

**27th IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
(ICCP) OF THE
MAHE PLATEAU TRAP AND LINE FISHERY CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN
(MPTLFCP)**

Seychelles National Museum, Victoria, Mahe
Thursday 27 March 2025: 1000-
1400Hrs

Introduction

The 27th meeting of the Implementation Committee for the Co-Management Plan (ICCP) of the Mahé Plateau demersal trap and line fishery was held at the Seychelles National Museum, Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles, on the 27th of March 2025.

1. Opening to the meeting

Mr. Roy Clarisse, Principal Secretary (PS) of the Department of Fisheries at the Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy (MoFBE), opened the meeting by welcoming the participants expressing this appreciation for the high turnout.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting proceeded with the chairperson, Mr Roy Clarisse. The agenda approved agenda as presented in Appendix 1. The chair requested a round of introduction.

The list of documents circulated in advance of the meeting is detailed in Appendix 2.

There were 33 participants in the meeting, including 10 ICCP members and six (6) other stakeholders or observers. Participants were free to use any of the three national languages. The list of participants is included in Appendix 3.

3. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Elisa Radegonde (SFA) presented the progress documented in the working paper ICCP27/WD/2.

Developments Since the Last Meeting

Last ICCP meeting (26th) held on 19th November 2024 and the progress on Mahe Plateau Co-management Plan implementation since then are as follows:

Communication strategy

ICCP Secretariat working on a strategy to promote Phase I measures beyond size limits.; launch by June 2025.

Red fish posters

Quotations received for 100 A0 posters differentiating, Bourzwa (Emperor Red Snapper), Terez (Humpback Red Snapper), Bordmar (Humphead Snapper). Posters will feature adhesive and plain backgrounds to prevent species misidentification.

Compliance size limit rulers

Compliance size limit rulers installed at SFA fish markets (Mahé, Praslin, La Digue), promote the 32 cm minimum size to assist customers in making responsible purchasing decisions.

Joint initiative between Fisheries Management Section & Business Development & Property Section.

Accessibility to AM Frequency Radio

SFA followed up with SBC on outcome of discussions with SBC CEO, while issue still pending with SMSA.

Legislation

Finalization of Fisheries bill ongoing.

Stakeholders: SFA, Ministry of Fisheries & Blue Economy, AG's Office; expected to be Gazetted and tabled before National Assembly by end of April 2025.

Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS)

MCS department provided update on action plan under Agenda Item 4.

Fisheries Research Update

Size-at-maturity studies near completion and exceeded targets for Bourzwa (Emperor Red Snapper), Vyey Makonde (Brownspotted Grouper), Zob Gri (Green Jobfish).

➤ Kordonnyen sampling:

Only target for Kordonnyen Blan (Shoemaker Spinefoot) achieved.

Targets for Kordonnyen Soulfanm, Lafimen & Margrit not met due to rarity in catch.

➤ Size-at-maturity study:

Varavara report being finalized.

Bordmar report under review.

Zob Gri report shared with stakeholders, awaiting feedback.

➤ New research project in 2025:

Focus: Spawning/nursery areas of Bourzwa (*Lutjanus sebae*).

Methods: Questionnaire survey (Mar–Apr 2025), pilot boat survey in 2025.

Full-scale survey planned for 2026.

Fishermen Pension Scheme

Awareness campaign starts April 1; SPF key partner; EU co-funding 50%.

Status Update: Independent Consultant for Phase I Evaluation

Recruitment process underway.

Terms of Reference (TOR) drafted and under internal review.

Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) expected by mid-April 2025.

ACTIONS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

➤ **SRC Payroll Submission**

SRC mandates monthly salary submissions for full-time employees.

No official communication yet made to fishermen representatives.

➤ **Fishermen Allowances for ICCP Meetings**

SFA to consider proposal during mid-term budget review.

➤ **High Absenteeism at ICCP Meetings**

Advisory letters sent to representatives.

Request for confirmation of intent to attend, with official confirmation of focal point and alternate.

ICCP Meeting Arrangements

Meeting held in hybrid format (physical & virtual).

Hardcopy documents available upon advance request (1-day notice required).

Action Required

ICCP members to review updates and seek clarification where necessary.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Compliance Ruler and Public Awareness

The Seychelles Fisheries Authority (SFA) is distributing compliance rulers to fishers and installing the latter at fish retailing outlets for consumers awareness, ensuring transparency and awareness about the 32 cm size limit. A fisherman representative explained that the 32 cm size limit, is approximately equivalent to 14 inches. The stakeholders recommend clear marking and further publicity efforts while collaborating with the Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) to ensure fish certification.

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:

➤ **Accessibility to AM Frequency Radio**

SFA to follow up with SBC on outcome of discussions with SBC CEO.

The issue to be taken up also with SMSA.

SFA to liaise with SBS to ensure certified fish meet required measurement standards.

➤ **Pension Scheme for Fishermen**

Consultations took place in various areas of Mahé about a new pension scheme for fishermen. Fishers expressed concerns about not knowing enough about the scheme. Many were unclear about how to contribute and learned that payments should be made at the Seychelles Pension Fund office.

Seychelles has not ratified the ILO Convention related to the pension scheme. Fishermen need to contribute to the pension scheme to receive its benefits. Efforts to raise awareness about the pension payment process will start on 1 April 2025. The Chair noted that questions about this should have been asked in earlier regional meetings, and the Implementation Committee for the Co-management Plan is not the right place for detailed discussions on the pension scheme. Concerns should be directed to Mr. Philippe Michaud, the focal point for this initiative.

➤ **Research on Shoemaker Species**

A question was raised regarding the Research Section's data collection efforts on shoemaker species, particularly *Kordonnyen Soulfanm*, *Lafimen*, and *Margrit*.

Challenges Identified: The team has not met sampling goals due to low catch rates of these species.

Response: Sampling is conducted annually and is limited to available catches. Sampling is random and may not coincide with periods of higher abundance.

Potential Improvement: Cascade was identified as a promising area for these species and may offer better sampling opportunities if targeted.

MCS MONITORING AND VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE TO THE FISHERIES REGULATIONS 2021

Overview & Introduction

Focused on enforcement of 2021 fisheries regulations from Jan 2024 to Feb 2025. Challenges in MCS staffing and resource constraints were noted.

Key Enforcement Developments

- Additional enforcement staff hired in 2025.
- Surveillance increased via market inspections, patrols, and joint operations with Coast Guard and Police.
- *Surveillance II enforcement vessel to aid reinforcement of compliance on Praslin & La Digue.*
- Emphasis on education and awareness, especially for recreational fishers.

2024-2025 Enforcement Summary:

- **2024 Highlights:**
 - 49 market inspections, 1 infraction (undersized red snapper).
 - 60 land patrols, 17 infractions.
- **2025 (Jan–Feb):**
 - 13 land patrols, 3 infractions.
 - 3 coastal patrols, 3 infractions.

Annex 1 – MCS Strategies

- Significance of community-based MCS in artisanal and recreational fisheries.
- Adaptive, intelligence-driven operations emphasized.
- Recreational fishers remain a challenge due to lack of registration.

MCS Structure

- 3 units under Enforcement Section:
 - **Port Control** (7 staff): in-port inspections.
 - **Surveillance** (4 staff): land, sea, air patrols.
 - **Post Harvest** (3 staff): fish markets, restaurants, export inspections.

Discussions and recommendations:

There was a query regarding the number of staff, and it was clarified that more staff had been approved for the surveillance unit. There were also inquiries about trips to Praslin and La Digue, which showed two trips have been made to those islands. Staff from the Seychelles Fisheries Authority (SFA) are present on both islands, assisting with enforcement activities.

4. FORMATION OF A WORKING GROUP TO ASSESS AND PROMOTE MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAHE PLATEAU FINFISH PRODUCTS (ICCP27-WD-4)

Background

The Working Group was formed following SWIOFish3 recommendations to explore and promote market opportunities for Mahe Plateau finfish. The goal is to enhance economic sustainability and market access for artisanal fisheries.

Mandate

- Review SWIOFish3 findings.
- Recommend viable marketing strategies.
- Evaluate local, regional, and international markets.
- Identify regulatory and logistical barriers.
- Propose branding and value addition measures.

Composition

- Includes SFA Board, Ministry of Fisheries, fisher representatives, processors, and SFA technical reps.
- Members: Marc Gonthier, Shariff Antoine, Rona Albert, Maggie Moustache, Rodney Nicole, Shantilal Dhanjee, Neddy Labrosse, Jean-Claude Hoareau, Louis Bossy, and Paul Morin.

Lifespan

- Temporary, duration determined by ICCP.

Scope & Functions

- Analyse feasibility of 5 strategies from SWIOFish3.
- Recommend improvements on quality, branding.
- Facilitate industry collaboration.

Meetings & Reporting

- Minimum 4 meetings/year.
- Quorum is 2/3 of members.
- Mid-year reports to ICCP.

Discussions and recommendations:

A proposal was made to include consumers on a board, suggesting adding a representative from the tourism industry as needed. The first meeting is planned for mid-April 2025, and the chair will have a casting vote in case of a tie. The committee also agreed on the Terms of Reference for the working group.

5. ICCP DISCUSSION ON SAS SCHEDULE & MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

Meeting Context:

The details of the activities scheduled planned for the Stock Assessment Sub-Committee (SAS) for the year 2025 was provided.

Key Points Discussed:

1. SAS Meeting Schedule for 2025

- **SAS9** scheduled for **April 2025**
 - Agenda: Review of the Performance Management System (PMS); Presentation of 2024 Artisanal Fisheries Stock Assessment.
- **SAS10** scheduled for **October 2025**
 - Agenda: Review of ICCP-referred management issues; Assessment of stock monitoring activities; Proposal of new management measures based on scientific findings.

2. Membership Composition Review

- ICCP agreed on the need to review and possibly revise the current SAS membership to enhance advisory capacity.
- **Focus areas for revision include:**
 - Inclusion of more technical experts in stock assessment.
 - Strengthening participation from researchers, industry stakeholders, and community representatives.
 - Ensuring the SAS structure remains aligned with the evolving objectives of the Mahé Plateau Co-Management Plan.

3. Current SAS Composition

- 3 members from the ICCP.
- 4 members from SFA (2 from Research, 1 from Management, 1 from Statistics).
- 1 external expert in stock assessment.

Decisions & Action Points:

- **ICCP endorsed** the proposed SAS meeting schedule for 2025.
- **ICCP approved** the review of the SAS membership composition to be conducted during the same meeting.
- **SFA tasked** with preparing a proposal for a revised SAS structure, incorporating broader stakeholder participation and technical expertise.

Next Steps:

- SAS9 to be held in April 2025.
- SAS10 to follow in October 2025.
- Revised SAS structure to be presented and discussed further at the next ICCP session.

Discussions and recommendations:

Members of the SAS Committee do not need to be experts in stock assessment; practical knowledge and experience in the fishery are enough. Designated experts will handle technical research. The Chair will consult the current SAS Chair about his interest and commitment, and welcomes more members to strengthen the committee. There was a suggestion to invite other organizations interested in the fishery to improve participation and diversity in perspectives. For the Vice-Chair position, it was proposed that during the first SAS meeting of

the year, members choose between appointing a permanent Vice-Chair or continuing to elect one only when the Chair is absent.

7. SI 77 OF 2021 – FISHERIES (MAHÉ PLATEAU TRAP AND LINE FISHERY) REGULATIONS 2021 (ICCP27-WD-6)

Main Objectives

- To implement the Mahé Plateau Co-management Plan.
- Regulate gear, species, size limits, and fishing practices.

Key Regulations

- **Minimum Size:** 32 cm fork length for Emperor Red Snapper (Bourzwa) and Green Jobfish (Zob Gri).
- **Bag Limits:**
 - Recreational fishers: 20 fish/day, max 5 each of bourzwa and zob gri.
 - Semi-industrial vessels: 20 demersal fish/trip.
- **Trap Restrictions:**
 - 25 for commercial vessels, 2 for recreational.
 - Special restrictions at rabbitfish spawning sites (e.g., max 6 traps, no overnight traps Sept–April).

Prohibited Species

- Guitarfish, Ornate Eagle Ray, Giant Devil Ray, Shortfin Devil Ray – should not be in possession of the species and must be released alive and unharmed.
- Should those species upon being caught found dead they should be release back into the sea.

Sales Restrictions

- Recreational and sport fishers are prohibited from selling fish.
- Buyers must purchase only from licensed commercial fishers.

Penalties

- Breaches can result in fines up to SCR 20,000 and fish forfeiture.
- Spot fines to introduce fixed penalties should be in with the approval of the Fisheries Bill.

Discussions and recommendations:

- To have the creole names of the different species of ray and guitar fish listed to facilitate identification.
- The SFA to circulate the photos of the ray and guitar fish to get the creole names from the ICCP Stakeholders to enhance the identification.

8. ASSESSMENT OF SFA' S PROGRESS ON TRAP TAGGING

- A total of **114 commercial applications** were received, but only **20 fishers completed the process**, indicating low uptake.
- A significant **disparity exists between commercial (191) and recreational (1)** trap markings.
- Registrations have **declined since October 2022**, with commercial trap registrations dropping from **539 to 415** and recreational from **48 to 18**.
- The process is hindered by limited human resources and challenges with monitoring self-tagging practices and offshore trap locations.

2. Challenges Identified

- **System Design Flaws:** Suspension of the tagging process due to issues with tag coding; administrative burden persists.
- **Lost Tags:** Tags struck from the registry when lost, but effective monitoring is essential to ensure system integrity.
- **Workforce Limitations:** Staff shortages have delayed tagging efforts and limited enforcement capacity.
- **Monitoring at Sea:** Offshore trap deployment (up to 30 km) complicates inspections, increasing costs and reducing efficiency.
- **Self-Tagging Issues:** Reliance on fisher compliance without supervision raises risks of improper or fraudulent tagging.
- **Rising Costs and Non-Compliance Risk:** Increased operational demands and insufficient patrol capacity have escalated costs and allowed potential non-compliance.

3. Way Forward and Recommendations

- **New Tag Format Proposed:**
 - “Cxxx” for commercial traps and “Rxxx” for recreational.
 - Buoys to be attached with zip ties; tags not reissued unless the original is returned.
 - Registration deemed complete upon issuance and handover of tag.
- **Awareness Campaigns:**
 - Targeted campaigns to promote understanding and compliance.
 - Workshops and support for self-tagging fishers.
- **Integration with License Renewals:**
 - Tags to be issued during commercial license renewal to encourage compliance.
- **Recreational Fisher Engagement:**
 - Simplify and promote the process for recreational fishers through outreach and education.
- **Technology Integration:**
 - Explore GPS-enabled tags or a mobile app for real-time monitoring.

- Develop a **digital registry** to enhance traceability, monitoring, and fraud prevention.

Decisions & Action Points:

- ICCP supports the revised tagging strategy and proposed improvements.
- SFA to implement the new tag format and prepare for integration with license renewals.
- Awareness and training programs to be developed and rolled out.
- Further study on digital and GPS solutions to be undertaken for 2025 implementation.
- Issue of the traps being stolen was a common issue.

Way forward:

Tagging Device Demonstration: SFA Enforcement is to present the tagging device at the next meeting.

9. REVIEW OF THE LICENSING FRAMEWORK

The Committee reviewed the **new classification system** for small-scale fishing vessels as outlined in the **Fisheries Bill**.

- Vessels are categorized into **Classes 1–4** based on length and propulsion type.
- Ownership must be **100% Seychellois**, and **crew requirements** vary by class.
- **Permitted fishing activities** differ by class, with certain gears and species limited to higher classes.

Current Licensing Framework

- A total of **545 licenses** have been issued for general small-scale fishing under Classes 1 and 2.
- Additional licenses:
 - **41 Net Fishing licenses** (e.g., for mackerel, sardines).
 - **64 Semi-Industrial Tuna Longline licenses** (Classes 3–4; restricted from Mahé Plateau).
 - **3 Dropline licenses** (Classes 3–4; also restricted from Mahé Plateau).
 - **25 Sea Cucumber licenses** (season closed until October 2023).
- **Recreational and charter/sport fishing vessels** are not yet fully integrated into SFA's system—currently under **SMSA** regulation.

Digitalization of Vessel Registry and Licensing

- **SFA is developing a digital vessel registry** to enhance efficiency and compliance monitoring.
- **Responsibility for registration:**
 - Vessel registration: **SMSA**
 - Licensing and digital registry: **SFA**
- The SFA aims to complete digitalization by **September 2025** and proceed to **Phase 3**, focusing on the permit system.

Planned Digital Modules

The registry will include the following modules:

- Client & vessel registration
- License/certificate of authorization issuance
- Enforcement and compliance tracking
- Catch certification
- Fuel uptake monitoring
- VMS integration
- Dynamic client types (e.g., fishers, processors)
- Fisher registration
- Digital permit application and issuance

DECISIONS & ACTION POINTS

Queries on Classification and Gear Allocation:

- Concerns raised about Class 2 (6–12 meters, *Lekonomi*), noting that outboard and inboard engines are not clearly captured within current classifications.
- It was noted that traps are currently only allocated in Classes 1 and 2, but should also be permitted in Class 3.
- Concerns were also raised regarding net usage and the lack of consideration for deepwater lobster fisheries.
- Dropline allocation being limited to Classes 3 and 4 was also flagged as an issue.

Clarification:

- The Fisheries Comprehensive Plan has been under discussion since 2018, and while these issues should have been considered, fisheries are dynamic and evolve over time.
- It was highlighted that the vessel registry is included in the current Fisheries Bill and set to be endorsed. However, since it is in a schedule, it can be amended.
- SFA will review the proposals before final submission to the National Assembly.

Action Points

- Endorsed the new classification system and current licensing overview.
- Acknowledged the need for improved coordination between Seychelles Maritime and Safety Administration (SMSA) and SFA.
- SFA to continue with digitalization efforts and ensure the September 2025 deadline is met.
- SFA to **develop a roadmap for Phase 3** focused on permit systems and enhanced data integration.
- Further discussions to explore **policy alignment** for recreational and sport fishing licensing once SFA's digital registry is operational.

10. REVISIT THE RULES OF PROCEDURES OF THE ICCP

1. Purpose of Discussion

- ICCP members reviewed the **Rules of Procedure** (originally approved on **27 March 2019**) to ensure all members are informed of their **roles, responsibilities, decision-making processes, and structural arrangements** under the Mahe Plateau Co-management Plan.

- The aim is to **enhance transparency, accountability, and participation** for effective governance of the demersal trap and line fishery.

2. Key Rules Revisited

Authority

- Implementation authority derives from the **Fisheries Act 2014**, with provisions for co-management approved by Cabinet.

Roles & Responsibilities

- The Committee oversees the implementation of the plan, evaluates progress, proposes adjustments, monitors compliance and education efforts, and ensures reports are made publicly available.

Membership

- **14 members maximum**, equally split between **primary** and **secondary** stakeholders.
- Appointment processes, alternates, and grounds for membership termination were clarified.

Officers

- The **Chairperson** is appointed by the Minister; the **Vice-Chairperson** is elected and must be from a different stakeholder group than the Chair.
- SFA acts temporarily in their absence.

Secretariat

- Handled by **SFA**, responsible for administrative and technical support, meeting logistics, recordkeeping, and communication.

Meetings

- Held **quarterly**, with the possibility of additional meetings based on need and budget.
- **Quorum is a simple majority**, and **decisions should aim for consensus**.

Agenda

- Set by the Chair in consultation with the Secretariat.
- Members can propose items at least one week in advance.

Voting

- One vote per member.
- Voting [SFA Board procedures; secret ballots and roll-call voting allowed].

Observers and Other Stakeholders

- **Non-member associations and experts** may attend in an observer capacity, without voting rights.

Sub-committees

- Can be formed for specialized tasks and must report back within a set time. Rules of Procedure apply mutatis mutandis.

Records and Reports

- Draft minutes sent to Chair within two days for approval, followed by circulation for member feedback.
- Final minutes distributed within 15 days.
- Annual report on implementation to be reviewed by ICCP and submitted to the Minister.

Amendments

- Rule changes require a **two-thirds majority** and Ministerial approval.

Funding

- **SFA is responsible** for meeting and administrative costs.

3. Points Raised During Discussion

- Members agreed that **understanding the Rules of Procedure** is essential for effective participation.
- There was discussion on **revising the number of ICCP members** to better reflect evolving stakeholder needs and improve functionality.
- Suggestions were made to update roles based on recent developments (e.g. digitalisation, compliance issues).

4. Decisions and Action Points

The relevance of a clause regarding chairing meetings in the absence of a chair or vice-chair was discussed, suggesting it may need revision. There is a need to address committee membership, particularly with new fishermen's associations forming, and to consider increasing the membership of primary stakeholders. It was agreed that the status of these stakeholders should be verified for activity at the Registry. Any proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure (ROP) will be presented at the next ICCP meeting. The ICCP Secretariat will circulate the ROP (Rules of Procedure) to all ICCP and SAS members as a refresher. The proposed revision of membership numbers will also be explored and shared at the next meeting. The Secretariat will prepare a summary sheet on key Rules for new members onboarding. The Chair will write to a non-governmental organisation about joining the ICCP as a secondary stakeholder, and the committee will suggest other NGOS for membership.

11. Election of Vice-Chairperson

Background:

- As per **Clause 5** of the **ICCP Rules of Procedure**, the Vice-Chairperson must:
 - Be elected from either the **primary** or **secondary stakeholder groups** (but not the same group as the Chairperson).
 - Serve a **term of two years** and be **eligible for re-election**.
 - Outgoing vice chair, Mr. Darell Green, stood for two terms.

Nomination and Election Process:

- The nomination of **Mr. Faizal Suleman**, the representative of the **recreational fishermen**, was proposed.
- The nomination was **seconded** by a member of the Committee.
- A vote was conducted among all ICCP members present at the meeting.

Outcome:

- **Mr. Faizal Suleman was unanimously elected** as the new **Vice-Chairperson** of the ICCP.
- All members **in attendance voted in favour** of his appointment.

Action Point:

- The **Secretariat** will update the official records and notify the Minister of the election result.
- Mr. Suleman's term as **Vice-Chairperson** will be for **two years**, effective from the date of this meeting.

12. A.O.B.

i. Fishermen Associations & Licensing

- **Formation of Anse Aux Pins Fishermen Association** was noted.
- **SFA licensing database is currently non-functional**, affecting access to licensing information.
- Concerns raised over **lack of registration of recreational fishermen**, who are **engaging in commercial sale of fish**.

ii. Workforce & Labour Retention in the Artisanal Sector

- Noted **shortage of local Seychellois workforce** in the artisanal fishery sector, which is legally **reserved for Seychellois only**.
- **Ms. Clarisse** explained:
 - A **policy paper** on labour recruitment and retention in the fisheries sector is being developed by the **Ministry's Policy Unit**.
 - The paper will be **presented to the Cabinet of Ministers** and has been **shared with the ICCP**.
- Ms. Stephanie Radegonde noted:
 - **Yachting industry competition** (comfort, internet access, higher pay) affects artisanal sector crew retention.
 - Ministry is seeking ways to **absorb vocational-skilled students** who may lack academic qualifications.
 - **Short courses** are being offered to help school leavers enter the sector.
 - **Pension schemes** are in place to support retention.

iii. Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

- Seychelles is now **FiTI (Fisheries Transparency Initiative) Compliant**; SFA to leverage social media for outreach.
- Stakeholder event notices should be **sent through the Seychelles and Fishermen Boat Owners Association (SFBOA)** for broader dissemination among members.

- **SFA liaison officer** and the **Ministry's Facebook page** are being used to share key information.

iv. Co-management Plan Participation and Contributions

- Emphasis on **shared responsibility**: all ICCP members should **contribute and show efforts** towards implementing management measures.
- Members are encouraged to **present evidence** (photos or verbal presentations) of their contributions at meetings.

v. National Exhibition Participation (28–29 June 2025)

- The exhibition will be **centred on alimentation (food & nutrition)**.
- Fishers are encouraged to **participate**.
- Interested parties should **contact the SFA Liaison Officer or PR Officer** to confirm their participation.

13. Next Meeting

The 28th ICCP meeting will be held on Thursday, June xx, 2025, at the STC Conference Room, Latanier Road, Victoria.

Appendix 1

Agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

24th IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (ICCP) OF THE MAHE PLATEAU TRAP AND LINE FISHERY CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN (MPTLFCP)

Seychelles National Museum Conference Room

Victoria Mahe

Thursday 27 April 2025: 1000-1400 Hrs

1. Opening to the Meeting

Remarks by the Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy (MoFBE)

2. Adoption of the agenda

To be moved by the Chairperson.

3. Developments since the last meeting and follow-up on recommendations from 2024

The ICCP will be briefed on key developments since the 26th ICCP meeting held on 28th November 2024. This will include updates on ongoing communication with fishers, relevant matters from the SFA and the Secretariat, and a review of actions taken in response to the recommendations from the last meeting.

4. MCS monitoring and compliance with the Fisheries Regulations 2021.

The SFA MCS Section will update the meeting on the results of patrols and enforcement actions undertaken since its last report to the 26th ICCP.

5. Formation of a Working Group to Assess and Promote Market Opportunities for Mahe Plateau Finfish Products.

Based on findings from a SWIOFish3 project consultant, "Marketing opportunities for finfish Products of the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co- management plan' it was recommended that a working group is being established to assess and enhance market opportunities for Mahe Plateau finfish products. The group will evaluate five potential marketing strategies. The Terms of Reference (TOR) and the composition of the group will be reviewed.

6. SAS schedule of meetings and membership.

The ICCP plans two meetings for the Stock Assessment Sub-Committee (SAS) in 2025, focusing on the annual review of the Performance Management System, stock assessments conducted and fisheries management issues. The review aims to align the SAS with strategic objectives, improve its advisory role, and enhance stakeholder participation. The ICCP will review the composition of the members of SAS and the SAS schedule of meetings.

7. Proposed amendment to the Regulations

The Fisheries (Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery) Regulations 2021 is being revised to include the prohibition of the fishing and possession of guitarfish, reinforcing conservation measures for these vulnerable species. The ICCP will review the proposed regulatory updates.

8. Assessment of SFA's Progress on Trap Tagging

The meeting will review SFA's progress on implementing trap tagging under the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Regulations 2021. The assessment will focus on its effectiveness, compliance, and contribution to sustainable fishing practices.

9. Review of the Licensing Framework

The licensing framework for the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery aims to strengthen the control and monitoring of fishing activities, providing a structured approach to managing fishing efforts. This framework is intended to support future effort reductions to mitigate the risk of overfishing. The scheme's current status will be reviewed.

10. Revisit the Rules of Procedures of the ICCP

ICCP members will be informed about the Rules of Procedure to clearly understand their roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes. This ensures transparency, accountability, and effective participation in discussions, ultimately supporting the successful implementation of the Mahe Plateau Co-management Plan.

11. Election of vice- chair of ICCP

Clause 5 of the ICCP Rules states that the vice chairperson must serve two years and be eligible for re-election. According to the Rules of procedure the Minister nominates a chairperson, and the vice chairperson must be from primary or secondary stakeholder groups.

12. Other matters.

13. Date and place of the next meeting.

Appendix 2

List of Documents circulated in advance of the meeting.

Working documents

ICCP27/WD/1. Agenda.

ICCP27/WD/2. Developments since the last meeting.

ICCP27/WD/3. MCS Monitoring and compliance to the Fisheries Regulations 2021

ICCP27 /WD/4. Formation of a Working Group to Assess and Promote Market Opportunities for Mahe Plateau Finfish Products.

ICCP27/WD/5. Stock Assessment Sub-Committee (SAS) Schedule of Meetings and Membership Review

ICCP27/ WD/ 6. Proposed amendment to Fisheries (Mahé Plateau Trap and Line Fishery) Regulations 2021.

ICCP27/WD/7. Assessment of SFA's Progress on Trap Tagging.

ICCP27/WD/8. Review of the Licensing Framework

Information documents

ICCP27/ID/1. List of Documents

ICCP27/ID/2 Minutes of the 26th ICCP meeting of 28th November 2024

ICCP27/ID/ 3 ICCP Rules of Procedures

Appendix 3

List of Participants

Members, other Stakeholders and Secretariat

Members	
Rodney Nicole	Bel Ombre Fishermen Association
Ray Payet	Lasosyasyon Peser La Digue
Jean- Claude Hoareau	Fishtech
Nancy Onginjo Ramkalawan	Seychelles Boat Owners and Fishermen Association (SFBOA)
Shantilal Dhanjee	Hire Craft (Fishing) Representative
Faizal Suleman	Recreational Fisher Representative
Terrence Labrosse, Neddy Labrosse	Roche Caiman Fishers Association
Jan Robinson	Seychelles Fisheries Authority (SFA)
Roy Clarisse, Stephanie Radegonde	Department of Fisheries (MOFBE)
Phillippe Michaud	Consultant (MOFBE)
Other Stakeholders / Observers	
Naron Payet	Chair of Seychelles Semi- Industrial Fishing Association (SSIFA)
Theophane Estro	Anse Aux Pins Fishermen Representative
Albert Napier	National Coordinator Stella Maris
Jeffery. J. Benoiton	Anse Royale Fishermen Association
Neville Bonnelame	Anse Boileau Fishermen Association
Steve Payet	Boat Owners and Fishermen Association of Seychelles (BOFAS)
Secretariat	
Elisa Radegonde	Assistant-Manager, Resource Management (SFA)
Alison Hoareau	Fisheries Officer (SFA)
Joanne Lucas	Fisheries Officer, Resource Management (SFA)
Daniel Bristol	Fisheries Officer, Resource Management (SFA)
Stephanie Hollanda	Fisheries Scientist, Research (SFA)
Rodney Govinden	Head of Department, Fisheries Research (SFA)
Barbara Hoareau	Senior Liaison Officer (SFA)
Vincent Lucas	Head of Department, Fisheries Resource Management & Technical Coordination Department (SFA)
Betty Victor	Senior Technical Fisheries Coordinator (SFA)
Isha Coopposamy	Assistant Manager, License and Permit (SFA)
Emilie Augustin	Fisheries Statistician (SFA)
Claire Pierre- Louis	Senior Statistical Officer (SFA)
Sharif Antoine	Senior Fisheries Economist (SFA)

Karyss Belle	MCS Manager (SFA)
Petra Morel	Senior Legal Officer (SFA)
Yannick Roucou	Legal Advisor (SFA)
Absent with excuse	
Kevin Moumou	Min of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE)
Absent	
Darell Green	Praslin Fishermen Association
Mervin Dugasse	Seychelles Sports Fishing Clubs (SSFC)
General Manager	Green Island Foundation (GIF)