28th IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (ICCP) OF THE MAHE PLATEAU TRAP AND LINE FISHERY CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN (MPTLFCP)

Seychelles Trading Company (STC), Latanier Road, Victoria, Mahe

Thursday 12 June 2025: 1000-1400Hrs

Introduction

The 28th 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 Trading Company (STC), Latanier Road, Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles, on the Thursday 12 June 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 disappointment for the low turnout, expressing that given the lack of a quorum any decision that needs to be taken as recommendations and will be referred back to the ICCP upon the next meeting, when there is availability of a majority of members. It was stressed to send the invitation three weeks in advance for the members to have at least one week, in which to confirm their participation. If two weeks beforehand there is still lack of a quorum, then the meeting will be rescheduled.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The provisional agenda was moved for adoption by the chairperson, Mr Roy Clarisse. The agenda, adopted without amendment is 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 23 participants in the meeting, including (seven) 7 ICCP members and three (3) 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

The Secretariat briefed the Committee on the progress made since the 27th ICCP meeting held on 27 March 2025, summarizing key developments under communication, research, legislation, and compliance.

3.1 Communication and Awareness

3.1.1 The ICCP Secretariat is finalizing procurement for a series of educational posters to improve awareness of Phase 1 regulations under the Co-Management Plan.

Recommendation:

- Posters were being asked to be provided in creole. Should be applicable for future use.
- The posters be distributed to SMSA (to annex HC licenses), Hunt Deltel (to accompany marina mooring licenses), and fish markets and landing sites. The full regulation, referencing the Fisheries Act, will also be included.

3.1.2 Some of the 100 species identification posters, which distinguish the main snapper species (bourzwa, terez, and bordmar), have been distributed to landing sites and fish markets.

3.1.3 Preparations are underway for the broadcast of promotional videos on SBC Television from June–August 2025 to further promote compliance.

➢ **Action:** Secretariat to coordinate poster and video dissemination in collaboration with the PR Unit by mid-June 2025.

3.2 Feedback on Compliance Rulers

3.2.1 Feedback from fishers indicates that decal rulers deteriorate quickly. The Fisheries Management and Technical Coordination Department have been advised by the Licensing and Permit Unit to procure durable sticker-type compliance rulers with clearly marked 32 cm limits for distribution.

3.3 AM Frequency and Emergency Communications

3.3.1 SFA followed up with SMSA regarding AM frequency re-activation for vessel communication. SMSA confirmed collaboration with NISCC and DRMD to restore the AM network as an emergency service. No feedback has yet been received from SBC.

➢ **Action**: Secretariat to follow up with SMSA and SBC before the next meeting.

3.4 Legislative Update

3.4.1 The Committee noted that the Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill were enacted in May 2025 and will become the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 2025 following Presidential assent.

3.5 Fisheries Research Updates

3.5.1 Ongoing length sampling of key demersal and reef species has met or exceeded targets for early 2025.

3.5.2 The spawning aggregation survey for Emperor red snapper (Lutjanus sebae) completed its first questionnaire phase, with 59 interviews (46 fishers, 11 divers). The Committee noted difficulties obtaining location coordinates from participants, affecting spatial precision.

Action: Research Department to plan next phase of at-sea data collection in Q3 2025.

4. MCS Monitoring and Compliance with the 2021 Fisheries Regulations

The MCS Department presented its enforcement report for January–April 2025, outlining patrol statistics, staffing improvements, and new enforcement mechanisms.

4.1 Summary of Enforcement Activities

Type of Inspection	No. of Inspections	Infractions Recorded	Remarks
Market Inspections	16	1	4 undersized red snappers
Artisanal Landings	34	3	Undersized red snapper (La Retraite & Cascade)
Semi-industrial Vessels	25	0	—
Land Patrol	18	2	Faded SZ numbers
Coastal Patrol	6	5	Faded SZ numbers
Sport Fishing	3	0	—

The Committee commended the MCS for its consistent patrol coverage and noted the recruitment of two additional officers to the Surveillance Unit, raising capacity to six officers.

4.2 Implementation of Spot Fines

The MCS Department confirmed that spot fines will now be used across enforcement units (Port Control, Surveillance, Post-Harvest Inspection) to handle minor offenses such as undersized fish or faded vessel numbers, reducing court dependency.

4.3 Awareness Activities

In commemoration of the International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing (5 June 2025), MCS will hold an awareness session at the Seychelles Maritime Academy (SMA) targeting students and young fishers.

Discussion:

4.3.1 Questions were asked on the way forward to tackle the problem of dealing with the undersized fish which was an issue that the SFA enforcement unit would welcome the thought of the ICCP wherever there was a quorum to find the solution to the matter, given that whenever there were reports then the offenders often step away from the fish intercepted and the culprit it unable to be apprehended. SeyID was proposed to be a venue to locate the offenders.

4.3.2 The legal advisor explained that once the law passes through it will enable the authorised officer to hand out fixed penalties which will deal with the delays of taking effective actions against the offenders, curbing the problems faced with the police cases.

4.3.3 Making uses of cameras which were suggested of being placed in the SFA's market p0remises was being questioned whereby it was explicated that there was still no status about the matter. Photos were being taken but attributing the names to the individual proved to be difficult. The liaison officer explained that there exist the facilities at Cascade, Anse Aux Pins, and Anse Royale.

4.3.4 Reports of undersized red snapper and green jobfish being repeatedly sold near Mike's Store in Beau Vallon were reiterated. Additionally, another incident involving fishing on the rocks at St. Anne was reported via SFA's WhatsApp hotline, but no action appears to have been taken. In the St. Anne case, it was explained that a coastal patrol was conducted; however, the offender was not apprehended. Regarding the Beau Vallon incident involving net fishing, it was later clarified that the individual held a valid fishing licence and was targeting mackerel within the permitted time frame.

Action:

- SFA to report on the status of the cameras on the SFA's market premises.
- Enforcement unit to report about how the SFA's WhatsApp hotline works.

Recommendation: SFA need to do more sensitisation about spots fine.

Inspections in Marinas

4.3.5 Questions were raised about how many inspections done in marinas whereby it was explained that for the first half of the year none has been done, which was stated that there will be inspections done in the future.

Action Required: Inspections are planned for the future. A follow-up is needed to confirm the start date and frequency of these inspections.

MoU Between SFA and Police

4.3.6 Questions were raised in regards to the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the SFA and the police whereby the legal officer stated that things have been moving slow and at a pace that was not too favourable.

Action Required: Continued follow-up is needed to monitor implementation and ensure effective execution of the MoU.

Transfer of SFA Cases to Compols Office

4.3.7 PS Clarisse explained that he had a conversation with the Commissioner of Police (Compol) regarding the transfer of all SFA-related cases to the Compols office. However, the matter is still in progress, with the aim of activating these cases. He assured that a follow-up update will be provided at the next meeting. Additionally, the Manager of Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) highlighted a case that occurred on Praslin, noting that it also requires follow-up.

Action Required: PS Clarisse committed to providing a follow-up update at the next meeting.

4.3.8 A call was raised by the representative of the Roche Caiman fishermen association that all the chairs of the fishermen association should raise awareness about the measures about the plan.

4.3.9 Questions were asked about inspections being done over the weekends whereby it was explained that it was the case but the problem being faced was a lack of manpower, the issue of the enforcement officers not being spot on the ground.

Action Required: Address staffing issues and explore solutions to ensure consistent enforcement presence during weekends.

5. Progress Report on the Stock Assessment Sub-Committee (SAS)

The Research Department presented the 2025 Performance Measurement System (PMS) results, used to monitor progress toward the Co-Management Plan's objectives.

5.1 Key Findings

- 15 performance indicators were checked. Out of these, 12 showed good results, target reference points (TRP) while 3 showed signs of concern, reached limit reference points (LRP).
- The catch rates for both bourzwa and zob gri are stable or improving.
- Over 80% of bourzwa caught were above the size they need to grow and reproduce.
- For zob gri, 28% of the catch nearshore was too small, below Lm50 (40.2 cm FL) which means the size limit may need to be reviewed.

- For kordonnyen (rabbitfish), 42% of those caught in traps were too small, 42 % below Lm50 (23 cm FL), which also needs attention.

5.2 Recommendations

- Review the size limit for zob gri to better protect the stock.
- Work with fishermen to agree on the right size limit for kordonnyen based on research.
- Look into changes in the bourzwa catch around Praslin to see if it's due to fishing habits or changes in the fish population.

Action: The Stock Assessment Sub-Committee (SAS) is required to review the "reference points" used to assess the health of fish stocks. Before moving forward with Phase 2 of the plan, the committee should carefully consider the pros and cons of these reference points to ensure they are both realistic and suitable for effective fishery management.

5.2.1 A point of concern was the two- year data gap in the catch and effort data encountered during analysis, which stemmed from issues related to the statistical unit's role in validating the data. It was emphasized that a discussion between the Statistics Department and the Research Department is necessary to ensure access to the most recent and reliable data.

Recommendation: Future research results of the Performance Measurement System (PMS) be presented visually to enhance understanding among stakeholders.

5.3 Research on Size at Maturity

The Fisheries Research Department of the Seychelles Fisheries Authority (SFA) presented findings on the size at maturity of six demersal fish species commonly caught in the artisanal trap-and-line fishery on the Mahé Plateau. The joint research, conducted by the SFA and CSIRO, focused on six key species—bourzwa, zob gri, varvara, bordmar, vyey makonde, and vyey plat—which are being considered under Phase 2 of the Co-Management Plan. The recommended actions include incorporating the new data into Phase 2 of the Plan and strengthening collaboration between departments to ensure its effective use.

Species Studied and Methodology

- **Species:**

- Emperor red snapper/ Bourzwa (Lutjanus sebae)
- Green jobfish/ Zob gri (Aprion virescens)
- Two-spot red snapper/ Varvara (Lutjanus bohar)
- Humphead snapper Bordmar/ (Lutjanus sanguineus)
- Brownspotted grouper/ Vyey makonde (Epinephelus chlorostigma)
- White-blotched grouper/ Vyey plat (Epinephelus multinotatus)

- **Methodology:**
  - Ungutted fish were purchased from fishers at landing sites.
  - Length and weight measurements were taken.
  - Sex and gonad maturity stages were assessed macroscopically and microscopically.
  - Female gonads were verified by CSIRO experts in Australia.

Key Findings

- **Emperor red snapper:**
  - Size at maturity: 50.9 cm FL (microscopic, females), 56.7 cm FL (macroscopic, females), 75.3 cm FL (macroscopic, males)
  - Report under preparation.
- **Green jobfish**:
  - Size at maturity: 40.2 cm FL (microscopic, females), 42.7 cm FL (macroscopic, females), 51 cm FL (macroscopic, males)
  - Recommendation: Update minimum landing size regulation.
  - Report available on SFA website.
- **Two-spot red snapper:**
  - Size at maturity: 43.4 cm FL (microscopic, females), 60.1 cm FL (macroscopic, males)
  - Report completed and to be published on SFA website.
- **Humphead snapper:**
  - Size at maturity: 50.8 cm TL (microscopic, females)
  - Report under preparation.
- **Brownspotted grouper:**
  - Size at maturity: 22.6 cm TL (microscopic)
  - Low model fit (30%) due to insufficient immature samples.
  - Report available on SFA website.
- **White-blotched grouper:**
  - Sample size insufficient to determine size at maturity.
  - Report available on SFA website.

Recommendations:

- Consider incorporating the new size at maturity estimates into Phase 2 of the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co-management Plan.
- Improve collaboration between the Statistics Department and Research Department to ensure access to the most recent and validated data.
- Present future research results visually to enhance understanding among stakeholders.
- Research department to work in close collaboration with the fisher's association in sampling activities.

Action Items

- Finalize and publish pending research reports.
- Initiate discussions between relevant departments to address data gaps.
- Update regulatory frameworks based on validated biological data.
- Prepare visual materials for next presentation.

6. Amendment to the Rules of Procedure

The Secretariat presented proposed revisions to the Rules of Procedure to:

- Enhance stakeholder participation,
- Improve decision-making processes, and
- Clarify the Secretariat's reporting responsibilities to the Chairperson and the Minister.

The Committee supported the proposed changes and given that there was a lack of a quorum, the Chair suggested that it should be left pending to have more inputs and that the Rules of procedure be endorsed upon the next ICCP meeting.

7. Co-Management Plan Participation and Contributions

Members reflected on the engagement level of various stakeholders in implementing the MPTLFCP.

- Fishers' associations reported progress in community awareness and compliance.
- The Committee agreed to strengthen collaboration with processors, PR initiatives, and local NGOs to mobilise resources and improve participation.
- Members proposed that, every quarter, each stakeholder should share what they have done to support the implementation of the Co-management Plan.

8. A.O.B

8.1 Mr. Michaud informed members that the pension scheme for fishermen, managed by the Pension Fund, is still active and subsidized. He encouraged interested individuals to enrol, noting his disappointment that only 26 participants had registered so far. Members emphasized the need for further discussions with the Pension Fund regarding fishermen who do not currently qualify for the scheme.

8.2 A concern was raised about fishermen being pushed to sell outside the official market, specifically on pallets. It was explained that some of these individuals were involved in illegal activities and were unwilling to contribute to market maintenance, such as cleaning or paying their fair share. This has created challenges in maintaining order and cleanliness within the market.

Action: SFA to brief on the status of enforcing the measures of not selling the fish by the road side.

Mr. Lucas explained the activity that was done through Product Development Quality and Assurance (PDQA) to sensitise the public of the danger of buying fish in unideal places.

9. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next (29th) ICCP meeting was to be scheduled on 18 September 2025, at the STC Headquarters, Mahé, but given the cool- off period the Secretariat will confirm the exact date in due course.

Closure

The Chairperson thanked members for their continued commitment and collaboration and adjourned the meeting at 12:15.

Appendix 1

Agenda
PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Seychelles Trading Company (STC), Latanier Road,
Victoria, Mahe

Thursday 12 June 2025: 1000-1400 Hrs

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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 2025
   The ICCP will be briefed on key developments since the 27th ICCP meeting held on 27th March 2025. 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 27th ICCP.

5. Progress Report on Stock assessment Sub- Committee (SAS)
   The SFA Research Section will provide an update on the Performance Measurement System (PMS), including findings related to key species of concern and the results of 2024 research activities. ICCP members will be invited to provide feedback and discuss opportunities to enhance support for ongoing and future assessment efforts.

6. Amendment to the Rules of Procedure
   The Secretariat will present proposed revisions to the Rules of Procedure governing the ICCP, focusing on strengthening stakeholder engagement, improving decision-making mechanisms, and clarifying roles and responsibilities. The committee will review and agree on any changes for adoption.

7. Co management Plan Participation and Contributions.
   The ICCP will review the various initiatives undertaken by stakeholders in the implementation of the Mahe Plateau Trap and Line Fishery Co-management Plan (MPTLFCP). The Committee will reflect on the level of engagement across stakeholder groups, identify areas where participation can be enhanced, and explore options to strengthen collaboration and resource contributions to the plan.

8. Other matters.

9. Date and place of the next meeting.

Appendix 2

List of Documents circulated in advance of the meeting.

Working documents

ICCP28/WD/1. Agenda.

ICCP28/WD/2. Developments since the last meeting.

ICCP28/WD/3. MCS Monitoring and compliance to the Fisheries Regulations 2021

ICCP28 /WD/4. Performance measurement system 2025

ICCP28/WD/5. Research activities

ICCP28/ WD/6. Amendment to the Rules of Procedure

Information documents

ICCP28/ID/1. List of Documents

ICCP28/ID/2. Minutes of the 27th ICCP meeting of 27th March 2025

ICCP28/ID/3. Performance Measurement System for bourzwa zob and kordonnyen_2025

APPENDIX 3

List of Participants

Members, other Stakeholders and Secretariat

Members	
Ray Payet	Lasosyasyon Peser La Digue
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	Department of Fisheries (MOFBE)
Phillippe Michaud	Consultant (MOFBE)
Other Stakeholders / Observers	
Jeffery. J. Benoiton	Anse Royale Fishermen Association
Neville Bonnelame	Anse Boileau Fishermen Association
Cliff Hermit	Boat Owners and Fishermen Association of Seychelles (BOFAS)
Secretariat	
Elisa Radegonde	Assistant-Manager, Resource Management (SFA)
Alison Hoareau	Fisheries Officer (SFA)
Joanne Lucas	Fisheries Data Analyst, Resource Management (SFA)
Daniel Bristol	Fisheries Officer, Resource Management (SFA)
Sabrena Laurence	Assistant Manager, 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 Coopoosamy	Assistant Manager, License and Permit (SFA)
Emilie Augustin	Fisheries Statistician (SFA)
Claire Pierre- Louis	Senior Statistical Officer (SFA)
Karyss Belle	MCS Manager (SFA)
Yannick Roucou	Legal Advisor (SFA)
Absent with excuse	
Kevin Moumou	Min of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE)

Rodney Nicole	Bel Ombre Fishermen Association
Jean- Claude Hoareau	Fishtech
Nancy Onginjo Ramkalawan	Seychelles Boat Owners and Fishermen Association (SFBOA)
Absent	
Darell Green	Praslin Fishermen Association
Mervin Dugasse	Seychelles Sports Fishing Clubs (SSFC)
General Manager	Green Island Foundation (GIF)