

ANNUAL REPORT

Financial Year 2024 - 2025

**MINISTRY OF AGRO-INDUSTRY, FOOD SECURITY,
BLUE ECONOMY AND FISHERIES
(BLUE ECONOMY AND FISHERIES DIVISION)**



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STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER, Dr Arvin Boolell

MINISTRY OF AGRO-INDUSTRY, FOOD SECURITY, BLUE ECONOMY AND FISHERIES

The annual report of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries for the Financial Year 2024–2025 reflects the sustained efforts of the Ministry to promote sustainable fisheries, advance maritime governance and unlock the economic potential of the ocean in line with Government’s vision of positioning Mauritius as a Big Ocean Small State.

During the Financial Year 2024–2025, the Ministry continued to play an important role in supporting national economic activity through the fisheries, seafood processing and tuna industries, while ensuring strict compliance with international conservation and management measures. The monitoring of tuna and demersal fisheries, effective implementation of Port State Measures and reinforcement of the Vessel Monitoring System have contributed significantly to combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and safeguarding marine resources.

The Ministry also strengthened marine science and conservation efforts through long-term coral reef and seagrass monitoring, mangrove propagation programmes, blue carbon initiatives and ecosystem-based management of Marine Protected Areas. These actions are essential to enhancing ecosystem resilience, addressing climate change impacts and ensuring the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.

In the shipping and maritime sector, the Ministry upheld Mauritius’ reputation as a credible and compliant maritime administration. The Mauritius Maritime Training Academy further contributed to human capital development by training over 300 seafarers during the year.

I commend the dedication and professionalism of all officers of the Ministry, as well as the constructive collaboration of fishers, operators, private sector stakeholders and development partners. Their collective efforts have been instrumental in advancing the objectives of the Ministry.



Dr Arvin Boolell

*Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security,
Blue Economy and Fisheries*

It is my singular privilege to present the Annual Report on Performance of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries for the Financial Year 2024-2025. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the activities and projects carried out as well as it highlights the achievements made by our Ministry for the period July 2024 to June 2025.

The Ministry has embarked in a paradigm shift as it is recrafting the economic model for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the country. There has been remarkable advancement in the different sectors, namely fisheries, aquaculture, and shipping industry. However, in order to advance its ambition to make Mauritius a Big Ocean State, while positioning the blue economy as a main pillar of the Mauritian economy, new sectors of the blue economy will be exploited and explored.

The Ministry is a key stakeholder in contributing to the national GDP of the country with its Seafood processing industry and the Tuna industry.

The Ministry has ensured the constant supply of commodities to our islanders in Rodrigues and Agalega through its vessels, namely the Peros Banhos and MV Mauritius Trochetia, operated by the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Ltd.

Shipping is a powerful force for connection and economic stability in a divided world. It is the backbone of global trade as it carries over 80% of goods by volume. The sea route has remained the most preferred and efficient mode of cargo transportation thus facilitating international trade. The Shipping Division of the Ministry being the national maritime administrator plays an important role in ensuring the safety of ships and compliance with the norms set by the International Maritime Organisation.

Lastly, I express my appreciation to the staff of the Ministry for their unflinching support and dedication all throughout the year. My appreciation is also conveyed to all the stakeholders, the private sector, fishermen community and partners for the active engagement with the Ministry.

M.J. Jaunbocus (Mrs)
Senior Chief Executive

The Ministry

Mauritius has a vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 2.2 million km², which has remained unexploited. The Government of Mauritius has set the development of the Blue Economy high on its agenda and strongly believes that the Blue Economy is today one of the emerging pillars of the Mauritian economy. This vision has been clearly spelt out in the Government Programme 2025-2029.

Moreover, Government is endeavouring to transition Mauritius from the status of a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) to a Big Ocean Small State (BOSS). In this context, an interim Blue Economy Unit has been set up at the level of the Ministry to cater for a new policy orientation and strategic development in this sector.

With the support of the European Union, a Consultant would be recruited to draft a National Blue Economy Strategy for Mauritius. On the other hand, with the collaboration of the European Union and the World Bank Group, the appropriate legal framework for the Blue Economy would be drafted. The Ministry is working in close collaboration with the United Nation's Resident Coordinator, the Ministry of Finance, the Stock Exchange of Mauritius, friendly Countries such as Seychelles and Cabo Verde, amongst others, to develop a Blue Financing Mechanism.

The Blue Economy comprises existing sectors such as coastal tourism, fisheries, seafood processing, aquaculture and port-related services. These sectors are cross cutting among different Ministries or Departments. The role of this Ministry is to act as a coordinating body to create the synergy between various stakeholders, including Ministries, Departments, the Private Sector and NGOs.

The Ministry is working closely to explore the potential of new and emerging sectors of the Blue Economy such as sustainable tourism, blue finance, marine renewable energy, marine biotechnology, amongst others.

Vision

- To make the Blue Economy an important pillar in order to sustain economic diversification and growth having due regard to the conservation of marine ecosystems.

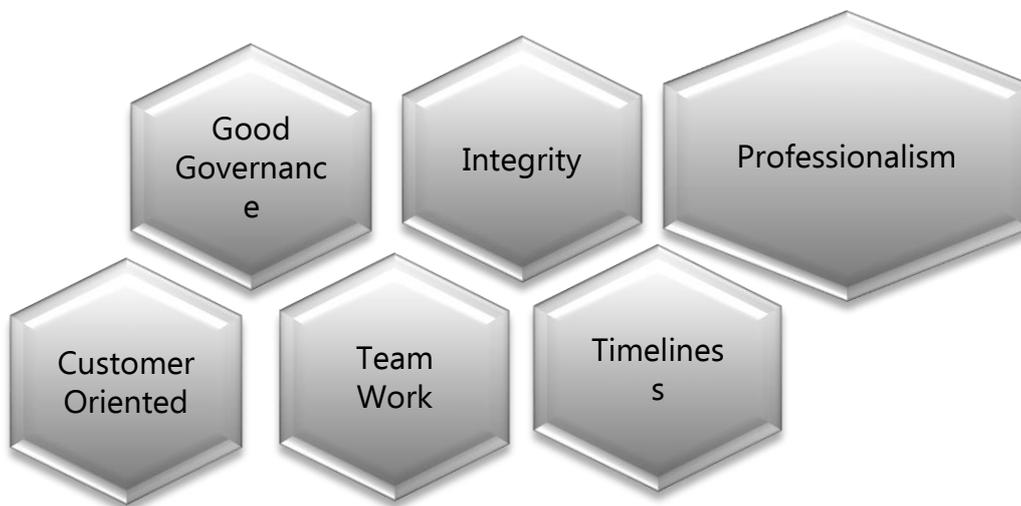
Mission

- To strengthen governance and harness the marine resources in our exclusive economic zone for fostering sustainable development in contribution to human well-being, food security and poverty alleviation.

Key Objectives of the Ministry



Core Values of the Ministry



Strategy and Policy

Develop the blue economy as a major economic pillar with the objective of enhancing the contribution of the blue economy to GDP, by tapping into the economic potential of the ocean while at the same time protecting the marine ecosystem.

Our customers

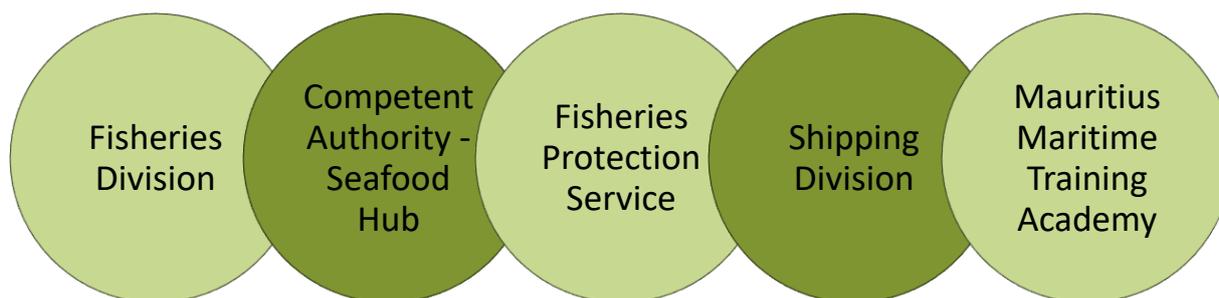
The customers of the Ministry are the fisher community comprising artisanal fishers, semi-industrial fishing operators, fishers involved in aquaculture projects, the fishing industry, ship owners, shipping agents, seafarers' welfare associations, the maritime industry, maritime training institutions,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

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of fisheries resources, combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licensing of boats, verification and control of fish and fish products
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One Stop Shop service to fishing operators, traders, processors, canners and retailers of fish
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of technical services and fingerlings to fish farmers to develop aquaculture
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maritime Safety Administration, Ship Registration and Training of Seafarers
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training of fishers, fishmongers and other stakeholders at the FITEC
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issuing permits in the Marine Protected Areas

Divisions

The divisions of the Ministry are as follows:



1. Fisheries Division

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

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

- (a) Aquaculture;
- (b) Marine Resources;
- (c) Marine Science;
- (d) Marine Conservation;
- (e) Laboratory;
- (f) Planning/Licensing;
- (g) Port State Control/Import and Export/Vessel Monitoring System; and
- (h) Fisheries Training and Extension Centre (FiTEC).

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

- (i) sustainable development and management of the fisheries sector;
- (ii) protection and conservation of aquatic resources and coastal ecosystems;
- (iii) promoting sustainable aquaculture development;
- (iv) training of fishers and fishmongers;
- (v) monitoring of fishing and fishing related activities;
- (vi) implementation of effective monitoring, control and surveillance system;
- (vii) implementation of the catch documentation scheme;
- (viii) combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing or fishing related activities;
- (ix) implementation of resolutions of relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs);
- (x) controlling import and export of fish and fish products; and
- (xi) conduct of research in fisheries and aquaculture and to strengthen food security and create employment opportunities.

The Fisheries Division includes:

- (a) Fisheries Headquarters;
- (b) The Albion Fisheries Research Centre;
- (c) The Fisheries Training and Extension Centre; and
- (d) 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:

- (i) Aquaculture;
- (ii) Marine Resources;
- (iii) Marine Science;

- (iv) Marine Conservation; and
- (v) Laboratories.

1.1.1 Aquaculture Division

The Aquaculture Division is responsible for the promotion and development of aquaculture, with a view to increasing fish production through research of different marine and freshwater species. The Division has been involved in the production of juveniles of commercially valuable marine fish species such as marine shrimp, crabs, sea bream, amongst others, in the hatcheries for wild stock enhancement of the lagoon areas under the Marine Ranching Programme. Its activities also include transfer of aquaculture techniques for production of different fish species to fish farmers, improvement of aquaculture techniques for quality seed production, dissemination of information on aquaculture and provision of technical advice and support. The Division also provides technical assistance to promoters envisaging to undertake aquaculture projects by providing the required technical assistances and guidance.

Aim: To promote sustainable aquaculture development to increase fish production for food security and to enhance the socio-economic status of the fishermen community.

Main functions

- (i) Carry out research in aquaculture to improve aquaculture techniques for quality seed production;
- (ii) Collection and rearing of cordonnier (*Siganus* spp.) fry and seed production of sea bream (*Rhabdosargus sarba*) for marine ranching programme and cage culture;
- (iii) Encourage, advise and promote sustainable fish farming activities through production and supply of juveniles of freshwater prawn and berri rouge fingerlings to fish farmers;
- (iv) Transfer of aquaculture techniques to fish farmers and impart technical advice on fish culture to potential farmers;
- (v) Production of live feed (phyto/zooplankton);
- (vi) Provision of extension services and dissemination of information on best aquaculture practices; and
- (vii) Monitoring of 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 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. It is also responsible for the compilation and processing of artisanal catch data around the island. Presently, the main activities of the Unit include:

- (a) Identification and examination of seized fish specimens, labelled as OB (Occurrence Book) and submission of reports to allow prosecution of defaulters by the Fisheries Protection Service, the National Coast Guard and the Police Department;
- (b) Identification and examination of fish specimens submitted by the Laboratories Division and submission of report;
- (c) Biological analysis of commercial fish specimens to determine sex of fish, gonad maturity stage and Gonadosomatic index;
- (d) Sampling of octopus specimens island-wide to determine sex, weight and mantle length, during opening seasons for octopus fishing; and
- (e) Compilation and processing of coastal catch data around the island of Mauritius.

(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, tropical tuna species such as yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye are mainly harvested by the purse seine gear, while the albacore tuna is primarily targeted by longliners.

In Mauritius, the main species of tuna caught are the yellowfin, skipjack, bigeye and albacore. The catch of all the tuna fishing vessels (both local and foreign) is monitored during unloading and through the submission of the fishing logbooks.

The fishing logbooks are submitted to the Mauritian Authorities before unloading of fish by 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 Pelagic Fishery Unit is the monitoring of the tuna catches made by the Mauritian tuna fleet, to contribute to the conservation and optimum utilisation of the tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean.

Activities carried out by the Unit include:

- (i) Input of data received from the fishing logbooks of Mauritian-flagged and foreign-licensed purse seiners and longliners;
- (ii) Collection, verification and processing of catch and effort data received from Mauritian-flagged and foreign-licensed tuna fishing vessels;

- (iii) Analysis of tuna data for the study of exploitation rates, species composition, stock structure and spatial distribution;
- (iv) Sampling of tuna and tuna-like species during unloading of tuna fishing vessels in Port Louis;
- (v) Submission of tuna fishery statistics to the IOTC;
- (vi) Implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures; and
- (vii) Regional Cooperation for the management of tuna and tuna-like resources.

(iii) Offshore Demersal Fishery

The Offshore Demersal Fisheries comprise 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, for 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 achieved through the following activities:

- (i) Collection, verification and processing of logbook data from the different fisheries;
- (ii) Monitoring of quota allocated to fishing companies, through analysis of catch data and exploitation rates;
- (iii) Analysis of trends in catch and effort;
- (iv) Collection of length and weight data through sampling exercises during unloading of fishing vessels/boats;
- (v) Analysis of length frequency data and length/weight relationships of targeted species;
- (vi) Complying with the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs);
- (vii) Submission of demersal fisheries statistics and reports to SIOFA; and
- (viii) Compilation and submission of data to the Statistics Department.

1.1.3 Marine Science Division

The Marine Science Division is responsible for:

- (a) The long-term protection and conservation of coastal marine ecosystems for ecosystem resilience and sustainable use of marine resources;
- (b) Sustainable development and management of coastal areas; and
- (c) 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.
- (d) Hosting of the Coral Reef Network;

- (e) Mangrove Propagation and Sensitization Programmes in collaboration with NGOs;
- (f) Carry out Integrated Environment Monitoring Plan in connection with Wakashio Oil Spill;
- (g) Seagrass mapping around the island;
- (h) Monitors Crown of Thorns (COTs) outbreaks in the lagoon of Mauritius;
- (i) Underwater ecological surveys to provide views in connection with tourism sea-based activities and coastal development works;
- (j) Assess requests for marine scientific research, film shootings and other projects in connection with ocean matters and marine mammals/turtles and marine ecosystem;
- (k) Attending to cases of stranded marine turtles/mammals; and
- (l) 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 through the following activities:

- (a) Management of Marine Protected Areas, including the Blue Bay Marine Park and the Balaclava Marine Park, as well as the six Fishing Reserves;
- (b) 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;
- (c) Carrying out long-term monitoring of the coral reef ecosystems and associated marine fauna and flora within the Blue Bay and Balaclava Marine Parks;
- (d) Performing underwater ecological surveys around the island for the evaluation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) applications and coastal development projects falling within Marine Protected Areas;
- (e) Carrying out Post EIA monitoring for projects along the coast as an enforcing agency;
- (f) Regulate permissible activities through the issue of permits for the Blue Bay Marine Park and interference permits for Marine Protected Areas;
- (g) Provide views and recommendations on projects, in the vicinity of or within wetlands, to the National Ramsar Committee;
- (h) Sensitise the public on Marine Protected Areas, sustainable development and use of the coastal zone; and

- (i) Setting up of coral nurseries in the Blue Bay and Balaclava Marine Parks to rehabilitate degraded areas of the marine parks.

1.1.5 Laboratories Division

The Laboratories Division comprises three Laboratories, namely Marine Chemistry, Marine Microbiology and Fish Toxicity and the Quality Control Unit. The Division is committed to instill the highest standard of quality for the testing of seawater, the screening of fish for toxicity and dispensing associated services with a view to 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

- (i) Perform sampling, tests, monitor and provide scientific information on seawater quality, marine sediment and biodata for a sustainable coastal zone management and to ensure the safety of lagoon waters for recreational purposes;
- (ii) Provide information and initiate appropriate measures in cases of fish kills and marine pollution;
- (iii) Screen fish deemed to cause fish intoxication and conduct toxicity tests for ciguatoxin and other bio-toxins in fish and fish products;
- (iv) Monitor the density of harmful marine microalgae and occurrence of harmful algal blooms; and
- (v) 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 Centre provides training to fishermen and other stakeholders of the fishing industry to meet Government's fisheries development objectives that are:

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

1.2.1 Ministry's Research/Multipurpose Vessels

Aim: 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)

Aim: 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 on the market.

1.2.3 General Course for Fisher (GCF)

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 Project for Improvement of Livelihood of Coastal Communities through Sustainable Development of Blue Economy by JICA

Aim: To develop a core group of fishers capable of exploiting potential stocks and to impart training to other fishers in a secondary phase

1.2.5 MS ISO 9001:2015

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

1.3 Port State Control and Import/Export Division

The Port State Control Unit is based at the One Stop Shop - Seafood Hub located at the Trade and Marketing Centre, Mer Rouge, Port Louis.

The main objectives of the PSCU are to:

- (i) Implement the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) of the FAO;
- (ii) Implement the conservation and management measures of relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to which Mauritius is a Party;
- (iii) Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- (iv) Keep the port free of illegal fishing boats/vessels; and
- (v) Ensure only legally caught fish are traded.

The main activities carried out by the Port State Control Unit are:

- (a) Online processing of Advance Request for Entry into Port (AREP) from Shipping Agents through IOTC e-PSM (electronic Port State Measures). Thorough scrutinisation of submitted documents by Shipping Agents of foreign fishing vessels to ascertain genuineness of fishing vessels intending to enter the port;
- (b) Boarding and inspection of fishing boats/vessels (both local and foreign);
- (c) Issue Departure Clearances to local fishing boats/vessels to leave the port for fishing campaigns;
- (d) Monitor all banks fishing vessels during unloading operations to ensure that no toxic or undersized fish are being unloaded;
- (e) Issue authorisation for landing of fish to all fishing vessels calling in the port;
- (f) Issue of Catch Certificates for fish caught by the local fishing vessels;
- (g) Endorse Processing Statements for fish and fish products from foreign fishing vessels, intended for export to the EU market;
- (h) Validation of the Bigeye tuna re-export document, IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document and IOTC Swordfish Statistical Document;
- (i) Validation of the Dissostichus Catch Documents (DCD) and Dissostichus Export Document (DED);
- (j) Monitor unloading of Patagonian tooth fish in the Port and reporting to CCAMLR;
- (k) Carry out survey for local fishing vessels prior to departure;
- (l) Carry out pre-departure surveys for foreign fishing vessels;
- (m) Coordinate and place fisheries observers onboard Mauritian flagged fishing vessels; and
- (n) Liaison with other Flag States and Port States.

1.4 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 EEZ 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 (VMS) 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 remain 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.

1.5 Import/Export Unit

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

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

1.6 Planning and Licensing Division

1.6.1 Planning Unit

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

- (a) Follow-up of policies relating to Regional/ Bilateral/ Multilateral Cooperation: with respect to EU, ESA, AU, FTA, AfCFTA, WTO, SADC, COMESA, IORA, SWIOFC and SIOFA;
- (b) Follow-up on projects under regional, bilateral and international cooperations;
- (c) Providing inputs on MoUs and Agreements on fisheries and aquaculture signed by this Ministry to the International Trade Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and the Ministry of Finance;
- (d) Drafting and reviewing Memoranda of Understanding and Fishing Agreements for cooperation in the field of fisheries and aquaculture;
- (e) Follow-up on signed Fishing Agreements and MoUs;
- (f) Organise visits/meetings and providing assistance to foreign delegations during their visit in Mauritius as and when required;
- (g) Provide inputs to prepare Cabinet Papers, Note for Mention, Parliamentary Questions, briefs and reports on fisheries and speeches and talking points for the Hon. Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries;
- (h) Assist in Budget Preparation, including compiling inputs for the Committee of Supply, Committee of Needs and the Annual Procurement Plan;

- (i) Compiling inputs and relevant information related to the Government Programme, Audit Reports, SADC Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Balanced Scorecard System and other fisheries-related matters;
- (j) Monitor and follow up on the implementation of Budget Measures, including Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and measures enunciated in Government Programme 2024 – 2029;
- (k) Liaise and collaborate with local organisations, NGOs and other Ministries on fisheries and aquaculture related issues;
- (l) Respond to local and international queries and request for assistance by stakeholders, including operators in the fisheries sector;
- (m) Provision of inputs to International Institute for Trade and Development and our Mission in Geneva on matters related to World Trade Organisation fisheries subsidies negotiation;
- (n) Provide views and inputs on Conventions and SDGs related to fisheries;
- (o) Drafting of Annual Performance Report and compile Achievements of the Fisheries Division;
- (p) Compile inputs for Dashboard reporting, highlighting the activities and achievements of the various sections within the Fisheries Division;
- (q) Follow-up on issues relating to constraints from fishermen and matters relating to welfare of fishermen;
- (r) Assist in drafting and implementation of Canotte Scheme and Semi-industrial fishing Scheme for procurement of fishing vessels by fishermen and update status in the electronic-Project Management Information System (e-PMIS) platform on a monthly basis and attend to issues raised by fishermen, including constraints faced and matters related to the fishing schemes;
- (s) Provide information and guideline to fishers and prospective fishing cooperative intending to fish in the off-lagoon and around the banks for submitting applications under the off-lagoon fishing schemes;
- (t) Negotiation on the Fisheries Chapter with the EU within the context of the new EU/ESA EPA;
- (u) Monitoring and reporting on implementation of projects under the Fisheries Sectoral Support Programme of the SFPA;
- (v) Provide updated statistics on fisheries turnover/economic outlook, trade, etc;
- (w) Follow up on recommendations of Internal Control Unit and National Audit Office; and
- (x) Compile inputs from the Fisheries Division, ensuring accurate and up-to-date information from the different divisions to be integrated on the Ministry’s website.

1.6.2 Licensing Unit

The Licensing Unit is mainly responsible for the processing and issue of fishing licences in respect of local fishing vessels operating in industrial banks fishery, semi-industrial chilled fish fishery and industrial pelagic fishery (purse seine fishery) and foreign fishing vessels. Projects pertaining to fishing activities in the EEZ 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 is responsible for the verification 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.

Vision: To be an Authority which promotes trust, verifies compliance and support sustainability in Mauritius' stakeholders in the fish industry in a fair, proportionate and transparent way and where necessary enforcing/enacting regulations in place.

Mission: To provide an enabling environment to ensure food safety along the production chain "from farm to fork" to support the fisheries sector as an important economic pillar for the benefit of all stakeholders.

The main activities of the Competent Authority Seafood include:

- (i) Registration of Fish Business Operators (FBOs), processing plants, cold stores, aquaculture farms, freezing vessels and exporters who are involved directly or indirectly in the export of fish and fish products from Mauritius;
- (ii) Issue of Export Health Certificates for all consignments of fish and fish products according to the importing country's certification requirements;
- (iii) Inspection of all consignments of fish and fish products for compliance prior to export;
- (iv) Official audits, routine/follow-up/unannounced inspections of approved facilities for verification of compliance with national legislation and importing countries' requirements;
- (v) Inspection of fishing vessels providing raw material to processing plants prior to departure for fishing campaign;
- (vi) Inspection of landing sites for whole brine-frozen tuna and pelagic/demersal fish;
- (vii) Inspection and random organoleptic evaluation of all fish products imported for further processing before re-export;
- (viii) Sampling of water, ice, fish and fish products (including aquaculture) products for analysis in a designated laboratory;

- (ix) Preparation of a national residue monitoring plan for aquaculture products for approval by the Health and Consumers Directorate-General of the European Commission (DG SANTE); and
- (x) Inspection and control of live ornamental fish for pets and live aquatic animals for aquaculture development.

3. Fisheries Protection Service

The Fisheries Protection Service (FPS) is responsible for the enforcement of fisheries legislation 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 has one Fisheries Post in Agalega, which is not operational.

Main activities:

- (a) coastal and afloat patrols, including participation in joint surveillance programme in the EEZ of the Republic of Mauritius;
- (b) supervision of 61 fish landing stations, sale points and fishing port;
- (c) collection of fisheries data;
- (d) registration and documentation of fishers/fishing boats;
- (e) issue/renewal of net fishing and fishmongers' licences;
- (f) issue of clearances for importation of fish and fish products at the SSR International Airport and at the seaport;
- (g) secure fishing gears during closed period for net fishing;
- (h) monitoring of activities in the Marine Parks; and
- (i) prosecuting cases in Court.



Figure 1: Fisheries Posts of the Ministry

4. Shipping Division

Shipping is the life-blood of the global economy. Without shipping, global trade, the transportation of raw materials and the import/export of petroleum products, food and manufactured goods, would be a very challenging task. Compared to other modes of transport, sea transport is economically and environmentally the most efficient way to travel or transport merchandise; nowadays, around 90% of world trade is carried out by the international shipping industry. The sea-related activities sector is essentially composed of organisations and activities, such as maritime transportation, commercial fishing and aquaculture industry, the naval industry, the cruise and recreational sector, sport and commercial ports and marinas, marine energy sources, navies, marine and ocean research and sciences, maritime training academies and training centres, a wide range of professional services around the maritime activities, and professional associations, trade unions and organisations supporting the rights and interests of seafarers and maritime professionals.

The Shipping Division is responsible for all maritime safety, maritime security and prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships and shipping matters. As a Maritime Administration committed to fulfilling its Flag State, Port State and Coastal State functions, the Shipping Division provides the requisite support to the maritime industry and the global trading fleets in emerging fields of ocean economy. Registration of Ships, survey and certification of ships and enforcement of international conventions form an integral part of the entire process.

The Shipping Division acts as the Maritime Administration responsible for the development of maritime activities, which include:

- (i) Registration of Ships;
- (ii) Implementation of the Merchant Shipping Act;
- (iii) Survey and certification of ships;
- (iv) Enforcement of International Conventions;
- (v) Investigation of casualties affecting ships;
- (vi) Resolving labour disputes on board Mauritian vessels;
- (vii) Training, certification and assessment of seafarers; and
- (viii) Engagement of crew.

Vision: To be reliable and reputable ship registry having at heart safety of life and property, enhancement of maritime security and preservation of the marine environment.

Mission: To foster a safe, secure and environmentally sound maritime transportation system, based on internationally agreed standards.

The Quality Policy of the Division

- (i) Comply with all International Maritime Conventions and Standards;
- (ii) Strive for safer and secure ships;
- (iii) Strive for cleaner and healthy oceans;
- (iv) Strive for employee satisfaction, Develop staff competencies and creativity;
- (v) Ensure the needs and expectations of Interested Parties are met;
- (vi) Drive continual improvement and innovation to provide services of highest standards; and

- (vii) Enhance best preventive practices at all levels and ensure reliable Risk Management.

The Core Values of the Division are:

- (a) Professionalism;
- (b) Team Spirit;
- (c) Personal commitment on high professional standards; and
- (d) Cost effective and responsible decision making.

4.1 ISO 9001:2015 Certification of the Shipping Division

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 to 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). 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 on 19 April 2024. The Shipping Division has successfully completed the surveillance audit conducted by the MSB on 17 April 2025.

4.2 The Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW) Independent Evaluation

Regulation I/8 of the (STCW) Convention 1978 as amended and section A-I/8 paragraph 3 of STCW Code require from the Member Governments to ensure that “an independent evaluation of the knowledge, understanding, skills and competence acquisition and assessment activities, and of the administration of the certification system, is conducted at intervals of not more than five years”

In line with the above, this Ministry has successfully undergone an independent evaluation of the seafarers’ training and certification system of Mauritius in July 2025.

Along with the verification of the relevant document which comprises the respective Guidelines and Regulations, the evaluation exercise also comprised visits to the Maritime Training Institutions of Mauritius, namely the Mauritius Maritime Training Academy and Acropolis Training Institution.

The evaluation also included the verification of proper record keeping of all the relevant documents with respect to the acceptance of medical certificates issued by Medical Examiners of Seafarers for the issue of STCW certificates and all records pertaining to the delivery of respective courses.

4.3 Circulation of Information

4.3.1 Merchant Shipping Notice/ Circular Notes

The following Merchant Shipping Notices have been issued to the Shipping community.

Merchant Shipping Notice	Title	Date issued
2 OF 2024	Consolidation of Requirement for Implementation of MARPOL Annex V	10 July 2023
3 OF 2024	Entry into force of the Merchant Shipping (Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage) Act 2024	23 August 2024

Table 1: Merchant Shipping Notices

The following Circular Notes have been issued to the Shipping agencies.

Circular Notes	Title	Date issued
1 OF 2024	Outward Port Clearance	08 August 2024
1 OF 2025	All ship documents of vessels calling at Port Louis should be in English or be duly translated in English	31 January 2025

Table 2: Circular Notes

5. Mauritius Maritime Training Academy

The Mauritius Maritime Training Academy (MMTA) is based at Pointe aux Sables since 2007 and has been the sole public body delivering courses for seafarers and prospective seafarers since its creation. The MMTA's vision is to be a national and regional training centre for seafarers, port workers and other personnel in the shipping sector.

MMTA is ISO 9001:2015 certified and is accredited by the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) and the Shipping Division.

MMTA is different from traditional colleges in that it typically offers intensive courses rather than academic degrees. MMTA trained 303 students during Financial Year 2024/2025 and has been extensively involved in their overall holistic development.

Courses offered at the MMTA:

- (i) Basic Safety Training (Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities, Elementary First Aid, Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting and Personal Survival Techniques modules)

- as per STCW Convention 1978, as amended;
- (ii) Crowd Management and Safety Training for Personnel providing Direct Services to Passengers in Passenger Spaces as per STCW Convention 1978, as amended;
 - (iii) Crisis Management and Human Behaviour Training as per STCW Convention 1978, as amended;
 - (iv) Proficiency in Security Awareness;
 - (v) Proficiency in Designated Security Duties;
 - (vi) Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than fast Rescue Boats;
 - (vii) Training for Ratings Forming Part of a Navigational Watch as per STCW Convention 1978, as amended;
 - (viii) Refresher Training for Ratings Forming Part of a Navigational Watch as per STCW Convention 1978, as amended;
 - (ix) Training for Ratings Forming Part of an Engineering Watch as per STCW Convention 1978, as amended;
 - (x) Refresher Training for Ratings Forming Part of an Engineering Watch as per STCW Convention 1978, as amended;
 - (xi) Pre-sea Training Course for General Purpose (GP) Ratings (New course);
 - (xii) Refresher and Updating course for Basic Safety Training;
 - (xiii) Able Seafarer (Deck);
 - (xiv) Able Seafarer (Engine);
 - (xv) Basic Training Course for Oil Tanker Cargo Operations;
 - (xvi) Bridging course for Existing Electrical Officers to Electro-Technical Officers;
 - (xvii) Training for Skipper for Certificate of Competency for fishing Vessels of 24 metres in length and over (as per STCW-F Convention);
 - (xviii) Training for Certificate of Competency for Second Hand for fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over (as per STCW-F Convention);
 - (xix) Training for Certificate of Competency for Chief Engineer for fishing vessels of 1500KW (as per STCW-F Convention); and
 - (xx) Training for Second Engineer for Certificate of Competency for fishing vessels of 1500 KW (as per STCW-F Convention).

The following courses are run on a demand-basis:

- (a) Training of Skipper for Certificate of Competency for fishing Vessels of 24 metres in length and over (as per STCW-F Convention);
- (b) Training for Certificate of Competency for Second Hand for fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over (as per STCW-F Convention);
- (c) Training for Certificate of Competency for Chief Engineer for fishing vessels of 1500KW (as per STCW-F Convention); and
- (d) 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 this Ministry and their main objectives are as follows:

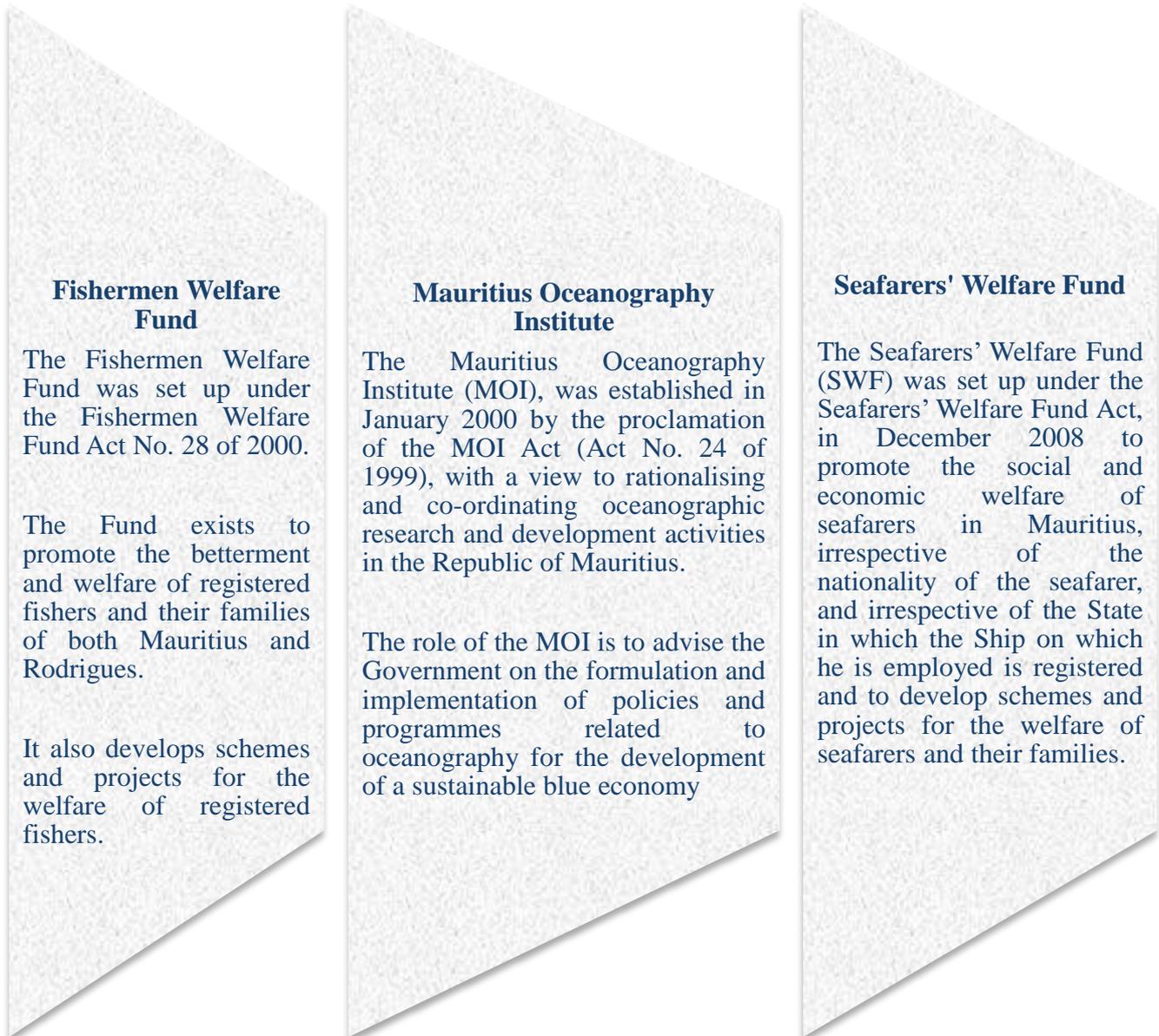


Figure 3 - Main Objectives of Parastatal Bodies

Gender Statement

Gender equality is attained when men and women enjoy the same rights, entitlements and opportunities across all sectors of the society, including economic participation and decision making, and when the different aspirations and needs of men and women are equally valued and favoured. Mauritius has made considerable progress on the status and advancement of women. However, more effort needs to be put in regarding women's empowerment.

In accordance with the National Gender Policy, the Ministry is committed to ensuring gender equality and empowerment within its projects and programmes, emphasising inclusivity and equal opportunities for all genders in the maritime, fisheries and shipping sectors.

With the increasing awareness that gender equality and equity are essential for economic and social development, the Sectoral Gender Policy Statement has been established in June 2021.

Moreover, this Ministry has set up a Gender Cell to look into issues pertaining to gender mainstreaming in policies, strategies and programmes of this Ministry. During the Financial Year 2024-2025, training programmes have been organised, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, to sensitise officers of the Ministry about gender mainstreaming and gender concepts.

About our people

The Senior Chief Executive is the Accounting Officer and is responsible for the overall administration and general supervision of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries.

As regards the Blue Economy and Fisheries Division, he is assisted by one Permanent Secretary, 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 this Ministry, as well as line managers from the Human Resources, Financial Operations and Procurement and Supply Departments.

The Senior Management Team of this Ministry for the **Financial Year 2024-2025** is presented in table below.

Administrative Staff	
Designation	Name
Senior Chief Executive	Dr. KAWOL Dhanandjay (22.01.2025 – 30.06.2025)
Ag. Senior Chief Executive	Mr. PURMESSUR Sarwansingh (01.07.2024 – 17.12.2024)
Permanent Secretary	Mrs. RAMMA Devina (18.12.2024 – 30.06.2025)
Deputy Permanent Secretary	Mrs. MOOSOOHUR Devika (On Leave Without Pay)
	Mr LUTCHMADOO Narainsamy (18.12.2024 – 30.06.2025)
Ag. Deputy Permanent Secretary	Mrs. CHAMROO JADDOO Bibi Fawwaaza (w.e.f 03.02.2025)
	Mr Dashyant RUGHOO (01.07.2024 – 23.12.2024)
Assistant Permanent Secretaries	Miss. COOLEN Veemala (w.e.f 18.12.2024)
	Mrs. DOOKHIT Sarita
	Mrs. RAGGOO-RAMSAMY Deenishabye (01.07.2024 – 30.06.2025)
	Miss. AULUM Roubeena (01.07.2024 – 09.02.2025)

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 (01.07.2024 – 19.06.2025)
Acting Deputy Controller, Fisheries Protection Service	Mr. PONNAN Rajkoomar (01.07.2024 – 30.03.2025)
	Mr Kemchand AJOODHEA (01.04.2025 – 28.06.2025)

Head of Administrative Support Units	
Manager, Financial Operations	Mrs. MOOLYE Bibi Moontaze (w.e.f 05.03.2025)
	Mr. ETWAREE Satyawana (01.07.2024 -04.03.2025)
Manager, Human Resources	Mrs. RAMPUTH Beema (w.e.f 19.05.2025)
	Mrs. JHOTTEE Leena (17.09.2024 – 11.05.2025)
	Mr. GANGARAM Mukesh (01.07.2024 – 25.11.2024)
Manager, Procurement and Supply	Mr. GHOORA Bye Raffick

Table 3: Senior Management Team of the Ministry for the FY 2024-2025

The Ministry comprised a workforce of 440 employees as listed in the table 4 below:

Employees by Grade and Cadre	Male	Female	Total
Senior Chief Executive	1	-	1
Permanent Secretary	1	-	1
Deputy Permanent Secretary	1	1	2
Ag. Deputy Permanent Secretary	-	1	1
Assistant Permanent Secretary	-	3	3
Director of Fisheries	-	1	1
Assistant Director of Fisheries	2	-	2
Divisional Scientific Officer (Fisheries)	3	2	5
Scientific Officer and Technical Officer (Fisheries)	11	12	23
Director of Shipping	1	-	1
Secretary for Shipping Development	-	1	1
Technical Staff (Shipping)	6	7	13

Head, Mauritius Maritime Training Academy	1	-	1
Principal, Mauritius Maritime Training Academy	1	-	1
Technical Staff (MMTA)	3	-	3
Technical Staff (Competent Authority)	2	3	5
Technical Staff (Fisheries Protection Service)	181	1	182
Human Resources Cadre	0	5	5
Finance Cadre	0	7	7
Procurement and Supply Cadre	3	3	6
General Services Cadre	13	73	86
Workmen's Group	45	17	62
Adviser	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	5	11	16
All employees by Grades and Cadres	285	155	440

Table 4: Number of employees in post as at June 2025

- Gender Parity: the workforce of this Ministry comprised 65 % male officers and 35 % female officers.
- Number of vacancies advertised: 4
- Number of vacancies filled: 23
- Number of officers who retired from the service: 14
- Number of Schemes of Service prescribed: Nil
- Number of officers who attended training programmes: 123

Organisational Chart

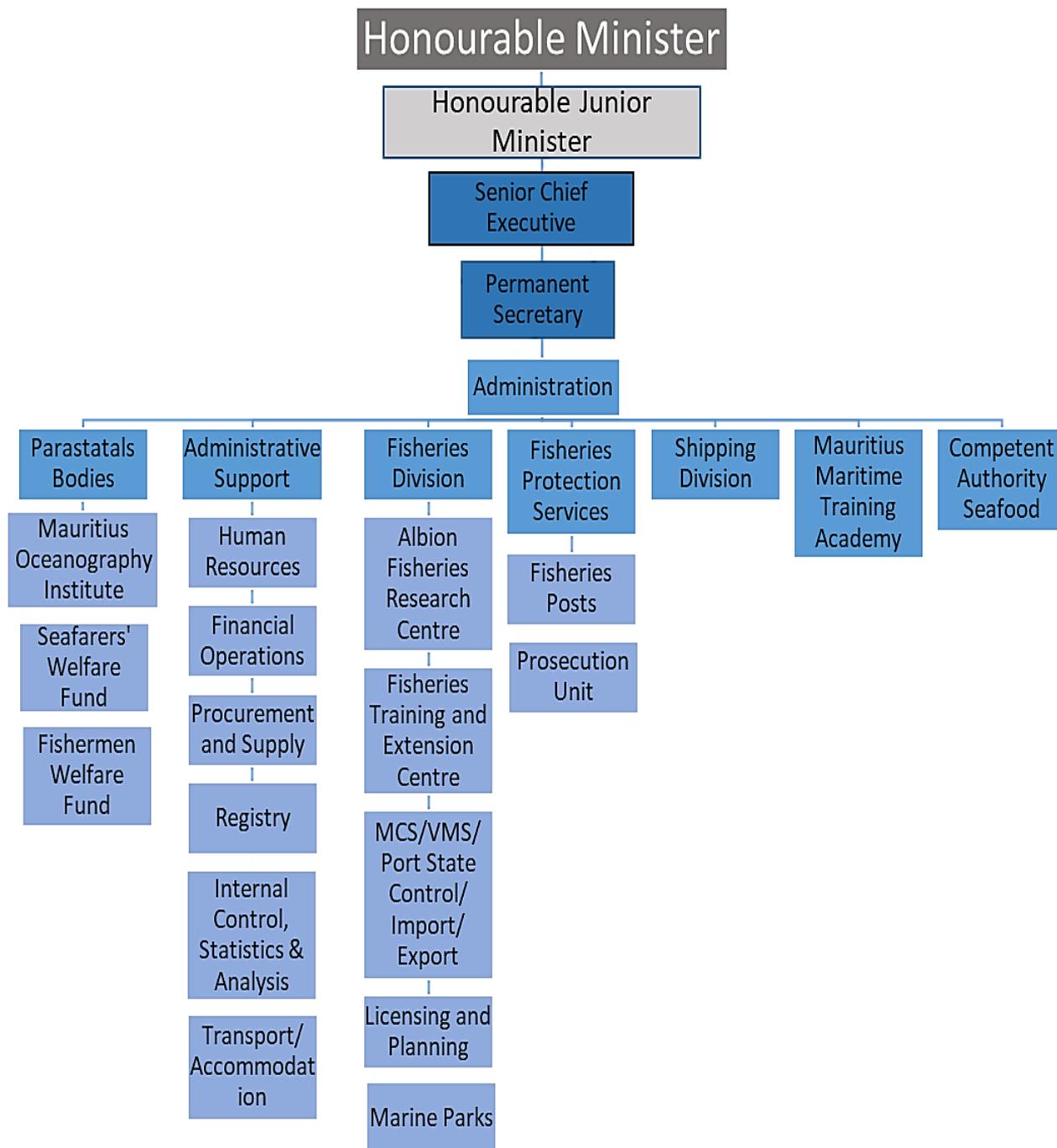


Figure 4 - Organisational Chart

Scarcity Areas

The Ministry of Agro Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries (Blue Economy and Fisheries Division) 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 Development	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 5: Details of Grades falling under scarcity areas



Part 1

Major Achievements

Major Achievements

A. Aquaculture Division

(I) Hatchery production of silver seabream and Marine ranching project

The Marine Ranching Project aims at enhancing the stock of fish in the lagoon with *Rhabdosargus sarba*-Silver sea bream (Guele Pavée). Seed production is being undertaken in winter season. Male and female brooders were obtained from aquaculture ponds at AFRC through a seining exercise which were then conditioned in the Shrimp Hatchery for seed production. A total of 21 000 units of hatchery produced seabream fingerlings have been released in nursery areas and Marine Protected Areas around Mauritius.



Figure 5 - Silver Seabream fingerlings in cages to be released

(II) Red Tilapia production

The Red Tilapia (berri rouge) culture is ongoing in ponds at AFRC. Brooders are conditioned in ponds and are allowed to spawn naturally. The following sale and distribution of berri rouge were carried out:

- i. 200 units of fingerlings of berri rouge were distributed free of charge to 16 individuals for aquaculture activities in tanks / small size ponds;
- ii. 877 units of berri rouge fish and 63 kg of berri rouge fish (greater than 100g) were sold to 12 farmers for Aquaculture purposes;
- iii. 198 units of berri rouge fish (greater than 100g) were sold to 7 farmers for culture in aquaponic system and;
- iv. 939 fingerlings of berri rouge were distributed free of charge to 14 individuals to undertake aquaponic project.
- v. A culling exercise was carried out at the Aquaculture Division at AFRC whereby a total of 132 kg of berri rouge fish (average size 1-2kg) was sold to staff of this Ministry.



Figure 6 - Culling exercise carried out where berri rouge fish were sold to staff of this Ministry



Figure 7- Berri Rouge fish in pond at AFRC

Figure 8 - Berri Rouge fingerlings at AFRC

(III) Freshwater prawn

The freshwater prawns project is being undertaken in summer season. A total of 109 225 units of juveniles were produced in hatchery, out of which 30 100 juveniles were transferred to constitute a broodstock to ponds at AFRC and 79 125 juveniles were sold to 52 persons at Rs 1.25 per unit.



Figure 9- Collection of Freshwater Prawn from the wild



Figure 10- Freshwater Prawn juveniles

(IV) Sea cucumber (*Holothuria scabra*)

Seed production of sea cucumber (*Holothuria scabra*) is being undertaken in hatchery at AFRC in collaboration with the University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC), Australia. 6,000 juveniles were produced as at date. The culture is ongoing in tanks and outdoor ponds.

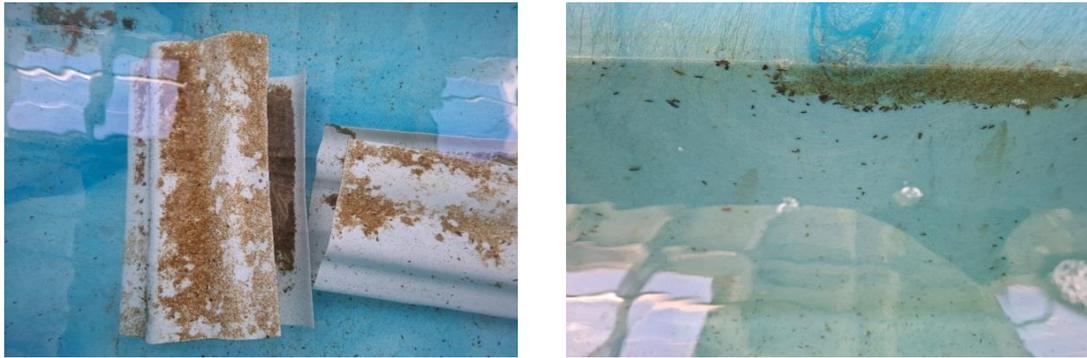


Figure 11 - Sea Cucumber juveniles

(V) Live feed production

Live feed production of zooplankton (rotifers) and phytoplankton are ongoing all year round. Live feed is produced to feed hatchery produced fish larvae. Four species of phytoplankton, namely *nannochloropsis* sp, *chaetoceros* sp, sp is maintained on the phytoplankton room. A new phytoplankton room is being set up in the first floor of the camaron hatchery to prevent cross contamination. Mass culture of *Nannochloropsis* sp. is being undertaken in outdoor tanks for the sea bream project.



Figure 12- Mass culture of Nannochloropsis sp. in outdoor tanks for seabream project



Figure 13 - Zooplankton cultured in Wetlab

(VI) Barachois

As at date, there are 9 barachois which have been vested in this Ministry. Out of the 9 barachois, 3 have been allocated to potential farmers for fish farming activities.

Two EOI have been launched by this Ministry and the last EOI was launched on 13 May 2025 to invite promoters for the 6 unallocated barachois vested in this Ministry, namely: -

Barachois Haut Rive

Barachois Belle Vue Cugnet

Barachois Anse_Bon_Sergent (Bassin Chazal)

Barachois Fountain Bay

Barachois La Chaux

Barachois Butte A L'herbe

(VII) Extension services

A total of 53 individuals were provided with technical assistance and support at the Aquaculture Division of the Albion Fisheries Research Centre to undertake aquaculture related activities.

(VIII) Requirement for Human Resource (Aquaculture Division)

SN	Items	Justifications
1.	2 Scientific Officers	To undertake new projects on sea cucumber, crabs, lobsters and other species in the proposed new hatchery
2.	4 Technical Officers	To be attached to new Scientific Officers (SOs) to assist in new projects
3.	5 Nursery Attendants	It is proposed that due to increasing workload in the division, 3 Nursery Attendants to be attached to 1 Head Nursery Attendant. Actually we have 7 Head Nursery Attendants.
4.	2 Laboratory Auxiliaries	To perform laboratory duties, maintain wet laboratory, and phytoplankton rooms for the proposed new species to be cultured.

Table 6: Requirement for Human Resource (Aquaculture Division)

B. Marine Resources Division

B.1 Coastal /Artisanal Fishery

(I) Identification, examination and disposal of seized fish specimens

A total of 1,509 units and around 9 Kg of fish specimens, from a total of 65 occurrence books, were received for the purpose of identification and examination and 65 Acknowledgement Reports were issued accordingly. 60 occurrence books were examined and identified and a total of 57 Identification Reports were issued to the concerned parties. 3 OBs were received for disposal purposes only.

Some specimens were submitted to the Fish Toxicity Laboratory for mongoose feed and research purposes while the disposal of around 100kg of marine specimens at the Mare Chicose Landfill Site was planned for July 2025.



Figure 14 - Artisanal fishermen in the artisanal fishery

(II) Identification and examination of fish specimens submitted by the Laboratories Division

38 units of fish specimens were received for the purpose of identification and examination and a total of 5 Identification Reports were issued to the Laboratories Division.



Figure 15 - Examination and identification of fish specimens

(III) Identification and examination of other marine specimens

- **Import/ Export Unit:** 9 shells were examined and identified and 1 Identification Report issued.
- **FiTEC:** 3 squid specimens were examined and identified and 2 Identification Reports issued.

(IV) Octopus sampling

Following an alarming decrease observed in the octopus population in the coastal waters of Mauritius, a first seasonal octopus fishery closure 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 up to 15 March of each year to allow new recruits to attain maturity size.

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

Around 551 octopus specimens were sampled at different Fish Landing Stations around Mauritius.



Figure 17 - Sampling for total length and mantle length Opening (2018)



Figure 16- Sampling for octopus's sex at Opening (2018)

(V) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

In collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a pilot initiative was undertaken as part of the “Project for Improvement of Livelihood of Coastal Communities through Sustainable Development of Blue Economy.” This initiative was implemented under the framework of the “Work Plan for Coastal Fisheries Resource Management 2,” and took place during the months of November and December 2024.

The primary objective of the trial was to establish a practical and community-based approach to collecting fisheries statistics data. A draft version of the “Data Collection Sheet for Fishmongers,” accompanied by a structured questionnaire, was developed and distributed to fishmongers operating at the Mahebourg fish landing station. The forms were retrieved after a one-week period, and the preliminary analysis of the collected data was conducted by Dr. Terashima.

This initial attempt provided valuable insights into the feasibility of localized data collection methods and laid the groundwork for future enhancements in fisheries resource management and livelihood development within coastal communities.

B.2 Pelagic Fishery

(I) The Purse Seine Fishery

Forty-four trips were carried out by three Mauritian Flagged purse seiners from July 2024 to June 2025. Forty-four logbooks were received and verified. Data were input and processed accordingly. The total catch amounted to 30,934.7 tons comprising mainly yellowfin and skipjack tuna. All the purse seiners unloaded most of their catch in Seychelles. Twelve trips were carried out by the supply vessel in support of the local purse seiners.



Figure 18 - Sorting of tuna during unloading

(II) The Industrial Longline Fishery

The Industrial longline fishery started in April 2022. From July 2024 to June 2025, sixteen longliners (16) were active and they undertook thirty-eight fishing trips. All fishing logbooks were verified and processed. The total catch amounted to 3,734.0 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.

It is to be pointed out that 3 longliners were deregistered in September 2024 and 2 in February 2025. The remaining 10 longline vessels were deregistered in March 2025. As at June 2025, there is only one longline vessel which is registered under the Mauritian flag. The same vessel carried out only two fishing trips in 2024 despite having a one-year licence validity for 2024.

Statistics for the tuna fishery FY 2024-2025

Type of Vessels	Number of vessels involved in fishing activities	Total Catch (Tonnes)	Targeted Species	Data collection
Purse seiners operating under the Mauritian flag	3	30, 934.7	Tuna	41 fishing logbooks 15, 525 fish specimens sampled for length frequency

Mauritian flagged longliners involved in the industrial tuna fishery	16	3734.0	Tuna	38 fishing logbooks 6, 154 fish specimens sampled for length frequency
Foreign-flagged longliners operating under a Mauritian fishing licence	0	0	Tuna	15 fishing logbooks

Table 7: Statistics for the Tuna fishery FY 2024-2025

(III) The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

Submission of data

All the data collected by the Pelagic Fishery Unit were processed and submitted to the IOTC. Processed datasets, including catch statistics and length frequency distributions, are used by experts from the IOTC to perform stock assessments. A new stock assessment of the yellowfin tuna carried out in December 2024 concluded that the stock has recovered from an overfished state and was no longer subject to overfishing.

IOTC Meetings and Adopted Resolutions

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 2024 to June 2025, several Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) came into force for an optimum utilisation and the sustainable development of the tuna stocks.

Mauritius proposed to amend the existing Resolution 24/01 on Climate Change which was adopted by all members present. Through this adoption, climate change would, henceforth, be included as a standing agenda during IOTC Commission meetings.

B.3 Offshore Demersal Fishery

(I) Catch from the Offshore Demersal Fishery

During the period of July 2024 to June 2025, a total of 34 fishing boats were active in the Offshore Demersal Fishery, and landed 1,521 tons 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 1,981 specimens were sampled for length and weight data. Details are in Table 8.

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	34	316	188.0 T	White Fish	658 specimens of white fish were sampled for length and weight data
Semi-Industrial Chilled Fish Fishery			1,255.2 T	White Fish	954 specimens of white fish were sampled for length and weight data
Semi-Industrial Deepwater snapper/Grouper Fishery			78.0 T	Sacrechien Gueule Pavee Doree Vieille laboue	369 specimens of sacrechien sampled for length and weight data
Deepwater fisheries in the SIOFA Area	1	3	139.1 T	Alfonsino	Observers were deployed during the fishing trips and relevant data were collected

Table 8: Statistics on Offshore Demersal Fishery FY 2024-2025

(II) Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Mauritius attended/participated in SIOFA meetings/workshops during the period under report. Moreover, Mauritius also hosted the (i) Training workshop for scientific observer programmes, held at Labourdonnais Hotel, Port Louis, from 03 to 05 December 2024; and (ii) the SIOFA 9th Compliance Committee held at Hennessy Park Hotel, Ebene, from 25 to 27 June 2025. Below is the summary of activities during the period July 2024 to June 2025:

- (i) 01 to 05 July 2024: Mauritius participated in the 11th Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA in South Korea);
- (ii) October 2024: Attended the online meeting on Benthic Protected Areas;

- (iii) November 2024: Attended the online Scientific Committee Workshop on Observer Forms;
- (iv) 03 to 05 December 2025: Mauritius hosted and participated in the Training workshop for scientific observer programmes, at Labourdonnais Hotel, Port Louis;
- (v) February 2025: Submission of Annual National Report;
- (vi) 17 to 26 March 2025: Mauritius participated in the SIOFA 10th Scientific Committee;
- (vii) April 2025: Submission of Compliance Report;
- (viii) May 2025: Submission of fisheries data (Year 2024) to the SIOFA; and
- (ix) 25 to 27 June 2025: Mauritius hosted and participated in the SIOFA 9th Compliance Committee, at Henessey Park Hotel, Ebene.

(III) EAF - NANSEN Exploratory Expedition in the EEZ of the Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius has an EEZ of approximately 2.2 million km² and about 400,000 km² of Extended Continental Shelf (Joint Management Area) managed with Seychelles. Despite being one of the largest Oceanic States of the SWIO region, the fisheries potential of Mauritian EEZ remains largely unexplored. As such, a collaborative exploratory expedition was conducted onboard Research Vessel (RV) Dr. F. Nansen from 19 May to 10 June 2025. The FAO flagged R/V Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, operated by Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR), was used for fisheries research, biodiversity assessment seafloor mapping and oceanographic studies under the EAF-Nansen Programme, whereby 14 local scientists were actively engaged, along with international experts.

The overall aim of this project was to conduct fisheries resources mapping (commercially important stocks) along with benthic habitat assessment and collect biological and physico-chemical oceanographic data, including seafloor mapping of the uncharted Northern Plateau and the Southern region of Mauritius, along with the western Ridge of Rodrigues of the vast EEZ.

Overall, this study demonstrated that the studied regions are rich in biodiversity with potential characterisation of over 10 undescribed fish species and 30 newly recorded fish species in the Indian Ocean. Furthermore, it was also observed that both sharks and rays inhabit the shallow waters around Mauritius which might potentially imply that these shallow waters are preferred habitats for these endangered species. This preliminary report captures the main findings restricted to fisheries mapping.

Most of the fish larvae and juveniles were caught within the 100 to 2000m depth. This collaborative exploratory expedition, first of its kind, provides an overview of potential fisheries resources, upon in-depth stock assessment and applying the principles of ecosystem approach to fisheries, these identified resources may be sustainably utilised while prioritising conservation of the fragile marine biodiversity.

Historical Analysis of major changes for years 2020-2024

1. Catch of purse seiners (tonnes)

Catch of purse seiners (tonnes) from 2020 - 2024

Year	Catch/tons
2020	20549.0
2021	25803.2
2022	25804.7
2023	24920.0
2024	27172.7

Table 9: Catch of purse seiners (tonnes) from 2020 – 2024

2. Catch of longliners (tonnes)

Catch of longliners (tonnes) from 2020 - 2024

Year	Catch/tons
2020	58.2
2021	21.8
2022	3384.8
2023	5866.2
2024	6450.9

Table 10: Catch of longliners (tonnes) from 2020 – 2024

3. Catch of coastal fishery (tonnes)

Estimated catch of coastal fishery (tonnes) from 2020 to 2024

Year	Estimated Catch of Coastal fishery (t)
2020	606
2021	655
2022	714
2023	761
2024	745.5

Table 11: Estimated catch of coastal fishery (tonnes) from 2020 to 2024

4. Annual catch by gear (kg) of the coastal/artisanal fishery

Estimated annual fish catch of the coastal (artisanal) fishery by gear-type, 2020-2024 (kg)

Gear-type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Basket trap	210,300	227,285	247,585	264,100	258,689
Line	175,100	189,295	206,202	219,900	215,450
Basket trap and Line	27,300	29,475	32,108	34,200	33,548
Large net	137,000	148,030	161,251	172,000	168,483
Gill net	7,900	8,515	9,276	9,900	9,692
Cast net/Harpoon/on foot	48,500	52,400	57,080	60,900	59,640
Total	606,100	655,000	713,502	761,000	745,500

NOTE: Figures in Table 12 have been estimated by the Statistics Unit

Table 12: Estimated annual fish catch of the coastal (artisanal) fishery by gear-type, 2020-2024 (kg)

5. Offshore demersal Fishery

Catch by preservation mode (Offshore demersal Fishery), 2020-2024

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Chilled	938	906	771	1047	1040
Frozen	386	334	293	391	423

Table 13: Catch by preservation mode (Offshore demersal Fishery), 2020-2024

Catch by fishing areas (Offshore Demersal Fishery), 2020-2024

Location	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Saya de Malha Bank	330	116	176	245	179
Nazareth Bank	697	856	638	839	910
St Brandon Bank	203	171	161	255	186
Albatross Bank	118	73	92	102	62
Soudan Bank	1	1	0	0	7
High seas (SIOFA Agreement Area)	-	-	-	-	122

Table 14: Catch by fishing areas (Offshore Demersal Fishery), 2020-2024

C. Marine Science Division

(I) Long Term Coral Reef Monitoring

Long-term coral reef monitoring surveys were carried out at five (5) sites, namely Trou aux Biches Back Reef, Poudre d’Or Back Reef I and II, Albion Back Reef and Anse la Raie Back Reef. It is observed that live coral abundance was highest at Anse La Raie Back Reef station (51.12%), lowest at Albion Back Reef Station (1.33 %) and nil at the Poudre d’Or Back Reef II Station as depicted in Table 15 below:

Long Term Coral Monitoring data for 2024/2025.

% Substrate Cover (FY 2024-2025)					
Site	Stations	Live Coral	Algae	Abiotic	Others
Trou aux Biches	Back Reef	4.33 %	16.86%	78.82%	0.00%
Poudre d’Or	Back Reef I	11.42%	59.27%	29.30%	0.00%
Poudre d’Or	Back Reef II	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Albion	Back Reef	1.33%	90.67%	8.00%	0.00%
Anse La Raie	Back Reef	51.12%	4.17%	44.70%	0.00%

Table 15: Long Term Coral Monitoring data for 2024/2025

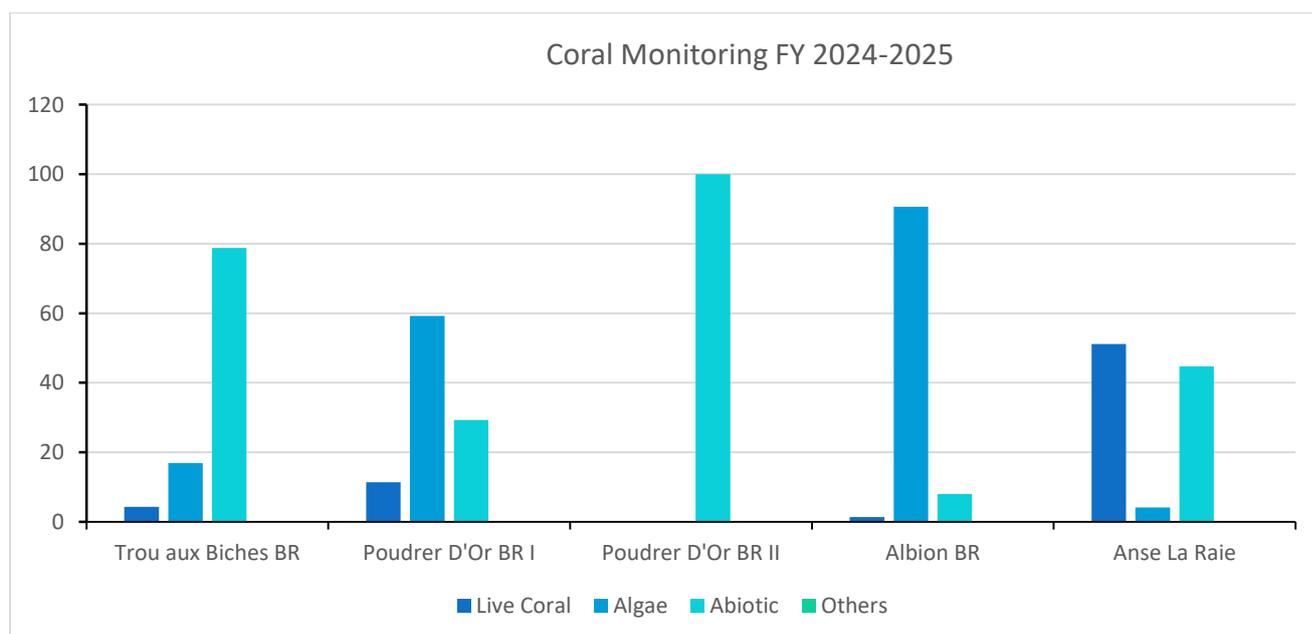


Figure 19 - Long Term Coral Monitoring data for 2024/2025

(II) Stranded marine Mammals and Sea turtles

A total of thirteen (13) cases of stranded/dead marine turtles and mammals were reported from July 2024 to June 2025. 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.

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

- (a) Seven cases of dead sea turtles were reported around Mauritius;
- (b) Five cases of dead marine mammals, were attended in the lagoon of Blue Bay, Poudre d'Or, Belle Mare, Riambel, Gris Gris and Le Morne; and
- (c) One case of distressed and dehydrated seal was attended in the lagoon of Le Morne. The seal was consequently brought at the premises of the Aquaculture Division of the Albion Fisheries Research Centre, upon the recommendation of the Veterinarian from the Competent Authority Seafood of this Ministry and trials were made for its rehabilitation.



Figure 20 - The seal in the tank of the Hatchery of Aquaculture Division

(III) Seagrass Project

Through a project funded, at a tune of USD 190,150 by UNEP-Nairobi Convention in 2019, the Ministry began its work on the assessment of blue carbon stock in seagrass in 2019. The project ended in September 2024, with a field analysis by the UNEP evaluators and a closing meeting in Nairobi in February 2025. The successful implementation of the project has enabled the development of management strategies, the formulation of policies gearing towards conservation and rehabilitation of seagrass ecosystems and the determination of carbon sequestration capacity of seagrasses in Mauritius.

The main highlights of the completed project are as follows:

- (a) 80% of the total seagrass area around Mauritius has been ground truthed and five seagrass meadows of importance have been identified;
- (b) Carbon storage capacity of seagrass has been determined at the five seagrass meadows of importance around Mauritius, namely Poste Lafayette, Mont Choisy, Albion, Le Morne and Banc D'Olive (off Mahebourg);
- (c) Long-Term Monitoring sites have been established at the five sites mentioned above to gather a long-term information on the health of the meadows;
- (d) Five national campaigns on seagrass conservation have been carried out around Mauritius from 01 March 2023 to 02 March 2024 during the World Seagrass Day at

Poste de Flacq and Blue Bay Marine Park during the Mangrove Day at Le Morne, during the World Ocean Day at Balaclava Marine Park, during the IORA Day Celebration at Tribeca Mall;

- (e) Results of the project was presented at the 12th Regional Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association Symposium in South Africa in November 2022 and internationally in June 2023 at the Asian-Pacific Coral Reef Symposium Conference in Singapore and where the work carried out by Mauritius were highly acclaimed by the scientific community; and
- (f) Seagrass ecosystem has been included as a protected marine ecosystem under the new Fisheries Act 2023 and information boards on the protection and conservation of seagrass has been afixed at the five seagrass meadows of importance: - Poste Lafayette, Mont Choisy, Albion, Le Morne and Mahebourg.

Since 2023, long-term monitoring of seagrass at the five sites of importance has been carried out.

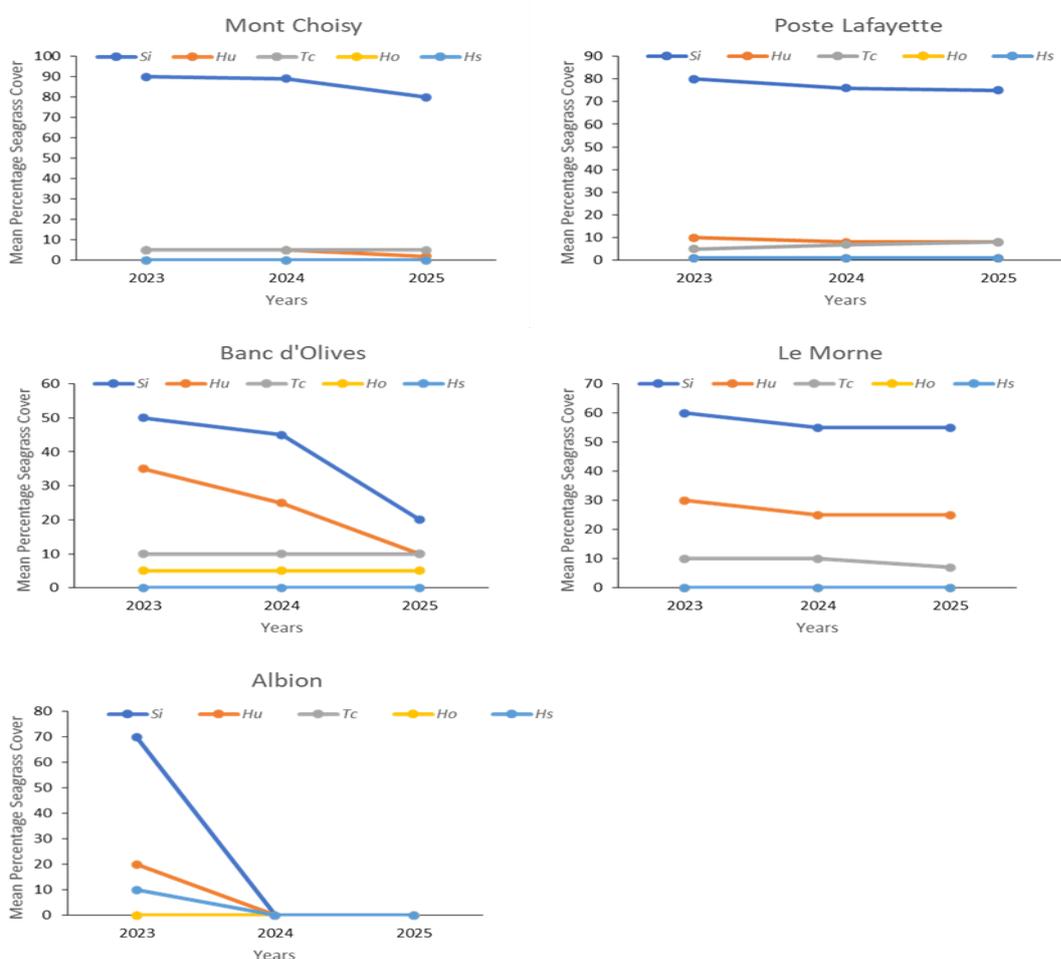


Figure 21 - Long-term seagrass monitoring data from the five sites of importance in Mauritius.

(IV) National Blue Carbon Task Force

On 04 June 2024, the National Blue Carbon Task Force was launched, with the aim to work together with private, research, NGOs and public practitioners, towards capacity building, nature-based solutions, involving blue carbon ecosystems, as well as bring forth

recommendations, potential implementation and finance adaptation opportunities on a national level.

The first meeting was held on 02 April 2025 where it was agreed during the meeting that:

- (i) the National Blue Carbon Task Force would meet on a quarterly basis;
- (ii) the Working Groups would meet as and when decided to advance projects with national importance; and
- (iii) The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Task Force will be submitted to all stakeholders for views.



Figure 22 - First National Blue Carbon Taskforce meeting

(V) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CTEDM for rehabilitation for sea turtles

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between this Ministry and the ‘Centre D’Etudes des Tortues Marine’ (CEDTM) of Reunion Island on 25 April 2025 during the ‘Comité Mixte’ meeting between Mauritius and Reunion Island. The MoU focuses on turtle management, specifically in the areas of conservation, technical exchange, technology transfer, data sharing, and research on marine turtles, for mutual benefit.

The MOU emphasizes cooperation in the following areas:

- (a) Research and Development, including opportunities for research programmes, the production of joint regional and international scientific reports and publications, and data sharing and analysis;
- (b) Training and capacity building in the areas of:
 - (i) treatment and rehabilitation protocols for injured turtles;
 - (ii) monitoring, surveillance and rehabilitation of nests and nesting sites;
 - (iii) Veterinary expertise and the establishment and operation of a Care Center; and
 - (iv) The use of turtle identification software and other computer software;

- (c) Consolidation of the existing protocol for the management of stranded turtles; and
- (d) Implementation and development of communication, awareness-raising and education programmes and tools.



Figure 23 - Signature of MoU between the Ministry and CEDTM during the Reunion-Maurice 'Comité Mixte'.

(VI) Mangroves Propagation Programme

- a) For the FY2024/2025, no mangroves were planted and the total area of Mangrove is **243 ha**, which includes both planted and naturally regenerated mangroves.
- b) A mangrove nursery was established at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre (AFRC), using mangrove propagules and seedlings collected at Ilot Brochus and Ferney.
- c) About 300 mangrove plants are being kept at the nursery for planting activities to be carried out at sites identified by this Ministry. The mangrove plants include both mangrove species which are found in Mauritius, that is, *Rhizophora mucronata* and *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*.



Figure 24 - Nursery creation of mangrove *Bruguiera gymnorhiza* in Albion.

(VII) Blue Carbon Assessment in mangrove areas around Mauritius

As per the schematic blue carbon roadmap for the Ministry, the work to determine the carbon stock potential in mangroves was carried out in two phases; Phase I: field work and pre-treatment of samples in Mauritius and Phase II: post treatment and analysis in Perth with the

Ministry's partner the IORA Blue Carbon Hub. Phase I was carried out from 21 April to 25 June 2025, while Phase II took place in Perth from 05 July to 10 August 2025.

The analysis targeted would consist of determination of organic carbon (C_{org}) by the Loss on Ignition (LOI) method and determination of the inorganic carbon ($\delta^{13}C$, $\delta^{15}N$, %C and %N) by using the Element Analyzer method. This advanced analysis is important to determine the blue carbon stock potential more accurately at the isotope level.



Figure 25 - Sample coring and preparation for blue carbon analysis.

(VIII) JICA Project

As part of the JICA funded project, “Development of Integrated Coastal Ecosystem Management System in the Republic of Mauritius”, mangrove trial was undertaken at Bambous Virieux and continuous monitoring is being carried out by the Marine Science Division.



Figure 26 - Mangrove seedlings planted at Bambous Virieux under the mangrove trial project

As part of the same project, the JICA Expert Team has been trialing seagrass restoration techniques at the aquaculture ponds of the Albion Fisheries Research Centre, with the objective to monitor the growth of the seagrass transplanted in the aquaculture ponds and to monitor the flowering stages of the seagrasses and in case mature seeds are observed, same are to be planted in luffas and be placed alongside the other samples.



Figure 27 - Transplantation of seagrass using innovative techniques by JICA seagrass expert

(IX) Integrated Environment Monitoring Programme

- (i) The Integrated Environment Monitoring Programme (IEMP) is being implemented following the Wakashio oil spill at a quarterly interval; and
- (ii) Seven 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.

(X) Awareness talks with the Public

During the FY2024/2025, the public and students were sensitised during awareness talks carried out at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre.



Figure 28 - Awareness on marine ecosystems at the AFRC

D. Marine Conservation Division

(I) Coral Reef Monitoring and rehabilitation

- (i) Long-term monitoring of the coral reef ecosystem is being carried out at the five established permanent stations in the Blue Bay and Balaclava Marine Parks; and
- (ii) 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 2024-2025. The project is ongoing under the Integrated Environmental Monitoring Plan (IEMP).

(II) Management of Marine Protected Areas

- (a) A total revenue of Rs. 1,190,200 was generated during the financial year 2024-2025 through the issuance of 68 interference permits in the MPAs; and
- (b) A total revenue of Rs. 888,000 was generated from Boat Permits issued in the Blue Bay Marine Park.

(III) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report

A total of 59 EIA Applications were perused and views were provided on same. These include 29 projects pertaining to coastal development projects.

Number of projects assessed for National Ramsar Committee (NRC): 22

Number of Preliminary Environment Reports (PERs) processed: 7

Patrols in the Blue Bay Marine Park

Period	Afloat Patrol	Fieldwork / Maintenance	Coast Patrol	Contraventions
July 2024 - June 2025	129	47	218	NIL

Table 16: Patrol in Blue Bay Marine Park

Balaclava Marine Park

Type of patrols	2024/2025
Sea Patrols	3
Coasts' Patrols	235

Table 17: Patrol in Balaclava Marine Park

Number of contraventions & year	2024/2025
Blue Bay Marine park	Nil
Balaclava Marine park	16

Table 18: Number of Contraventions

(IV) Coral Reef monitoring in marine parks

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 48% to 65%. The percentage of live coral cover at Station 4 and Station 5 located in the fore reef of Pointe aux Piments varied between 38% to 31%. The percentage live coral cover has markedly decreased at all monitoring Stations, except for Station 4 where a slight increase has been observed when compared to year 2023-2024. The marked decrease in live coral cover may be attributed to the frequent flooding episodes caused by Riviere Citron, which directly discharges in the Balaclava Marine Park.

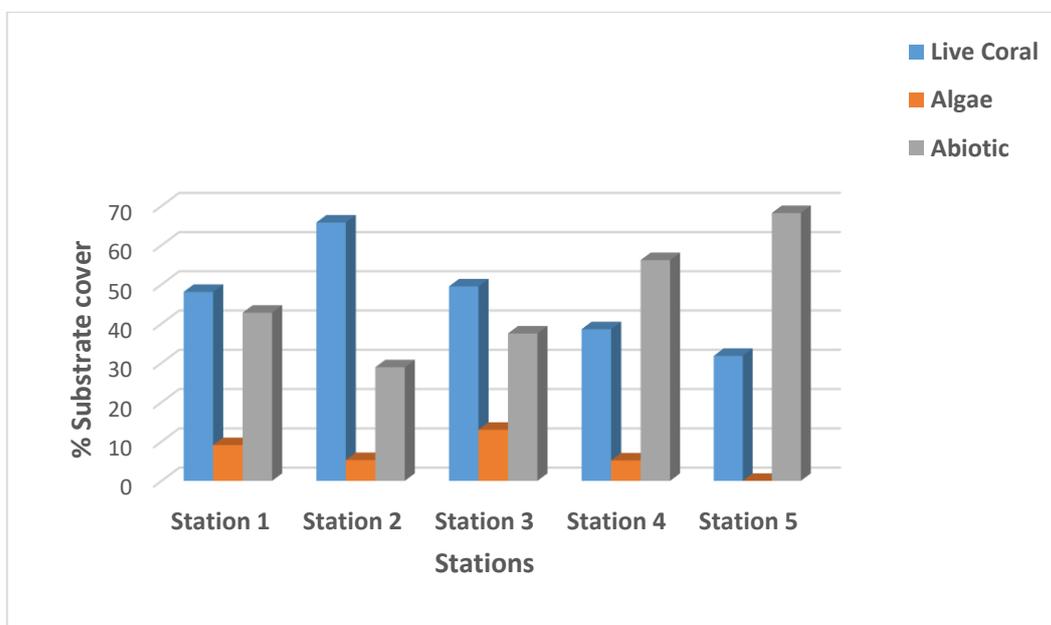


Figure 29 - Percentage Substrate Cover at Balaclava Marine Park

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 50% 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. When compared to 2023-2024, it has been observed that there has been a slight decrease in live coral cover and a slight decrease in Macroalgae cover at Station 1 and 5, respectively.

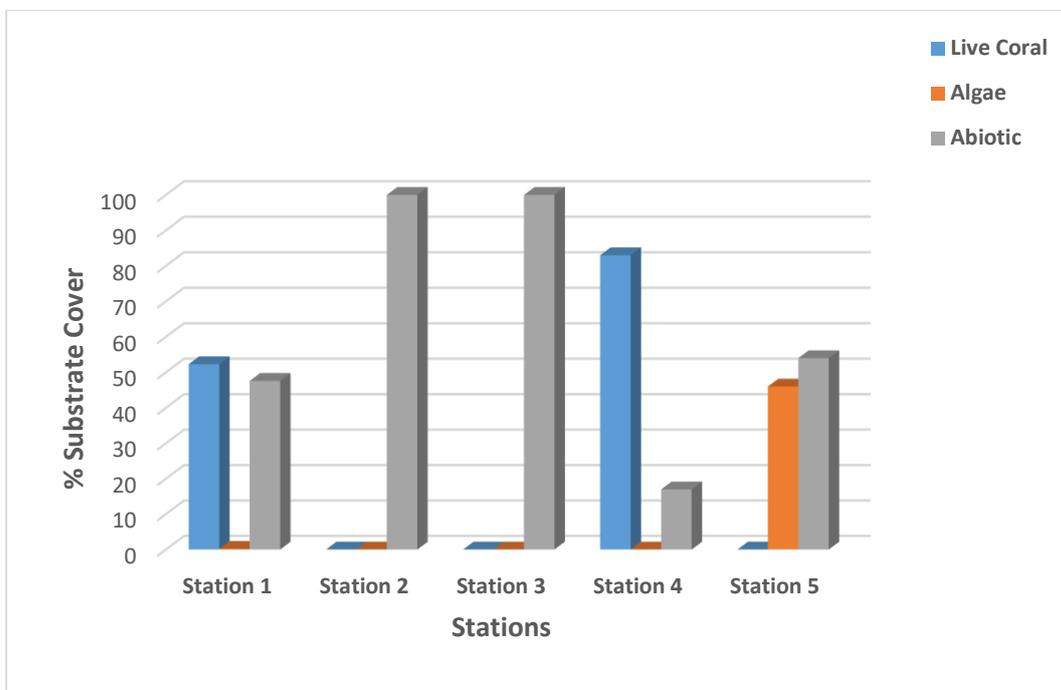


Figure 30 - Percentage Substrate Cover at Blue Bay Marine Park

(V) Assistance scheme for coral farming and fish breeding programme

The main objective of this project, which started in 2022, is to train registered fishers and applicant fishers around Mauritius in two techniques of coral farming, namely the basal table technique developed by the AFRC and the multi-layered rope technique established by the MOI to create coral gardens at areas of degraded coral reefs and improve marine ecosystem resilience around Mauritius. This project also contributes towards the implementation of the blue economy in Mauritius, as it provides alternative livelihood opportunities to fishers by enhancing their knowledge and skills in the restoration of marine habitats (i.e. corals) that shelter fish and other marine organisms. The project is funded to the tune of approximately Rs 25 Million by the National Environment and Climate Change Fund (NECCF) and it is expected to be completed by end of 2025.

The project involves the training of registered fishers and applicants in two techniques of coral farming. The objective is to train 100 trainers and 300 trainees in coral table technique and rope nursery technique in 4 regions around the island (Belle Mare, Bel ombre, Le Morne and Grand Gaube).

300 registered and applicant fishers, including fisherwomen, are being trained in two techniques of coral farming, namely the basal table technique and the multi-layered rope technique. The participants have already been trained in Emergency First Response and manufacture and deployment of coral nurseries at sea.

Four table coral nurseries and four multi-layered rope nurseries have been established at Le Morne, Bel Ombre, Belle Mare and Grand Gaube. The project aims at capacity building whereby training in setting up of coral nurseries, management of coral nurseries and reef restoration activities are being dispensed to some 340 fishers around Mauritius.

Presently, the coral nurseries have already been established and by the end of FY 2026/2027, 4 coral reefs degraded sites will be restored at the aforementioned areas through the creation of coral gardens.



Figure 31 - Fishers receiving training on coral farming under the Assistance scheme for coral farming and fish breeding programme by Officers of this Ministry.

(VI) UNDP/Adaptation Fund “Restoration Marine Ecosystem Services by Rehabilitating Coral Reefs to meet a Changing Climate Future” Project.

This Ministry has embarked on a regional coral farming project entitled “Restoring Marine Ecosystem Services by Rehabilitating Coral Reefs to Meet a Changing Climate Future” funded by the UNDP which is being implemented jointly with Seychelles. A sum of 10 Million USD has been granted to Mauritius and Seychelles to carry out the project for the period 2020-2026.

Under the project, 3 NGOs (2 in Mauritius and 1 in Rodrigues) have been awarded contracts to train community members in coral farming techniques. A total of 3.2 hectares (2.5 Ha in BBMP and 0.7 Ha in SEMPA, Rodrigues) of degraded coral reefs would be rehabilitated in the Republic of Mauritius.

Moreover, land-based coral nurseries facilities would be set up in the AFRC and MOI. Coral restoration through sexual reproduction would be carried out in the land-based nurseries of AFRC and thermos-resistant and rare coral species would be cultured in the land-based nurseries of the MOI.

Two out-planting sites, OP 1 and OP 2 have been earmarked for restoration within the Blue Bay Marine Park. Nurseries grown corals transplantation has started by May 2025 and it is expected that a total of about 8,000 nurseries grown will be transplanted at the 2 out-planting sites.

(VII) JICA Project for the Development of Integrated Coastal Ecosystem Management System in the Republic of Mauritius

The Project for the Development of Integrated Coastal Ecosystem Management System in the Republic of Mauritius (hereinafter referred to as “the Project”) is a technical cooperation between the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and has been conducted since May 2022, aiming to restore the coastal ecosystems in the southeastern area of Mauritius, affected by the ship-grounding and other anthropogenic impacts. The Project comprises three action plans, namely:

- (i) Action Plan for Coastal Ecosystem Restoration;
- (i) Action Plan for Important Habitat Protection; and
- (ii) Action Plan for Ecotourism Promotion.

“*Action Plan for Coastal Ecosystem Restoration*” elaborates on the different actions, namely:

- (i) Coral restoration to be undertaken at Aigrette Island, Wakashio incident site and Blue Bay;
- (ii) Seagrass restoration, the southeastern coastal area will be selected as target areas, namely: estuary of the Creole River, north of Ile aux Aigrettes and north of the Ile de la Passe. It has been proposed to use new aquaculture system that uses biodegradable pots to produce seedlings from seeds. Consequently, the flowering time of seagrass and the maturity period of seagrass are being investigated; and
- (iii) Mangrove restoration comprising: Mangrove Restoration at the following sites: Bambous Virieux and Bois des Amourettes, on monitoring at Mangroves at Pointe d'Esny Marsh, River mouth of the Creole River, Vieux Grand Port and Mangrove Monitoring by using Drone.

Activities implemented under JICA project

a) Inauguration of Exhibition facility at AFRC

An exhibition facility has been set up at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre (AFRC). The inauguration ceremony was held on 19 May 2025. The AFRC Exhibition facility will allow this Ministry to sensitise students and visitors on: the importance of marine biodiversity, threats to biodiversity and conservation actions and disseminate basic knowledge about the coastal ecosystems of Mauritius.

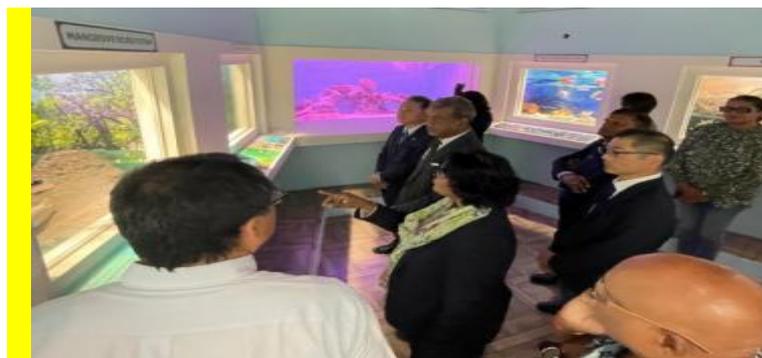


Figure 32: Visitors visiting the AFRC exhibition centre

b) Educational Awareness Programme

An environmental educational awareness programme was conducted on 20 May 2025 with secondary school students. 30 students attended the programme and its aim was to raise awareness and educate students about the importance of marine ecosystems. Presentations on the importance of marine protected areas, mangroves and seagrass ecosystems, among others, were made by Officers of this Ministry. Moreover, students were sensitised on the importance of marine biodiversity, and conservation actions, basic knowledge on the biology and structure of coral, seagrass and mangrove. In addition, the programme also included in-situ observation of marine ecosystems in the Blue Bay Marine Park (BBMP) using glass bottom boat.



Figure 33 - Students attending the awareness session at the Blue Bay Marine Park Centre

E. Laboratory Division

1. The Surveillance Assessment of the Marine Chemistry Laboratory and Marine Microbiology Laboratory was held in March 2025 by the Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS). MAURITAS has maintained the Accreditation of the laboratories to meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Standard.
2. Forty-eight (48) samples of marine sediment and thirteen (13) seawater samples were collected in the south east coast, including shoreline and lagoon in the context of the Integrated Environmental Monitoring Programme (IEMP) and submitted to SGS Ltd for analysis of Total Hydrocarbon Index (HCT), Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and Heavy Metals.
3. A total of 24 fish samples, including bivalves and cultured fish were collected in the south east coast under the IEMP and submitted to Quantilab Ltd for analysis of HCT, PAHs and heavy metals.
4. Officers from the Fisheries Division were part of the scientific team designated to carry out three environmental surveys, namely a baseline survey, during mid-salvage operations and after completion of salvage operations with a view to assessing the impact of the grounding and salvage operations of the Tug SONA III on the marine environment at Agalega. A total of 33 seawater samples were analysed for physico-chemical parameters, including oil and grease and the results of analyses were submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Solid

5. Following cases of massive seaweed proliferation along the northern and eastern coast, seawater quality monitoring is being conducted in the affected regions for physico-chemical parameters, levels of coliform bacteria and identification and enumeration of harmful marine microalgae. The results of analyses are regularly reported to the Standing Committee on Algal Bloom under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change.
6. A total of 503 seawater samples was analysed for physico-chemical parameters. The samples were collected from 30 established coastal sites as part of the established regular monitoring programme and in cases of marine pollution and fish mortality.
7. A total of 441 seawater samples was analysed for levels of Total Coliform and Faecal Coliform. The samples were collected from 13 selected public beaches as part of the established regular monitoring programme and in cases of marine pollution and fish mortality.

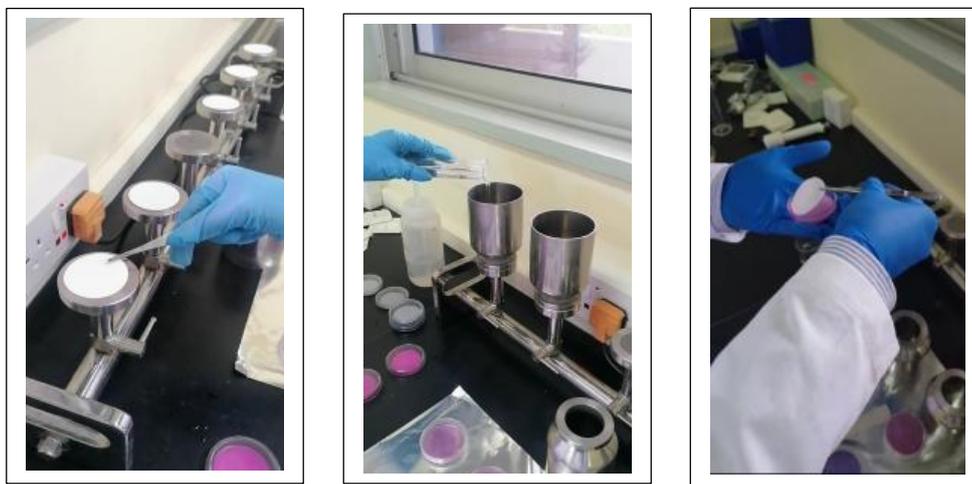


Figure 34- Analysis of coliform bacteria using the membrane filtration method

8. Tests for ciguatoxin were conducted on 24 fish specimens, out of which 6 were found to be toxic.
9. A total of 88 macro-algae samples were examined for harmful marine microalgae. The samples were collected from 10 established coastal sites as part of the established regular monitoring programme and during cases of marine pollution and fish mortality.
10. 11 alleged cases of Marine Pollution and 2 alleged cases of fish mortality at sea were attended to.
11. Trial for analysis using the Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) has been initiated. A total of 6 fish samples were prepared for GC-MS analysis of hydrocarbons and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. The workflow included homogenization, followed by freeze-drying to remove moisture and stabilise the matrix.



Figure 35: Dissection of fish tissue and viscera for extraction of hydrocarbons



Figure 36: Fish samples in freeze drying procedure for GC-MS analysis



Figure 37 - Extraction of hydrocarbons from freeze dried sample through Soxhlet extraction

12. A total of 28 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.
13. In the context of the project “Lagoonal Monitoring in the Region of Port Louis”, nineteen (19) fish specimens were purchased from fishers operating in the region of Port Louis and submitted to the Government Analyst Division for analysis.

14. Seawater quality data were submitted for the drafting of the annual report for the project ‘Lagoonal Monitoring in the Region of Port Louis’ spearheaded by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change.
15. One officer attended a regional training course on carbon and nitrogen analysis and their stable isotopes in Morocco.
16. One officer attended a workshop on the harmonisation and standardisation for Marine Algal and Toxin Surveillance Sampling, Toxin Analysis, and Quality Control Standards in Cuba.
17. Two officers attended a training course on Marine Environment and Three-Dimensional Disaster Monitoring Capacity for Small Island Developing States held in China.
18. One officer attended an Exploratory Expedition on Fisheries Resources and Oceanographic Studies in Mauritius, on board RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen (Survey leg 2.1).
19. One officer attended a regional Training Course on Monitoring of Microplastics (0.3 – 5.0 mm) Sand Beach and Superficial Seawater, Using Nuclear Analytical Techniques in Tunisia.
20. A scientific Abstract entitled ‘A study on the temporal dynamics and the environmental drivers of Harmful Marine Microalgae in Mauritius’ has been approved by the International Conference on Harmful Algae (ICHA 2025).

F. Fisheries Training and Extension Centre (FITEC)

1. A total of twenty (29) sea trips were carried out between July 2024 to June 2025 using boat Sphyrna II to carry out FAD deployment activities, deployment of data loggers and as sea water sampling for AFRC. Spare parts were procured for preventive maintenance of boat Sphyrna II.
2. The FAD Fisheries training pirogue “FiTEC ONE” acquired under the JICA Livelihood Project made three (3) sea trips to train experienced fishers to act as future trainers, conduct of fishing trials under the guidance and counselling of JICA Consultants. It is projected to continue with this endeavour in Wakashio affected areas by way of experienced sharing.



Figure 38 - Training of fishers with JICA Consultant under JICA Livelihood Project



Figure 39 - Practical at sea with JICA Consultant under JICA Livelihood Project

3. RV Investigator II has been laid up at quay after its last sea trip on 07-03-24 due to ongoing repairs and maintenance.
4. Sea trips were carried out using boat Sphyrna 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.
5. As at June 2025, 19 FADs were active, out of a total of 28.
6. A total of number of ten (10) FADs were redeployed and among which (3) SMART FADs equipped with Marine Satellite Buoys were deployed between July 2024 to June 2025 at Pointe Aux Cannoniers, Baie du Cap and Tamarin. Four (4) Rosary Type FADs were deployed at Pointe Aux Caves, Albion I, Pointe Aux Sables and La Preneuse. One Submerged FAD (Japanese Model) has been deployed on a trial basis to assess its feasibility. One Wave rider buoy was deployed for the Department for Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones Administration & Exploration.



Figure 41 - Rosary Type FAD deployed at sea



Figure 40 - Smart FAD deployed at sea

7. One salvage operation was carried by boat Sphyrna to recuperate broken SMART FADs Port Louis I. Two SMART FADs, namely Baie du Cap and Medine was salvaged by NCG maritime assets. Another Two SMART FADs, namely Tamarin and Port Louis II have been dislodged from anchoring location and lost at sea after losing connectivity with MSB software.
8. A total of 503 fishers (434 males and 69 females) followed the ‘General Course for Fishers’ (GCF) from July 2024 to June 2025. 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.

9. A total of 18 registered fishers (18 males) were trained in new fishing techniques for off lagoon marine resources by an International Consultant, Dr. A. Seko.
10. FiTEC was awarded the certification MS ISO 9001:2015 for its training component by the Mauritius Standards Bureau on 18 November 2022 and is valid until 17 November 2025. A second Surveillance Audit was carried out in November 2024 by the Mauritius Standards Bureau where 2 ‘minor’ non conformities were identified, which has been resolved by the Management Team at FiTEC.

G. MCS/VMS/Port State Control Unit and Import and Export Division

(I) Port State Control Unit

Table 19 Statistics July 2024 – June 2025

SN	Item	Number
1	Number of callings, boarding and inspection	
	· Local vessels	358
	Number of callings	356
	Number of boarding inspection	
	· Foreign vessels	
	Number of callings	577
	Number of boarding inspection	507
2	Number of surveys carried out on board (local boats/vessels)	411
3	Number of departure clearances issued (local boats/vessels)	411
4	Number of Processing Statements validated and endorsed	1145
5	Number of Mauritius Catch Certificates (Master) validated and endorsed	128
6	Number of Mauritius Catch Certificates (Re-Export) validated and endorsed	2094
7	Number of Swordfish Statistical Documents validated and endorsed	59
8	Number of Big Eye Statistical Documents validated and endorsed – Mauritian Flag	365
9	Number of Big Eye Re-Export Certificates validated and endorsed – Foreign Flag	123
10	Patagonian Toothfish and Ice Fish	
	· Number of callings, boarding and inspection carried out	12
	· Number of DCD issued	10
	· Number of DED issued	149
11	Trawlers	
	· Number of callings	14
	· Number of boarding and inspection	12

Table 19: Statistics July 2024 – June 2025

(II) Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC)

Table 20: Statistics for the FMC for the period July 2024 – June 2025

SN	Reporting	Number (July 2024 – June 2025)
1	Number of logbooks information verified against VMS data	173
2	Local vessels fishing trips monitored monthly in the EEZ and Indian Ocean region	453
3	Foreign vessels trips for sailing/fishing monitored monthly in the EEZ	1682
4	Number of VMS reports produced for Departure Clearance issuance for local fleet	456
5	Number of VMS reports produced for validation of Master-Mauritius Catch Certificates	38
6	Number of new transponders of local and foreign fishing vessels registered	22

Table 20: Statistics for the FMC for the period July 2024 – June 2025

(III) Amount Total Toothfish Transhipped

Year	TOP (<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>)/Kg	TOA (<i>Dissostichus mawsoni</i> /Kg	Total/kg
2020	1,916,570	27,041	1,943,611
2021	1,523,989	0	1,523,989
2022	1,324,104	0	1,324,104
2023	1,618,062	0	1,618,062
2024	1, 592, 459	0	1, 592, 459
Grand Total/kg	7,975,184	27,041	8,002,225

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

Table 21: Total Toothfish Transhipped

(IV) Import and Export Data for chilled and frozen fish

Details on amount of fish imported in port:

Import for chilled and frozen fish

Year	Chilled (T)	Frozen (T)
2020	91	55,671
2021	184	50,725
2022	1,280	62,674
2023	1,365	49,771
2024/2025	435	470 869

Table 22: Amount of fish imported in port

Details on amount of fish exported in port:

Export for chilled and frozen fish

Year	Chilled (T)	Frozen (T)
2020	91	17,198
2021	184	9,806
2022	301	18,074
2023	273	5,531
2024/2025	1416	37 199

Table 23: Amount of fish exported in port

H. Planning and Licensing Division

Planning Unit

(I) Implementation of off-lagoon fishing schemes

(a) ‘Canotte’ Scheme

The Canotte Scheme, jointly implemented by this Ministry and the Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM) Ltd since 2015, provides financial support to fishermen for the purchase of better equipped fishing vessels “Canottes” (measuring 7 – 12m). The objective is to encourage fishermen to fish in the more productive off-lagoon fishing grounds, thereby improving their livelihoods. Under the Scheme, a registered fisherman if eligible for a grant of up to a maximum of Rs. 300,000, representing 50% of the project cost, whilst the DBM Ltd. provides loan up to 40% of the project cost, excluding the grant element, with the fisherman beneficiary contributing the remaining 10%.

An open Expression of Interest was launched on 02 September 2024 to invite fishermen willing to benefit from the scheme to submit applications. During the financial year 2024/25, a total of 113 applications have been received at the level of the Ministry, including 103 applications following the EOI.

Twenty-eight (28) fishers have availed of financial assistance under the scheme and benefited from a total grant amount of Rs 6,091,000, funded through the Ministry’s Budget and from the National Resilience Fund (NRF). The other applications are under process.

(b) Semi-industrial Off-lagoon Fishing Scheme

This Ministry has been implementing the semi-industrial fishing off lagoon fishing scheme since the financial year 2016/2017. The scheme aims to provide financial assistance to fishermen cooperatives and individual/fishing companies to acquire semi-industrial vessels to exploit the banks fishery.

Open Expressions of Interest (EOIs) were launched on 12 September, 8 October, and 11 October 2024, inviting applications from eligible fishermen cooperatives, companies, and individual fishermen. The Scheme is jointly implemented with IFCM Ltd. Eligible fishermen cooperatives are provided with 50% grant of the total project cost, that is, up to a maximum of Rs 6 M, whilst IFCM Ltd provides credit finance or leasing facilities up to 40% and the beneficiaries have to contribute 10% of the project cost. Individual fishermen and fishing companies engaged in fishing activities are provided with a one-off grant of Rs. 1 M to enable them to acquire semi-industrial vessels.

For the financial year 2024/2025, a total of 12 applications from fishermen cooperatives were approved by IFCM Ltd for financing, amounting to Rs 63 million. Funding was provided through the Ministry's budget and the National Resilience Fund (NRF). In addition, three new applications were received following the launch of the new EOI. Of these, one application has been reviewed and deemed eligible by the Ministry's Selection Committee and forwarded to IFCM Ltd for financial assessment, while the remaining two are still under review at the level of this Ministry.

With regard to fishing companies, one applicant from FY 2023/2024 received a one-off grant of Rs 1 M on 04 July 2024, following the signature of a Letter of Undertaking. Since the launch of the new EOI, an additional application has been received and approved for the grant of Rs 1 M, and its Letter of Offer and Letter of Intent is currently being finalised.

(II) Agreements and MoUs

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

- (i) A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Turkiye and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius for cooperation in the field of fisheries; and
- (ii) 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.

(III) Preparation of country briefs for courtesy calls

In view of enhancing bilateral collaboration, briefs on fisheries and aquaculture highlighting potential areas of collaboration had been prepared on the following countries: Japan, India, Rwanda, Comoros, Angola, Australia, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, France, Greece, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Tunisia, Mozambique, New Zealand, L'Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), Norway, Pakistan, Monaco, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, USA, Jamaica, Indonesia, Djibouti and Vietnam.

(IV) Sea cucumber fishery in the Joint Management Area (JMA)

The Joint Commission of the Extended Continental Shelf (Joint Commission) through the Economic Development Board invited proposals from eligible and qualified operators registered in Mauritius to undertake sustainable exploratory harvesting of sea cucumber in the

Joint Management Area (JMA) for an initial staggered period of one year on two occasions as follows:

- (a) Invitation of bids on 1 February 2023, with closing date 21st February 2023; and
- (b) Invitation of bids on 25 August 2023, with closing date 13 September 2023.

Bids were not responsive.

Expression of Interest was launched for a third time (Second phase Sustainable Exploratory Harvesting of Sea Cucumber in the Joint Management Area) after review of the criteria of the Request for Proposal and Conditions of sea cucumber fishing on 31 January 2025, with closing date 20 February 2025.

Three proposals were received. Further to the evaluation process and request for additional information from bidders, the Evaluation Committee set up by the EDB recommended that the three companies have complied with the technical specifications and can favourably be considered.

Subsequently, the Ministry initiated the process for the issuance of the relevant licences to the selected companies for the exploratory fishing of sea cucumbers in the Joint Management Area.

(V) Second Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) under the Fisheries Partnership Agreement

The Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) to review implementation of the Fishing Agreement between Mauritius and the EU, established under the Fisheries Partnership Agreement, met on 21 and 22 January 2025 in Port Louis.



Figure 42: Second Joint Committee Meeting

The JCM reviewed the following, among others:

- (i) Overview of recent policy initiatives in the field of fisheries;
- (ii) Fishing operations namely the number of licences issued, review of catches, control and surveillance, inspections, catch reporting, landings and electronic exchange of data; and

- (iii) Regional cooperation at the level of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and SIOFA, where consultations are held to promote the sustainability of stocks.

Implementation of projects under the Sectoral Support Programme for year 1 (FY 2023/24) were assessed and the proposed implementation plan for year 2 (2024/25) were approved. An amount of 449,980 has been received in February 2025 for implementation of projects under year 2.

Renewal of the Protocol and Agreement

Being given that the Protocol will expire in December 2026, the JCM has advised for early preparations for negotiation of the new Protocol. The EU indicated that, pending internal consultation, its intention would be to also propose the negotiations of the Agreement to update the Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) to a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA). The JCM agreed to hold the next meeting in December 2025 or early January 2026 to assess implementation of the Plan for this year, after which the EU would credit the remaining two instalments. Moreover, the first round of negotiation with a view to concluding a new Sustainable FPA will start around February/March 2026, prior to the expiry of the present Protocol.

(V) WTO Fisheries Subsidies

Mauritius recognises that fisheries subsidies are contributing to overcapacity and overfishing and has aligned itself with the ACP Group/Africa Group recommending that:

- (i) appropriate disciplines be established to ensure sustainability of the resources, livelihood of fishers and food security; and
- (ii) Special and Differential Treatment should be provided to the Small Island Developing States, Developing States and LDCs as specified in the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14.6.

In the same vein, other developing countries, including India made representations to the 13th Ministerial Committee that the Second part (Additional provisions) of the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement regarding the overcapacity and overfishing (OCOF) pillar is not in line with the Sustainability Goals of SDG 14.6. Subsequently, the second part (Additional provisions) of the fisheries subsidies agreement was not endorsed by the 13th Ministerial Committee held in Abu Dhabi from 26 to 01 March 2024.

Mauritius has agreed to the first part of the fisheries subsidies agreement adopted by the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference and has deposited its instrument of acceptance in 2024, to the Director General WTO.

On 06 June 2025, the WTO Secretariat has launched its First Call for Proposal under the Fisheries Funding Mechanism, commonly known as the WTO Fish Fund, inviting expression of interest for technical assistance and capacity-building to implement the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. Two projects have been proposed for submission to the WTO Secretariat – Fish Fund.

(VI) EU/ESA Economic Partnership Agreement

In 2017, the EU and ESA signatory States (Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and Comoros) agreed to deepen the existing interim Economic Partnership Agreement. In this context, the negotiation process for a full EPA started in 2019.

The “Fisheries and Aquaculture chapter” and “Rules of Origin chapter” of the draft Agreement were finalised by both Parties, whereas the “Trade and Sustainable Development” and the “Economic Development” Chapters are still under consideration.

(VII) Amendments of Fisheries Act 2023

Proposals were made to amend the Fisheries Act 2023, through the Miscellaneous Finance Bill, with a view to strengthening its enforcement provisions, ensuring greater compliance with national regulations and international commitments, and improving the sustainability and good governance of our fisheries sector. The amendments include, among others, the following:

- (i) mandatory removal of wrecks during the grounding of vessel to prevent pollution and threats to the marine ecosystems and navigation;
- (ii) requirement to hold a valid authorisation permit for import or export of any genetically modified organisms and use of genetically modified aquatic organism in aquaculture;
- (iii) requirement for a valid health certificate for importation of fishery products and live ornamental fish;
- (iv) definition of CITES and requirement for a CITES certificate for export, re-export or transshipment of any cites listed species; and
- (v) increase reporting frequency on Vessel Monitoring System by fishing vessels for enhanced monitoring, control and surveillance.

(VIII) By-catch Regulations

A new bycatch regulation was drafted under section 108 of the Fisheries Act 2023 to replace the current regulation for removal of bycatch fish from licensed fishing vessels calling at the Port. The main objectives of this regulation are, among others, to empower the Agricultural Marketing Board to have better control on purchase, removal, weighing, transport, storage, and sale of by-catch fish from both licensed and non-licensed fishing vessels, including:

- (a) designation and registration of buying agents;
- (b) setting up of a Price Committee responsible for reviewing the purchase prices of bycatch on an annual basis;
- (c) taking legal action against non-complying buying agents and fishing operators; and
- (d) regulating the conduct of the bycatch trade in Mauritius.

(IX) SADC RISDP Template

The SADC – Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan Templates regarding the following themes was filed in and submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RI and IT for onward transmission to SADC Secretariat:

- (i) Peace, Security and Good Governance (IUU fishing, capacity building, regional MCS, joint fisheries patrols, and collaboration to fight IUU fishing);
- (ii) Industrial Development and Marketing Integration (Development of sustainable SADC Blue, Green and Circular Economies); and
- (iii) Gender, Youth, Environment and Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management (enhanced sector-based approaches towards developing climate change resilience, sustainable utilisation and conservation of natural resources and effective management of the environment).

Licensing Unit

- a) Seven new fishing vessels joined the semi-industrial fishery. A total of 43 licences were issued, representing an amount of Rs. 43,000 as licence fees.
- b) One fishing licence was issued to vessels operating in the Advanced Coastal Fishery.
- c) Three Mauritian Purse Seiners Licences and eleven Extension Licences were issued, representing an amount of USD 180,000 as licence fees.
- d) One Supply vessel Licence and six Extension Licences were issued, representing an amount of USD 4,000 as licence fees.
- e) Twelve Mauritian Longliners Licences and twenty one Extension Licences were issued, representing an amount of USD 136,767.04 as licence fees.
- f) Two licences were issued for mid-water trawling and an amount of USD 30,000 as licence fees was generated.
- g) 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 195,306.49.
- h) Under the Fishing Agreement between the Republic of Mauritius and the European Union, a total of 37 licences were issued to purse seiners/longliners/Supply vessels and the total licence fees amounted to EUR 214,880.
- i) A total of eleven (11) Letters of Intent and six (6) Extensions were issued to promoters in respect of fishing development projects.

Historical Analysis

1. Mauritian Vessels

Year	Handline (Semi Industrial)	Longliner	Purse Seiner
2020	32	Nil	3
2021	28	Nil	3
2022	27	13	4
2023	32	16	4
2024	34	16	3

Table 24: Mauritian Vessels

2. Foreign Vessels

Year	NON-EU (Longliner)	Under Seychelles Agreement		Under EU Agreement	
		Longliner	Purse Seiner	Longliner	Purse Seiner
2020	38	Nil	7	18	32
2021	62	8	11	17	26
2022	17	2	15	20	26
2023	Nil	Nil	16	18	24
2024	14	Nil	39	17	16

Table 25: Foreign Vessels

H. Competent Authority Seafood (CASF)

Project title: Digitalisation of processes at the Competent Authority Seafood

- (i) The project shall consist of issuance of Veterinary Health Certificates, e-payment services, sharing/assessment of documents between Fish Business Operators (FBOs) and CA and application for approval of FBOs;
- (ii) The issuance of Veterinary Health Certificates is manual for Non-EU countries. It is, therefore, recommended that the processes at the CASF be digitalised similar to EU Online Platform to ensure business continuity. The objectives of the digitalisation of the current system will be to improve accuracy and efficiency of services provided, to enhance data security and access control remotely to improve availability and traceability of data, to decrease the amount of volume and space required for manual record keeping and also to include e-payment services;
- (iii) The digitalisation of the services and activities of the CASF would be a commendable initiative to prevent barriers to trade in case of emergencies and Force Majeure; and
- (iv) Since Veterinary Health Certificates for Non – EU Countries can only be issued manually in office, during cases of emergency and Force Majeure whereby office is closed, there is barrier to trade and, therefore, no business continuity. Moreover, payment for the certificates are received upon issuance of manual receipts.

I. Fisheries Protection Service

- (a) Total number of registered fishmongers as at 30 June 2025: 1,137;
- (b) Number of new fishers registered during FY 2024-2025: 709;
- (c) Total number of registered artisanal fishers as at 30 June 2025: 2,563;
- (d) Total number of registered fishing boats as at 30 June 2025: 1202; and
- (e) Total amount of Bad Weather Allowance paid in FY 2024-2025: Rs 519,828,380.

(I) EXHIBITS at the Coastal Fishery

Month (2024)	Illegal Nets (Mts)	Underwater Fishing (Units)	Undersized fish (Units)	Other Cases
July 2024	521.95	5		5
August	165	1		
September	51	3	18	4
Oct	238.35	6	61	3
Nov	176	4	17	
Dec	178.6	9	59	1
Total	1,330.90	28	155	13

Month (2025)	Illegal Nets (Units)	Underwater Fishing (Units)	Undersized fish (Units)	Other Cases
Jan 2025	410.45	11	8	1
Feb	139.35	5	118	1
March	213.90	3	123	
April	106.45	9	41	3
May	3.15	3		3
June	31.60	1		1
Total	904.90	32	290	9

Table 26: Exhibits at the Coastal Fishery

J. Shipping Division

Monthly Statistics on the Services provided by the Shipping Division for FY 2024–2025

Statistics by month on the Services provided by the Shipping division for FY 2024–2025

S/N	Services provided by the Shipping Division	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1.	No. of vessels registered as at date	127	125	125	126	127	130	130	130	130	135	135	134
2.	No. of Surveys & Inspections (Flag State)	3	2	6	17	12	4	6	2	3	4	9	7
3.	No. of Safety Inspections of Foreign Fishing vessels	16	37	89	53	27	44	37	24	68	43	26	34
4.	No. of casualties	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
5	No. of Port State Control	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	No. of STCW Endorsement Certificate issued	23	17	27	29	12	34	12	14	31	25	21	19
7.	No. of STCW Letter of Recognition issued	4	8	2	5	2	12	11	5	12	04	25	13
8.	No. of Discharge Books issued	59	43	57	80	43	23	37	41	44	40	27	27
9.	No. of Safe Manning Certificate issued	4	9	8	4	9	21	4	5	14	3	1	10
10.	No. of Port Clearances issued	308	275	283	316	261	295	342	267	339	325	350	341
11.	No. of MLC Ship's Cook Certificate issued	1	1	0	5	5	23	4	3	2	0	3	0
12.	No. of STCW Certificate of Competency	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
13.	No. of STCW Certificate of Proficiency issued	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
14.	- Shipper Method 1	48	48	48	48	48	48	49	49	49	49	49	48
	- Shipper Method 2	30	30	30	30	30	28	28	27	28	28	28	25
	- Service Provider Method 1	18	18	18	18	18	17	18	17	19	19	18	19
	- Service Provider Method 2	11	11	11	11	10	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

Table 27: Monthly Statistics on the Services provided by the Shipping Division for FY 2024–2025

Statistics on Services provided by the Shipping Division for the FY 2024–2025

Services provided by the Shipping Division	Total
No. of vessels registered as at date	134
No. of Surveys & Inspections (Flag State)	75
No. of Safety Inspections of Foreign Fishing vessels	498
No. of casualties	3
No. of Port State Control	0
No. of STCW Endorsement Certificate issued	264
No. of STCW Letter of Recognition issued	103
No. of Discharge Books issued	521
No. of Safe Manning Certificate issued	92
No. of Port Clearances issued	3702
No. of MLC Ship’s Cook Certificate issued	47
No. of STCW Certificate of Competency	1
No. of STCW Certificate of Proficiency issued	7
- Shipper Method 1	48
- Shipper Method 2	25
- Service Provider Method 1	19
- Service Provider Method 2	8

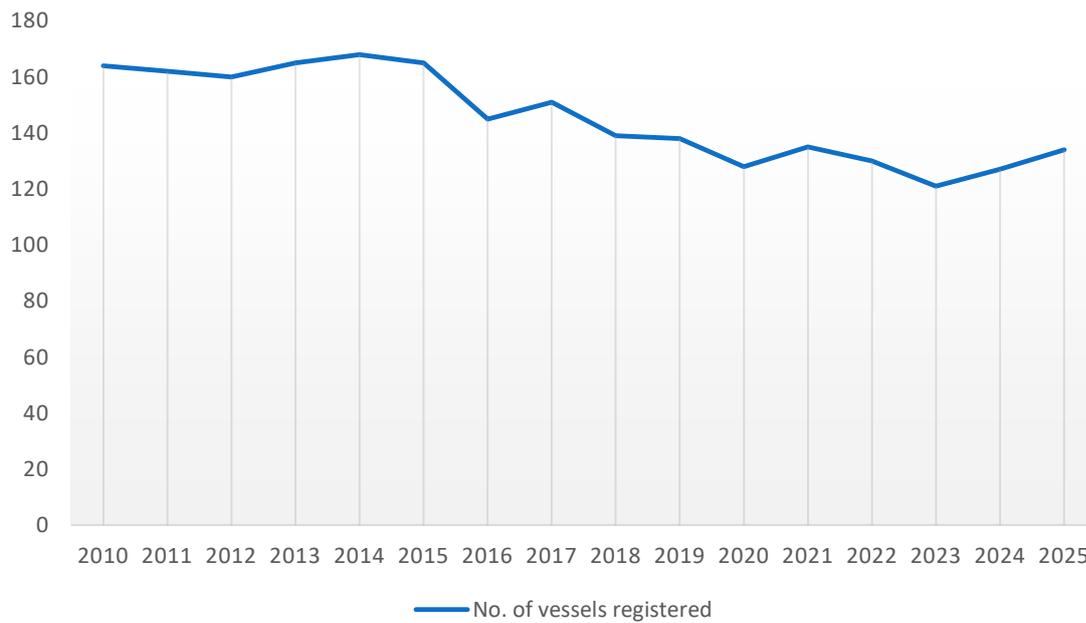
Table 28: Statistics on Services provided by the Shipping Division for the FY 2024–2025

Number of Vessels registered for the period July 2010 to June 2025

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
No. of vessels registered	164	162	160	165	168	165	145	151	139	138	128	135	130	121	127	134

Table 29: Number of Vessels registered for the period July 2010 to June 2025

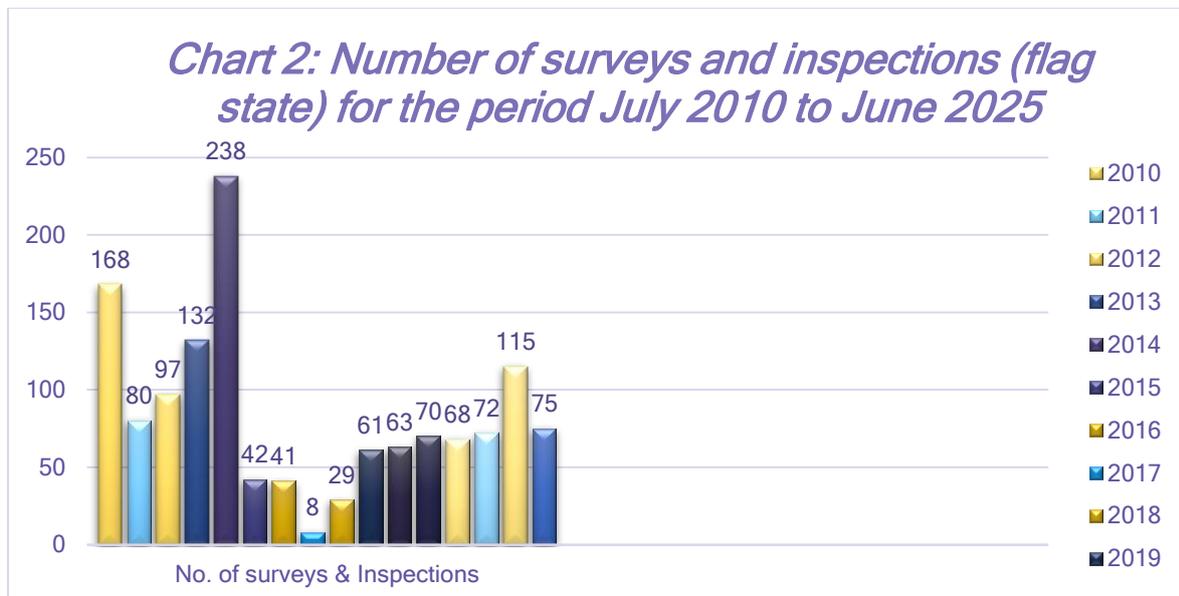
Chart 1: Number of Vessels registered under the Mauritian Flag for the period July 2010-June 2025



Number of Surveys and Inspections for period July 2010 to June 2025

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
No. of surveys & Inspections	168	80	97	132	238	42	41	8	29	61	63	70	68	72	115	75

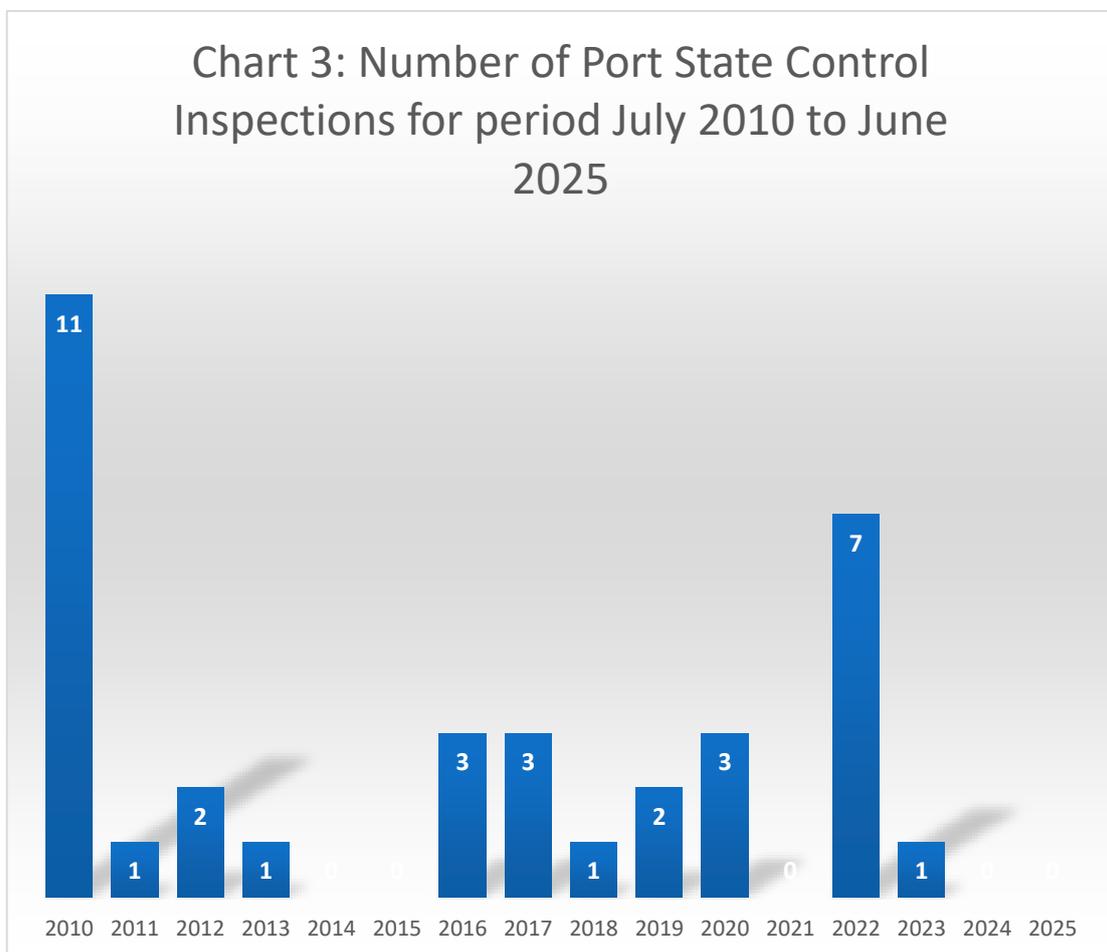
Table 30: Number of Surveys and Inspections for period July 2010 to June 2025



Number of Port State Control Inspections for period July 2010 to June 2025

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
No. of Port State Inspections	11	1	2	1	0	0	3	3	1	2	3	0	7	1	0	0

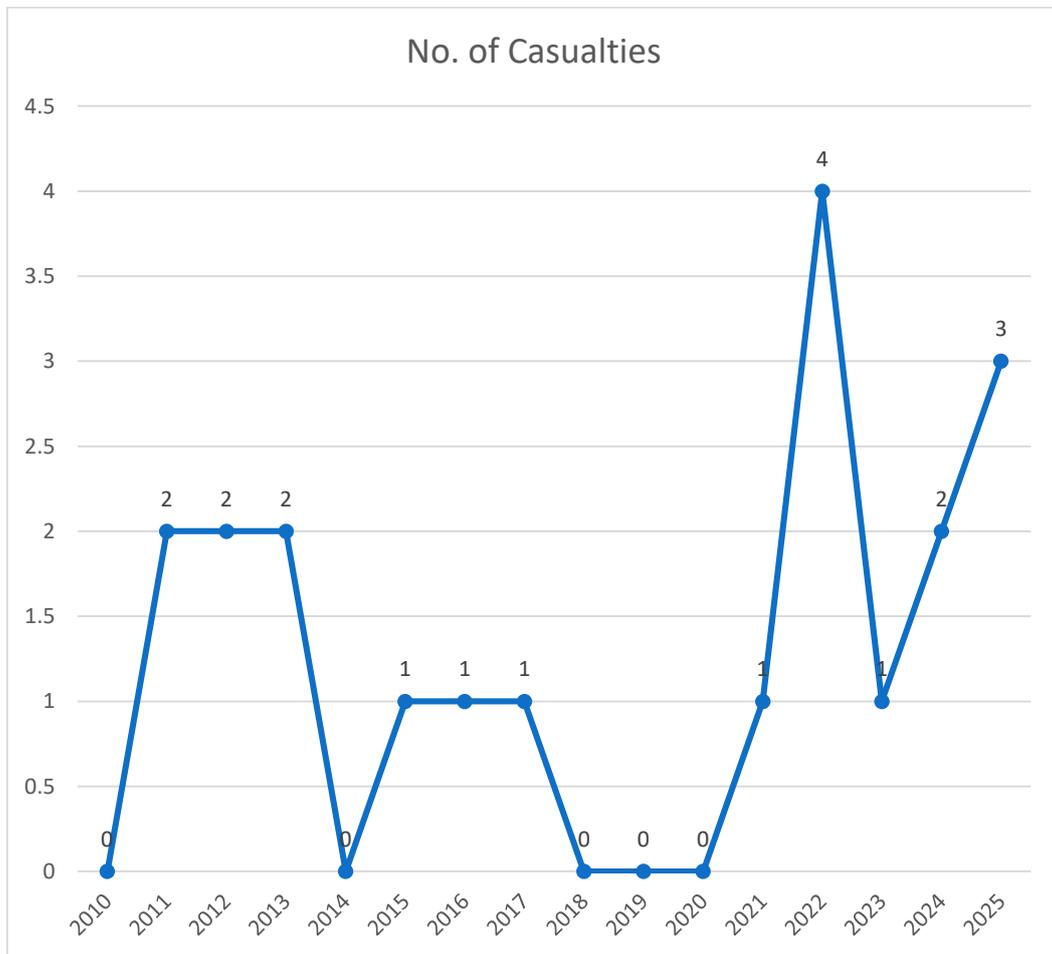
Table 31: Number of Port State Control Inspections for period July 2010 to June 2025



Number of Casualties at Sea for period July 2010 to June 2025

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
No. of Casualties	0	2	2	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	4	1	2	3

Table 32: Number of Casualties at Sea for period July 2010 to June 2025

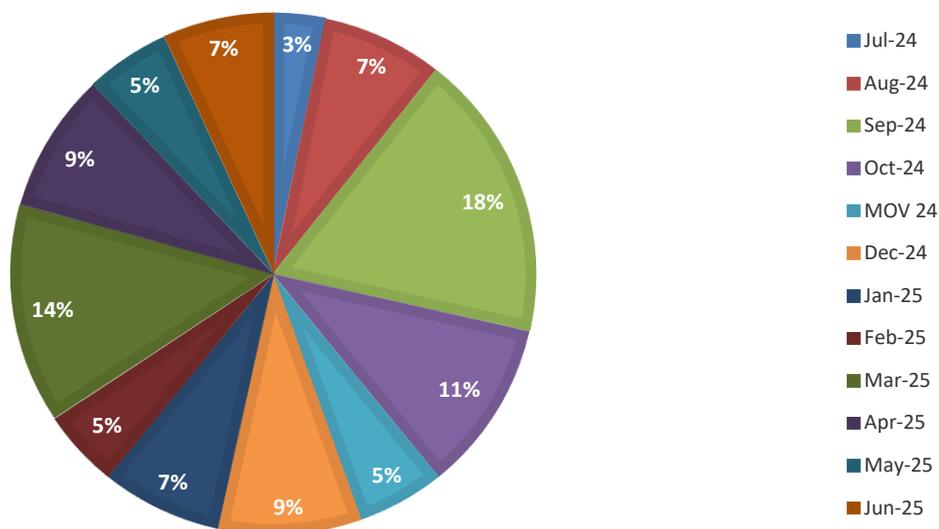


Number of Safety Inspections of Foreign Fishing Vessels for period July 2024 to June 2025

Month	JUL 24	AUG 24	SEP 24	OCT 24	MOV 24	DEC 24	JAN 25	FEB 25	MAR 25	APR 25	MAY 25	JUN 25
No. of Safety Inspections of Foreign Fishing Vessels	16	37	89	53	27	44	37	24	68	43	26	34

Table 33: Number of Safety Inspections of Foreign Fishing Vessels for period July 2024 to June 2025

Chart 5: Monthly Percent Distribution of Safety Inspections of Foreign Fishing Vessels for the Period July 2024 to June 2025

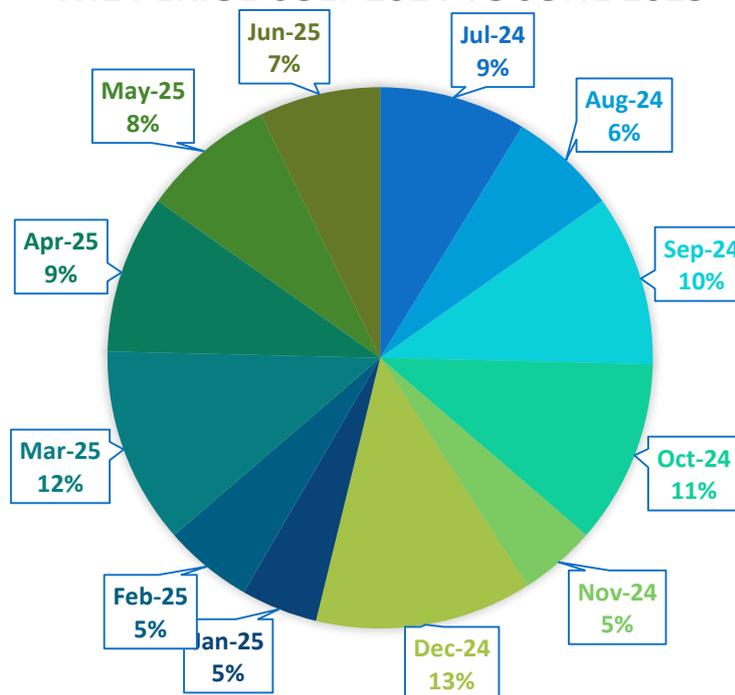


Number of STCW Endorsement Certificates issued for period July 2024 to June 2025

Month	JUL 24	AUG 24	SEP 24	OCT 24	NOV 24	DEC 24	JAN 25	FEB 25	MAR 25	APR 25	MAY 25	JUN 25
No. of STCW Endorsement Certificates Issued	23	17	27	29	12	34	12	14	31	25	21	19

Table 34: Number of STCW Endorsement Certificates issued for period July 2024 to June 2025

CHART 6: MONTHLY PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF STCW ENDORSEMENT CERTIFICATES ISSUED FOR THE PERIOD JULY 2024 TO JUNE 2025



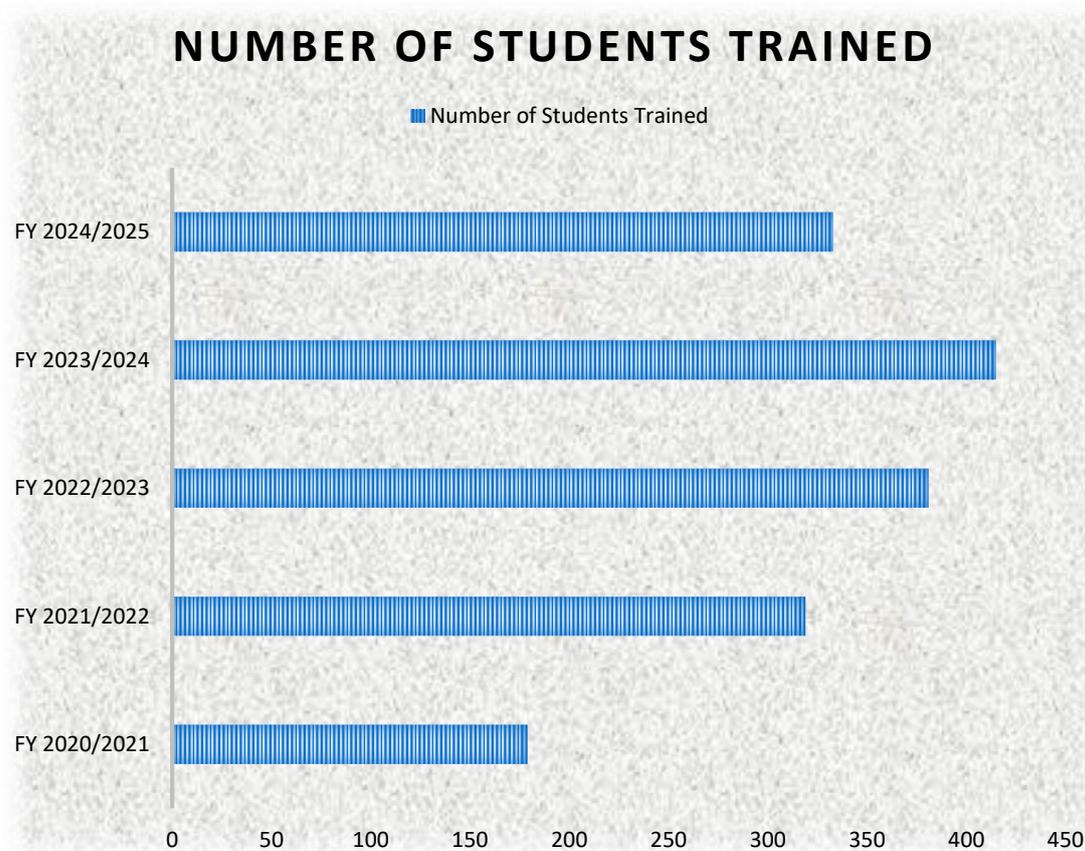
K. Mauritius Maritime Training Academy

Number of students trained at the MMTA

Number of students trained for the last 5 years				
S.N	Financial Year	Number of Students Trained	Male	Female
1	FY 2020/2021	179	158	21
2	FY 2021/2022	319	198	121
3	FY 2022/2023	381	207	174
4	FY 2023/2024	415	262	153
5	FY 2024/2025	333	251	82

Table 35: Number of students trained at the MMTA

At present MMTA is in the capacity of delivering twenty courses to prospective students. There is scope for additional courses to be run in future.



Statistics for Financial Year 2024-2025

SN	COURSE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1	Basic Safety/Crowd Management/Crisis Management/Proficiency in Security Awareness	140	69	209
2	Refresher Course (BST)	46	14	60
3	Marine Engineering Course (MPA Officers)	9	0	9
4	Survival at Sea	4	0	4
5	Refresher Training for Skipper Fishing Vessels of 24 meters or more on unlimited voyages	4	0	4
6	Proficiency in Designated Security Duties	3	1	4
7	Rating Forming Part of an Engineering Watch + Refresher RFPEW	4	0	4
8	Rating Forming part of a Navigational Watch	3	0	3
9	Able Seafarer (Deck) + Refresher	4	0	4
10	Able Seafarer (Engine) + Refresher	2	0	2
	TOTAL	219	84	333

Figure 43: Statistics for Financial Year 2024-2025

Implementation of Budget Measures

A status of the achievements of the budget measures and key actions are provided in Tables 37 and 38: -

SN	Budget Paragraph	Budget Measure	Status as at 30 June 2025
1.	Grant for purchase of hooks	Paid to registered line fishers once yearly. Each fisher is paid Rs 3,500	The amount of Rs 8,046,500/- was paid in December 2024
2.	Grant for purchase of basket traps	Paid to registered basket trap fishers once yearly. Each fisher is paid Rs 7,500	The amount of Rs 9,397,500/- was paid in December 2024
3.	98 (c)	Provision of Rs 300,000, instead of Rs 200,000, for the acquisition of canottes	An open Expression of Interest was launched on 02 September 2024 to invite fishermen willing to benefit from the scheme to submit applications. During the financial year 2024/25, a total of 113 applications have been received at the level of this Ministry, including 103 applications following the EOI. Twenty-eight (28) fishers have availed of financial assistance under the scheme and benefited from a total grant amount of Rs 6,091,000, funded through the Ministry's Budget and from the National Resilience Fund (NRF). The other applications are under process.
4.	Upgrading of Fish Landing Station	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.	Upgrading of Fisheries Posts	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.
6.	Upgrading of Fish Landing Station	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 is at the bidding stage.
7.	Lump sum to artisanal fishers	Paid to fishers above 60 years and voluntarily retiring from fishing and surrendering their fisher cards. The compensation is Rs 125,000 as per budget measures 2024/2025	Year 2024-2025 An amount of Rs 250,000/- paid

8.	Compensation to net fishers returning their fisher card	Paid to net fishers who voluntarily relinquish their fisher cards. A net fisher operating in an individual net fishery is compensated Rs 200,000 while a fisher operating in a cooperative/association net fishery is compensated Rs 250,000 as per budget measures 2024/2025	No compensation paid for financial year 2024-2025.
9.	Bad Weather Allowance	Paid to fishers on a monthly basis for proclaimed bad weather days. Since July 2024, the rate of a bad weather day is Rs 800. The number of registered artisanal fishers as at May 2025 is 2, 565.	An amount of Rs 383,047,300/- has been disbursed in respect of daily Bad Weather Allowance for financial year 2024-2025.
10.	107	Increase in the grant for acquisition of semi-industrial fishing boats by registered cooperatives from Rs 4 million to Rs 6 million.	<p>Open Expressions of Interest (EOIs) were launched on 12 September, 8 October, and 11 October 2024, inviting applications from eligible fishermen cooperatives, companies, and individual fishermen.</p> <p>For the financial year 2024/2025, a total of 12 applications from fishermen cooperatives were approved by the IFCM for financing, amounting to Rs 63 million. Funding was provided through this Ministry's budget and the National Resilience Fund (NRF). In addition, three new applications were received following the launch of the new EOI. Of these, one application has been reviewed and deemed eligible by this Ministry's Selection Committee and forwarded to IFCM Ltd for financial assessment, while the remaining two are still under review at the level of the Ministry.</p> <p>With regard to fishing companies, one applicant from FY 2023/2024 received a one-off grant of Rs 1 M on 04 July 2024, following the signature of a Letter of Undertaking. Since the launch of the new EOI, an additional application has been received and approved for the grant of Rs 1 M, and its Letter of Offer and Letter of Intent are currently being finalised.</p>

Table 36: Status of the achievements of the budget measures

Key Action	Key Performance Indicator	Target for FY 2024 - 2025	Actual for FY 2024 - 2025
Sustainable development of the Blue Economy and conservation of aquatic resources and the marine development	Exports earnings from fish and fish preparations (Rs bn)	17	17.2
Increase local fish production	Tonnes of fish produced	37,000	39,114
Development of local fleet and promotion of off-lagoon fishing	Number of canottes acquired by registered fishermen	80	35
Empowerment of fishers	Number of fishers trained	300	504
Preservation of marine ecosystems through coral farming to rehabilitate degraded coral reefs	Number of sites rehabilitated	3	3
Enforce compliance of vessels with maritime standards	Number of inspections on vessels	110	573

Table 37: Key actions

L. Workshop/Training

(I) Awareness Workshop on Biofouling Management for Recreational Vessels

On 01 August 2024, the Shipping Division of the Mauritius Maritime Administration successfully organised a half-day awareness workshop on Biofouling Management for Recreational Vessels at the Caudan Arts Centre, with the participation of over 55 stakeholders from the maritime, tourism, science and private sectors.



Figure 44 - Awareness Workshop on Biofouling Management for Recreational Vessels

This initiative formed part of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Partnerships Project, a global effort led by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to combat the transfer of invasive aquatic species through ships' biofouling.

Mauritius, as one of the 12 Lead Partnering Countries (LPCs) of the project, has already benefitted from a series of technical training on biofouling management in previous years. The August 2024 workshop marked the final national activity under the GloFouling Partnerships Project and specifically targeted recreational vessels, such as yachts and small boats, which play a significant role in the unintentional transfer of invasive aquatic species.

The workshop highlighted the environmental and economic risks posed by unmanaged biofouling, including reduced vessel efficiency, increased fuel consumption and the spread of harmful non-native organisms that can alter marine ecosystems and threaten biodiversity. With the tourism and marine leisure industry being vital pillars of the Mauritian economy, the event served as an important platform to encourage pleasure craft operators, paint companies, shipyard staff and regulatory bodies to adopt best practices in biofouling prevention and control.

A key feature of the event was the official launch of Virtual Reality (VR) glasses for the Biofouling Experience, provided by the IMO. This innovative tool allowed participants to immerse themselves in an underwater environment and gain first-hand insight into the impact of biofouling on both marine ecosystems and vessel performance.

By fostering greater awareness among local stakeholders, this workshop served as a stepping stone towards sustainable maritime practices and reaffirmed Mauritius commitment to safeguarding its marine environment while strengthening its maritime sector against the challenges posed by invasive aquatic species.

(II) Train the Trainer Course on Port Facility Security Officers from 9 to 13 December 2024

A Port Facility Security Officers' Training was launched by the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, Dr Arvin Boolell, G.O.S.K, at the United Docks Business Park in Port-Louis.

This five-day training, organised by the Blue Economy and Fisheries Division of this Ministry, is a continuation of the Port Security Training Project of the International Maritime Organisation, in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Commission and the European Union, for capacity building in maritime security. Its aim is to enhance capacity building for personnel from relevant Port Security Facilities, who are directly or indirectly involved in the implementation of maritime security in our Port.

The Government's endeavour to make the port evolve to become bigger, smarter and safer to meet the demands of the dynamic global economy.



Figure 45 - Train the Trainer Course on Port Facility Security Officers

(III) Port Security and Safety of Navigation

The Government of Mauritius, in collaboration with The International Maritime Organization (IMO), organised a regional workshop on Port Security and Safety of Navigation in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean from 28 to 30 April 2025 at the Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Port Louis.

The three-day event brought together over 70 participants, including representatives from the Mauritius Ports Authority, National Coast Guard, Police, Customs, Immigration, and port facility operators, as well as regional stakeholders and IMO experts.

Key activities included:

- (a) A tabletop exercise simulating a maritime security incident to test national coordination and response.
- (b) Technical sessions on the ISPS Code, emerging threats, and best practices in maritime security.
- (c) Development of a draft framework for a National Maritime Security Committee (NMSC) for Mauritius to strengthen inter-agency cooperation.

Main outcomes:

- (i) Improved awareness of security challenges and IMO frameworks.
- (ii) Identification of national gaps in communication, coordination, and resources.
- (iii) Agreement on the roadmap to establish the NMSC.
- (iv) Strengthened regional collaboration across ESA-IO countries.

The workshop highlighted Mauritius' commitment to enhancing maritime security and navigation safety while supporting regional stability and the protection of maritime trade routes.



Figure 46- Regional Workshop on Port Security and Safety of Navigation

(IV) Workshops and events attended by officers of the Aquaculture Division



Seminar on Marine Economic Development and Management for Developing Countries, Xiamen, China



Training Course on Marine Environment and Three-Dimensional Disaster Monitoring Capacity for Small Island Developing Countries, Hangzhou, China



Ceremony for the award of Certificates and Remittance of Artisanal Fisher Registration Cards, Cote d'Or, Mauritius



Training course on mariculture and processing and circulation technology of Aquatic products for developing countries



Figure 47 – Workshops and Events attended by Officers of the Aquaculture Division

M. Events

World Fisheries Day

The International Day of Fishermen (IDOF), renamed as the World Fisheries Day, was celebrated on 21 December 2024 at Le Morne Village Public Beach. The function was celebrated at the monument erected in 2002 by the Fishermen Welfare Fund, in memory of fishers who have disappeared at sea during the performance of their duty.

The function comprised Inter-Religious prayers made by different religious priests, followed by a parade by the National Coast Guard and the “Last Post” was performed by Police Band and a Wreath Laying Ceremony by eminent personalities.



Figure 48 – World Fisheries Day

N. Audit Committee

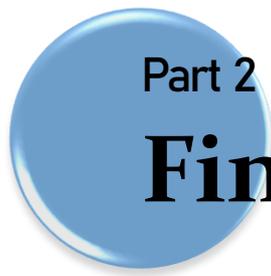
The Audit Committee (AC) set up by the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries (Blue Economy and Fisheries Division) has the following composition:

Name	Designation	Position on the AC
Mrs. Chamroo-Jaddoo	Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary	Chairperson
Mr. Ravi Mohit	Assistant Director of Fisheries	Member
Mrs. Sarita Dookhit	Assistant Permanent Secretary	Member
Mrs. Zaynab Lallmahomed	Office Management Assistant	Secretary

Table 38: Composition of Audit Committee

There have been 8 meetings of the AC in Financial Year 2024/25 and quarterly reports have been duly submitted to the Office of Public Sector Governance. The AC has performed in accordance with the Audit Committee Charter and Performance Contract.

The AC has taken up issues which have been highlighted in the annual Audit Report by the Director of Audit, internal audit reports, OPSG Reports and have reported same to the Accounting Officer and OPSG through the quarterly reports and ascertain that necessary remedial actions are taken.



Part 2

Financial Performance

Financial Performance of the Ministry

This 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

S/N	Description	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025
		Actual (Rs)	Estimates (Rs)	Actual (Rs)
1	Fishing Vessel Licence	65,197,025.54	69,000,000.00	49,313,517.65
2	Fishmonger Licence	334,980	1,000,000.00	349,855.00
3	Ship's Registration Fee	1,010,647.20	400,000.00	260,459.63
4	Annual Fees (Shipping)	6,557,125.95	6,800,000.00	6,583,084.98
5	Processing fees for Inspection	4,500,278	4,700,000.00	5,650,000.00
6	Permits/ Fees to Operate in Marine Protected Areas	1,560,100	1,600,000.00	1,658,000.00
7	Fees for services provided at the Competent Authority	2,883,300	2,800,000.00	3,120,800.00
8	Sale of Produce	240,658.75	350,000.00	146,624.35
9	Miscellaneous. Sales of Goods and services (Fisheries)	42,794,776.78	55,400,000.00	72,545,174.44
10	Miscellaneous Sales of Goods and Services - (Shipping)	7,440,852.69	7,400,000.00	9,175,862.32
	TOTAL	132,519,744.91	149,450,000.00	148,803,378.37

Table 39: Statement of Revenue of the Ministry

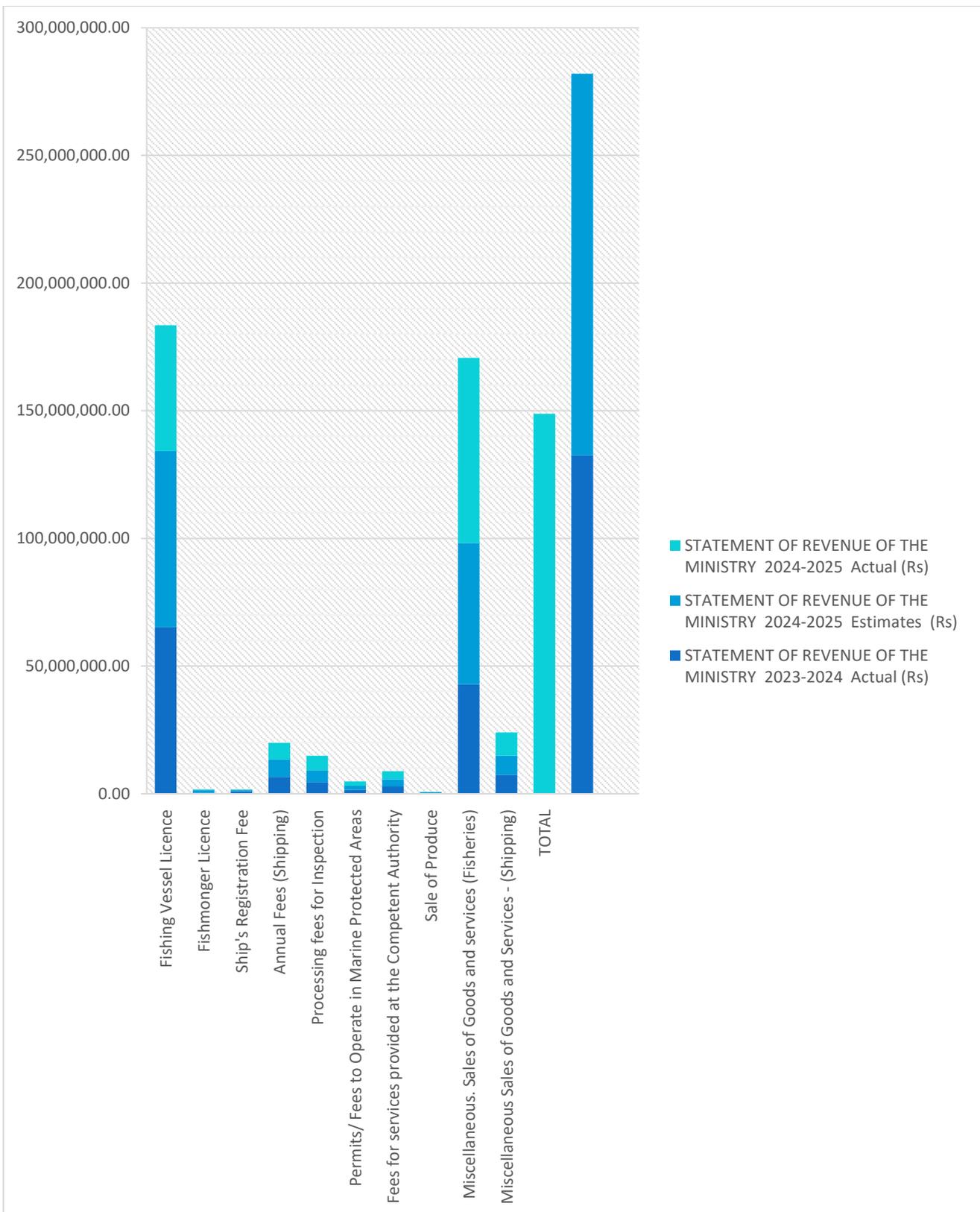


Figure 49 – Actual Revenue of the Ministry 2024-2025

The financial highlights of the Expenditure by Votes and the Categories therein for the financial year 2024-2025 are illustrated below:

Expenditure for Vote 19-1 Blue Economy

SN	Head/Sub-Head of Expenditure	2023-2024 Actual (Rs)	2024-2025 Estimates (Rs)	2024-2025 Actual (Rs)
1	Compensation of Employees	85,793,352	98,000,000	89,185,000
2	Goods and Services	74,991,874	79,840,000	71,509,000
3	Subsidies	450,000	450,000	419,000
4	Recurrent Grants	49,054,437	58,500,000	57,234,000
5	Social Benefits	10,000	10,000	10,000
6	Other Expenses	53,511,363	65,400,000	64,322,000
7	Capital Grants	10,091,853	7,200,000	-
8	Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	30,459,292	36,700,000	30,509,000
	Total	304,362,172	348,500,000	314,237,000

Table 40: Statement of Expenditure of Blue Economy

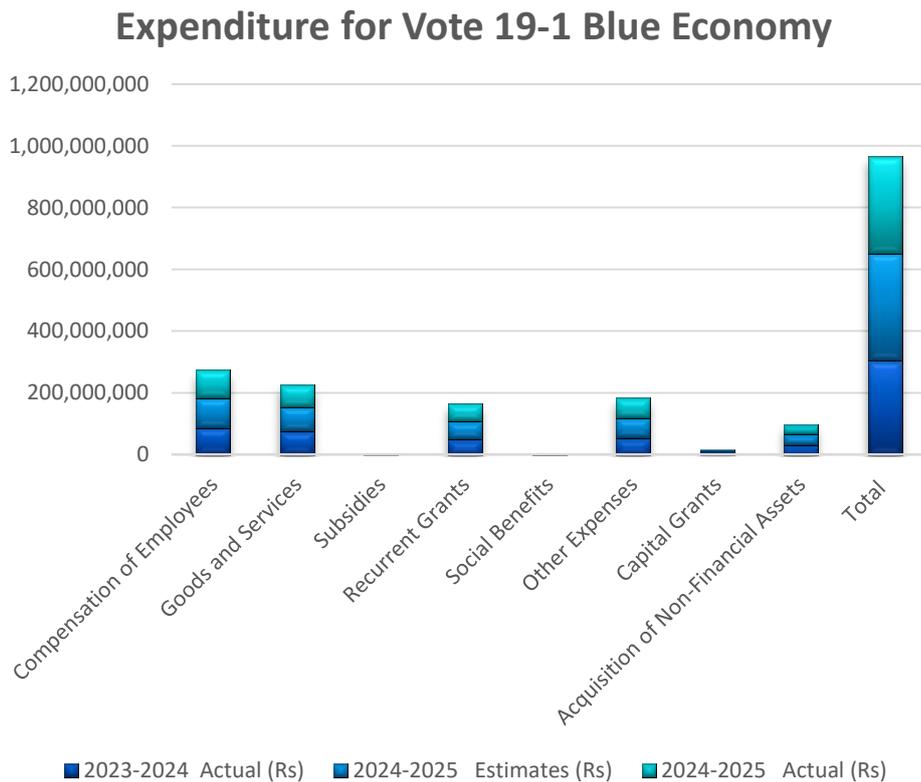


Figure 50 - Estimated and Actual Expenditure of Ocean Economy for FY 2024-2025

Expenditure for Vote 19-2 Fisheries

SN	Head/Sub-Head of Expenditure	2023-2024 Actual (Rs)	2024-2025 Estimates (Rs)	2024-2025 Actual (Rs)
1	Compensation of Employees	185,928,203	206,100,000	201,234,000
2	Goods and Services	79,109,676	95,200,000	62,442,000
3	Recurrent Grants	15,206,257	23,100,000	15,744,000
4	Other Expenses (Recurrent)	17,964,092	48,600,000	25,661,000
5	Other Expenses (Capital)	15,000,000	21,000,000	16,000,000
6	Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	40,619,388	56,000,000	26,153,000
	TOTAL	353,827,616	450,000,000	347,234,000

Table 41: Statement of Expenditure of Fisheries

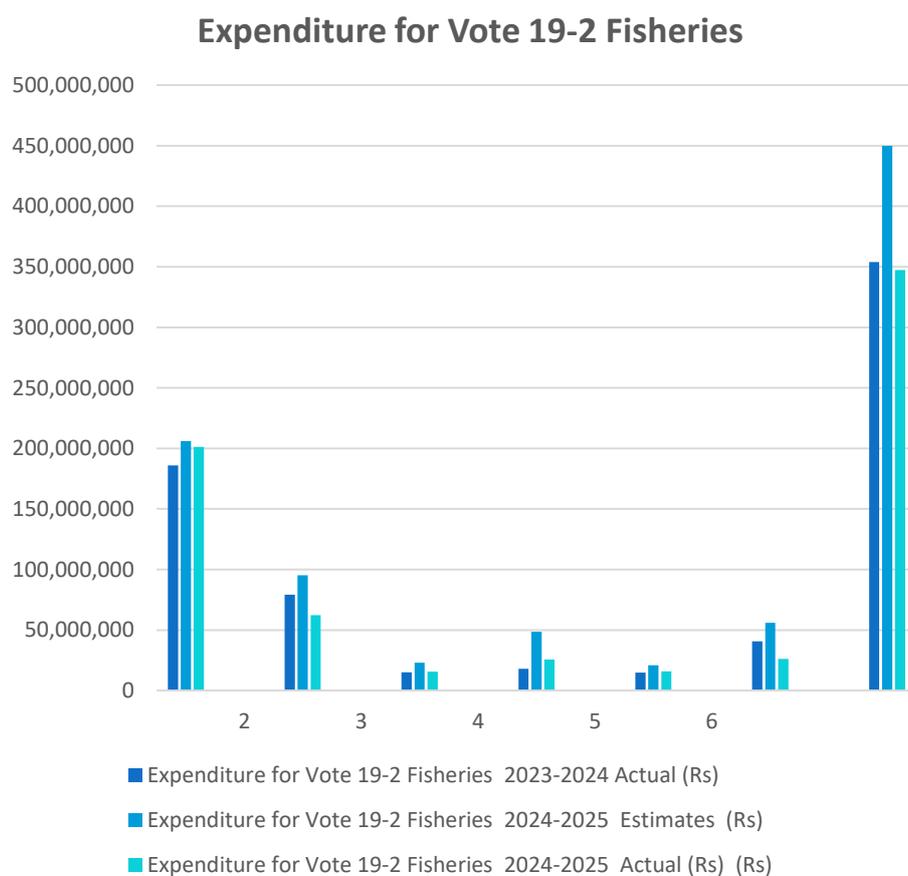


Figure 51 - Estimated and Actual Expenditure of Fisheries for FY 2024-2025

Analysis of Major Changes

Revenue

An increase of 12% in the Financial Year 2024/2025 is observed, compared to Financial Year 2023/2024.

There has been an increase in revenue for Miscellaneous Sales of Goods and Services (Fisheries).

Expenditures

The actual total Expenditure in Financial Year 2024/25 shows an increase of 3.24% for vote 19-1 Blue Economy, compared to Financial Year 2023/24.

This increase is due to an increase in Expenditure for “Compensation of Employees”, “Recurrent Grants” and “Other Expenses- Capital”.

The actual total Expenditure in Financial Year 2024/25 shows a decrease of 1.86% for vote 19-2 Fisheries, compared to Financial Year 2023/24.

This decrease is due to a decrease in Expenditure for “Goods & Services”, and “Acquisition of Non - Financial Assets”.

Performance of Procurement and Supply

The Procurement and Supply section of this Ministry carried out its activities 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 2024-2025 under report are given in Table 41 below:

Tenders launched/Contracts awarded	Number
Formal tenders	38
Informal tenders	478
Value of Contracts awarded/ Donation	Amount (Rs.)
Total value of contract amount awarded above Rs. 100,000	11,428,654.39
Total value of contract amount awarded below Rs. 100,000	4,738,969.56
Donations received	626,358.90
Value of physical stock as 30 June 2025	9,921,925.30
Number of Contracts awarded	Number
Contracts awarded to SMEs	810

Total Contract (year base)	Amount
Total contract amount approved for SMEs as from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024	17,051,135.85
Total contract amount approved for SMEs as from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025	16,419,263.76

Table 42: Breakdown of different activities carried out by Procurement Section

Part 3



Strategic Direction and Way Forward

Strategic Direction for the Blue Economy Sector of Mauritius

1. Diversification of the Blue Economy Sectors

- (f) Expand beyond traditional sectors such as fishing and tourism, to include aquaculture, marine biotechnology, offshore renewable energy and seabed mining.

2. Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

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

3. Marine Conservation and Ecosystem Management

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

4. Climate Resilience and Adaptation

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

5. Enhanced Research and Innovation

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

6. Governance and Regional Cooperation

- (q) Enhance regional and international cooperation for managing shared resources, combating illegal fishing and ensuring maritime security.
- (r) Foster stakeholder engagement by involving local communities, private sector, NGOs and academic institutions in decision-making.

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