

Fisheries Protection Service

The setting up of the Fisheries Protection Service (FPS) began in the year 1947 with the arrival of Mauritian National ex Servicemen. The then British Government constituted a small team that was paid a minor allowance to control fishing activities around the island.

Ultimately in 1948, the Service was legally established with the enactment of Ordinance No 7 of 1948.

Officers were posted throughout the island and were assigned duties on a full fortnight basis with one weekend off. The labour force at that time constituted of some twenty staff members.

After independence, the need to strengthen the FPS was badly felt. Accordingly, the Fisheries Act No 22 of 1970 was enacted and the FPS recruited massively. The process continued and in 1983 the labour force of the FPS constituted of more than two hundred staff members.

The Fisheries Laws were subsequently amended with a view to ensuring efficient control and surveillance. The Fisheries Act No 22 of 1970 was subsequently repealed and replaced by the Fisheries Act No 5 of 1980 which in turn was replaced by the Fisheries Act No 22 of 1998 and the last one in force is the Fisheries Act No 27 of 2007. Simultaneously, all these Acts were supported by Regulations under Government Notices.

Today, the FPS is a full-fledged enforcement arm of the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries & Shipping with proper infrastructure, logistic and equipment. It caters for an efficient control over the fishing activities not only in lagoon and off lagoon but also in respect of regional fishing under bilateral conventions and regional cooperation with joint patrol under the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (M.C.S) Programme in the EEZ and over territorial waters of Mauritius.

Officers of the FPS operate at its Head Office in Port Louis and at four regional headquarters with a number of Fisheries Posts under each regional headquarter and its Flying Squads as follows:

Head Office – Supporting Staff		Telephone No:	Fax No:
Ground Floor LIC Building, Port Louis		2112470-75, 2087961	2087958, 2081929
SN	Fisheries Posts		
1.	Grand Gaube (Regional HQ North)	2880894/ 2881134	2880894
2.	Tombeau Bay	2474920	2474920

3.	Trou aux Biches	2655128	2655128
4.	Poudre d'Or	2839676	2839676
5.	Poste Lafayette (Regional HQ East)	4105130	4105130
6.	Trou d'Eau Douce	4802154	4802154
7.	GRSE	4176912	4176912
8.	Mahebourg (Regional HQ South)	6319539/ 6313940	6319539
9.	Bambous Virieux	6340092	6340092
10.	Riambel	6255018	6255018
11.	Baie du Cap	6225955	6225955
12.	La Preneuse (Regional HQ West)	4836521	4836521
13.	Case Noyale	4836521	4836521
14.	Pointe aux Sables	2347073	2347073
Prosecution Unit		2124763	2127261
Blue Bay Marine Park		6312316	6312227
Flying Squads – Officer in charge		2124763	
Flying Squad No 1			
Flying Squad No 2			
Flying Squad No 3			
Flying Squad No 4			
Flying Squad No 5			

HOTLINE Service: 800 1011

Prosecution Unit:

The Prosecution Unit was set up in the year 2007 and is headed by an Assistant Controller who is assisted by four Principal Fisheries Protection Officers who act as Prosecutors.

The actual number of staff members are as follows:

Officers	No
Controller FPS	1
Deputy Controller FPS	3
Assistant Controller FPS	8
Principal Fisheries Protection Officer	25
Senior Fisheries Protection Officer	57
Fisheries Protection Officer	105
Total	199

Services provided:

- a) Overall control on all fishing activities around the island.
- b) Enforcement of the provisions of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act, with a view to combatting illegal fishing.
- c) Responding to calls from the public on alleged malpractices in the fishing sector.
- d) Prompt service with interventions for customers' satisfaction in line with the Vision/ Mission of the Ministry.
- e) Protection of controlled marine species and sue all defaulters/contraveners within the least possible delay.
- f) Tracking defaulters in the fishing sector throughout the lagoon.
- g) Entertaining applications for registration of fishermen, use of fishing nets and other related services.

Fish Landing Stations:

There are 61 prescribed Fish Landing Stations around the island (as per GN 18 of 1983 amended by GN 169 of 1984) as listed below:

SN	Fish Landing Stations	SN	Fish Landing Stations	SN	Fish Landing Stations
1	Grand River North West	21	Poste de Flacq	41	Bambous Virieux
2	Bain des Dames	22	Belle Mare	42	Grand Sables
3	Roches Bois	23	Trou D'eau Douce	43	Petit Sables
4	Baie du Tombeau	24	Morcy	44	Souillac(Battelage)
5	Pointe aux Piments	25	Palmar	45	Riambel
6	Trou aux Biches	26	Grand River South East	46	St Felix
7	Pointe aux Cannonier	27	Camp des Pecheurs	47	Baie du Cap 1
8	Grand Bay	28	Deux Freres	48	Baie du Cap 2
9	Grand Gaube I	29	Quatre Soeurs	49	St Martin
10	Grand Gaube II	30	Mahebourg	50	Baie du Jacotet
11	Melville	31	Ville Noire	51	Le Morne
12	Missie Pitit	32	Grand Port I	52	La Gaulette
13	St Francois	33	Grand Port II	53	Case Noyale
14	Cap Malheureux	34	Blue Bay	54	Petite Riviere Noire
15	Bain des Boeufs	35	Pointe D'Esny	55	La Preneuse
16	Poudre d'Or	36	Le Bouchon	56	Tamarin
17	Roche Noires	37	Rivière des Creoles	57	Black River
18	Pointe des Lascars	38	Anse Jonchée	58	Flic en Flac
19	Bain de Rosnay	39	La Sourdine	59	Albion
20	Poste la Fayette	40	Bois des Amourettes	60	Pointe aux Sables I
				61	Pointe aux Sables II

The FPS also entertains applications made under the Fisheries legislations.

Conditions for Registration as fisherman (Section 11 of the Fisheries & Marine Resources Act 27/2007):

- a) The fisherman shall not be less than 18 years and not more than 50 years.
- b) The fisherman shall not be in working employment at the time of the application nor shall be holder of a trade licence.
- c) The fisherman shall be medically fit to work at sea as certified by a Government Medical Officer.
- d) The fishing activities of the fisherman shall be monitored for a consecutive period of 6 months and the fisherman shall have fished for more than 75% of the fishing days excluding bad weather days, Sundays and public holidays in a month.
- e) In case selected the fisherman shall follow a training course organised by FITEC.

Documents to be produced for registration as fisherman:

- a) Birth Certificate
- b) National Identity Card
- c) Government Medical Certificate
- d) Certificate of Character
- e) Certificate from past employer (if any)

Licence to use Fishing Nets (Section 29 of the Fisheries & Marine Resources Act 27/2007)

Licences	Documents to be submitted	Fees
Large Net (existing)	Application letter for renewal to be submitted by the Head Fisherman together with the list of authorised agents (limited to 20)	Rs 50 quarterly
Canard net (existing)	Application letter for renewal to be submitted by the Head Fisherman together with the list of authorised agents	Rs 25 monthly
Gill net (existing)	Application letter for renewal to be submitted by the Head Fisherman together with the list of authorised agents (limited to 5)	Rs 25 Quarterly

Boat Certificate (Section 42 of the Fisheries & Marine Resources Act 27/2007)

Licences	Documents to be submitted to nearest Fisheries Post	Fees
Boat Registration (Fishing Boat only – less than 24 metres long)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deed of sale/builder • Owner's National Identity Card • Mooring place • Fisherman Card (individual) • Certificate of Character • Fishing Licence (company) 	Rs 25

Application for a Licence to sell fish & fish products obtained locally

(Section 21 of the Fisheries & Marine Resources Act 27/2007)

Licences	Documents to be submitted to Fisheries Post	Fees
Fishmonger's Licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application letter • Evidence from fish supplier/ fishermen • Certificate of Character applicant or for each agent representing the Company • Valid Food Handler Certificate of applicant or for each agent representing the Company • Evidence for transportation and storage facilities for frozen fish • 2 passport size photographs of applicant or for each agent representing the Company 	<p>Rs 50 quarterly (Individual)</p> <p>Rs 200 yearly (Individual)</p> <p>Rs 1000 yearly (company)</p>

Licence to import fish & fish products (Section 22 of the Fisheries & Marine Resources Act 27/2007)

Licences	Documents to be submitted at HQ	Fees
<p>Fishmonger's Licence (Canned, Dried, Fresh & Frozen)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application letter • Trade licence • Certificate of Character applicant or for each agent representing the Company • Valid Food Handler Certificate of applicant or for each agent representing the Company • Storage facility for Canned & Dried products • Evidence of cold room / chill room (inspected & certified by an engineer Registered within the Factory Inspectorate). <i>Not applicable for canned & dried products</i> • Horsepower of vehicle equipped with a frigo box / chill box. <i>Not applicable for canned & dried products</i> • 2 passport size photographs of applicant or for each agent representing the Company 	<p>Rs 200 yearly – Individual</p> <p>Rs 1000 yearly – Company</p>

Licence to import Live fish (Section 23 of the Fisheries & Marine Resources Act 27/2007)

Licences	Documents to be submitted at HQ	Fees
Fishmonger's Licence for importation of Live Ornamental Fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application letter • Trade licence • Certificate of Character applicant or for each agent representing the Company • Applicant should have the necessary infrastructure to handle the imported fish (Quarantine) • 2 passport size photographs of applicant or for each agent representing the Company 	Rs 200 yearly – Individual
Fishmonger's Licence for Importation of Live Fish for consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application letter • Trade licence • Certificate of Character applicant or for each agent representing the Company • Valid Food Handler Certificate of applicant or for each agent representing the Company • Applicant should have the necessary infrastructure to handle the imported fish (Quarantine) • 2 passport size photographs of applicant or for each agent representing the Company 	Rs 1000 yearly – Company

Licence to import processed seashells(Section 22 of the Fisheries & Marine Resources Act 27/2007)

Licences	Documents to be submitted at HQ	Fees
Fishmonger's Licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application letter• Trade licence• Certificate of Character of applicant or for each agent representing the Company• 2 passport size photographs of applicant or for each agent representing the Company	Rs 200 yearly (Individual) Rs 1000 yearly (company)

Dealer in fishing nets (Section 26 of the Fisheries & Marine Resources Act 27/2007)

Licences	Documents to be submitted at HQ	Fees
Licence to import and/or deal in fishing nets (existing)	Application for renewal	Rs 150 – quarterly

Licence to sell imported processed sea shells(Section 21 of the Fisheries & Marine Resources Act 27/2007)

Licences	Documents to be submitted at HQ	Fees
Fishmonger's Licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application letter• Certificate of Character of applicant or for each agent representing the company• Trade licence• 2 passport size photographs of applicant or for each agent representing the company	Rs 200 yearly (Individual) Rs 1000 yearly (company)

Licence to use a bait gear (Conical Net/ Rectangular Net/ Flying Fish Net) (GN 214 of 2012)

Licences	Documents to be submitted to Fisheries Post except for Flying fish net application to be submitted to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry	Fees
Bait Gear Licence (Conical/Rectangular) (Registered Fishers only operating on FAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application Form and• Certificate on FAD Fishery	Rs 50 quarterly or Rs 200 yearly
Bait Gear Licence (Flying Fish Net)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application Letter and• Fishing Licence of Company	Rs 1250 quarterly or Rs 5000 yearly

Achievements for 2012

444 illegal cases have been reported

10,235 metres of illegal nets seized

Fine inflicted amounting to Rs 514,600

Achievement under MCS Program:

Seizure of Fishing Vessels Ruang Lap 1 & 8

Seizure of 2 fishing boats of Sri Lanka origin on 23 February 2013

1. GM 5
2. MALSHE -1

Patrol Vessel Atsanta (white) intercepting the 2 fishing boats from Sri Lanka operating illegally in the EEZ of Mauritius



Achievements for year 2013:

- 350 illegal cases have been reported
- 12,168 metres of illegal nets seized
- Fine inflicted amounting to Rs 220,900

Achievements for year 2014:

• No. of cases of illegal net fishing	-	188
• No. of illegal cases of underwater fishing	-	104
• No. of other illegal cases	-	59
Total No of cases	-	351

Fine inflicted for year 2014= Rs 205,400

Achievements for year 2015:

• No. of cases of illegal net fishing	-	180
• No. of illegal cases of underwater fishing	-	100
• No. of other illegal cases	-	42
Total No of cases	-	322

Fine inflicted for year 2015 = Rs 95,900

Achievements for year 2016:

• No. of cases of illegal net fishing	-	134
• No. of illegal cases of underwater fishing	-	59
• No. of other illegal cases	-	47
Total No of cases	-	240

Fine inflicted for year 2016 = Rs 137,000

Summary on the No. of contraventions from year 2011 to 2016

Year	Total No of Cases Reported	No of Illegal Nets Seized (metres)
2011	446	7,785
2012	444	10,235
2013	350	12,168
2014	351	20,067
2015	322	16,591
2016	240	8,783

Training Programme for capacity building to officers of the Fisheries Protection Service.



This training programme was meant for 167 officers of the Fisheries Protection Service and was organised by the University of Technology of Mauritius, in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries.

The program emphasised on disseminating appropriate knowledge and skills to officers already in service so that they could improve their day to day duties and at the same time adapt to variable changes within their working environment. The course started on the 17th of November 2014 and officers of the FPS were to attend the course in 5 batches. The training ended on June 2015.

The primary objective was to enhance the skills and know-how of the Fisheries Protection Officers in view of improving their performance for effective protection and management of fisheries in Mauritius. Inter-alia, the scope of the training program was concentrated on the following fields: communication skills, legal methods, enforcement and prosecution, good governance, laws of the sea and information technology.

Hence, the training programme was to enhance the skills of Fisheries Protection Officers to enabling them to perform more effectively on the ever changing work environment and in the light of new challenges of the ocean state economy.

Setting up of a Fisheries Post at Agalega

For efficient control over fishing activities in the region of Agalega, a fisheries post was set up and officers of the FPS are posted there on a rotation basis of two months since September 2015.

Recruitment of new fisheries protection officers (year 2015)

15 recruits joined the FPS in July 2015 and they had followed an induction course for Fisheries Protection Officers at Fitec, Pointe aux Sables. In January 2016, they had undergone a training of one month with the Police at the Police Training School, Beau Bassin.



Recruitment of new fisheries protection officers (year 2016)

25 recruits joined the FPS in July and October 2016 and they had followed a two weeks induction course for Fisheries Protection Officers at Fitec, Pointe aux Sables. In February 2017, they had undergone a training of five weeks with the Police at the Police Training School, Beau Bassin. The subjects covered amongst others: officer safety, drill and self-defence. After the training, a passing out ceremony was organised on 04 March 2017 and prizes were given to the best performers for drill, officer safety and overall best student, in the presence of the Honourable Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping and the Senior Chief Executive.

Passing Out Ceremony at Police Training School



Following the passing out ceremony, these FPS officers have been nominated to take part in the floats on the occasion of the Independence Day of 12 March 2017.



Incentives to Fishermen

Various schemes have been introduced by the Ministry of Fisheries with a view to assist the fishing community. These facilities are:

(i) VAT refund on purchase of Outboard Motors

A registered fisherman is eligible for refund of VAT for the purchase of outboard motors. The receipt of purchase should be produced to Mauritius Revenue Authority for refund of VAT.

(ii) Loan facilities from Development Bank

OFF-LAGOON ARTISANAL FISHING

Purpose of loan: Purchase of fishing boat of length not less than 23 ft. two engines, safety and other fishing equipment and accessories partly guaranteed by bad weather allowance.

Maximum loan amount: up to 80% of project cost up to a ceiling of Rs 1.0 million

Interest rate: repo rate + 3% p.a.

Repayment period: Up to 7 years including a moratorium of up to 2 years

(iii) Bad Weather Allowance

Fisherman holding a fisherman card, which is regularly signed and stamped, is eligible for bad weather allowance for days decreed by MMO as bad weather excluding Sundays and Public Holidays. Rate of bad weather allowance has increased to Rs 282 per day by January 2016.

(iv) Close Season Allowance

Net fishermen who have been operating regularly during the net season are entitled to a close season allowance during the five months of the closing period. The rate of close season allowance has increased to Rs 282 per day since January 2016 excluding Sundays and Public Holidays.

(v) Insurance Cover

This scheme is non-contributory and provides for two types of compensation.

(a) Rs 200,000 in case of death following an accident at sea and

- (b) Rs 200,000 in case of permanent incapacity as a result of accident at sea. The compensation is payable on a pro-rata basis depending on the degree of permanent incapacity sustained during accident at sea.

(vi) Phasing out of net fishing

As per budget 2014, there has been a 50% increase in the compensation for relinquishing net fishing activities as follows:

Large Net:

Compensation for relinquishing licence	-	from Rs 280,000 to Rs 420,000
Compensation for nets surrendered	-	from Rs 42,000 to Rs 63,000

Gill Net:

Compensation for relinquishing licence	-	from Rs 105,000 to Rs 157,500
Compensation for nets surrendered	-	from Rs 28,000 to Rs 42,000

Fishers:

Compensation to individual fishers	-	from Rs 35,000 to Rs 52,500
Compensation to fishers who are members of Cooperative Societies / Associations	-	from Rs 70,000 to Rs 105,000

Purchase of “Canotte”

As per budget, the Government provides a 50% grant to fishermen for the purchase of off-lagoon “canottes” up to an amount of Rs 200,000 per “canotte”.

NPS (National Pension Scheme)

A new pension scheme has been set up for the benefit of fishermen with a minimum contribution taken from bad weather allowance which ensure a pension to them as from the age of 60 years depending on the amount contributed.