SEYCHELLES National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2026

Seychelles Fisheries Authority, Fishing Port, Victoria, Seychelles

INFORMATION ON FISHERIES RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02 (and other data related CMMs as noted below), final scientific data for the previous year were provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year, **for all fleets other than longline** [e.g., for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2026, final data for the 2025 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 June 2026)	YES 30/06/2026
In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02, provisional **longline data** for the previous year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year [e.g., for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2026, preliminary data for the 2025 calendar year were provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June 2026). **REMINDER:** Final longline data for the previous year are due to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 Dec of the current year [e.g., for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2026, final data for the 2025 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 December 2026).	YES 30/06/2026
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

Executive Summary

In 2025, Seychelles' tuna fisheries showed contrasting trends across the three fleet segments. The Seychelles purse seine fleet reported an estimated catch of 134,240 MT, representing a 16% increase compared to 115,488 MT in 2024. Fishing effort declined by 5%, from 3,630 fishing days in 2024 to 3,460 fishing days in 2025. Consequently, the average catch rate increased from 31.82 MT per fishing day to 38.80 MT per fishing day, the highest level recorded since 2022. Increases were observed across all major tuna species, with catches of yellowfin tuna, skipjack tuna and bigeye tuna increasing by 3%, 20% and 30%, respectively, compared to 2024.

The Seychelles industrial longline fleet reported an estimated catch of 14,768 MT in 2025, representing a 27% increase from 11,606 MT in 2024. Fishing effort increased substantially by 48%, from 19.60 million hooks to 29.04 million hooks. Despite the increase in total catches, the average catch rate declined from 0.59 MT/1,000 hooks in 2024 to 0.51 MT/1,000 hooks in 2025. Bigeye tuna remained the dominant species in the catch, accounting for 42% of the total catch, followed by yellowfin tuna (29%) and species classified under the NEI category (16%).

The semi-industrial longline fleet reported a total catch of 1,965 MT in 2025, a 7% decrease from 2,102 MT in 2024. Fishing effort also declined by 9%, from 6.79 million hooks to 6.18 million hooks. However, the average catch rate increased slightly from 0.31 MT/1,000 hooks to 0.32 MT/1,000 hooks. Yellowfin tuna remained the principal species caught, contributing approximately 79% of the total catch, followed by bigeye tuna at 11%. While yellowfin tuna catches declined by 16% compared to 2024, catches of bigeye tuna increased by 70%, from 131 MT to 223 MT.

Consistent with previous years, SFA continued to enhance its fisheries data collection and management systems. In 2025, a web-based platform, LTO, was developed to facilitate the automated transfer of logbook data submitted in Excel format by Seychelles-flagged industrial longliners into the OBSERVE database. In addition, a suite of R scripts was developed to automate data processing and support advanced analyses, improving the efficiency, accuracy, and timeliness of fisheries data management.

Efforts to mitigate the ecological impacts of drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (dFADs) continued through the FADWATCH Project, implemented in collaboration with SFA, AGAC, ANABAC and SIOTI. The project monitored dFAD movements across Seychelles waters and facilitated the recovery of over 150 dFADs and 170 instrumented buoys since 2023. Key findings were presented to the IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch in 2025.

The review of the national dFAD Management Plan was initiated through a comprehensive multi-stakeholder consultation process involving government, industry, civil society and conservation partners. In parallel, Seychelles progressed with the revision of its National Plan of Action (NPOA) for sharks and initiated the development of new NPOAs for seabirds and marine turtles.

The enactment of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2025 strengthened the legal framework for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management. Seychelles also became the first country in the world to achieve FiTI-compliant status following its second validation, reflecting its commitment to transparency and good governance.

Overall, 2025 saw progress in fisheries legislation, ecosystem conservation, management and transparency.

Contents

1. Fleet structure 3

2. Catch and effort (by species and fishery) 3

3.1. Purse Seine Fishery 3

3.2. INDUSTRIAL LONGLINE FISHERY 6

3.3. SEMI-INDUSTRIAL (SMALL SCALE) FRESH TUNA LONGLINERS 10

3. Recreational fishery 11

4. Ecosystem and bycatch issues 12

5.1 Sharks 12

5.2 Seabirds 2

5.3 Marine Turtles 3

5.4 Other ecologically related species (e.g., cetaceans, mobulid rays, whale sharks) 3

5. National data collection and processing systems 4

6.1. Logsheet data collection and verification 4

6.2. Observer scheme 4

6.3. Port sampling programme 6

6.4. Actions taken to monitor catches & manage fisheries for Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish 7

6.5. Gillnet observer coverage and monitoring 7

6.6 Sampling plans for mobulid rays 8

6.7 Electronic Monitoring Standards 8

6. National research programs 9

7.1. National research programs on blue shark 9

7.2. National research programs on Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish 9

7.3. National research programs on sharks 9

7.4. National research programs on oceanic whitetip sharks 9

7.5. National research programs on marine turtles 9

7.6. National research programs on thresher sharks 9

7. Implementation of Scientific Committee Recommendations and Resolutions of the IOTC relevant to the SC. 10

8. Literature cited 13

BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION

The Republic of Seychelles, an archipelago of around 115 islands with an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of about 1.37 million km² in the Western Indian Ocean, continues to rely heavily on marine resources for economic and social development. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), the country has limited land- based opportunities, making fisheries vital for employment, food security, foreign exchange earnings, and government revenue.

Since the mid-1980s, Seychelles has granted access to foreign-flagged vessels to fish for tuna and tuna-like species within its EEZ through various agreements. Seychelles-registered vessels began operating in 1997, initially as purse seiners, followed by industrial longliners in 1999 and semi-industrial longliners in 1995. While artisanal and recreational fisheries target reef and demersal species, they occasionally catch tuna species as bycatch, while sport fishing continues at a smaller scale, mainly for tourism.

The Seychelles Fisheries Authority (SFA), established in 1984, remains the primary agency responsible for overseeing sustainable fisheries development. The Seychelles Fisheries Authority Act 2024, which came into force on 29 July 2024, reaffirmed and expanded SFA's mandate to cover aquaculture, fishing-related activities and port management. In 2025, the enactment of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2025 modernised the national legislative framework, strengthening fisheries management, compliance, monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement, while supporting alignment with international and regional obligations, including IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

Seychelles' fishing fleet comprises industrial, semi-industrial and artisanal components. The industrial sector, mainly purse seiners and longliners targets tuna and tuna-like species mainly in areas beyond national jurisdiction, while the semi-industrial fleet focuses is mainly within the Seychelles EEZ.

Consistent with previous years, SFA continued to strengthen its fisheries data collection and management systems. In 2024, new modules were integrated into the OBSERVE software to support the comprehensive management of purse seine, industrial longline, and semi-industrial longline fisheries data. In addition, data validation tools were upgraded to ensure full compatibility with the OBSERVE platform. To streamline data transfer and processing, SFA developed a web-based platform, LTO, in 2025 to automatically import logbook records submitted in Excel format by Seychelles-flagged industrial longliners into OBSERVE. During the same year, the system was further enhanced through the development of a suite of R scripts to automate data processing and strengthen analytical capabilities, thereby improving the efficiency, accuracy, and timeliness of fisheries data management.

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) efforts continued to strengthen through expanded Electronic Monitoring (EM) and Electronic Reporting (ER) initiatives and improved observer coverage on the purse seine fleet.

Environmental monitoring advanced through the FADWATCH initiative, implemented with AGAC, ANABAC and SIOTI, which tracks and recovers drifting FADs approaching sensitive coastal areas. Since 2023, over 150 dFADs and more than 170 instrumented buoys have been recovered.

In 2025, Seychelles became the first country in the world to achieve Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) compliant status following its second validation, demonstrating its commitment to fisheries transparency, public access to fisheries information and good governance. The country remains an active member of IOTC, SIOFA and other regional bodies, supporting science-based management and sustainable exploitation of tuna resources.

This National Report summarises activities of Seychelles' tuna and tuna-like fisheries over the past five years and outlines research, monitoring, and actions taken in 2025 to implement IOTC Scientific Committee recommendations and CMMs.

1. Fleet structure

Table 1a presents the number of Seychelles purse seiners, supply vessels, and both industrial and semi-industrial longliners from 2021 to 2025. The Seychelles flagged fishing fleet consists of purse seiners, supply vessels, industrial longliners and semi-industrial longliners, each with distinct characteristics and operational patterns. In 2025, the fleet included 15 purse seiners, all over 1000 GT, which operate on multi week trips targeting tuna and tuna-like species. There are 4 supply vessels, ranging from 101 - 500 GT that provide logistical support to the purse seine fishing fleet. Industrial longliners, 41 vessels in total with sizes between 101 - 1000 GT, conduct extended longline operations both within and beyond Seychelles waters. The semi-industrial longline sub sector, comprising of 70 vessels between 50-100 GT (46 authorized for operations beyond Seychelles EEZ), primarily undertakes short trips targeting tuna and tuna-like species, mostly within Seychelles waters.

Table 1a. Number of Seychelles registered vessels for the period 2021 – 2025

Year	Purse Seiners	Supply Vessels	Industrial Longliners	Semi-Industrial Longliners
2021	13	4	64	41
2022	13	4	58	56
2023	13	3	34	66
2024	13	4	27	67
2025	15	4	41	70

Table 1b. Seychelles registered vessels by size (GT) as reported to IOTC in 2025

GT	Purse Seiners	Supply Vessels	Industrial Longliners	Semi-Industrial Longliners*
<50	-	-	-	41
51-100	-	-	-	5
101-500	-	4	36	-
501-1000	-	-	5	-
>1000	15	-	-	-

* Contain only vessels authorised to fish outside of the Seychelles EEZ.

2. Catch and effort (by species and fishery)

3.1. Purse Seine Fishery

Table 2a summarizes the total annual catches by species, fishing effort, and catch rates of the Seychelles purse seine fleet from 2021 to 2025. Trend analysis over the five-year period indicates that total catches generally declined from 122,885 MT in 2021 to 115,488 MT in 2024. However, in 2025, total catches increased substantially to 134,240 MT, representing a 16% increase compared to 2024 (Table 2a and Figure 1a).

Fishing effort, measured in fishing days, increased from 3,027 fishing days in 2021 to 3,727 fishing days in 2023, an increase of approximately 23%. Fishing effort then declined to 3,630 days in 2024 and further to 3,460 days in 2025, representing an overall decrease of about 7% from the peak in 2023.

Historically, skipjack tuna has dominated the catches of Seychelles purse seiners operating in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO), a trend that continued in 2025. Skipjack tuna accounted for approximately 68% of the total catch, while yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna contributed 24% and 5%, respectively. Compared with 2024, yellowfin tuna catches increased slightly by 3.2%, from 31,105 MT to 32,105 MT in 2025. Over the same period catches of bigeye tuna and skipjack tuna increased significantly by approximately 30% and 20%, respectively.

Following an increase between 2021 and 2022, the fleet's catch rate declined from 41.12 MT/ Fishing Day in 2022 to 31.82 MT/ Fishing Day in 2024. In 2025, however, catch rates improved significantly, rising to 38.80 MT/ Fishing Day.

Table 2a. Seychelles flag purse seine annual catch, fishing effort and catch rates reported between 2021 and 2025

Year	Days Fished	Catch Rate	YFT	SKJ	BET	ALB	NEI	Total
2021	3,027	40.60	29,407	81,390	11,230	29	829	122,885
2022	2,934	41.12	30,978	78,250	10,074		1,340	120,642
2023	3,727	32.52	28,329	79,792	10,972	14	2,093	121,200
2024	3,630	31.82	31,105	76,692	5,200	46	2,445	115,488
2025	3,460	38.80	32,105	91,813	6,775	47	3,501	134,240

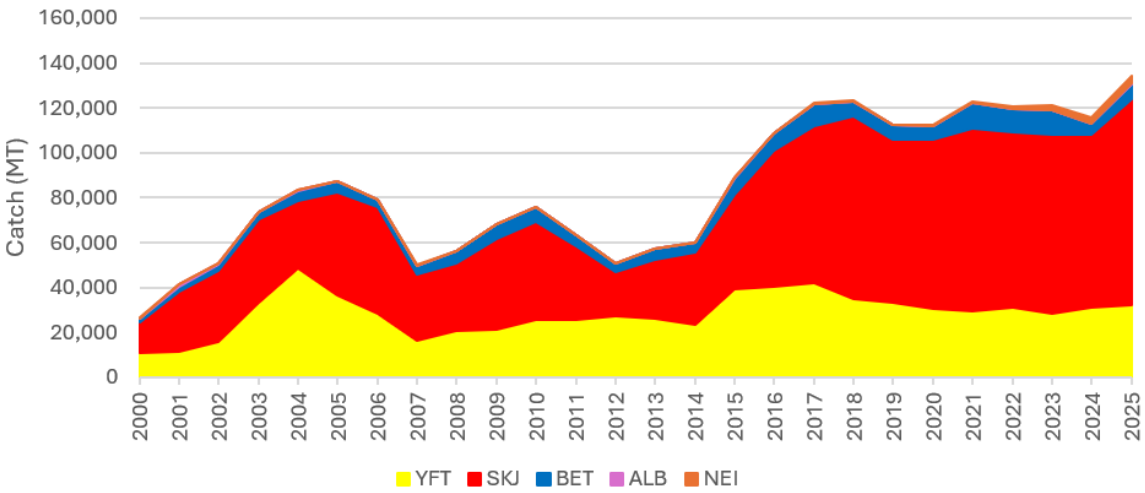


Figure 1a. Trends in annual catches by species for Seychelles' purse seine fleet reported for the period 2000 – 2025

Figure 2a. Map of the distribution of fishing effort, by Seychelles' purse seine fishery in the IOTC area of competence (2025).

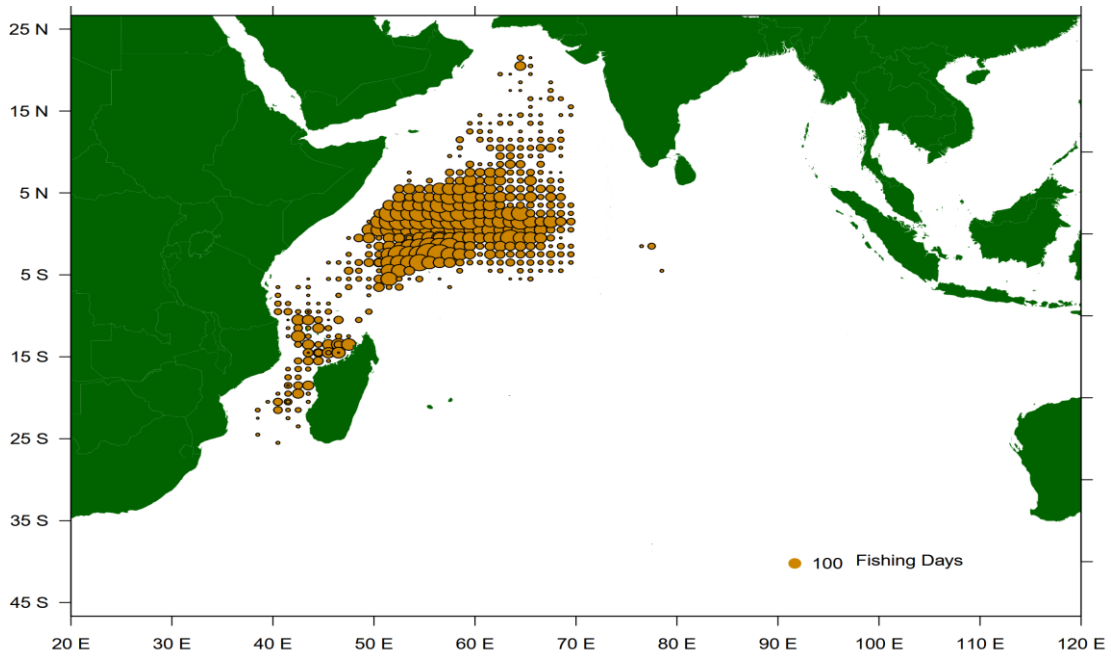


Figure 2b. Map of the distribution of fishing effort, by Seychelles' purse seine fishery in the IOTC area of competence (average 2021-2025).

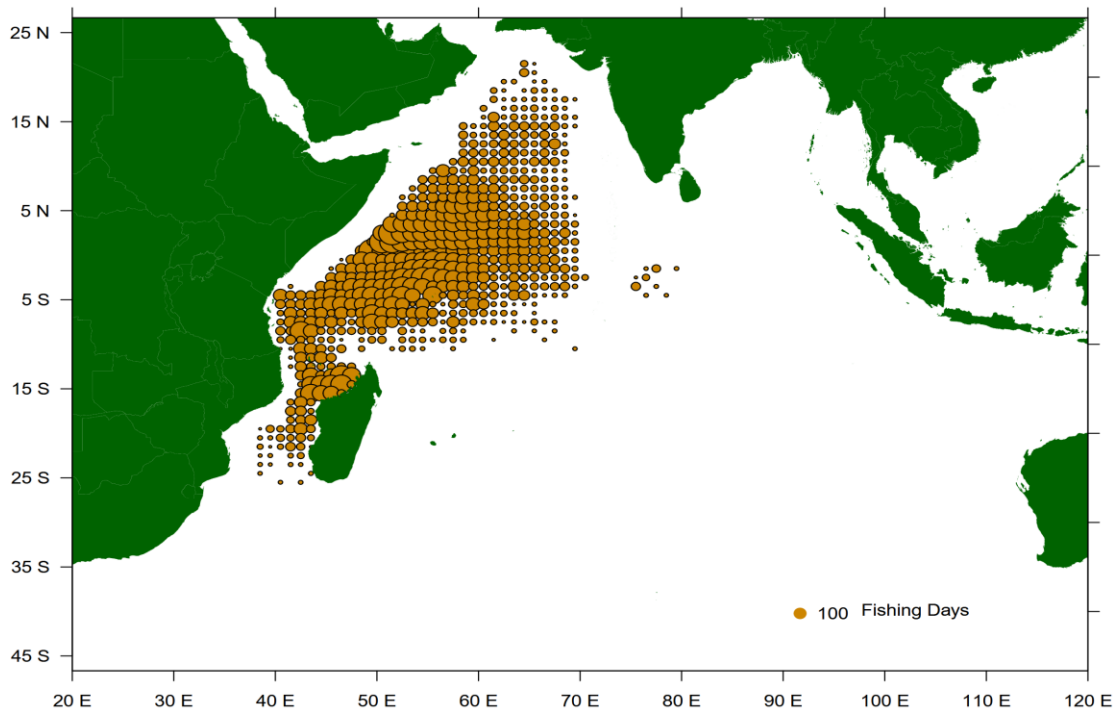


Figure 3a. Map of the distribution of catch, by Seychelles' purse seine fishery in the IOTC area of competence (2025).

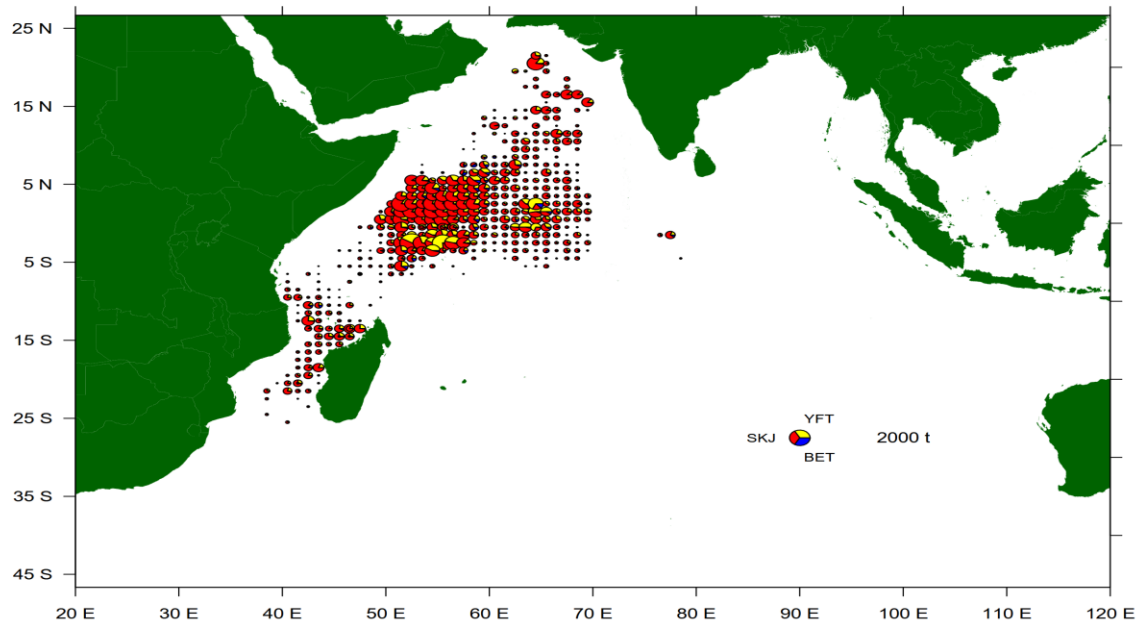
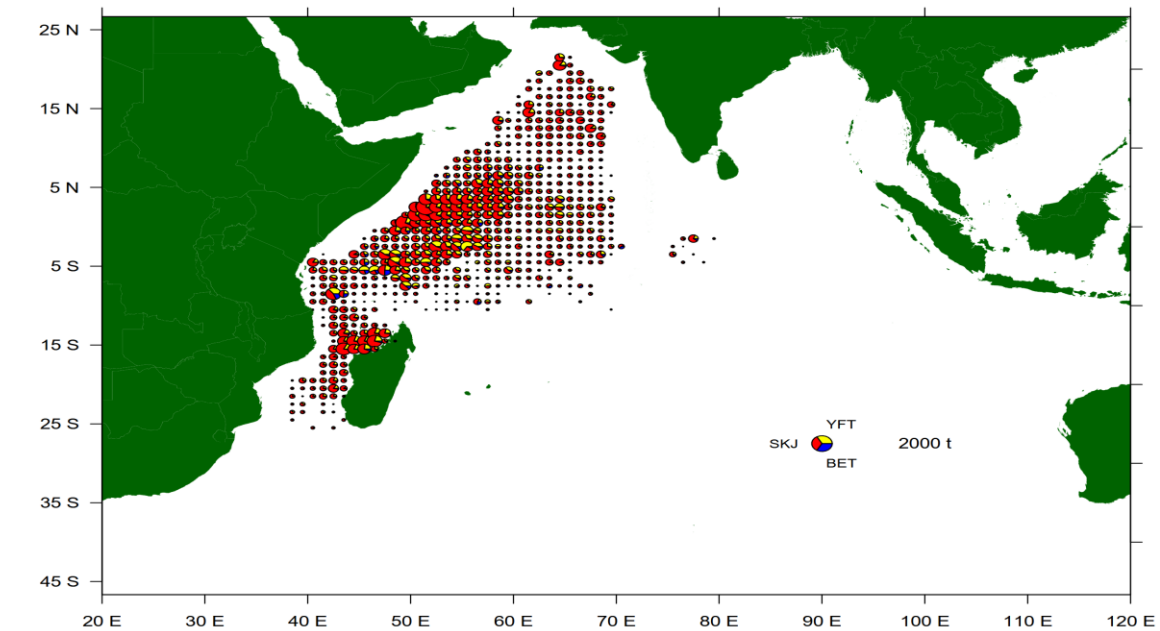


Figure 3b. Map of the distribution of catch, by Seychelles' purse seine fishery in the IOTC area of competence (average 2021-2025).



3.2. INDUSTRIAL LONGLINE FISHERY

Table 2b summarizes the annual catches by species, fishing effort and catch rates reported by the Seychelles industrial longline fleet operating in the IOTC area of competence during period 2021 to

2025. Fishing effort, measured by the number of hooks set, declined steadily from approximately 39.86 million hooks in 2021 to 19.6 million hooks in 2024. This reduction in effort corresponded with the significant decrease in the number of registered vessels, as highlighted in Section 1 of the report. The reduction in fleet size was largely driven by the limited fishing opportunities resulting from the implementation of the yellowfin tuna quota and, more recently, the bigeye tuna quota. In 2025, however, fishing effort increased by 48% to approximately 29.04 million hooks.

The total catch followed a similar trend, declining by 34% from 14,526 MT in 2021 to 9,627 MT in 2023. Catches subsequently increased to 11,606 MT in 2024 and further to an estimated 14,768 MT in 2025, a level comparable to that recorded in 2021.

Historically, bigeye tuna has been the dominant species in the catches of the Seychelles industrial longline fleet operating in the IOTC area of competence. However, yellowfin tuna became the predominant species during the period 2018-2020. In 2025, bigeye tuna once again dominated catches, with an estimated 6,250 MT, accounting for 42% of the total catch. Yellowfin tuna was the second most important species, representing 29% of total catch, followed by the NEI category at 16%. The NEI category consisted primarily of albacore and oilfish (*Ruvettus pretiosus*).

Compared with 2024, catches increased for most species in 2025, except for sharks. Yellowfin tuna catches increased slightly by 2.5%, from 4,233 MT in 2024 to 4,338 MT in 2025. Bigeye tuna catches increased by 28%, from 4,871 MT in 2024 to 6,250 MT in 2025. Notable increases were also observed for swordfish, marlins, and species grouped under the NEI category.

The catch rate reported by the Seychelles industrial longline fleet increased steadily from 0.36 MT/ 1,000 hooks in 2021 and 2022 to 0.59 MT/1,000 hooks in 2024. In 2025, the catch rate declined to 0.51 MT/1,000 hooks.

Table 2b. Annual catch (MT), fishing effort (Fishing days) and catch rates (MT/1000 hooks) estimated for the Seychelles industrial longline fishery operating in the IOTC area of competence, during the period 2021 -2025.

Year	Fishing Effort (million hooks)	Catch Rate (MT/1000 Hooks)	YFT	BET	SWO	MAR	SHK	NEI	Total
2021	39.86	0.36	3,064	5,826	1,100	408	578	3,550	14,526
2022	27.75	0.36	2,894	3,882	780	338	416	1,589	9,898
2023	20.10	0.48	3,320	3,533	588	258	292	1,637	9,627
2024	19.60	0.59	4,233	4,871	596	239	308	1,360	11,606
2025	29.04	0.51	4,338	6,250	938	585	245	2,411	14,768

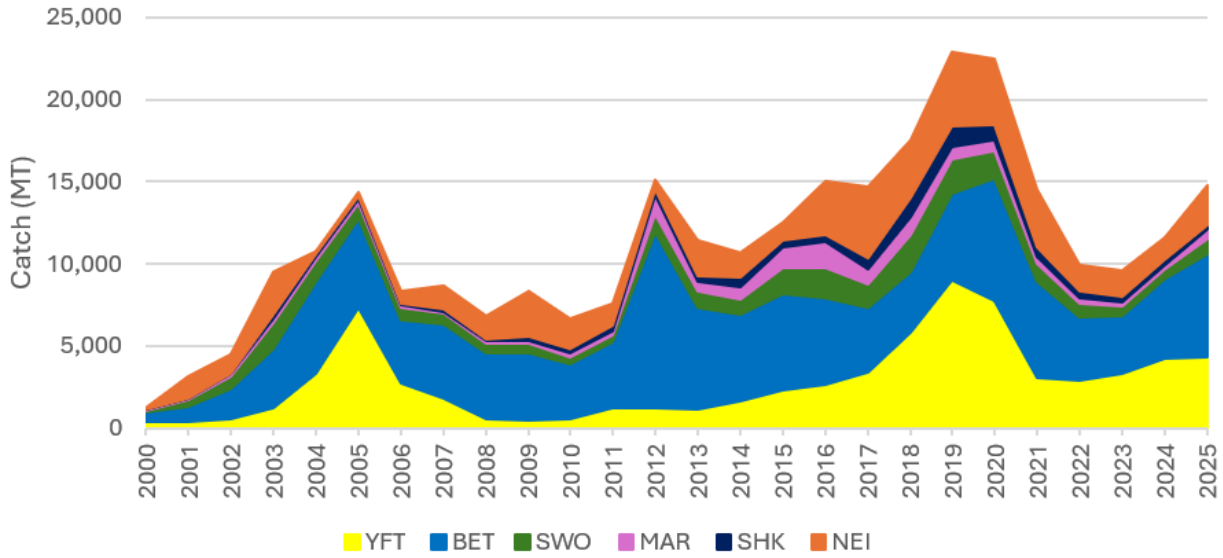


Figure 1b. Historical annual catch for the Seychelles' purse industrial longline fishery by primary species, for the IOTC area of competence for the period 2000-2025

Figure 2C. Map of the distribution of fishing effort, by Seychelles' industrial longline fishery in the IOTC area of competence (year 2025)

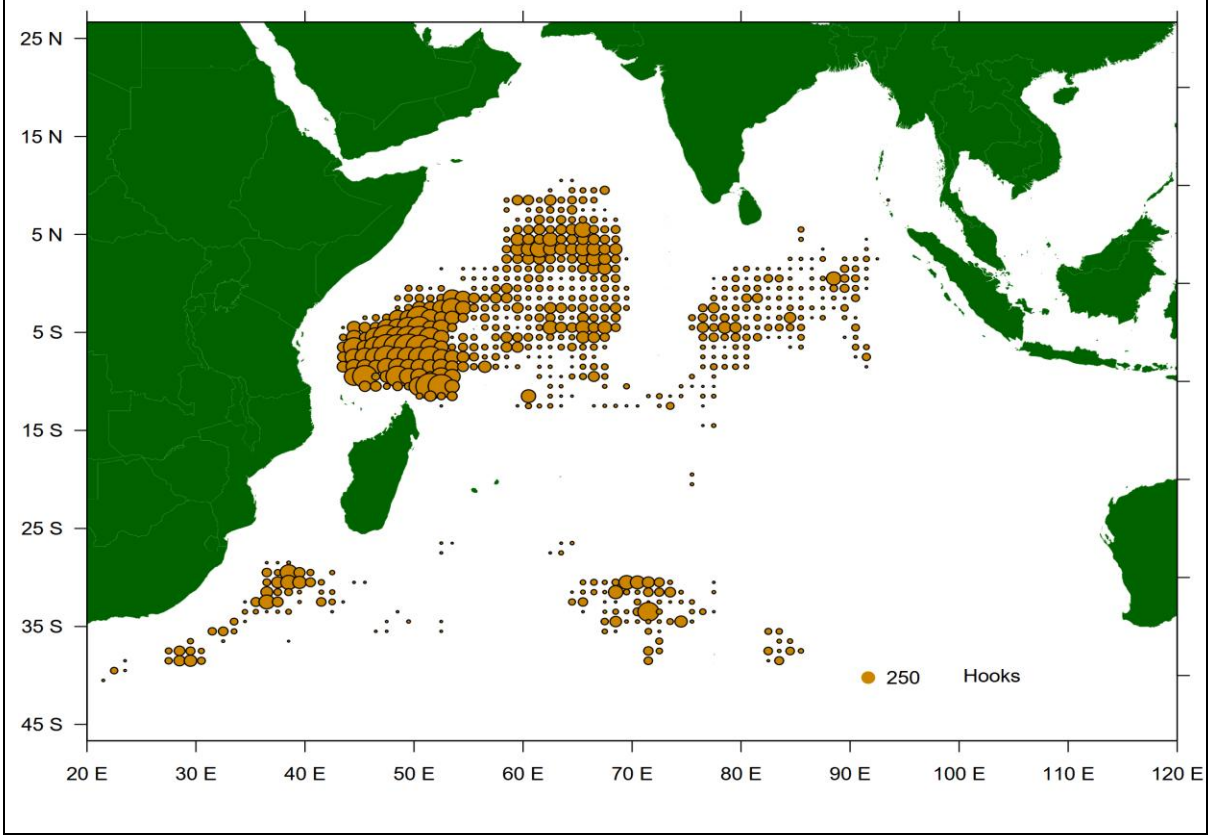


Figure 2d. Map of the distribution of fishing effort, by Seychelles' industrial longline fishery in the IOTC area of competence (average 2021-2025)

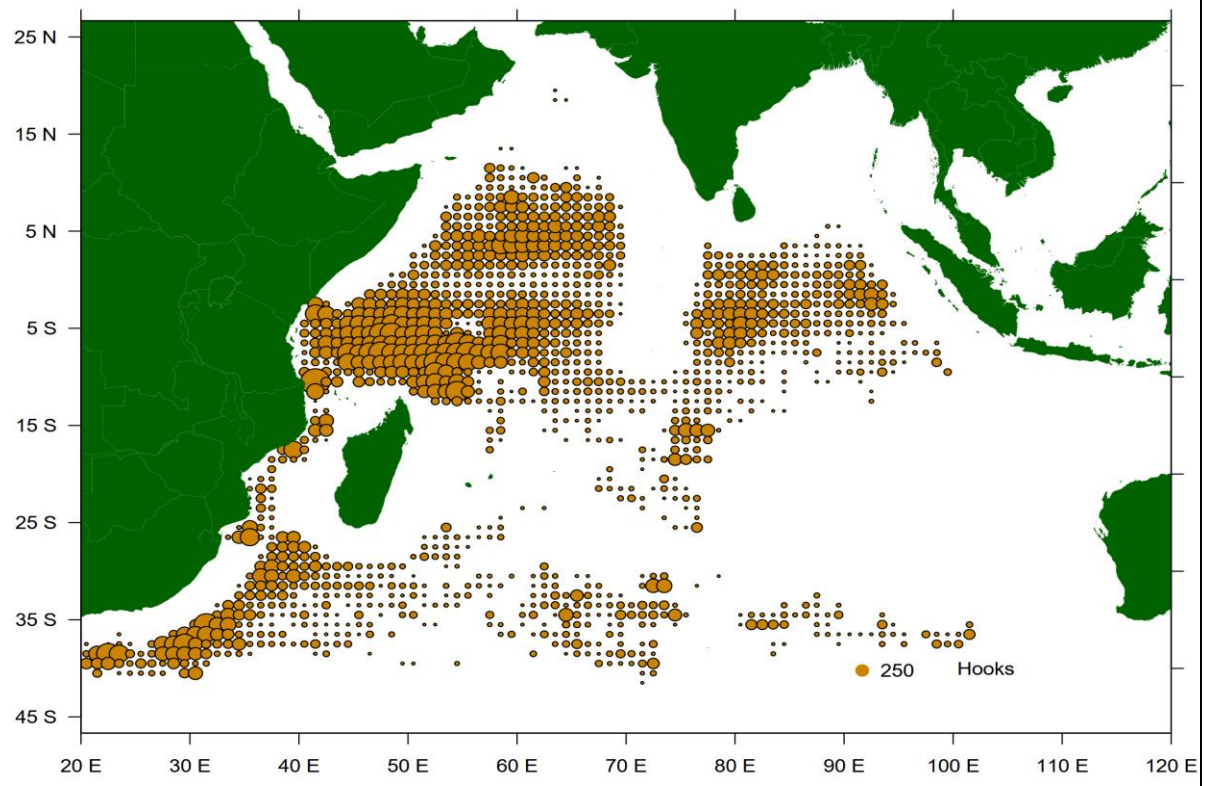


Figure 3c. Map of the distribution of catch, by Seychelles' industrial longline fishery in the IOTC area of competence (2025)

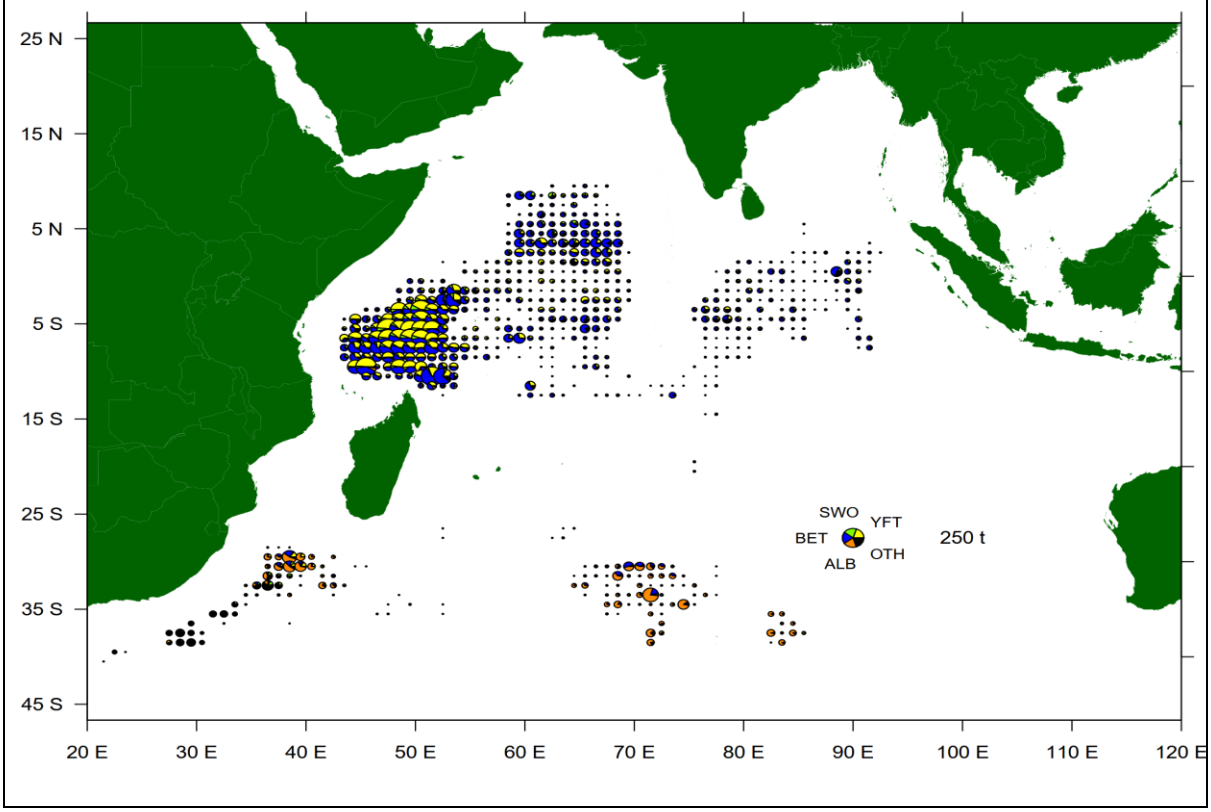
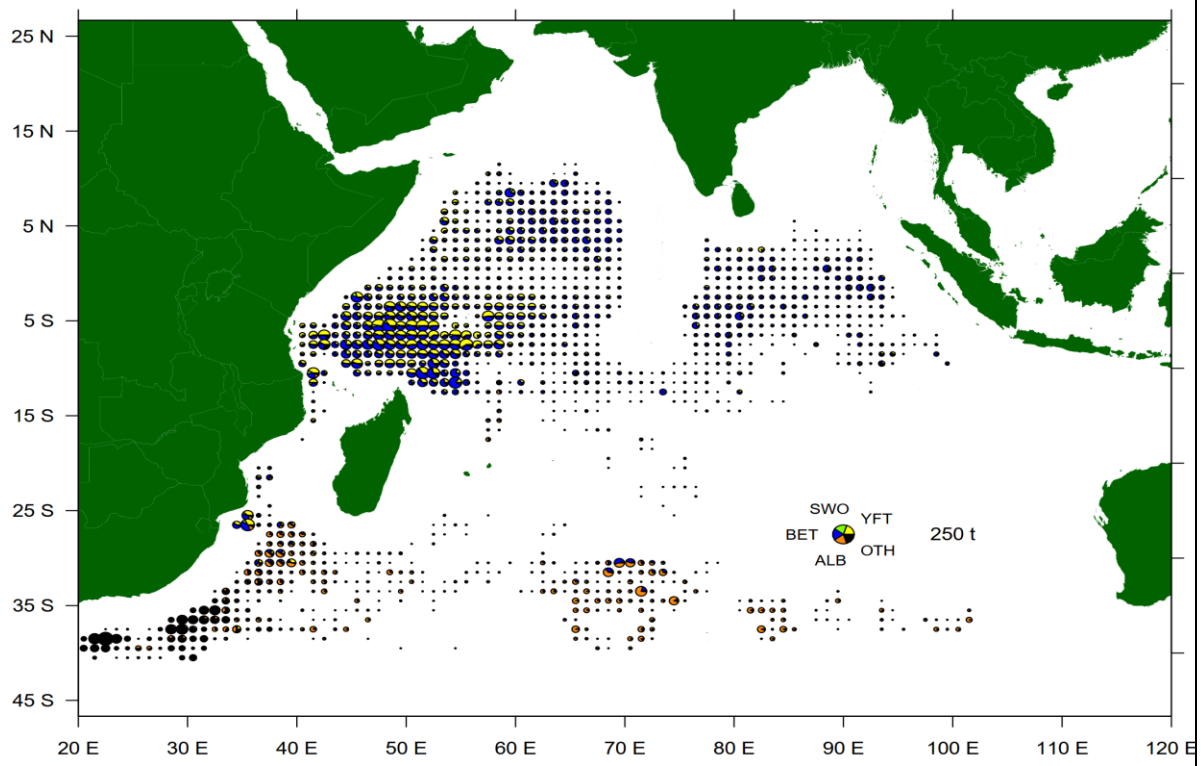


Figure 3d. Map of the distribution of catch, by Seychelles' industrial longline fishery in the IOTC area of competence (average 2021-2025)



3.3. SEMI-INDUSTRIAL (SMALL SCALE) FRESH TUNA LONGLINERS

Table 2c summarizes the fishing activities of the Seychelles semi-industrial longline fleet during the period 2021-2025. Fishing effort, measured by the number of hooks set, showed a strong upward trend between 2021 and 2024, increasing from an estimated 2.76 million hooks to 6.79 million hooks. This increase in fishing effort was largely attributed to the increase in the number of licensed vessels operating in the fishery during this period. In 2025, however, fishing effort declined by 9% to 6.18 million hooks.

Total catches followed a similar pattern initially, increasing from 1,758 MT in 2021 to a peak of 2,536 MT in 2023, the highest annual catch recorded since the beginning of the fishery. Thereafter, catches declined to 2,102 MT in 2024 and further to 1,965 MT in 2025.

The catch rate of the semi-industrial longline fleet declined steadily from 0.64 MT/1,000 hooks in 2021 to 0.31 MT/1,000 hooks in 2024. In 2025, the catch rate increased slightly to 0.32 MT/1,000 hooks.

Yellowfin tuna has remained the dominant species caught by the Seychelles semi-industrial longline fleet since 2015. This trend continued in 2025, with yellowfin tuna accounting for approximately 79% of the total catch, followed by bigeye tuna at 11%. Although yellowfin tuna remained the principal target species, its catches declined from 1,853 MT in 2024 to 1,562 MT in 2025, while bigeye tuna catches increased substantially from 131 MT to 223 MT over the same period.

Table 2C. Annual catch (MT), fishing effort (Fishing days) and catch rates (MT/1000 million hooks) estimated for the semi-industrial longline fishery operating in the IOTC area of competence, during the period 2021 – 2025.

Year	Fishing Effort (million hooks)	Catch Rate (MT/1000 Hooks)	YFT	BET	SWO	SFA	MAR	SHK	NEI	Total
2021	2.76	0.64	1,572	50	99	17	14	1	7	1,758
2022	4.96	0.42	1,920	20	72	14	28	10	9	2,073
2023	6.39	0.40	2,376	34	60	15	34	10	7	2,536
2024	6.79	0.31	1,853	131	51	14	36	12	5	2,102
2025	6.18	0.32	1,562	223	82	33	52	6	8	1,965

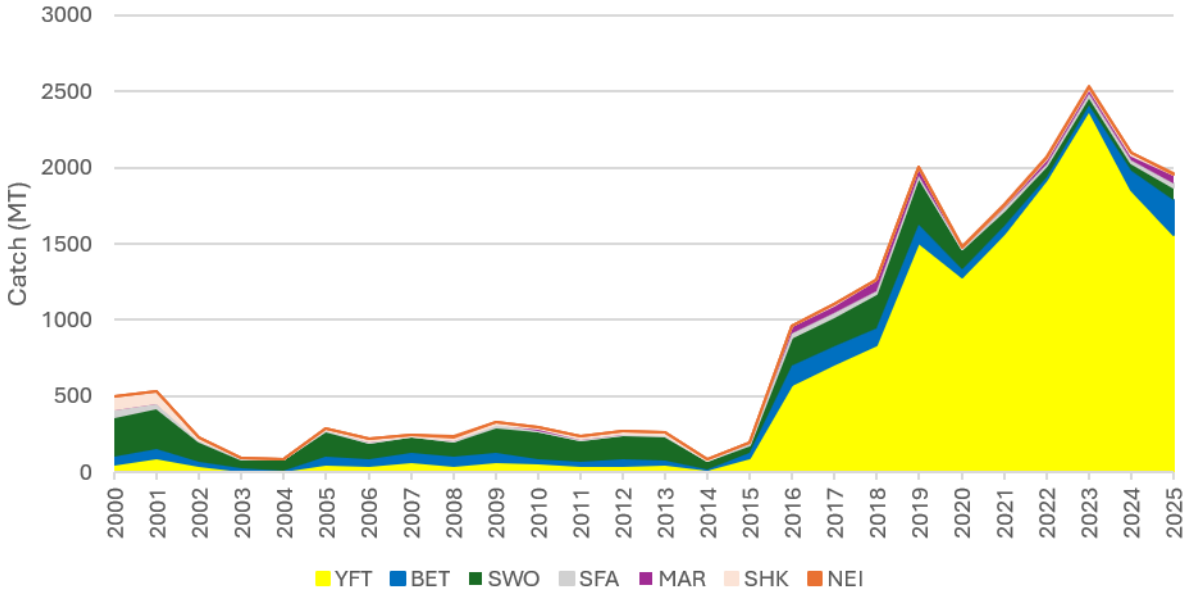


Figure 1c. Historical annual catch for the Seychelles' small-scale fishery by primary species, for the IOTC area of competence for the period 2000-2025

3. Recreational fishery

There is an important recreational fisheries subsector active mostly on weekends and in the evenings. These recreational fishers utilize mostly hook and line (handlines, troll-lines and reels), targeting mostly demersal species such as groupers, snappers and lethrinids, and semi-demersal species such as carangids and sphyraenids. Tuna and tuna-like species are not targeted by the recreational fishery sub-sector; however, a limited quantity of such species is taken as bycatch.

At present, there are no data collection programs for the recreational fishing sub-sectors. However, the development of a licensing framework for these fisheries is underway. Once finalized and implemented, it will introduce mandatory reporting requirements as part of the license conditions.

This will significantly improve the collection of relevant data, enhancing the monitoring and management of this sub-sector.

4. Ecosystem and bycatch issues

The conservation and management measures of the IOTC have evolved over the past decade to strengthen regulations on the use of dFADs in tropical tuna purse-seine fisheries. Recognising the importance of sustainable fishing practices and the potential risks to marine ecosystems, particularly from abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear, SFA, in collaboration with AGAC, ANABAC, other industry participants and SIOTI, initiated the FADWatch Project as a Fisheries Improvement Project. Formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding, the initiative aims to monitor, recover and mitigate dFAD strandings across the Seychelles' EEZ. Recovery missions are conducted using the Seychelles Coast Guard Vessel 'Saya de Malha" as the operating platform. Through the ShoreManager dFAD tracking software, dFADs entering designated buffer zones around 15 monitored islands are identified and recovered. In addition to these islands, recovery missions also visit other areas, such as the Aldabra group. Since 2023, over 150 dFADs and more than 170 instrumented buoys have been recovered. Although the assessment of material composition and environmental conditions was limited to a small sample of recovered dFADs, most consisted of synthetic and metallic components, with some biodegradable elements also observed. A paper on the project was presented at the 21st Session of the IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch in 2025.

5.1 Sharks

Under Article 18. ***Prohibition on removal and sale of shark fins***, of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2025, it is stipulated that the operator of any vessel fishing in Seychelles waters, or any Seychelles-flagged vessel fishing beyond national jurisdiction, shall—unless otherwise provided—comply with all prescribed prohibitions relating to the removal, retention, possession, transhipment, landing, and sale of shark fins.

Data collection on shark catches is implemented through multiple monitoring programmes, including the mandatory logbook system for industrial and semi-industrial vessels, observer and port-sampling programmes, and the Catch Assessment Survey covering artisanal and recreational fisheries. The relevant data are submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in accordance with reporting timelines and are summarised by fishery in Tables 3a, 3b, and 4 below.

5.1.1. NPOA Sharks

Seychelles reviewed the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA–Sharks) 2016–2020 and concluded that most of the plan's work programmes remain relevant to current management objectives. Consequently, the implementation period was extended to 2021–2025. A comprehensive revision of the plan is ongoing, after which a new NPOA–Sharks will be finalized and submitted to the IOTC Secretariat.

5.1.2. Blue Sharks

Seychelles has revised the logbook for its industrial and semi-industrial longline fleet targeting tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence to cater for recording catches and interactions with blue sharks. In addition, a series of refresher training sessions were conducted with vessel skippers to improve the accuracy and completeness of logbook reporting, with particular emphasis

on the recording of discards and bycatch in accordance with relevant IOTC Conservation and Management Measures. As a result of these initiatives, an improvement in the reporting of discards was observed.

The relevant data are submitted to the IOTC secretariat in accordance with applicable reporting requirements and timeline. and are summarized by relevant fisheries in table 3a, 3b and table 4 below.

Table 3a: Total number and weight of sharks, by species, retained by the Seychelles Industrial Longline fleet in the IOTC area of competence (2021–2025).

	Blue Shark		Hammerhead Shark		Mako Shark		Porbeagle		Silky Shark		Tiger Shark		Total	
Year	**N0**	**MT**	**N0**	**MT**	**N0**	**MT**	**N0**	**MT**	**N0**	**MT**	**N0**	**MT**	**N0**	**MT**
2021	10,634	462	0	0	1,379	64	0	0	1,852	53	0	0	13,866	578
2022	7,601	343	0	0	798	39	1	0.04	1,404	33	0	0	9,804	416
2023	4,867	232	0	0	692	31	0	0	1,142	29	0	0	6,702	292
2024	4,378	253	0	0	219	15	0	0	1,027	45	0	0	5,624	308
2025	5,940	203	0	0	373	18	0	0	914	24	0	0	7,227	245

Table 3b: Total number and weight of sharks, by species, retained by the Seychelles semi- Industrial Longline fleet in the IOTC area of competence (2021–2025).

	Blue Shark		Mako Shark		Hammerhead Shark		Tiger Shark		Porbeagle		Crocodile Shark		Various Sharks NEI		Total	
Year	**N0**	**MT**	**N0**	**MT**	**N0**	**MT**	**N0**	**MT**	**N0**	**MT**	**N0**	**MT**	**N0**	**MT**	**N0**	**MT**
2021	3	0.1	5	0.1		0.0	3	0.1	3	0.1		0.0	9	0.2	23	0.6
2022	92	4.2	30	0.7	2	0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0	128	4.7	252	9.6
2023	128	3.5	35	0.7	6	0.1	6	0.1	5	0.2		0.0	153	5.4	333	10.1
2024	63	3.4	35	3.0	12	0.3	13	0.4	1	0.0	1	0.0	143	4.9	268	12.1
2025	45	1.0	36	0.8	21	1.1	4	0.1	8	0.3	3	0.1	50	2.3	167	5.7

Table 4a: Total number of sharks, by species, released/discarded by the Seychelles Industrial Longline fleet in the IOTC area of competence (2024–2025)

			Discarded Status			
Year	**Species Code**	**Scientific Name**	**Alive**	**Dead**	**Unknown**	**Grand Total**
2024	BSH	Blue shark	326	279	2	607
	MAK	Mako sharks	10	12		22
	THR	Thresher sharks Nei	15	12		27
	SPN	Hammerhead sharks Nei		1		1
	FAL	Silky shark	37	32		69
	POR	Porbeagle		1		1
Total			**388**	**337**	**2**	**727**
2025	BSH	Blue shark	134	66	209	409
	MAK	Mako sharks	16		13	29
	PSK	Crocodile shark	1			1
	THR	Thresher sharks Nei	4	3		7
	FAL	Silky shark	39	8	11	58
Total			**194**	**77**	**233**	**504**

Table 4b: Total number of sharks, by species, released/discarded by the Seychelles semi-Industrial Longline fleet in the IOTC area of competence (2024–2025)

			Discarded Status			
Year	**Species Code**	**Scientific Name**	**Alive**	**Dead**	**Unknown**	**Grand Total**
2024	PSK	Crocodile shark		4		4
	SPN	Hammerhead sharks Nei	4	3		7
	BSH	Blue shark	148	35		183
	MAK	Mako sharks	9	7		16
	POR	Porbeagle	1	1		2
	THR	Thresher sharks Nei		2		2
	TIG	Tiger shark	1	2		3
	SKH	Various sharks Nei	1	7		8
Total			**164**	**61**	**0**	**225**
2025	PSK	Crocodile shark	4	6		10
	SPN	Hammerhead sharks Nei	83	7		90
	BSH	Blue shark	543	146		689
	MAK	Mako sharks	83	18	4	105
	POR	Porbeagle	13	8		21
	THR	Thresher sharks Nei	1	3		4
	TIG	Tiger shark	26	9		35
	SKH	Various sharks Nei	5			5
Total			**758**	**197**	**4**	**959**

5.2 Seabirds

Seychelles' longline vessels operating south of 25°S currently implement the prescribed seabird-mitigation measures, including the use of tori lines, weighted branch lines, and bird-scaring devices. Verification of these measures forms a critical element of compliance inspections to ensure adherence to seabird conservation requirements. In addition, operators are discouraged from conducting fishing activities within known seabird hotspots.
Vessel skippers are encouraged to record seabird interactions in their fishing logbooks, with the relevant data submitted to the IOTC Secretariat within the prescribed timelines. Based on the available logbook data, no seabird interactions were reported in 2025. The information is summarised in Tables 5a and 5b.

In 2023, Seychelles through the Ministry responsible for Fisheries and the Seychelles Fisheries Authority (SFA), undertook an assessment of the population status of seabird species within Seychelles waters, which are most vulnerable to the Seychelles longline fishery and propose measures for bycatch mitigation. This assessment is phase 1 of the process to develop a Seabird National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Seychelles. Phase 2, which involves expanding the scope of the assessment to cover the wider Indian Ocean and developing the NPOA-Seabirds, was scheduled for 2025. However, the Authority was unable to secure the services of a seabird expert to undertake the consultancy. Consequently, development of the plan has been postponed to 2027.

Table 5a. Total number of seabird, released/discarded by the Seychelles Industrial Longline fleet in the IOTC area of competence (2021–2025).

Year	Species	Alive	Dead	Unknown	Grand Total
2021	Seabird NEI	55	79		134
2022	Seabird NEI	83	26		109
2023	Seabird NEI	29	14		43
2024*	Seabird NEI				
2025*	Seabird NEI				

* Based on available logbook data, no seabird interactions were reported by the industrial longline fleet during the years 2024 and 2025

Table 5b: Number of longline fishing vessel operating south of 20 degrees south in the WIO and their corresponding fishing effort (2021 – 2025).

Year	Number of Vessels	Fishing Effort (Million Hooks)
2021	24	7.80
2022	9	3.86
2023	7	3.23
2024	5	0.28
2025	13	3.65

5.3 Marine Turtles

Logbooks used by the purse seine, industrial longline and semi-industrial fleets include provisions for recording marine turtle interactions. The information is compiled and submitted annually to the IOTC Secretariat and is summarised in Table 5c. In addition, independent data on marine turtle interactions are collected in the purse seine fleet through human observers and electronic monitoring (EM) on selected vessels. These data are also submitted to the IOTC Secretariat within the prescribed timelines.

Table 5c: Total number of marine turtle, released/discarded by the Seychelles Industrial Longline fleet in the IOTC area of competence (for the period 2021–2025)

Year	Species	Alive	Dead	Grand Total
2021	Marine Turtle	57	11	68
2022	Marine Turtle	95	8	103
2023	Marine Turtle	24		24
2024*	Marine Turtle			
2025*	Marine Turtle			

*Based on available logbook data, no marine turtle interactions were reported by the industrial longline fleet during the years 2024 and 2025. In 2025, purse seine logbooks recorded a total of 12 marine turtle interactions.

5.4 Other ecologically related species (e.g., cetaceans, mobulid rays, whale sharks)

In accordance with Article 10 (2) of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2025 the following prohibitions apply to marine mammals, marine turtles, whale sharks and other species declared as protected, threatened, or endangered under this section

(a) no person shall engage in fishing, catching, chasing, harassing, or intentionally harming any protected, threatened or endangered species within Seychelles waters;

(b) no Seychelles vessel shall

(i) engage in fishing, catching, chasing, harassing, or intentionally harming any protected, threatened or endangered species in areas beyond national jurisdiction;

(ii) have any protected, threatened or endangered species on board any Seychelles vessel within Seychelles waters or in areas beyond national jurisdiction;

(c) no person shall possess, transport, keep in custody or control, trade, sell, or otherwise deal in any protected, threatened or endangered species or any part thereof, whether dead or alive, within Seychelles or on board any Seychelles vessel in areas beyond national jurisdiction;

(d) no person shall take, land, sell, deal in, transport, receive, buy, possess, import, or export any species of fish or fish product declared as protected, threatened, or endangered under this section, except as authorised by the Authority in writing for purposes of scientific research or conservation.

There was no reported interaction with whale shark, cetacean and moulid rays on logbook during 2025.

5. National data collection and processing systems

6.1. Logsheet data collection and verification

A mandatory logbook system is in place for the collection of catch, effort, and other relevant data, including bycatch and environmental information, for fisheries targeting tuna and tuna-like species.

The logbook coverage for the main fisheries is as follows:

I. **Industrial longline fishery**: Early 1980s to present, with annual coverage averaging less than 70% in earlier years and approaching 100% in recent years.

II. **Industrial purse seine fishery**: 1984 to present, with annual coverage ranging between 95% and 100% in recent years.

III. **Semi-industrial (small-scale) longline fishery**: 1995 to present, with annual coverage ranging between 95% and 100%.

Logbooks are reviewed and revised as necessary to accommodate new reporting requirements and obligations. Logbook data are routinely validated against landing records, transhipment records, and vessel monitoring system (VMS) data, where available.

Scientific port sampling programmes are implemented for the purse seine and semi-industrial longline fisheries to collect data on species composition and size-frequency distributions. For the industrial longline fishery, size-frequency information is obtained primarily through self-reporting by vessel operators.

6.2. Observer scheme

During 2025, deployments across Seychelles flagged purse seine vessels reached an overall coverage level of approximately 70.77% (sets). There was a total of 102 trips of Seychelles flagged purse seine vessels which had an observer-onboard and this figure accounts for 2293 days at sea. Observers covered an additional 13 trips onboard Seychelles-flagged supply vessels. Note that figures presented may be revised upon further processing and analysis of the data. Seychelles does not currently have an observer programme for the longline fleet.

SFA has made considerable progress in our efforts regarding compilation and dissemination of observer data. Having re-established access to the central database in 2024, SFA has begun compiling observer data backlog for dissemination.

Observer training has been strengthened; however, limited human resources for data management still poses some variability in data quality. A comprehensive audit of the national observer programme and datasets was done to improve observer qualification and historical data flow**.**

Table 6.a. Annual observer coverage by fishery (percentage coverage of purse seine sets, 2021–2025). (Figures are prone to revision)

Year	% Trips	% Sets	% Days	% Catches
2025	-	70.77	-	-
2024	86.49	75.45	73.91	69.89
2023	62.88	57.49	58.49	63.26
2022	76.27	66.5	73.42	65.9
2021	47.41	38.9	40.67	39.54
2020	27.35	29.09	24.68	26.43

Table 6.b. Annual observer effort (number of observed days and sets, 2021–2025).

Year	Trips	Days at sea	Sets	Catch
2025	102	2293	2476	82577
2024	96	2683	3067	80715
2023	83	2180	2241	76670
2022	90	2154	2227	79506
2021	55	1231	1291	48590
2020	32	795	979	29661

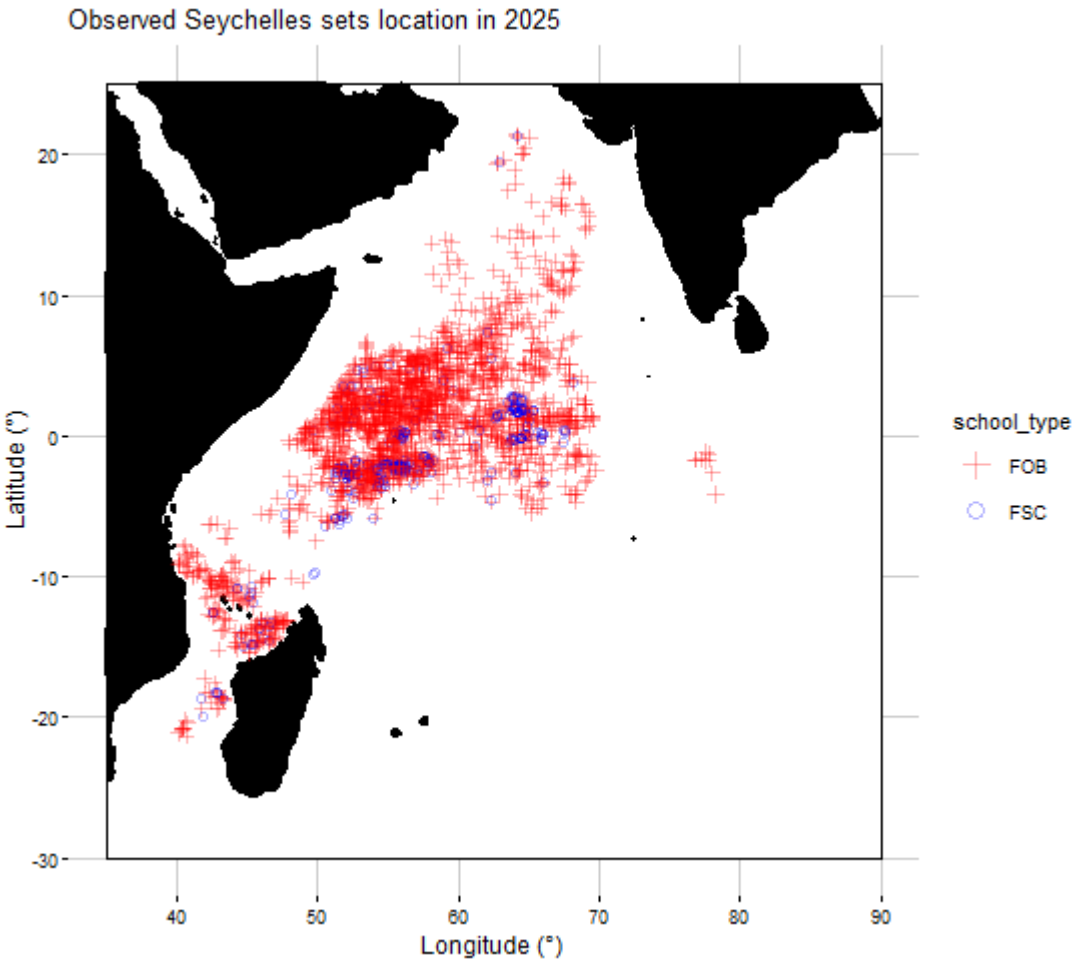


Figure 4. showing spatial distribution of the fishing sets observed onboard Seychelles purse seiners in 2024. FOB = School associated with drifting floating object; FSC = Free Swimming School

6.3. Port sampling programme

Seychelles has been undertaking port sampling activities since 1984. Port sampling is a routine and ongoing activity for the purse-seine and small-scale longline fleets. However, the industrial longline fleet does not land in Port Victoria; therefore, port sampling is not currently conducted for these vessels. Instead, a self-sampling programme is being implemented, whereby crew members record size-frequency data and transmit the information to SFA. Size-frequency data for all fleets are submitted annually to the IOTC Secretariat and summarised in Tables 7a, 7b, 7c and 7d, according to the respective fishery.

Table 7a. Number of vessel trips monitored, by species (Number) for the Seychelles Purse seine fleet. for the period 2021 to 2025

Year	Number Trips	ALB	BET	FRI	KAW	SKJ	YFT	CNT
2021	55		5,550	2196		111,644	29,999	
2022	84		6,403	2,905		122,845	40,156	
2023	112	35	6,540	5,525	34	104,102	32,324	3

2024	111	251	7,802	3,041	1	143,198	45,182	
2025	107	21	9,132	5,606	1	168,282	42,948	

Table 7b. Number of individuals fish measured for Seychelles registered purse seiners for the period 2021 to 2025

Year	ALB	BET	FRI	KAW	SKJ	YFT	CNT
2021		5,550	2,196		27,400	29,974	
2022		6,403	2,905		28,995	40,131	
2023	35	6,540	5,525	34	26,015	32,324	3
2024	251	7,802	3,041	1	28,111	45,179	
2025	21	9,132	5,606	1	33,005	42,835	

Table 7c. Number of individuals measured for Seychelles' small scale longliners for the period 2021 to 2025

Year	BET	SWO	YFT	ALB	BLM	MLS	SFA	Total
2021	17	28	407					452
2022	85	242	3,166					3,493
2023	52	164	2,293					2,509
2024	93	14	1,283					1,390
2025	424	98	1,994	1	15	19	6	2,557

Table 7d. Number of individuals measured for Seychelles industrial longliners for the period 2021 to 2025

Year	ALB	BET	BLM	BLR	BSH	BUM	MLS	SFA	SWO	YFT
2021	18356	58652	2431		4716	227	557		9771	35311
2022	10398	47293	2,801		4650	112	370		9057	26,526
2023	3007	31087	1,244		1878	45	423		5230	29,451
2024	6748	53519	921	150	906	79	247	6	4952	38,599
2025	25994	77732	2,376		2151	442	1931	20	10187	61,231

6.4. Actions taken to monitor catches & manage fisheries for Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish

Seychelles logbooks for data collection for all relevant fleets targeting tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence make provision for reporting of catches and interactions with Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish. The relevant data are submitted to the IOTC secretariat as per the relevant timeline

6.5. Gillnet observer coverage and monitoring

The gillnet fishery is restricted to coastal waters and target small pelagic such as sardinella and mackerels. Coverage is done through enumerators on landing sites.

6.6 Sampling plans for mobulid rays

The artisanal fisheries are monitored by a Catch Assessment Survey (CAS) that is stratified geographically and by boat and gear type. The CAS is complemented by data collection from companies that are involved in processing and export of catches from the artisanal fishery. It should be noted that currently the data does not include catches from recreational fishery.

The primary objective of the CAS is to collect catch, effort, and species composition data to support the timely monitoring and assessment of status and trends in the major artisanal fisheries. The survey covers the inner granitic islands of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, where more than 99% of the population resides.

Data on mobulids rays' catches are collected through the CAS, and the relevant information is submitted to the IOTC secretariat as in accordance with the applicable reporting requirements and timelines. The data collected during the period 2021-2025 are summarized below. It is important to note that due to difficulties with species identification, mobulids rays are reported aggregated as rays.

Table 8a. Catch of rays recorded through the Catch Assessment Survey, covering the artisanal fishery.

Year	Catch Rays (MT)
2021	0.58
2022	8.04
2023	1.58
2024	0.79
2025	0.11

6.7 Electronic Monitoring Standards

The Seychelles Electronic Monitoring (EM) Programme establishes a comprehensive framework for monitoring industrial and semi-industrial fishing operations to ensure compliance, transparency, and sustainability. Each participating vessel must be equipped with a dedicated EM system that includes a GPS logger, sensors, a central control unit, and multiple deck cameras strategically positioned to record all fishing activities from skiff deployment to catch brailing. All video footage must be geotagged and timestamped to link activities with precise vessel positions and jurisdictions (EEZ or high seas). Data are encrypted and stored onboard, with automatic system alerts sent to the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) for any equipment malfunction or tampering.

Vessel captains and crews are required to maintain EM functionality throughout operations, promptly report system failures within 24 hours, and cooperate in repairing or replacing faulty components. A detailed Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP) must describe each vessel's EM configuration and maintenance protocols. Data management standards mandate secure transmission, restricted access, and verified storage to protect data integrity and confidentiality. These performance standards ensure the EM

system's reliability, enable accurate monitoring of fishing effort and catch, and align Seychelles' fisheries management practices with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) and international best practices.

6. National research programs

Currently, there are no national research programmes being implemented which are relevant to tuna and tuna-like species.

7.1. National research programs on blue shark

Currently there are no national research programs on blue shark.

7.2. National research programs on Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish

An ongoing tagging programme is being implemented by Sport Fishing Club on Striped Marlin, Black Marlin.

7.3. National research programs on sharks

The Seychelles Fisheries Authority is not currently leading any dedicated shark research projects but is a partner in a bull shark tagging project led by the Marine Conservation Society Seychelles.

7.4. National research programs on oceanic whitetip sharks

Currently there are no research project on oceanic whitetip sharks.

7.5. National research programs on marine turtles

Turtle monitoring programs were implemented, starting in the early 1970s, throughout the country and proved to be a highly effective conservation tool. Today there are almost 20 such programmes operating in the Seychelles under relevant authorities and NGOs. Essentially the same monitoring protocols have been employed at all sites, which makes the data collected comparable for scientific analysis. This is reported annually as per the Reporting of progress of implementation of the FAO Guideline to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operation and on the implementation of resolution 12/04 on marine turtles.

7.6. National research programs on thresher sharks

Currently there are no research project on thresher sharks.

Table 6. Summary table of national research programs, including dates.

Project title	Period	Countries involved	Budget total	Funding source	Objectives	Short description
Spatio-temporal Movements of Bull Sharks in Seychelles	2024-2026	Seychelles (with research collaboration from the Oceanographic Research Institute)	SCR 2 million	Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT)	To improve understanding of bull shark movements, nursery grounds and habitat use in Seychelles, including local and regional migrations, to support effective conservation and management decisions.	The project is being undertaken by the Marine Conservation Society Seychelles (MCSS), in collaboration with the Seychelles Fisheries Authority (SFA), Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA) and the Oceanographic Research Institute. It involves tagging bull sharks with acoustic and satellite tracking equipment to monitor their movements around Mahé's coastal waters and across Seychelles' EEZ, including longer-distance migrations in the western Indian Ocean. The findings are expected to support improved understanding of bull shark behaviour, habitat use and nursery grounds, and inform future decisions relating to fisheries management, coastal development, waste management and tourism activities.

Currently there are no research programs underway.

7. Implementation of Scientific Committee Recommendations and Resolutions of the IOTC relevant to the SC.

Table 9. Scientific requirements contained in Resolutions of the Commission, adopted between 2012 and 2025.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3, 4, 6–10	In accordance with Article 10 (2) of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2025 prohibitions apply to marine mammals, marine turtles, whale sharks and other species declared as protected, threatened, or endangered under this section.
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4–8	Relevant fleet operators have been notified of the requirements of this resolution, prohibition of retention. Implementation is through license condition and Terms and condition of Certificate of Authorization.
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7– 9	In accordance with Article 10 (2) of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2025 prohibitions apply to marine mammals, marine turtles, whale sharks and other species declared as protected, threatened, or endangered under this section.
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)	Paragraphs 7– 9	In accordance with Article 10 (2) of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2025 prohibitions apply to marine mammals, marine turtles, whale sharks and other species declared as protected, threatened, or endangered under this section.
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries	Paragraph 5–6	Implemented through license condition and condition of Certificate of Authorisation. Revision of logbook to cater for the reporting of interactions with oceanic whitetip sharks. At present the is no ongoing research on oceanic whitetip sharks.
15/01	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1–10	Seychelles has been consistently submitting its annual catch-and-effort data to the IOTC, derived from the mandatory logbook systems for the purse seine, industrial longline, and semi-industrial longline fleets. Catch data for coastal fisheries are collected through a comprehensive Catch Assessment Survey conducted at all major landing sites, and the relevant datasets are also provided to the Secretariat in accordance with applicable reporting requirements and timeline.
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	Seychelles has been annually providing the IOTC with both nominal catch data and size-frequency data for its purse seine, industrial longline, small-scale longline, and coastal fleets in accordance with applicable reporting requirements and timeline.
17/05	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 6, 9, 11	Shark fin requirements are enforced through specific licence conditions and conditions of Certificates of Authorization, with compliance monitored primarily through port inspections. At present, there are no active research programmes on sharks.
18/02	On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 2-5	The revised logbook includes provisions for reporting captures and interactions with blue shark. Refer to tables 3a, 3b and 4 for the reported catches. All relevant data are also submitted annually to the IOTC Secretariat in

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			accordance with applicable reporting requirements and timeline. At present, there are no ongoing research programmes on blue sharks.
18/05	On management measures for the conservation of the Billfishes: Striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish	Paragraphs 7 – 11	The revised logbook includes provisions for reporting captures and interactions with marlins and other billfishes. All relevant data are submitted annually in accordance with applicable reporting requirements and timeline. An electronic tagging programme is also being implemented with the support of an NGO.
18/07	On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC	Paragraphs 1, 4	All relevant data, including reports of zero catches, are submitted annually to the IOTC Secretariat in accordance with applicable reporting requirements and timeline. Information on the actions undertaken to fulfil reporting obligations is provided in the Annual Report of Implementation.
19/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence (*If not provided under Res 21/01 below*)	Paragraph 22	NA
19/03	On the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence	Paragraph 11	The revised logbook includes provisions for reporting mobulid ray catches. Data on mobulid ray catches are also collected through the CAS and submitted in accordance with applicable reporting requirements and timeline.
21/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence (*If not provided under Res 19/01 above*)	Paragraph 23	The IOTC Secretariat is informed annually of the mechanisms in place for managing Seychelles' yellowfin tuna allocation.
23/07	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3–7	The requirement is implemented through license conditions and Certificate of Authorisation. Data collected though mandatory logbook are submitted to the Secretariat annually in accordance with the established timelines. Annual inspections are conducted to ensure that vessels intending to operate in seabird hotspot areas carry the required mitigation devices and equipment on board. The process to develop and implement a National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Seabirds has also been initiated.
23/08	On electronic monitoring standards for IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 3c	See Annex A.
25/06	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 12	Seychelles exceeds the minimum observer coverage requirements for its purse seiner fleet. Efforts to compile and submit outstanding observer data to the IOTC Secretariat are ongoing. In-port observations continue for the semi-industrial longline fleet, while the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) on industrial longliners is being explored.

8. Literature cited

SFA, SFA/FSR/14, Fisheries Statistical Report, Year 2025, Seychelles Fisheries Authority, Victoria, Seychelles

Annex A:

A fleet level summary of the Vessel Monitoring Plans

The Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP) has not yet been fully developed; however, work is ongoing, and significant efforts are being made to advance the process. SFA is currently developing Electronic Monitoring (EM) standards that will align with the IOTC requirements. Once finalized, these standards will be presented to vessel owners and service providers for consultation and endorsement. This collaborative approach will ensure that the VMP is effectively developed and agreed upon by all relevant stakeholders.

A.1 The number of CPC flagged vessels implementing EM by gear/fishery type

A total of 11 out of 15 Seychelles-flagged purse seiner have implemented EM systems under the ongoing pilot project. The remaining 4 vessels are equipped with a different EM tool that is not yet compatible with the SFA data analysis framework. As a result, data from these systems cannot currently be processed by the SFA. This limitation underscores the importance of the ongoing work to strengthen and standardize national EM requirements, ensuring interoperability and comprehensive coverage across the entire fleet.

A pilot project is ongoing on 5 small-scale tuna longliners.

A.2 The range of EMS configurations implemented within the fleet (including the numbers and placements of cameras for each configuration) [Mandatory for CPC implementing EMS].

Each participating vessel is equipped with a dedicated EM configuration designed to record fishing activities comprehensively. The standard configuration includes a central control unit, GPS logger, and sensor suite, integrated with multiple high-resolution cameras strategically positioned to cover all key fishing operations.

Typically, four to six cameras are installed per purse seiner to provide full visibility of:

- **Stern area** – monitoring skiff deployment and net setting.
- **Starboard and port decks** – capturing brailing and catch handling operations.
- **Bridge or mast camera** – providing a wide-angle view of the fishing deck and purse seine net.
- **Auxiliary cameras** (if fitted) – monitoring speedboat activity, FAD interactions, or transshipment events.

All footage is geotagged and timestamped, synchronizing video with vessel position data to identify the fishing area (EEZ or high seas). Video files are encrypted and stored onboard, ensuring secure chain of custody and tamper protection. System alerts notify the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) of equipment malfunctions or tampering in real time.

This range of configurations forms the foundation for the national VMP under development, ensuring standardized EM coverage, interoperability, and compliance with IOTC EM requirements across the Seychelles fleet.

A.3 A general description of EMS requirements placed upon vessel skippers/crews by the CPC government.

Under the Seychelles national Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) framework, vessel skippers and crews are responsible for ensuring that all EMS equipment and procedures operate according to national and IOTC-aligned standards. These requirements are designed to guarantee accurate, continuous, and tamper-proof monitoring of fishing operations.

Each vessel is required to maintain an active EMS installation comprising a GPS logger, sensors, a central recording unit, and multiple cameras positioned to capture all fishing activities—from skiff deployment to net retrieval and catch brailing. Skippers must ensure that cameras remain unobstructed and functional throughout all fishing operations and that all recorded data are securely stored onboard until transmission or retrieval by the FMC.

In the event of a system malfunction or power failure, skippers must report the issue to the FMC within 24 hours and make every reasonable effort to repair the system within the same timeframe. The FMC may instruct the vessel to cease fishing activities or return to port until the malfunction is resolved. A log of all failures, maintenance, and repairs must be completed and submitted within two days after the end of each fishing trip.

Crew members are expected to cooperate fully with EM procedures, avoiding interference or tampering with cameras, sensors, or onboard data systems. Skippers are also responsible for ensuring that EM data—including footage, GPS coordinates, and catch information—remain secure, encrypted, and traceable under the prescribed chain-of-custody protocols.

These operational and reporting duties are mandatory for all vessels participating in the Seychelles EM programme and are integral to maintaining compliance with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures and national monitoring obligations.