

Annual Report on Performance for Financial Year 2020-2021

*School of *Dacyllus aruanus* (Domino fish) and *Chromis viridus* (Breterre fish) over colonies of *Acropora* species at 6 metres depth in Blue Bay Marine Park*



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**Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources,
Fisheries and Shipping**



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Guide to this Report

Part I sets out the vision and mission of the Ministry, its roles, functions and staffing.

Part II highlights the achievements and challenges of the Ministry.

Part III provides information on the financial performance of the Ministry for Financial Year 2020/2021

Part IV is about the way forward for the Ministry to realise its strategic objectives.



Statement from the Honourable Minister

I am pleased to present the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping for the financial year 2020-2021. The Report has been prepared in line with the requirements of the Finance and Audit Act.

This Financial year has proved to be particularly challenging but it has also paved the way for more innovative endeavours. The global economic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the fisheries and marine sectors. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Blue Economy has transitioned into another dimension as the need to ensure food security, job retention and sustainability are now among the highest priorities on the Government's socio-economic development agenda.



Amid the COVID-19 pandemic in late July 2020, the Japanese bulk carrier, MV Wakashio, struck a reef in the coastal area of south-eastern Mauritius, leaking about 1,000 tonnes of oil into the surrounding pristine waters. This constituted a major threat not only for the marine life at the casualty site, but also for the Blue Bay Marine Park and the wildlife sanctuary on Ile aux Aigrettes. In addition, this disaster negatively impacted those people whose very livelihood depend on the sea, including our fishers and fishmongers.

This has been an extremely challenging situation which has called for the collaboration of one and all. I would like to take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt appreciation to the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, the Police force, NGOs, the inhabitants of the affected regions as well as the public in general for their precious collaboration in such difficult times. The unfortunate casualty of Sir Gaetan and the stranding of marine mammals off the eastern coast of Mauritius are yet other mishaps which have added to the tribulations faced during this financial year.

Thanks to the collaboration of all public and private stakeholders, my Ministry has been able to face these difficult times and has come out more resilient and better armed to move ahead. The Republic of Mauritius has a maritime jurisdiction which is more than 1,400 times larger than its land area. As such, fishing and shipping are among the main economic activities which are poised to boost the economy in this difficult economic climate. The development of the fisheries sector in particular is crucial for ensuring the food security of Mauritius.

The annual per capita consumption of fish on the island is about 28 kg per person. We produce about 29,000 tonnes of fish through coastal, demersal and pelagic fisheries, 86 % of which are sold on the local market and the remaining 14 % of are from marine aquatic farms aimed for international markets. Unfortunately, this is insufficient to meet local demand and our reliance on importation is therefore still very high. As a nation surrounded by the sea, I am convinced that we should produce and consume more of our local fish.

I deem it high time to give this sector the necessary push for it to become the economic giant it has the potential to develop into. It remains our most promising sector in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic but which has unfortunately thus far, remained unexplored and full of lost opportunities.

Our blue sea contains gold- but if we continue with the business as usual scenario, allowing and enabling foreign nations to exploit our marine resources, we will miss the chance of unlocking the potential of the blue economy.



I am, therefore, encouraging our youth as well as investors to join the fisheries sector to explore the 2.3 million km² of EEZ that is at our disposal to ensure the food security of the population. I am also inviting them to take advantage of ongoing schemes, such as the “Cannotte Scheme” and the “Off Lagoon Semi Industrial fishing vessel scheme” to further develop their operations in this sector.

My Ministry is committed to improving the social and economic status of our fishers as they play a very important role for our economy. A total of Rs 96 million has been paid as bad weather allowance to registered fishers and some Rs. 83 million was paid as solidarity grant to those affected by the oil spill from the MV Wakashio.

We are also working towards defining a clear strategy for the sector with a defined time frame for achieving short, medium and long-term goals geared towards optimal revenue generation from sustainable fisheries development.

Looking ahead, the strengthening of the institutional and regulatory framework of my Ministry would be crucial to move forward with confidence in order to foster the blue growth and maximise the potential of the fisheries sector.

Honourable Sudheer MAUDHOO
Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping



Statement from the Senior Chief Executive

It is an immense pleasure for me to present the Annual Report of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping for the Financial Year 2020-2021 highlighting the major activities of the Ministry.

Mauritius, like other Small Island Developing States, has been facing significant economic ordeals in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and major environmental challenges resulting from climate change. The grounding of MV Wakashio on the coral reefs at Pointe d'Esny and the ensuing oil spill, the stranding of the marine mammals on the East coast, the casualty of Sir Gaetan and the grounding of FV Lu Rong Yuan Yu 588 on the coral reefs of Pointe aux Sables only brought further distress to the marine environment and those whose livelihoods depend on the sea.

Through grit and effort, my Ministry has helped to address these challenges and provided financial relief to registered fishers and registered fishmongers affected by the maritime casualties.

The pandemic caused disruption of unprecedented dimension in the economic activities of the country. The contraction in marine and maritime economic activities resulted in a significant decrease of 59 % in revenue for this financial year as compared to the previous financial year. Additionally, in view of the lockdown, the implementation of several projects was delayed, resulting in a decrease of 16% in the overall expenditure of the Ministry.

The blue economy model aims at improving human wellbeing and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. The Ministry is committed to developing policies to enable the sustainable development and proper management of the economic potential of our ocean and its marine resources. Importantly, Government is committed to developing the blue economy sector whilst realizing the social and economic development of fishers, fishmongers, seafarers and many others who depend on the sea for their daily bread.

I wish to thank all the stakeholders for their collaboration and all staff members of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping for their commitment, professionalism and their support to duty and for the achievements outlined in this report.



Mr. Virendra K. Daby

Senior Chief Executive



About this report

The Annual Report on Performance of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping has been prepared as a statutory requirement in accordance with Section 4B of the Finance & Audit Act and in compliance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and Development.

This report summarises major actions of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping for the period July 2020 to June 2021 and provides information on the Ministry's performance and achievements for this particular year, in relation to the resources approved by the National Assembly.

The Annual Report provides information about this Ministry for its stakeholders and the public at large.



Part I – **Overview of the Ministry**

Recruits of soft corals and hard corals on a basaltic boulder at 8 metres depth at Confetti Bay (Coin de Mire)



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ABOUT THE MINISTRY

The mandate of the Ministry comprises the development of the blue economy, with a particular focus on fisheries, shipping and oceanography.

Vision

To make the Ocean Industry an important pillar in order to sustain economic diversification, job creation and wealth generation.

Mission

To optimise in a sustainable manner, the immense potential of our Exclusive Economic Zone and develop the ocean economy as a new pole of growth.

Key Objectives

- To ensure long-term benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources.
- To develop local capacity in the blue economy.
- To improve ocean hazards management for greater climate resilience.
- To enhance efficiency as a Maritime Safety Administration.

Strategy and Policy

Develop the Ocean Economy as an economic pillar of Mauritius with the objective of doubling the contribution of the Blue Economy to GDP by 2025 by tapping into the economic potential of the ocean while at the same time protecting this resource.

Core values of the Ministry



Figure 1: Core Values of the Ministry



Customers

Fishers (artisanal and bank), fishing operators, seafarers, aquaculture farms operators, ship owners, fishing and shipping agents, the public sector, the private sector, researchers, students, international partners/ institutions, non-governmental organisations and the public at large.

Services

- ✓ Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of fisheries activities to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone.
- ✓ Licensing of fishing boats, verification and control of fish and fish products.
- ✓ One Stop Shop service to fishing operators, traders, processors, canners and retailers of fish.
- ✓ Maritime Safety Administration, Ship Registration and Training of Seafarers.
- ✓ Mapping of the seafloor through bathymetry maps for shallow and deep sea for characterisation and identification of seafloor structures.

About Our People

The Senior Chief Executive is the Accounting Officer and is responsible for the overall administration and general supervision of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping. He is assisted by two Deputy Permanent Secretaries, the Director of Fisheries, the Director of Shipping, the Acting Controller of the Fisheries Protection Service and other officers in the administrative and technical cadres of the Ministry, as well as line managers from the Human Resources, Financial Operations, Procurement and Supply departments.

Table 1 hereunder illustrates the human resource distribution in the administrative and technical cadres of the Ministry.



Table 1: Distribution of the Ministry's workforce

Job Title/Cadre		Number of Staff
Administrative Cadre		
Senior Chief Executive		1
Deputy Permanent Secretary		2
Assistant Permanent Secretary		4
Human Resources Department		5
Finance Operations		7
Procurement and Supply		8
Technical Cadre		
Fisheries	Director of Fisheries	1
	Assistant Director	1
	Technical grades	53
Shipping	Director of Shipping	1
	Secretary for Shipping Development	1
	Deputy Director	1
	Technical grades	11
Mauritius Maritime Training Academy (MMTA)	Principal, MMTA	1
	Technical grades (MMTA)	3
Competent Authority	Head, Competent Authority	1
	Technical grades (Competent Authority)	7
Enforcement Cadre		
Fisheries Protection Service	Acting Controller	1
	Fisheries Protection officers	197
Advisers		
Adviser on Fisheries Protection Matters		1
Adviser on Information Matters		1
Adviser on Public Relation Matters		1
Support staff		
Supporting Staff		164



Table 2: List of Senior Staff at the Ministry

Designation	Name
Accounting Officer	Mr. CONHYE Koosiram (01.07.20 – 12.10.20) Mr. BOYRAMBOLI Bojrazsingh (12.10.20 – 23.11.20) Mr. DABY Virendra Kumarsingh (23.11.20 - 30.06.21)
Deputy Permanent Secretary	Mrs. RAMNATH Hemila
Deputy Permanent Secretary	Mrs. MOOSOOHUR Devika
Assistant Permanent Secretary	Mrs. GUNGADEEN Swaleha
Assistant Permanent Secretary	Mr. HUMATH Rajesh
Assistant Permanent Secretary	Mr. RAJABALEE Mohammad Belal
Assistant Permanent Secretary	Dr. REETOO Namrata
Manager, Human Resources	Mr. RAMBURN Mado
Acting Manager, Financial Operations	Mr. ETWAREE Satyawan
Manager, Procurement and Supply	Mr. KRIPA Chandraduth
Director of Fisheries	Mr. NORUNGEE Devanand
Director of Shipping	Mr. DONAT Louis Alain Enrico
Officer in Charge, Mauritius Maritime Training Academy	Mr. MOORGHEN Marday Armoogum
Acting Controller, Fisheries Protection Service	Mr. BAUHADOOR Sad Amar
Head, Competent Authority for Seafood	Dr. GROODOYAL Vidya Bushan



Organigram

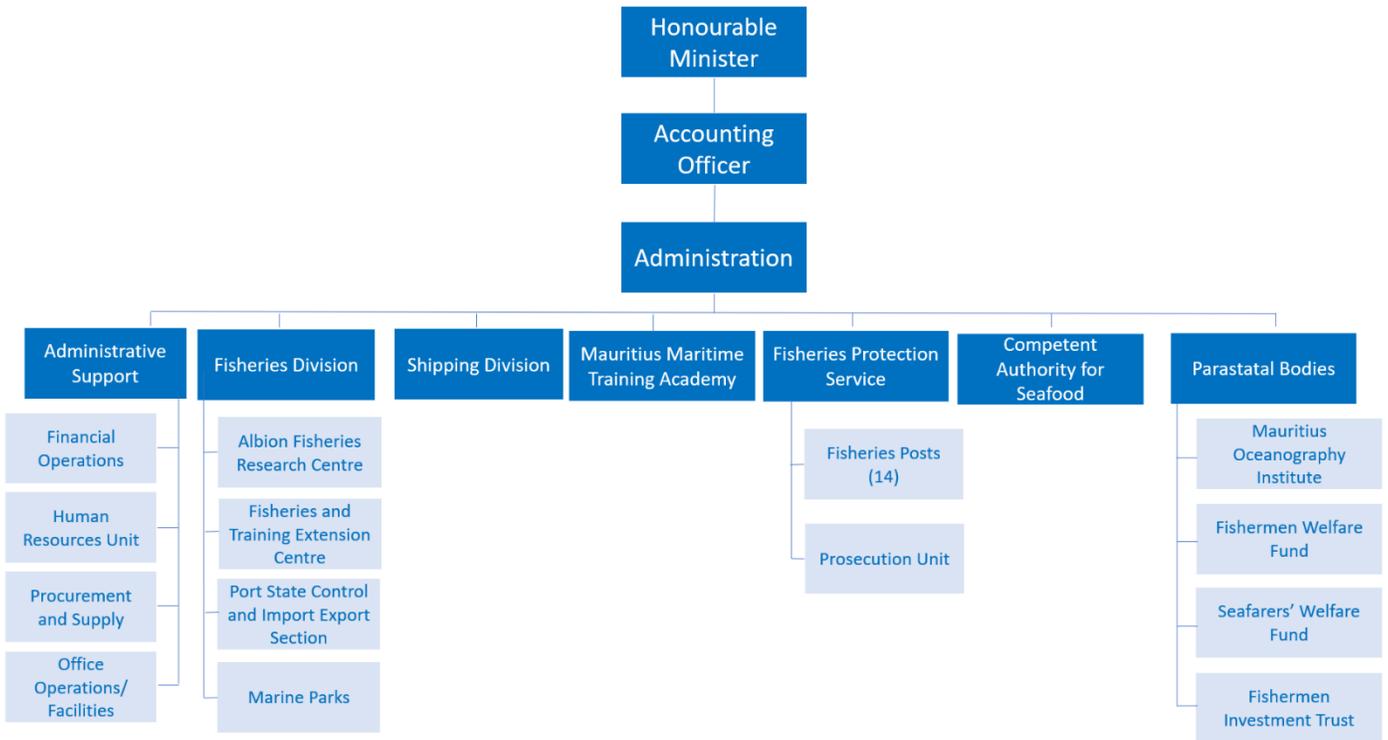


Figure 2: Organigram of the Ministry



Staff distribution

There are 474 funded positions in the Ministry, distributed in the sections/divisions as shown in the chart below.

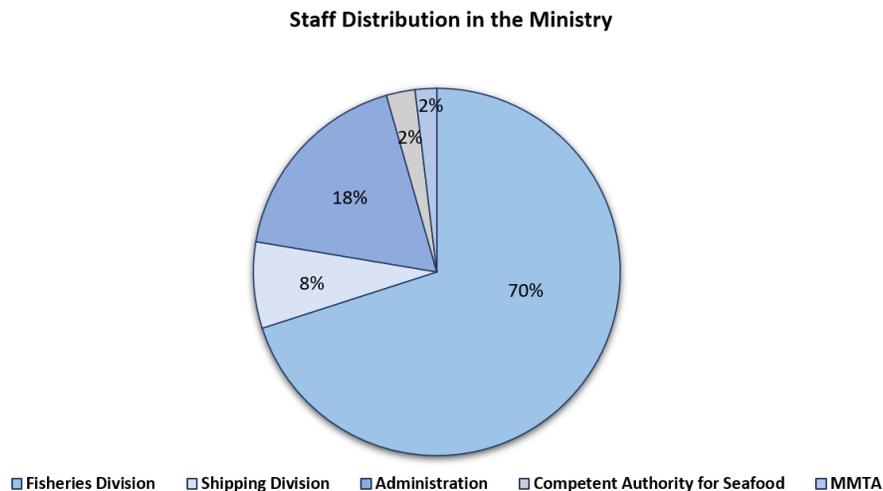


Figure 3: Staff Distribution as at 30 June 2021

- Number of vacancies advertised: 4
- Number of vacancies filled: 13
- Number of officers who retired from service: 18
- Number of officers having followed a training course: 150

Scarcity Areas

There is a dearth of qualified candidates on the local labour market to fill in vacancies in the Maritime sector. This is a worldwide phenomenon and the Republic of Mauritius, being a Small Island Developing State, is facing much constraints in this area. The Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping has encountered difficulties to fill in certain vacancies as the few candidates who possess the required qualifications are easily absorbed in the private sector where the pay packet of much more attractive than in the public sector.

These grades have been categorised as scarcity areas and are listed in **Table 3**:



Table 3: Details of Grades falling under scarcity areas

SN	Division/Unit/ Section	Grade
1	Shipping Division	Principal Marine Engineering Surveyor
2		Marine Engineering Surveyor,
3		Marine Engineering Inspector
4	Mauritius Maritime Training Academy	Nautical Surveyor, Nautical Inspector
5		Head, Deck Department
6		Head, Engineering Department
7		Instructor, Mechanical Workshop
8		Marine Training Officer
9	Fisheries Development	Petty Officer
10		Technical and Mechanical Officer (Fisheries)
11		Fishing Boat Inspector (Engineering)
12		Fishing Boat Inspector (Nautical)
13		Skipper
14		Second Hand Fishing (Limited)
15		Deckhand/Fisherman
		Motorman/Engine Driver

The Ministry tried to overcome the difficulties faced for the filling of these vacancies through measures such as the review of the existing Schemes of Service and through contract employment. However, the positions have remained vacant throughout the financial year 2020-2021.

Training of Staff

The number of officers trained during financial year 2020-2021 is detailed hereunder:

1. Overseas training: Nil
2. Local training: 71
3. Online training – Local institutions: 34
– Overseas institutions: 30
4. Diploma course in Fisheries Enabled Services (UTM) (year 2): 15 Senior Fisheries Protection Officers



Gender Distribution

As at 30 June 2021, the Ministry had a workforce of 473 officers which comprised **71.5 %** male officers and **28.5 %** female officers. The distribution of the workforce by gender and salary level is detailed in **Table 4** hereunder:

Table 4: Gender Classification of officers in post as at 30 June 2021

Categories	Women	Men	Total
Top Management	0	3	3
Middle Management	7	17	24
Support & Others	128	318	446
Total	135	338	473

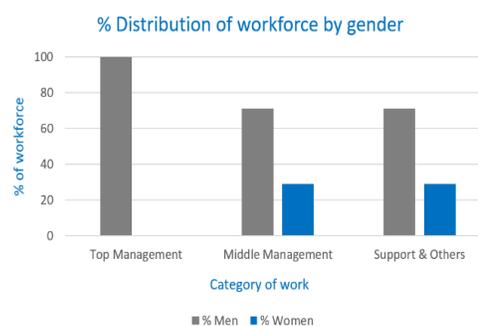


Figure 4: Gender Classification

Legend (Categories):

(i) *Top Management* - salary \geq Rs100k

(ii) *Senior/Middle Management* - Rs 40k < salary < Rs 100k

(iii) *Support & Others* - salary \leq Rs 40k

Gender Policy Statement of the Ministry

The Ministry formulated a gender policy document which serves as a framework for promoting gender responsiveness in the fisheries, marine and maritime sectors in Mauritius. The aim of the policy document is to enable the Ministry to promote gender equality by identifying existing gaps, proposing strategic interventions and formulating policy recommendations. The guiding principles of the Policy statement are to:

- a) formulate a gender mainstreaming strategy;
- b) improve the gender awareness and gender mainstreaming of senior and technical staff;
- c) increase attention on the persistent data and knowledge gap on gender in fisheries, marine and maritime sectors;
- d) bridge the gap between the relatively strong attention on gender in policy responses and the much weaker integration of gender analyses and perspectives; and
- e) strengthen the focus on gender equality in strategies, action plans and projects within the Ministry and its organisations.



Parastatal Bodies operating under the aegis of the Ministry

Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI)

Chairperson	Mr. J. D. P. Labonne (Acting) (02.07.20-24.08.20) Mrs. D. Moosoohur (Acting) (31.08.20 - 30.10.20) Mr. N. Nazurally (30.10.20 - 30.06.21)
Officer in Charge	Dr. R. K. Moothien Pillay (01.07.20 - 27.12.20) Dr. P. E. Marie (28.12.20-30.06.21)
Mandate/Objective	The Institute undertakes and coordinates research and development activities related to oceanography.

Fishermen Welfare Fund (FWF)

Chairperson	Mr. K. Beemadoo
Officer In Charge	Mr. T. I. Boodia
Mandate/Objective	The Fund promotes the betterment of registered fishers and their families in Mauritius as well as in Rodrigues.

Fishermen Investment Trust

Chairperson	<i>Vacant</i>
Officer in Charge	<i>Vacant</i>
Mandate/Objective	The Trust which aims at developing projects and schemes for the empowerment and welfare of fishers is not operational since 2019.

Seafarers' Welfare Fund

Chairperson	Mr. D. Salandy
Officer in Charge	Mr. V. Cahoolessur
Mandate/Objective	The Fund promotes the social and economic welfare of seafarers in Mauritius, irrespective of the nationality of the seafarer and the State in which the ship on which he is employed is registered.



Enabling Legislations

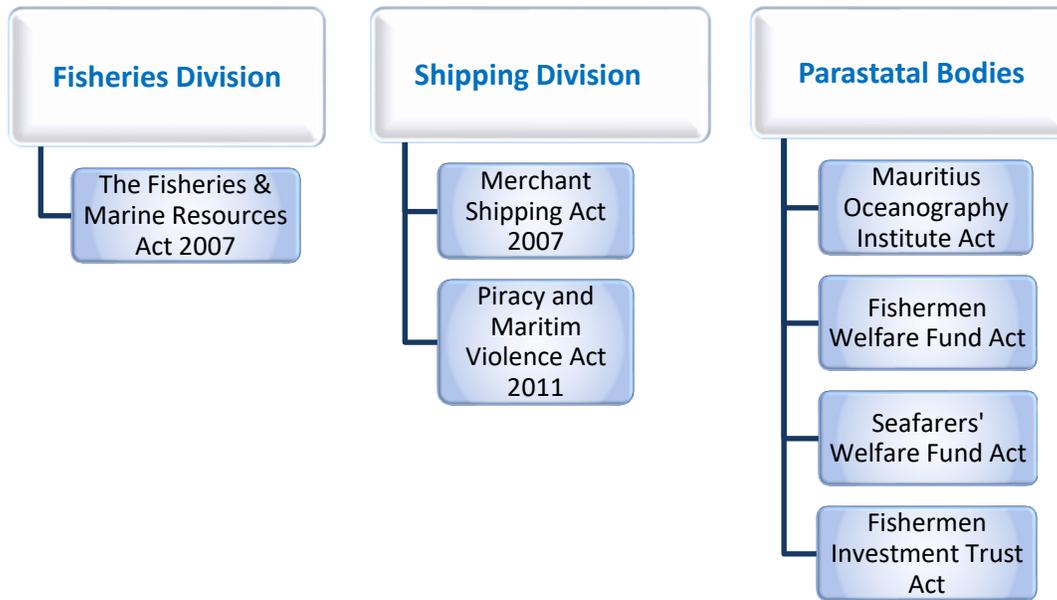


Figure 5: Enabling Legislations



Blue Economy

The Ministry is committed to sustainably develop the blue economy sector to diversify the Mauritian economy, create employment and generate wealth for the nation. With an Exclusive Economic Zone of 2.3 million km², the Republic of Mauritius has at its disposal a vast wealth of ocean resources, that has yet to be fully explored. As part of this development, the exploration and commercialisation of untapped fisheries resources, development of marine renewable energies, improved shipping and port facilities and exploration of the seabed would undoubtedly renew the economy of Mauritius. The Ministry is coordinating the above developments in line with the Government Programme 2020-2024 with all the relevant stakeholders in order to achieve its vision “to make the Ocean Industry an important pillar in order to sustain economic diversification, job creation and wealth generation.”

Fisheries Division

The Fisheries Division is the technical arm of the Ministry, headed by the Director of Fisheries. The latter oversees the different units within the Fisheries Division as detailed hereunder. The Fisheries Division is responsible for the development of the fisheries sector, the training of fishers, the provision of fishing licences, monitoring and combatting Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing and the regulation of import and export of fish and fish products.

1. The Albion Fisheries Research Centre (AFRC)

The AFRC is the technical arm of the Fisheries Division mandated to carry out applied research and development activities in the fisheries sector.

The objectives of the AFRC are to:

- Carry out research and studies needed for the sustainable development and management of marine living resources (fish, stocks, coral reef, etc.).
- Provide support services to stakeholders of the fishing industry (including those involved in aquaculture development).
- Provide advice to policy makers on matters related to the management and development of living marine resources and the conservation of the marine environment including the creation of marine parks and reserves.
- Carry out collaborative research and management as regard to international fisheries and marine living resources.
- Carry out fish stock enhancement through marine ranching.

2. The Fisheries Training and Extension Centre (FiTEC)

FiTEC caters for the various training needs of the fishing industry, carries out research and experimental fishing for untapped resources and provides additional facilities for the development of off-lagoon fishing.

The objectives of the FiTEC are to:

- Provide basic knowledge and skills to new entrants for a career in the fishing industry.
- Upgrade knowledge and skills of fishermen to operate in the off-lagoon area.
- Encourage use of effective and efficient fishing techniques.



- Promote production and supply of safe and quality sea food.
- Educate fishermen to develop a safety at sea culture.
- Create awareness on the protection and conservation of the marine environment.
- Foster the ecosystem approach in fisheries for sustainability.

FiTEC offers the following training courses for fishers and fishmongers:

- i. The General Course for Fisher (GCF).
- ii. Fish Handling, Preservation and Marketing for fishmongers.
- iii. Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) fishery training course.

3. Import/Export Unit

The Import/Export Unit oversees the import and export of fish and fish products. It is based at the One Stop Shop Seafood Hub, located at the Trade and Marketing Centre in the Freeport Zone, Mer Rouge.

4. Fisheries Planning Unit

The Planning Unit is responsible for the planning and implementation of fisheries policies, as well as the compilation and processing of information in the fisheries sector.

5. Licensing Unit

The Licensing Unit oversees the issuing and renewal of fishing licences to both local and foreign fishing boats and fishing vessels for fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Mauritius.

6. Port State Control Unit (PCSU)/Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC)

The PCSU and the FMC are jointly responsible to:

- combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU catch) fishing;
- monitor licensed fishing boats/vessels in the EEZ of Mauritius through the VMS;
- keep the port free of illegal fishing boats/vessels;
- control import and export of fish and fish products;
- ensure that only legally caught fish are traded; and
- ensure a continuous supply of safe fish and fish products for local consumption.

Fisheries Protection Services

The Fisheries Protection Service (FPS) is the enforcement arm of the Ministry. The FPS operates 14 fisheries posts (**Figure 6**) and oversees 61 fish landing stations (**Figure 7**) around the island of Mauritius. The FPS is responsible for the registration of fishers, fishmongers and fishing boats less than 12 metres in length overall. Additionally, the FPS is mandated and empowered to enforce the provisions of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act.



Figure 6: Fisheries Posts around Mauritius



Figure 7: Fish Landing Stations around Mauritius



Shipping Division

The Shipping Division is responsible for ensuring the safety and security of ships and the protection of the marine environment and of life and property at sea. The Division acts as the Maritime Administration in Mauritius and oversees Maritime Safety, Maritime Security, the development of the Mauritius Shipping Sector and Prevention of Pollution of the Marine Environment from ships. It also enforces compliance with International Laws and Conventions and ensures that all vessels registered under the Mauritius Flag and all foreign vessels plying in the Mauritian territorial waters comply with international standards.

Mauritius is a party to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended. According to the amendments to the Convention, all member States are required to have a quality standard system in place covering all activities related training, assessment of competence, certification, endorsement and revalidation as per Regulation I/8 (Quality Standards) of the Convention, and Section A-I/8 of the STCW Code. In line with the Convention, the Shipping Division first implemented the ISO 9001:2015 quality management system standards in March 2018 and has been re-certified by the Mauritius Standards Bureau on 11 April 2021.

Mauritius Maritime Training Academy

The Mauritius Maritime Training Academy is mandated to provide quality maritime training in line with international standards. The MMTA provides training to all categories of ratings for merchant fishing vessels and for personnel working in the catering/hospitality department of passenger/cruise vessels. Additionally, the MMTA also dispenses officer courses for fishing vessels of 24 metres and over and fishing vessels with propulsion power of 1500 KW, namely Skipper, Second Hand, Chief Engineer and Second Engineer.

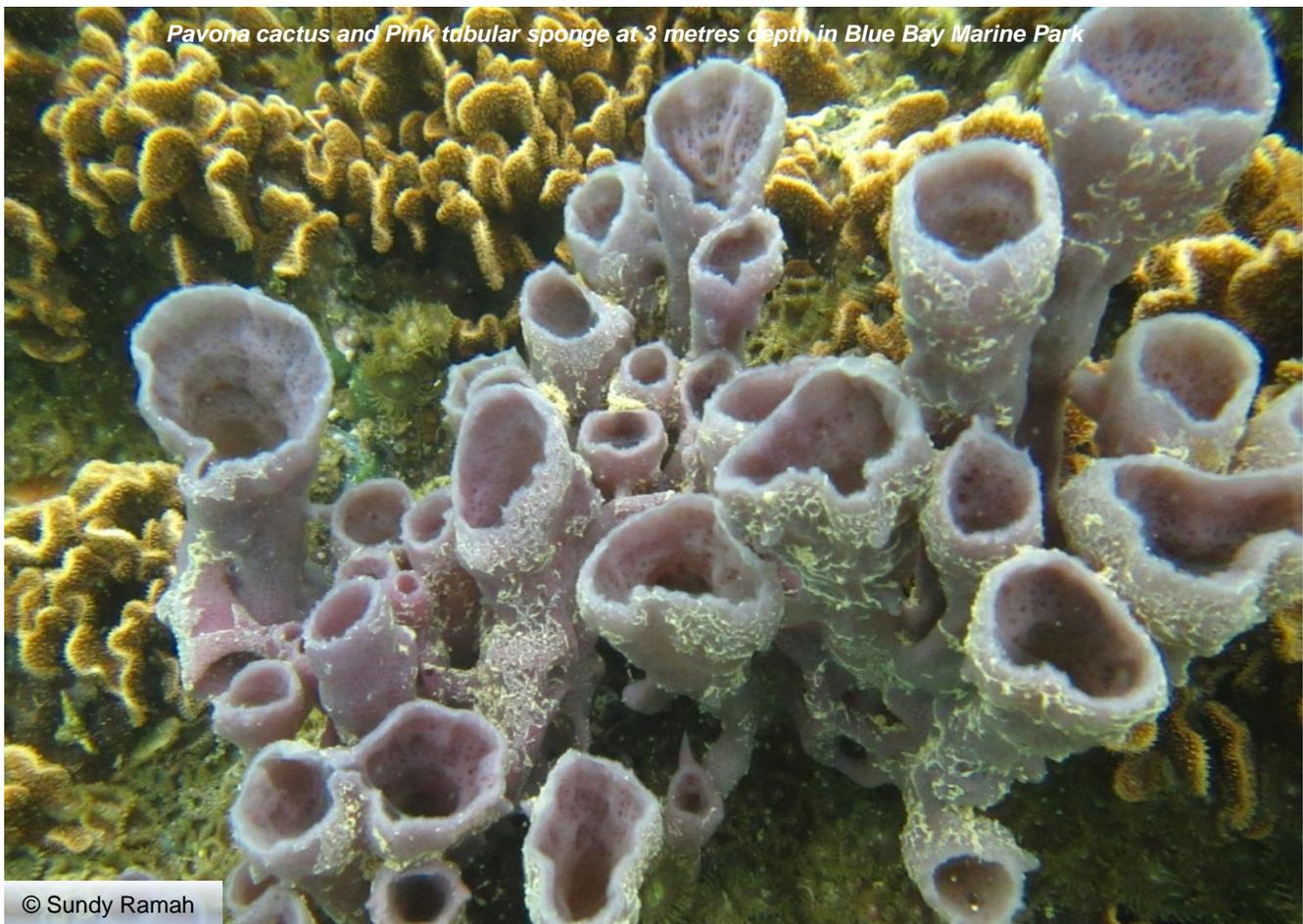
Competent Authority for Seafood

The Competent Authority is responsible for the verification and certification of fish and fish products for export primarily to member states of the European Union as well as to non-EU countries. The main objective of the Authority is to strengthen the fisheries and aquaculture industry as a sustainable economic pillar.



Part II -

Achievements and Challenges





Achievements from the Fisheries Division

1. Examination and identification of fish specimens:
 - (i) 1,062 specimens from NCG, FPS and PSCU
 - (ii) 1,424 specimens following the oil spill from MV Wakashio
 - (iii) 34 specimens of suspected toxic fish
 - (iv) 165 specimens of octopus

2. Production of fish and fish products:
 - (i) Coastal fisheries (including artisanal and amateur fisheries): 891 tonnes
 - (ii) FAD fisheries: 205 tonnes
 - (iii) Pelagic fisheries: 22,714 tonnes
 - (iv) Offshore Demersal fisheries: 1,248 tonnes
 - (v) Aquaculture: 3,957 tonnes

3. Sampling of fish specimens for biological examination:
 - (i) 3,923 specimens from Offshore Demersal fisheries
 - (ii) 4,845 specimens from Pelagic fisheries
 - (iii) 125 specimens from Coastal fisheries

4. Transshipment of fish through Mauritius:
 - (i) Pelagic fish (Tuna and tuna-like): 39,644 tonnes
 - (ii) Patagonian toothfish: 1,270 tonnes

5. Verification of logbooks:
 - (i) Offshore Demersal fisheries: 249 logbooks
 - (ii) Longliners: 10 Mauritian-flagged and 23 foreign-flagged Mauritian licensed.
 - (iii) Purse seiners: 34 Mauritian-flagged and 10 EU-flagged Mauritian licensed

6. Fishing licences issued:
 - (i) Offshore Demersal fisheries: 33
 - (ii) Advanced Coastal fisheries: 7
 - (iii) Pelagic fisheries: 87

7. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance:
 - (i) Departure clearances for local semi-industrial fishing boat/ vessels issued: 318
 - (ii) Processing statements validated and endorsed: 1,364
 - (iii) Catch certificates validated and endorsed: 810
 - (iv) Boarding and inspection: 312 on local fishing vessels and 450 on foreign fishing vessels.
 - (v) VMS reports for departure clearance for local fishing vessels: 387
 - (vi) VMS reports for the validation of Mauritius Catch Certificates: 37



8. Production of fish for aquaculture and marine ranching:
 - (i) Sea bream fingerlings produced at AFRC and released at sea: 100,000
 - (ii) Freshwater juvenile prawn sold: 121,654
 - (iii) Production of berri rouge fingerlings for backyard aquaculture and aquaponics: 15,695

9. Import of fish and fish products:
 - (i) Number of registered importers of fish and fish products: 179
 - (ii) Landing permits issued: 3,715
 - (iii) Fish imported for processing:
 - (a) Tuna by Princes Tuna Mtius and SAPMER: 82,057 tonnes
 - (b) Barracouta for salted snoek: 697 tonnes
 - (iv) Fish and fish products imported (frozen, chilled and canned): 100,192 tonnes (of which 11,289 tonnes was for direct consumption) (detailed in **Table 5**)
 - (v) Revenue generated through import (registration licence fee): Rs 4,475,000
 - (vi) Live ornamental fish imported: 117,488 units

10. Export of fish and fish products:
 - (i) Fish and fish products exported: 82,780 tonnes (detailed in **Table 6**)
 - (ii) Number of registered exporters of fish and fish products: 149
 - (iii) Number of export authorisations issued: 3,555
 - (iv) Number of live ornamental fish exported: 298 units
 - (v) Validation of re-export certificates for foreign fishing vessels: 173
 - (vi) Validation and endorsement of statistical documents for export of tuna and tuna products: 206

11. 131 fishmongers were trained by FiTEC with respect to their registration.

12. A fisheries mapping survey was undertaken at Agalega following a request from the Outer Island Development Corporation wherein 8 sites were surveyed for fish and substrate cover. The objective of the survey was to identify fish resources, their distribution and abundance in the Agalega waters in view of establishing potential fishing possibilities.

13. Accreditation of the Laboratories Division by the Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS):
 - (i) Renewed accreditation of the Marine Chemistry and Marine Microbiology Laboratories.
 - (ii) Successful transition of the Laboratory Division from ISO 17025:2005 to the new ISO 17025:2017 standard for its laboratory management system.

14. Marine surveys in the South East region in the wake of the casualty of MV Wakashio:
 - (i) A monitoring program for hydrocarbon contamination in seawater, marine sediment and fish was put in place following the grounding and subsequent oil spill from the MV Wakashio at Pointe d'Esny as from 26 July 2020. The results of analyses were used for decision making concerning the closure and re-opening of affected areas with regards to recreational and fishing activities.



- (ii) 1870 Seawater samples were collected in the lagoon and shoreline from La Cambuse to Trou d'Eau Douce and off lagoon around the island and were analysed for physico-chemical parameters including oil and grease.
 - (iii) 298 seawater samples and 432 sediment samples (including mangrove sites) were collected along the shoreline from La Cambuse to Trou d'Eau Douce and one reference site at Albion and were submitted to SGS (Mauritius) Ltd for the analysis of Total Hydrocarbon (HCT), Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) and Heavy Metals.
 - (iv) 1297 fish samples were collected from the lagoon and off lagoon around the island including the zones affected by the oil spill and were submitted to Quantilab Ltd for the analysis of HCT, PAH and Heavy Metals.
 - (v) 5 macroalgae samples were collected in the shoreline at Pointe d'Esny and were analysed for HCT and PAH.
15. Marine surveys at Poudre D'Or pertaining to the wreck of Sir Gaetan:
- (i) A seawater and sediment monitoring program was put in place along the shoreline and lagoon in the region of Poudre d'Or following the sinking of the tugboat Sir Gaetan Duval on high seas on 31 August 2020 at Poudre d'Or.
 - (ii) 120 seawater samples were collected in the lagoon and shoreline at Poudre d'Or and were analysed for the physico-chemical parameters including oil and grease.
 - (iii) 9 seawater samples and 6 sediment samples were collected along the shoreline and lagoon in the region of Poudre d'Or and submitted to Quantilab Ltd for the analysis of HCT, PAH and heavy metals.
16. Marine surveys following the grounding of FV Lu Rong Yuan Yu 588 at Pointe aux Sables: 49 seawater samples were collected and analysed for physico-chemical parameters including oil and grease following the grounding of FV Lu Rong Yuan Yu 588 at Pointe aux Sables on 7 March 2021.
17. The Fisheries Division continued its seawater monitoring programme at 13 selected public beaches and collected 196 seawater samples for analysis of chemical and microbiological parameters to ensure compliance with Coastal Water Quality Guidelines (1999). Additionally, 197 seawater samples were collected from 26 permanent representative monitoring sites including sewage outfalls, marine parks, port area and aquaculture sites and were analysed for physico-chemical parameters.
18. Seawater and macroalgae samples were monitored for harmful marine microalgae at eight representative sites around the island. 83 macro-algae samples were collected for analysis. Additionally, 58 fish samples were analysed for ciguatera toxin.
19. Publication of a scientific paper entitled '*Spatial and Seasonal variations of harmful benthic dinoflagellates in the coastal waters of Mauritius*' in January 2021 in the Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference in Ocean Engineering (ICOE2019).



Table 5: Import of fish and fish products

TYPE	PRODUCT	Grand Total (Tonnes)
Chilled	Fish	58
	Crustacean	4
	Cephalopod	0
	Shell fish	6
Frozen	Fish	3 402
	By-catch	910
	Controlled fish sp	0
	Crustacean	1 068
	Cephalopod	890
	Shell fish	17
Frozen Prepared Products	Fish	1 705
	Cephalopod	37
	Crustacean	37
Canned Products	Fish	2 996
	Crustacean	0.017
Dried Products	Fish	74
	Crustacean	83
	Cephalopod	2
Frozen for processing (for salted snoek)	Barracouta	697
Frozen tuna for processing -PTM	Tuna	76 547
Frozen Tuna for Processing - SAPMER	Tuna	5 510
Dry	Fish feed	6 149
Live (Units)	Ornamental fish	117 488

Table 6: Export of fish and fish products

Products	Total (Tonnes)
Salted Snoek	71
Chilled Fish	4
Chilled Fish from Aquaculture	675
Fish Meal (dry)	8 152
Fish Oil	1 915
Frozen/precooked	16 798
Frozen/processed	1 240
Frozen Fish	12 973
Tuna in pouch	3 923
Tuna in Jars	646
Canned tuna	36 378
Live marine Ornamental fish (units)	298



Achievements from Competent Authority for Seafood

1. Number of registered business operators: 33
2. Number of inspections carried out at registered fish business operators with a view to issuing health certificates for the export of fish and fish products: 1,431
3. Number of health certificates issued for the export of fish and fish products: 2,380 to EU countries and 1,007 to non-EU countries

Achievements from the Fisheries Protection Service

1. Number of new fishmongers registered in FY 2020-2021:131
Total number of fishmongers registered as at end June 2021: 1,009
2. Number of new fishers registered in FY 2020-2021:26
Total number of artisanal fishers registered as at end June 2021: 1,846
3. Number of new fishing boats registered in FY 2020-2021: 34
Total number of fishing boats registered as at end June 2021: 2,728
4. Total amount of BWA paid in FY 2020-2021: Rs. 96 million
5. Total amount of Solidarity Grant paid to fishers of the South East Cost affected by the oil spill from MV Wakashio: Rs. 83.23 million
6. Number of contraventions successfully prosecuted: 46 cases and amount of penalty paid by offenders: Rs. 59,200
7. Number of illegal fishing gears seized: 45
8. Number of contraventions established but not yet prosecuted: 12

Achievements from the Shipping Division

1. Promulgation of two Merchant Shipping Regulations to manage pollution by ships at sea in line with MARPOL.
2. Registration of 13 vessels under the Mauritian flag.
3. Six Merchant Shipping Notices were issued to the Shipping Community to disseminate urgent information about the Covid-19 pandemic.



4. Three Guidelines have been produced to guide the approval, monitoring and issue of instructions to Recognised Organisations to conduct surveys and certification of ships in line with the SOLAS Convention.
5. Continued provision of maritime communication services such as Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT). Through the GMDSS services, 33 Search and Rescue operations have been conducted.
6. Provision of ferry services at Grand River South East.
7. Improved measures to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species in our marine environment through the implementation of the Glofouling project.
8. 70 surveys and inspections of vessels have been carried out to ensure compliance of vessels with the Merchant Shipping Act.
9. Additionally, 185 Endorsement Certificates, 75 Attestation Certificates, 8 Certificates of Competency/Proficiency, 19 Ship's Cook Certificates and 58 Minimum Safe Manning Certificates were issued during this financial year.
10. 2,271 Port Clearances were issued to vessels and the Discharge Books of 327 seafarers were endorsed.

Achievements from the MMTA

1. 179 seafarers have been trained in 4 different courses as listed in **Table 7** below:

Table 7: Number of Seafarers Trained

SN	COURSE	Number	Trainees
1	BST/CRD/CRM/PSA	144	Mostly employed on cruise vessels
2	Designated Security Duties	10	Employed on both cruise and cargo vessels
3	Rating forming part of Engineering Watch	13	Employed on cargo vessels
4	Rating forming part of Navigational Watch	12	
TOTAL		179	



Implementation of budget measures

A series of key budget actions and measures were announced by the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development for FY 2020-21 pertaining to the Ministry. A status of the achievements of the budget measure and key actions are provided in **Tables 8** and **9** respectively.

Table 8: Status on Implementation of Budget Measures

SN	Budget para	Budget Measure	Status
1	132	The daily rate of the bad weather allowance to fishermen will be increased from Rs 365 to Rs 425.	As from July 2020, an average of 1,695 registered fishers have been paid the new Bad Weather Allowance amount. The total amount paid as bad weather allowance during FY 2020-21 is Rs. 96,349,400.

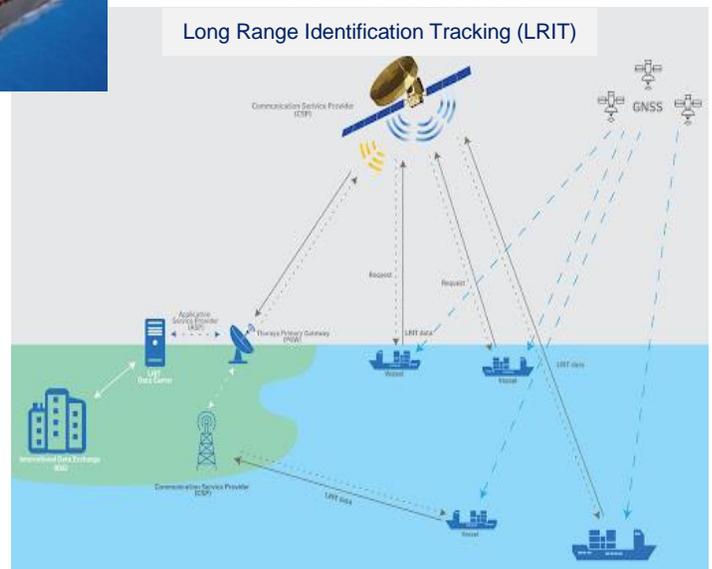
Table 9: Status on Key Actions and KPIs of the Ministry

Key Action	Key Performance Indicator	Target for FY 2020/21	Actual for FY 2020/21	Remarks
Vote 22 Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping				
Increase fish production for local consumption and exports	Tons of fish produced	34,000	22,843	Reduction in target due to the impacts of COVID-19 resulting in a reduction in fishing activities.
Promote off-lagoon fishing	Number of canottes acquired by registered fishermen	20	15	15 beneficiaries have benefitted from a total grant of Rs. 2,828,100 under phase 6 of the canotte scheme.
	Number of semi-industrial fishing boats acquired by fishermen cooperatives	3	0	Application in respect of 3 beneficiaries submitted to Maubank Ltd. for consideration.
Coral farming for rehabilitation of degraded coral reefs	Number of sites rehabilitated	2	3	Three sites namely Blue Bay Marine Park, Balaclava Marine Park and Trou aux Biches have been rehabilitated.
Training of potential fishermen.	Number of persons trained	150	131	Target was only partly achieved as the training program was put on hold due to the sanitary restrictions.
Ensure compliance of merchant vessels with national and international maritime standards	Number of audit inspections on vessels registered under Mauritian Flag	25	70	Target achieved.



Part III-

Financial Performance





Financial Highlights of the Ministry

The Ministry is allocated its yearly budget through two votes: Vote 22-1 Ocean Economy and Vote 22-2 Fisheries. The total budget allocated to the Ministry for Financial Year 2020-21 was Rs. 573.5 million. The Ministry was expected to generate an estimated Rs. 126 million in revenues through the various services and fees it charges for fishing and shipping operations.

Statement of Revenue of the Ministry

Table 10: Statement of revenue of the Ministry

S/N	Description	2019-2020	2020-2021	2020-2021	Analysis of major changes
		Actual (Rs)	Estimates (Rs)	Actual (Rs)	
1	Fishing Vessel Licence Fee	85,368,385	87,500,000	22,774,917	A drastic decrease of 73% in Fishing Vessel Licence fees was collected in FY 2020-2021 compared to the estimated amount. This decrease was mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions for foreign fishing vessels (limited crew employment, boarding and transfer).
2	Ship's Registration Fee	230,278	20,000	157,269	Ship's Registration Fee also decreased in 2020-2021 due to the following: a. Decision of ship owners to de-register their vessels; b. Fewer number of new ship registrations due to lack of visibility of the advantages of the Mauritius Flag; c. Management companies are still not familiar with ship registration procedures and cannot promote the Flag.
3	Annual Fees (Shipping)	5,121,591	7,900,000	8,047,521	Slight increase of the fees charged annually for ship registration.
4	Processing fees for Inspection	4,425,000	5,500,000	0	An amount of Rs. 4,475,000 has been paid to the MRA. As at 30 June 2021, the MRA had not yet transferred the funds.
5	Permits/ Fees to Operate in Marine Protected Areas (MPA)	758,800	2,900,000	1,283,000	The amount is less compared to the estimated revenue as no activity was undertaken by operators during the COVID-19 lockdown.
6	Fees for services provided at the Competent Authority for Seafood (CAS)	4,887,800	5,600,000	3,470,500	Reduced export activity by fish exporters due to the COVID-19 lockdown.
7	Sales of Produce	168,392	560,000	233,401	The estimated revenue w.r.t to freshwater prawns and berry rouge could not be achieved due to low production of fish caused by a reduction in workforce in the Aquaculture Division for the daily management and operation of ponds and hatcheries. Moreover, due to strict lockdown measures, there was a decrease in request for purchase of fish as farmers were encountering difficulties to set up infrastructure for aquaculture and to call at the AFRC for the purchase of juvenile prawns and fish fingerlings.



8	Miscellaneous Sales of Goods and Services (Fisheries)	6,724,654	10,500,000	6,236,752	Target not met due to decrease of activities during COVID-19 lockdown period.
9	Miscellaneous Sales of Goods and Services (Shipping)	5,941,291	5,700,000	4,271,616	Target not met due to decreased of activities during COVID-19 lockdown period.
TOTAL		113,626,191	126,180,000	46,474,976	

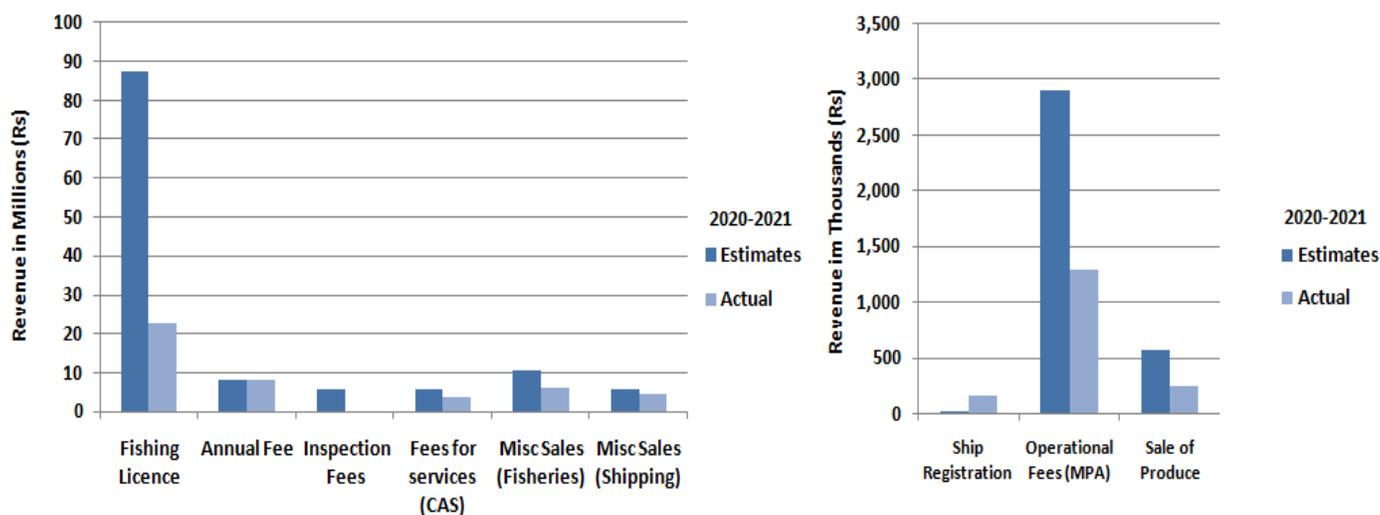


Figure 8: Statement of Revenue



Statement of Expenditure of the Ministry

The financial highlights of the Expenditure by Votes and the Categories therein for the financial year 2020-2021 are illustrated below:

Expenditure for Vote 22-1 Ocean Economy

Table 11: Statement of Expenditure (Ocean Economy)

SN	Head/Sub-Head of Expenditure	2019-2020	2020-2021	2020-2021	Analysis of major changes
		Actual (Rs)	Estimates (Rs)	Actual (Rs)	
1	Compensation of Employees	73,675,082	81,290,000	71,794,863	A decline of 13% compared to the estimates was noted as the vacancies were not filled.
2	Goods and Services	54,165,360	119,035,000	63,384,092	A decrease of 47% was noted due to reduced activities as a result of COVID-19 lockdown.
3	Subsidies	332,100	450,000	402,328	On target
4	Recurrent Grants	44,721,997	97,400,000	41,778,424	Spending for 'Recurrent Grants' decreased by 57% as expenditure on Global Monitoring for Environment and Security/ Africa Support Programme (AU Funded) was reduced due to COVID-19 lockdown.
5	Capital Grants	4,376,864	5,500,000	5,429,474	On target
6	Social Benefits	0	10,000	10,000	On target
7	Other Expenses	75,290,356	315,000	315,000	On target
TOTAL		252,561,759	304,000,000	183,114,181	

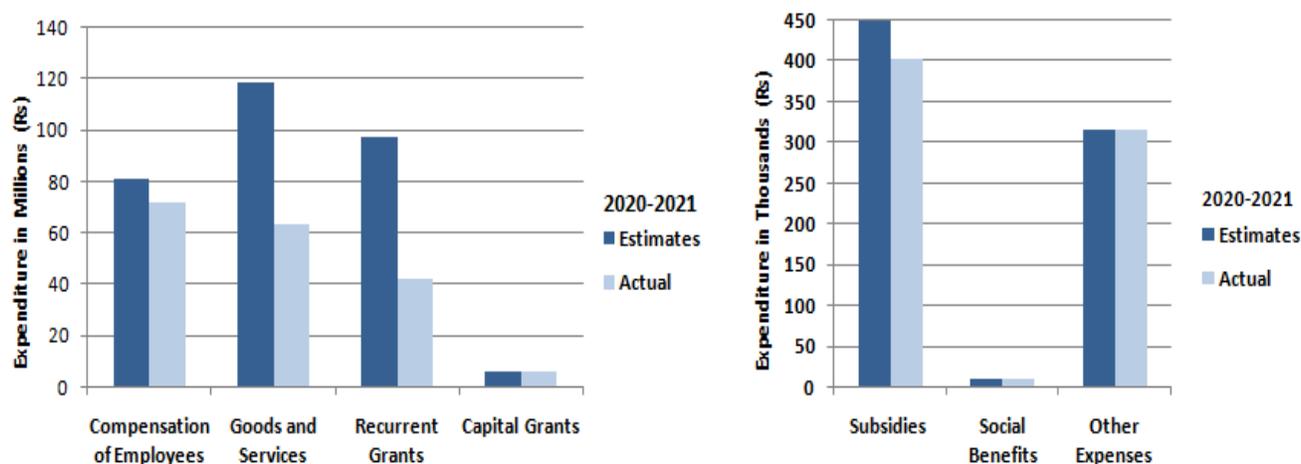


Figure 9: Statement of Expenditure (Ocean Economy)



Expenditure for Vote 22-2 Fisheries

Table 12: Statement of Expenditure (Fisheries)

SN	Head/Sub-Head of Expenditure	2019-2020	2020-2021	2020-2021	Analysis of major changes
		Actual (Rs)	Estimates (Rs)	Actual (Rs)	
1	Compensation of Employees	165,077,722	164,349,000	153,437,059	A decrease of 6.6% was noted in actual spending as compared to the Estimates as various vacancies remained unfilled.
2	Goods and Services	33,854,570	49,831,000	35,983,106	A decrease of 28% was noted in actual expenditure as compared to Estimates due to reduced activities resulting from the COVID-19 lockdown.
3	Recurrent Grants	11,281,736	11,620,000	9,970,000	A decrease of 14% in 'Recurrent Grants' was noted in FY 2020-2021 as the annual contribution fees to the Indian Ocean Rim Association, the Indian Ocean South East Asian Marine Turtle Conservation Programme and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement were not paid during the financial year.
4	Other Expenses	2,557,142	18,700,000	10,053,968	Actual expenditure on 'Other Expenses' decreased by 46% as compared to Estimates for 2020-2021 as provision in connection with Transfer to Private Enterprises for Off Lagoon Fishing Scheme (Purchase of Semi-Industrial Fishing vote) was not fully incurred.
5	Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	29,180,759	25,000,000	19,093,824	A decrease of 23 % was noted in actual spending compared to the projected estimates due to reduced activities resulting from the COVID-19 lockdown.
TOTAL		241,951,929	269,500,000	228,537,957	

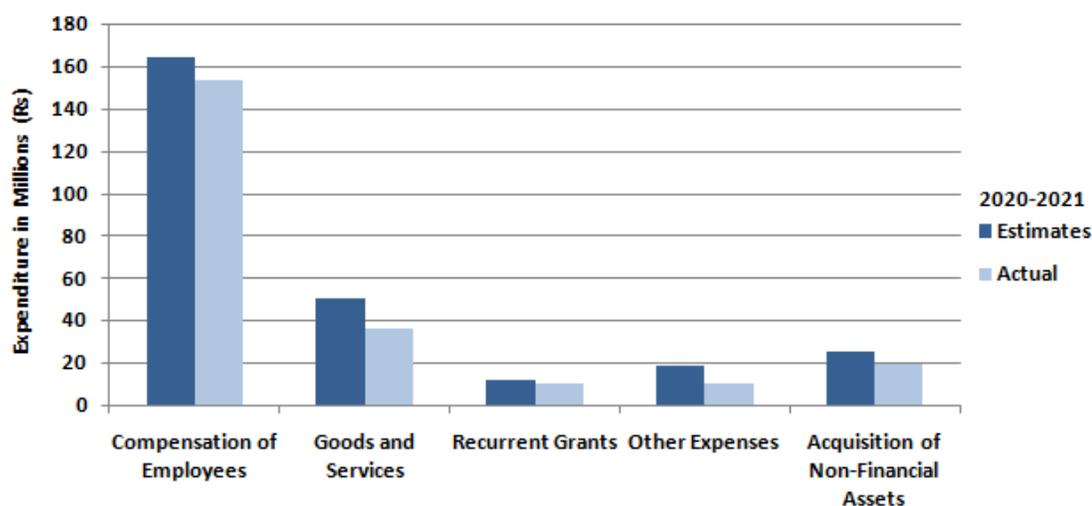


Figure 10: Statement of Expenditure (Fisheries)



Performance of the Procurement Section

The Procurement and Supply section of the Ministry carried out its activities, albeit at a reduced rate in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, in order to ensure the objectives of the different departments of the Ministry are achieved. A breakdown of the different activities carried out by the Procurement Section and the value of contracts awarded during the financial year under report is given in **Table 13** hereunder:

Table 13: Activities carried out by the Procurement Section for FY 2020-2021

Tenders launched/Contracts awarded	Number
Formal tenders	26
Informal tenders	249
Value of Contracts awarded/ Donation	Amount (Rs.)
Total value of contract amount awarded above Rs. 100,000	6,171,295.55
Total value of contract amount awarded below Rs. 100,000	4,029,346.42
Total contract amount awarded to SMEs	8,030,791.97
Donations received	218,076,563.16
Value of physical stock as 30 June 2021	1,090,883
Number of Contracts awarded	Number
Contracts awarded to SMEs	129



Part IV

Strategic Direction And Way Forward





Trends and Challenges

- Climate change threats.
- Degraded water and ocean resources.
- Maritime insecurity.
- Inadequate human and financial resources.
- Lack of experience in developing and implementing effective monitoring and evaluation systems.

Strategic Direction

- Ensure sustainable use of marine resource
- Develop local capacity in the blue economy
- Improve ocean hazards management for greater climate resilience.
- Enhance efficiency as a Maritime Safety Administration.
- Positioning of the Mauritius register of ships on the international level in collaboration with the Economic Development Board through the strengthening of the existing domestic legal, financial and administrative framework and promotion strategies.
- Familiarisation exercise on ship registration procedure to be conducted with management companies.

Way forward

- Introduction of a new Fisheries Bill to reinforce the current legislation to cater for new development in the sector and to tackle Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing.
- To consolidate the legal framework of the Shipping Division through ratification and implementation of International Maritime Conventions.
- To participate more actively in the development of Maritime Conventions and Standards at the IMO.
- To develop ship registration as a core service which carries in its wake the development of ancillary marine services through a collaboration with the Economic Development Board for devising a roadmap for the promotion and visibility of the Mauritius Flag on the international stage.
- Finalisation of the Yacht code which is an important marketing tool for ship registration.
- To address the acute shortage of seafarers by formulating a maritime and education policy to educate our youngsters and improve their employability and to enhance the visibility of job and career opportunities in the Maritime Sector so as to encourage youngsters to pursue a career in the Maritime Sector.
- Digitalisation of the Ministry through the following projects:
 - (i) Software development for the Pelagic fisheries.
 - (ii) Tools for service delivery: licensing, issuance of permits, fishing clearances.
 - (iii) Finalisation of the digital ship registration system "SDCIS".
 - (iv) Software being developed for the recording of artisanal fisheries catch data.



- Implementation of a policy document for improvement of farming practices in barachois.
- Modernisation of hatcheries for seed production for ranching and farming.
- Strengthening of extension services for transfer of technical know-how to farmers.
- Re-orientation of the Pilot Floating Cage Culture Project.
- Encouraging production of freshwater fish through back-yard culture.
- Increasing coverage of Marine Protected Areas around Mauritius as well as public awareness.

