ISSUE 34
OCTOBER 2026



DAN NOU KAZYE

The Seychelles Fisheries Authority Newsletter



TOP NEWS

- Stakeholders Review Draft Lobster Harvest Strategy
- Aquaculture Celebrates 5th Anniversary
- Bel Ombre Ice Plant officially Opens

SFA

"Excellence in Sustainable Fisheries Management and Sector Development"

Message from the CEO Celebrating 5th Anniversary of Aquaculture Seychelles



It is a great pleasure to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of Aquaculture Seychelles under the theme "Diversifying the Seychelles Economy." This milestone marks five years of progress, innovation and commitment towards developing aquaculture as a new pillar of Seychelles' Blue Economy.

Since its establishment in 2021, the sector has made important strides in laying the foundation for a sustainable aquaculture industry. Key developments include progress in establishing aquaculture infrastructure, issuing aquaculture licenses, strengthening technical capacity, advancing research and innovation, and raising public awareness of the opportunities that aquaculture offers. These efforts are helping to build the foundations for future investment, local production, employment and new business opportunities.

Among the notable achievements are the successful production of juvenile mangrove snapper and the stocking of two experimental sea cages at Providence to assess the species' grow-out potential. The team also successfully produced Emperor Red Snapper. Progress has also been made in echinoderm aquaculture, with the successful production of approximately 100 sea urchin juveniles and the successful spawning and rearing of sandfish to the juvenile stage. These milestones represent important steps towards developing the technical expertise and production protocols needed to support future commercial aquaculture ventures.

The sector has also strengthened its scientific contribution through research and international publications, highlighting the evidence base needed to guide the sector's future direction.

While there is still much work ahead, the progress achieved over the past five years reflects the dedication of our staff, partners and stakeholders whose continued contributions are essential to the sector's growth. These achievements demonstrate that Seychelles is steadily building the scientific knowledge, infrastructure and capacity required to transform aquaculture potential into economic opportunity.

As we celebrate this anniversary, let us remain focused on our shared vision of building a responsible, competitive and sustainable aquaculture industry that creates opportunities for Seychellois, supports food security and contributes to economic diversification.

On behalf of the Seychelles Fisheries Authority, I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who has contributed to this journey. May the next chapter bring even greater progress and success for Aquaculture Seychelles.

Happy 5th Anniversary to Aquaculture Seychelles!

Aquaculture Seychelles Celebrates Five Years of Progress

Five years after its launch on 16 October 2021, Aquaculture Seychelles is reflecting on its progress in establishing a new industry with the potential to diversify the national economy, strengthen food security and create employment opportunities.

Celebrated under the theme "Diversifying the Seychelles Economy," the fifth anniversary marks an important milestone in SFA's efforts to develop a sustainable aquaculture sector.

Over the past five years, the Aquaculture Department has focused on building the foundations for the industry through research, infrastructure development, policy implementation and technical capacity building.

Key Achievements

Among the major milestones was the introduction of the Seychelles National Aquaculture Policy 2023–2027, which provides a framework for the responsible development of the sector.

Research has progressed on high-value marine species, including finfish, sea cucumbers and sea urchins, with work focusing on breeding, larval rearing and suitable farming techniques. The introduction of a containerised echinoderm hatchery in 2024 further strengthened research capacity, supporting efforts to develop reliable production methods for local species.

The department has also worked to promote aquaculture awareness, encourage private-sector participation and build the technical knowledge needed to support future commercial production.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

Despite these achievements, developing aquaculture in Seychelles remains a complex undertaking. Technical challenges, including achieving consistent spawning, successful larval rearing and maintaining healthy broodstock, require continued scientific research and experimentation.

High operational costs, infrastructure requirements and the need to establish commercially viable production systems also present challenges. Balancing industry development with environmental protection remains essential to ensuring long-term sustainability.

These experiences have reinforced the importance of continued investment, collaboration, innovation and skills development.

Looking Ahead

As Aquaculture Seychelles enters its next phase, the focus will be on transitioning from research-based aquaculture towards commercially viable production. A key priority is advancing the Sea Cucumber Stock Enhancement Programme, supported by a feasibility study and partnership with the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT), to support long-term implementation.

The department will also continue strengthening hatchery research, developing technical capacity, promoting investment opportunities and engaging stakeholders to support industry growth. Addressing operational constraints, funding limitations and delays in the implementation of the Aquaculture Development Zone programme will be important to maintaining progress.

Through continued research, strategic partnerships and responsible development, Aquaculture Seychelles aims to translate five years of learning into sustainable production, new economic opportunities and a stronger contribution to Seychelles' blue economy.

Aquaculture Department marks its 5th anniversary with a series of activities

The SFA Aquaculture Department marked its 5th anniversary with a series of activities aimed at raising public awareness about aquaculture and showcasing the achievements made over the past five years.

The celebrations included a children's drawing competition for primary and secondary school pupils under the theme "Diversifying the Seychelles Economy", as well as a Day at the Aquaculture Facility, where secondary school students gained first-hand experience working alongside aquaculture technicians.

A radio quiz competition, held from October 12 to 16, also engaged the public with questions about aquaculture in Seychelles, attracting 10 winners. Meanwhile, public open days were organised every Tuesday and Thursday throughout October, with a special visit on Saturday, October 17, allowing visitors to explore the facilities and learn more about the different species being reared.

The department also produced short profiles showcasing the work of aquaculture licence holders, including the Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority's coral restoration project in Curieuse Marine National Park, Nature Seychelles' Coral Aquaculture for Reef Recovery Project and the Marine Conservation Society Seychelles' coral reef restoration work at four locations.

To round off the celebrations, former interns shared their experiences through short videos, reflecting on how their internships at the facility contributed to their professional development and where their careers have taken them since.

Through these activities, the department celebrated five years of progress while encouraging greater public interest and understanding of aquaculture and its role in diversifying the Seychelles economy.









SFA Engages Fishers in Developing a Sustainable Lobster Harvest Strategy



SFA in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy's FishPath initiative and supported by the International Climate Initiative, held a workshop on 13 October 2026 at Savoy Resort and Spa, Beau Vallon, to present and discuss the draft harvest strategy for the lobster fishery.

The workshop brought together SFA departments and participants from Mahé, Praslin and La Digue to review scientific findings and share recommendations for improving the management of the fishery.

The 2025 lobster stock assessment indicated that the stock remains in poor condition and is overfished. Large lobsters, including mega-spawners that play a vital role in reproduction, were rarely recorded, highlighting the need for stronger management measures to support stock recovery.



Participants raised concerns about illegal fishing and recommended increased patrols, stronger enforcement and exploring alternative fishing areas. They also emphasised the importance of using survey results to guide decisions on the opening of the next fishing season.

The feedback will inform the ongoing development of the harvest strategy. The SFA will update the stock assessment using 2026 fisheries data before engaging fishers again to present the latest findings and the finalised strategy.

The strategy aims to establish an agreed, evidence-based framework for managing the lobster fishery. By combining scientific assessments with stakeholder input, the SFA seeks to support the sustainable use and recovery of lobster resources while safeguarding the livelihoods of licensed fishers who depend on the fishery.

The next step will be to review and consider the feedback received before finalising the harvest strategy.

New Ice Plant Inaugurated at Bel Ombre to Support Local Fishers



SFA officially inaugurated its new ice plant facility at Bel Ombre on 26 October 2026, marking an important step towards improving access to ice for the local fishing community.

The inauguration was officiated by the Minister for Fisheries, Agriculture and the Blue Economy, Mr Wallace Cosgrow; SFA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Jan Robinson; and Principal Secretary for Agriculture, Mr Keven Nancy, who jointly cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the facility.

The new ice plant has a production capacity of five tonnes of ice every 24 hours and a storage capacity of up to seven tonnes. It was donated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Government of Japan under the Reef Fish Project.

The facility will enable fishers in the Bel Ombre region to access ice more conveniently and ensure an adequate supply for their daily fishing activities. Fishers attending the inauguration welcomed the new facility and expressed their appreciation for the support it will bring to their work.

The new plant will allow the SFA to carry out maintenance on the existing ice plant, which has served the fishing community in the region for many years. Once the maintenance work is completed, both facilities will operate, increasing the overall availability of ice for local fishers.

This initiative reinforces SFA's commitment to supporting fishing communities, strengthening livelihoods, improving fish quality and contributing to food security and the sustainable development of Seychelles' fisheries sector.





IRD Builds Capacity in Fisheries Observer Data Management in Seychelles



From 5 to 9 October 2026, five staff members from SFA Fisheries Resource Management and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Departments took part in a five-day training on observer data management delivered by the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD).

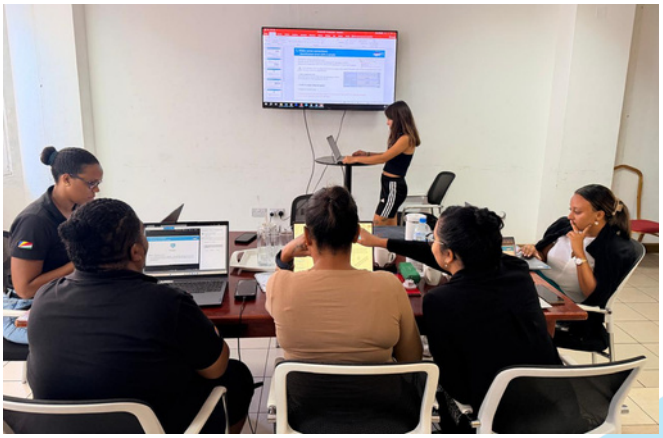
Led by Ms. Chloe Tellier, an IRD secondee, the training focused on the procedures for receiving, checking and processing data collected by scientific observers onboard fishing vessels using the ObServe system.

The training covered document verification, trip tracking, data entry and corrections, and the review of observer forms, reports and photographs. Participants also practised cross-checking Vessel Monitoring System, observer and logbook data, conducting AkadoR tests and debriefing observers.

These procedures will help SFA identify errors and inconsistencies and improve the quality and reliability of its observer datasets. Following the training, staff are already identifying ways to improve the national Scientific Observer Programme and strengthen its data management procedures.

Building on this training, SFA will soon take part in another training organised by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Secretariat focusing on the new ObServe export module and the latest IOTC reporting format. This will further strengthen the team's capacity to address data gaps and improve the reporting of Seychelles' purse seine observer data under the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme (ROS).

The SFA extends its appreciation to IRD for supporting this capacity-building initiative and looks forward to continued collaboration to strengthen observer data management and reporting.



SFA Supports Youth in Promoting Fisheries Transparency Through Digital Storytelling

SFA supported the Hooked on Transparency Digital Content Creation Challenge, held from 21 to 24 October 2026 at the STC Conference Room. Organised by the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) International Secretariat and the Seychelles Department of Blue Economy, the initiative brought together young people aged 15–17 and 18–30 to explore fisheries transparency and the Blue Economy through digital storytelling.



SFA contributed to the training by helping participants understand Seychelles' fisheries sector, fisheries management and the importance of accessible and reliable information. Discussions highlighted the sector's contribution to national development, food security, employment and livelihoods, while introducing participants to career opportunities in marine science, research, engineering, entrepreneurship and communications.

The training also equipped participants with practical digital content creation skills using tools such as Canva, CapCut and Meta Business Suite. They learned to develop engaging stories, design graphics, produce short videos and communicate credible information effectively on social media. The sessions also explored the use of artificial intelligence in content creation, emphasising fact-checking, originality and the protection of personal information.



Through its participation, SFA reaffirmed its support for initiatives that promote transparency, strengthen public understanding of fisheries management and encourage youth engagement in the Blue Economy.

The challenge concluded with participants receiving certificates in recognition of their creativity and commitment to promoting the Blue Economy and fisheries transparency through digital storytelling

The initiative demonstrates the importance of collaboration in empowering young people to share meaningful stories and contribute to conversations about sustainable fisheries and the future of Seychelles' Blue Economy.



Strengthens Professional Skills Through Capacity-Building Programme in India



Ms. Jessy Barbe, Head of Department for Human Resources and Administration at the SFA, participated in the Second Capacity Building Programme for Civil Servants of Seychelles, held from 5-16 October 2026 in Mussoorie and New Delhi, India.

Hosted by the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), the programme formed part of its cooperation with the Public Service Bureau of Seychelles to strengthen institutional capacity, support public sector reform and advance digital transformation.

The programme combined classroom sessions, group discussions and institutional visits, covering good governance, leadership, policy development, digital innovation and public service delivery. Participants also visited institutions including the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute and the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management.



For Ms. Barbe, sessions on policy, leadership, institutional reform and labour administration were particularly relevant to her responsibilities. They reinforced the importance of aligning staff competencies and professional development with institutional objectives.

“The training was well worth it. It broadened my understanding of good governance and reinforced the importance of investing in staff development. The knowledge gained and experiences shared will help me identify practical ways to strengthen HR and administration within the Seychelles Fisheries Authority,” said Ms. Barbe.

The programme also provided opportunities to exchange experiences with senior officers from other institutions and build professional networks. Ms. Barbe emphasised the importance of sharing learning with colleagues and identifying practical improvements that could enhance workplace performance and public service delivery.



Seychelles Fishing Communities Exchange Knowledge with Rodrigues

A delegation of 24 representatives from the Seychelles Fishermen and Boat Owners Association (SFBOA) and the SFA participated in a capacity-building and knowledge-exchange visit to Rodrigues, Mauritius, from October 8 to 17, 2026.

Organised by SFBOA in collaboration with SFA and the Commission for Fisheries in Rodrigues, the visit aimed to strengthen the capacity of Seychelles' artisanal fishing communities through regional cooperation and the sharing of best practices.

The programme included exchanges with fisheries authorities, fishing communities, seafood processors and conservation organisations. Participants also had the opportunity to observe the reopening of Rodrigues' octopus fishing season on October 10, gaining insights into seasonal fisheries management and community participation in conservation.

Other areas explored included marine protected area management, fisheries monitoring, seafood processing and value addition, as well as opportunities to strengthen the participation of women and young people in the sector.

The visit builds on the reciprocal exchange programme undertaken in 2025, when a delegation of Rodrigues fishermen visited Seychelles, further strengthening cooperation between the two island communities.

The knowledge gained is expected to contribute to ongoing efforts to promote sustainable fisheries management, strengthen fishing communities and enhance the resilience of Seychelles' artisanal fisheries sector.











SFA Staff Show Support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month



SFA joined the global effort to raise awareness of breast cancer in October, with staff participating in activities to show solidarity with those affected by the disease and highlight the importance of supporting cancer patients and their families.

On Monday, 19 October, staff wore pink to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month, demonstrating their support for patients, survivors and families impacted by breast cancer. Pink ribbons were also distributed to staff as a symbol of awareness and solidarity.



As part of the initiative, collection boxes were circulated among staff to encourage contributions towards a meaningful cause. The funds raised will be donated to the Cancer Concern Association (CCA), Praslin Branch, to support its efforts to establish a hospice near Baie St. Anne Hospital on Praslin.

The planned hospice will provide palliative and end-of-life care for cancer patients and others living with severe or terminal illnesses, offering essential care and support to patients and their families.

To encourage wider participation, collection boxes have also been placed at the SFA Headquarters, Aquaculture Facility, Praslin office and Fishing Port Area. The boxes will remain at these locations until the end of November, giving staff and members of the public an opportunity to contribute.

Through these activities, SFA hopes to promote greater awareness of breast cancer while encouraging compassion, community support and solidarity with those facing the challenges of cancer and other serious illnesses.





A day in the life of Aquaculture Technician - Calvin Horner



To mark the fifth anniversary of aquaculture in Seychelles, we meet Mr Calvin Horner, an Aquaculture Technician at the SFA with eight years of experience. In this month's edition, he shares insights into his daily work, experiences and the role he plays in the development of the aquaculture sector.

1. What time do you usually arrive at work?

Official working hours start at 8:00 a.m., but our Operations team of six often arrives earlier. The staff member assigned to the weekly shift usually arrives around 7:00 a.m. to inspect the facility and ensure that the fish have a stable environment and a continuous supply of good-quality water.

2. What is the first thing you do upon arriving? Can you walk us through your main duties and how you prioritise them?

Upon arrival, we inspect the livestock and water supply system to ensure everything is functioning properly. We check the fish for signs of stress or mortality, inspect the system from the seawater intake to the broodstock tanks for leaks or faults, and monitor water quality, particularly temperature and dissolved oxygen saturation.

3. Are your daily tasks the same every day, or do they vary? If they vary, can you give examples of how your day might change?

Our first hour is dedicated to routine inspections of the livestock, water supply, equipment, and facility. Afterwards, we divide tasks according to operational priorities, which may include husbandry, maintenance, broodstock management, and spawning activities.

Although we follow a daily routine, unexpected challenges such as equipment failures, water quality changes, or spawning events require us to adapt and work together. In aquaculture, the needs of the livestock always come first.

4.What time does your workday usually end?

Our normal working day ends at 4:00 p.m., but this can vary depending on operational requirements. Before leaving, we ensure the facility is functioning properly, the water supply is stable, and the fish are healthy. If urgent issues arise, we may need to stay beyond our usual finishing time to ensure the welfare of the livestock.

5. Does your role ever require you to work beyond normal hours?

Yes Aquaculture operations require a high level of commitment because the facility operates according to the needs of the livestock rather than conventional working hours alone.

6. What are your core responsibilities?

As an Aquaculture Technician, my core responsibilities center on fish husbandry managment ,facility care and maintenance ,water and system managment and operational support.

7. What part of your job requires the most attention?

The part of my job requiring the most attention is ensuring animal welfare through close observation and maintaining optimal water systems. Because fish stress easily, my team and I must rely on sharp observational skills and preventive maintenance to spot issues before they affect the stock. Ultimately, managing this delicate balance between fish health and system reliability is how my team plans and secures the success of producing healthy juvenile fish

8. What challenges do you face during a typical day?

Working with saltwater makes equipment failure a frequent challenge, requiring quick troubleshooting to protect the fish. To manage this alongside our routine duties and planned projects, our team relies on preventive maintenance, regular inspections, and strong teamwork. Ultimately, early detection is critical, as a minor technical issue can quickly escalate and threaten the entire livestock operation.

Skill of the Month

Ki mannyer pour mezir Bourzwa ek Zob Gri

Sa gid i konsern Bourzwa ek Zob Gri ki ganny lapes lo Plato Mahe, Sesel. Mezir minimonm pou atrap sa de lespes pwason i 32 santimet. I enportan pour mezir pwason dan sa bon fason, parski lalwa i demann en mezir ki ganny apele fork length.



Swiv sa bann letap swivan:

1. Met pwason an sekirite: Poz lareg lo en sirfas plat e met pwason an dorman, avek son lekor alinyen avek lareg.

2. Aliy latet pwason avek zero: Ferm labous pwason e met bout son labous, kot son mizo i fini, lo zero mark lo lareg.

3. Mezir ziska trou dan lake: Get kot lake i fer en “V”. Mezir depi bout labous ziska milye sa trou dan milye lake.

4. Lir mezir byen: Pa mezire ziska bout lake. Se milye sa trou dan lake ki konte.

5. Si pwason i mwens ki 32 santimet: Retournen dan delo san tarde e okip li avek swen.

6. Si i mezir 32 santimet oubyen plis, i’n ariv mezir minimonm e kapab ganny lapes. Tou lezot regilasyon ki aplikab i bezwen ganny swiv osi.



Mazin byen :

Sa mezir i aplik pour Bourzwa ek Zob Gri lo Plato Mahe. I pa vedir ki tou lezot lespes pwason i annan sa menm mezir 32 santimet minimonm. I enportan note ki sa regilasyon pou Bourzwa ek Zob Gri I aplikab pou tou lapes ki swa komersyal, lwazir, konsomasyon personel e lapes sportif.

Look Out For...


SEYCHELLES FISHERIES AUTHORITY
SFA
Presents
SFA's BEST FISH MARKET AWARD
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Which market do you think offers the best overall experience, based on hygiene and a welcoming environment?
CASCADE MARKET
ANSE AUX PINS MARKET
ANSE ROYALE MARKET
VOTE ON
PARADISE FM
9th to 13th November 2026
Twice daily, during mid morning and afternoon shows
Support our fishing communities
Keep an ear out for the voting segment on Paradise FM
Supported by the European Union

DID YOU KNOW?

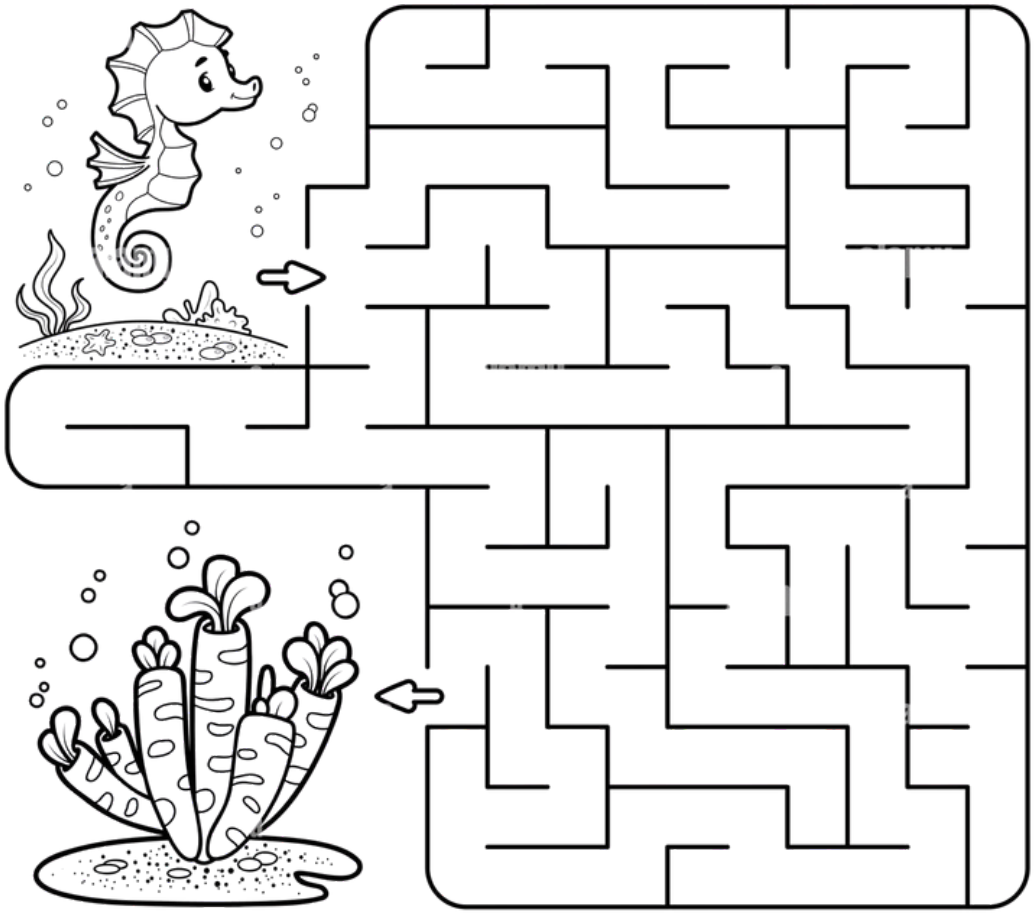
HR Corner

SFA staff can enjoy eye care benefits through our service agreement with Vision Care Seychelles, including;

Free comprehensive eye test	15% off spectacles	7% off sunglasses

These benefits are available at the Bois de Rose Complex, Mahé, and Pension Fund Complex, Grand Anse, Praslin.
A fee of SCR 500 applies if you request a prescription. Kindly contact the HR Department for more details on how to access these services.

Test your skills



Contact the PR Team to book a slot in the SFA newsletter for any internal communication and awareness, including:

- Department events and trainings
- Processes and procedures
- Upcoming committee and club events etc...

SEYCHELLES FISHERIES AUTHORITY

Get In Touch
Fishing Port | P.O Box 449 | Victoria | Seychelles
info@sfa.sc
+248 4670300

Hotlines
Port Control / Inspection (Undersized): 2716300
VMS Breakdown: 2525421