



Fisheries  
Transparency  
Initiative

# Updates from the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

→ LDAC “High Level Policy” Executive Committee

Sven Biermann, FiTI International Secretariat

30 November 2021 | Zoom

# Recap: Different types of transparency in fisheries

## Management of fisheries by governments

*Increase public availability and credibility of basic (aggregated) information on a country's fisheries sector to stimulate public debates*



## Activities of fishing vessels

*Provide real-time, technology-supported information on activities of fishing vessels to identify illicit behaviour*



etc.

## Seafood traceability

*Increase information to trace fish from their point of capture through the entire supply chain ("from sea to plate") to strengthen consumer confidence*



etc.

## Recap: Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

The FiTI is a global multi-stakeholder partnership that enhances public access to marine fisheries information.



The FiTI provides an internationally recognized framework (*i.e. FiTI Standard*) that defines for the first time which information on marine fisheries management should be published online by governments.

# FiTI Standard: 12 transparency requirements



Public Registry of National Fisheries Laws, Regulations and Official Policy Documents



Fisheries Tenure Arrangements



Foreign Fishing Access Agreements



The State of the Fisheries Resources



Large-Scale Fisheries (Vessel Registry, Payments for fishing, Recorded catch data)



Small-Scale Fisheries



Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade



Fisheries Law Enforcement



Labour Standards



Fisheries Subsidies



Official Development Assistance



Beneficial Ownership

# First two FiTI Reports published in 2021!





# Objectives of a FiTI Report

1

*To ASSESS [COUNTRY'S] LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE against the transparency requirements of the FiTI Standard.*

→ **AVAILABILITY:** Has the information been collated at all by the government?

→ **ACCESSIBILITY:** Is the information published on a government website and freely accessible?

→ **COMPLETENESS:** Is the published information seen as complete by the National MSG?

2

*To SUMMARISE KEY INFORMATION ON [COUNTRY'S] FISHERIES SECTOR in order to increase public understanding and appreciation of it.*

3

*To PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS to [country's] national authorities on how the publication of information can be further improved.*

4

*To DEMONSTRATE PROGRESS in delivering past commitments.*

# Previously unpublished information now available\*



## Seychelles (Examples)

- Contracts of two foreign fishing access agreements signed with Mauritius
- Summary of the status of fish stocks in Seychelles
- The names of the 25 license holders for Seychelles' sea cucumber fishery

## Mauritania (Examples)

- Contracts of Mauritanian fishing agreements
- List of 452 large-scale fishing vessels licensed to fish in Mauritanian waters
- Sum of large-scale vessel payments



## Seychelles (Examples)

- Contracts of private fishing access agreements
- Registry for large-scale fishing vessels
- Payments by large-scale vessels for their fishing activities in Seychelles' waters
- Information on fisheries subsidies given to large-scale fishing sector (if any)

## Mauritania (Examples)

- Registry for large-scale fishing vessels with all 14 attributes
- Payments made by large-scale vessels (on a per vessel basis)

\*Either on a government website or as part of the FiTI Report



# Example: Level of compliance with FiTI Standard

## Detailed example

'Annual retained catch data'

Is the information <u>available</u> to the government of Seychelles?	Is the information published on a government website and <u>freely accessible</u> ?	Is the information seen as <u>complete</u> by the National Multi-Stakeholder Group?
 <i>To a large extent</i>	 <i>To a large extent</i>	 <i>Partially</i>



SFA collects and publishes (mainly through its Fisheries Statistical Report) a large amount of data regarding catches, landings, transshipments and fishing efforts from the large-scale fisheries.



Catch data from the *purse seiner fishery* is perceived as complete, and is provided in a highly disaggregated form, which fulfils almost all requirements of the FiTI Standard.



Catch data from the *industrial longline fishery* is seen as significantly incomplete, as published data only includes Semester 1 (January – June 2019) catches for the Seychelles' and Taiwanese (POC)-flagged vessels and Quarter 1 (January – March 2019) catches for other-flagged vessels, and also suffers from partially unreturned logbooks.

Furthermore, SFA does not extrapolate nominal catch data to compensate for unreturned logbooks and can therefore not estimate an annual total catch from this fishery.



Though data on fish discards from the *purse seiner fishery* has been published in the Fisheries Statistical Report for the year 2019, this data is not disaggregated by species or species group.





# Example: Key information on fisheries sector

**5**  
Agreements allowing foreign vessels to fish in Seychelles' waters

**248**  
Licensed large-scale fishing vessels

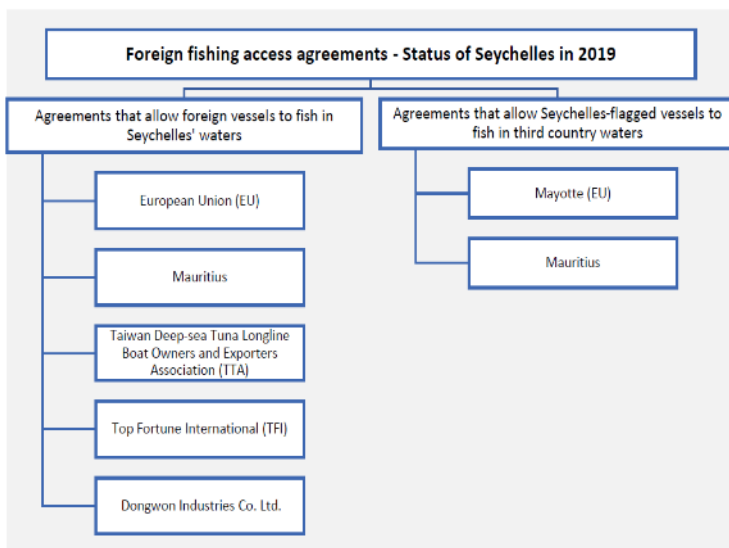
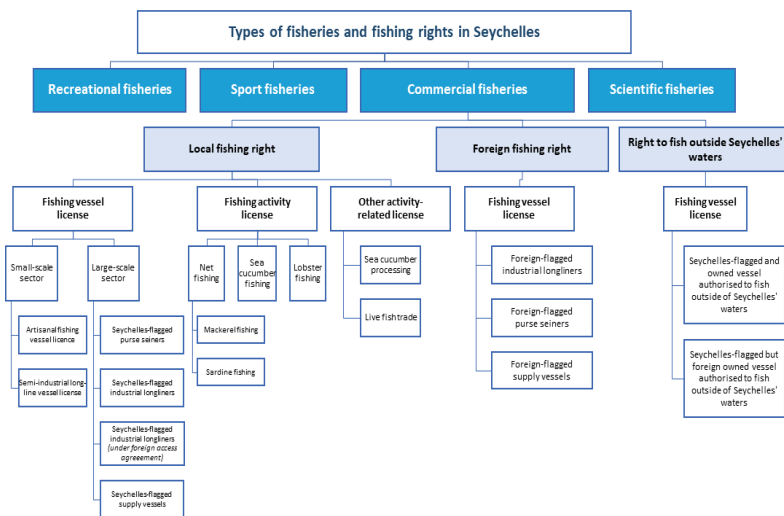
**503** ▲  
Active small-scale fishing vessels  
*(Data is seen as incomplete)*

**50%**  
Local fish species groups assessed as 'overfished'  
*(based on level of fishing pressure)*

**SCR 1.6 billion**  
Imports of fish/fish products

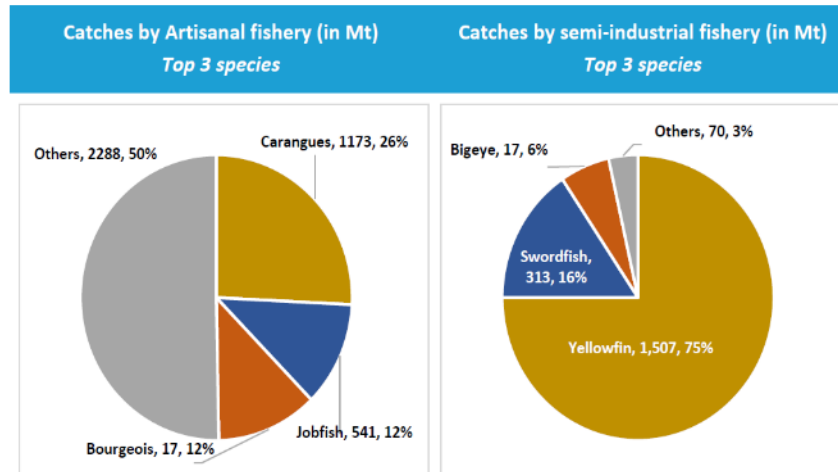
**SCR 3.6 billion**  
Exports of fish/fish products

**SCR 43 million**  
Fuel subsidies for small-scale fisheries



Summary of stock status of species (assessed by SFA since 2017)

Species	Common name	Creole name	Period	Year of publication	Fishing mortality	Stock status	Biomass
<i>Lutjanus sebae</i>	Emperor red snapper	Bourzwa	2017	2018	Subjected to overfishing	Overfished	
<i>Epinephelus chlorostigma</i>	Brown spotted grouper	Veyv Makonde	2017	2018	Uncertain	Overfished	
<i>Aprion virescens</i>	Green jobfish	Zab gri	2017	2018	Uncertain	Overfished	
<i>Siganus</i> spp.	Rabbitfish	Kordanyen	2017	2018	Not subjected to overfishing	Not overfished	
<i>Carangoides fulvoguttatus</i>	Yellowspotted trevally	Karang plat	2017	2018	Uncertain	Overfished	
<i>Carangoides gymnostethus</i>	Bludger	Karang balo	2017	2018	Uncertain	Overfished	
<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>	Kawakawa	Bonit fol	2017	2018	Not subjected to overfishing	Not overfished	
<i>Panulirus penicillatus</i>	Pronghorn spiny lobster	Oumar	2019	2019	Uncertain	Not overfished	
<i>Panulirus longipes</i>	Long-legged spiny lobster	Ournar	2019	2019	Uncertain	Not overfished	
<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>	White teatfish	Kokosye blan	2017	2017	Subjected to overfishing	Overfished	
<i>Holothuria</i> sp.	Flower teatfish	Banbara pentard	2017	2017	Subjected to overfishing	Overfished	
<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	Yellowfin tuna	Ton Zonn	2016	2017	Subjected to overfishing	Overfished	
<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	Big eye	Ton gro lirye	2016	2017	Not subjected to overfishing	Not overfished	
<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	Skipjack tuna	Ton reye	2016	2017	Not subjected to overfishing	Not overfished	
<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Swordfish		2017	2017	Not subjected to overfishing	Not overfished	
<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>	Indo-Pacific sailfish	Dyab larwal	2016	2017	Subjected to overfishing	Not overfished	
<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	Blue marlin	Marlin	2016	2017	Subjected to overfishing	Not overfished	
<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>	Striped marlin	Marlin	2016	2017	Subjected to overfishing	Overfished	





# Example: Key information on fisheries sector

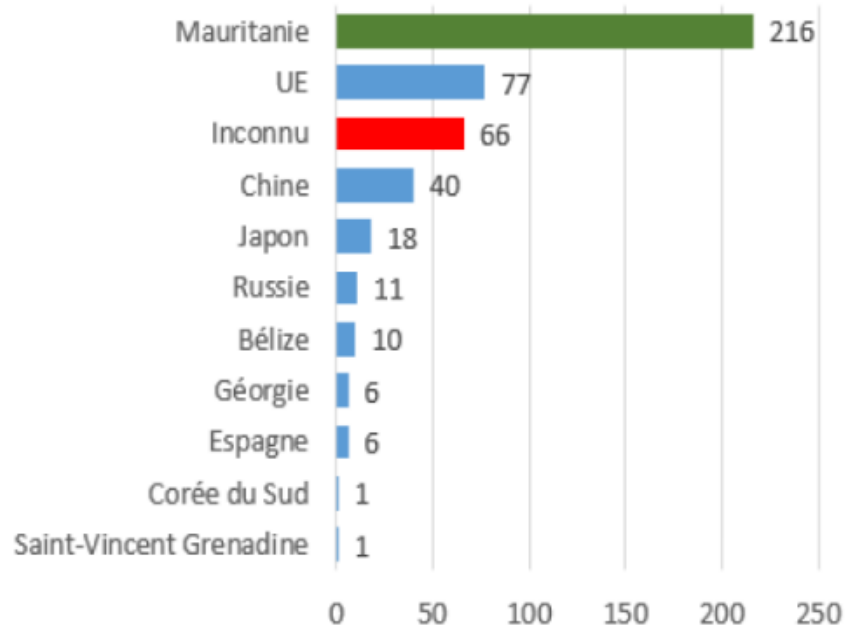
## Informations clés pour 2018 :

Nombre de navires de pêche commerciale à grande échelle autorisés à pêcher dans les eaux mauritaniennes :

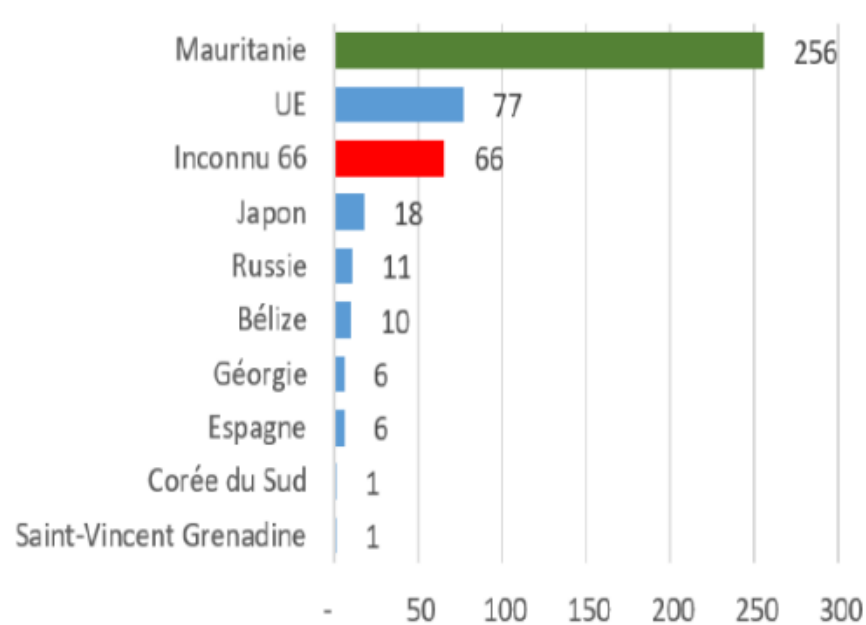
**452**

- ➔ Régime national : 322 navires (71%)
- ➔ Régime étranger : 130 navires (29%)

### Ventilé selon le pays d'appartenance<sup>9</sup>



### Ventilation selon le pavillon<sup>10</sup>





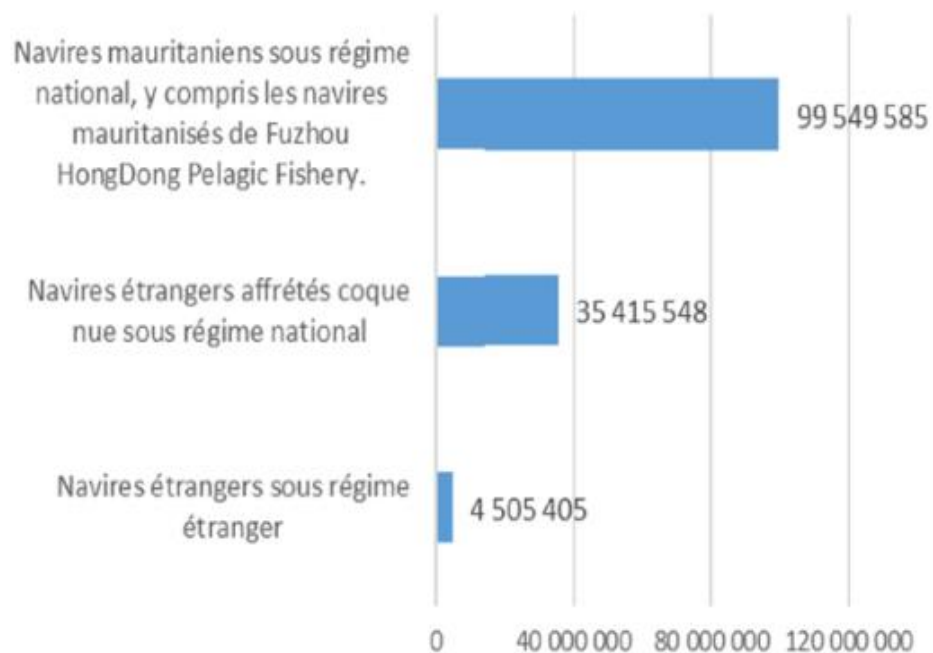
# Example: Key information on fisheries sector

## Informations clés pour 2018 :

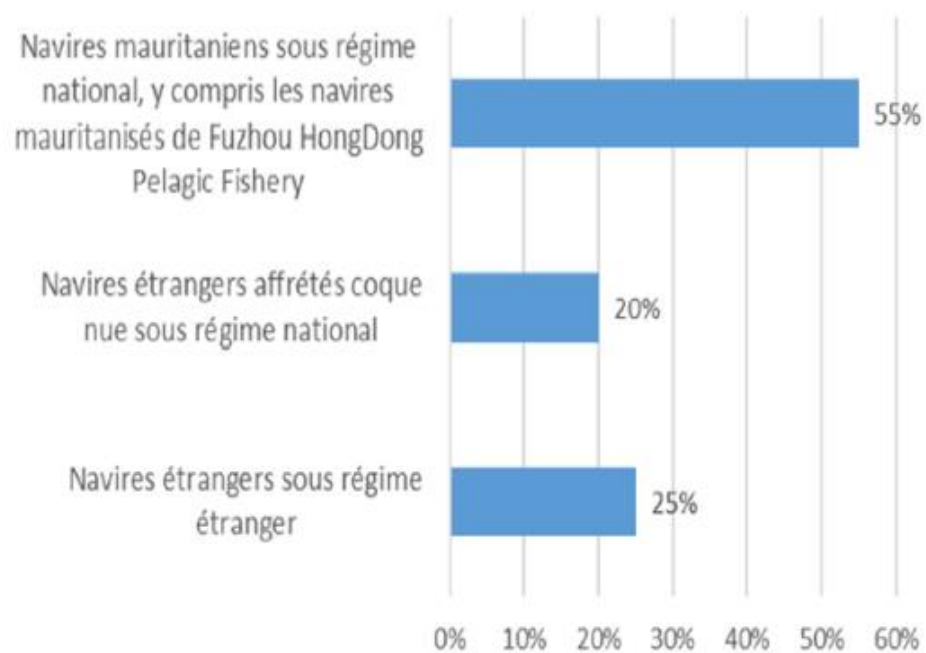
**Paievements effectués par les navires de pêche à grande échelle autorisés à pêcher dans la ZEEEM :**

**180.019.184 Ouguiya**

**Paievements en Ouguiya**



**Pourcentage par catégorie de navires**





# Example: Key information on fisheries sector

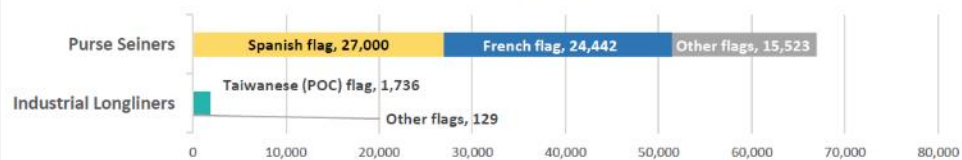
Annual retained catches by foreign-flagged vessels:

**295,987 Mt**



Information is incomplete, due to missing catch data from industrial longline fishery.

Catches in Seychelles' EEZ by foreign-flagged vessels (in Mt)



Fishing effort by purse seine vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters:

**2,577 days spent fishing within Seychelles' EEZ**

↻ Total of 10,116 days spent fishing in the Western Indian Ocean

Fishing effort by industrial longline vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters:

**6 million hooks deployed within Seychelles' EEZ**



↻ Data covers only Semester 1 of 2019 (January – June)

↻ Total of over 21 million hooks deployed in the Western Indian Ocean

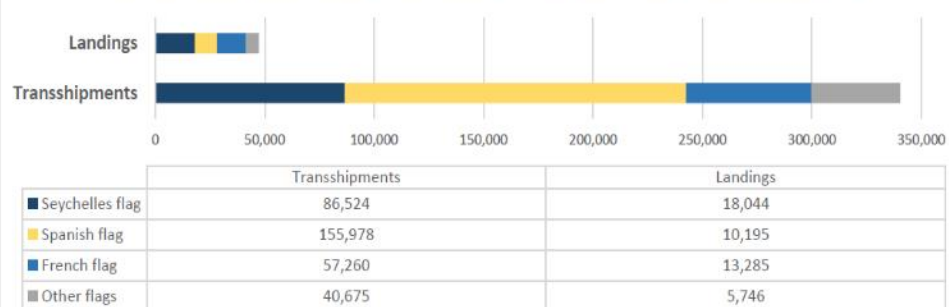
Annual landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports:

**387,707 Mt**



Information is incomplete, as the data from industrial longline fishery is not fully collated.

Annual landings and transshipments in Seychelles' ports - only Purse Seiners (Mt)



Total value of imports of fish and fish products:

**SCR 1.566 billion**

↻ Total import weight is 76,441 Mt [values from 2016; 99.6% of import weight was frozen tuna for the canning factory]

↻ Most of the imported frozen tuna are from the sale of EU-flagged vessels to the local canning factory and from certified fishery in the Maldives.

Total value of exports of fish and fish products:

**SCR 3.577 billion**

Thereof:

↻ Canned tuna: 86.5%

↻ Fresh and frozen fish: 6.3%

↻ Fish meal: 3.2%

↻ Fish oil and fats: 2.2%

↻ Sea cucumber: 1.8%



# Example: Recommendations to national authorities

Number of recommendations to Seychelles' government to improve transparency in fisheries management:

**34**



## Recommendations

We, the National MSG, make the following recommendations to improve transparency regarding foreign fishing access agreements:

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2019-3_1	MFBE should publish online all foreign fishing access agreements and associated protocols. <sup>48</sup>	High	December 2021
2019-3_2	MFBE should publish online all studies or reports related to the evaluation or oversight of these agreements, which have either been undertaken by national authorities or foreign parties.	High	December 2021
2019-3_3	SFA should publish any assessment regarding compliance of fishing vessels with the terms and conditions set forth in their respective access agreement, once available.	Medium	September 2021
2019-3_4	MFBE should publish information from previous (prior to 2019) and recent national stakeholder	Medium	December 2022

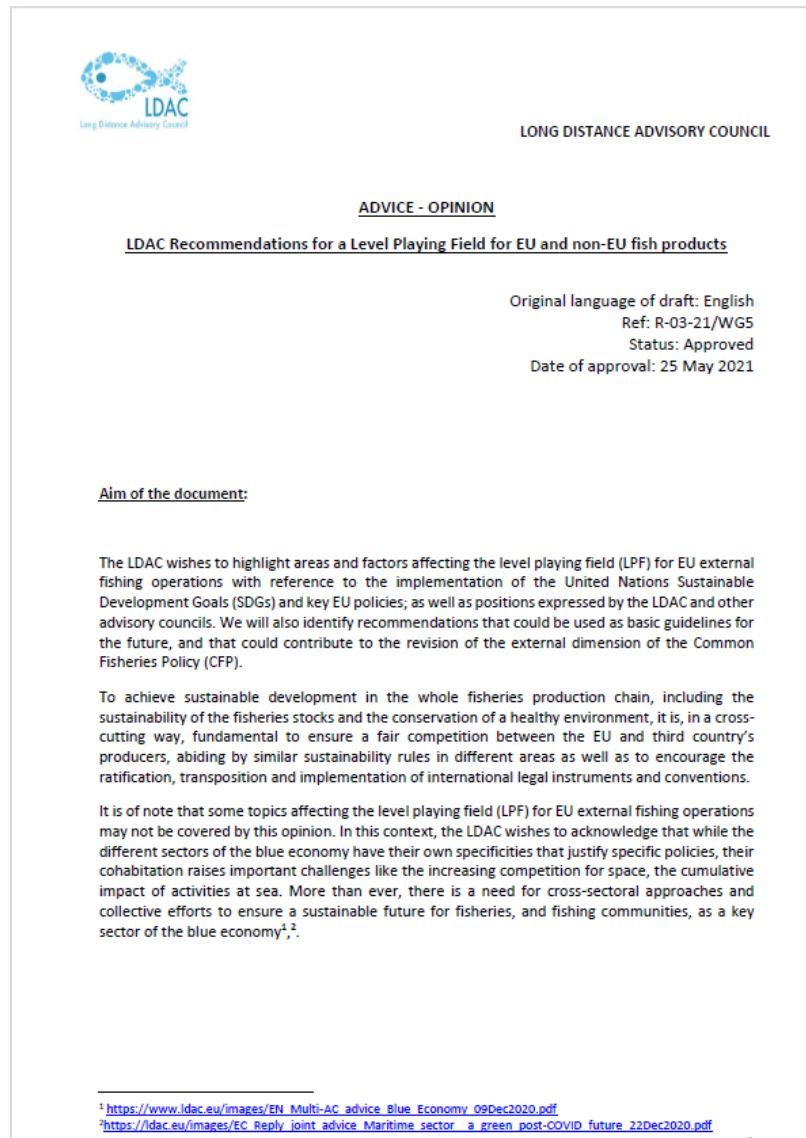
## Recommendations

We, the National MSG, make the following recommendations to improve transparency regarding the country's large-scale vessel registry:

ID	Recommendation	Suggested priority	Suggested date for completion
2019-5_1	SFA should publish an up-to-date, online registry of all Seychelles-flagged and foreign-flagged large-scale vessels authorised to fish in Seychelles' marine jurisdictional waters, and of all Seychelles-flagged large-scale vessels authorised to fish in third countries' marine jurisdictional waters and on the High Seas.  The vessel registry must include all 14 vessel attributes, as defined in the FITI Standard.	High	September 2021
2019-5_2	This online vessel registry, once published, should be linked to relevant parameters and conditions of the underlying licences (e.g. licensing period, fees paid, species to be taken, areas to be fished, etc.).	High	September 2021



# Level playing field through transparency



The FiTI Standard promotes public access to e.g.:

- Registries of fishing vessels (including licence information)
- Sanctions for IUU fishing activities, etc.
- Access agreements
- Beneficial ownership information
- Reporting by flag States on the activities of their external fishing fleets



# Current status of country engagements

As of 30 November 2021

FiTI Compliant countries	FiTI Candidate country	FiTI Committed countries	In discussions / Targeted countries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mauritania</li> <li>▪ Seychelles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ [Bolivia]</li> <li>▪ Cabo Verde</li> <li>▪ Madagascar</li> <li>▪ São Tomé and Príncipe – <i>in progress</i></li> <li>▪ Senegal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ecuador</li> <li>▪ Peru</li> <li>▪ Mexico</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Guinea – <i>on hold</i></li> <li>▪ Guinea-Bissau</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Comoros</li> <li>▪ Mauritius</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bangladesh</li> <li>▪ Lebanon</li> </ul>

# Enabling environment for fisheries transparency



## **BeneFiTing – Market and Non-Market based incentives for fisheries transparency**

*Stimulate the provision of benefits for enhanced transparency, such as from seafood certifications, sourcing policies, trade regulations etc.*



## **TAKING STOCK – Online Transparency of Fisheries Management Information**

*Assessing the level of information published online by governments against the FiTI Standard, beyond already engaged countries*

# Questions & Answers





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# Thank you for your attention!



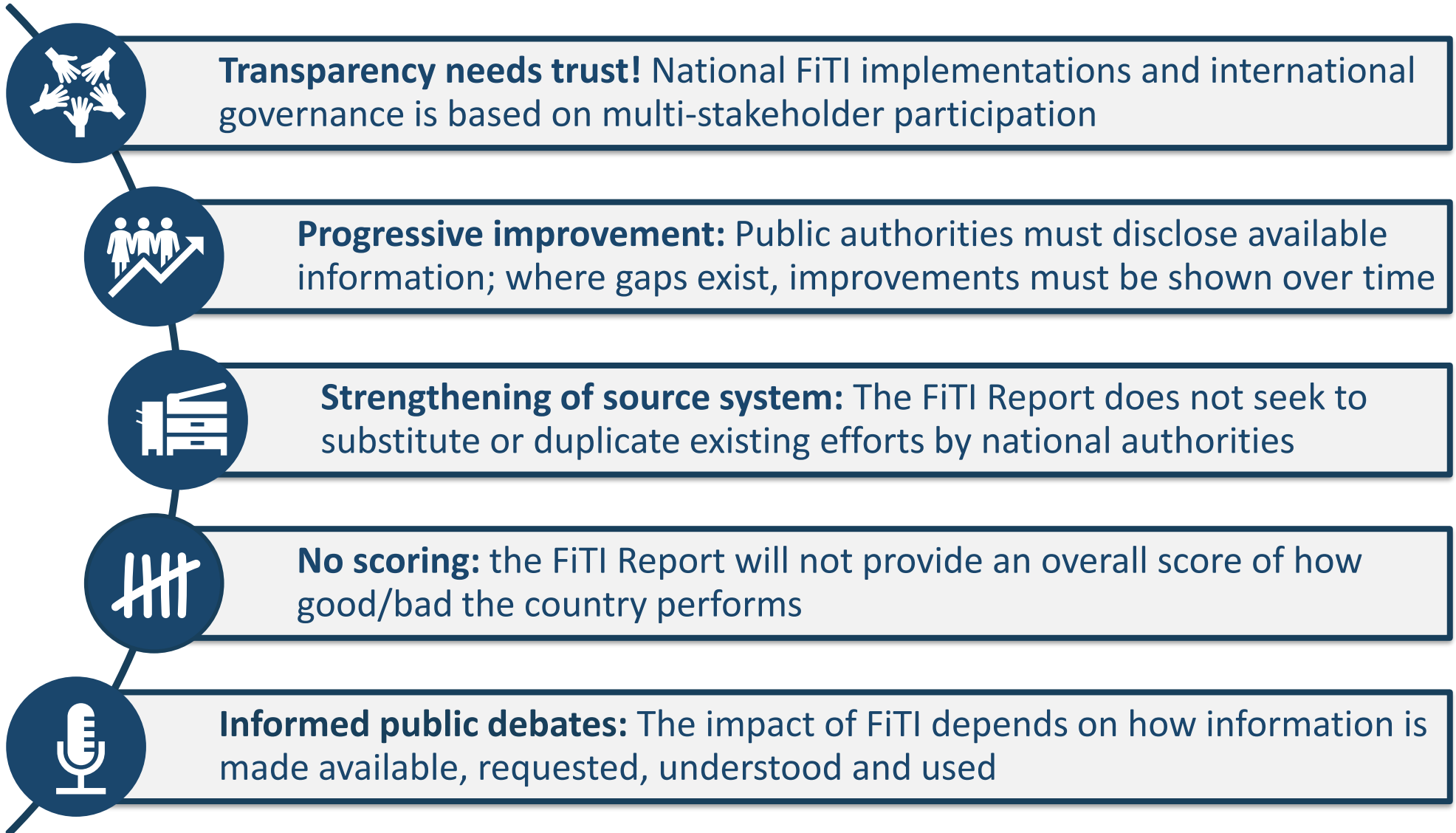
Email: Sven Biermann ([sbiermann@fiti.global](mailto:sbiermann@fiti.global))

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LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/fisheries-transparency/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/fisheries-transparency/)

# Key principles of the FiTI





# Very positive responses to 1<sup>st</sup> FiTI Reports

Examples

**Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability**  
810 followers  
2d • 🌐

We highly encourage you to read the new report on transparency in **#Seychelles** fisheries submitted to **Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI)**, who sits on SALT's advisory committee. It can stand as a lesson for many countries on sharing information to ensure **#sustainable #fisheries** management, as this report (in **Celeste Leroux's** words) is the "new gold standard."

**SeafoodSource**

NEWS SEAFOOD2030 E-RESOURCES PRODUCT SHOWCASE SUPPLIER DIRECTORY SEAFOOD

**HEALTHY LIVING, HEALTHY OCEANS**

**Mauritania submits Fisheries Transparency Initiative report**  
By Sherm Oltene  
May 15, 2021

Mauritania has submitted a report as part of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI), aiming to achieve greater transparency and accountability in the nation's fisheries sector.

In a press release, FITI said Mauritania's issuance of the report "marks an important step to enhancing the public availability of credible fisheries management information."

FITI is a global standard for establishing sustainable fisheries management through transparency and multi-stakeholder participation. The Seychelles became the first

**CAOPA congratulates Mauritania and Seychelles on the publication of their first FITI report**

By CAOPA — June 09, 2021



**Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI)**  
126 followers  
22h • 🌐

WWF is deeply impressed by the **#fisheries #transparency** effort of **#Seychelles** for its recently published first report to the **Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI)**.  
**John Tanzo:** "The Seychelles is leading this cornerstone for sustainable fisheries worldwide and will hopefully be the role model and a blueprint for further countries to come next, like **#Mauritania**."

**Seychelles**  
First country in the world to submit FITI Report

investinseychelles.com

**Gefällt 36 Mal**  
investinseychelles Seychelles becomes the first country in the world to submit a FITI report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative.

As the world becomes more environmentally conscious, this first-ever report will serve to be extremely beneficial towards the fishing industry locally, giving Seychelles competitive advantage over competitors and potentially aid towards generating more from the industry and fisheries-related exports and activities.

**World Bank Africa** @WorldBankAfrica · Apr 20  
The **FFITest** seeks to increase transparency in fisheries governance for the benefit of a more sustainable management of marine fisheries and the well-being of citizens that depend on the marine environment.

Find the link #FITIReport: [SEY here: \*\*worldbank/africa\*\*](#)

**adf** Home Top Stories COVID-19 Features Departments About ADF Contribute

**FITI Reports Help African Nations Tackle Illegal Fishing**  
By ADF · Apr 16, 2021

A high-profile report by the first of its kind in the region, the first national report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI) report in April 2021.

**Blue Ventures** @BlueVentures · Apr 20  
Congratulations to **#Seychelles**, who the government has released the world's 1st FITI Report to improve transparency in fisheries governance @fisheriestl 🌊

**WWF**

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Global Oceans Practice  
Level 4, 245 Adelaide Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
E-mail: [janzon@wwf.org](mailto:janzon@wwf.org)  
oscar.pardo.org

Mr Wavel Ramkalawan - President of the Republic of Seychelles  
Mr Jean-François Ferrari - Designated Minister and Minister of Fisheries  
Ms Valeria Merino - Chair of the Board of Directors, Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI)  
Mr Sven Biermann - Executive Director, Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI)

22 April 2021

Dear colleagues,

The World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) is deeply impressed by the joint fisheries transparency effort of your recently published first Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI) Report globally.

The Seychelles is leading this cornerstone for sustainable fisheries worldwide and will hopefully be the role model and a blueprint for further countries to come next, like Mauritania.

The FITI Report highlights several issues for improvement. Seychelles' FITI National Multi-Stakeholder Group has for example now determined 34 recommendations on how to further strengthen the country's leadership in fisheries transparency.

**Per Olsson Fridh** @thinkper

Minister of Int dev cooperation & Humanitarian affairs, MFA. Minister för internationellt utvecklingsamarbete [instagram.com/thinkper](https://www.instagram.com/thinkper)

📍 Sverige 📅 Joined April 2009

894 Following 8,587 Followers

**Per Olsson Fridh** @thinkper · 17h  
Congratulations @BlueDepartment **#Seychelles** on becoming the first country to submit a report to the @FisheriesTL. For oceans to continue to provide the ecosystem services and resources we all depend on, fisheries need to be sustainable & transparent. [fisheriestransparency.org/seychelles-lau...](https://fisheriestransparency.org/seychelles-lau...)