



National Fisheries Authority

JAMAICA FISHERIES:

Quarterly Statistics Report

Volume 2: Issue 4

January – March 2024



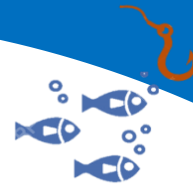
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Acknowledgements

NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY, JAMAICA

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) takes this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of all fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders, in particular fishers, fish farmers, vendors, and processors that provided information on all data captured herein which made it possible to timely compilation of the report.

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 who 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), Mrs. Anginette Murray (Statistician/Data Manager), Mr. Richard Barcoo (Chief Compliance Officer – Eastern), Mr. Lance McDonald (Licensing & Registration Manager), Ms. Abi-Gaye Smythe (Public Relations Manager), and Licensing & Registration Clerks: Mr. Damian George, Ms. Latoya Brown, and Ms. Asheika Howell.



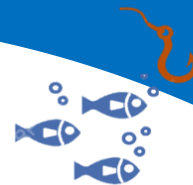
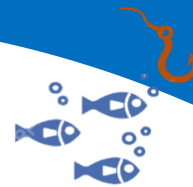


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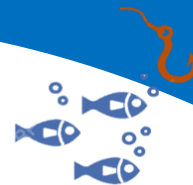


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Part 1 – Overview

4th Quarter 2023/24 PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE

WHO WE ARE - National Fisheries Authority



National Fisheries Authority Fisheries Management Specialist Mrs Shellene Berry; explains what a close season means to a curious student.



Q4 JANUARY – MARCH 2023/24 PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES



US \$204.17M

Marine and Aquaculture Fish Production estimated value for FY 2023/24 (April 2023 – March 2024) is equivalent to JMD 31.9B (14,155.33 MT).

↑ 51%

Increase in total marine fish production, 8,737.54 MT in FY 2022/23 vs 13,259.33 MT in FY 2023/24.

↑ 7%

Marine Finfish Production recorded a 7% increase for Q4 Jan. – Mar. 2024, [FY22/23 - 2,572MT vs FY23/24 - 2,756MT] YoY.

VESSEL MONITORING



Q4 2023/24 recorded a 55% increase in new vessel licences issued YoY for the same quarter Q4 2022/23 vs 2023/24.

↑ 58%

Q4 2023/24 recorded a 58% increase in vessel licences issued compared to last year's Q4 2022/23.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA



↑ 31%

Increase in licences being issued to females in Q4 2023/24 when compared to Q3 2023/24.

↑ 75%

increase in the number of fishers renewing their licence within the 17-35 age group, when compared to Q3 2023/24. YoY Q4 recorded a 61% increase.

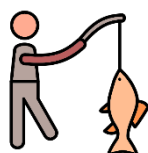
↑ 34%

Increase in the 36 - 55 age group for new applicants for Q4 2023/24 (January – March 2024) when compared to the same quarter the previous year.

↑ 59%

Increase in the 17 - 35 age group for Q4 (January – March 2024) when compared to the same quarter last year for new applicants.

FISHERS STATISTICS



↑ 51%

Increase in the number of fishing licences issued (new & renewed) in Q4 2023/24 vs Q3 2023/24.

↑ 22%

Increase in fisher licences issued in Q4 2023/24 [January – March] against the same quarter of the previous year 2022/23.

↑ 27%

Increase in the number of fishers renewing their licence in Q4 2023/24 vs Q3 2023/24.

↑ 90%

Increase in the annual licence renewal % rate against 2022 performance. The 2024 renewal rate was 38%, compared to 20% for 2022.

FISHERIES ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

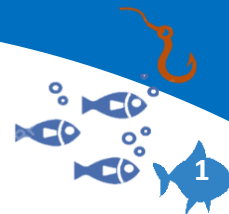


US\$198.51M

Contribution from Capture Fisheries Production for FY 2023/24.

US\$5.66M

Contribution from Aquaculture Production for FY 2023/24.



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.

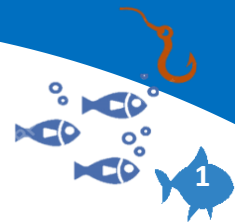
MISSION:

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.

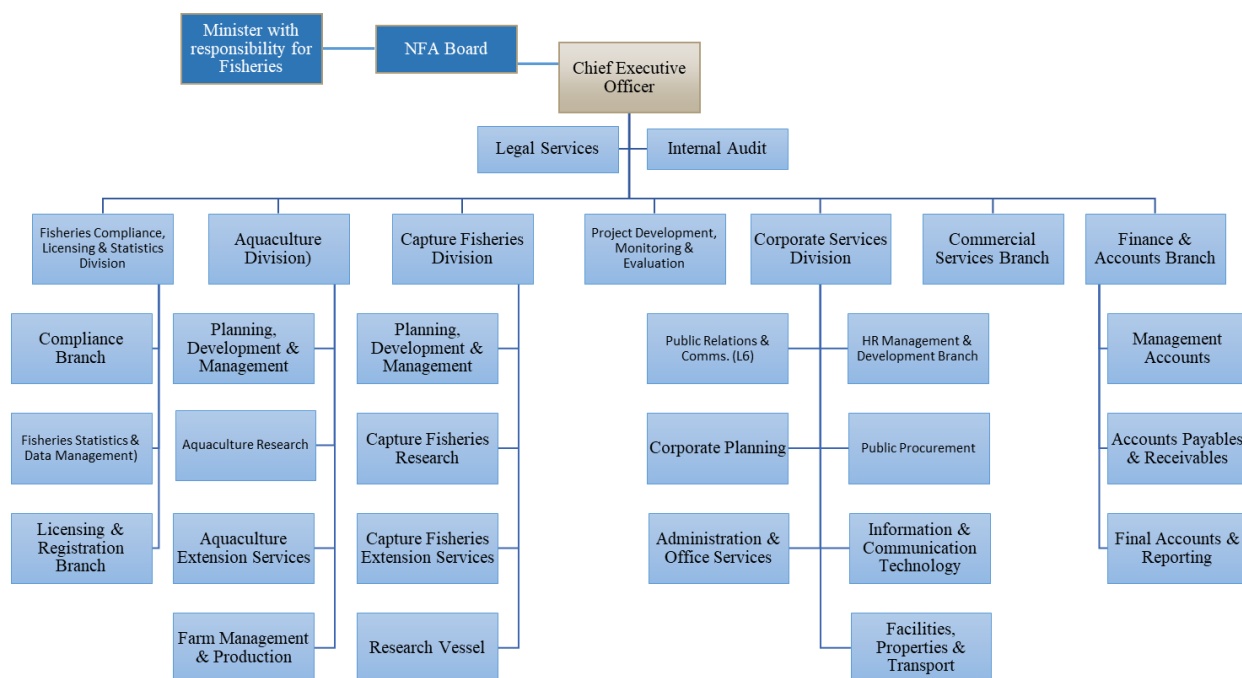


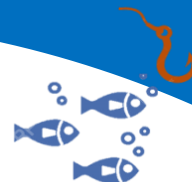
Fig. 1 General Organisational Structure of the National Fisheries Authority



National Fisheries Authority Corporate Head Office



NFA FY 2023/24 in review



AGRICULTURE

Fish Farmers to Be Trained at
Ebony Park Heart Academy



AGRICULTURE

Conch Industry Attains Msc
Certification

**Jamaican fishers benefit
from sea moss and
oyster production
training program**

March 25, 2024



Project Manager, Promoting Community-based Climate Resilience in the
Fisheries Sector Project, Selena Ledgister. (Photo via JIS)

**Training in pelagic fishing to
help ease pressure on
Jamaica's reef fish**

Share this Story: Like 0 Post WhatsApp

Published Monday | March 4, 2024 | 11:41 AM



Fisherfolk in Discovery Bay, St Ann, constructing fish aggregating devices (FADs)
under the Pelagic Fish Training Programme. - Contributed photo



**Great yield for 2023 thanks to
NFA says Floyd Green**

Blue Justice Caribbean Hub Launched to Tackle
Transnational Crime in Fisheries Sector

By: JUDANA MURPHY, November 18, 2023

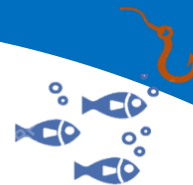


**Jamaica's Fisheries and
Aquaculture Information System
is here!**

More Than 3,600 Fishing Vessels Counted at 110
Beaches

By: TWILA WHEELAN, November 28, 2023





Part 2 Statistical Performance

Fishing Vessel Licences

Fisher Licences

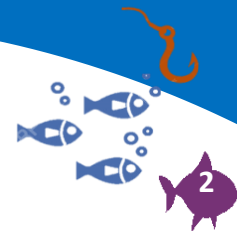
Fish Production Data

(A) Marine Production

(B) Aquaculture Production

Compliance Statistics





FISHING VESSELS

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 and educational sessions and carrying out enforcement activities.

For the period January – March 2024 (4th Quarter 2023/24), 620 vessel licences were issued representing a 21% increase over the previous quarter. There was a 58% increase in total vessel license issued YoY for Q4. New applicants accounted for 118 of the total licences issued (see Figure 2), representing a 2.5% increase over the number of new applicants issued in the previous quarter. Q4 YoY for the same quarter Q4 recorded a 55% increase in new vessel registration.

NEW VESSEL LICENSE ISSUED



Photo: NFA Compliance Officer Debrana Williams and Cashier Samoy Senior processing a local fisher at the NFA Black River office.





TOTAL VESSEL LICENCES ISSUED

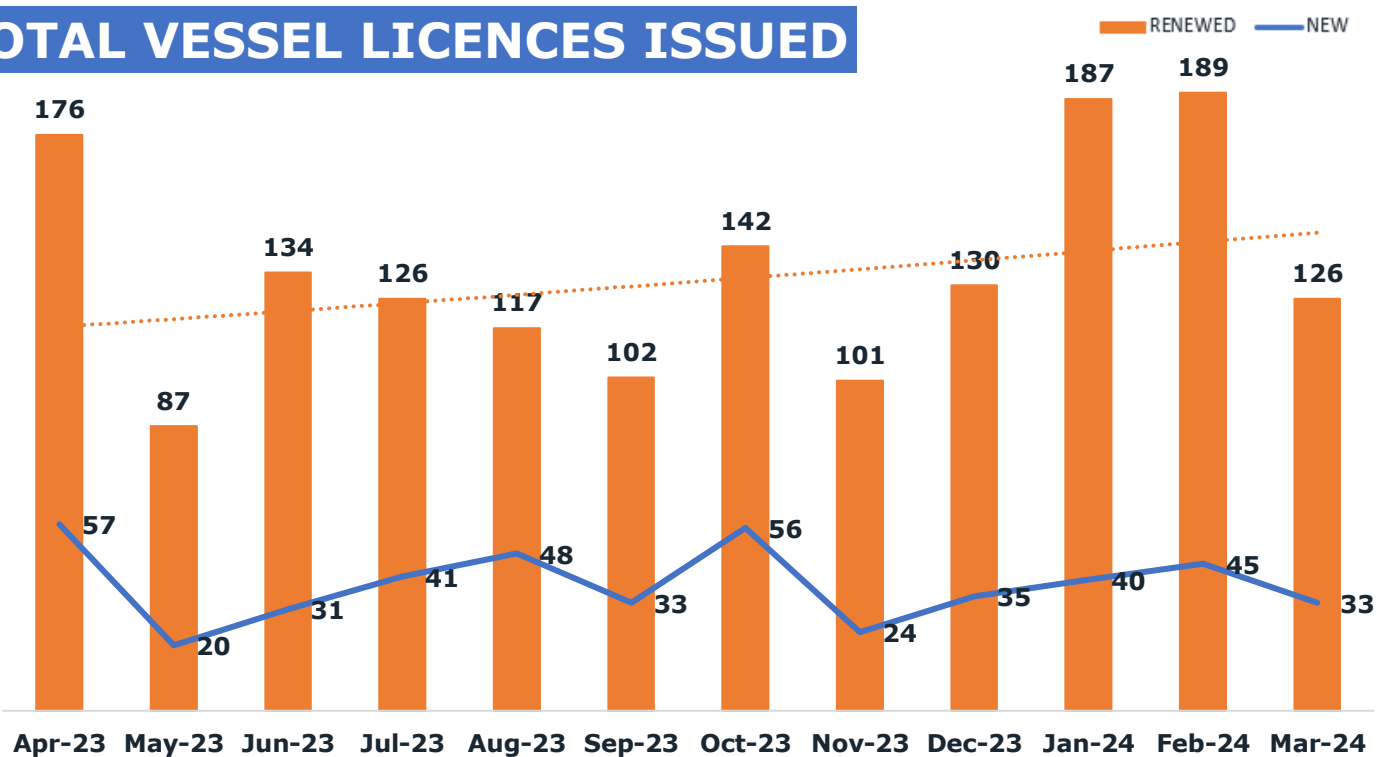


Fig. 3 Renewed and New Vessel Licence Issued (New and Renewed), April 2023 to March 2024.

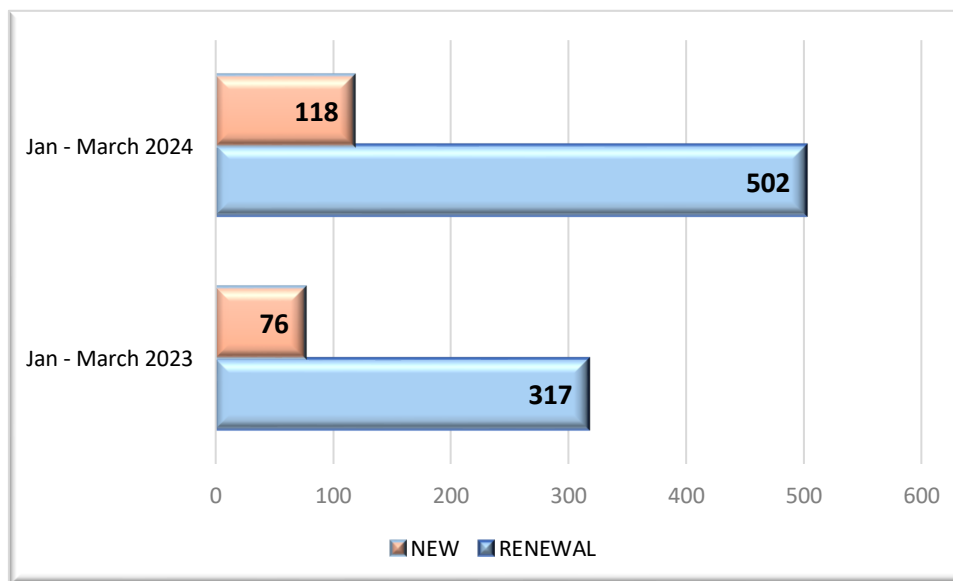


Fig. 4: Vessel Licences Issued Q4 2022 vs Q4 2023

With 620 vessel licences issued during the period January – March 2024, the overall monthly average for total vessel licences issued is recorded at 206 licences per month. The data in Figure 3 show the number of licences issued per month in FY 2023/24, February recorded the highest number of vessel licences issued for the financial year FY 2023/24.

Q4 2023/24 recorded a 58% increase in combined [Renewed and New] vessel licences issued when compared to Q4 2022/23. Renewed applications recorded a 58% increase, and new applications reported a 55% increase for Q4 when compared to the same period last year. Artisanal fishing continues to account for the major category of total vessel licences issued, accounting for 86% of the total vessel licences issued from April 2023 to March 2024 (Table 1).



Photo: National Fisheries Authority's Capture Fisheries Division Team engaging local fishers in St. Mary on best practices.

NUMBER OF BOAT LICENCES ISSUED BY CATEGORY FROM APRIL 2023 TO MARCH 2024.														
	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	TOTAL	%
ARTISANAL	196	96	153	157	142	115	173	115	154	200	195	138	1834	88.5
INDUSTRIAL	4	4	3	0	6	5	9	4	2	2	2	1	42	2.0
RECREATIONAL	10	3	6	10	13	9	10	3	6	2	4	3	79	3.8
**CAY	7	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	2	19	29	14	81	3.9
SPORTS CHARTER	9	0	0	0	4	1	1	3	1	1	4	3	27	1.3
TEMPORARY VESSEL CERTIFICATE	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.1
CONCH	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.3
TOTAL	233	103	165	167	165	135	198	125	165	224	234	159	2073	100

Table 1: Total number of vessel licences issued by category, April 2023 – March 2024.

** Cay licences are submitted in January of each year; licences issued after this period resulted from delays in documentation being received.

INDIVIDUAL FISHER LICENCES

FISHER LICENCES



2,739 fisher licences were issued in Q4 2023/24, with the highest number recorded in February (Figure 5). The 2,739 licences issued represent a 51% increase over the previous quarter and a 22% increase YoY. Q4 2023/24 recorded a 5% increase in new applications and a 27% increase in renewal applications, in comparison to the previous quarter Q3 2023/24.

NEW FISHER LICENCE ISSUED



Fig. 5: New Fisher Licences Issued, April 2023 to March 2024.

Figure 7 highlights the total number of fisher licences issued per quarter. 2023 recorded increased numbers when compared to the previous year (2022).

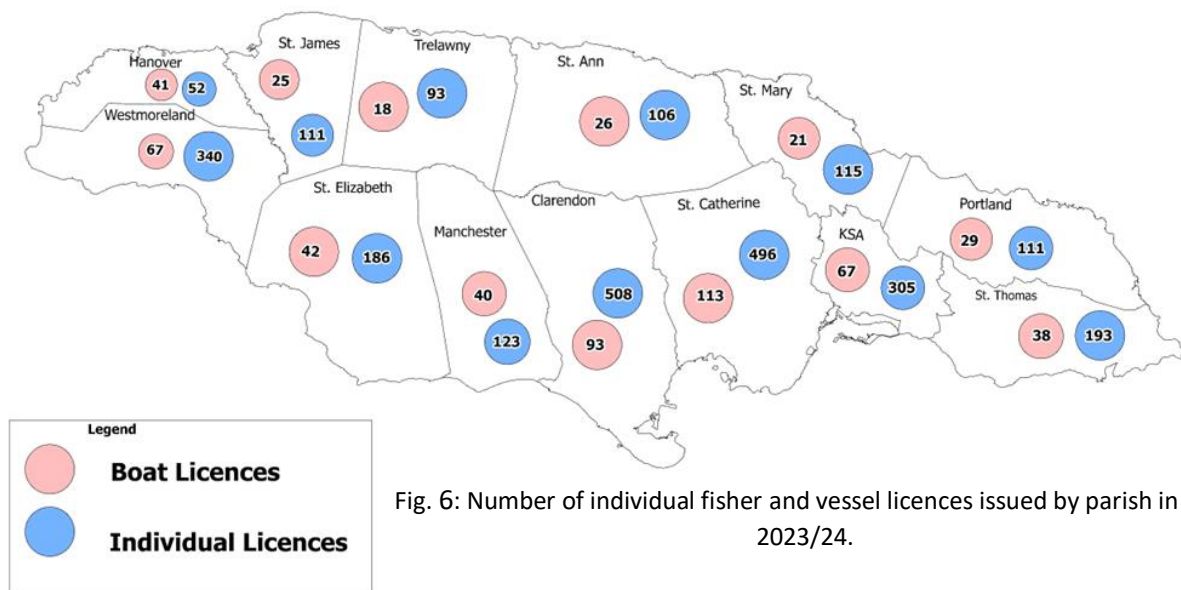


Fig. 6: Number of individual fisher and vessel licences issued by parish in Q4 2023/24.

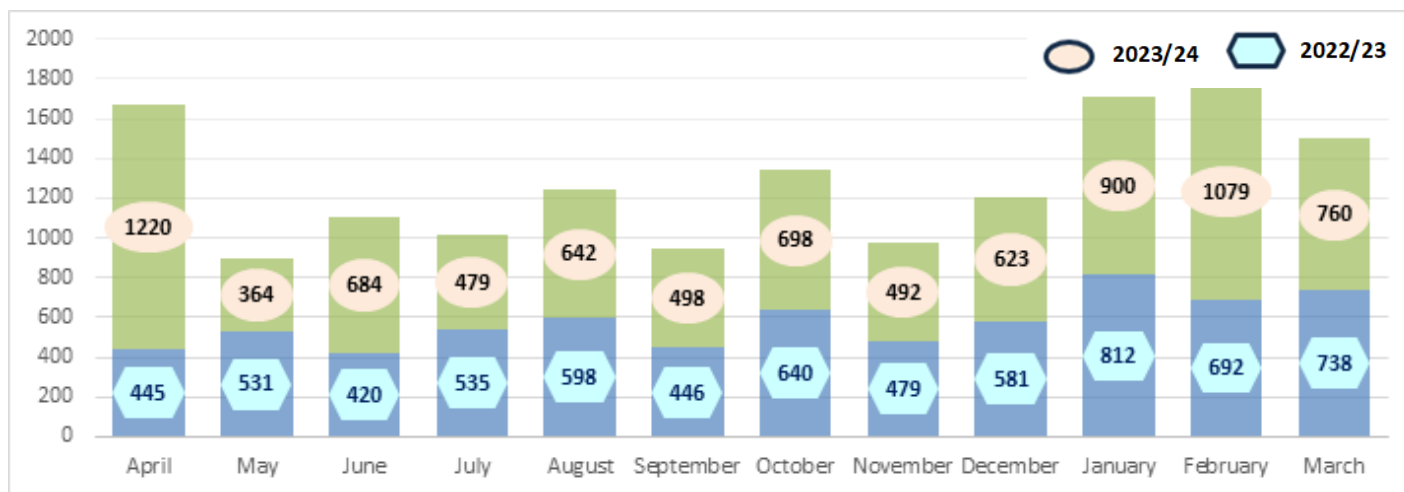
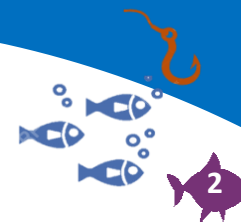


Fig. 7: Fisher licences issued per month, FY 2022/23 vs FY 2023/24.



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 fishing beaches are sampled per an annual sampling plan, and based on the data collected, production estimates are computed. 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, compared to 325 species over the previous quarter (Q3). The Sardines (*Sardinella* spp.), Black Jacks (*Caranx lugubris*), and Herring (*Opisthonema oglinum*) continue to account for most of the catch. The popular food fish Snapper showed high species diversity with over eleven different species being identified, including Dog, Glasseye, Grey, Lane, Mutton, Red, Silk, Vermillion and Yellowtail.

For January – March 2024, marine finfish production was 2,756.62 MT (Table 2, Fig. 8), representing a 100% increase YoY Q4, 2023/24 vs 2022/23. Production of 2,756.62 MT yields an approximate value of USD 38.8 Mil or ~ JMD\$ 6 billion (Table 2). The marine finfish production recorded an 84% increase in USD earnings YoY [FY 2022/23 vs 2023/24], USD 98.4 M in 2022 vs USD 181.2 M in 2023 (April 2023 to March 2024). This is equivalent to JMD\$ 15.3 billion for 2022 as against JMD\$ 28.1 billion for 2023.

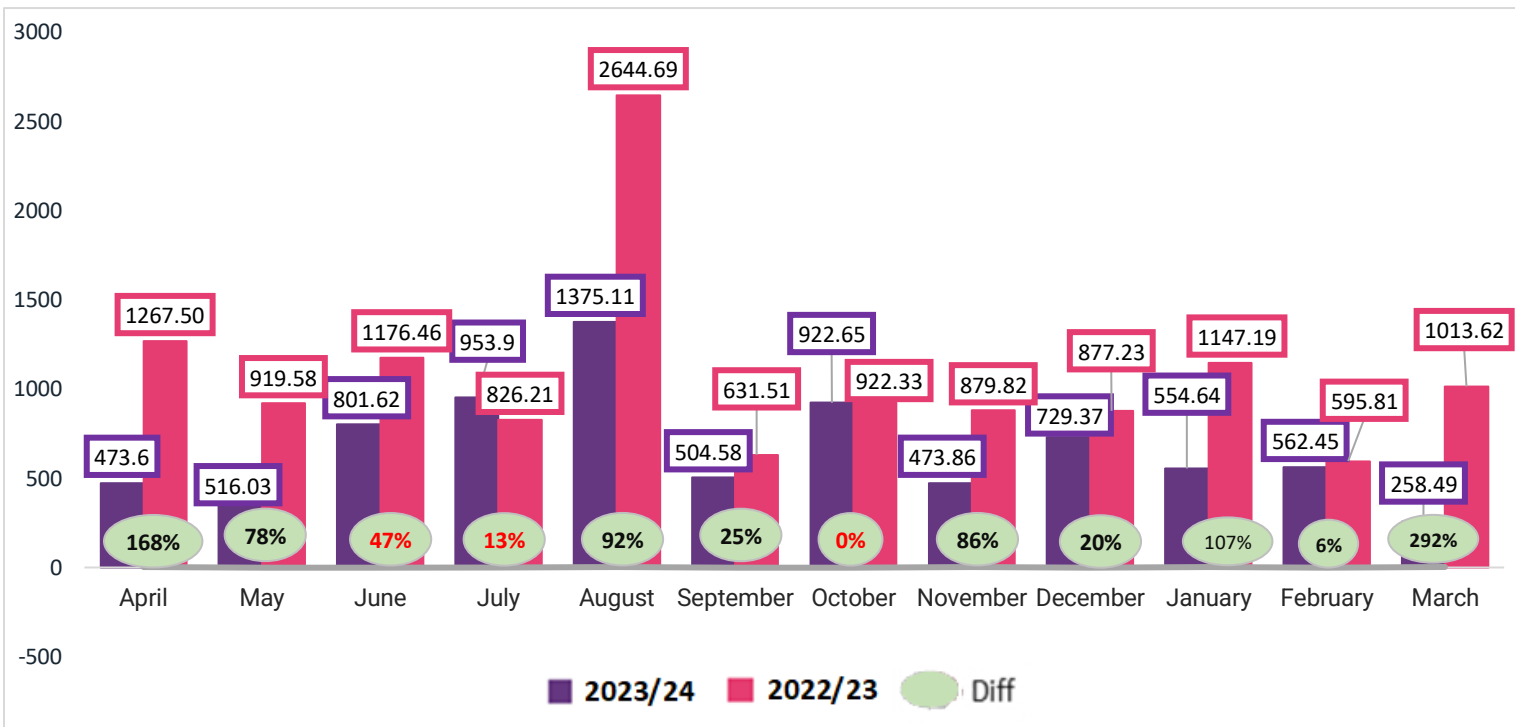


Fig. 8: Marine finfish production April 2023 – March 2024 [FY 2022/23 vs FY 2023/24] in MT

*Jan – June 2023 Production figures were revised and referenced in Issue 1 and 2 of Volume 2.

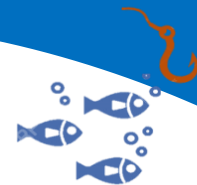


Table 2: Estimated marine finfish production (MT) and value (USD) for the artisanal fishery, FY 2023/24 (April 2023 – March 2024)

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
2023									
April	1,267.50		1ST Quarter	2,425,912,125.01		1ST Quarter	15,816,352.36		1ST Quarter
May	919.58		FY 23/24	1,958,121,061.63		FY 23/24	12,624,894.01		FY 23/24
June	1,176.46	3,363.53		2,916,328,840.22	7,300,362,026.87		18,776,260.88	47,217,507.26	
July	746.22		2nd Quarter	1,770,418,201.96		2nd Quarter	11,391,919.45		2nd Quarter
August	2,644.69		FY 23/24	5,938,021,557.62		FY 23/24	38,176,813.41		FY 23/24
September	631.51	4,022.42		1,356,314,311.43	9,064,754,071.00		8,723,681.05	58,292,413.91	
October	922.33		3rd Quarter	1,983,546,493.33		3rd Quarter	12,755,310.79		3rd Quarter
November	879.82		FY 23/24	1,875,748,658.18		FY 23/24	11,989,444.92		FY 23/24
December	877.23	2,679.38		1,892,558,099.47	5,751,853,250.98		12,136,450.55	36,881,206.27	
2024									
January	1,147.19		4th Quarter	2,492,096,306.67		4th Quarter	15,974,976.32		4th Quarter
February	595.81		FY 23/24	1,292,831,210.91		FY 23/24	8,223,593.99		FY 23/24
March	1,013.62	2,756.62		2,277,794,658.57	6,062,722,176.15		14,661,397.13	38,859,967.45	
TOTAL	12,821.95	12,821.95		28,179,691,525.00	28,179,691,525.00		181,251,094.89	181,251,094.89	

Table 3: Marine fish production (MT) trend by fishery type, FY 2023/24 (April 2023 – March 2024)

Fishery	Production (MT)												Total	% Composition
	2023									2024				
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March		
Atrisanal finfish	1,267.50	919.58	1,176.46	746.21	2,644.69	631.51	922.33	879.82	877.23	1,147.19	595.81	1,013.62	12,821.95	96.70
Sea Cucumber						0	0	0	8.28	0	0	0	8.28	0.06
Industrial Conch	9.43	41.31	103.81	8.98									163.53	1.23
Industrial Spiny Lobster*				0.00	16.04	31.28	100.36	43.42	34.43	29.25	5.44	5.35	265.57	2.00
Total Marine Production	1276.93	960.89	1280.27	755.19	2660.73	662.79	1022.69	923.24	919.94	1176.44	601.25	1018.97	13,259.33	100
* Reported weight for whole, tail and head meat														
Close Season														

Table 4: Estimated value (USD) for marine fish production (MT) by fishery type, FY 2023/24 (April 2023 – March 2024).

Fishery	Estimated Value (USD)												Total	% Contribution
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March		
Artisanal finfish	\$15,816,352	\$12,624,894	\$18,776,261	\$11,391,919	\$38,176,813	\$8,723,681	\$12,755,311	\$11,989,445	\$12,136,451	\$15,974,976	\$8,223,594	\$14,661,397	\$181,251,095	91.30
Industrial Conch	\$16,954	\$700,351	\$1,759,948	\$152,243									\$2,629,495	1.32
Industrial Spiny Lobster*				\$-	\$883,981	\$1,723,665	\$5,529,013	\$2,391,878	\$1,896,649	\$1,611,485	\$299,709	\$294,750	\$14,631,130	7.37
Total Marine Production	\$15,833,306	\$13,325,245	\$20,536,209	\$11,544,162	\$39,060,795	\$10,447,346	\$18,284,323	\$14,381,323	\$14,033,099	\$17,586,462	\$8,523,303	\$14,956,147	\$198,511,720	100.00



National Fisheries Authority's CEO Dr Gavin Bellamy; delivers a presentation at a recent Blue Justice Caribbean Hub session.

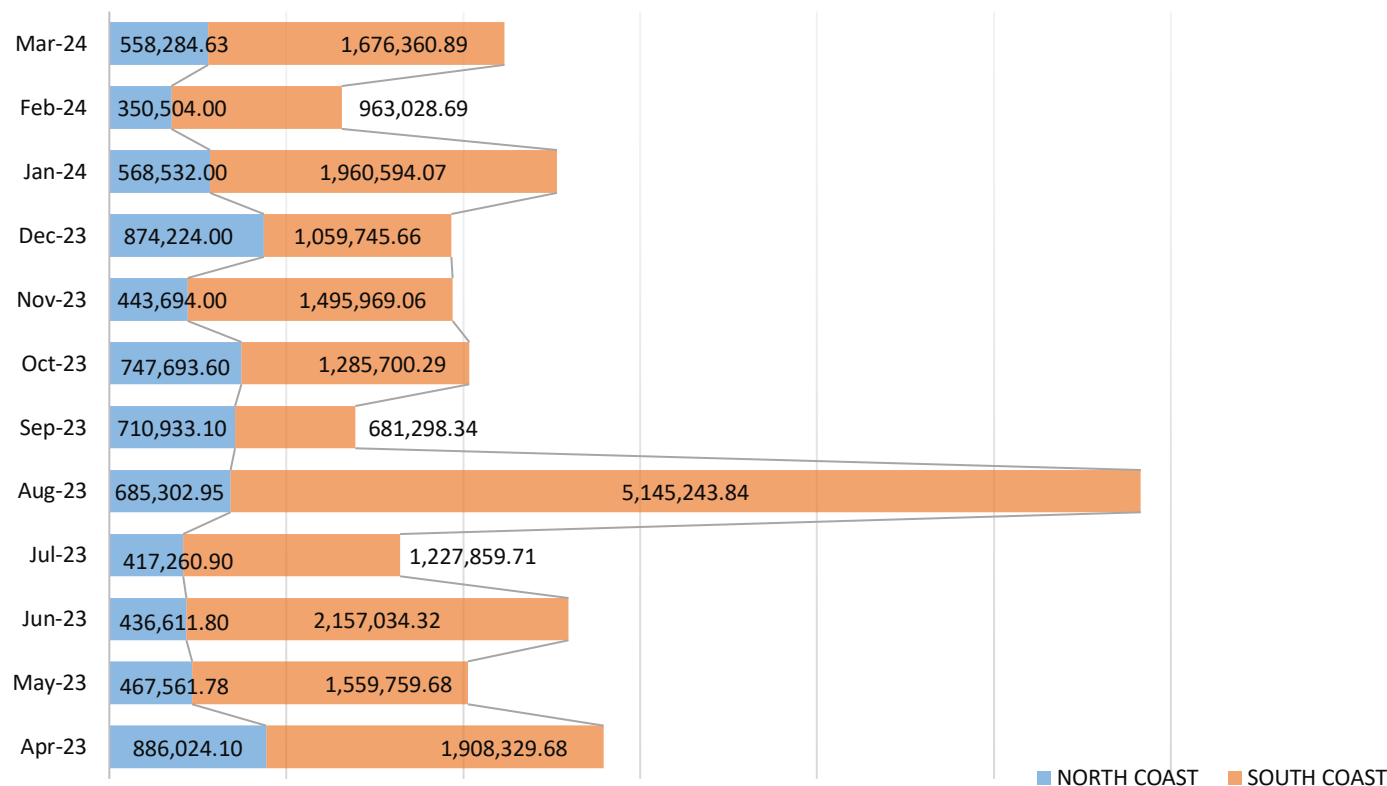


Fig. 9: Marine finfish production (pounds) by coastal region, FY 2023/24 (April 2023 – March 2024).

97% of Jamaica's total marine fish production was attributed to artisanal fishing for FY 2023/24 performance [April 2023 to March 2024]. The month of August recorded the highest production levels, accounting for 20.6% of FY 2023/24 total Finfish Production of 12,821.95 MT. Artisanal marine finfish production on the southern belt accounted for 75% of Jamaica's total marine fish production (Fig.10).

The Authority ties this performance to the fishing which takes place at the Banks, 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.

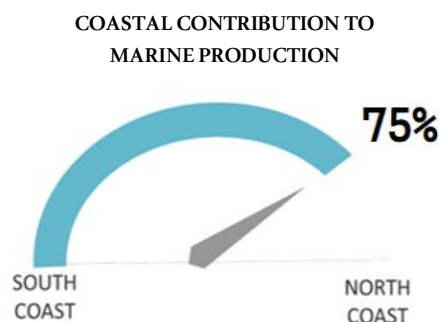


Fig. 10: Coastal region contribution to Jamaica marine finfish production (MT), FY 2023/24 (April 2023 – March 2024).

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, an influx of *Sargassum* particularly on the south coast, inter alia. Fish migration, however, also presents some benefits as fish migration patterns, take 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

During the period January – March 2024, the aquaculture sector harvested 1179 MT of Tilapia. For FY 2023/24, 1896.27 MT were harvested [220.9 Q1, 217.4 Q2, 277.7 Q3, and 179 Q4] representing 81% [896 MT] of the total aquaculture annual target of 1,100 MT. This is valued at J\$888.90M or US\$5.66M.

Currently, there are 713.61 acres of tilapia ponds in production. The Aquaculture Division has 137 registered fish farmers, of which 111 are active in tilapia production.

The southern-central plains of St. Catherine and Clarendon continue to be the prevalent fish farming areas accounting for 85% of the total registered fish farms.



National Fisheries Authority Aquaculture Research Officer Mr Alex Clarke; shows a variety of ornamental fish to students.

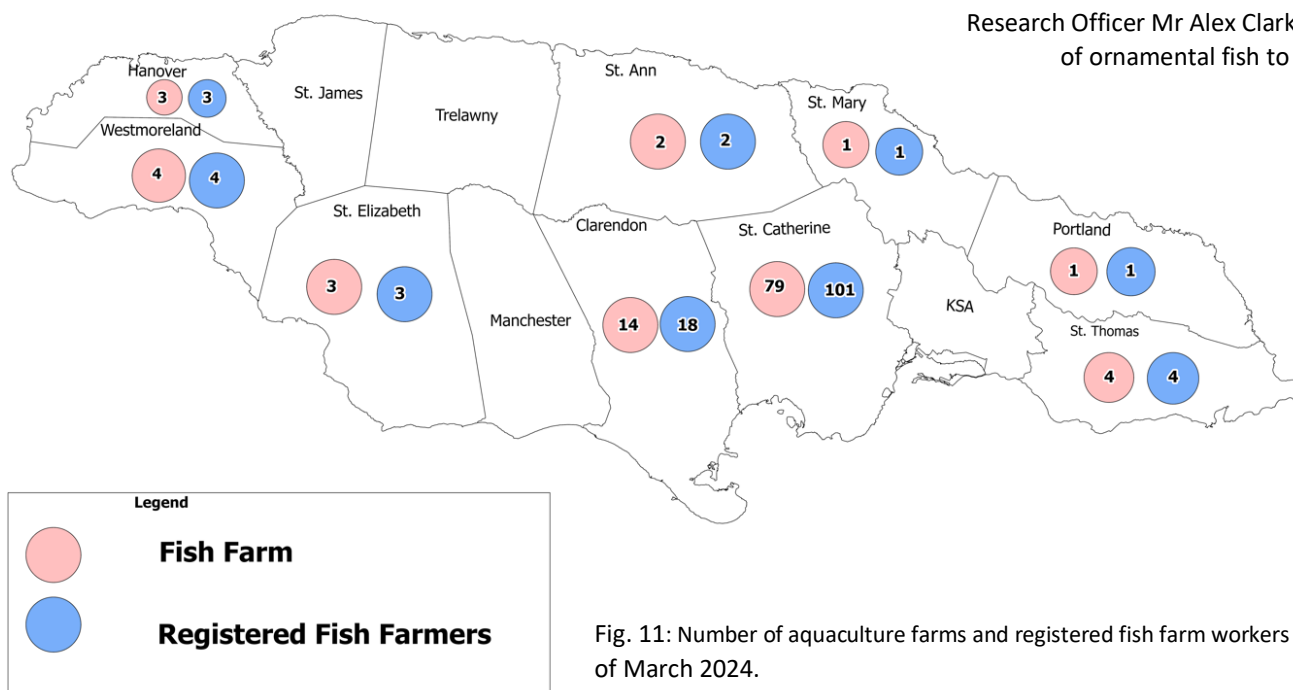


Fig. 11: Number of aquaculture farms and registered fish farm workers by parish, as of March 2024.

¹ preliminary estimate.

The Aquaculture Division continues its drive towards providing training and consultation to registered and prospective farmers within the sector. For the financial year 2023/24 (42) persons were trained in aquaculture production techniques and good aquaculture practices. They were trained in pond management, water quality management, tilapia nutrition, and feed management.

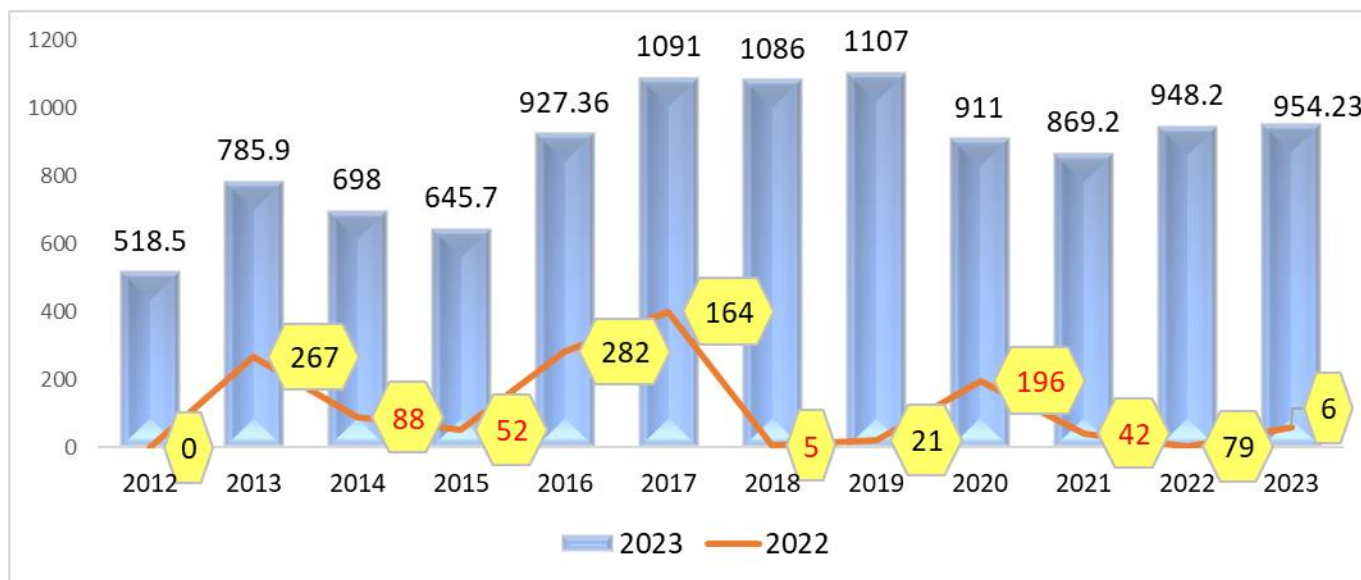


Fig. 12: Jamaica aquaculture production (MT) from 2012 – 2023 with the YoY difference between subsequent years.

The NFA's Aquaculture Division continued to support ornamental fishing, with increased efforts in research, training and stock diversity. Most ornamental fish farmers are located in Kingston and St. Catherine. The species of fish that are commonly cultured include koi, goldfish, cichlids, paradise, Siamese fighters, gourami and angels.

The ornamental industry consists of growers, breeders, importers, and retailers. Ornamental fish across Jamaica are presently grown and cultured in ponds, tanks, vats, aquaria, and other items suitable for holding water for the growing of fish.

There are three active oyster groups in Jamaica: **Western Supreme Oysters and More** in Westmoreland; **Kee Farms** in Portland; and **Green Island Fisher Folks** in Hanover in Q4 2023/24. The common species cultivated is the *Crassostrea rhizosphere* or cup oysters.



Photo: Students look on in interest at the NFA aquarium display.

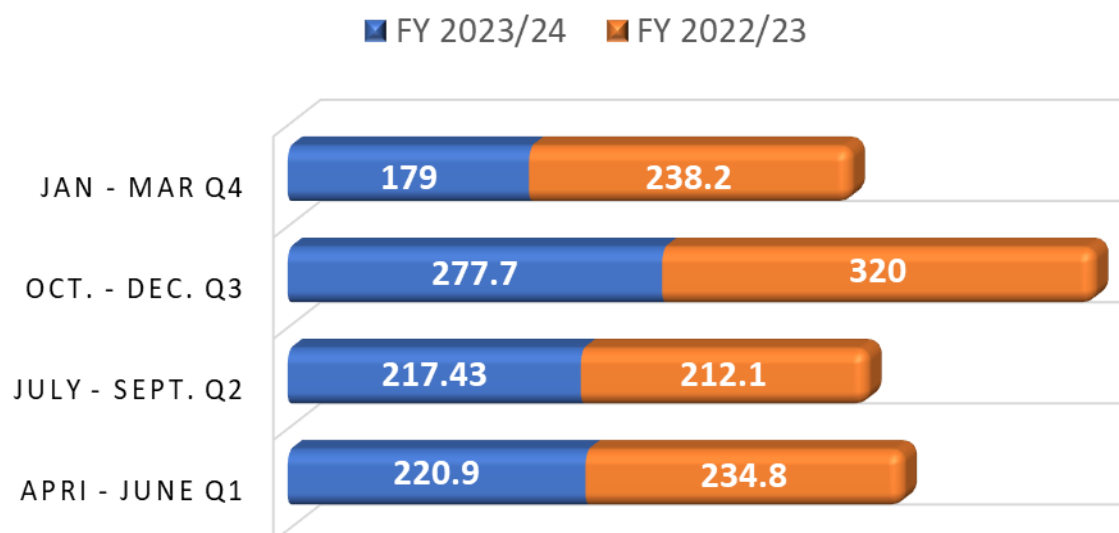


Fig. 13: Quarterly performance of Jamaica's aquaculture production (MT) FY 2022/23 vs FY 2023/24.

The NFA continues to produce and supply seedstock to fish farmers to stock their ponds. For the period April 2023 to March 2024, 457,259 tilapia seed stock were produced, which equates to 27% of its annual target.

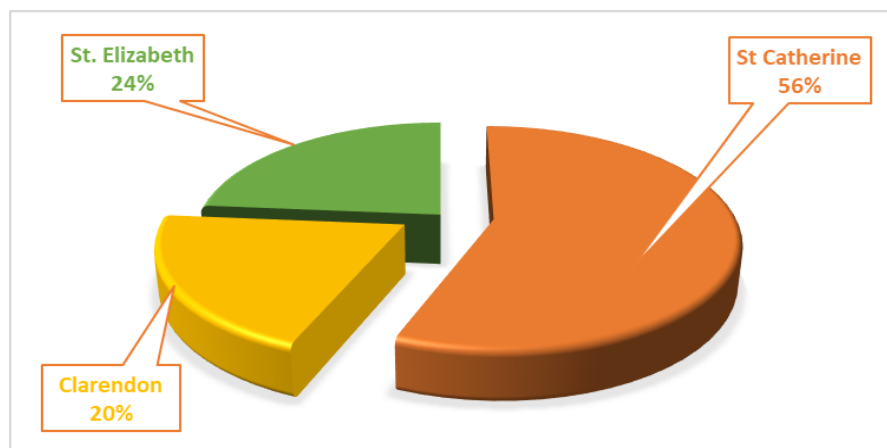
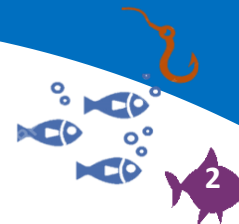


Fig. 14: Percentage of Aquaculture production per parish, 2023.



Photo: (R) Regional Capture Fisheries Extension Officer (Actg.) Mr Brian Murray; holds a Starfish as he provides information to a very enthused patron.

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 economic 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 fishponds remains at JMD\$4.00 each and the average farmgate price for Q4 (January to March) remains the same at \$480 per pound.

COMPLIANCE STATISTICS

The Compliance Branch recorded a 65% increase in site visits (1,329) to fishing beaches, marinas, restaurants, tournaments, seafood stores, rivers, fish farms, supermarkets, and wholesales in Q4 against Q3 (803). The increased sensitization and public relations by the National Fisheries Authority coupled with the continued joint inspections with the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Jamaica Defence Force; resulted in 0 arrests for the quarter. The Unit continues its robust monitoring, control, and surveillance efforts with 546 inspections carried out in Q4 a 27% decline as against [749] in Q3, there was a 65% [\$680,000] decline in fines when compared to Q3 [\$1,980,000] performance. There was also a 75% decline in the number of court appearances during the January to March 2024 period.



Photo: Compliance team conducting a special operation at sea.

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

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	**2024	TOTAL
\$2,642,000	\$180,000	\$1,145,000	\$1,004,000	\$4,806,700	\$680,000	\$10,457,700

** January to March 2024

Based on the data presented in Table 5, 2023 recorded the highest value for fines issued through the courts since 2019.

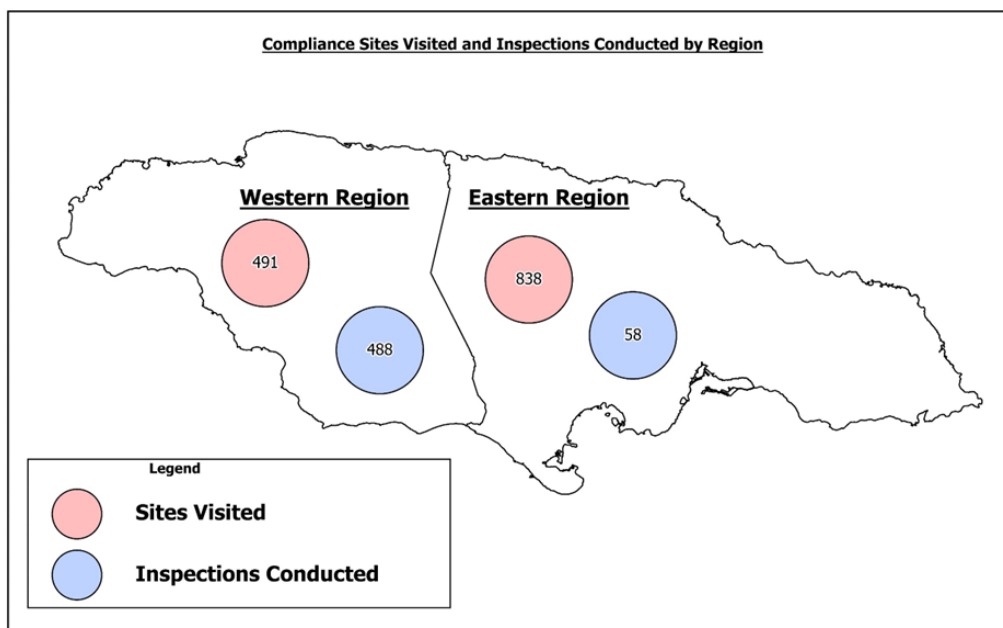
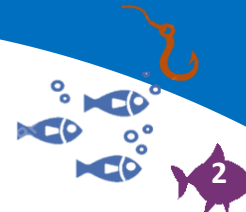


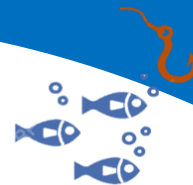
Fig. 15: Total number of compliance site visits and Inspections conducted by region within Q4 FY-2023/24.

The Fisheries Compliance Licensing and Statistics Division continues to support local fishers towards being compliant with their licence renewal. For 2023, the number of applicants renewing their licence over the previous year (2022) was recorded at 38%. This represents a 62% increase when compared to 2022 (20%). This gives an average of 26% for the number of renewals from the previous year for both vessels and individuals.

YEAR	% renewing from the previous year
2017	
2018	19%
2019	26%
2020	24%
2021	25%
2022	20%
2023	38%
**2024	33%
Average: 26%	

Table 6: Fisher and Vessel Licences Renewal % issued from; 2018 – 2023. (Excluding temporary permits)

** January - March 2024



Part 3 – Fisheries Economic Performance

GDP Contribution

Fishers Socio-Economic Statistics

Fish Price Index



FISHERIES ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

FISHERIES CONTRIBUTION TO GDP

In Volume 2, Issue 3 of the Quarterly Statistics Report, it was reported that Jamaica's fisheries sector since 2018, averages an annual earning of USD118.3M annually or J\$18B at today's FX rate.

GDP Contribution Based on Basic Prices (excluding taxes and subsidies on products) - \$'Million						
Total GDP	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	15,650.65	15,810.81	13,880.88	14,670.67	17,100.04	18,760.00
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	1,014.84	1,018.94	1,004.30	1,087.60	1,185.94	1,519.56
Fishing	94.58	111.02	109.04	90.16	116.29	216.4
% Contribution of fishing to Agriculture	9.32%	10.90%	10.86%	8.29%	9.81%	14.24%
% Contribution of fishing to total GDP	0.60%	0.70%	0.79%	0.61%	0.68%	1.15%

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

The total fisheries contribution for Jamaica for the financial year FY 2023/24 (April 2023 – March 2024), is US\$204.1M or JMD 31.8B (marine production at US\$198.51M (JMD 31B) and aquaculture production at US\$5.6M or JMD 875M).

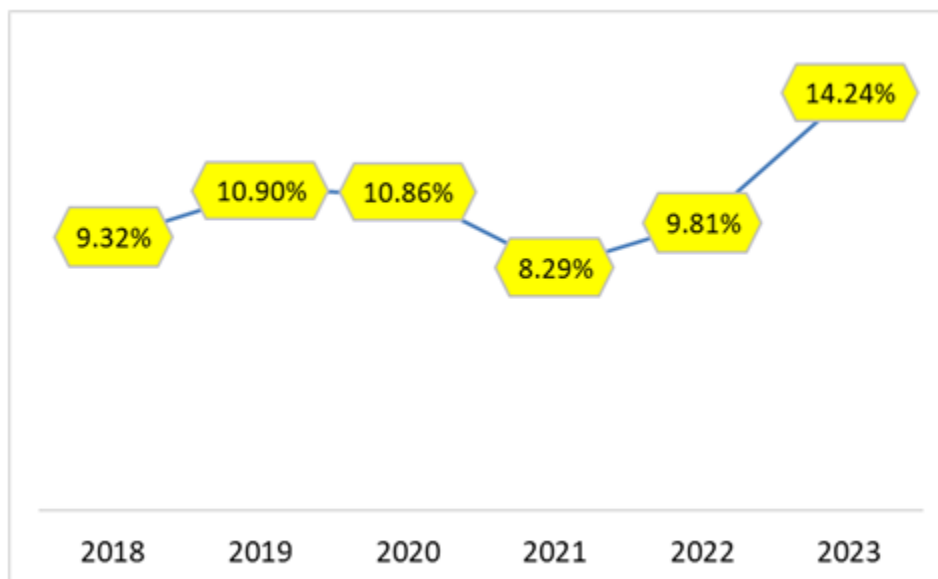
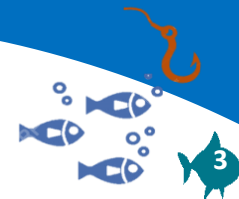


Fig. 16: The percentage contribution of fishing to the agriculture sector from 2018 to 2023



FISH PRICE INDEX

Table 8 The average price at first purchase from fishers by parish during the period January – March 2024 (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	\$1,000	\$950	\$900	\$850		\$800	\$1,000	\$900	
St. Mary	\$950	\$1,000	\$850	\$800	\$850		\$850		
St. James	\$1,000	\$1,100	\$800	\$850	\$850	\$850	\$900	\$850	\$900
Trelawny	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$800	\$900	\$800	\$800			\$900
Westmoreland	\$950	\$1,000	\$850	\$850	\$800	\$800		\$800	\$850
St. Elizabeth	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$850	\$800	\$800				\$900
St. Catherine	\$950	\$1,000	\$800	\$850	\$750	\$850	\$850	\$950	\$850
Kingston	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$900	\$850	\$800	\$850			\$900
Hanover	\$1,000	\$950	\$850		\$800		\$950		
St. Thomas	\$900	\$950	\$800	\$850	\$800	\$900			\$950
AVERAGE	\$985	\$1,005	\$840	\$844	\$806	\$836	\$910	\$875	\$893

Table 8 highlights the average finfish prices for nine fish types based on parish. The prices on average ranged from a low of \$750 (Doctor and Grunt) to a high of \$1100 (Parrot and Snapper). The parish with the highest-priced fish for the quarter was Kingston. The lowest-priced fish species (Doctor and Grunt) recorded a 15% increase in price moving from a low of \$650 in Q3 to \$750 in Q4. The highest-priced fish species (Parrot and Snapper) recorded a 10% increase in price moving from a low of \$1000 in Q3 to \$1100 in Q4.

FISHERS SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATISTICS

AGE STATISTICS OF FISHERS

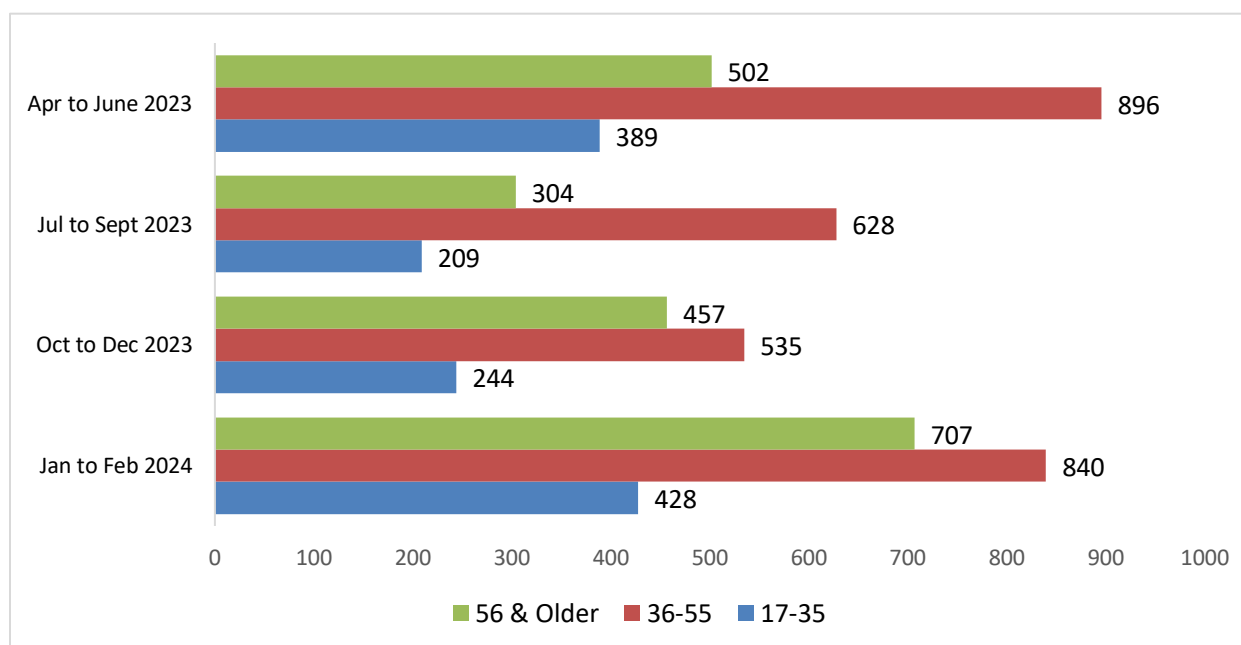
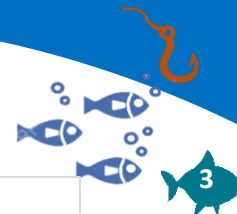


Fig. 17: Age of fisher renewal applications for FY 2023/24.



■ Apr to June 2023 ■ Jul to Sept 2023 ■ Oct to Dec 2023 ■ Jan to Feb 2024

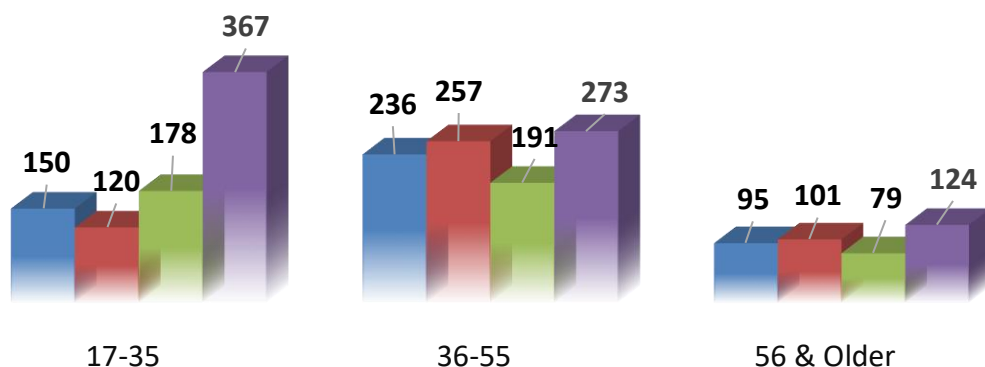


Fig. 18: Age of new fisher applications for FY 2023/24 (April 2023 – March 2024).

For the period under review (January – March 2024), the Authority reported a 106% increase 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 43% increase in new applications over the previous quarter. Additionally, there was a 57% increase in the '56 and older' age group in comparison to the previous quarter.

As the Ministry in collaboration with the NFA continues its campaign towards encouraging more young persons to enter the sector, for Q4 the age group that recorded the highest new applications were 17-35. This represented 48% of the total 764 new applications received in Q4. Most fishers renewing their licence were in the age group of 36-55 for the period January to March 2024, representing 42% of total applications renewed. The 17-35 age group for renewal applications recorded a 75% increase against the previous quarter.

GENDER STATISTICS OF FISHERS

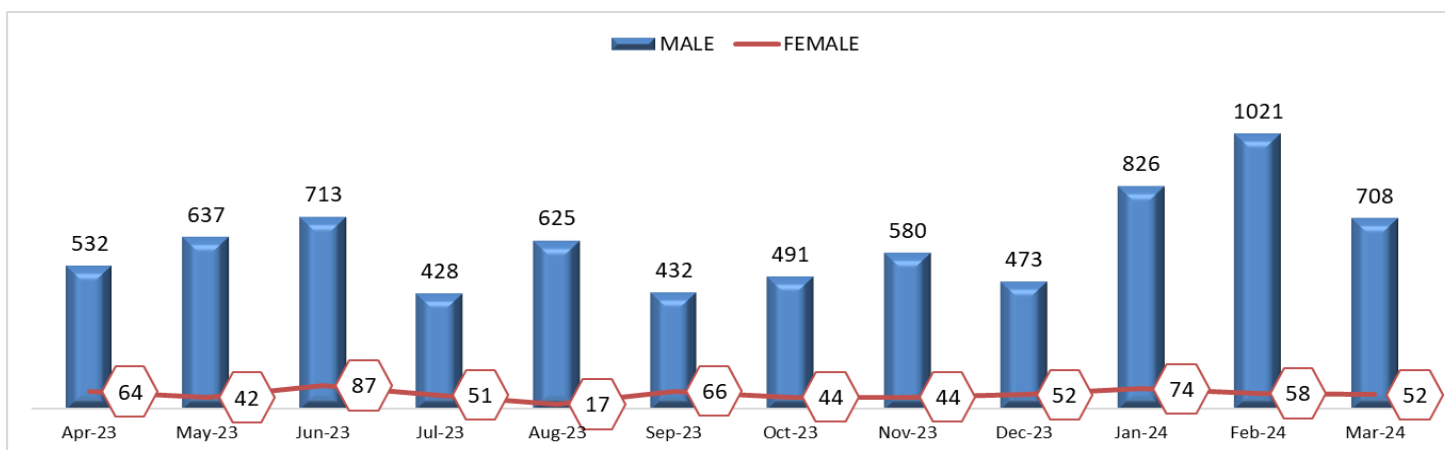
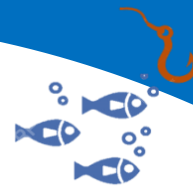
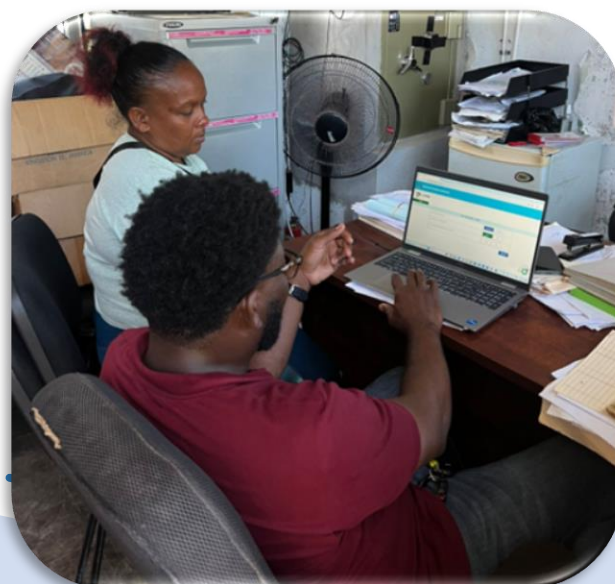


Fig. 19: Sex of fishers receiving licences for FY 2023/24 (April 2023 – March 2024).

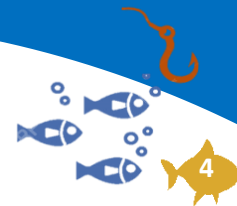
Jamaica's fishery sector continues to be male-dominated (Fig. 19); however, there was a 31% increase in females receiving licences for the period under review representing 181 applicants when compared to the 140 applicants in Q3. 92% of the 8117 licences issued for FY 2023/24 were for male fishers and 8% for females.



Part 4 – Conclusion



National Fisheries Authority Capture Fisheries
Extension Officer Mr Fabian Gordon; register a
female fisher via the new Iriefins Platform.



This document (Volume 2: Issue 4 of the Jamaica Fisheries: Quarterly Statistics Report) highlighted the performance of the Jamaican fisheries sector over the fourth 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 97% of total fish production. Marine Finfish production accounted for 2,756 MT, with the South Coast contributing 75%; value estimated at US \$38.8M. 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 1179 MT of tilapia being produced in Q4, resulting in the total production for the financial year 2023/24 at 896.27 MT with an estimated value of US 5.66M.

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\$33.7B towards GDP in 2023, this represents an 86.1% increase when compared to the previous year of J\$18.1B. Jamaica's fishery industry contributes 14.2% to Jamaica's agriculture sector and 1.1% to Jamaica's GDP for 2023.

The National Fisheries Authority continues to be strident in the execution of its mandate. For the quarter under review, there was a 55% increase in new vessel licences issued YoY [Q4 2022/23 vs Q4 2023/24]. Additionally, a 58% increase was recorded for the combined [new & renewal] vessel licence issued in Q4 compared to the previous quarter. The NFA continues its efforts towards increasing public awareness of the importance of licence renewal. The Authority continues its collaborative efforts with the security forces, this increase in surveillance resulted in 0 arrests for Q4. Site visits conducted by the Compliance Unit recorded a 65% increase when compared to the previous quarter Q3.

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 a 9% increase in compliance with renewing licences in 2022 vs 2023 (January to December); the Authority will continue its enforcement strategies and licensing interventions to ensure increased compliance.

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.

