

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



Annual Report on Performance for the Financial Year 2023-2024



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STATEMENT FROM THE SENIOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE



It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2023-2024 of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping. This Report encapsulates the comprehensive efforts and significant achievements made by the Ministry in advancing the sustainable development and conservation of our marine resources and promoting the vital sectors of fisheries and shipping.

Throughout the past year, the Ministry has been engaged in fostering the Fisheries and Shipping Industry with the aim of making them among the main pillars of the economy, whilst at the same time, ensuring environmental sustainability. Our initiative has been focused on enhancing marine biodiversity, supporting coastal communities and leveraging on innovation to maximize the potential of our ocean resources.

One of the highlights of 2023 has been undoubtedly the promulgation of the Fisheries Act 2023. This landmark legislation marks a significant milestone in our journey towards sustainable fisheries management. Through extensive consultations with stakeholders, we have crafted a piece of legislation that not only regulates fishing practices but also promotes conservation of the marine ecosystem.

The Fisheries Act 2023 has brought in a regulated environment that prioritises the health of our oceans while ensuring that the fishing community prospers. Guidelines and regulations have been published so that the fishing activities are carried out in a controlled environment and there is no overfishing. This legislation also addresses the issue of illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and gives enforcement agencies the tools they need to protect our marine resources effectively.

In our quest to practice sustainable fishery, the Ministry came up with a Resolution at the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and banned Tuna fishing for a whole month in June this year. Unfortunately, this laudable initiative was not adopted by other IOTC members and it did not have the effect that was expected, that is, allow the ocean to replenish and the depleting stock of the fish to come back to a more sustainable level.

With respect to training of fishermen, a total of 292 fishers (272 males and 20 females) followed the 'General Course for Fishers'(GCF) and 214 fishmongers (126 males and 88 females) attended the 'Fish Handling, Preservation and Marketing' training course from June 2023 to June 2024.



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In May 2024, a Longline Training Course was developed and conducted as part of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project, targeting artisanal fisheries around Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs). This training was conducted in collaboration with Mr Keith André, a 'Master Fisherman and Longline Expert' from Seychelles at the MMTA.

Furthermore, a total of 42 licenses were issued to boats engaged in semi-industrial fishery and 70 licenses were issued to boats engaged in various fishing activities. A total of 62 fishermen, including 19 from Rodrigues, received grants under the Canotte Scheme, aimed at improving their livelihoods and promoting off-lagoon fishing.

The Fisheries Protection Services of the Ministry has issued 101 Fishermen cards for the period July 2023 to June 2024, demonstrating their commitment to supporting the fishing community's livelihood.

The Shipping Division has been a corner stone of our maritime economy, connecting Mauritius to Global trade and fostering economic growth. As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, it is clear that the Ministry has made significant strides in advancing the Ministry agenda and promoting the sustainable utilisation of our marine resources. However, there is still much work to be done to address the emerging challenges facing our oceans, including climate change, marine pollution and overfishing.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the dedicated team of the Ministry, our partners in the public and private sectors and the communities that have supported our endeavours. The private sector has been very supportive in our endeavour to have a sustainable fishing and their full participation in the one-month Tuna fishing closure period is testimony of their commitment and a glaring example of all of us looking in the same direction. I seize this opportunity to convey my heartfelt thanks to all those who have participated in the closure period. I just wish that all the Contracting Parties in the IOTC would have followed suit. This would have ensured a promising stock of fish for the benefit of both present and future generations.

To conclude, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Honourable Sudheer Maudhoo, Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, without whose guidance, unflinching support and blessings the Ministry would not have achieved that much in one single year. I would also like to thank all the committed staffs of the Ministry, individuals, organisations, fisheries and partners who have played a significant role in our achievements over the past year.

S. Purmessur
Acting Senior Chief Executive



Overview of the Ministry

Vision and Mission

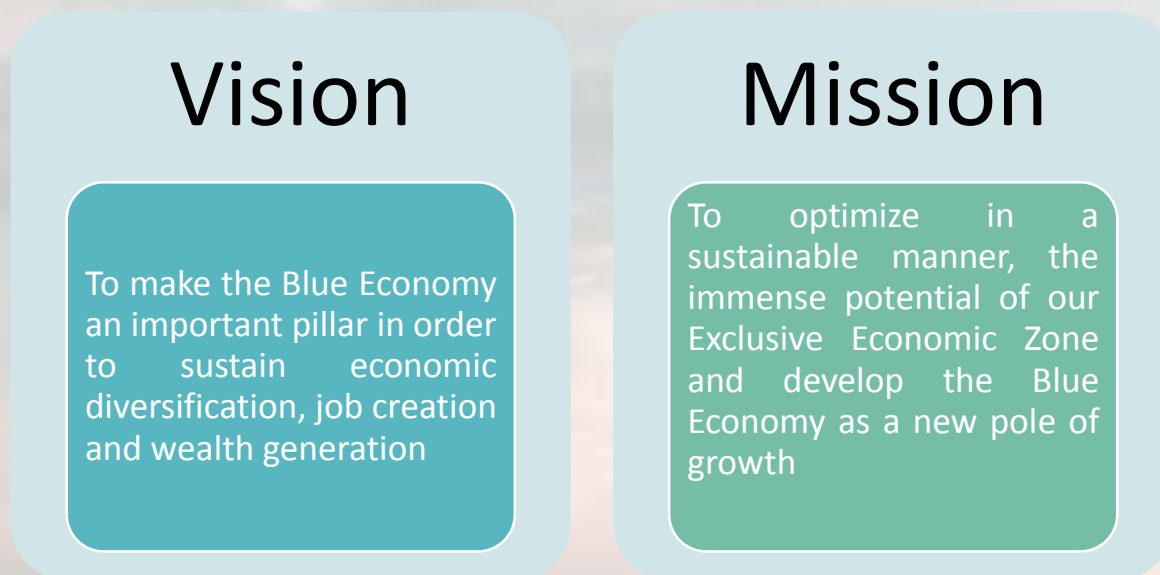


Figure 1 – Vision and Mission of the Ministry

Key Objectives

The key objectives of the Ministry are to:

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



Core Values



Figure 2 - Core Values of the Ministry

Strategy and Policy

Develop the blue economy as a major economic pillar 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.

Our customers

The customers of the Ministry are the fisher community comprising artisanal fishers, semi-industrial fishing operators, fishers involved in aquaculture projects, amongst others, the fishing industry, ship owners, shipping agents, seafarers' welfare



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associations, the maritime industry, maritime training institutions, oceanography experts, coastal zone users, non-governmental organisations, the public sector, the private sector, researchers, students, international partners/lending institutions and the public at large.

Services offered by the Ministry

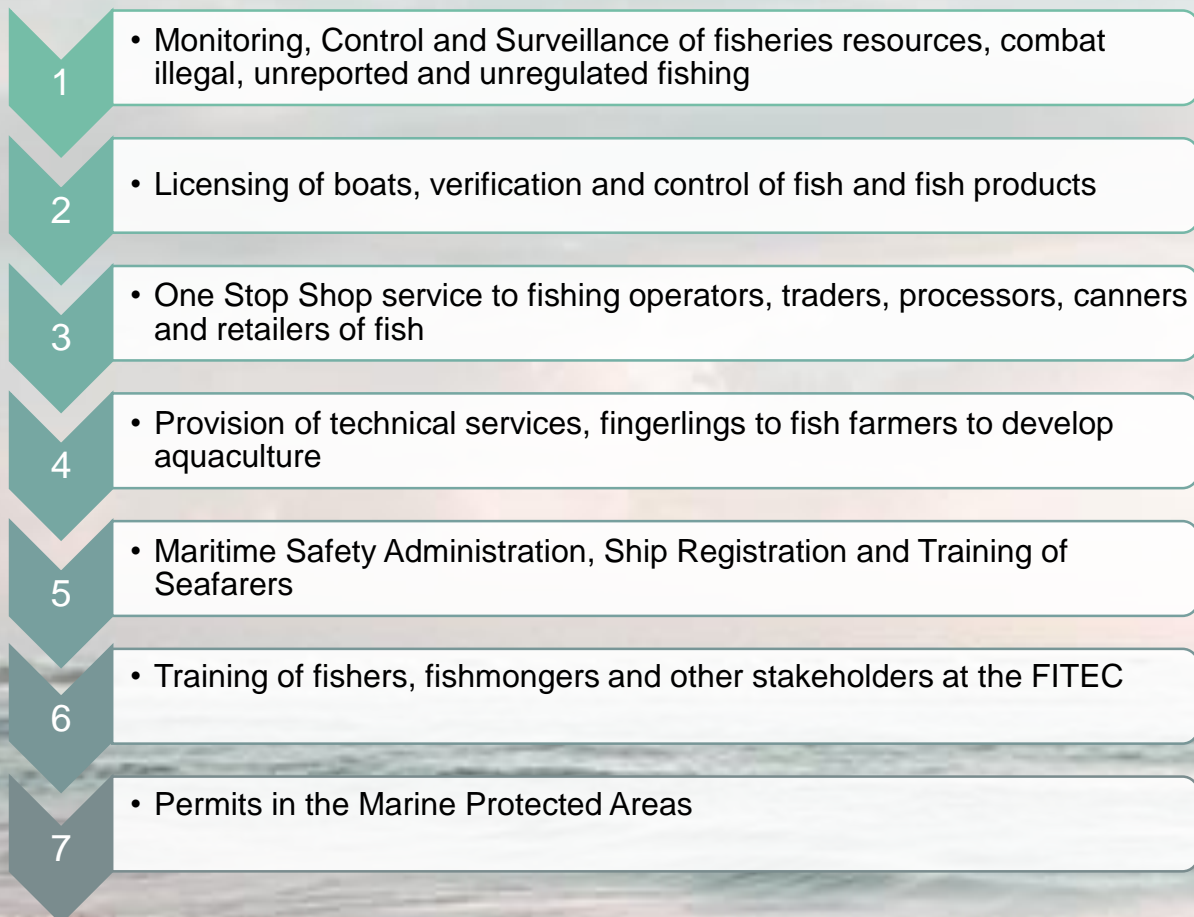


Figure 3 - Services offered by the Ministry



Blue Economy

Mauritius is focusing on the Blue Economy as a new frontier for development. The Government of Mauritius is endeavouring to make its nation fully aware of its potential as a coastal state and Blue Economy is believed to create more jobs and economic development in the future.

In 2015, the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping was set up in line with Government vision to make the ocean economy an important industry to sustain economic diversification, job creation and wealth generation. In 2019 the Ministry was renamed as Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping.

The Government, in its “Vision 2030” strategy, has clearly stated the vision to transform Mauritius into an Ocean State by promoting ocean/blue economy as one of its main pillars of development.

Presently, the Blue economy is driven by established sectors, namely coastal tourism, fisheries, seafood processing, aquaculture and port-related services. Emerging sectors include sea bed explorations, ocean-based energy, biotechnology and maritime digitization, amongst others.

Divisions

The divisions of the Ministry are as follows:

1. Fisheries Division
2. Competent Authority- Seafood
3. Fisheries Protection Service
4. Shipping Division

1. Fisheries Division

The Fisheries Division is the technical arm of the Ministry and is headed by the Director of Fisheries.

There are a total of eight sub-divisions under the Fisheries Division. They are:

- Aquaculture
- Marine Resources
- Marine Science
- Marine Conservation



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- Laboratory
- Planning/Licensing
- Port State Control/Import & Export/Vessel Monitoring System
- Fisheries Training and Extension Centre (FiTEC)

Through the above eight sub-divisions, the following objectives are achieved:

- sustainable development and management of the fisheries sector
- protection and conservation of aquatic resources and coastal ecosystems
- promoting sustainable aquaculture development
- training of fishers and fishmongers
- monitoring of fishing and fishing related activities
- implementation of effective monitoring, control and surveillance system
- implementation of the catch documentation scheme
- combatting Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing or fishing related activities
- implementation of resolutions of relevant regional fisheries management organisations
- controlling import and export of fish and fish products
- conduct of research in fisheries and aquaculture and to strengthen food security and create employment opportunities.

Main departments in the Fisheries Division include:

- The Albion Fisheries Research Centre
- The Fisheries Training and Extension Centre
- Seafood hub - Monitoring Control Surveillance (MCS)/ Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) /Port State Control and Import/ Export Division

1.1 The Albion Fisheries Research Centre (AFRC)

The AFRC was set up in 1982 with the assistance of the Government of Japan. It carries out applied research, development and management activities through five specific divisions, namely:

- Aquaculture
- Marine Resources



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- Marine Science
- Marine Conservation
- Laboratories

1.1.1 Aquaculture Division

The Aquaculture Division is responsible for the promotion and development of aquaculture with a view to increase fish production through research on different marine and freshwater species. It is also involved in the dissemination of information on aquaculture and provision of technical advice and support to different stakeholders.

The Aquaculture Division is also responsible for:

- transfer of aquaculture techniques to fish farmers for the production of different fish species and improvement of aquaculture techniques for quality seed production
- production of fish fingerlings for stock enhancement in the lagoon
- appraisal of aquaculture projects
- providing technical assistance to promoters
- monitoring aquaculture projects

1.1.2 Marine Resources Division

This Division is responsible for carrying out research, development and management of the fishery resources in a sustainable manner for the benefit of all stakeholders of the fisheries sector and the public at large. It is also responsible for development activities aimed at increasing knowledge on the fishery resources found in our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with a view to enabling its sustainable utilisation. The Marine Resources Division deals with the Coastal Fishery, Pelagic Fishery and Offshore Demersal Fishery projects.

(i) Coastal Fishery

The Coastal/Artisanal Fishery Unit is focused mainly on the identification and examination of various marine specimens such as bony fishes, cartilaginous fishes, shellfishes and sea urchins. Furthermore, it is also responsible for the compilation of artisanal fishery data such as catch of registered fishermen at specific Fish Landing Stations and prices of various commercial fishes. Currently, the main activities of the Unit comprise:



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- monitoring, sampling and estimation of coastal catch data around the island of Mauritius
- computation of fishery-dependent and fishery-independent variables such as the number of fishing days and the catch per fishermen day
- identification and examination of seized fish specimens and submission of reports to allow prosecution of defaulters by the Fisheries Protection Service and Police
- identification and examination of fish specimens submitted by the Laboratories Division
- biological analysis of commercial fish specimens to determine sex of fish and gonad maturity stage
- sampling of octopus' specimens island-wide to determine sex, weight and mantle length, during pre-closure, opening and post-opening of the closed seasons for octopus fishing

(ii) Pelagic Fishery

Tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean are managed by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). As a member of the IOTC since 1994, Mauritius abides to all the IOTC Conservation and Management Measures to maintain a sustainable tuna fishery in the Indian Ocean.

In the Indian Ocean, the purse seine is mostly used for catching tropical tuna species such as yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye while the albacore tuna is primarily targeted by longliners. In Mauritius, the main species of tuna caught are yellowfin, skipjack, bigeye and albacore. The catch of all the tuna fishing vessels (both local and foreign) are monitored during unloading and through the submission of the fishing logbooks. The fishing logbooks are submitted to the Mauritian Authorities before unloading of fish of the fishing vessels. Failure to do so and any misreporting of information in the fishing logbooks may entail penalties and cancellation of fishing licence.

The main objective of the Unit is the monitoring of the tuna catches made by the Mauritian tuna fleet so as to contribute to the conservation and optimum utilisation of the tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean. Activities include:

- Input of data received from the fishing logbooks of Mauritian flagged and foreign licensed purse seiners and longliners



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- Collection, verification and processing of catch and effort data received from Mauritian flagged and foreign licensed tuna fishing vessels
- Analysis of tuna data for the study of exploitation rates, species composition, stock structure and spatial distribution
- Sampling of tuna and tuna like species during unloading of tuna fishing vessels at Port Louis
- Submission of tuna fishery statistics to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
- Implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures
- Regional Cooperation for the management of tuna and tuna-like resources

(iii) Offshore Demersal Fishery

The Offshore Demersal Fisheries comprises the bank fishery, semi-industrial chilled fish fishery, deep-water snapper/grouper fishery and the St Brandon fishery. Fish landing data are collected through vessel logbooks which are processed and analysed to maintain updated records of all the fisheries. The data are used for the estimation of yields, rate of exploitation, spatial distribution and monitoring of fishing quotas of different fisheries, in view of sustainable exploitation within biologically acceptable levels as well as with social and economic objectives.

The main objective of the offshore demersal fishery is to monitor and manage the fisheries carried out on the fishing banks so that exploitation of resources is done in a sustainable manner. This is done through the following activities:

- Collection, verification and processing of logbook data from the different fisheries
- Monitoring of quota allocated to fishing companies, through analysis of catch data and exploitation rates
- Analysis of trends in catch and effort
- Collection of length and weight data through sampling exercises during unloading of fishing vessels/boats
- Analysis of length frequency data and length/weight relationships of targeted species



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- Complying to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)
- Submission of demersal fisheries statistics and reports to SIOFA
- Compilation and submission of data to the Statistics unit

1.1.3 Marine Science Division

The Marine Science division is responsible for:

- the long-term protection and conservation of coastal marine ecosystems for ecosystem resilience and sustainable use of marine resources
- sustainable development and management of coastal areas
- projects regarding mangroves propagation, seagrass mapping and blue carbon around the island, marine turtles' conservation, stranded marine mammals/turtles, climate change adaptation and scientific research

The main activities of the Marine Science Division are:

- long-term coral reef monitoring at selected sites around the island
- hosting of the Coral Reef Network
- Mangrove Propagations and Sensitization Programmes in collaboration with NGOs;
- carry out Integrated Environment Monitoring Plan in connection with the Wakashio Oil Spill
- seagrass mapping around the island
- monitoring Crown-of-Thorns (COTs) outbreaks in the lagoons of Mauritius
- conducting underwater ecological surveys to provide views in connection with tourism sea-based activities and coastal development works
- assessing requests for marine scientific research, film shootings and other projects in connection with the ocean matters and marine mammals/ turtles and marine ecosystem
- attending to cases of stranded marine turtles/mammals
- Involve in the evaluation of coastal area development projects and coastal erosion.



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- Involve in the evaluation of coastal area development projects and coastal erosion.

1.1.4 Marine Conservation Division

The Marine Conservation Division is responsible for the long-term protection and conservation of marine bio-diversity and habitats for sustainable use while maximizing economic and social benefits derived from the coastal zone.

The main activities Marine Conservation Division are:

- managing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and monitoring of permissible activities in the Blue Bay Marine Park and other MPAs around the island of Mauritius
- monitoring state of corals, seagrass and associated biota, through field and underwater surveys
- conducting underwater ecological surveys for coastal development and tourism related projects
- assessing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) applications and Preliminary Environmental Reports and submission of appropriate recommendations to the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change and representing the Ministry at the statutory EIA Committee
- carrying out Post Environmental Impact Assessment monitoring for projects along the coast as an enforcing agency
- regulating permissible activities through the issue of permits for the Blue Bay Marine Park and interference permits for Marine Protected Areas
- providing views and recommendations on projects, in the vicinity of or within wetlands, to the National Ramsar Committee
- sensitization of members of the public on MPAs, sustainable development and use of the coastal zone
- implementing coral farming project for reef restoration in the Blue Bay Marine Park and Trou aux Biches



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- implementing the NECCF funded Assistance Scheme for Coral Farming and Fish Breeding Project for training of fishers in coral farming techniques, coral nurseries management and creation and maintenance of coral gardens
- overseeing and supervising the implementation of UNDP Coral Restoration Project by monitoring the activities of the implementing partners
- leading the implementation of the Integrated Environmental Monitoring Programme (IEMP) following the grounding of MV Wakashio

1.1.5 Laboratories Division

This Division comprises three Laboratories, namely, Marine Chemistry, Marine Microbiology and Fish Toxicity, and the Quality Control Unit. The Division is committed to instil the highest standard of quality for the testing of seawater, the screening of fish for toxicity and dispensing associated services in view of monitoring, protecting, conserving marine resources and safeguarding public health. The Marine Chemistry and Marine Microbiology Laboratories of the Division are accredited to MS ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Standard.

Main activities:

- perform sampling, tests, monitor and provide scientific information on seawater quality, marine sediment and biota for a sustainable coastal zone management and to ensure the safety of lagoon waters for recreational purposes
- provide information and initiate appropriate measures in cases of fish kills and marine pollution
- screen fish deemed to cause fish intoxication and conduct toxicity tests for ciguatoxin and other bio-toxins in fish and fish products
- monitor the density of harmful marine microalgae and occurrence of harmful algal blooms
- carry out public awareness campaigns on harmful marine microalgae, algal blooms and toxic fish poisoning



1.2 Fisheries Training and Extension Centre (FiTEC)

The Fisheries Training and Extension Centre (FiTEC) situated at Pointe aux Sables was set up through a grant from the Government of Japan and became operational in 2004.

The center provides training to fishermen and other stakeholders of the fishing industry in order to meet government's fisheries development objectives that are:

- Empowering fishermen to earn a better livelihood
- Enhancing knowledge and skills of fishermen to operate in the off-lagoon area around Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and the oceanic banks
- Encourage effective and efficient fishing techniques
- Provide training for enhanced safety and security at sea and in navigation
- Creating awareness on the protection and conservation of the marine environment
- Promoting an ecosystem approach to fisheries

FiTEC is dedicated to transforming the livelihoods of fishermen by empowering them through targeted training and enabling them to pursue more lucrative off-lagoon fishing opportunities around strategically deployed Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) across the island.

FiTEC's mission is to equip fishing industry stakeholders with the essential knowledge and skills to fish not only effectively and efficiently but also safely and sustainably, with a deep commitment to preserving marine ecosystems and safeguarding fisheries resources for future generations.

1.2.1 Ministry's Research/Multipurpose Vessels

Aims: To carry out research, fishing training and Deployment of FADs in the coastal waters of the Republic of Mauritius.

1.2.2 Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)

Aims: To increase and diversify the income of fishermen, concurrently diverting fishing effort from the heavily exploited lagoon to the outer lagoon, thus allowing the marine ecosystems to rehabilitate; and increase the supply of fresh fish in the market.

1.2.3 General Course for Fisher (GCF)



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Aim: To provide artisanal fishermen with basic knowledge and skills to efficiently, responsibly and safely fish outside the lagoon and around Fish Aggregating Devices.

1.2.4 Fish Handling, Preservation and Marketing (FHPM) Training Course

Aim: To upgrade and upscale fishmongers with current and new fish handling knowledge and skills to handle fish products in a hygienic manner according to the law and protocols.

1.2.5 UNDP EcoFish Monofilament Longline Fishing Technique Training

Aim: To upgrade already registered artisanal fishermen with new knowledge and skills to efficiently move towards Longline fishing techniques outside the lagoon and around Fish Aggregating Devices.

1.2.6 MS ISO 9001:2015

Aim: To maintain a high standard of excellence and safety during trainings.

1.3 MCS/VMS/Port State Control and Import/Export Division

1.3.1 Port State Control Unit (PSCU)

The Port State Control Unit is based at the One Stop Shop - Seafood Hub located at the Trade and Marketing Centre in the Freeport Zone, Mer Rouge, Port Louis. The main activities carried out by the Port State Control Unit are listed below:

- Boarding and inspection of fishing boats/vessels (both local & foreign).
- Issue Departure Clearances to local fishing boats/vessels to leave port for fishing campaigns.
- Monitor all banks fishing vessels during unloading operations to ensure that no toxic or undersized fish are being unloaded.
- Issue authorisation for landing of fish to all fishing vessels calling in the port.
- Issue of Catch Certificates for fish caught by the local fishing vessels.
- Endorse Processing Statements for fish and fish products intended for export to the EU market.
- Validation of the Bigeye tuna re-export document, IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document and IOTC Swordfish Statistical Document.
- Validation of the Dissosticus Export Document (DED).
- Supervise unloading of Patagonian tooth fish in the Port and reporting the exact weight to CCAMLR.



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- Online processing of Advance Request for Entry into Port (AREP) from Agents through e-psm (IOTC).
- Carry out survey for local fishing vessels prior to departure

1.3.2 Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC)

The Fisheries Monitoring Centre which operates on a 24/7-hour basis is situated at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre. It uses a web-based maritime information portal, which provides vessel and port centric data that enables the near real-time tracking of semi-industrial and industrial fishing vessels in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Mauritius and areas beyond national jurisdiction. The FMC monitors the GPS location, speed and direction of registered fishing vessels through the Vessel Monitoring System which uses satellite-based tracking systems. The VMS equipment onboard a fishing vessel sends data which is transmitted via a satellite network to the servers of the FMC through a secured internet connection. The movement and history of a registered fishing vessel remains accessible to the FMC for analysis and cross verification.

The FMC plays a vital role to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in national waters and which is essential for management of fish resources and food security.

1.3.3 Import/Export Unit

The Import/Export Unit mainly controls the import and export of fish and fish products to ensure that:

- good quality and wholesome fish and fish products are marketed in the country
- there are fair trade practices
- the products intended for import or export do not originate from illegal sources
- imported fish and fish products conform to international requirements (World Trade Organisation, Codex Alimentarius and the EU) and are certified fit for human consumption.
- no prohibited fish and fish products are imported/exported by the operators
- live fish intended for ornamental or aquaculture purposes are certified free of OIE listed diseases.



1.4 Planning and Licensing Units

1.4.1 Planning Unit

The Planning Unit assists in providing inputs for formulating fisheries policies and strategies, compiling and processing of fisheries information. The main activities carried out by the Licensing and Planning Division include:

- Assist/follow-up matters in evolving of fisheries policies relating to Regional/ Bilateral/ Multilateral Cooperation: with respect to UK, EU, ESA, AU, FTA, AFCFTA, WTO, SADC, COMESA, IORA, SWIOFC, SIOFA, ROO, etc.
- Assists in the follow-up of projects under regional, bilateral and international cooperations.
- Providing inputs on Trade, MoUs and Agreements signed by this Ministry to the International Trade Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RI and -IT and the Ministry of Finance.
- Drafting and reviewing of Memorandum of Understanding and Fishing Agreements for cooperation in the field of fisheries and aquaculture.
- Follow-up on signed agreements and MoUs.
- Compilation of inputs and information from all Divisions for Dashboard.
- Organise visits/meetings and providing assistance to foreign delegation during their visit in Mauritius as and when required.
- Provide inputs to prepare Cabinet/Information Papers, Note for Mention, Parliamentary Questions, briefs and reports on fisheries & speeches for Minister.
- Assist in Budget Preparation and implementation of Government Programme and attending to queries from Internal Audit/National Audit Office.
- Liaison and collaboration with local organisations, NGOs and other Ministries on fisheries issues.
- Respond to local and international queries and request for assistance by stakeholders including operators in the fisheries sector.
- Provision of inputs on matters related to WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation.
- Provide views and inputs on Conventions and SDGs related to fisheries.
- Drafting of Annual Performance Report and compile Achievements of the Fisheries Division.



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- Assist in drafting the implementation of Cannotte Scheme and Semi-industrial fishing Scheme for procurement to fishing vessels by fishermen and update status in the EPMIS platform on a monthly basis.
- Assistance to fishers in project write-up and advice to investors/stakeholders in fisheries, including review and assessment of project and making recommendations.
- Negotiation on the Fisheries Chapter with the EU within the context of the new EU/ESA5 EPA.
- Monitoring and report on implementation of projects under the Fisheries Sectoral Support Programme of the SFP.

1.4.2 Licensing Unit

The Licensing Unit is mainly responsible for the processing and issue of fishing licences in respect of local and foreign fishing vessels. Local fishing vessels operate in industrial banks fishery, semi-industrial chilled fish fishery and industrial pelagic fishery (purse seine fishery).

Fishing projects submitted by operators are appraised for their feasibility and upon satisfactory analysis of the project's worthiness, the project is recommended for the issuance of a letter of intent to operate either in the advanced coastal, semi-industrial or industrial fishery.

2. Competent Authority Seafood Hub

The Competent Authority Seafood (CASF) is responsible for the inspection and certification of fish and fish products for export primarily to Member States of the European Union (EU) as well as to non-EU countries.

Activities:

Its activities are governed by the Government Notice 147 of 2009 (Export of Fish and Fish Products Regulations), Government Notice 204 of 2010 (Export of Fish and Fish Products [Amendment] Regulations) and Government Notice 209 of 2012 (Export of Fish and Fish Products [Amendment] Regulations) under the Fisheries Act 2023. The activities include:

- registration of Fish Business Operators (processing plants, cold stores, freezer vessels, reefer vessels, aquaculture farms, exporters etc.) involved



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directly or indirectly in the export of fish and fish products to EU and non-EU countries;

- issuance of Export Veterinary Health Certificates for all consignments of fish and fish products according to the importing country's requirements;
- inspection of consignments of fish and fish products for compliance before export to EU and non-EU countries;
- official audits, routine/follow-up/ad-hoc inspections of approved facilities for verification of compliance with national legislations and importing countries' requirements;
- inspection of fishing vessels providing raw materials to registered processing plants prior to departure for fishing campaign;
- inspection of landing sites for whole brine-frozen tuna and pelagic/demersal fish;
- inspection and random organoleptic evaluation of all fish and fish products imported for further processing before re-export;
- sampling of water, ice, fish and fish products from each EU-approved facility for analysis in a designated laboratory as per EU regulations;
- preparation of a national residue monitoring plan for aquaculture products on a yearly basis for approval by the Health and Consumers Directorate-General of the European Commission (DG SANTE);
- control of imported live fish larvae meant for aquaculture at all stages from point of entry, transfer to nursery, transfer to sea cages, harvesting and transfer to processing plant;
- control of imported live fish brood stock meant for aquaculture at all stages from point of entry, transfer to quarantine facilities and transfer to brood stock farm;
- control of imported live ornamental fish at point of entry and quarantine premises;
- inspection and approval of quarantine facilities of registered ornamental fish importers and follow-up during quarantine period;
- regular monitoring of fish growth at hatchery, nursery and cage level on aquaculture farms;



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- approval of Veterinary Medicinal Products' prescriptions before being administered to farmed fish by registered aquaculture farms and ornamental fish establishments.

3. Fisheries Protection Service

The Fisheries Protection Service (FPS) is responsible for the enforcement of fisheries legislations and monitoring of fishing and fishing related activities for the protection and conservation of fisheries resources. The FPS comprises 14 Fisheries Posts (Figure 4) and oversees 61 Fish Landing Stations around the island of Mauritius (Figure 5). The FPS also operates one Fisheries Post in Agalega.

Main activities:

- coast and afloat patrols, including participation in joint surveillance programme in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Mauritius
- supervision of 61 fish landing stations, sale points and fishing port
- collection of fisheries data
- registration and documentation of fishers/fishing boats
- issue/renewal of net fishing and fishmongers' licences
- issue of clearances for importation of fish and fish products at the SSR International Airport and at the port
- secure fishing gears during closed period for net fishing
- monitoring of activities in the Marine Parks
- prosecuting Court cases



Figure 5 - Fish Landing Stations around Mauritius



4. Shipping Division

The Shipping Division of this Ministry is responsible for Maritime Safety, Security, and Prevention of Pollution of the Marine Environment from ships, thus facilitating and providing a policy environment for maritime business in Mauritius.

It ensures compliance with International Maritime Laws and Conventions and also acts as the Maritime Administration responsible for ensuring that all vessels registered under the Mauritius Flag and all foreign vessels plying in the Mauritian territorial waters comply with international standards and for the development of the Mauritius Shipping Sector.

Mauritius is a party to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended. Amendments to the Convention came into force on 01 February 1997 and require member States to have a quality 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.

To be on the IMO STCW "White List", the Shipping Division had implemented the Quality Management System certification under ISO 9001:2000 on 02 February 2006 and under ISO 9001:2008 on 03 March 2009 by the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) respectively. To maintain the status of Mauritius on the IMO STCW "White List", the Shipping Division has implemented the new provisions of ISO 9001:2015 standards and has been recertified ISO 9001:2015 in 19 April 2024.

Objectives:

- to ensure that Mauritian seafarers meet the highest possible standard of competence as specified in the STCW Convention
- to ensure the authenticity of certificates of competency issued by Foreign Administrations to seafarers working on Mauritian vessels
- Certification of Seafarers: Examination and certification according to requirements of the STCW Convention
- Registration of Ships: Registration of vessels under the Mauritius flag within three working days, if all documents submitted including certificates/surveys are in order
- inquiries into casualties affecting ships: Report of preliminary inquiry completed within seven days after completion of inquiry



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- survey and certification of fishing and non-convention size vessels: All processes completed within two weeks, if vessel is seaworthy
- approval and Monitoring of Maritime Training Institutions/ Courses

4.1 Mauritius Maritime Training Academy

The Mauritius Maritime Training Academy (MMTA) is based at Pointe aux Sables and has been the sole public body delivering courses for seafarers and prospective seafarers since its creation. The MMTA is ISO 9001:2015 certified and all courses dispensed are accredited and approved by the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) and Shipping Division respectively.

Objectives/Responsibilities

The MMTA's vision is to be a national and regional training centre for seafarers, port workers and other personnel in the shipping sector. At present the MMTA is in the capacity of delivering some twenty courses to prospective students but there is the scope of additional courses being run in the future. The Mauritius Maritime Training Academy is different from traditional colleges in that it typically offers intensive courses rather than academic degrees.

Courses offered at the MMTA:

- Basic Safety Training (Personal Safety & Social Responsibilities, Elementary First Aid, Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting and Personal Survival Techniques modules) as per STCW Convention 1978, as amended
- Crowd Management and Safety Training for Personnel providing Direct Services to Passengers in Passenger Spaces as per STCW Convention 1978, as amended
- Crisis Management and Human Behaviour Training as per STCW Convention 1978, as amended
- Proficiency in Security Awareness
- Proficiency in Designated Security Duties
- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than fast Rescue Boats
- Training for Ratings Forming Part of a Navigational Watch as per STCW Convention 1978, as amended
- Refresher Training for Ratings Forming Part of a Navigational Watch as per STCW Convention 1978, as amended



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- Training for Ratings Forming Part of an Engineering Watch as per STCW Convention 1978, as amended
- Refresher Training for Ratings Forming Part of an Engineering Watch as per STCW Convention 1978, as amended
- Pre-sea Training Course for General Purpose (GP) Ratings(New course)
- Refresher and Updating course for Basic Safety Training
- Able Seafarer (Deck)
- Able Seafarer (Engine)
- Basic Training Course for Oil Tanker Cargo Operations
- Bridging course for Existing Electrical Officers to Electro-Technical Officers
- Training for Skipper for Certificate of Competency for fishing Vessels of 24 metres in length and over (as per STCW-F Convention)
- Training for Certificate of Competency for Second Hand for fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over (as per STCW-F Convention)
- Training for Certificate of Competency for Chief Engineer for fishing vessels of 1500KW (as per STCW-F Convention)
- Training for Second Engineer for Certificate of Competency for fishing vessels of 1500 KW (as per STCW-F Convention)



Parastatals

The Parastatal Bodies operating under the aegis of the Ministry and their main objectives are as below:

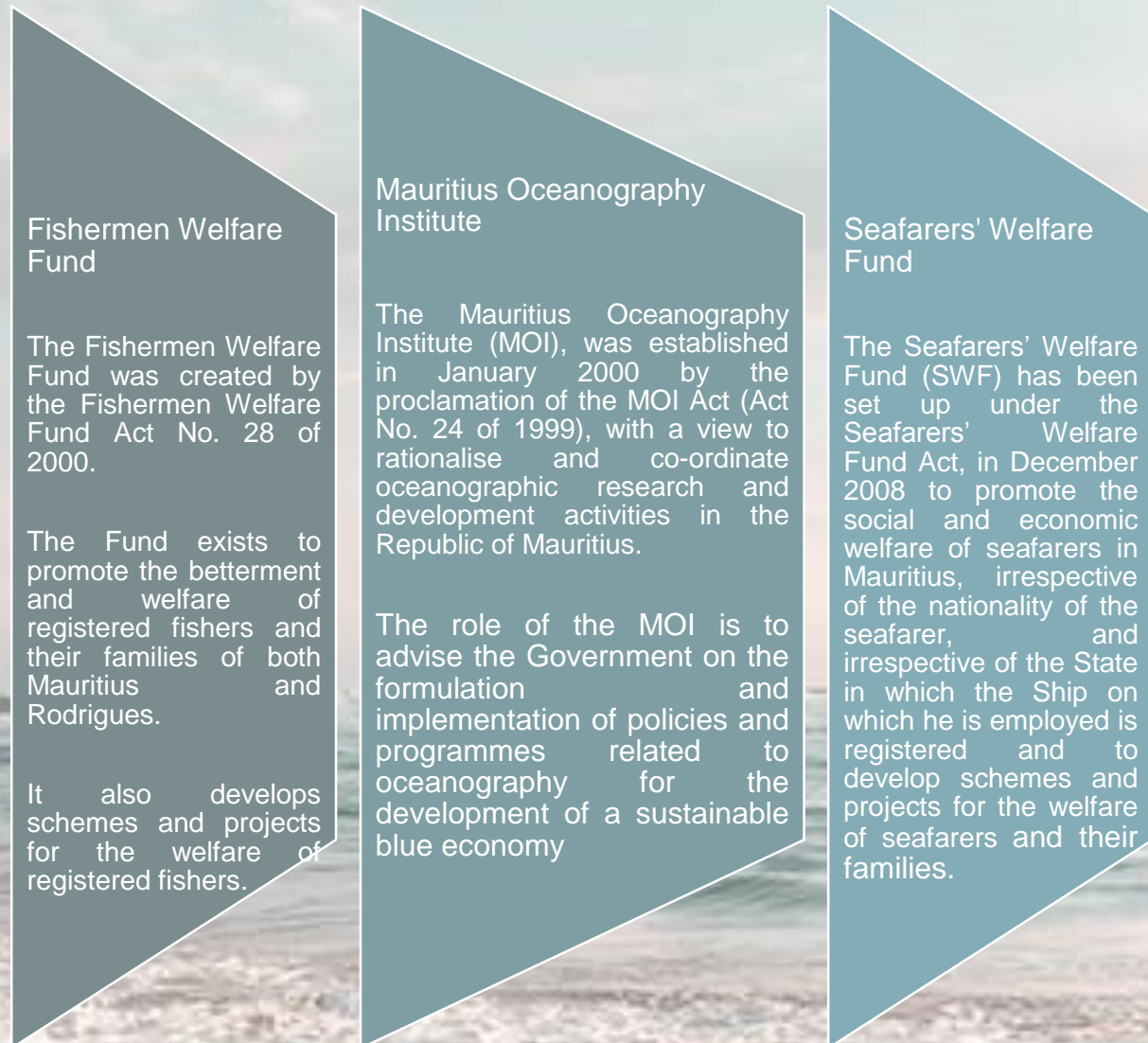


Figure 6 - Main Objectives of Parastatal Bodies



Gender Statement

The Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping complies with all legislations and policies of the government in the context of gender equality and empowerment. The Ministry has set up a Gender Cell under the chair of the Deputy Permanent Secretary to look into the issues related to gender streaming policies, strategies and programmes.

The Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping is committed to ensuring gender equality and empowerment within projects and programmes of this Ministry, emphasizing inclusivity and equal opportunities for all genders in the maritime, fisheries and shipping sectors.

Under the vote item 'Gender Mainstreaming', an amount of Rs 200,000 has been provided in the budget of this Ministry for Financial Year 2023-2024, to implement an activity/project to promote gender equality and enhance awareness on gender sensitivity within the Ministry.

Thus, with a view to sensitising our staff about gender equity, equality, social justice and sustainable development, a workshop was organised in six batches for 125 officers, including Fisheries Protection Service Officers and officers from different sections of this Ministry at Mauritius Maritime Training Academy, Pointe aux Sables.

About our people

The Acting 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 one Deputy Permanent Secretary, one Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary, the Director of Fisheries, the Director of Shipping, the Acting Deputy Controller, 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 and Procurement and Supply departments.



MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND SHIPPING

The Senior Management Team of the Ministry for the Financial Year 2023-2024 is presented in table 1 below.

Designation	Name
Administrative Staff	
Ag. Senior Chief Executive	Mr. PURMESSUR Sarwansingh (23.04.2024 till date)
Senior Chief Executive	Mr. JOOMUN Mohammad Salim Ferhat (13.12.23 – 22.04.24)
Permanent Secretary	Mr. BOODHNA Veersingh (02.03.23 – 12.12.23)
Ag. Permanent Secretary	Mr. JUGMOHUNSING Navindsing (13.12.23 – 22.04.24)
Deputy Permanent Secretaries	Mrs. MOOSOOHUR Devika
	Mrs. RAMDHAREE Dhanita (01.07.23 – 22.04.24)
Assistant Permanent Secretaries	Mr. RUGHOO Dashyant (Assigned duties of Deputy Permanent Secretary from 29.04.24 till date)
	Mrs. DOOKHIT Sarita
	Miss. RAGGOO-RAMSAMY Deenishabye
	Miss. AULUM Roubeena
Head of Technical Divisions	
Director of Fisheries	Mrs. KOONJUL Meera Satishchandra
Director of Shipping	Captain COOPEN Asiva
Head, Mauritius Maritime Training Academy	Mr. MAKOOL Praveen
Acting Head, Competent Authority	Dr. (Mrs.) LAKE Bakshi Diya
Acting Deputy Controller, Fisheries Protection Service	Mr. PONNAN Rajkoomar
Head of Administrative Support Units	
Manager, Financial Operations	Mr. ETWAREE Satyawan
Manager, Human Resources	Mrs. JANMAHAMOD Shirine (01.07.23 – 12.07.23)
	Mrs. MILLIEN Sattamah (21.08.23 – 15.01.24)
	Mr. GANGARAM Mukesh: w.e.f 20.02.24
Manager, Procurement and Supply	Mr. DHUWAL Subash (01.07.23 – 04.02.24)
	Mr. GHOORA Bye Raffick (31.01.24 till date)

Table 1: Senior management team of the Ministry for the FY 2023-2024



MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND SHIPPING

The Ministry comprised a workforce of 491 employees as listed in the table 2 below:

Employees by Grade & Cadre	Male	Female	Total
Ag. Senior Chief Executive	1	-	1
Deputy Permanent Secretary	-	1	1
Ag. Deputy Permanent Secretary	1	-	1
Assistant Permanent Secretary	-	3	3
Director of Fisheries	-	1	1
Temporary Assistant Director of Fisheries	2	-	2
Scientific Officer and Technical Officer (Fisheries)	26	31	57
Director of Shipping	1	-	1
Secretary for Shipping Development	-	1	1
Technical Staff (Shipping)	6	7	13
Head, Mauritius Maritime Training Academy	1	-	1
Technical Staff (MMTA)	3	-	3
Acting Head, Competent Authority	-	1	1
Technical Staff (Competent Authority)	2	3	5
Acting Deputy Controller, Fisheries Protection Service	1	-	1
Technical Staff (Fisheries Protection Service)	186	1	187
Human Resources Cadre	1	4	5
Finance Cadre	1	7	8
Procurement and Supply Cadre	3	3	6
General Services Cadre	13	83	96
Workmen's Group	48	18	66
Advisers	3	-	3
Analyst/Senior Analyst	1	-	1
Internal Control Cadre	-	2	2
Health and Safety Cadre (part time)	-	1	1
IT Cadre	2	-	2
Statistics Cadre	-	1	1
Library Officer	-	1	1
Receptionist/Telephone Operator	1	3	4
Office Auxiliary Cadre	6	10	16
All employees by Grades and Cadres	309	182	491

Table 2: Number of employees in post as at June 2024



MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND SHIPPING

- Gender Parity: the workforce of the Ministry comprised of 63 % male officers and 37 % female officers.
- Number of vacancies advertised: 85
- Number of vacancies filled: 54
- Number of officers who retired from the service: 16
- Number of Schemes of Service prescribed: Nil
- Number of officers who attended training programmes: 68



MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND SHIPPING

Organisational Chart

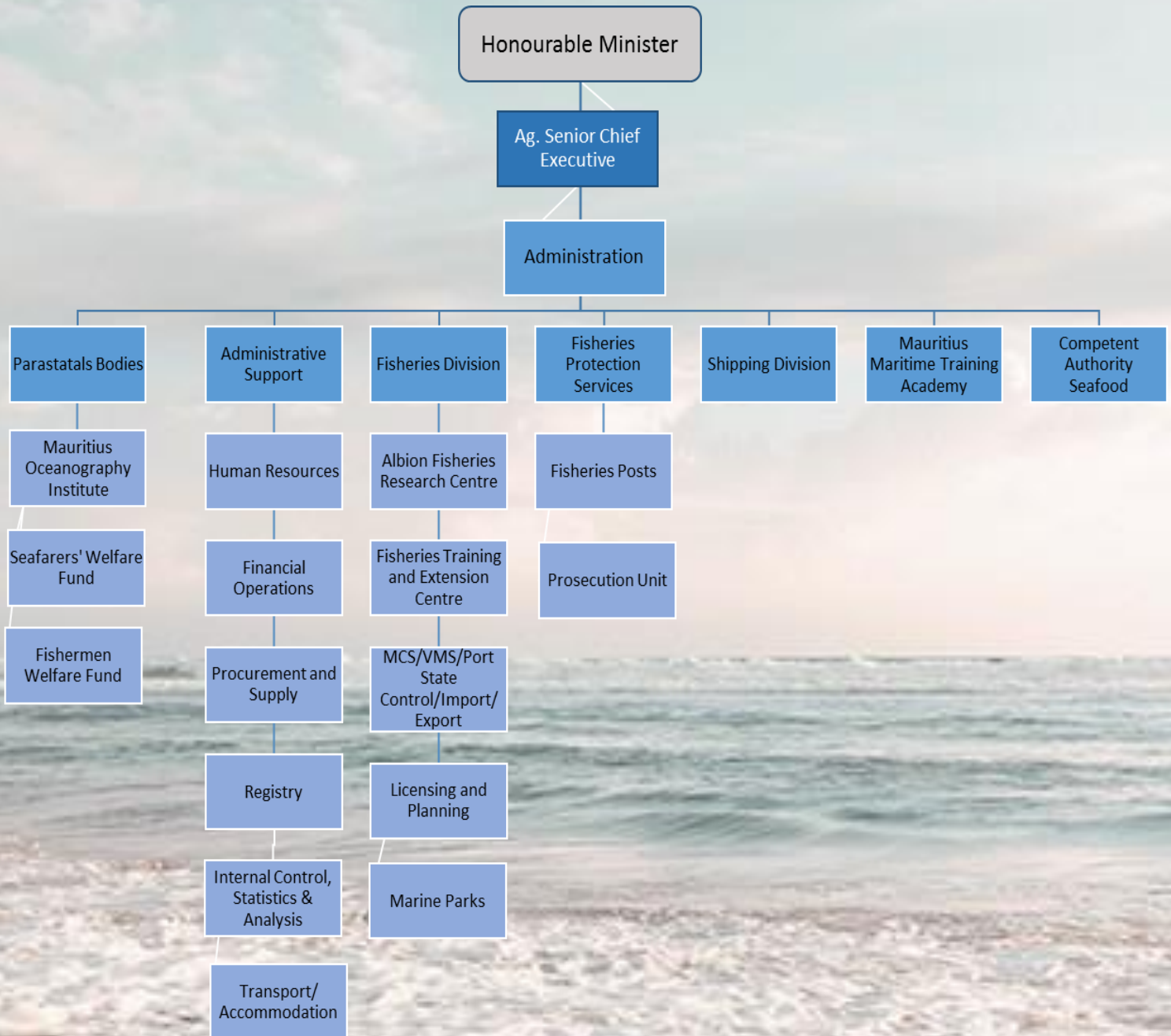


Figure 7- Organigram of the Ministry



MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND SHIPPING

Scarcity Areas

The Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping has encountered difficulties to fill in certain vacancies due to scarce human resources with specific know how and qualifications.

These grades have been categorised as scarcity areas and are listed in table 3 below:

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

Table 3: Details of Grades falling under scarcity areas



Part 1
Major Achievements



Major Achievements

Promulgation of the Fisheries Act 2023

The Fisheries Bill was introduced into the National Assembly on 16 October 2023, and was adopted on 07 November 2023. The Bill was, thereafter, gazetted on 18 November 2023. The purpose of the Fisheries Act is to repeal the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act and replace it by a more appropriate legislative framework, following the recommendations made by the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission. The Fisheries Act came into force as from December 2023.

1. Aquaculture Division

- Under the Marine Ranching Programme for stock enhancement, a total of 50,000 sea bream fingerlings were produced in the hatchery at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre (AFRC) and were released at 6 different sites namely Albion, Black River, Grand Port, Poste Lafayette, Balaclava Marine Park and Blue Bay Marine Park.



Figure 8 - Release of fish under the marine ranching programme



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- Approximately 1,015 units of berri rouge fish were sold to 12 farmers for Aquaculture purposes and 5,991 units of Berri Rouge were sold to 39 farmers for culture in aquaponic system.
- Around 1,475 units of berri rouge fingerlings were distributed free of charge to 29 individuals for aquaculture activities in tanks / small size ponds.
- A total of 1,385 units of berri rouge fingerlings were distributed free of charge to 27 individuals for aquaponic purposes
- Some 1,060 units of Berri Rouge fingerlings were handed over to Richelieu Open Prison (RLOP) for Aquaculture Purposes to constitute for kick starting berri rouge culture.



Figure 9 - Distribution of Berri Rouge fingerlings to Richelieu Open Prison for Aquaculture purposes



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- In February 2024, the sale of freshwater prawn juveniles was officially launched at the AFRC in the presence of the Hon. Minister. Some 15 farmers participated in the event. The event was also given media coverage in view of sensitising the public on the freshwater prawn juveniles production activity at the AFRC. A total of 375,105 freshwater prawn juveniles were sold to farmers involved in aquaculture.



Figure 10 - Stocking of freshwater prawn juveniles prior to sales

- In December 2023, the Cabinet approved the implementation of the Barachois Policy on vested barachois in the Ministry of Blue Economy. The main objective of the Policy is to define the criteria and procedures for the allocation of vested barachois to eligible promoters in line with the principles of good governance, accountability and transparent procedures for the allocation of a Government property. This Policy is intended to act as an informative paper for the guidance of promoters interested in engaging in aquaculture activities within a vested barachois.
- A total of 120 individuals were provided with technical assistance and support for aquaculture related activities at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre
- During a culling exercise carried out at AFRC, a total of 75 kg of Red Tilapia Hybrid (Berri rouge) fish was harvested from ponds at AFRC and sold to the staff of the Ministry



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- Mass production of phytoplankton (*Nannochloropsis* sp.) was carried out in eight tanks of capacity 3,000L and zooplankton/rotifers (*Brachionus plicatilis*) were undertaken in eight tanks of capacity 2,000L and two tanks of 500L respectively for the larval rearing of silver seabream.



Figure 11 - Mass culture of phytoplankton (*Nannochloropsis* sp.)

2. Marine Resources Division

2.1 Coastal /Artisanal Fishery

Identification, examination & disposal of exhibits

A total of 1335 units and around 4.3kg of fish specimens were received at the Unit for the purpose of identification and examination and 61 Acknowledgement Reports issued accordingly. After examination, a total of 69 Identification Reports were issued to the concerned parties.

A total of 360kgs of marine specimens were disposed at the Mare Chicose Landfill Site and the remaining specimens were submitted to the Aquaculture Division to be used as fish feed and Fish Toxicity Laboratory for mongoose feed and research purposes.

2.2 Octopus Fishery

A closure in the octopus fishery was established from 15 August to 15 October of each year to allow mature female octopuses to spawn and replenish the stock, followed by a second closure from 15 January to 15 March of each year to allow new recruits to attain maturity size.



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Samplings are undertaken by this Unit island-wide to monitor octopus parameters such as mantle length, weight, sex and species so as to assess the benefits of those seasonal closures.

A total of 789 octopus specimens were sampled at different Fish Landing Stations around Mauritius.

2.3 Biological examination of fish

Biological studies on commercial fishes of Mauritius are undertaken to assess the seasonality of the coastal fishes so as to protect the spawners and new recruits entering the fisheries stock and hence allow the recruits to reach maturity and attain first spawning prior to the subsequent opening of net fishing season.

Since the coastal fishery consists of a multitude of species, the biological study is focused on 4 main families, namely i) Siganidae; ii) Mullidae; iii) Mugilidae; and iv) Scaridae, so as to ease the process of data interpretation.

A total of 85 specimens of bony fishes, caught from the coastal waters of Mauritius, were purchased and examined to determine for species, sex, gonad maturity stage and gonadosomatic index.

2.4 Ecological Survey

Sea Cucumber

In Mauritius, in 2006, exploitation of sea cucumber fishery was opened at a commercial level, following which drastic decline in population stock was noted. Consequently, successive moratorium on sea cucumber fishery was imposed from 2009 to 2011 and 2012 to 2016 and then 2020 to 2023.

Since the moratorium on sea cucumber fishery would expire by the end of 2023, an island-wide survey on the stock of sea cucumber was carried in the coastal waters of Mauritius, to better understand the relative distribution and abundance (biomass) following several moratoriums of the both ecologically and commercially important sea cucumber resources.

This study demonstrated that despite successive bans of over 10 years on the sea cucumber fishery through moratoriums, the sea cucumber stock is yet to recover at an ecological reference point which is far from exploitable biomass. Following this study, the Fisheries (Fishing of Sea Cucumbers) Regulations 2023 was proclaimed, prohibiting fishing of sea cucumbers for another five (5) years, i.e. from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2029.



Sea Urchin

Following a rise in the demands for the authorization of the commercial use of sea urchins and in the absence of any regulatory framework for their commercial use, an island-wide sea urchin stock assessment survey was carried out with the aim to better understand the relative distribution and abundance in the lagoons around Mauritius and to come up with a policy and a regulatory framework to control and better manage the resources.

The study has showed that sea urchin population in the lagoons of Mauritius has declined significantly with several commercial species hardly recorded while most of the surveyed sites were devoid of sea urchin.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

In collaboration with JICA, various projects are in due course such as the following:

- a) Octopus pots that are effective in resource enhancement of octopus in Japan and other countries have been experimentally installed in Blue Bay in a view as an alternative, more viable and more environment friendly fishing alternative;
- b) Targeting juvenile spiny lobsters with high market value, the effect of artificial seaweed and reef which will be the habitat for juvenile lobster is being tested in the Blue-bay Marine Park.

2.5 Pelagic Fishery

2.5.1 The Purse Seiner Fishery

Forty-one trips were carried out by six Mauritian Flagged purse seiners from July 2023 to June 2024. Sixty-nine logbooks (69) were received and verified. Data were input and processed accordingly. The total catch amounted to 21049.2 tons comprising mainly yellowfin and skipjack tuna. All the purse seiners unloaded most of their catch in Seychelles. Eight trips were carried out by the supply vessel in support of the local purse seiners. It is to be pointed out that 3 purse seiners were deregistered in December 2023 and January 2024.

2.5.2 The Industrial Longline Fishery

The Industrial longline fishery started in April 2022. From July 2023 to June 2024, sixteen longliners (16) were active and they undertook eighty-two fishing trips. All fishing logbooks were verified and processed. The total catch amounted to 6672.8 tons comprising mainly of yellowfin and bigeye tuna. Morphometric sampling



programmes were carried out on the vessels which came to Port Louis for unloading. It is to be noted that most of the fish were transhipped on high seas.

Statistics for the tuna fishery FY 2023-2024

Type of Vessels	Number of vessels involved in Tuna fishing activities	Total catch (Tonnes)	Targeted Species	Data collection
Mauritian flagged purse seiners	6	21 049.2	Tuna	69 fishing logbooks 7 320 fish specimens sampled for length frequency
Mauritian flagged longliners involved in the industrial tuna fishery	16	6 672.8	Tuna	82 fishing logbooks 5635 fish specimens sampled for length frequency
Foreign purse seiners licensed to fish in our EEZ	3	729	Tuna	3 fishing logbooks 694 fish specimens sampled for length frequency
Foreign longliners licensed to fish in our EEZ	7	94.2	Tuna	7 fishing logbooks

Table 4: Statistics for the tuna fishery FY 2023-2024

2.5.3 Submission of data to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

All the data collected by the Pelagic Fishery Unit were processed and submitted to the IOTC. The catch and length frequency data are used by the IOTC experts for carrying out stock assessments. From July 2023 to June 2024, no new stock assessment was carried out on the main tuna species. Stock assessment was carried out on swordfish and the longtail tuna.

2.5.4 IOTC Meetings and Adopted Resolution

Several IOTC meetings were held and attended by officers of this Ministry. The main meetings included the Commission meeting, the Meeting of the Technical Committee on Allocation as well as the Scientific Committee.

From July 2023 to June 2024, several Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) came into force for the better conservation and optimum utilisation of the tuna stocks and the sustainable development of the tuna fisheries. The new adopted



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resolutions include Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (DFADs), IUU fishing, Climate Change, management procedures for swordfish and skipjack and on a ban on discards in the purse seine fishery.

IOTC Resolution 23/03 on a Voluntary Fishery Closure to rebuild overfished tropical tuna stocks

In line with the Resolution 23/03 which was proposed in 2023 by Mauritius to have a voluntary fishery closure of one month for all tuna fishing vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence, this Ministry/cabinet took the decision to implement the one month fishery closure of its tuna industrial fleet in 2024. The IOTC was informed of our decision in December 2023. The closure was applied from 15 May up 15 June 2024.

2.6 Offshore Demersal Fishery

Catch from the Offshore Demersal Fishery

During the period of July 2023 to June 2024, a total of 32 fishing boats were active in the Offshore Demersal Fishery, and landed 1,408.7 T of fish. Sampling of fish was also carried out during unloading of fishing boats for the collection of length and weight data. A total of 1,866 specimens were sampled for length and weight data. Details are in Table 5.

Statistics on Offshore Demersal Fishery FY 2023-2024

Type of Fishery	No. of boats involved in fishing activities	No. of fishing trips	Total catch Landed (Tonnes)	Main species caught	Data collection
Semi-Industrial St Brandon Fishery	32	306	173.3	White Fish	1 112 specimens of white fish were sampled for length and weight data
Semi-Industrial Chilled Fish Fishery			1079.4	White Fish	1 021 specimens of white fish were sampled for length and weight data



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Semi-Industrial Deepwater snapper/Grouper Fishery			156.0	Sacrechien Gueule Pavee Doree Vieille laboue	433 specimens of sacrechien sampled for length and weight data
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Table 5: Statistics on Offshore Demersal Fishery FY 2023-2024

2.6.1 Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Mauritius hosted and participated in the SIOFA 10th Meeting of Parties, and also participated in several online meetings with regards to Conservation Management Measures of the SIOFA. Moreover, Mauritius also submitted reports and data to the SIOFA Secretariat. Below is the summary of activities:

- 2 to 7 July 2023: Mauritius hosted the 10th Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Meeting of Parties at Ravenala Hotel, BalACLava. Participant from countries China, Comoros, India, Seychelles,
- 15 January 2024: Participated in the online 1st meeting of the working group to support the establishment of the SIOFA VMS
- 6 to 7 February 2024: Participated in the online Scientific Committee workshop on the harmonisation of scientific observers
- 27 February 2024: Participated the online 2nd meeting of the working group to support the establishment of the SIOFA VMS
- 2 April 2024: Participated in the online 2nd meeting on the SIOFA CCR Template
- 8 April 2024: Participated in the online 3rd meeting of the working group to support the establishment of the SIOFA VMS
- 30 April 2024: Submission of Compliance Report to the SIOFA
- 29 May 2024: Submission of Annual fisheries data (Year 2023) to the SIOFA
- 26 – 28 June 2024: Participation in the SIOFA 9th Compliance Committee



2.7 Statistical data for last 5 years 2019-2023

2.7.1 Catch of purse seiners (tonnes)*

Catch of purse seiners (tonnes) from 2019 - 2023

Year	Catch of purse seiners (Tonnes)
2019	27,082.7
2020	20,549.0
2021	25,803.2
2022	25,804.7
2023	24,920.0

* Include tunas and tuna-like species

Table 6: Catch of purse seiners (tonnes) from 2019 – 2023

2.7.2 Catch of longliners (tonnes)

Catch of longliners (tonnes) from 2019 – 2023

Year	Catch of longliners (Tonnes)
2019	804.3
2020	58.2
2021	21.8
2022	3,384.8
2023	5,866.2

Table 7: Catch of longliners (tonnes) from 2019 – 2023

2.7.3 Catch composition of local swordfish fishing vessels

For the period 2019 to 2023, there were no local swordfish fishing vessels.



2.7.4 Catch of coastal fishery (tonnes)

Estimated Catch of Coastal Fishery (tonnes) from 2019 - 2023

Year	Estimated Catch of Coastal fishery (Tonnes)
2019	840
2020	606
2021	655
2022	714
2023	761

NOTE: Figures have been estimated by the Statistics Unit

Table 8: Estimated Catch of Coastal Fishery (tonnes) from 2019 - 2023

2.7.5 Catch of chilled fish (tonnes)

Chilled catch from the offshore demersal fishery (tonnes) from 2019 - 2023

Year	Chilled catch from the offshore demersal fishery (Tonnes)
2019	1,127
2020	960
2021	874
2022	720
2023	1,050

Table 9: Chilled catch from the offshore demersal fishery (tonnes) from 2019 – 2023



2.7.6 Catch of frozen fish (tonnes)

Frozen catch from the offshore demersal fishery (tonnes) from 2019 - 2023

Year	Frozen catch from the offshore demersal fishery (Tonnes)
2019	919
2020	389
2021	343
2022	346
2023	391

Table 10: Frozen catch from the offshore demersal fishery (tonnes) from 2019 – 2023

2.7.7 Annual catch by gear

Estimated annual fish catch of the coastal (artisanal) fishery by gear-type, 2019-2023 (kg)

Gear-type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Basket trap	291,500	210,300	227,285	247,585	264,100
Line	242,800	175,100	189,295	206,202	219,900
Basket trap and Line	37,800	27,300	29,475	32,108	34,200
Large net	189,800	137,000	148,030	161,251	172,000
Gill net	10,900	7,900	8,515	9,276	9,900
Cast net/Harpoon/on foot	67,200	48,500	52,400	57,080	60,900
Total	840,000	606,100	655,000	713,502	761,000

NOTE: Figures have been estimated by the Statistics Unit

Table 11: Estimated annual fish catch of the coastal (artisanal) fishery by gear-type, 2019-2023 (kg)



2.7.8 Annual catch by fishing areas

Catch by fishing bank of the Offshore Demersal Fishery (tonnes) from 2019 - 2023

Year	Catch by fishing bank of the Offshore Demersal Fishery (T)				
	Saya de Malha Bank	Nazareth Bank	St Brandon Bank	Soudan Bank	Albatross Bank
2019	719	895	273	13	146
2020	330	697	203	1	118
2021	116	856	171	1	73
2022	176	638	161	< 1	92
2023	245	839	255	< 1	102

Table 12: Catch by fishing bank of the Offshore Demersal Fishery (tonnes) from 2019 – 2023

3. Marine Science Division

3.1 Long Term Coral Reef Monitoring

Long-term coral reef monitoring surveys, namely at Bambous Virieux (Back Reef), Trou aux Biches (Back Reef), Poudre d’Or (Back Reef I1) was carried out. It is noted that live coral abundance was highest at Poudre d’Or Back Reef II station (19.69%) and lowest at Trou aux Biches Back Reef station (5.93%) as depicted in Figure below.

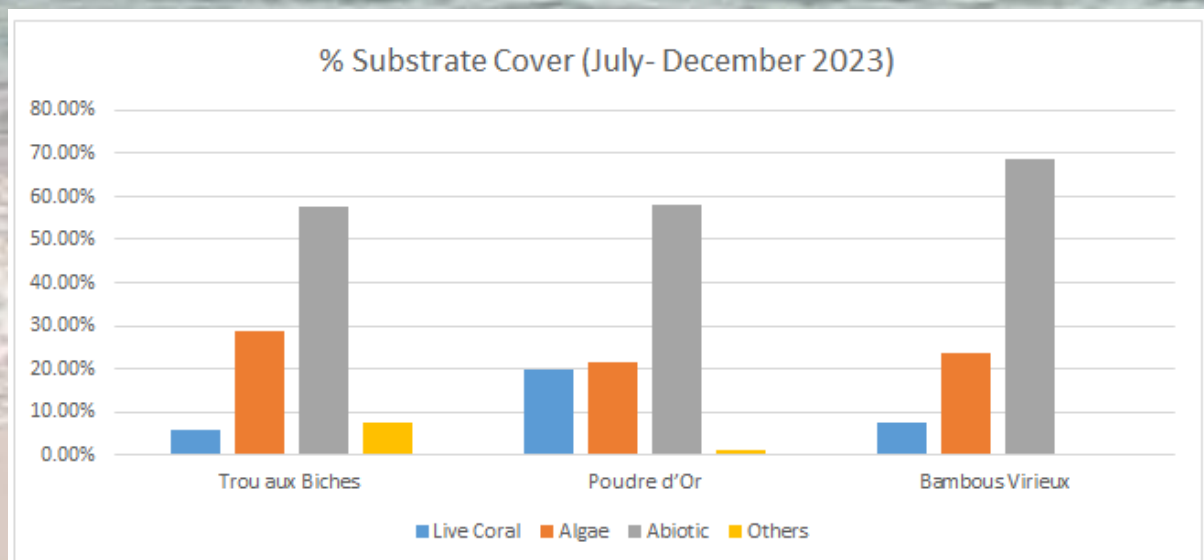


Figure 12 - Long Term Coral Monitoring data for 2023/2024



3.2 Stranded Marine Mammals & Sea Turtles

A total of 14 cases of stranded/dead marine turtles and mammals were reported from July 2023 to June 2024. The dead marine mammals/turtles were either buried at the nearest burial grounds or disposed at the Mare Chicose Landfill station by the concerned District Councils.

Amongst the cases reported, the following are to be highlighted:

- (a) 12 cases of dead sea turtles were reported around Mauritius; and
- (b) Two cases of dead marine mammals, were attended in the lagoon at Fer a Cheval on 07 July 2023 and in the lagoon of Souillac in front of the NEF Museum on 23 August 2023, respectively.

3.3 Seagrass Project

- A total of 141 sediment samples were obtained and pretreated in the Marine Ecological Laboratory at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre, and sent to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and University of Western Australia (UWA) for elemental analysis and determination of organic and inorganic carbon (blue carbon content).
- A workshop was held on the 4th of June 2024, to set up the Task force for the seagrass project



Figure 13 - Close up field photo of seagrass *Syringodium isoetifolium*



Figure 14 - Unveiling information board at seagrass site under protection by school children



Figure 15 - The official launching of the National Blue Carbon Task Force

3.4 Mangrove Propagation Programme

To date the area under mangroves', cover around Mauritius is around 243 hectares. This area includes both planted and naturally regenerated mangroves.

Officers of the MSD attend monthly meeting of the National Environment and Climate Change Fund (NECCF) at the Ministry of Environment to discuss on progress made with regard to mangrove propagation.



Figure 16 - Mangrove Plantation

Two sites were identified at Le Morne namely Coteau Raffin and Batterie Cassé for planting of 9000 mangrove seedlings.

Bidding exercise to allocate contract to an NGO for mangrove planting at Le Morne was carried out and contract was awarded to the NGO Association pour le Développement Durable (ADD).

As part of the Mangrove Propagation Programme, the MSD undertook a Mangrove Sensitisation Campaign along the West coast. In this context, under the funding from



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the NECCF, sensitization materials have been prepared including an educational pack comprising posters, pamphlets, bookmarks, stickers and a notebook. T-shirts and eco-craft bags were also prepared for the sensitization campaign.

The Integrated Environment Monitoring Programme (IEMP) is being implemented following the Wakashio oil spill at a quarterly interval.

7 permanent monitoring sites have been set up in Mangroves areas in the following regions; Rivière des Creoles-Cemetery, Rivière des Creoles-Mosque, Niyon river, Bois des Amourettes Public beach, Vieux Grand Port-debarcadere, Mahebourg (Pointe Canon) and Case Noyale.

38 sediment cores were taken and sent to an accredited laboratory for analysis of residual content of petroleum hydrocarbon.

4. Marine Conservation Division

4.1 Coral Monitoring and Rehabilitation

- Long-term monitoring of the coral reef ecosystem has been carried out at the five established permanent stations in each Blue Bay and Balaclava Marine Parks
- 24 new long-term monitoring stations that were established in the South-Eastern region following the grounding of MV Wakashio were also monitored twice during the FY 2023-2024. The project is ongoing under the Integrated Environmental Monitoring Plan (IEMP)
- Monitoring and servicing of coral nurseries was carried out at Blue Bay Marine Park
- Under the “Assistance scheme for coral farming and fish breeding” for fishers, Emergency First Response training was dispensed to trainers and trainees by the service provider, Institute of Fellowship First Aiders.



Figure 17 - Emergency First Response training held with fishers at Grand Gaube Community Centre in April 2024

4.2 Management of Marine Protected Areas

- 57 Coast patrols were conducted by Fisheries Protection Service Officers, within the boundary of the Blue Bay Marine Park to monitor activities of fishers and to sensitize the public at large including tourists/visitors about the Blue Bay Marine Park.
- 178 Afloat patrols were effected at the Blue Bay Marine Park with a view to carry out monitoring, surveillance and control of activities within the Blue Bay Marine Park.
Maintenance and servicing of the demarcation buoys of the Blue Bay Marine Park was also conducted by FPS officers.
Other activities conducted within the marine park included sea water sampling for analyses, control of Crown of Thorns Starfish (CoTS), bathymetry surveys of passes in the South Eastern region and Integrated Environmental Monitoring Programme surveys.
- Funds generated from a total of 332 permits for permissible activities in marine protected areas were issued during the FY 2023-2024 and amounted to a sum of Rs. 1,467,100.



4.3 Environmental Impact Assessment Reports

A total of 53 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports, among which 21 coastal projects were assessed and views submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change.

4.4 Coral Reef Monitoring in Marine Parks

4.4.1 Balaclava Marine Park

Long-term monitoring surveys of the Balaclava Marine Park show that Stations 1 and 2 located at the Turtle Bay and Back Reef Station 3 at Balaclava have the highest percentage of live coral cover ranging between 57% to 70%. The percentage of live coral cover at Station 4 and Station 5 located in the fore reef of Pointe aux Piments varied between 36% to 46%.

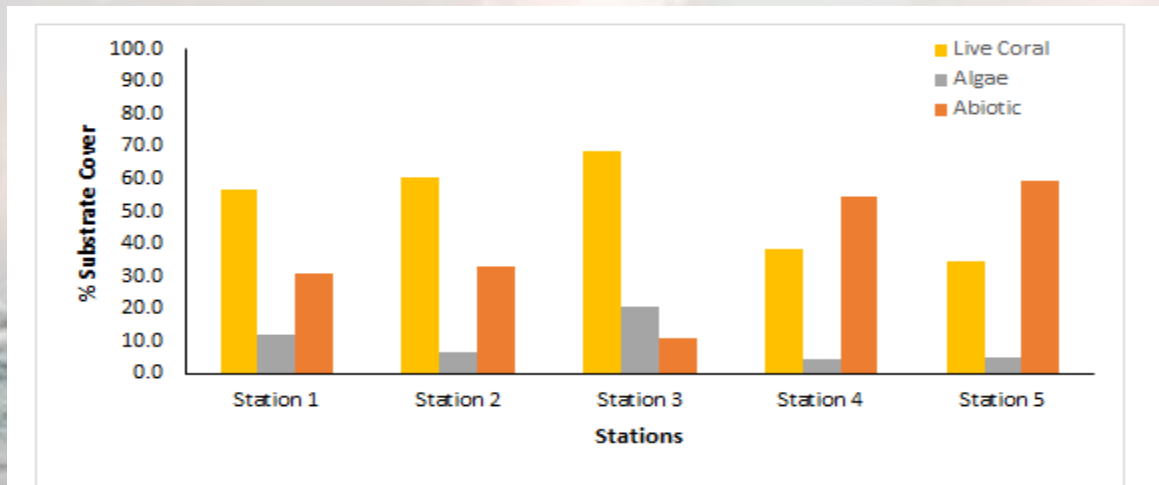


Figure 18 - Percentage substrate cover at Balaclava Marine Park



4.4.2 Blue Bay Marine Park

Monitoring results, show that Station 4 located within the Strict Conservation Zone B and back reef Station 1 have percentage live coral cover of above 80% and 60% respectively. Station 2 and Station 3 found in Strict Conservation Zone A have the least live coral cover, while Station 5 located at La Cambuse has no live corals.

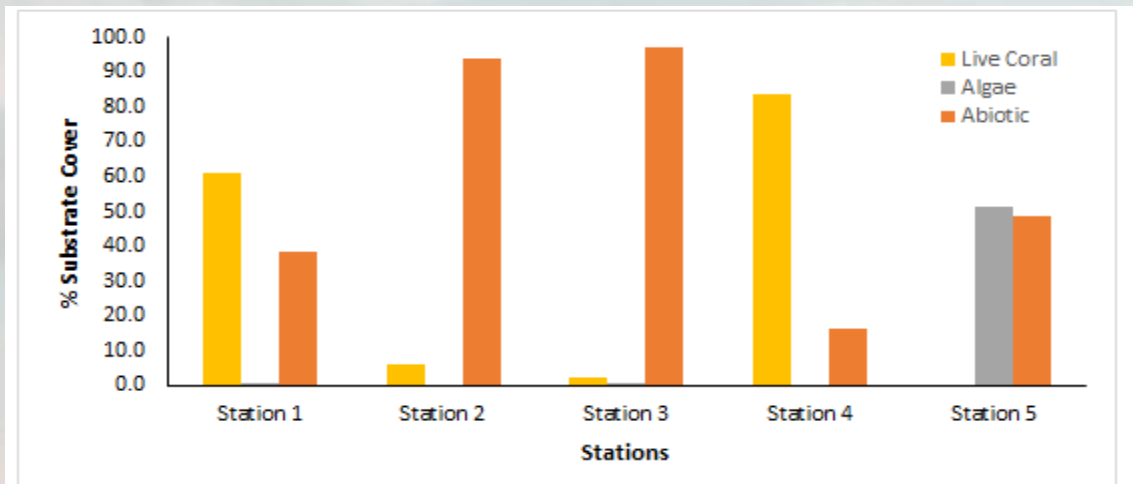


Figure 19 - Percentage substrate cover at Blue Bay Marine Park

4.4.3 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

4.4.3.1 Exhibition facility at the Blue Bay Marine Park Centre

Under the JICA funded project “Development of Integrated Coastal Ecosystem Management System in the Republic of Mauritius”, an exhibition facility was inaugurated by the Honorable Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping in the company of representatives of JICA at the Blue Bay Marine Park Centre on 26 July 2023. Community members of the South East regions, including boat operators, fishers, NGOs, students, the public and staff of AFRC and BBMPC were also present. The purpose of the Exhibition facility is to demonstrate the importance of the marine ecosystem, which include fauna, flora and corals in the south eastern part of Mauritius.

4.4.3.2 Activities under the JICA project

In view of providing sustainable livelihood to community members of the South East Regions, a joint site visit was carried out in July 2023 by the JICA Expert Team in Vieux Grand Port with relevant stakeholders. The aim of the site visit was to identify potential assets for ecotourism in Vieux Grand Port village. The site visit was followed by a discussion with villagers and fishers about ecotourism activities that can be proposed.



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Other activities conducted under the JICA project included deployment of sediment traps, turbidity meters and currents loggers in the lagoon of Blue Bay Marine Park, Pointe d'Esny, Mahebourg between October and November 2023.

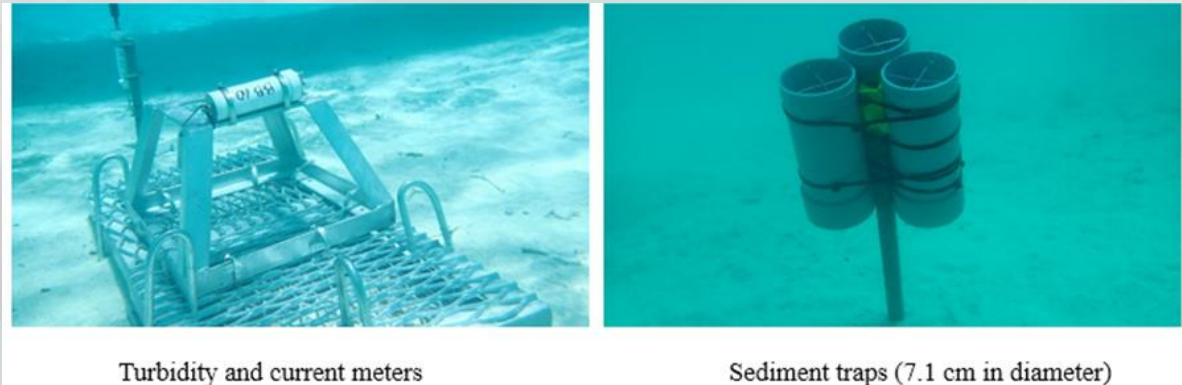


Figure 20 - Underwater photograph of the equipment deployed on the sea bottom. Photo source: JICA

Coral settlement devices were also deployed in the lagoon of Grande Riviere Sud Est, Pointe D'Esny and Blue Bay during October/November 2023 in view of the spawning season for the study of coral recruitment in the South East regions.

5. Laboratories Division

- 22 fish samples including bivalves and cultured fish were collected in the south east coast under the Integrated Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) and submitted to Quantilab Ltd for the analysis of Total Hydrocarbon Index (HCT), Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and Heavy Metals.
- 27 seawater and 36 marine sediments were collected in the south east coast including shoreline and lagoon in the context of the IEMP and submitted to SGS for analyses including HCT, PAH and heavy metals.

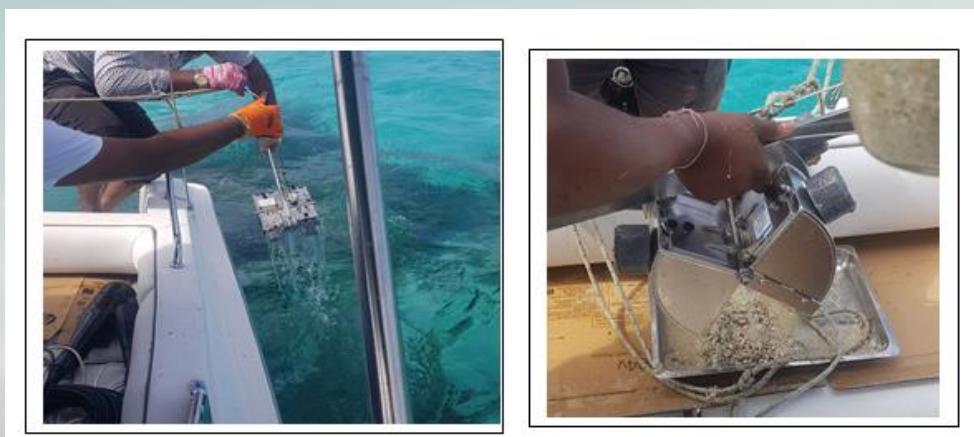


Figure 21 - Sampling of marine sediment using Van Veen grabber



Figure 22 - In-situ measurement of seawater quality using multiparameter meter

- A seawater quality monitoring program was implemented at the Port Louis harbour to detect any oil spill from the Fishing Vessel Rui Jin Fan which caught fire on 16 September 2023. 30 seawater samples were collected in the harbour and analysed for physico-chemical parameters including oil and grease.
- 95 seawater samples were collected at Baie du Tombeau and analysed for physico-chemical parameters including oil and grease following the oil spill incidences into Rivulet Terre Rouge from Marine Biotechnology Limited and Washright Services Limited in January and March 2024. 10 fish samples including crabs were collected in Baie du Tombeau region and analysed for Total Hydrocarbon Index (HCT), Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and Heavy Metals.



Figure 23 - Fish samples collected at Baie du Tombeau

- 442 seawater samples were collected from 30 permanent representative sites, in cases of marine pollution & fish kills and were analysed for physico-chemical parameters.
- 587 seawater samples were collected from 13 selected public beaches, in cases of marine pollution and fish kills to determine the level of Total Coliform and Faecal Coliform bacteria.
- 12 alleged cases of Marine Pollution and 4 alleged cases of fish kills at sea were attended to.
- 30 fish specimens seized by the Fisheries Protection Services, 2 fish specimens from bank fishery operators were received for toxicity test. Test for ciguatoxin were conducted on 3 fish specimens.
- 73 macro-algae/seawater samples were collected from 10 representative sites and examined for harmful marine microalgae. In addition, 16 macro-algae/seawater samples were collected from 5 sites following alleged cases of fish kill and marine pollution.
- 26 Environmental Monitoring Reports in connection with coastal development projects including desalination plants were received and the test results for seawater quality therein were compared to the Coastal Water Quality Guidelines for compliance.



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- 12 fish specimens collected in the lagoon in the region of Port Louis in connection with the project 'Lagoonal Monitoring in the Region of Port Louis' were submitted to the Government Analyst Division for analysis.
- Seawater quality data were submitted for the drafting of the annual reports for the two projects spearheaded by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change; namely 'Independent Environment Audit on Waste Water Project' and 'Lagoonal Monitoring in the Region of Port Louis'
- The Mauritius Accreditation Services (MAURITAS) Conducted assessment of the Marine Chemistry and Marine Microbiology Laboratories in April 2024. MAURITAS has maintained the Accreditation of the laboratories to meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Standard.
- One officer attended a fellowship training course on the analysis of ciguatoxin in fish using the Radio-ligand Receptor Binder Assay method held at the IAEA Marine Environment Laboratories in Monaco.
- One officer attended a fellowship training course on the analysis of hydrocarbon contamination in seawater, marine sediment and fish using the Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometer equipment held at the IAEA Marine Environment Laboratories in Monaco.

6. Fisheries Training and Extension Centre (FiTEC)

- The General Course for Fisher (GCF) started in November/December 2023 and ended in July 2024. Four batches were run for the period 2023/2024 with a total of 387 fishers successfully trained in the GCF course. The course is expected to be continued during the year 2024.



- Six FADs were replaced and 73 % of the FADs were kept active as at June 2024.



Figure 24 – Replacement of FADS

- A total of 36 sea trips were carried out between July 2023 to June 2024 using RV Investigator II to carry out research and FAD deployment activities amongst others.
- The RV Investigator II was also used for performing other sea-based research activities for various Divisions of the Ministry such as the Laboratory Division for sea water sampling around Mauritius, for new fishing technique trial by the JICA consultants and for the Monofilament Longline Fishing Training of Fishers under the UNDP and vessel inspection in Port.
- Dry Docking of the RVs Investigator II was completed on 18 October 2023 and the dry docking of Sphyrna II completed on 16 February 2024 and is fully operational and has completed its warranty ship period.
- The Ministry received two more boats donated by the Japanese Government, one patrol boat under the FAO REEFFISH Project “FAO Patrol Boat” and one FAD Fisheries training boat under the JICA Livelihood Project “FiTEC ONE”.
- The FAO Patrol boat was used 6 times to carry out diving activities at FADs for deployment of data loggers and 2 times by the Laboratory Division for water samplings.



- The FiTEC ONE boat was used 2 times for trial of equipment purposes.



Figure 25 – Replacement of FADS

- Sea trips were carried out using the RV Investigator II for the setting up, verification, repair and salvage operations of both the Traditional Rosary-Type Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) as well as setting up of SMART FADs.



Figure 26 – RV Investigator used for deployment of FADs at sea

- As at June 2024, 21 FADs were active out of a total of 28.



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- A total of number of Ten (10) FADs were redeployed and among which (9) new SMART FADs equipped with Marine Satellite Buoys were deployed between July 2023 to June 2024 at Souillac, Roche Noire, Trou D'Eau Douce, Grand Carreau, Blue Bay, P. Louis I, Poudre D'Or II, Albion II (Rosary type), Port Louis II and Medine.



Figure 27 – Smart FAD deployed at Sea

- Four (4) salvage operation were carried out during July 2023 to June 2024 to recuperate broken SMART FADs caused by cyclonic weather or potentially by navigating ships.
- A Mobile App namely, RodMoFAD has been developed under the UNDP ECOFISH Project and last testing of the App has been carried out in July 2023. The app aims to help FADs' fishers to locate and have access to fish biomass data.
- A total of 292 fishers (272 males & 20 females) followed the 'General Course for Fishers' (GCF) from July 2023 to June 2024. A certificate of attendance was awarded to the trainees after completion of the training course which was used thereat for the award of Artisanal Fishermen Cards.



Figure 28 – Training of Fishers

- A total of 214 fishmongers (126 males and 88 females) attended the Fish Handling, Preservation and Marketing (FHPM) training course between June 2023 to July 2024. A certificate of attendance was awarded to the trainees after successful completion of the course which qualifies them to renew their fishmonger's license on a yearly basis instead a six-month license.
- A total of 32 registered fishers (27 males and 5 females) and 11 in-house technical staff were trained in the Monofilament Longline Fishing Technique by an expert Fishing Master from Seychelles between June 2023 to July 2024. A certificate of attendance was awarded to the trainees after successful completion of the course which are now enabling them to explore this new technique around FADs and outside the lagoon.
- FiTEC was awarded the certification MS ISO 9001:2015 for its training component by the Mauritius Standard Bureau on 18 November 2022 and is valid until 17 November 2025. A first Surveillance Audit was carried out in October 2023 by the Mauritius Standard Bureau where 8 'minor' non conformities were identified and which has been resolved by the Management Team at FiTEC.



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7. MCS/VMS/Port State Control and Import & Export Division

7.1 Port State Control Unit

Details on activities of the Port State Control Unit

SN	Reporting	2023						2024					
		July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
1	Number of callings, boarding and inspection												
	. Local vessels												
	. Foreign vessels												
2	Number of surveys carried out on board (local boats/vessels)												
3	Number of departure clearances issued (local boats/vessels)	33	31	30	31	34	27	12	45	26	34	33	31
4	Number of Processing Statements validated and endorsed	124	65	97	67	31	66	41	29	181	113	70	142
5	Number of Mauritius Catch Certificates (Master) validated and endorsed	17	48	15	13	8	12	0	0	6	4	3	5
6	Number of Mauritius Catch Certificates (Re-Export) validated and endorsed	106	213	74	204	113	229	91	166	273	246	133	153
7	Number of Swordfish Statistical Documents validated and endorsed	10	0	0	10	11	1	6	6	9	2	1	9
8	Number of Big Eye Statistical Documents validated and endorsed – Mauritian Flag	60	33	28	28	56	5	19	26	45	19	6	48
9	Number of Big Eye Re-Export Certificates validated and endorsed – Foreign Flag	30	14	10	5	7	3	0	1	7	0	5	6
10	Patagonian Toothfish and Ice Fish												
	- Number of callings, boarding and inspection carried out	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	2
	- Number of DCD issued	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
	- Number of DED issued	0	0	25	25	0	46	0	0	4	0	0	50
	- Amount transhipped	See Table 10											
11	Trawlers												
	- Number of callings												
	- Amount unloaded												
12	Vessel Monitoring system												

Table 13: Activities of the Port State Control Unit

7.2 Fisheries Monitoring Centre

Details on activities of the Fisheries Monitoring Centre

	2023						2024					
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
. Number of logbooks information verified against VMS data	9	13	8	15	26	9	6	12	5	4	12	8
. Local vessels fishing trips monitored monthly in the EEZ and Indian Ocean region	44	45	47	37	57	40	22	49	35	29	22	48
. Foreign vessels sailing/fishing trips monitored monthly in the EEZ	1	10	8	9	5	6	115	84	122	63	226	102
. Number of VMS report produced for departure clearance to local fishing vessels	38	35	32	42	41	33	14	48	39	43	46	49
. Number of VMS report produced for validation of Master-Mauritius Catch Certificates	0	4	3	4	1	10	0	2	0	0	0	1
. Number of new transponders of local and foreign fishing vessels registered	2	4	1	1	1	nil	1	3	3	4	1	0

Table 14: Details on activities of the Fisheries Monitoring Centre



7.3 Amount Total Toothfish Transhipped

Details on amount of fish transhipped in port

Amount of Total Toothfish Transhipped

Year	TOA/kg	TOP/kg	Total/kg
2019	24,017	2,001,052	2,025,069
2020	27,041	1,916,570	1,943,611
2021	0	1,523,989	1,523,989
2022	0	1,324,104	1,324,104
2023	0	1,618,062	1,618,062
Grand Total/kg	51,058	8,383,777	8,434,835

Table 15: Amount of Total Toothfish Transhipped

Note: Toothfish has two species: *Dissostichus eleginoides* (TOP) and *Dissostichus mawsoni* (TOA)

7.4 Import & Export Data for chilled and frozen fish

Details on amount of fish imported in port.

Import for chilled and frozen fish

Year	Chilled (Tonnes)	Frozen (Tonnes)
2019	1,707	73,197
2020	91	55,671
2021	184	50,725
2022	1,280	62,674
2023	1,365	49,771

Table 16: Import for chilled and frozen fish



Details on amount of fish exported in port

Export Data for chilled and frozen fish

Year	Chilled (Tonnes)	Frozen (Tonnes)
2019	170	12,237
2020	91	17,198
2021	184	9,806
2022	301	18,074
2023	273	5,531

Table 17: Export Data for chilled and frozen fish

8. Planning and Licensing Division

8.1 Planning Unit

(1) Implementation of fishing schemes

(i) ‘Canotte’ Scheme

This Ministry is implementing a scheme so as to provide financial support to fishers to enable them to purchase better equipped boats “Canottes” of length 7 – 12 meters in order to enhance their livelihood and encourage them to fish off lagoon.

Under the scheme, a registered fisher is eligible for a grant representing 50% of the cost of a “Canotte” and up to an amount of Rs. 300,000 per “Canotte”.

A MoU was signed between the Ministry and the DBM Ltd. for the implementation of the Canotte Scheme following the increase of the grant from Rs. 200,000 to Rs.300,000 per Canotte.

During the financial year, a total of 77 applications, including 22 from Rodrigues were examined and sent to the DBM Ltd. 62 fishers have availed of financial assistance under the scheme, including 19 fishers from Rodrigues.



(ii) Semi-industrial Off-lagoon Fishing Scheme

In order to encourage outer-reef and bank fishing, financial support in the form of a grant of 50 percent, up to a cap of Rs. 6 million is given to cooperative societies to enable them to acquire semi-industrial vessels less than 24 metres in length overall fitted with inboard engine and all navigation, communication, safety and appropriate fishing equipment.

(2) Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding

Four fishing Agreements and three MoUs have been processed for cooperation in the field of fishing, fisheries and aquaculture as follows:

- A Fishing Agreement between the Russian Federation and the Ministry to fish in the EEZ of Mauritius
- A reciprocal Fishing Agreement between Mozambique and this Ministry for fishing in the EEZ of both Parties
- A new reciprocal Fishing Agreement between Seychelles and Mauritius for fishing in the EEZ of both Parties
- An extension of a Reciprocal Fishing Agreement between Seychelles and Mauritius was signed on 07 July 2023 with validity up to 14 April 2024. Another extension of the Reciprocal Fishing Agreement was signed on 07 June 2024 with validity up to 14 October 2024
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius for cooperation in the field of fisheries
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius in the field of aquaculture and capture fisheries development
- A Memorandum of Understanding between Madagascar and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius in the field of blue economy including fisheries and aquaculture.



(3) Ratification of the partial Fisheries Subsidies Agreement

The Ministry has tendered its' no objection to the International Trade Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RI & IT for the ratification of the first part of the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement that establishes rules prohibiting grant of subsidies to vessels in support of IUU fishing.

8.2 Licensing Unit

- Four new fishing vessels joined in the semi-industrial fishery. A total of 42 licences were issued, representing an amount of Rs. 35,178.92 as licence fees.
- Five fishing licences were issued to vessels operating in the Advanced Coastal Fishery.
- Mauritian Purse Seiners Licences and 7 Extension Licences were issued, representing an amount of USD 274,232.88 as licence fees.
- 2 Supply vessels Licences and 10 Extension Licences were issued, representing an amount of USD 7,821.90 as licence fees.
- 16 Mauritian Longliners Licences and 18 Extension Licences were issued, representing an amount of Rs 1,000 and USD 375,000 as licence fees.
- Two licences were issued for mid-water trawling and an amount of USD 22,402.74 as licence fees was generated.
- Under the Interim Bilateral Fishing Agreement (2022-2023) between the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles, a total of 32 licences were issued, generating a revenue of EUR 251,974.21.
- Under the Fishing Agreement between the Republic of Mauritius and the European Union, a total of 38 licences were issued to purse seiners/longliners/Supply vessels and the total licence fees amounted to EUR 224,240.
- A total of nine (9) Letters of Intent and 4 Extensions were issued to promoters in respect of fishing development projects.



9. Competent Authority Seafood (CASF)

Statistics pertaining to inspection and certification of fish and fish product exported for FY 2023/2024

01 July 2023 to 30 June 2024		
1	Number of EU Export Health Certificates issued by the CASF	1,688
2	Number of non-EU Export Health Certificates issued by the CASF	1,184
3	Total Number of Export Health Certificates issued by the CASF	2,872
4	Number of inspections carried out at Registered Fish Business Operators	1,071
5	Number of registered Fish Business Operators	45
6	Number of newly registered Fish Business Operators	6
7	Number of EU-approved establishments	19
	Total Revenue (Rs)	2,878,900

Table 18: Statistics from Competent Authority Seafood for FY 2023-2024

Note: Revenue collected at the CASF account for fees stipulated in the First and Third Schedule of the GN 147 of 2009 (Fisheries and Marine Resources - Export of fish and fish products).

Other achievements

- Freezer Vessel “Galerna Lau & Cape Coral” and Factory Vessel “Klondyke 139” have been registered by the Competent Authority as Fish Business Operators and is an EU-approved establishment.

10. Fisheries Protection Service

- Total number of registered fishmongers as at 30 June 2024: 1,077
- Number of new fishers registered during FY 2023-2024: 101
- Total number of registered artisanal fishers as at 30 June 2024: 1,909
- Total number of registered fishing boats as at 30 June 2024: 1,085
- Total amount of Bad Weather Allowance paid in FY 2023-2024: Rs 211,980,500
- Number of contraventions established for prosecution in FY 2023-2024: 62



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- Number of pick up cases in FY 2023-2024: 118

10.1 EXHIBITS at the Coastal Fishery

Month (2023)	Illegal Nets (Units)	Underwater Fishing (Units)	Undersized fish (Units)	Other Cases	Total Cases
July 2023	12	8	5	4	29
August	15	12	7	5	39
September	8	10	3	7	28
Oct	10	9	7	5	31
Nov	7	18	6	6	37
Dec	14	11	5	5	35
Total	66	68	33	32	199

Month (2024)	Illegal Nets (Units)	Underwater Fishing (Units)	Undersized fish (Units)	Other Cases	Total Cases
Jan 2024	6	5	1	4	16
Feb	5	6	1	2	14
March	4	3	3	4	14
April	3	4	2	2	11
May	4	4	nil	3	11
June	5	3	1	3	12
Total	27	25	8	18	78



2023			2024		
Month	No. of Cases	Fine (Rs)	Month	No. of Cases	Fine (RS)
July	3	5,000	January	1	2,000
August	5	9,000	February	3	11,000
September	2	6,000	March	4	11,500
October	7	17,000	April	7	19,000
November	8	15,000	May	4	6,000
December	1	500	June	3	4,000
Total	26	52,500	Total	22	53,000

11. Shipping Division

11.1 Accession of the Protocol of 2003 to the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992

The recent cases of maritime casualties occurring in the maritime zones of Mauritius, including the environmental catastrophe caused by M/V Wakashio has permitted an introspection into our legal system and existing liability regimes. This self-examination has highlighted the need to accede to the Protocol of 2003 to the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992. Despite not being a tanker vessel, the MV Wakashio incident has proved that a major oil spill can have a serious impact on people's livelihoods and on the environment and that Mauritius should be prepared in all respects for any future similar incidents, the more so for an oil spill from a tanker vessel.

After comprehensive consultations with key stakeholders and seeking the necessary clearances and approvals, Mauritius finally became the 33rd Member State of the Supplementary Fund by acceding the 2003 Protocol to the 1992 International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage. Mauritius submitted its instrument of accession to the IMO Secretary-General on 09 April 2024, and officially became a Supplementary Fund Member State on 9 July 2024.



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With this accession, in case of an oil spill from an oil tanker, Mauritius can now have access to Supplementary Fund, which provides additional compensation for 1992 Fund Member States that have ratified the Supplementary Fund Protocol. This increases the total compensation available for an incident to SDR 750 million, equivalent to about USD 986 million or Rs 45 billion.

Mauritius has been praised on the international scene for enhancing its protection to the highest available level.

11.2 Adoption and Promulgation of the Merchant Shipping (Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage) Act 2024

With an increase in maritime traffic and other maritime related activities in the waters of Mauritius, it is of utmost importance that the legal framework governing oil spills in Mauritius be strengthened, particularly the aspects of liability and compensation. To this effect, the Merchant Shipping (Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage) Act 2024 was passed by the National Assembly on 21 May 2024 and subsequently, the Act entered into force on 9 July 2024, after promulgation.



Figure 29 - Adoption and Promulgation of Merchant Shipping Act 2024



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The Merchant Shipping (Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage) Act revokes an obsolete legislation, namely the Merchant Shipping (Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage and International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage) Regulations 1996 and most importantly, this Act domesticates the below listed fundamental international maritime Conventions regulating liability and compensation in cases of an oil spill by an oil tanker:

- (a) International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (CLC), 1992;
- (b) International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage (Fund Convention), 1992; and
- (c) Protocol of 2003 to the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992 (Supplementary Fund Protocol).

Through the Merchant Shipping (Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage) Bill, the Republic of Mauritius now has a three-tier compensation regime for pollution damage caused by discharge or escape of cargo oil from tankers on par with that of other overseas jurisdictions. Specifically, this legislation ensures that the payment of adequate, prompt and effective compensation for pollution damage and that the liability of the ship owners of tankers is determined under a set of uniform international rules and procedures and be subject to a specified limit, thereby providing them with greater certainty. The three-tiered regime is briefly explained as follows:

- (a) Tier 1: First layer of compensation is payable under CLC by the owner of the oil tanker which caused the oil pollution, and the latter is required to maintain adequate insurance for this purpose.
- (b) Tier 2: Additional compensation is payable by the IOPC Fund under the Fund Convention where the maximum compensation payable by the 1992 Fund is SDR 203 million (approximately Rs 11 billion),
- (c) Tier 3: In the event, that the claims exceed Tier 1 and Tier 2, then further compensation will be paid by the Supplementary Fund which has significantly higher limits, that is up to SDR 750 million (approximately Rs 45 billion), including the amounts payable under the CLC and Fund Conventions.



11.3 Vessel Clearance System

Since 05 July 2023, the Shipping Division and Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries & Shipping along with other Ministries and Government entities have been using a new digital platform, namely the Vessel Clearance System (VCS) launched by the Mauritius Ports Authority, to grant authorisations and issue clearances for vessel's entry and departure. The VCS is an integrated Single-Window electronic platform designed to manage vessel clearance. This system allows all documents to be submitted electronically through a single interface, with processing and approval conducted online.

The VCS streamlines the electronic exchange of information for ship clearances, significantly reducing the administrative load on local shipping agents, who previously needed to submit around 57 documents per ship call. The centralized online system now enables shipping agents and stakeholders to manage arrival and departure clearances through a single window. This Ministry has been working in close collaboration with the Mauritius Ports Authority to ensure that the requirements of both the Shipping Division and Fisheries Division are reflected in the VCS in view of avoiding duplication of procedures.

Under applicable protocol and international conventions, vessels arriving at or departing from an international port, such as Port Louis, must obtain relevant clearance from various public authorities. Accordingly, aspects regulated are safety, security, environmental requirements, seaworthiness of vessels, insurance, movement of cargo, health of crew members, classification of cargo, in particular dangerous goods, etc.

As such, through the implementation of the VCS, Mauritius as a member State to the International Maritime Organisation is meeting the requirements of the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL Convention), whose main objectives are to prevent unnecessary delays in maritime traffic, to aid co-operation between Governments, and to secure the highest practicable degree of uniformity in formalities and other procedures. Thus, Mauritius is complying with the latest amendment to the FAL Convention on mandatory electronic data exchange in ports for ship clearance which requires IMO Member States to use a single, centralised digital platform or "Maritime Single Window" (MSW) to collect and exchange information with ships when they call at ports.



11.4 Amendments of the Merchant Shipping Act through the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2024

Important amendments have been made to the Merchant Shipping Act 2007 through the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2024, which entered into force on 27 July 2024. The provisions to which amendments have been made are as follows:

- (a) Section 10(3) and (4) on shipping casualties, more particularly on death enquiries – In light of the revised modus operandi in handling cases of foreign vessels calling at Port Louis to disembark dead bodies, amendments have been made to the Merchant Shipping Act so that clear distinction is made between deaths occurring onboard ships flying the Mauritian flag and those flying foreign flags.
- (b) Section 40(1) on termination of ship registration – Amendments have been made to provide for additional situations whereby the registration of ships can be terminated in order to ensure that the Mauritius Ship Registry does not encourage substandard ships to continue flying the Mauritius flag. These situations include non-compliance by the ships to safety requirements, or ship owner/operators having records of being consistently irregular with the payment of salaries to seafarers, etc.
- (c) Section 220 (1) on detention of ships – The rationale for the amendments is to provide for detention of ships where such ships are posing a threat to human life or the marine environment or when the conditions of work and living onboard the ship are below standard and when there is non-payment of wages/salaries and no arrangements for repatriation have been made. The powers for detention of ships are being extended to cover situations where the ship does not carry ship certificates or crew documents in English.
- (d) Section 231 on issue of port clearances – the validity of a port clearance has been extended from 12 hours to 24 hours. Provisions have also been made for the issue of electronic port clearance and to cater for situations whereby port clearances can be withheld by the Director of Shipping, for instance if the vessel fails to produce necessary documents or there has been a death onboard, which has been caused by violence or in suspicious circumstances.



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Statistics on Services provided by the Shipping Division for the FY 2023–2024

SN	Service	Number
1	No. of vessels registered as at date	127
2	No. of Surveys & Inspections (Flag State)	115
3	No. of Safety Inspections of Foreign Fishing vessels	497
4	No. of casualties	2
5	No. of Port State Control	0
6	No. of STCW Endorsement Certificate issued	215
7	No. of STCW Letter of Recognition issued	85
8	No. of Discharge Books issued	672
9	No. of Safe Manning Certificate issued	68
10	No. of Port Clearances issued	3,267
11	No. of MLC Ship's Cook Certificate issued	21
12	No. of STCW Certificate of Competency	2
13	No. of STCW Certificate of Proficiency issued	10
14	Shipper Method 1	581
15	Shipper Method 2	360
16	Service Provider Method 1	211
17	Service Provider Method 2	133

Table 19: Statistics on Services provided by the Shipping Division for the FY 2023–2024

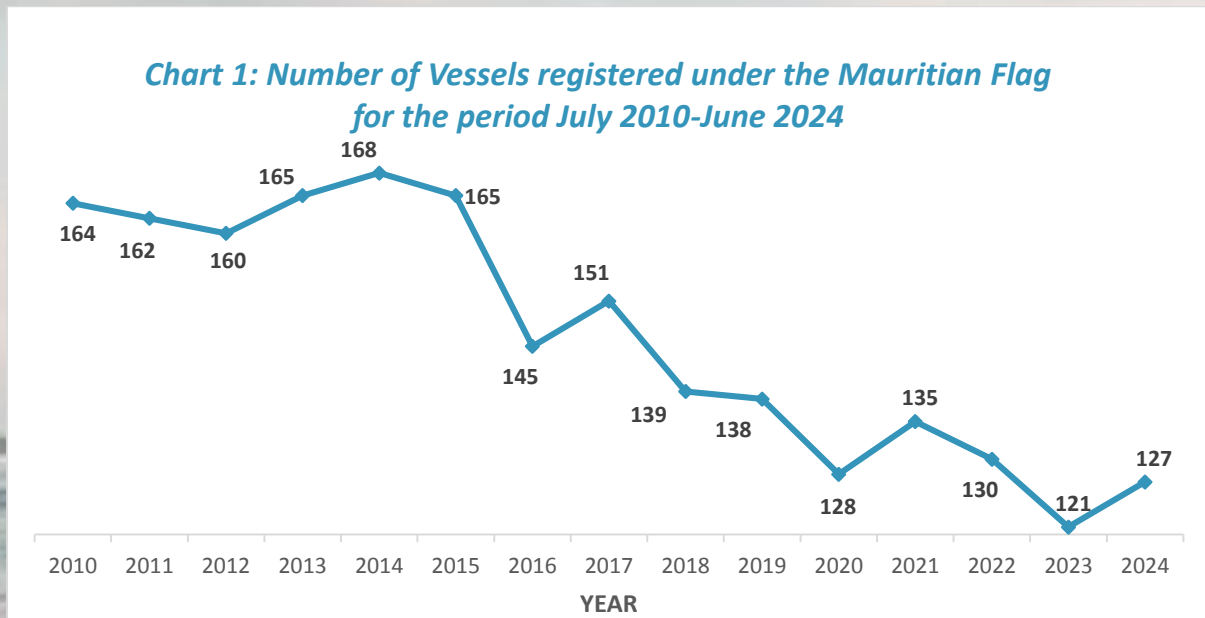


MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND SHIPPING

Number of Vessels registered for the period July 2010– June2024

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
No. of vessels registered	164	162	160	165	168	165	145	151	139	138	128	135	130	121	127

Table 20: Number of Vessels registered for the period July 2010– June2024



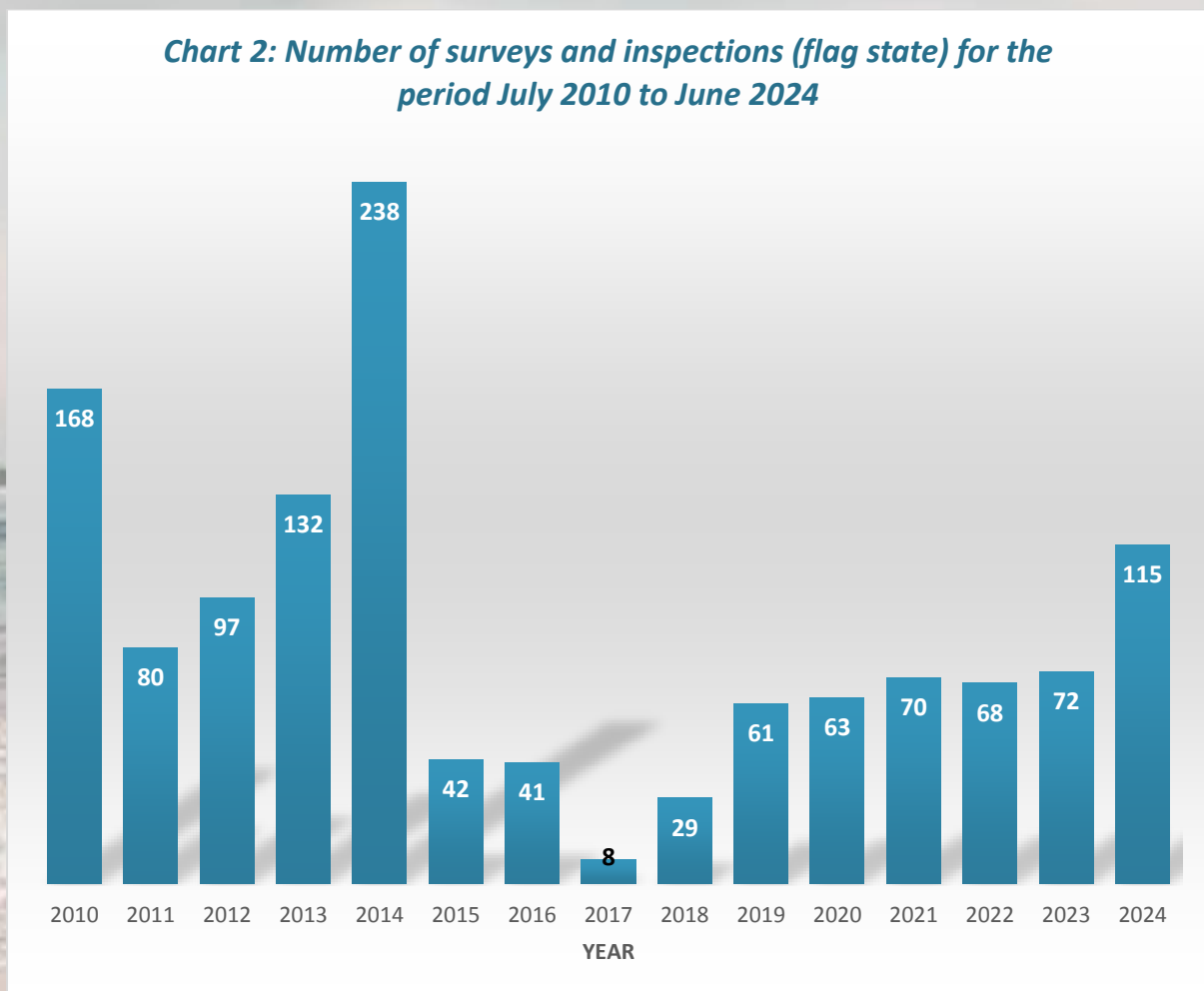


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Number of Surveys and Inspections for period July 2010–June 2024

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
No. of surveys & Inspections	168	80	97	132	238	42	41	8	29	61	63	70	68	72	115

Table 21: Number of Surveys and Inspections for period July 2010–June 2024





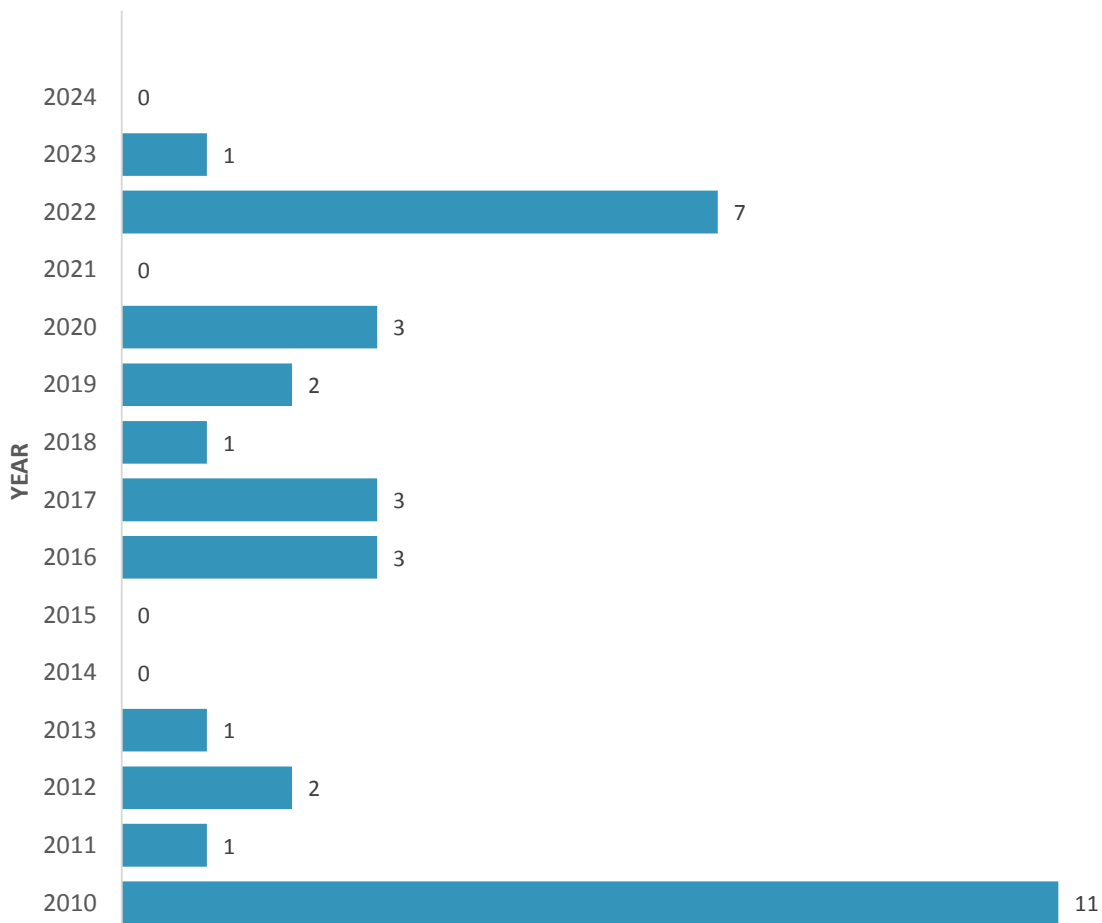
MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND SHIPPING

Number of Port State Control Inspections for period July 2010–June 2024

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
No. of Port State Inspections	11	1	2	1	0	0	3	3	1	2	3	0	7	1	0

Table 22: Number of Port State Control Inspections for period July 2010–June 2024

Chart 3: Number of Port State Control Inspections for period July 2010–June 2024





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Number of Casualties at Sea for period July 2010–June 2024

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
No. of Casualties	0	2	2	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	4	1	2

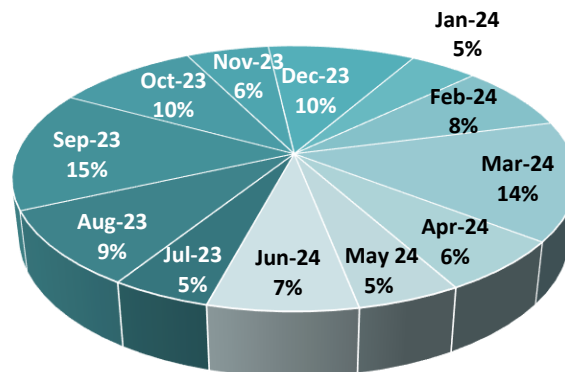
Table 23: Number of Casualties at Sea for period July 2010–June 2024

Number of Safety Inspections of Foreign Fishing Vessels for period July 2023–June 2024

Month	JUL 23	AUG 23	SEP 23	OCT 23	MOV 23	DEC 23	JAN 24	FEB 24	MAR 24	APR 24	MAY 24	JUN 24
No. of Safety Inspections of Foreign Fishing Vessels	24	46	73	48	28	50	23	40	72	32	25	36

Table 24: Number of Safety Inspections of Foreign Fishing Vessels for period July 2023–June 2024

Chart 4: Percent Distribution of Safety Inspections of Foreign Fishing Vessels by month for the Period Jul 23-Jun 24





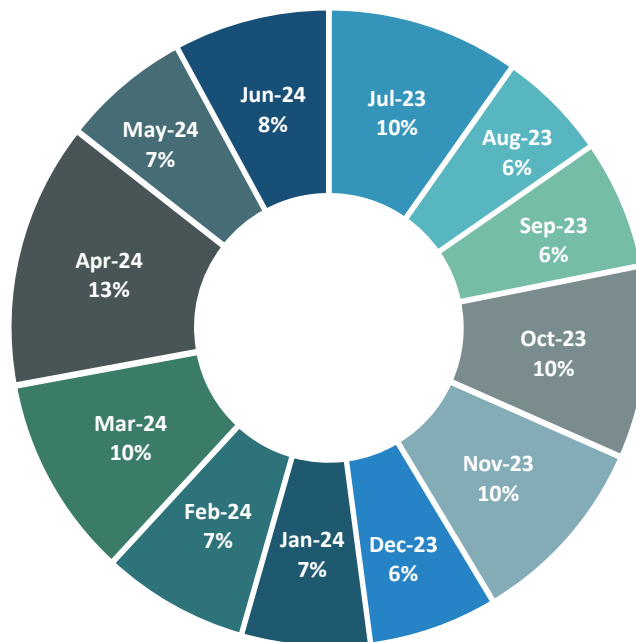
MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND SHIPPING

Number of STCW Endorsement Certificates issued for period July 2023–June 2024

Month	JUL 23	AUG 23	SEP 23	OCT 23	MOV 23	DEC 23	JAN 24	FEB 24	MAR 24	APR 24	MAY 24	JUN 24
No. of STCW Endorsement Certificates Issued	21	12	14	21	21	14	14	16	22	29	14	17

Table 25: Number of STCW Endorsement Certificates issued for period July 2023–June 2024

Chart 5: Percent Distribution of STCW Endorsement Certificates issued by month for the period Jul 23-Jun 24





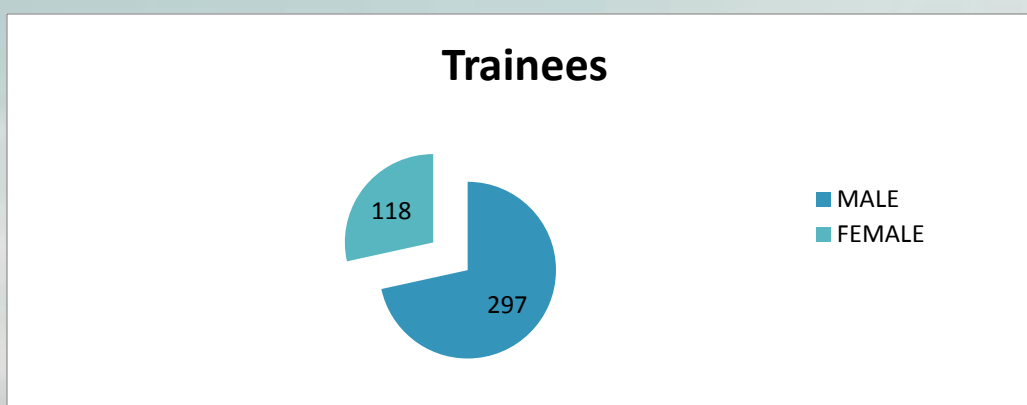
12. Mauritius Maritime Training Academy

Major Achievements

Though there has been a scarcity of resource people to deliver courses at the MMTA, the institution has been able to train some 415 students during the financial year 2023-2024. Out of the 415 students trained, 118 were female which is a laudable effort in the empowerment of woman in this field. Statistics below pertain to courses offered.

SN	Course	Male	Female	Total	Trainees (place of employment- Cruise/Cargo/both/other)
1	Basic Safety/Crowd Management/Crisis Management/Proficiency Security Awareness	209	94	303	Mostly employed on cruise vessels
2	Refresher Course	76	23	99	
3	Second Engineer course for Fishing Vessel with Propulsion Power up to 1500 KW	-	-	-	
4	Second-hand course for Fishing Vessel of 24m in length & over	-	-	-	
5	Rating Forming part of Navigational Watch	2	-	2	
6	Rating Forming Part of Engineering Watch	-	-	-	
7	Able Seafarer (Deck)	3	-	3	
8	Able Seafarer (Engine)	3	-	3	
9	PSCRB (Refresher)	2	-	2	
10	Prociency in Designated Security Duties	2	1	3	
TOTAL		297	118	415	

Table 26: Number of Seafarers trained for the FY 2023-2024



Implementation of Budget Measures

A status of the achievements of the budget measures and key actions are provided in Tables 27 and 28 respectively.

SN	Budget Paragraph	Budget Measure	Status as at 30 June 2024
1.	98 (a)	Provision of a grant of Rs 2,500 for the purchase of hooks and fishing materials	Payment of Rs 4,195,000 has been disbursed in the month of December 2023 for the purchase of hooks and fishing materials.
2.	98 (b)	Provision of a grant of Rs 5,000 for the purchase of materials to construct fish traps	A one off payment of Rs 6,090,000 has been effected during the month of December 2023 for the purchase of materials to construct fish traps.
3.	98 (c)	Provision of Rs 300,000 instead of Rs 200,000 for the acquisition of canottes	An amount of Rs.14.8 million has been disbursed in respect of 62 canottes
4.	99 (a)	Installation of solar powered lights at jetties to facilitate navigation at night	For Baie Du Cap installation of Solar power lights has been completed.
5.	99 (b)	Replacement of 8 Fish Aggregating Devices around the island	A total of 9 Fish Aggregating Devices were deployed during the year 2023/2024



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6.	100 (a)	Upgrading of Fisheries Posts at Poste Lafayette, La Preneuse, Mahebourg, Riambel and Grand River South East	Upgrading of Poste Lafayette, La Preneuse and Riambel are ongoing.
7.	100 (b)	Upgrading of jetties and slipways at Trou d'Eau Douce, Grand Gaube, Poudre d'Or, Bain des Dames, Pointe aux Sables and Case Noyale	For upgrading of jetties and slipways, Poudre d'Or and Grand Gaube are at the tendering stage. For Bain des Dames and Pointe aux Sables, is at design stage and for Case Noyal and Trou d'Eau Douce at bidding stage.
8.	103	Increase in the lump sum paid to fishermen aged 65 and above from Rs 52,500 to Rs 100,000 if they return their fishermen card or transfer it	An amount of Rs 1,700,000 has been paid to fishermen aged 65 and above for financial year 2023-2024.
9.	104	Increase in the compensation for associations returning their licenses from Rs 105,000 to Rs 200,000	A compensation of Rs 400,000 in respect of 2 fisheries member cooperative society has been paid for financial year 2023-2024.
10.	105	Increase in the daily Bad Weather Allowance for fishers from Rs 575 to Rs 650	An amount of Rs 211,980,500 has been disbursed in respect of daily Bad Weather Allowance for financial year 2023-2024
11.	106	Provision of a grant of 50 percent for construction of hatchery for shrimp farming up to a maximum of Rs 500,000.	The Ministry of National Infrastructure has submitted the tender documents / Bill of Quantities (BOQ) on 26 July 2024 to this Ministry. The Bid documents and Bill of Quantities (BOQ) would be finalized and tender would be launched.
12.	107	Increase in the grant for acquisition of semi-industrial fishing boats by registered cooperatives from Rs 4 million to Rs 6 million	An amount of Rs.11 million has been spent in respect of 3 applications from fishermen cooperatives and 2 fishing companies involved in fishing

Table 27: Status of the achievements of the budget measures



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Key Action	Key Performance Indicator	Target for FY 2023 - 2024	Actual for FY 2023 - 2024
Sustainable development of the Blue Economy and conservation of aquatic resources and the marine development	Exports earnings from fish and fish preparation (Rs bn)	15	15.5
Increase local fish production	Tonnes of fish produced	35,000	32,301
Development of local fleet and promotion of off-lagoon fishing	Number of canottes acquired by registered fishermen	50	62*
Empowerment of fishers	Number of fishers trained	600	292
Preservation of marine ecosystems through coral farming to rehabilitate degraded coral reefs	Number of sites rehabilitated	2	2
Enforce compliance of vessels with maritime standards	Number of inspections on vessels	100	612

***Note: Include fishers from Rodrigues**

Table 28: Key actions

Workshop/Training

1. Pilot Training on Dry-Dock Operations for Biofouling Management, Le Meridien Hotel, 27–28 May 2024

A two-day pilot training course on Dry-Dock Operations for Biofouling Management was delivered in Mauritius collaboration with the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping (Shipping division), followed by site visit to two dry-docks in Port Louis.

The objective of the training is to provide attendees with an understanding of the different aspects related to dry-dock operations for biofouling prevention and



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management, in line with the IMO Biofouling Guidelines and the relevant requirements, taking into account lessons learnt from experience accumulated worldwide. The objective was also to assist International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member States new training package under the GloFouling Partnerships project, building on a previously developed and delivered course on the development of Biofouling Management Plans (BFMPs) and Biofouling Management Record Books (BFRBs). This is the third training course developed under the project.

The training was well attended with over 50 participants representing the government of Mauritius (particularly from the maritime administration, environmental or biosecurity agencies and port state control), managers and employees of shipping companies, port and dry-dock operatives, paint manufacturers and academics from the Mauritius Oceanography Institute.

To support the delivery and further development of the training Will Griffiths, the Technical Project Analyst of GloFouling Partnerships project has attended the delivery of the training.



Figure 30 - Pilot Training on Dry-Dock Operations

2. Port Facility Security Assessment National Training, 05 to 08 February 2024

The Port Facility Security Assessment (PFSA) is a risk analysis of all aspects of a port facility's operation in order to determine which parts of it are more susceptible to be the subject of attack. PFSA is an essential and integral part of developing and updating Port Facility Security Plan (PFSP).

The training was carried out during four days from Monday 05 to Thursday 08 February 2024 with active participation of stakeholders from both the public and private sector, during classes and group table top discussions with the proper guidance and experienced expertise of the two resource persons from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), namely Mr Mourad Ghorbel and Mr Andrew Mallia.



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The aim of the workshop was to sensitise all participants about the importance of carrying out the identification and evaluation of critical port assets and infrastructures for the good functioning of the port facility. The identification and evaluation process is crucial because it provides a basis for focusing mitigation strategies on those assets and facilities that are most important to protect from a security incident. This process takes into account the potential loss of life, the economic importance of the port, the symbolic value and the presence of government installations and not to forget about our international reputation. Participants were made to understand how the identification and assessment of port assets and infrastructure should be used to prioritise the corresponding security counter measures. The primary concern should be to avoid loss of human life or injury. It is also important to consider whether the port facility can continue to operate without the asset and to what extent a rapid return to normal operation is possible.

Furthermore, all participants were trained on how to use the TRAM (Threat & Risk Assessment Matrix) method to establish the threats and the likelihood with different scenarios and how to calculate the risks and vulnerability of each port facility. Ultimately, participants were guided on the process to work out the Threat, Impact and Vulnerability assessment and how to mitigate, reduce and manage the risks.

During the last day training, participants were taught how to prepare a Port Facility Security Assessment Report and the importance of how the report could be used to minimise or mitigate the major risks.



Figure 31 - Port Facility Security Assessment National Training

The workshop were attended by participants from various Ministries, Departments and private entities namely The prime Minister's office, Mauritius Police Force, national Coast Guard, Mauritius Port Authority, the Shipping Division of the Ministry of Blue Economy, marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, the Mauritius Cane Industry



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Authority, The Mauritius Freeport Port Development, Froid Des Mascareignes, Chantier Naval de L'Océan Indien, the Taylor Smith Group and the Cargo handling Corporation Ltd.

The training was officially closed with the award of certificates to participants and closing remarks from Mr. Milko Van GOOL, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union of the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles, in the presence of Mr. Arun Ramdhuny, Project Manager - Delegation of the European Union of the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles, Dr. Michele Stallone, European Union Port Security Project Regional Coordinator, the IMO Consultants and the Director of Shipping.

3. Mauritius Maritime Training Academy (MMTA)

During the Financial Year 2023-2024, the MMTA launched its awareness campaign in secondary schools in Mauritius and several visits were made to:

- i) Queen Elizabeth College
- ii) Regis Chaperon State Secondary College
- iii) Bambous State Secondary School
- iv) Palma State Secondary School



Figure 32 - Sensitization campaign to QEC students

Moreover, the MMTA was present at The Mauritius International University and Career Expo 2024 held during three days as from the 8 February 2024 till the 10 February 2024. The MMTA showcased its courses and training programmes to aspiring youngsters willing to pursue a career in the maritime sector. The Mauritius



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International University and Career Expo was organised by the Rotary Club of Grand Baie.



Figure 33 - The MMA's booth at The Mauritius International University and Career Expo

Events

1. World Fisheries Day

The World Fisheries Day was held on 26 November 2023 at the Blue Bay Marine Park Centre. Display of activities was depicted by AFRC, FiTEC, MOI, Shipping Div., Mauritius Maritime Academy, NCG, Prisons Dept, Fire & Rescue Services, FPS cadre, Fisherman Welfare Fund & Competent Authority. The Hon. Minister S. Maudhoo was present to celebrate the occasion.

A brief exposé on the importance of the marine ecosystem, which include fauna, flora and corals in the south eastern part of Mauritius was given to students, tourists and the public at large. Short trips free of charge in glass bottom boats on the importance of fauna, flora and corals were provided to students, children of fishermen and the public in general by technicians from AFRC in the Blue Bay Marine Park.



2. Celebration of “Day of the Seafarer” 2024



Figure 34 - Celebration of “Day of the Seafarer 2024

The Day of the Seafarer is celebrated annually on 25 June to recognize the unique contribution made by seafarers from all over the world to international seaborne trade, the world economy and civil society as a whole.

To mark the event, the Seafarers' Welfare Fund, a statutory body, operating under the aegis of this Ministry, organised a celebration on 25 June 2024 at Trevesa House, Mer Rouge.

To express the gratitude and in recognition of the dangers of the Seafarers to the global economy, a holy mass was led by the Bishop of Port Louis, His Excellency Jean Michael Durhone for the wellbeing of the seafarers and also a health screening event was graced by the Honorable Sudheer Maudhoo, Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping in the presence of other eminent personalities.

3. World Ocean Day 2024

The world Ocean Day is celebrated each year on 08 June. The theme for the year 2024 was “Awaken New Depths”.

The Ministry celebrated the event on 05 June 2024 at Blue Bay Marine Park.

To mark the event, 10,000 fingerlings were released during the period of 05 June 2024 to 15 June 2024. The launching ceremony was held on 05 June 2024 whereby 2000 fingerlings were released in the Blue Bay Lagoon.



Figure 35 - World Ocean Day

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee at the Ministry is chaired by a Deputy Permanent Secretary and has as members, an Assistant Permanent Secretary and a Scientific Officer (Fisheries Division). The duties of Secretary are performed by an Office Management Assistant. During the Financial Year 2023-24, the Audit Committee had 8 meetings. For the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24, the Audit Committee:

- Considered the issues raised in the Report of the National Audit Office for the FY 2021-22.
- Followed up and implemented on the recommendations made in Internal Control Reports for FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24.
- Ensured follow up on issues raised by the National Audit Office in its Management Letter for the FY 2023-24.



Part 2

Financial Performance



Financial Performance of the Ministry

The Ministry is allocated its yearly budget through two votes: Vote 19-1 Ocean Economy and Vote 19-2 Fisheries.

Statement of Revenue of the Ministry

STATEMENT OF REVENUE OF THE MINISTRY				
S/N	Description	2022-2023	2023-2024	2023-2024
		Actual (Rs)	Estimates (Rs)	Actual (Rs)
1	Fishing Vessel Licence	28,272,746.49	52,000,000.00	65,197,025.54
2	Fishmonger Licence	353,970.18	415,000.00	334,980.00
3	Ship's Registration Fee	32,372.97	200,000.00	1,010,647.20
4	Annual Fees (Shipping)	6,281,482.71	6,400,000.00	6,557,125.95
5	Processing fees for Inspection	4,975,000.00	5,100,000.00	4,500,278.00
6	Permits/ Fees to Operate in Marine Protected Areas	1,669,400.00	1,700,000.00	1,560,100.00
7	Fees for services provided at the Competent Authority	4,026,100.00	4,200,000.00	2,883,300.00
8	Sale of Produce	448,429.85	420,000.00	240,658.75
9	Miscellaneous. Sales of Goods and services (Fisheries)	71,363,278.60	66,000,000.00	42,794,776.78
10	Miscellaneous Sales of Goods and Services - (Shipping)	6,156,084.43	6,100,000.00	7,440,852.69
	TOTAL	123,578,865.23	142,535,000.00	132,519,744.91

Table 29: Statement of Revenue of the Ministry



MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND SHIPPING

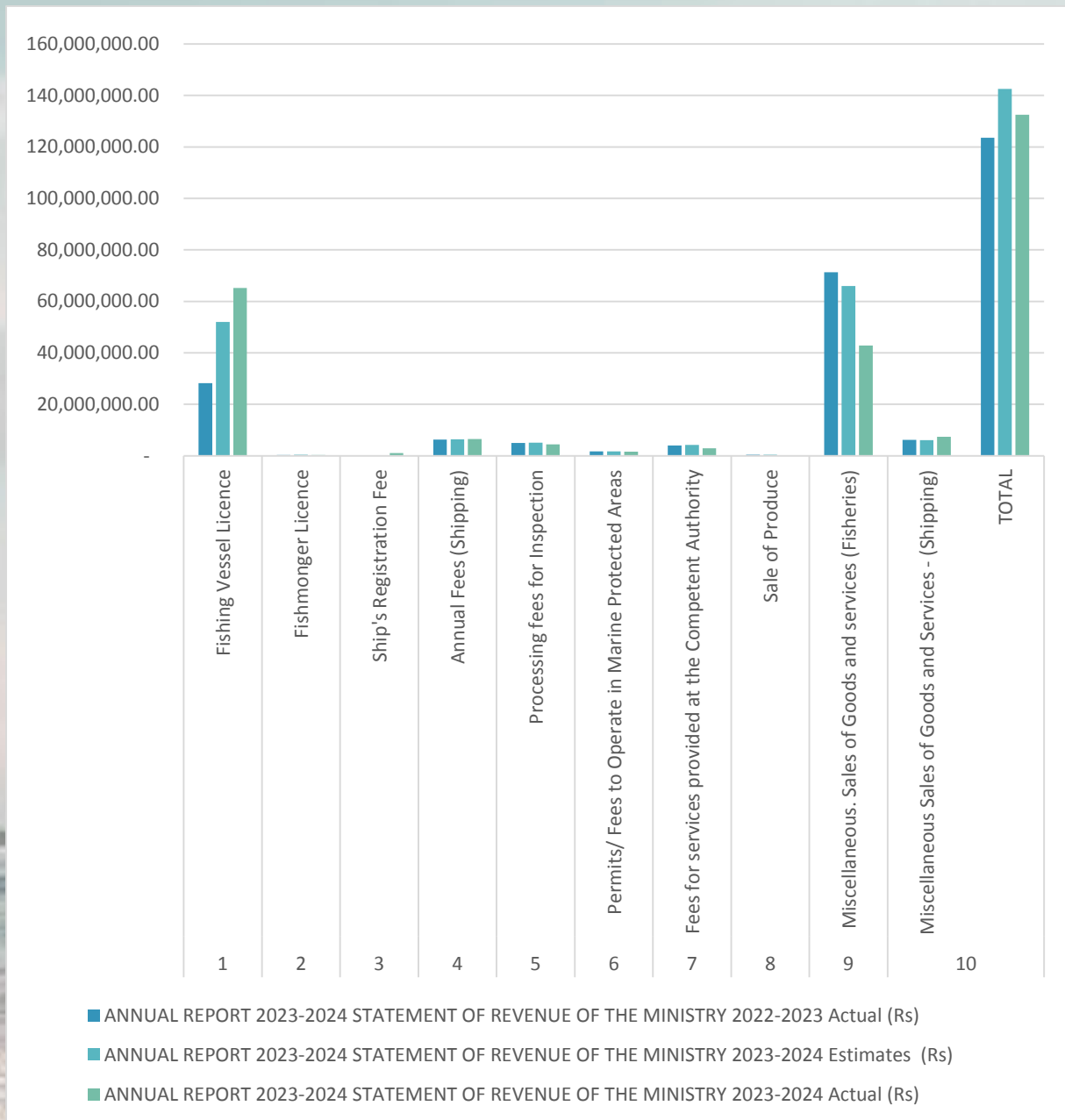


Figure 36 - Actual Revenue of the Ministry for FY 2023-2024



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The financial highlights of the Expenditure by Votes and the Categories therein for the financial year 2023-2024 are illustrated below:

Expenditure for Vote 19-1 Blue Economy

SN	Head/Sub-Head of Expenditure	2022-2023 Actual (Rs)	2023-2024 Estimates (Rs)	2023-2024 Actual (Rs)
1	Compensation of Employees	85,575,782	100,000,000	85,793,352
2	Goods and Services	57,630,323	79,340,000	74,991,874
3	Subsidies	383,900	450,000	450,000
4	Recurrent Grants	46,193,778	52,500,000	49,054,437
5	Capital Grants	-	10,800,000	10,091,853
6	Social Benefits	10,000	10,000	10,000
7	Other Expenses	369,516	45,400,000	53,511,363
8	Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	2,024,387	38,500,000	30,459,292
	Total	192,187,686	327,000,000	304,362,172

Table 30: Statement of Expenditure of Blue Economy

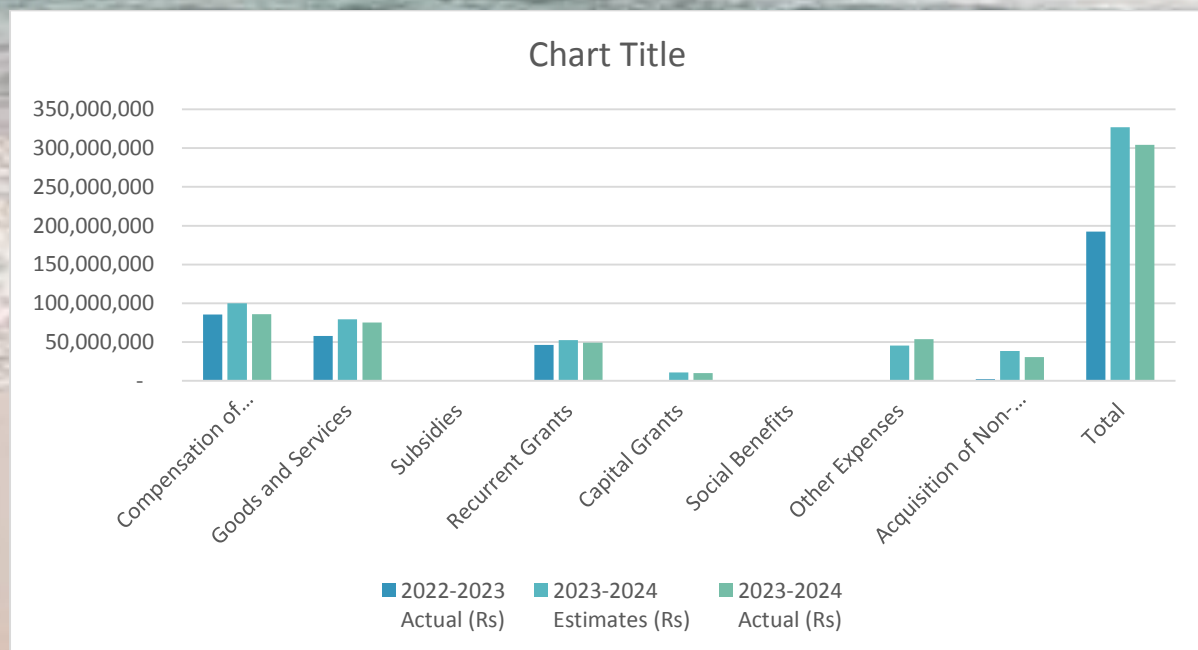


Figure 37 - Estimated and Actual Expenditure of Ocean Economy for FY 2023-2024



Expenditure for Vote 19-2 Fisheries

SN	Head/Sub-Head of Expenditure	2022-2023 Actual (Rs)	2023-2024 Estimates (Rs)	2023-2024 Actual (Rs)
1	Compensation of Employees	168,080,382	187,700,000	185,928,203
2	Goods and Services	62,119,288	113,400,000	79,109,676
3	Recurrent Grants	12,131,819	17,800,000	15,206,257
4	Other Expenses (Recurrent)	13,439,816	40,300,000	17,964,092
5	Other Expenses (Capital)	-	16,000,000	15,000,000
6	Acquisition of Non Financial Assets	16,453,144	96,300,000	40,619,388
	TOTAL	272,224,449	471,500,000	353,827,616

Table 31: Statement of Expenditure of Fisheries

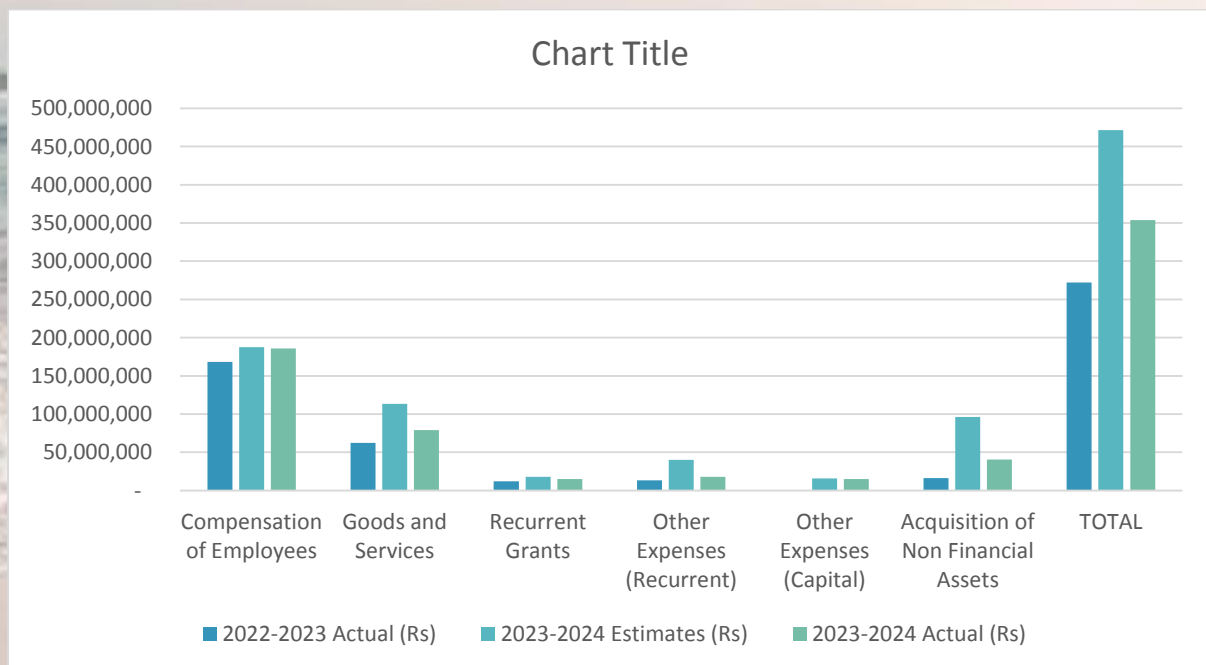


Figure 38 - Estimated and Actual Expenditure of Fisheries for FY 2023-2024



Analysis of Major Changes

Revenue

An increase of 7.2% in the Financial Year 2023/2024 is noted when compared to Financial Year 2022/2023.

The increase in revenue for fishing license is mainly accounted to the fact that there has been the entrance of one industrial trawler vessel in the Mauritian fishing fleet.

Expenditures

The actual total Expenditure in Financial Year 2023/24 shows an increase of 29.9% for vote 19-2 Fisheries compared to Financial Year 2022/23.

This increase is due to an increase in Expenditure for “Compensation of Employees”, “Good and Services”, “Other Expenses- Capital “and “Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets”.

Performance of Procurement and Supply

The Procurement and Supply section of the Ministry carried out its activities in order to ensure that 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 2023-2024 under report is given in Table 29 hereunder:

Tenders launched/Contracts awarded	Number
Formal tenders	63
Informal tenders	790
Value of Contracts awarded/ Donation	Amount (Rs.)
Total value of contract amount awarded above Rs. 100,000	70,989,835.89
Total value of contract amount awarded below Rs. 100,000	4,500,984.75
Donations received	51,607,000.00



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Value of physical stock as 30 June 2024	17,379,197.00
Number of Contracts awarded	Number
Contracts awarded to SMEs	843

Table 32: Activities carried out by the Procurement Section for FY 2023-2024

Total Contract (year base)	Amount
Total contract amount approved for SMEs as from 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023	24,044,582.40
Total contract amount approved for SMEs as from 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024	35,061,324.97
Total value of contract amount (2023 – 2024)	59,105,907.37



Part 3

Strategic Direction and Way Forward



Strategic Direction for the Blue Economy Sector of Mauritius

1. Diversification of the Blue Economy Sectors

- Expand beyond traditional sectors like fishing and tourism to include aquaculture, marine biotechnology, offshore renewable energy, and seabed mining.

2. Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Develop and expand sustainable aquaculture projects to reduce pressure on wild fish stocks and increase seafood production.
- Support the small-scale fisheries sector with access to better technology, training, and market opportunities.

3. Marine Conservation and Ecosystem Management

- Increase the number and management effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to conserve biodiversity and protect habitats.
- Implement measures to combat marine pollution, particularly plastic waste, and reduce the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems.
- Continue coastal ecosystem restoration initiatives, including mangrove replanting and coral reef conservation.

4. Climate Resilience and Adaptation

- Focus on building climate-resilient infrastructure to protect coastal areas from rising sea levels, extreme weather, and erosion.
- Invest in research and projects that enhance carbon sequestration through blue carbon initiatives like mangrove, seagrass, and wetland restoration.

5. Enhanced Research and Innovation

- Invest in marine research and data collection to support evidence-based decision-making and resource management.
- Establish partnerships with international research institutions and foster public-private collaborations to drive marine innovation.
- Utilise technology such as satellite surveillance, marine drones, and geographic information systems (GIS) for better monitoring and enforcement.

6. Governance and Regional Cooperation

- Enhance regional and international cooperation for managing shared resources, combating illegal fishing, and ensuring maritime security.



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- Foster stakeholder engagement by involving local communities, private sector, NGOs, and academic institutions in decision-making.

Current and Future Projects

Development of new courses at MMTA

MMTA has already embarked in the design and development of new courses in line with 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended and guidelines from the Shipping Division.

The new courses are as hereunder:

- Pre-Sea Course for Deck and Engine Room Rating (New Entrants)
- Medical First Aid/Medical Care
- Officer of the Watch (OOW) Course for Deck and Engine Watch

Collaboration with well-established maritime institutions in the region will be explored to start Officer courses.



List of Acronyms

AFRC	Albion Fisheries Research Centre
CASF	Competent Authority Seafood
DCD	Dissostichus Catch Document
DED	Dissostichus Export Document
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EU	European Union
FAD	Fish Aggregating Devices
FiTEC	Fisheries Training & Extension Centre
FPS	Fisheries Protection Service
FY	Financial Year
GMDSS	Global Maritime Distress and Safety System
GRSE	Grand River South East
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IMSO	International Mobile Satellite Organisation
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
LRIT	Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships
MAURITAS	Mauritius Accreditation Services
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MMTA	Mauritius Maritime Training Academy
MSA	Merchant Shipping Act
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PBBS	Port Biological Baseline Survey
SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SOLAS	International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (as amended)
STCW	International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (as amended)
VGM	Verified Gross Mass
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System