

FISHERIES TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION

5.1 Fisheries Training and Extension Centre

The Fisheries Training and Extension Centre (FiTEC) which became operational in 2004 provides training to fishers, who choose fishing as a career and to registered fishers operating in the off lagoon and around Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs).

5.1.1 General course for fishers

Four consecutive “General Course for Fisher”- *Course Code F01* were conducted and 103 trainee fishers from the regions of Mahebourg, Grand Gaube, Poudre d’Or, Grand Sables and Bambous Virieux completed the training. On successful completion of the eight-week course, the trainee fishers were awarded certificates and were registered as off-lagoon fishermen.

5.1.2 Training course in the FAD fishery

A batch of 15 registered fishers from Grand River South East and Albion followed the “Training Course in Fish Aggregating Device Fishery” - *Course Code F03*. The course which included practical at sea was for a duration of two weeks and on completion of the course the trainees were awarded a certificate of attendance.

5.2 Fish Aggregating Devices Fishery Sub-programme

Activities in relation to the development of the Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) fishery under the International Fund for Agricultural Development-IFAD Loan 504: MU-Rural Diversification Programme (RDP) were continued.

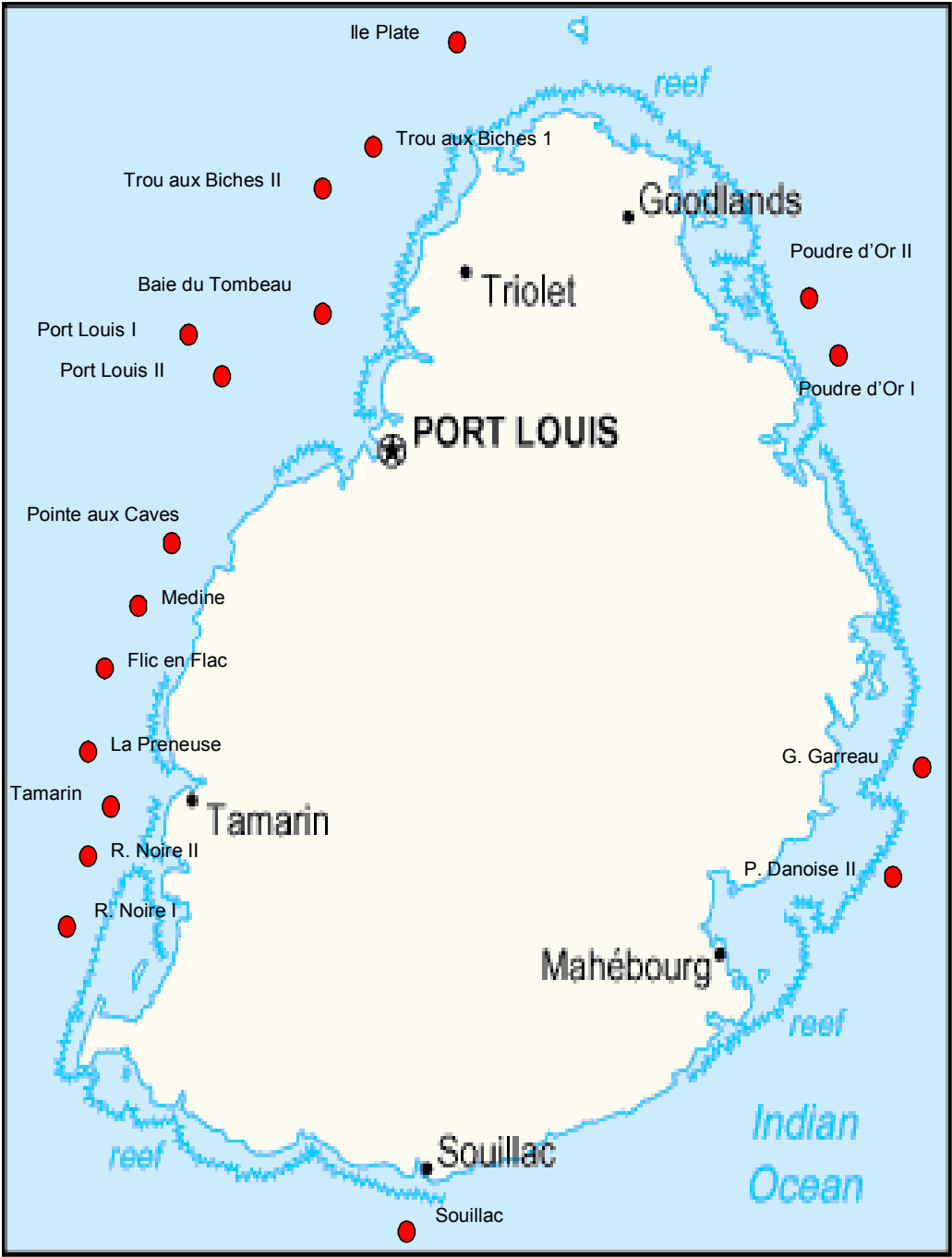
5.2.1 FAD programme

Ninety seven sea trips were effected by the two research boats, “Sphyrna II and Maustral”, for training of fishers and for the deployment, verification and maintenance of FADs.

Three new FADs were set off Pte aux Cannoniers, Mahebourg and Grand River South East. Prior to setting of FADs, bathymetric surveys were carried out. Ten FADs were replaced and twenty one FADs were kept active around the island. Table 6.1 gives the particulars of the FADs around the island and figure 6.1 illustrates their locations.

Table 5.1: Location of FADs

SN	Name	Mooring depth (m)	Distance from coast (nm)	Latitude-°S	Longitude-°E
1	Tombeau Bay	1 020	2.7	20° 04' 53	57° 27' 89
2	Tamarin	450	2.2	20° 19' 99	57° 19' 58
3	Flic en Flac	1 200	2.5	20° 15' 99	57° 19' 39
4	Trou aux Biches I	2 020	4.6	19° 59' 67	57° 27' 95
5	Flat Island	740	9.5	19° 49' 14	57° 34' 44
6	Riviere Noire I	1 000	4.6	20° 23' 77	57° 16' 85
7	Poudre d’Or	920	2.2	20° 05' 42	57° 46' 93
8	Trou aux Biches II	2 450	6.9	20° 01' 64	57° 24' 05
9	Port Louis II	3 500	10.0	20° 05' 14	57° 16' 09
10	Pte aux Caves	2 482	4.7	20° 10' 09	57° 19' 61
11	Albion	1 370	2.5	20° 09' 32	57° 23' 64
12	Pte aux Cannoniers	730	2.5	19° 57' 76	57° 31' 22
13	Medine	2 500	5.5	20° 12' 25	57° 17' 484
14	La Preneuse	2 300	5.17	20° 17' 73	57° 16' 064
15	Souillac	1 088	2.2	20° 33' 805	57° 31' 232
16	Passe Danoise II	400	5.3	20° 22' 102	57° 50' 142
17	Trou d’Eau Douce	980	3.1	20° 13' 851	57° 51' 465
18	GRSE	380	2.9	20° 15' 435	57° 51' 033
19	Grand Carreau	252	8.0	20° 21' 418	57° 55' 315
20	Mahebourg II	400	5.1	20° 26' 516	57° 47' 634
21	Roches Noires	780	5.4	20° 02' 58	57° 48' 88



5.2.2 FAD fishery monitoring

5.2.2.1 Data collection – fish landings from the FAD fishery

Data of landings from FADs were recorded at eight selected fish landing stations, namely; Trou aux Biches/Pointe aux Piments, Baie du Tombeau, Roche Bois, Bain des Dames, Pointe aux Sables, Tamarin, La Preneuse and Black River by seven enumerators from the Fisheries Protection Service. Data recorded included catch, species composition, mode of fishing and effort. Landings from FADs are shown in table 5.2.

Table 5.2: Fish landings from FADs

Common name	Scientific name	Catch (kg)
Germon	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	162 734
Thon jaune	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	28 917
Dorade	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	3 447
Becune	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	847
Bonite	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	4 288
Sharks	<i>Carcharhinus</i> sp.	491
Others		1 892
Total		202 616

5.2.2.2 Monitoring of fishing activities around FADs

Ninety sea trips were carried out in the northern and western regions by the two patrol boats, “FPS 1 and FPS 2”, for monitoring FAD fishing activities. The two boats which are based at FiTEC are operated by a team of eight Fisheries Protection Service officers.

5.2.2.3 Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Assessment of the FAD Fishery.

The study for “Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Assessment of the FAD fishery” under the IFAD programme which started in June 2005, was completed in June 2006. The main objective of the study was to evaluate the socio-economic impact of the FAD fishery on the fishers under the IFAD Rural Diversification Programme in order to assess whether the target set had been achieved in the alleviation of poverty among fishers operating around FADs. The final report is being awaited.

5.2.3 FAD regulations

Proposals for FAD regulations were formulated in order to control and regulate fishing activities around FADs. The draft was circulated among associations of fishers and other stakeholders for their views and comments.

5.2.4 Studies under the IFAD programme

Contracts were awarded for the conduct of two studies under the IFAD programme in December namely:

- Study on “Fish Handling, Preservation and Marketing in Mauritius and Rodrigues”

The main objective of the study is to assess the prevailing situation of fish handling, preservation techniques and marketing systems in Mauritius and Rodrigues. Based on the findings, recommendations would be made on ways and means to improve the various processes involved, to ensure quality assurance and value addition, taking into consideration the socio-economic implications.

- Study “To set up a system of data collection, processing, analysis and monitoring of the FAD fishery”

The objectives of the study are to develop appropriate formats for data collection, processing, analysis and monitoring of the FAD fishery, the development of a software for data processing and analysis, training of staff and proposal of a structure for monitoring of data of the FAD fishery.

5.3 Interactive Information Campaign for artisanal fishers

Interactive information campaigns for artisanal fishers were organized to sensitize fishers on the various activities carried out by the Centre and facilities and assistance provided by the Ministry. The following institutions; namely Development Bank of Mauritius Limited, Fisherman Welfare Fund (FWF) and Fisheries Protection Service also participated in the information campaigns. Subjects discussed included importance of training, safety at sea, financial assistance granted by the FWF and loan facilities from the Development Bank of Mauritius.

A total of five sensitisation campaigns was organized at nine different regions as shown in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3: Programme of information campaigns for artisanal fishers

Fisheries Post	Region	Date	Venue
Baie du Cap	Baie du Cap	27 January	Community Centre Baie du Cap
Grand River South East	Camp des Pecheurs	10 February	Trou d’Eau Douce Village Hall

	Deux Freres Quatre Soeurs		
Case Noyale	La Gulette	24 February	La Gulette Community Centre
Mahebourg	Mahebourg	17 March	Remy Ollier Village Hall
Souillac	Souillac	12 May	Amphitheatre, Souillac
Bambous Virieux	Bambous Virieux	26 May	Arya Samaj, Bambous Virieux

5.4 Demonstration fishing

Demonstration fishing trips to acquaint six potential investors with techniques on the deepwater shrimp fishery were effected in May and November on board research boat Sphyrna II. In the context of the bilateral cooperation between Mauritius and Seychelles, two delegates from Seychelles also participated in the fishing trip in May and November.