



Seychelles SFPA



Funded under EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

A consortium of 21 partners from 12 countries and 16 reference group members representing other countries and international organisations.

54 months duration: June 2017 - November 2021

Work programme topic addressed:
H2020-SFS-21-2016: Advancing basic biological knowledge and improving management tools for commercially important fish and other seafood species

Seychelles SFPA

On 24 February 2020, the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles signed a new 6-year Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) and associated implementing Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities for EU vessels, the financial compensation to be paid by the Union and the modalities of sectoral support to the fishing sector of the Seychelles. The current Protocol covers the period 24.02.2020- 23.02.2026 with an EU financial contribution of €5.3 million per year, out of which €2.8 million is earmarked for the support of the fisheries policy of Seychelles.

This fisheries agreement allows EU vessels from Spain, France, Italy and Portugal to fish in the Seychelles' fishing zone and is part of the tuna network fisheries agreements in the Indian Ocean.

Main features of Seychelles SFPA

Duration of the Agreement	Six years renewable (24.2.2020 – 23.2.2026)
Duration of the Protocol	Six years (24.2.2020 – 23.2.2026)
Nature of the FPA	Tuna Fishery Agreement
Financial contribution	€5,300,000 per year, of which €2,800,000 is dedicated to the support of the fisheries sector of Seychelles.
Fee for ship owners	€80 per tonne for the first and second year of protocol's application €85 per tonne from the third to the sixth year of protocol's application
Advances	Tuna seiners: Annually incremental from €56,000 per year to €59,500 per year (from the third to the sixth year of protocol's application)(ref catches: 700 t) Surface longliners = Annually incremental from €7,200 per year to €7,650 per year (year from the third to the sixth year of protocol's application)(ref catches: 90 t)
Reference tonnage	50,000t/year

Source: European Commission

Fishing opportunities

Gear	Flag	Number of vessels
Tuna seiners		
	Spain	22
	France	16
	Italy	2
Surface longliners		
	Spain	2
	France	4
	Portugal	2



Photos: Shutterstock.com



Main target species

The 2020-2026 Protocol provides for fishing opportunities for 40 tuna seiners and 8 surface longliners. The seiners and pole-and-line vessels are targeting yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), big-eye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*).

The composition of bycatch should be in compliance with the current regulations from IOTC and the FAO recommendations.

Landings by foreign operators

According to the Protocol, EU vessels are not obliged to land their catches in Seychelles, but they are encouraged to do so by the Parts.

The designated port for landings is the port of Victoria (Mahé). The following table shows the total landing and transshipment in Port Victoria by purse seine vessels licenced to fish in Seychelles' waters for 2019 is summarised below (in t), disaggregated by Flag State.

Flag State	Landings (t)	Transshipments (t)	Total (t)
Seychelles	18.044	86.524	104.568
Spain	10.195	155.978	166.173
France	13.285	57.260	70.545
Others (Italy, Mauritius, Korea)	5.746	40.675	46.421
Total	47.270	340.437	387.707

Source: Seychelles FITI Report (2021)

Catches

Flag	Species	Catches in Seychelles EEZ (2019) (t)
Spanish-flagged purse seiners	Yellowfin	8.877
	Skipjack	14.737
	Bigeye	3.352
	Albacore	34
	Others	0
Spanish catch (Mt)		27.000
French-flagged purse seiners	Yellowfin	11.437
	Skipjack	11.120
	Bigeye	1.718
	Albacore	31
	Others	136
French catch (Mt)		24.442
Other-flagged purse seiners	Yellowfin	9.012
	Skipjack	5.174
	Bigeye	1.288
	Albacore	38
	Others	11
Other flags catch (Mt)		15.523

Other fisheries agreements

	Signature of the fisheries agreements
Country	
Mauritius	-
Private company	
Taiwan Deep-sea Tuna Longline Boat Owners and Exporters Association (TTA)	-
Top Fortune International (TFI)	-
Dongwon Industries Co. Ltd	-

Source: Seychelles FITI report (2021)



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