



National Fisheries Authority

JAMAICA FISHERIES:

Quarterly Statistics Report

Volume 2: Issue 1

April - June 2023



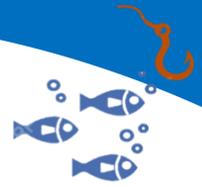
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Acknowledgments

NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY, JAMAICA

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The contribution made by all staff members is appreciated. In particular, the Divisional Extension Officers and the team from the Statistics and Data Management Unit that conducted the data collection, compilation, processing, and analysis accordingly.

The Statistics and Data Management Unit (SDMU) of the Fisheries Compliance, Licensing, and Statistics (FCLS) Division produced the report in collaboration with the NFA's Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture Divisions.

Special thanks to – Dr. Zahra H. Oliphant, JP (Principal Director), Mr. Richard Barcoo (Chief Compliance Officer – Eastern), Mr. Lance McDonald (Licensing & Registration Manager), Ms. Rachel Feddis (Capture Fisheries), and Ms. Abi-Gaye Smythe (Public Relations Manager).





Table of Contents

Part 1 – Overview.....	6
Q1 2023/24 PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE	7
NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY	8
Role and Functions	8
Organizational Structure	9
FEATURE STORY	10
Part 2 Statistical Performance	11
FISHING VESSELS STATISTICS	12
FISHING VESSEL REGISTRATION	12
FISHER LICENCES STATISTICS	14
FISHER LICENCES.....	14
FISH PRODUCTION STATISTICS	16
MARINE PRODUCTION	16
AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION	19
COMPLIANCE STATISTICS	21
Part 3 – Fisheries Economic Performance	23
FISHERIES ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE.....	24
FISHERIES CONTRIBUTION TO GDP	24
FISHERS SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATISTICS	25
Part 4 – Conclusion	27



List of Tables

Table 1: Total number of vessel licences issued by category, January – June 2023.	14
Table 2: Estimated marine fish production (MT) and value (USD), January – June 2023.	17
Table 3: Marine fish production (MT) trend by fishery type, January – June 2023.	17
Table 4: Estimated value (USD) for marine fish production (MT) by fishery type, January – June 2023.	17
Table 5: Fines for offences under the Fisheries Act – 2018, from 2019 to June 2023.	22
Table 6: Number of individual fisher licences issued and renewal % (Excluding temporary permits)	22
Table 7: GDP Contribution (USD \$'Million) by the fisheries sector to Agriculture and Jamaica's GDP.	24
Table 8 Average Fin-Fish price per pound per parish during the period April – June 2023 (lowest prices highlighted in green and highest in red for the most common species).	25

List of Figures

Fig. 1 General Organisational Structure of the National Fisheries Authority.	9
Fig. 2 Number of New Vessel Licences Issued, January to June 2023.	12
Fig. 3 Total Vessel Licence Issued (New and Renewed), January to June 2023.	13
Fig. 4: Percentage difference in Vessel Licence Issued by parish for Apr.- Jun. 2023 in comparison to Jan – Mar 2023	13
Fig. 5 Total number of vessel licences issued per quarter.	14
Fig. 6: New Fisher Licence Issued, January to June 2023.	15
Fig. 7: Total fisher licences issued per quarter, new and renewed.	15
Fig. 8 : Parishes and total fisher licences, issued within Q1 2023/24.	15
Fig. 9: Marine fish production January – June [2022 vs 2023] in MT.	16
Fig. 10: Marine fish production (pounds) by costal region, January – June 2023.	18
Fig. 11: Costal region contribution to Jamaica marine fish production (MT), January – June 2023.	18
Fig. 12: Jamaica aquaculture production (MT) showing difference YoY, 2012 – 2022.	19
Fig. 13: Quarterly performance of Jamaica aquaculture production (MT) 2022 vs 2023.	20
Fig. 14: Percentage of Aquaculture production per parish, 2023.	20
Fig. 15: Tilapia farm-gate prices January – June 2022 vs 2023.	21
Fig. 16: Total number of compliance site visits conducted in each parish within Q1 FY-2023/24 [April – June].	22
Fig. 17: The percentage contribution of fishing to the Agriculture sector from 2018 to 2022.	24
Fig. 18: Age of new fisher applications from Jan. – June 2023.	25
Fig. 19: Age of fisher renewal applications from Jan.– June, 2023.	25
Fig. 20: Sex of fishers receiveing licences from January – June, 2023.	26
Fig. 21: 10-Year incremental sex increase of fishers in the industry, 2002, 2012, and 2022.	26



Part 1 – Overview

1st Quarter 2023/24 PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE
WHO WE ARE - National Fisheries Authority





Q1 APRIL – JUNE 2023/24 PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES



26% Increase in marine and aquaculture fish production when compared to January – March 2023, representing 2039.48 MT.

44% Increase in marine fish production earnings when compared to January – March 2023.

VESSEL MONITORING



42% April – June 2023 represented the highest vessel licence renewal percentage per quarter since Q4 2021/22, recording 79% of the total vessel licence issued.

42% Q1 2023/24 recorded a 42% increase in new vessel licence issued, representing the highest percentage since Q4 2021/22.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA



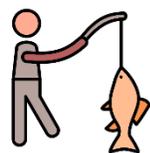
8.5% Increase in male licensed fishers for the period April – June 2023 when compared to the previous quarter.

12% Decline in female licensed fishers for the period April – June 2023 when compared to the previous quarter.

9% Increase in the 17 - 35 age group for the period April – June 2023 when compared to the previous quarter.

28% Increase in the 36 - 55 age group for the period April – June 2023 when compared to the previous quarter.

FISHERS STATISTICS



>2,268 Number of fisher licences issued in Quarter 1 (Q1), April to June 2023

62% April – June 2023 represented the highest number of fisher licence issued per quarter since Q4 2021/22.

62% Increase YoY for the period April – June 2023 versus the same period in 2022.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) CONTRIBUTION



Fisheries contribution to Jamaica's Agriculture sector grew by 16% in 2022 against 2021, recording a 9.64% contribution, valued at JMD \$17.7B (USD\$114.3M).



NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) was established as a body corporate, under Section 5(1) of The Fisheries Act, 2018, with the mandate being that the Authority will be responsible for the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture. The Authority is, therefore, the sole body with the responsibility of ensuring that there is conservation of Jamaica’s fisheries; collection, compilation, and analysis of statistics for the sector; monitoring, control, and enforcement of activities related to fisheries and aquaculture; as well as, granting of licences, authorizations and permits and allocation of fishing rights and quotas for all who intend to fish in Jamaica’s waters. Before its establishment, the fisheries and aquaculture sectors were regulated by the Fisheries Division, which was established in 1949 and as a government division, fell within the portfolio with responsibility for Fisheries. Transitioning to a statutory body allows the NFA to regulate the fisheries and aquaculture sectors more independently within the structure of a strengthened legislative framework, enabled by the new Act.

VISION:

The NFA is a model of excellence in capture fisheries and aquaculture management and development.

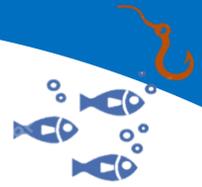
MISSION:

To facilitate the sustainable development of the Jamaican fisheries sector, including aquaculture, through effective and efficient management, regulation, administration, and participatory governance for the benefit of all Jamaicans.

Role and Functions

The NFA is the Jamaican Government agency responsible for the provision of regulatory and other services to ensure efficient and sustainable management of Jamaica’s fisheries waters on behalf of the Jamaican community. The challenge in delivering these services is to find the right balance between competitive and profitable aquaculture production and keeping the impacts of fishing on Jamaica’s marine ecosystems within sustainable and acceptable risk levels.

Our fisheries management practices aim to maintain the environmental sustainability of commercial fisheries for Jamaicans both now and in the future. These practices have regard to the impact of fishing on non-target species and the long-term health of the broader marine environment.



The National Fisheries Authority is also responsible for international fisheries matters, including preventing illegal foreign fishing (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing) in Jamaica’s fisheries waters. The Authority participates in the management, monitoring, control, and surveillance activities as well as developing capacity-building activities and providing advice and training to the Jamaican Fishers.

Organizational Structure

The NFA, with a staff complement of 290 persons, is governed by a Board, which advises the Minister with responsibility for fisheries, while the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for carrying out the functions and managing the operations of the Authority.

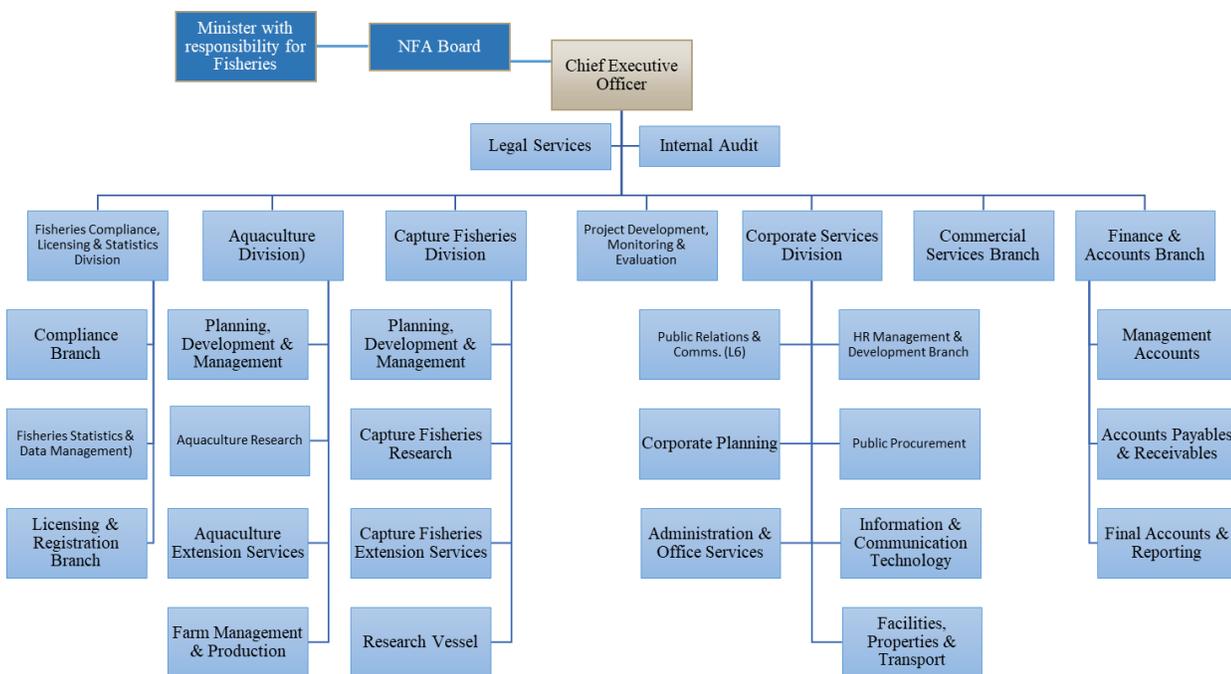
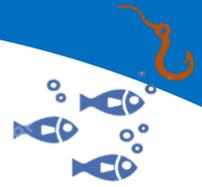


Fig. 1 General Organisational Structure of the National Fisheries Authority



National Fisheries Authority Corporate Head Office



FEATURE STORY



LET'S MEET Marvin Burrell Fisherman

AGE: 38 Years

MARITAL STATUS: Married

CHILDREN: 1 Child

HOME TOWN: St. Ann's Bay

YEARS FISHING: 10 years

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT FISHING:

"I get an opportunity to catch the fish I like and feed my family."

ADVICE TO NEW ENTRANTS:

"Learn to swim and understand the ocean, because the ocean is dangerous."

WANT TO SEE FROM GOVERNMENT:

"More patrols at night, when you set your pot, men go there at night with compressor and spear out your catch in the pot."

NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE:

"Encountered turbulent waters and I had to have a strong mind to manoeuvre and get home."





Part 2 Statistical Performance

Fishing Vessel Licences

Fishers Licences

Fish Production Data

(A) Marine Production

(B) Aquaculture Production

Compliance Statistics



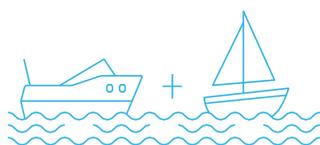


FISHING VESSELS STATISTICS

FISHING VESSEL REGISTRATION



The National Fisheries Authority continues its drive towards increasing fishing vessel registration compliance through several initiatives, such as hosting in-field licensing sessions and carrying out enforcement activities. These strategies have seen a steady improvement in the compliance rates as seen below:



Total # of Registered Vessels to Date:
9,196

Fig. 2 Number of New Vessel Licences Issued, January to June 2023.



For the period April – June 2023 (1st Quarter 2023/24), 505 vessel licences were issued which was a 28% increase over the previous quarter. New applicants accounted for 108 of the total licences issued, representing a 35% increase over the number of new applicants in the previous quarter.



Members of the Licensing and Registration Unit executing one of their in-field licensing session.

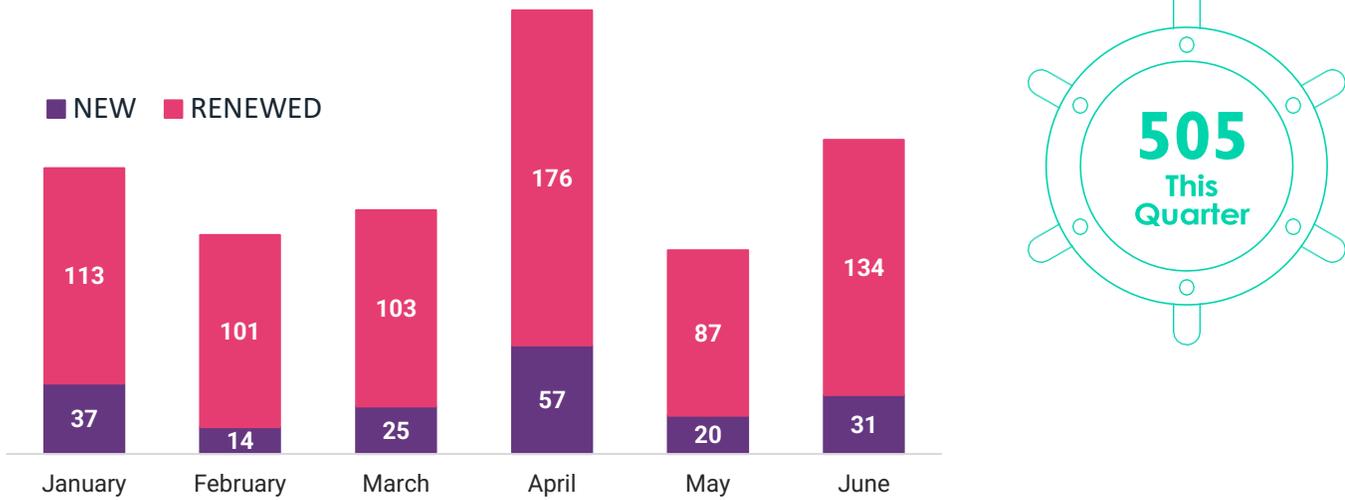


Fig. 3 Total Vessel Licence Issued (New and Renewed), January to June 2023.

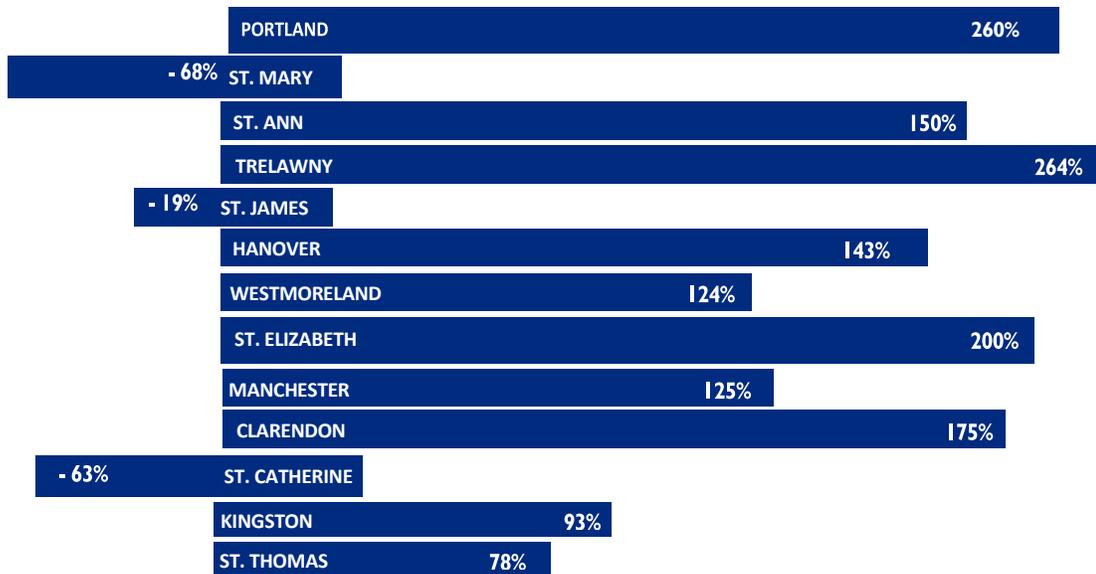


Fig. 4: Percentage difference in Vessel Licence Issued by parish for Apr.- Jun. 2023 in comparison to Jan – Mar 2023

With 505 vessel licences issued in April – June, the overall monthly average increased from 131 in the previous quarter to 168 in the Q1. April 2023 recorded the highest number of new and renewed vessel licences issued (Figure 3) and the parish which recorded the highest number of vessel licences issued was Trelawny (Figure 4).

Artisanal fishing continues to account for the major category of total vessel licences issued, accounting for 87% of the total vessel licences issued from January to June 2023 (Table 1).

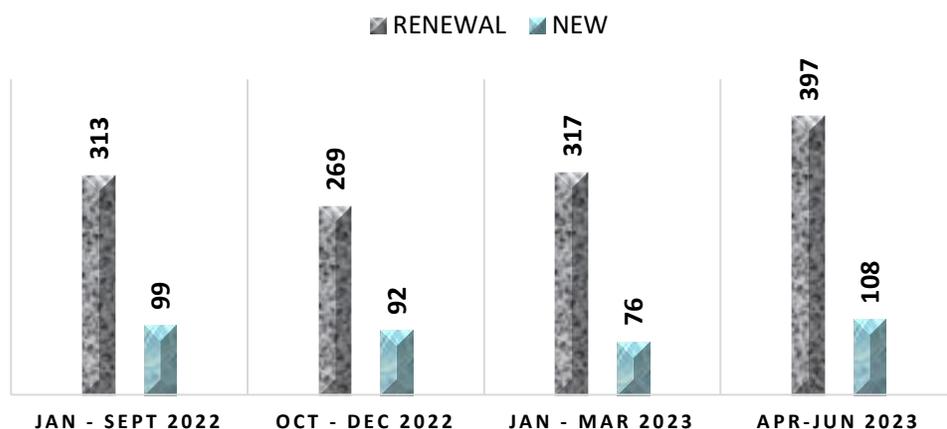


Fig. 5 Total number of vessel licences issued per quarter.

Table 1: Total number of vessel licences issued by category, January – June 2023.

Category	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL	% Contr.
ARTISANAL	139	95	105	196	96	153	784	87%
INDUSTRIAL	4	0	3	4	4	3	18	2%
RECREATIONAL	5	11	3	10	3	6	38	4%
CAY	0	6	17	7	0	0	30	3%
SPORTS CHARTER	2	5	0	9	0	0	16	2%
TEMP VESSEL CERTIFICATE	0	1	0	0	0	3	4	0.4%
CONCH	0	0	0	7	0	0	7	0.8%
TOTAL	150	118	128	233	103	165	897	100%

FISHER LICENCES STATISTICS

FISHER LICENCES



April to June 2023, recorded 2,268 fisher licences being issued, with the highest number recorded in April (Figure 6). The 2,268 licences issued in Q1 20223/24 [April – June] represent a 47% increase over the same quarter in 2022/23. New applicants for licences represented 26%, which is a reduction over the previous quarter (Jan. – March 2023) where 58% of the applicants were new.

Licence renewal recorded an 18% increase when compared to the previous period, and the Authority anticipates a further increase in the quarters to come through increased surveillance, data collection, and sensitization campaigns.

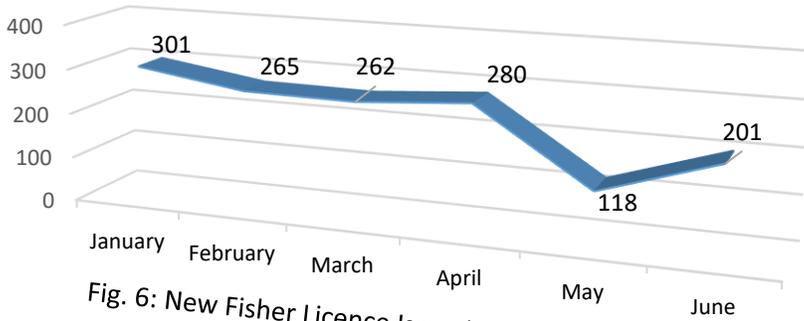


Fig. 6: New Fisher Licence Issued, January to June 2023.



Photo: Fisher completing his application form.

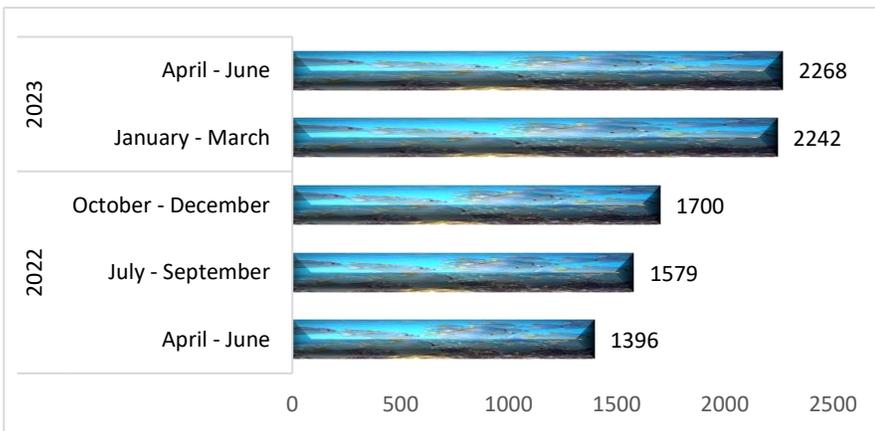


Fig. 7: Total fisher licences issued per quarter, new and renewed.



The performance in Q1 is in alignment with the strategic target of the National Fishers Authority to issue at least 2,100 licences per quarter. To date, more than 31,000 licences have been issued; however, within the next financial year (2024/25), the Authority will undertake a census of fishers, to validate the number of fishers within the sector. For this financial year (2023/24), the Authority will commence a vessel census in September 2023 to validate the number of boats within the sector.

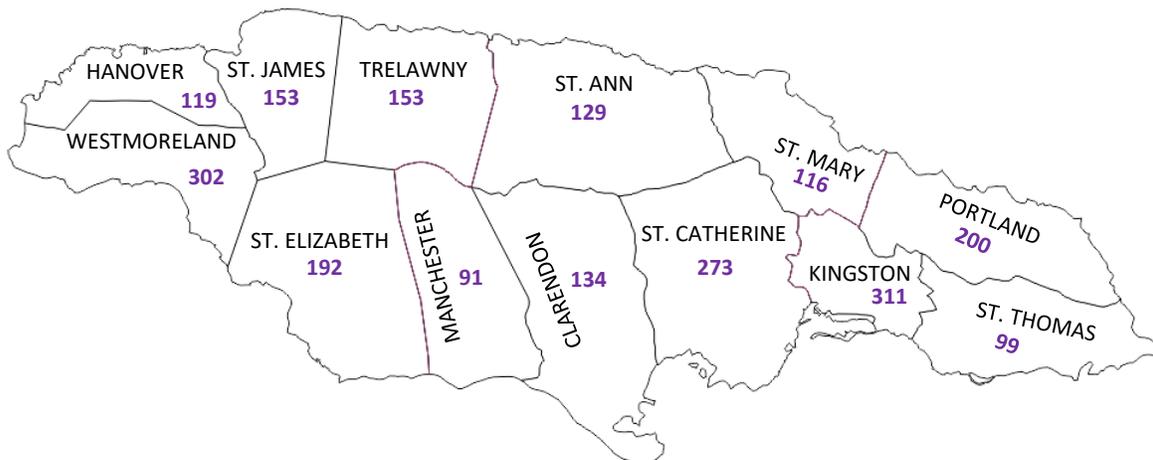
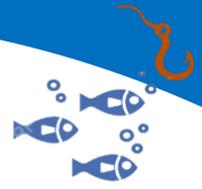


Fig. 8 : Parishes and total fisher licences, issued within Q1 2023/24.



FISH PRODUCTION STATISTICS

MARINE PRODUCTION

The data collection system for the artisanal fisheries is predicated on landings at individual beaches, with the average number of days fished per month being 20 days. The artisanal fish production is diverse and includes finfish species (such as snappers, parrotfish, jacks, grunts), lobster, and conch.

Data collection during the period under review recorded over 300 species of fish being caught in Jamaica, representing an 11% increase compared to 270 species identified in the previous quarter. The Sardines (*Sardinella* spp.), Black Jacks (*Caranx lugubris*), and Herring (*Opisthonema oglinum*) continue to account for the majority of catch. The popular food fish Snapper showed high species diversity with eleven different species being recorded for the quarter, a 22% increase over the previous quarter (Dog, Glasseye, Grey, Lane, Mutton, Red, Silk, Vermillion, Yellowtail, etc.).

For April – June 2023, marine finfish production was 1,818.58 MT (Table 2, Fig. 9), representing a 32% increase compared to the previous quarter's value of 1,375.58 MT; however, this was an 11% decrease over the same quarter (2017.7MT) in the last year. Production of 1,818.58 MT yields an approximate value of USD \$24 Mil or ~JMD\$3.6 billion (Table 2). This represents an approximate 44% increase in USD earnings in comparison to the previous quarter's earnings value.

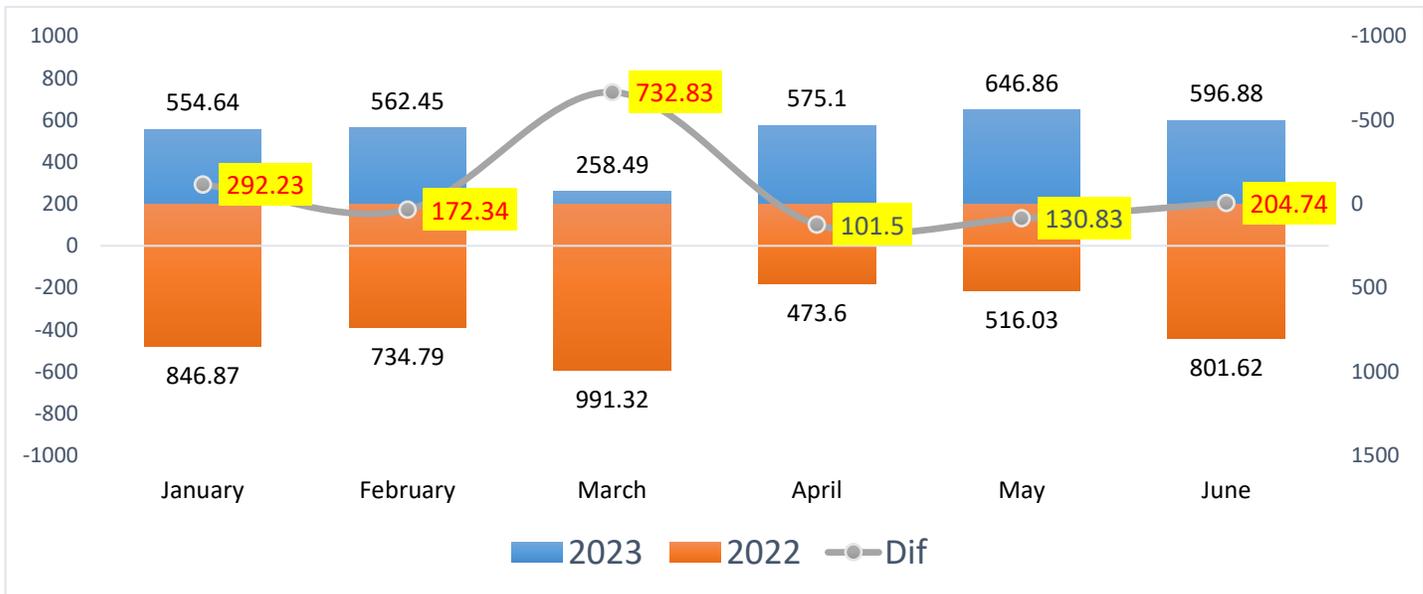


Fig. 9: Marine fish production January – June [2022 vs 2023] in MT.



Table 2: Estimated marine fish production (MT) and value (USD), January – June 2023.

2023 Month	Fish Production Estimate			Value Summary			Value Summary USD		
	Weight (MT)	Qtrly Fig (MT)	Quarter	Estimated Value J\$	Qtrly Estimate J\$	Quarter	Estimated Value USD	Qtrly Estimate USD	Quarter
January	554.64		1st Quarter	1,024,590,700.84		1st Quarter	6,655,347.20		1st Quarter
February	562.45			1,088,915,574.12			7,030,250.98		
March	258.49	1,375.58		439,035,311.07	2,552,541,586.03		2,876,091.13	16,561,689.31	
April	575.10		2nd Quarter	1,046,206,507.79		2nd Quarter	6,821,009.96		2nd Quarter
May	646.86			1,337,244,574.17			8,621,821.88		
June	596.88	1,818.85		1,314,808,851.62	3,698,259,933.58		8,465,161.29	23,907,993.13	

Table 3: Marine fish production (MT) trend by fishery type, January – June 2023.

Fishery	Production (MT)						Total	% Composition
	2023							
	January	February	March	April	May	June		
Atrisanal finfish	554.64	562.45	258.49	575.10	646.86	596.88	3,194.42	92.35
Sea Cucumber	0	0					0.00	0.00
Industrial Conch			0	9.43	41.31	103.81	154.55	4.47
Industrial Spiny Lobster*	37.18	28.03	44.98				110.19	3.19
Total Marine Production	591.82	590.48	303.47	584.53	688.17	700.69	3,459.16	100

* Reported weight for whole, tail and head meat

Close Season

Table 4: Estimated value (USD) for marine fish production (MT) by fishery type, January – June 2023.

Fishery	Estimated Value (USD)						Total	% Contribution
	January	February	March	April	May	June		
Atrisanal finfish	\$ 6,655,347	\$ 7,030,250	\$ 2,876,091	\$ 6,821,009	\$ 8,621,821	\$ 8,465,161	\$ 40,469,679	82.32
Industrial Conch			\$ -	\$ 159,871	\$ 700,351	\$ 1,759,947	\$ 2,620,169	5.33
Industrial Spiny Lobster*	\$ 2,048,376	\$ 1,544,271	\$ 2,478,106				\$ 6,070,753	12.35
Total Marine Production	\$ 8,703,723	\$ 8,574,521	\$ 5,354,197	\$ 6,980,880	\$ 9,322,172	\$ 10,225,108	\$ 49,160,601	100.00



Members of the Data Collection Unit engaging a local fisher while capturing relevant data.

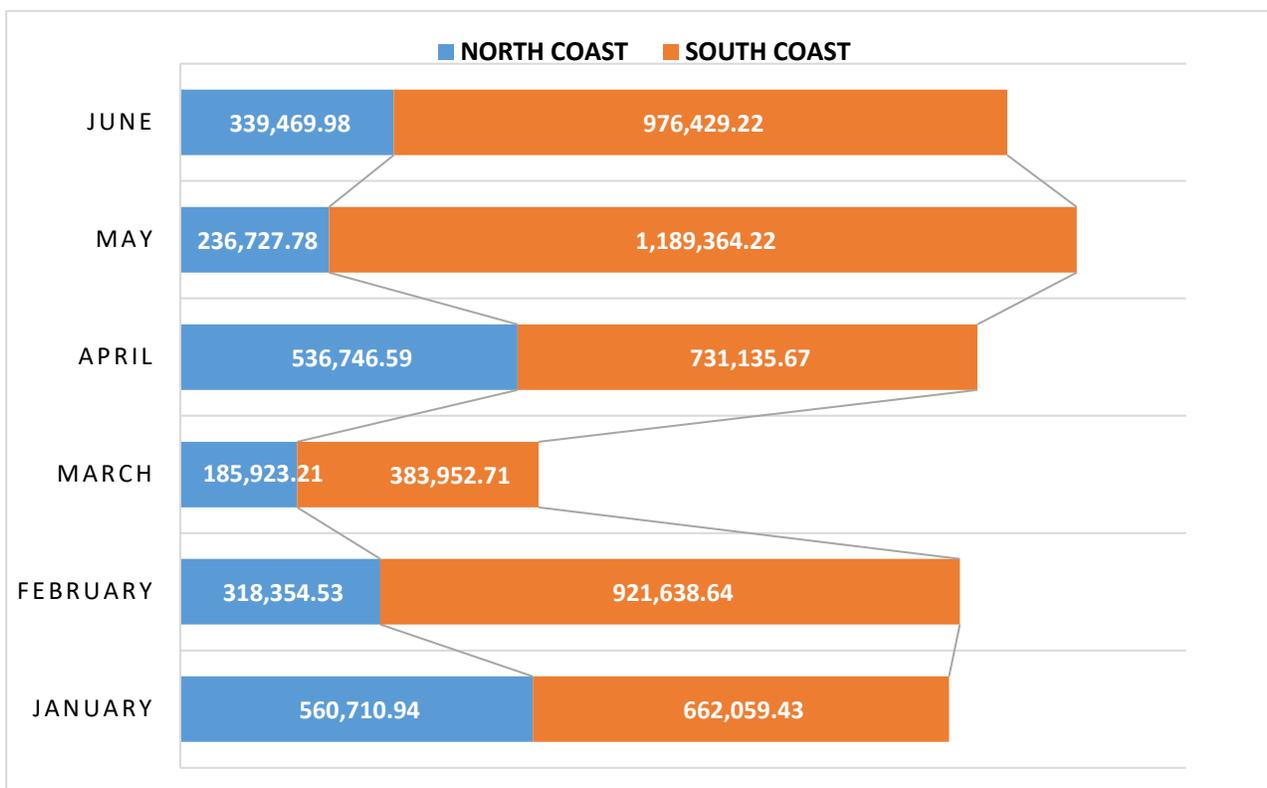


Fig. 10: Marine fish production (pounds) by costal region, January – June

92% of Jamaica's total marine production was attributed to artisanal fishing, for the 6-month performance [January to June 2023]. The month of May recorded the highest production levels, accounting for 20% of the 6-month total of 3,194.42 MT. Artisanal marine fish production on the southern belt accounted for 69% of Jamaica's total marine fish production (Fig.11).

The Authority ties this performance to the fishing which takes place at the Cays, most of which are located on the southern coast of the island. The Pedro Bank is a unique area, almost three-quarters the size of mainland Jamaica. Most of the bank is underwater and it is composed of sand, coral reefs, deep reefs, seagrass beds, and three coral cays known as the Pedro Cays. This environment supports marine life production and the reef, offshore, and deep slope fisheries yielded the greatest productivity during this period.

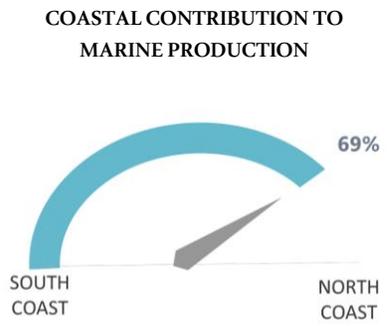


Fig. 11: Coastal region contribution to Jamaica marine fish production (MT), January – June 2023.



Jamaica’s marine fish production sector continues to be plagued by several factors, as reported to the Authority’s Data Collection and Fisheries Extension Officers. During the reporting period, the factors reported were similar to those highlighted in previous publications; poor weather conditions, climate change (elevated sea temperatures), fish migration, influx of *Sargassum* particularly on the south coast, etc. Fish migration however, also presents some benefits as fish migration patterns, takes them through our waters from other areas. Likewise, *Sargassum* blooms are also beneficial to fish as a food source, for nursing and providing shelter.

AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION



Research Officer Krystal Facey explains the Recirculating Aquaculture System.

During the period April – June 2023, the aquaculture sector harvested 220.9 MT of Tilapia from 711.44 acres of ponds which were in production; this was a 17% decline over the same period (258.66MT) in the last year. The southern-central plains of St. Catherine and Clarendon continue to be the prevalent fish farming areas, in addition to parishes like St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland where the topography and soil type are suitable for fish pond construction. The Aquaculture Division continues its drive towards increasing registered operators within the sector, to drive fish production output to be in alignment with the Division’s strategic plan to produce over 1100 MT of tilapia for the financial year 2023/24.

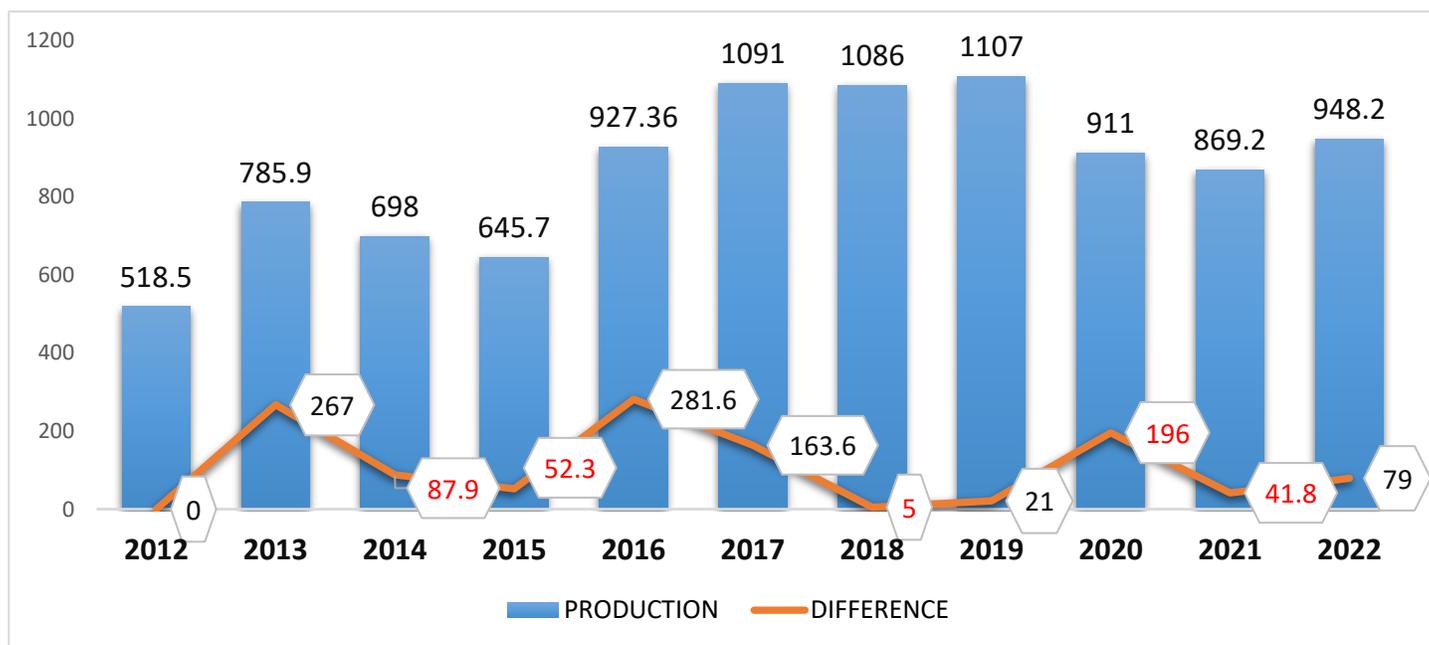


Fig. 12: Jamaica aquaculture production (MT) showing difference YoY, 2012 – 2022.

The total tilapia production from January – July 2023 is recorded at 459.1 MT. The 2023 aquaculture production run rate is averaging 5% below 2022 production numbers. The Division is expecting an increase in production in the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2023/24.

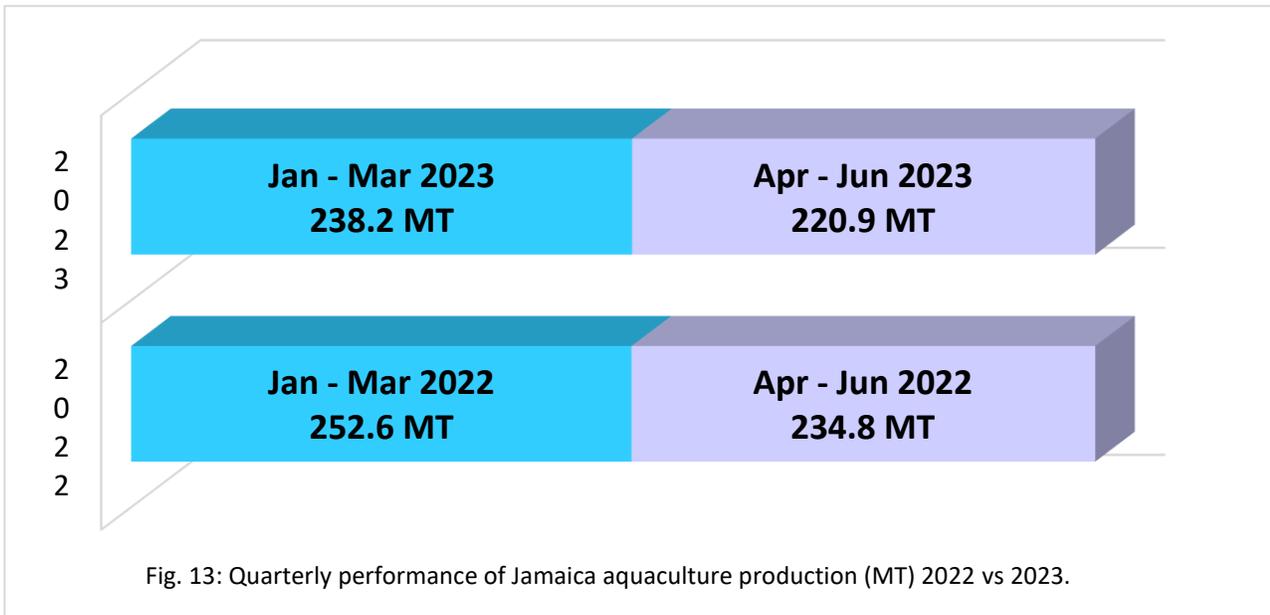


Fig. 13: Quarterly performance of Jamaica aquaculture production (MT) 2022 vs 2023.

The Aquaculture Division of the NFA, continues to produce and supply seedstock to fish farmers to stock their ponds. The Division has set a target for 2023/24 of 1.7M tilapia seed stock; for the 1st quarter, the seedstock number was 343,878 which is an increase of 37% over the previous quarter.

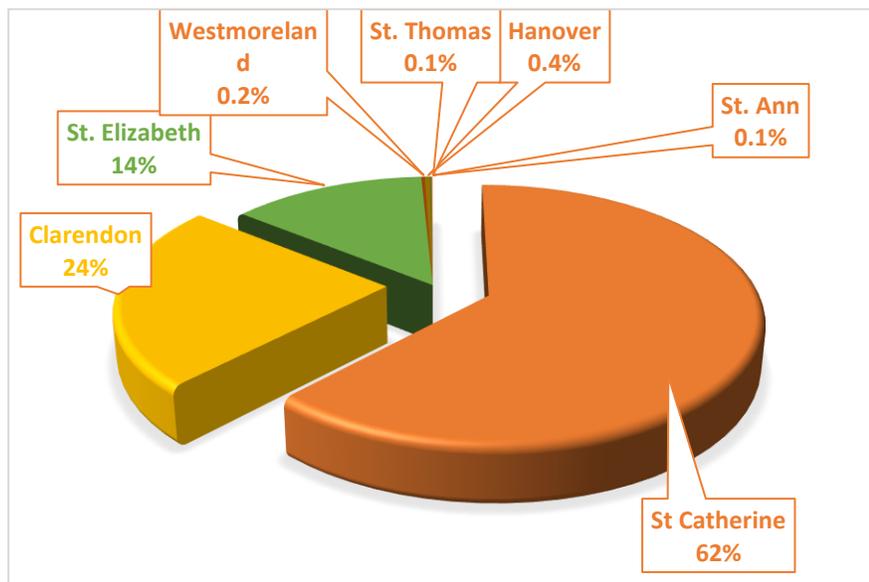
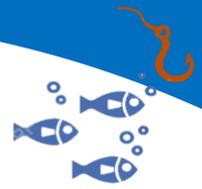


Fig. 14: Percentage of Aquaculture production per parish, 2023.



There has been an increase in marketing campaigns targeting tilapia consumption with the intention being to increase the uptake of farmed fish by consumers. Fish farmers continue to rely on vendors to buy and distribute their products from farm-gate to the markets. With plans to increase data collection within the sector, the Authority will be providing more economical data to ascertain the commercial value of tilapia sold to restaurants, hotels, supermarkets, etc.

The predominant size sold in the market is 227–340 kg. The price for fry for the stocking of fish ponds remains at JMD\$4.00 each and the average farmgate price for Q1 (April to June) was \$445 per pound.

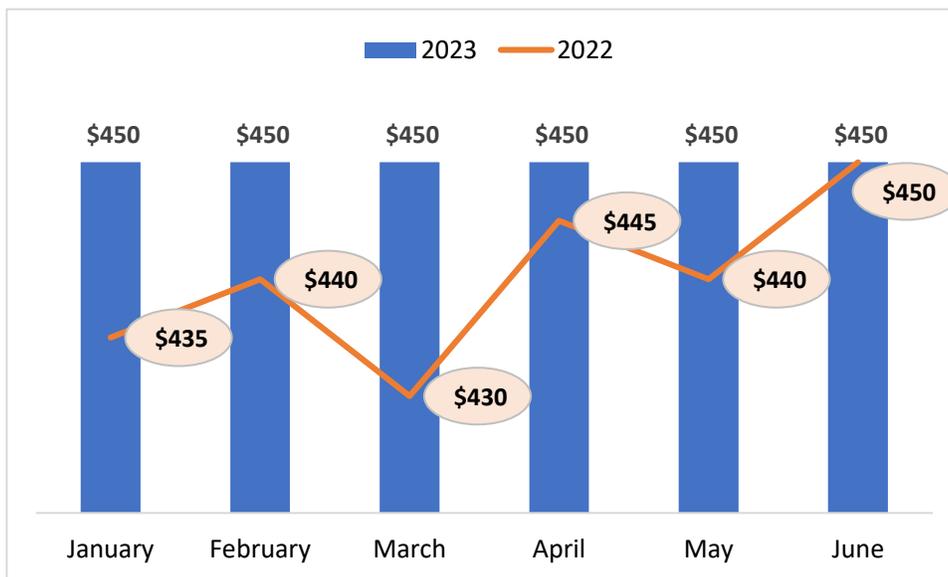


Fig. 15: Tilapia farm-gate prices January – June 2022 vs 2023.

COMPLIANCE STATISTICS

The Compliance Branch recorded an 8% increase in reported site visits to fishing beaches, marinas, restaurants, tournaments, seafood stores, rivers, fish farms, supermarkets, and wholesales, as compared to the previous quarter. The Authority continues its specialized collaboration inspections with the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Jamaica Defence Force, reporting a 19% increase over the last quarter. The continued monitoring, control, and surveillance resulted in a 66% increase in arrests for the period under review compared to last quarter’s performance. There was also a 40% increase in the number of court appearances and a 47% increase in fines imposed by the courts, compared to the last quarter.



Table 5: Fines for offences under the Fisheries Act – 2018, from 2019 to June 2023.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023**	TOTAL
\$2,642,000	\$180,000	\$1,145,000	\$1,004,000	\$1,726,700	\$6,697,700

** January to June 2023.

During Q1, 629 lbs of lobster were seized, with a market value of USD 15,718 or JMD 2.4M. This is in comparison to 153 lbs of conch and 21.09 lbs of lobster seized in January – March 2023.

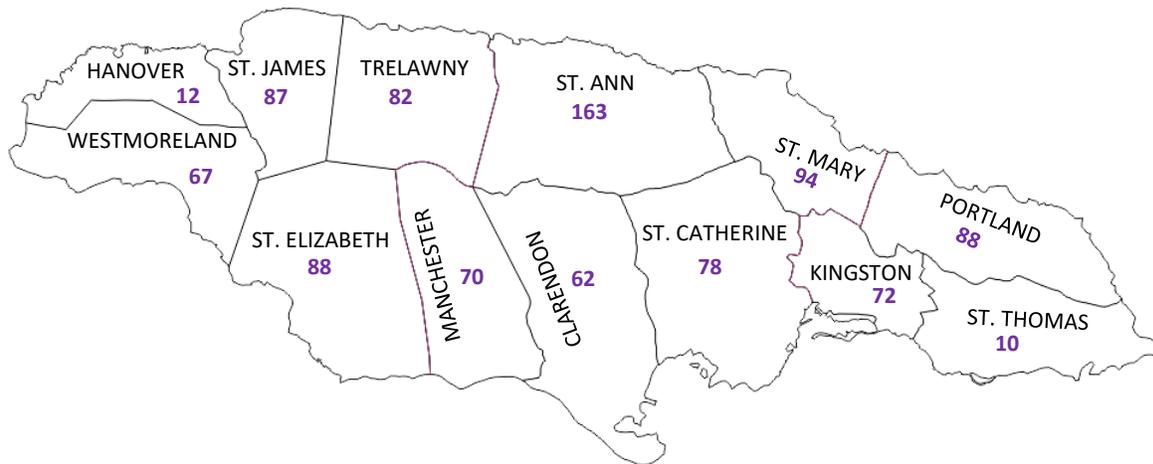


Fig. 16: Total number of compliance site visits conducted in each parish within Q1 FY-2023/24 [April – June].

The Fisheries Compliance Licensing and Statistics Division continues to monitor the incidence of individuals fishing without a licence. For Q1, of the individual fishing licence renewals recorded, 34% were renewing from the previous year (2022). For vessel licences, 51% of persons renewing were doing so from the previous year. This gives an average of 43% for the number of renewals from the previous year for both vessels and licences.

As it relates to individual licences, since the start of the 2023 calendar year, 35% of individuals have been consistent in renewing their licence and this is an improvement over the average of 25% over the last 5 years.

Table 6: Number of individual fisher licences issued and renewal % (Excluding temporary permits)

YEAR	Number of individual fisher licences issued	% renewing from the previous year
2017	2530	
2018	3467	19%
2019	3654	26%
2020	4979	24%
2021	3995	25%
2022	5687	20%
2023 **	4510	35%
TOTAL: 28,822		Average: 25%

** January to June 2023.



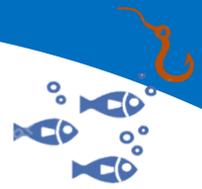
Part 3 – Fisheries Economic Performance

GDP Contribution

Fishers Socio-Economic Statistics

Fish Price Index





FISHERIES ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

FISHERIES CONTRIBUTION TO GDP

Jamaica’s fisheries sector since 2018, averages USD103.8M annually or J\$16B at today's FX rate. Table 7 provides a breakdown of the fisheries sector's contribution to GDP since 2018.

Table 7: GDP Contribution (USD \$'Million) by the fisheries sector to Agriculture and Jamaica’s GDP.

GDP Contribution Based on Basic Prices (excluding taxes and subsidies on products) - \$'Million					
Total GDP	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	15,000.65	15,000.81	13,000.88	14,000.67	16,000.04
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	1,014.8	1,018.9	1,004.3	1,087.6	1,185.9
Fishing	94.58	111.02	109.04	90.16	114.33
% Contribution of fishing to Agriculture	9.32%	10.90%	10.86%	8.29%	9.64%
% Contribution of fishing to total GDP	0.63%	0.74%	0.84%	0.64%	0.71%

The fisheries sector contribution to Jamaica’s agriculture sector recorded a 16.2% growth for 2022 compared to 2021 and at the end of 2022, Jamaica’s fishery sector contributed 0.71% to Jamaica’s total GDP.

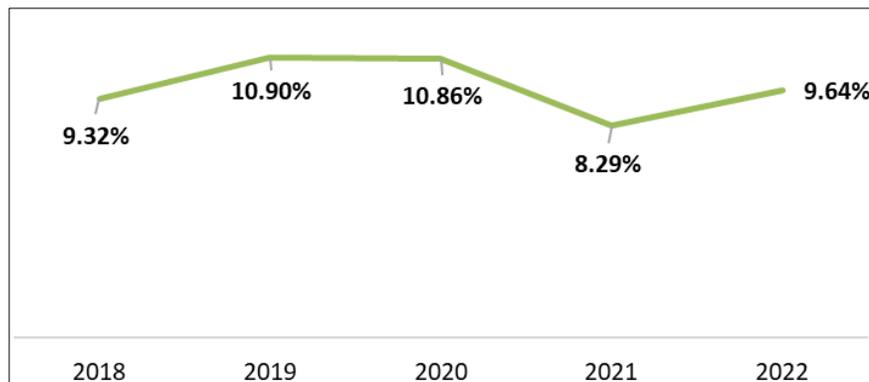
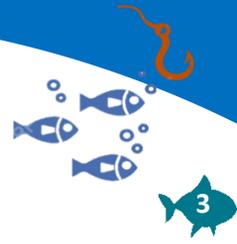


Fig. 17: The percentage contribution of fishing to the Agriculture sector from 2018 to 2022

As it relates to exports, Jamaica exported USD13.5M of fish and fish by-products in 2022 in comparison to USD18.2M in 2021, representing a 25% decline.



FISH PRICE INDEX

Table 8 Average Fin-Fish price per pound per parish during the period April – June 2023 (lowest prices highlighted in green and highest in red for the most common species).

PARISH	SNAPPER	PARROT	DOCTOR	JACK	GRUNT	BARACUDA	TUNA	WRENCHMAN	KING FISH
St. Ann	\$800	\$800	\$500	\$800		\$700	\$800	\$1,000	
St. Mary	\$900	\$700	\$600	\$600	\$500		\$700		
St. James	\$1,000	\$900	\$700	\$1,000	\$700	\$1,000	\$800		\$1,000
Trelawny		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000				\$1,000
Westmoreland	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$600		\$800	\$700
St. Elizabeth	\$800	\$900	\$800	\$900	\$900				\$700
St. Catherine	\$900	\$900	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$700	\$1,000	\$600
Kingston	\$900	\$800	\$500		\$500	\$600			
Hanover	\$800	\$800	\$800		\$800		\$600		
St. Thomas	\$600	\$1,000	\$600	\$700	\$700	\$1,000			
AVERAGE	\$863	\$844	\$700	\$814	\$725	\$700	\$720	\$933	\$800

Table 8 highlights the average finfish prices for nine fish types based on parish and the prices on average ranged from a low of \$500 (doctor and grunt) to a high of \$1000 for all fish except tuna. The parish with the highest priced fish for the quarter was Trelawny.

FISHERS SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATISTICS

AGE STATISTICS OF FISHERS

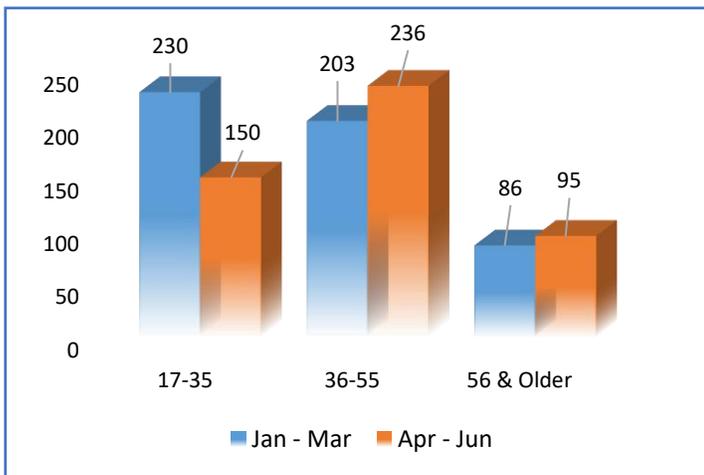


Fig. 18: Age of new fisher applications from Jan. – June 2023.

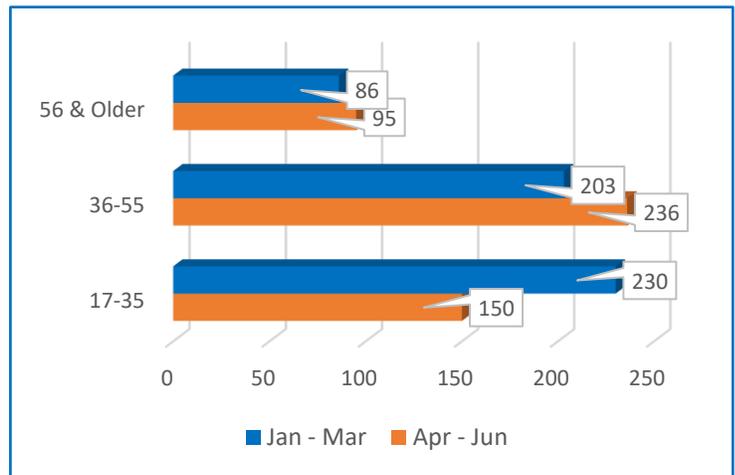
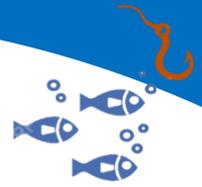


Fig. 19: Age of fisher renewal applications from Jan.– June, 2023.



For the period under review (April – June 2023), the Authority reported a 34% decline in new applicants within the 17-35 age group when compared to the previous quarter. For fishers within the 36-55 age group, there was a 16% increase over the previous quarter. Additionally, there was a 10% increase in the '56 and older' age group in comparison to the previous quarter.

The majority of fishers renewing their licence were in the age group of 36-55 for the period April to June 2023, representing 49% of total applications renewed. The 17-35 age group for renewal application recorded a 34% decline.

SEX STATISTICS OF FISHERS

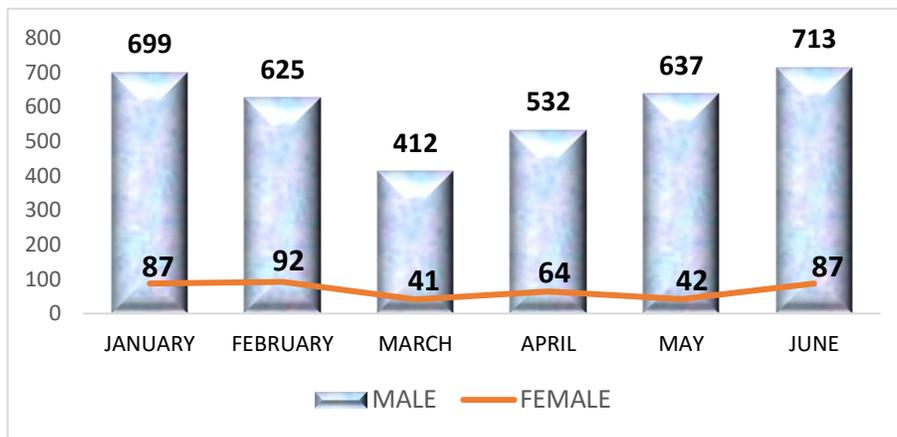


Fig. 20: Sex of fishers receiveing licences from January – June, 2023.

Jamaica’s fishery sector continues to be male dominated (Fig. 20); however, there has been a marginal increase in the number of female entrants to the sector. For the period January – June 2023, 89.7% of the 4,031 licences were issued to males. 10.2% of female applicants for the period January to June 2023, represents a 61% increase when compared to the similar period of 2022.

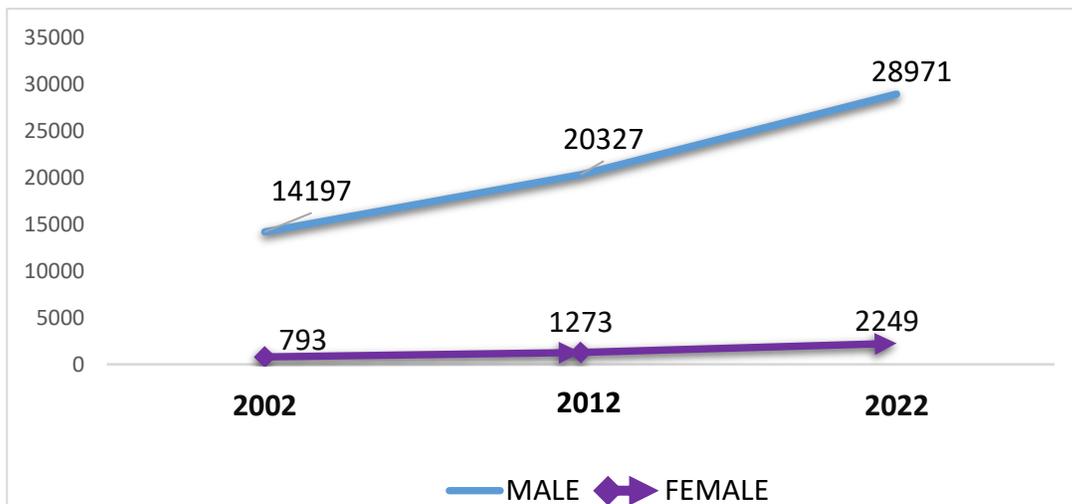
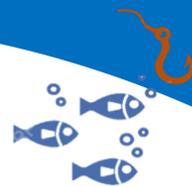


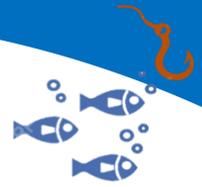
Fig. 21: 10-Year incremental sex increase of fishers in the industry, 2002, 2012, and 2022



Part 4 – Conclusion



IrieFINS
JAMAICA'S FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
INFORMATION SYSTEM



This document (Volume 2: Issue 1 of the Jamaica Fisheries: Quarterly Statistics Report) highlighted the performance of the Jamaican fisheries sector over the first quarter of the Financial Year 2023 - 2024.

From the data presented, the artisanal fishery continued to play a critical role in food security accounting for 92% of total fish production. Marine fish production accounted for 1,818MT, with the South Coast contributing 69%; value estimated at US \$23.9M. The NFA will continue its monitoring and engagement activities at varied landing sites across the island. The NFA takes into consideration reports made by Fishers giving their account of the reason for their quantity of catch, and these were highlighted in the report. Aquaculture production also continues to play an important role in meeting the demand for protein and contributing to food security with 220.9MT of tilapia being produced in Q1.

The report highlighted the important role that the fisheries sector plays in Jamaica's economic growth and through the Authority's initiatives and programmes, the sector is being positioned to yield greater economic returns. With a contribution of J\$17.7B towards GDP in 2022, the Authority's aim is to exceed that contribution at the end of the 2023 calendar year and this will continue to be tracked in the Quarterly Statistics Report.

The National Fisheries Authority continues to be strident in the execution of its mandate. For the quarter under review, there was a 28% increase in the total number of vessel licences issued (new and renewals). The continued efforts towards increasing public awareness of the importance of licence renewal was a likely contributor to an 18% increase. For vessel licensing operations, an increase of 13% was recorded for the average boat licences being issued per month over the quarter compared to the previous quarter's monthly average. The Authority increased its collaborative efforts with the security forces and this partnership saw specialized joint inspections increasing by 19% compared to the previous quarter. Persons charged with breaches of the Fishers Act recorded a 66% increase compared to the previous quarter.

With the National Fisheries Authority's increased sensitization efforts coupled with increased inspection and collaboration, the local fishers are recognizing the importance of complying with the law and are also being educated about the sector. There was also an increase in compliance with renewing one's licence and this is an important factor in the fight against illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The National Fisheries Authority will place increased focus on its data collection efforts, for both Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture. This will allow for greater statistical data output for the industry, which includes fishery pricing per parish, fishery species location, and production mapping.

