. Such requests are dealt with within a 14-day period and may be extended upon discussion with the concerned party.

This Manual is made available in the following official language – English.

A copy of this Manual or the updated version thereof, is also available as follows-

1. On the official website of the Seychelles Fishing Authority.
2. At the Seychelles Fishing authority Headquarters specifically at the Information Officer's Office/ PR Office
3. To any person upon request
4. To the information Commission upon request

**UPDATING OF THE MANUAL**

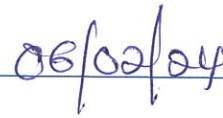
The Seychelles Fishing Authority will, if necessary, update and publish this Manual annually.

**Issued by:**



Ms. Julia Malbrook

**Information Officer**

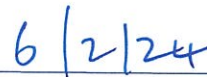


**Date**



Dr Jan Robinson

**Head of Information Holder**



**Date**



**OFFICAL STAMP**