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Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
Accord relatif aux Pêches dans le Sud de l'Océan Indien

SC-08-09

8th Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC8)

Tenerife, Spain, 22-31 March 2023

SC-08-09

Annual National Report – Seychelles

Delegation of Seychelles

Document type	working paper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	
This paper is submitted as part of Seychelles obligation to report on fishing activities within the SIOFA area.	

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Recommendations

The meeting is invited to consider the Seychelles Annual National Report.

Description of Fisheries

The Seychelles has no locally flagged vessels operating in the SIOFA area. Seychelles flagged vessels operating on the high seas consists of mostly purse seiners and longliners that targets tuna and tuna-like species and are therefore operating in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) area of competence. The majority of local vessels operates within the Seychelles EEZ and targets mostly demersal and pelagic species using a range of fishing gears such as traps, handline, dropline and pelagic longlines.

Relevant social and economic information

With the increasing pressure on the inshore resources and Seychelles focus on Blue Economy growth and diversification, it is envisaged that in future, fishers could potentially venture into deep-sea fishing activities beyond its EEZ. Furthermore, with the newly established Joint Management Area (JMA) between Mauritius and Seychelles for the continental shelf in the Mascarene Shelf Plateau (396,000 square kilometres), there could be future potential for exploration of deep-sea resources in this region.

Seychelles and Mauritius via the Joint Commission of the Extended Continental Shelf have developed a framework to regulate sea cucumber fishing in the JMA. In February 2023, an Expression of Interest was launched to invite eligible and qualified operators registered in Mauritius and Seychelles to undertake sustainable exploratory harvesting of sea cucumber in the JMA.

Moreover, under the UNDP-JMA Standalone Demonstrating Project, work is ongoing to draft a zoning framework for a spatial management plan of the JMA.