

9. FISHERIES PROTECTION SERVICE (FPS)

The Fisheries Protection Service (FPS) is one of the technical arms of the Fisheries Division and has, as main goal, to protect the fisheries resources and assisting in welfare programmes of the fishermen community.

The Fisheries Protection Service enforces the fisheries and related legislations, monitors various activities related to fishing and assists in the implementation of schemes related to the welfare of fishermen.

The FPS is under the overall responsibility of the Chief Fisheries Officer who is supported by a Principal Fisheries Officer and a Divisional Scientific Officer. The Fisheries Protection Service comprises a Controller, 3 Deputy Controllers, 4 Assistant Controllers, 25 Principal Fisheries Protection Officers, 57 Senior Fisheries Protection Officers and 174 Fisheries Protection Officers.

The FPS operates through four regional headquarters with a number of Fisheries Posts under each one. Three flying squads are in place to strengthen enforcement activities and combat fraud and illegal fishing. In addition the FPS provides support to the activities at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre relating to the control and monitoring of foreign and local fishing vessels in Port Louis harbour and the collection of fisheries data at the 61 fish landing stations.

The 24-hour service was reviewed and a two shift system was introduced on 15 January 2007 with a day-shift starting from 8.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs and a night-shift from 16.00 hrs to 8.00 hrs.

9.1 Registration of artisanal fishermen

During the year 103 fishermen were registered and 64 deregistered. At the end of December, the total number of registered artisanal fishermen was 2 365 as compared to 2 326 in 2005. Details of registered fishermen by categories are given in table 9.1.

Table 9.1: Categories of artisanal fishermen

SN	Fisheries Post	Net	Basket Trap	Line	Basket Trap /Line	Harpoon	Total
1	Port Louis		2	59	49		110
2	Tombeau Bay		14	59	79		152
3	Trou aux Biches	5		94	103		202
4	Grand Gaube	30	15	64	195	1	305
5	Poudre d'Or		16	26	109		151
6	Poste la Fayette	18	6	2	78		104
7	Trou d'Eau Douce	21	6	26	79		132
8	G.R.S.E		1	7	88	4	100
9	Bambous Virieux		7	49	153		209
10	Mahebourg	34	14	31	261		340
11	Riambel	6	3	5	73	2	89
12	Baie du Cap	3	5	21	66	1	96
13	Case Noyale	11	15	11	91	9	137
14	La Preneuse	19	3	56	62	3	143
15	Pointe aux Sables	16		27	52		95
Total		163	107	537	1538	20	2365

9.2 Registration of boats

The number of registered boats at the end of December is shown in table 9.2. During the year 209 new boats were registered to bring the total to 5092.

Table 9.2: Registration of boats

SN	Fisheries Post	*AF	*PB	*B	*SC	*BG	Total
1	Port Louis	39	4	2			45
2	Tombeau Bay	146		255			401
3	Trou aux Biches	201	214	171		68	654
4	Grand Gaube	287	46	95	2	1	431
5	Poudre d'Or	155	110	54	32		351
6	Poste la Fayette	108	42	70	9		229
7	Trou d'Eau Douce	125	9	129		3	266
8	G.R.S.E	142	18	71	13		244
9	Bambous Virieux	186	42	23			251
10	Mahebourg	371	213	203	55	2	844
11	Riambel	28	2	7			37
12	Baie du Cap	81	28	23		1	133
13	Case Noyale	144		156		3	303
14	La Preneuse	123	159	66		17	365
15	Pointe aux Sables	249	103	186			538
Total		2 385	990	1 511	111	95	5 092

**AF – Artisanal fishing, *PB – Pleasure boat, *B - Boats, *SC - Sand carrier, *BG - Big game*

9.3 Licences

The number of the different types of licences in force during the year is given in table 9.3

Table 9.3: Number of licences

SN	Fisheries Post	Large net	Gill Net	Fishmonger	Bait gear
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1	Port Louis			238	0
2	Tombeau Bay			58	29
3	Trou aux Biches	1		60	18
4	Grand Gaube	4		64	5
5	Poudre d'Or			44	7
6	Poste la Fayette	2		24	6
7	Trou d'Eau Douce	1	1	18	21
8	G.R.S.E			21	6
9	Bambous Virieux			5	0
10	Mahebourg	3	2	89	73
11	Riambel	1		9	12
12	Baie du Cap		1	13	11
13	Case Noyale	1		30	7
14	La Preneuse	3		44	40
15	Pointe aux Sables	1		47	47
Total		17	4	764	282

9.4 Illegal fishing

Since the introduction of the three flying squads to deter illegal fishing, the number of cases of action taken against illegal fishing has increased significantly as shown in table 9.4.

Table 9.4: Number of contraventions taken against illegal fishing

Year	Underwater fishing	Net fishing	Others	Lengths of illegal nets seized (m)
2002	59	87	80	2 396
2003	12	16	47	5 570
2004	8	14	13	697
2005	21	12	32	6 183
2006	105	146	83	12 033

9.5 Allowances to artisanal fishermen

9.5.1 Bad Weather Allowance

During the prevalence of bad weather when fishing cannot be undertaken an allowance is paid to the fishermen. The bad weather days are determined by the Meteorological Services.

A zoning system was introduced during the year and comprised the lagoon and off-lagoon areas. The number of beneficiaries ranged from 1 054 to 2 257, while the rate for a bad weather day increased from Rs. 145 to Rs. 155. An amount of Rs. 35 890 800 was thus paid in 2006. Details are shown in table 9.5.

Table 9.5: Bad weather allowance

Year	No. of days	Rate (Rs)	Beneficiaries	Total (Rs)
2002	142	115 - 125	2 118 - 2 319	38 569 430
2003	114	125 - 130	2 121 - 2 363	32 809 255
2004	118	130 - 135	2 012 - 2 111	34 357 665
2005	137	135 - 145	1 978 - 2 247	41 597 895
2006	124	145 - 155	1 054 - 2 257	35 890 800

9.5.2 Closed season allowance

During the close season from 1 October to the last day of February when net fishing is prohibited, net fishermen are entitled to an allowance of Rs 155 daily. A total of Rs. 2 852 125 was paid and details of payment are shown in table 9.6.

Table 9.6: Closed season allowance

Year	No. of days	Rate (Rs)	Beneficiaries	Total (Rs)
2002	122	115-125	189-184	2 730 100
2003	123	125-130	179-184	2 849 250

2004	121	130-135	179	2 815 670
2005	122	135-145	161	2 763 010
2006	121	145-155	161-153	2 852 125

9.5.3 Sick Leave Allowance

A registered fisherman is entitled to a sick leave allowance of Rs. 145/155 per day when admitted to a hospital or clinic for at least 14 days. Such allowance paid is shown in table 9.7.

Table 9.7: Sick leave allowance

Year	Rate (Rs)	Beneficiaries	Total (Rs)
2002	115 - 125	2	3 220
2003	125 - 130	4	7 210
2004	130 - 135	3	5 670
2005	135 - 145	6	11 480
2006	145 - 155	5	9 870

9.6 Incentives to registered fishermen

9.6.1 Scholarship to children

The Fishermen Welfare Fund disbursed an amount of Rs 783 000 as scholarship allowance to children of registered fishermen; details are shown in table 9.8.

Table 9.8: Scholarship allowance

Education Level	Beneficiaries	Amount (Rs)
Post C.P.E (Form I to V)	56	252 000
Post S.C (Lower and Upper Six)	25	225 000

Post H.S.C (Degree & Professional Qualifications)	14	252 000
Vocational	12	54 000
Total	107	783 000

9.7 Buy-back scheme for nets

Implementation of the buy-back scheme for the reduction of the number of nets operated in the lagoon was continued. The compensation payable was reviewed and increased as follows:

- (a) Large net:
Licence fee - from Rs 200 000 to Rs 280 000
Cost of net - from Rs 30 000 to Rs 42 000
- (b) Gill net:
Licence fee - from Rs 75 000 to Rs 105 000
Cost of net - from Rs 20 000 to Rs 28 000
- (c) Fishermen:
Individual - from Rs 25 000 to Rs 35 000
Member of Cooperatives Societies/Associations - from Rs 50 000 to Rs 70 000

One net was surrendered and seven fishermen compensated. Details of payment effected are shown in table 9.9.

Table 9.9: Amount paid (Rs.)

Year	Fishermen		Nets surrendered			Total
	Number	Amount	Large net	Gill net	Amount	
2002	20	800 000	1	0	230 000	1 030 000
2003	2	100 000	0	0	0	100 000
2004	9	250 000	1	1	325 000	575 000
2005	2	140 000	0	0	0	140 000
2006	7	315 000	1	0	133 000	448 000