

THE SEAFOOD HUB

Background Information

Mauritius including its outer islands of Rodrigues, St Brandon, Agalega, Tromelin and Chagos Archipelago has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of around 1.9 million km², along with an extended Continental Shelf area of 396,000 km² conferred jointly on Mauritius and Seychelles “a premier in the world in itself” in 2011. However, it has a limited shelf around the islands except for larger shelf areas on certain banks situated far to the North. The lagoon area around the main island of Mauritius is 243 km².

The EEZ of Mauritius has a reasonable stock of various fish, including pelagic and demersal species. Fisheries resources exploited include the island-based artisanal fisheries (lagoon and off-lagoon), Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) fishery (off-lagoon), the offshore demersal fishery of the banks of the Mascarene Plateau and the Chagos Archipelago, and the tuna fishery in the Western Indian Ocean (industrial fisheries).

The policy to sustain the development of Mauritius into a Seafood Hub is a priority the economic agenda of Government.

The Seafood Hub is defined as: “An efficient and attractive environment for the supply of value added processes and services related to the sourcing and marketing of sea food products”.

The objective is to transform Mauritius into a Seafood Hub for trading, warehousing, processing, distribution and re-export of fresh, chilled and frozen or value added seafood products.

The strategy of the Seafood Hub is focused on the development of value added fisheries and seafood related sectors including fishing, transshipment, storage and warehousing, light processing (sorting, grading, cleaning, filleting and loinning), canning, ancillary services (ship chandling, bunkering, vessel husbandry, ship agency, ship building and repair).

To-date a One Stop Shop service is in place at the Trade and Marketing Centre (TMC) in the free port area to facilitate the administrative procedures for loading/unloading/export of fish and fish products.

Economic outlook of the Fisheries Sector - 2011

- *Turnover Rs 17.64 billion*
- *Exports, including Re-export Rs 9.591 billion*
- *Contribution to GDP around 1.2 %*
- *Contribution to national exports 14.8 %*
- *Revenue from calling fishing vessels Rs. 7 billion*

- *Revenue from seafood export Rs 7.7 billion*
- *Re-export Rs. 1.89 billion*
- *No. of calling foreign fishing vessels 613*
- *licenses issued to foreign fishing vessels 253*
- *Transshipment 40, 043 tonnes*
- *Employment in seafood processing 6 000*
- *Indirect employment in the seafood sector (ancillary services) 10 000*
- *Direct employment linked to fishing activities in Mauritius EEZ (including Rodrigues) 6 000*
- *Investment in seafood at date Rs. 18 billion*
- *Additional Investment in Seafood Rs. 10 billion (2012 – 2015)*
- *Tuna constitutes about 96% of the total export value of fish and fish products from Mauritius*

Policy

The policy hinges upon sustainable fisheries development and management. The key aims are:

- (a) increasing revenue;
- (b) maintaining employment;
- (c) increasing local and foreign investment; and
- (d) ensuring resource sustainability.

An important aspect of the strategy is the consolidation of the Sea Food Hub, in order to attract investors and to create additional employment in that sector, focusing on value added fisheries and seafood related sectors.

For the sustainable development of the seafood hub, a Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Protocol has been concluded and initialed by both the European Commission and Mauritius in February 2012. The European Union (EU) is presently completing its internal procedures for the protocol to enter into force. Finalisation of EU internal procedures normally takes around one year for completion. The Fisheries Partnership Agreement establishes the terms and conditions under which vessels registered in and flying the flag of EU may carry out tuna fishing in Mauritius waters in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other rules of international law and practices. 2

Activities of the Seafood Hub

The Seafood Hub is defined as: “An efficient and attractive environment for the supply of value added processes and services related to the sourcing and marketing of sea food products”. The objective of the Ministry is to transform Mauritius into a Seafood Hub for trading, warehousing, processing, distribution and re-export of fresh, chilled and frozen or value added seafood products.

The Mauritius Seafood Hub is a Joint Public Private Sector initiative for policy action. It provides for a One Stop Shop service at the Trade and Marketing Centre (TMC) in the free port area to facilitate the administrative procedures for loading/unloading/export of fish and fish products. Access to the entire value chain of the Mauritius Seafood Hub includes fishing, transshipment, storage and warehousing, light processing (sorting, grading, cleaning, filleting and loinning), canning, and ancillary services (ship chandelling, bunkering, vessel husbandry, ship agency, ship building and repairs)

A Port State Control Unit (PSCU) is based at the One Stop Shop which facilitates and provides expedient services to operators and comprises the:

- Ministry of Fisheries;
- Competent Authority-Seafood;
- Customs Department;
- Ministry of Health and Quality of life; and,
- Passport and Immigration.

The main activities of the PSCU are:

- Issue of authorization for Port access;
- Verify documents on board vessels Inspect fish landings from foreign and local vessels; Authorization for vessels/boats to leave port for fishing campaigns;
- Issue of Landing Permits for imported fish and fish products;
- Issue of Export Authorizations; and
- Monitoring of transshipment

As per the Fisheries and Marine Resources (Export of Fish and fish Products) (Amendment) Regulations 2010, the “Competent Authority” means the Seafood Unit of the Ministry responsible for the subject of fisheries and marine resources. Thus, the Competent Authority verifies and certifies fish and fish products intended for export. The Competent Authority also ensures that all sea food processors operate in accordance with international seafood norms and standards (HACCP, SPS & EU Regulation).

The fish products in the seafood hub includes canned tuna, pre-cooked vacuum packed tuna loins, frozen fish fillets, fresh chilled whole fish/fish fillets, cured fish, smoked fish, salted fish, pet food, fish oil and animal feed. The main market for canned tuna is the EU whilst tuna loins are mainly exported to the US.

The seafood hub is expected to attract some 10 billion rupees, representing investment in terms of vessels and tuna processing. Some 5 tuna purse seiners are expected to undertake fishing activities under Mauritian flag. Furthermore operators in the seafood hub are negotiating for a joint venture for 10 tuna longliners to operate under Mauritian flag.



Strategically positioned in the Indian Ocean, Mauritius is a regional hub for maritime traffic, thus facilitating the export of our finished products towards markets such as Europe, USA, the middle East, Asia and Africa. An increase of 35.1% in the value of exports for fish and fish products has been recorded during the very first quarter of 2012.

25% of the overall canned tuna imported (in volume) by the European Union (EU) comes from the Indian Ocean canneries. Mauritius is one amongst the two biggest ACP exporters of canned tuna to the EU market and Mauritius ranks 3rd in terms of overall EU canned tuna external supply, 3rd in terms of volume of overall EU tuna loins external supply and in terms of value.

An Aquaculture Master Plan is in place. Prospects in aquaculture exist in the field of high value aquaculture of species which are regarded as delicacies besides culture of sea cucumber, eels, urchins, ornamental fish, oyster and oyster pearls for the lucrative global export markets. As per the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007 (Amended), 8 sites have been scheduled for fish farming. 1 site has been allocated to the Fishermen Investment Trust (FIT) for aquaculture development for fishermen in the South East Region while another one has been earmarked for fishermen if FIT is successful in its aquaculture project. To date, only 2 sites are operational in the South East of Mauritius at Pointe aux Feuilles by Ferme Marine de Mahébourg (FMM), with a yearly production capacity of 1 000 tonnes. Sustainability and traceability are omnipresent in the production cycle from hatchery to farming at sea until final processing of products to reach the end customers. In 2011, FMM obtained an award from Friends of the Sea, in testimony of the company's achievement on the Global market.

There are also a number of projects both current and future available in the Fisheries Master Plan for Mauritius, Rodrigues and the Outer island, which encapsulate and support the principles and values of „Sustainable Mauritius“. The plan is in line with global trends of integrated management, addresses the issues of the broader seafood sector, including the entire value chain from production of both capture fisheries and aquaculture to distribution and processing through to marketing issues.

Government Programme 2012 -2015 envisioned “to make of Mauritius, within the next ten years, a nation fully conscious of its immense potential as an Ocean State”.

In the fisheries framework the Ocean Economy can be demarcated as the economic activity, which directly or indirectly uses the sea as an input. Sustainability is key to Mauritius Seafood Competitiveness. Investment in seafood sector since 2000 has exceeded Rs. 18 billion.

Established sector includes amongst others; Fisheries, Seafood processing, Aquaculture, Marine Constructions and Engineering (Jumborisation), Water-Based Tourism (Big game fishing & Leisure) and other Marine Services – (boat building, repairs and maintenance, ship chandlery, Retail of seafood).

On-going development of value added activities includes processing of -40 degrees sashimi grade tuna and better fish oil and fish meal.

Ongoing projects in the Seafood Hub

Most of the companies in the seafood hub are involved in tuna processing (canning, loining, fresh/chilled/frozen).

Investment in the Seafood Hub

SN	Company	Investment (MR)	Employment
1.	Froid des Mascareignes	380	35
2.	Thon des Mascareignes	640	1,200
3.	Pelagic Process Ltd	80	40
4.	Princes Tuna (Mtius) Ltd	659	2,100
5.	MTC Seafood Ltd	150	50
6.	Casamar	78	30
7.	Mauritius Freeport Development	250	100
8.	Ferme Marine de Mahebourg Ltd. (Aquaculture)	100	70

9.	Agimex	10	15
10.	Tri-Marine	5	10
11.	R.E Holdings	15	30
12.	Marlin Exports Ltd	20	39
13.	Ocean Products Ltd	8	45
14.	Seskel Enterprises Ltd	10	35

Companies operating in the Freeport as part of the Seafood Hub activities

Companies	Activity
Froid des Mascareignes Ltd	Specialised in providing cold room facilities to operators.
IBL International Ltd.	Trading, Transhipment
Sapmer Management services	Transhipment, supply of fish to local processing plants.
Island Marine Enterprises Ltd	Trading of fresh and frozen fish, Transhipment activities.
K.T. Lee Global Limited	Trading of fresh and frozen fish.
WD Marketing	Transhipment activities..
Mauritius Freeport Development	Specialised in providing dry and cold room & logistics facilities to operators.
Merry Fisher International Co. Ltd	Trading of seafood products & import of frozen baits for fishing vessels
Jo & Jo Seafood Co.Ltd	Transhipment activities
Mer Rouge Trading Ltd	Transhipment activities
MTC Seafood Co.Ltd	Transhipment activities
Seaborne Agencies & Consultants Ltd	Transshipment.
Southbond Management Services Ltd.	Vessel management/Operations and export of seafood products – fishing and processed in EU standards vessels
Mer des Mascareignes	Trading in seafood products
Transfroid Ltd.	Trading in frozen seafood products
Indian Ocean Tuna	Transhipment. Supply of fish to local processing plants

Processing Ltd (Indian Ocean)	
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Companies exporting to the European Market

Companies	Address	Approved for
Seskel Enterprises Ltd	St. Michel Road, Riche Terre Road, Riche Terre	Export of salted fish "snoek"
Aurifla Co.Ltd.	Mariamem Temple Road, Cap malheureux	Export of chilled fish
Princess Tuna (Mts) Ltd	New Trunk Road, Riche Terre	Export of canned tuna products
Froid Des Mascareignes Ltd	Freeport Zone No.8, Quay D Road, Port Louis	Storage of fish for export
Mauritius Freeport Development Co. Ltd	Freeport Zone No.5, Mer Rouge, Port Louis	Storage of frozen fish meant for transportation to the EU
Pelagic Process	Quay C, Harbour Peninsula Area, Port Louis	Processing & Export of chilled and frozen fish and fish products
Thon Des Mascareignes Ltd	Marine Road, Port Louis	Processing and export of frozen fish, namely Tuna including canned Tuna Belly
Indico Canning Ltd	Marine Road, Port Louis	Processed Tuna in jars
Ferme Marine de Mahebourg	Royal Road, Pointe aux Feuilles	Aquaculture fish
Mer des Mascareignes	Freeport Zone No.8, Quay D Road, Port Louis	Processing of frozen fish/steaks/loins

Companies exporting to Non-EU Markets

Companies	Address
IBL International Ltd	6, Dr Ferriere Street, Port Louis
Island Marine Enterprises Ltd	Ground Floor, Ken Lee Building, 20 Edith cavell Street, Port Louis
Kushboo Expo Ltd	19, Quay Street, Port Loius
K.T. Lee Global Ltd	Freeport Enterprise Room 405, KL Centre, Abbatoir Road, Port Louis

Hassen Taher Seafoods (Mtius) Ltd	Madame Street, Camp Levieux, Rose Hill
Mer Rouge Trading Ltd	MFD Building, Freeport Zone 5, Mer Rouge
Transfroid Ltd	c/o Froid des Mascareignes Co.Ltd, Freeport Zone 8, Quay D Road, Port Louis
Tuna Processing Services – Indian Ocean Ltd	Freeport Zone, Quay D road, Port Louis
Kha Yang Seafood Co. Ltd	Freeport Zone5, Mer Rouge, Port Louis
Cervonic Ltd	Motorway M2, Riche Terre, Terre Rouge
Seaborne Agencies & Consultant Ltd	Operations dept, 2 nd Floor, Capitainerie Building, Cargo Peninsula, Quay D, Port Louis
Merry Fisher International	47, Route Balisage, Roche Bois
Ferme Marine de Mahebourg	11, malartic Lane Quatre bornes
Austral transit logistic Ltd	2 nd Floor, TMC Bldg, Mer Rouge Port Louis
Maersk Logistics	MFD Building, Freeport Zone 5, Mer Rouge
MTC Seafood Co.Ltd	Freeport Zone 5, Mer Rouge
Marine Biotechnology Products Ltd	Riche Terre, terre Rouge
Pets Export	43, Zinneas Avenue, Morc Swan, Tombeau Bay
Medical Trading Co.Ltd	Falcon Street, Caudan, Port Louis
One Shark Co.Ltd	21, Edgard Aubert Street, Port Louis
Obas Ltd	c/o Ocean Basket & Seafood Ltd, MFD Freeport Zone 5, Mer Rouge
English Bay Co.Ltd	Lot 5, DBM Industrial States, La Tour Koenig, Pointe aux Sables
Bella Amigo	Royal Road, Mont Mascas, Petit Raffray

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