

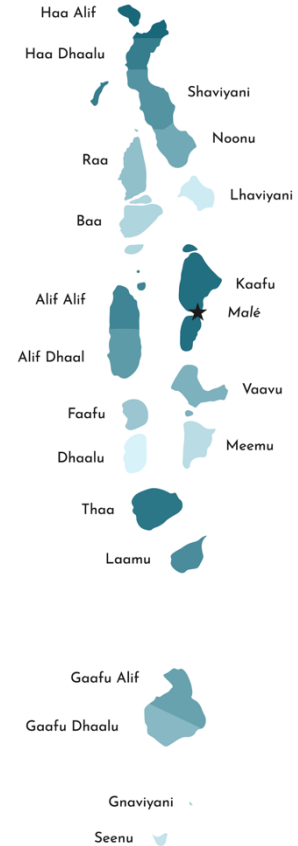
# FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN THE MALDIVES



Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources & Agriculture

# MALDIVES ARCHIPELAGO

- ~ 1192 islands
- A maximum natural elevation of 2.4 m
- EEZ is approximately 916,000 km<sup>2</sup> (only 1% is land)
- Contains 3.1% of the world's coral reefs
- Population: 344,023 (census 2014)





# 17,000

~ Number of fishers in the country

# 2,500

~ Number of fishing vessels

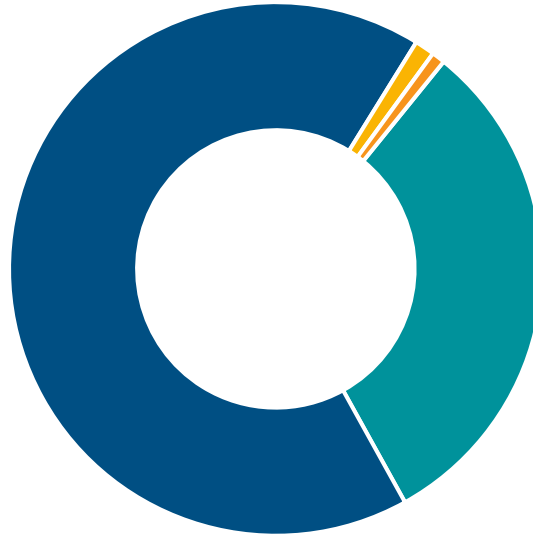
# 95%

Percentage of marine products in total physical exports by value

# 91%

Tuna alone make 91% of total physical exports by value

# CHARACTERISTICS OF NATIONAL FISHERIES



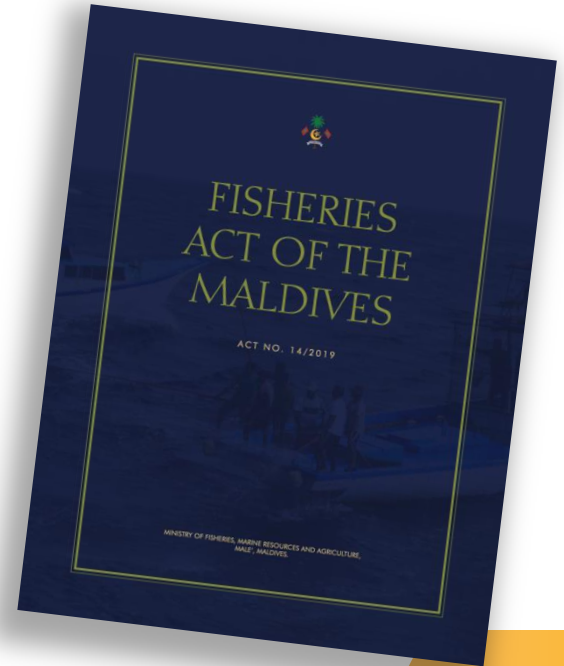
■ Yellowfin tuna ■ Skipjack tuna ■ Grouper ■ Other fish

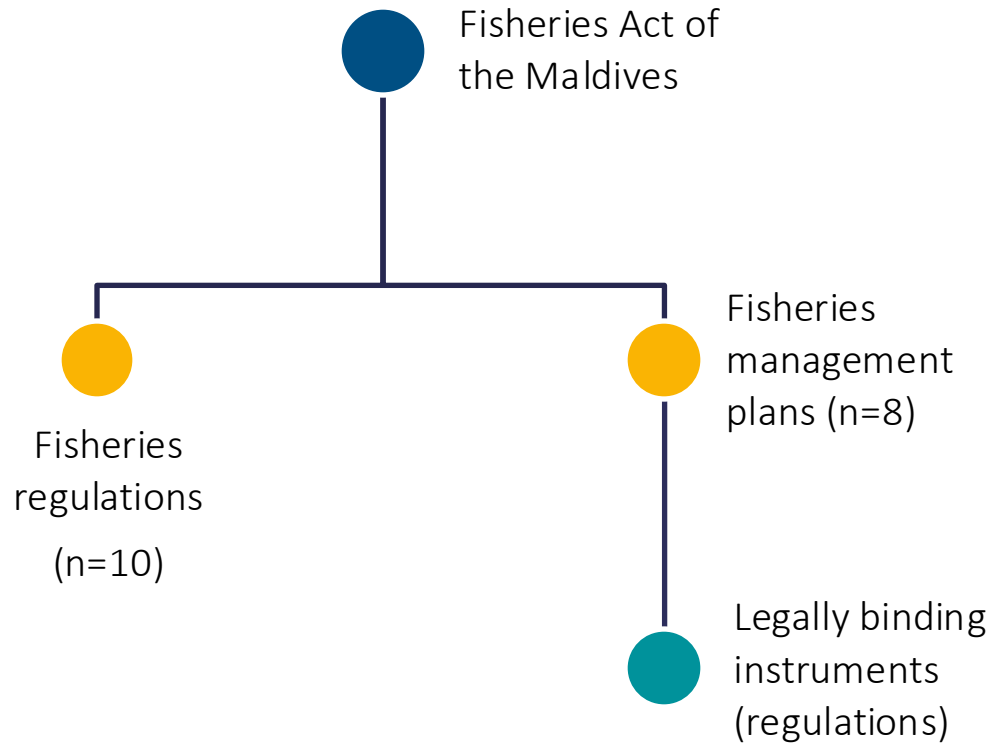


Target species	Main gear	Operational pattern	~ Fleet
Skipjack tuna	Pole and Line	1-3 days	700
Yellowfin tuna	Handline	1 week	
Billfish	Trolling / drifting dropline	1 day	400
Grouper	Hook and line	2-3 days	150
Other reef fish (Carangidae, Lethrinidae, Lutjanidae, Serranidae)	Handline / weighted handline	2-3 days	1500
Sea cucumber	Hand picked / scuba gear	2-3 days	200

# FISHERIES REGULATORY FRAMEWORK


- Primarily governed by the ***Fisheries Act of the Maldives***
- Ratified in 2019
- Structured as a framework law
- Touches upon the various multi-disciplinary aspects of the sector
- Serves as the legislative backbone for the sector as a whole



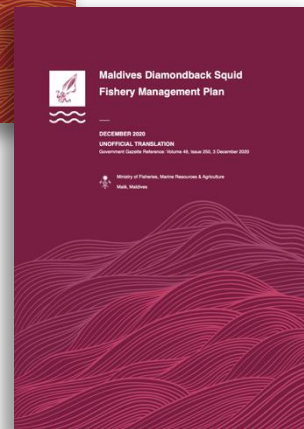
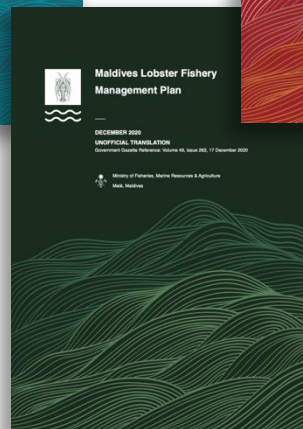
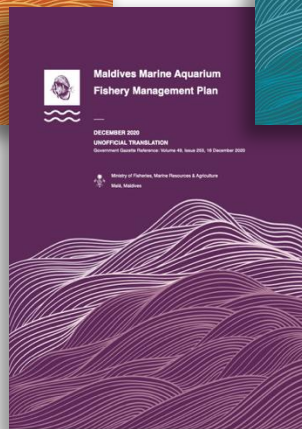
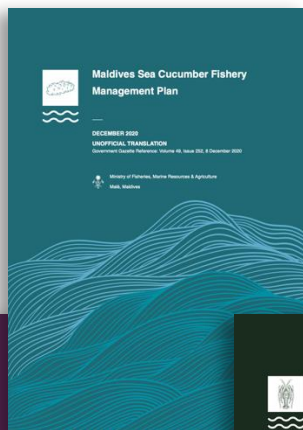




# FISHERIES REGULATIONS

1. General fisheries regulation of the Maldives
  2. Regulation on issuing permits for the establishment of fisheries projects
  3. Regulation on the general process of issuing licenses and permits for fishing, fishing related activities and aquaculture activities
  4. Regulation on issuing tuna purchase license to foreign vessels within the maritime zones of the Maldives
  5. Regulation on the establishment of floor prices for fish purchase
  6. Aquaculture regulation
  7. Regulation on administration of penalties for fisheries related offences
  8. Regulation on the conduction of marine research in the Maldives
  9. Regulation on prevention of Illegal unreported and unregulated fishing within the maritime zone of the Maldives
  10. Regulation on port state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing
- 





# SUMMARY OF CONSULTATIONS

Fishery	Islands / Agency	Number of participants
Sea Cucumber Fishery	Exporters	3
	Th. Omadhoo	23
	Th. Hirilandhoo	7
	Th. Kin'bidhoo	51
	R. Maduvvari	11
Billfish Fishery	Sh. Funadhoo	22
Grouper Fishery	V. Felidhoo / V. Rakeedhoo	3
	F. Feeali / F. Bilehdhoo	50 (over two trips)
	Roundtable meeting with F. Bilehdhoo fishers & exporters	15
	Th. Omadhoo	14
	F. Nilandhoo	44 (over two trips)
	Exporters / Traders	3
Reef Fishery / MAF	B. Fehendhoo	9
	M. Dhiggaru	10
All fisheries	LGA / MCS / MPS / MoED / ME / EPA / MoT	11



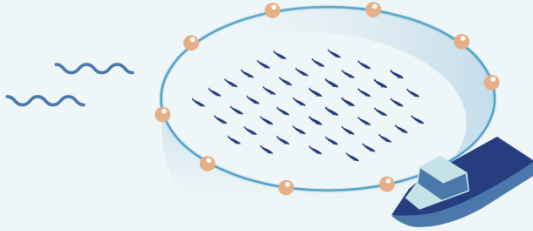
# OBJECTIVES OF THE FMPS

- Implement a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) mechanism
- Strengthen data collection and data reporting mechanisms for each commercial fishery in the Maldives
- Prioritise evidence-based policymaking through the collection of biological and socio-economic data on each fishery



# **IMPORTANT PROVISIONS IN THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

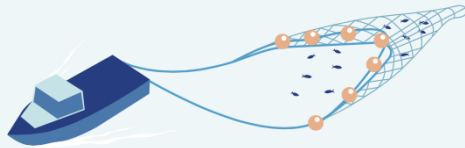
# PROHIBITED TYPES OF FISHING IN THE MALDIVES



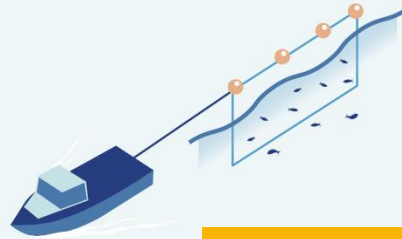
Purse seine fishing



Fishing using a net



Trawl net fishing



Gillnet fishing



Dynamite fishing



# MAJOR POLICIES

Ban on net fishing for tuna  
(purse seine and gill nets)

Promote one-by-one  
sustainable fishing approach

No foreign fishing allowed  
in Maldivian waters

Promote value-addition in  
the processing sector

Increase profit through eco-  
labelling (MSC certification)

Explore new markets for tuna



- Facilitate schemes to ensure security for fishers
- Establish infrastructure providing access to services and facilities required by fishers
- Promote participation of youth in the fisheries industry through access to vessel acquisition
- Facilitate business development opportunities and research on mariculture
- Ensuring that fishers receive returns based on prevailing fish prices in the international markets





# FISH PROCESSING IN THE MALDIVES



## SKIPJACK TUNA

- 3 Canneries
- 4 Major Cold Storage facilities

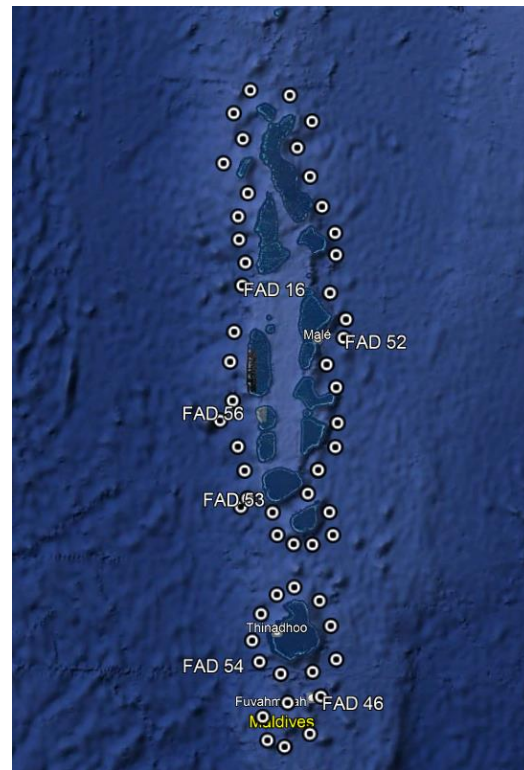


## YELLOWFIN TUNA

- 8 Processing facilities

# FAD ARRAY IN THE MALDIVES

- The programme officially began in early 80s
- **66** anchored fish aggregating devices to date
- Especially allocated for pole and line fishers (**59**)
- Recently introduced FADs for recreational fishers (**7**)



All the management plans include a number of measures that are shared across:



Establishment of an Advisory  
Committee



Licensing for key  
stakeholders



Establishment of logbook  
reporting / other data  
collection mechanisms



Establishment of a catch  
certification mechanism

Several management plans also have unique measures that are more applicable to specific fisheries in the Maldivian context



### **AREA CLOSURES**

5 protected grouper spawning aggregation sites



### **GEAR BASED RESTRICTIONS**

For example, prohibiting the use of scuba diving gear and the use of gaffs / spears in grouper fishery

### **SIZE LIMITS**

Legal size limits established for 24 species of groupers and all billfishes



### **SPECIES PROTECTION**

Parrotfishes, sharks and several other species are protected, lobsters cannot be exported



# FISHERIES INFORMATION SYSTEM (FIS)



**LICENSING**



**CATCH DATA**



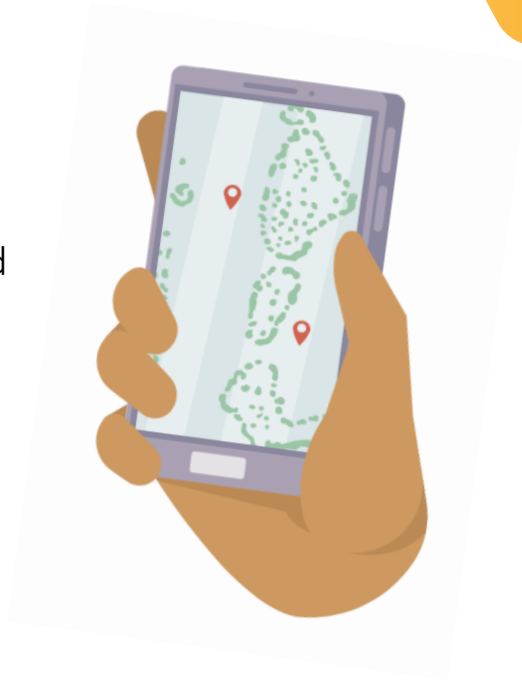
**PURCHASE DATA**



**CATCH  
CERTIFICATES**

# Monitoring & Compliance

- Fisheries Rangers stationed in 6 regions
- Vessel Locating Devices (VLDs) installed in about 400 vessels
- Installation of VLDs is now a requirement for all tuna fishing vessels
- Electronic observer programme initiated – 13 vessels installed with EMS



# ROLE IN THE IOTC

- Member since 2011
- High engagement in different Working Parties, Scientific Committee, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
- Led and co-sponsored several Conservation and Management Measures (Resolutions) for the management of tuna and tuna like stocks in the Indian Ocean.
- The Maldives has been leading the G16, a coalition of like-minded coastal States in the Indian Ocean

# CHALLENGES

- Difficult to get data or implement a reliable data reporting system due to highly dispersed fishing communities; difficult to identify a data collection point
- Lack of awareness on the importance and use of collected fisheries data in ensuring healthy, sustainable fish populations
- Difficulty in getting consensus for regionally managed fisheries such as tuna







**THANK  
YOU**

