



Maldives Lobster Fishery Management Plan

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Foreword



Praise be to Allah, the Creator of the oceans, marine life and other blessings upon the earth. Prayers and peace be upon our Prophet, Muhammad, who taught us the righteous way to make use of these blessings.

The oceans, lagoons and reefs are national heritages that are inextricably linked to our culture, tradition, and the Maldivian identity. The Maldives fisheries are heavily dependent on this heritage. Hence it is our utmost responsibility to ensure that they are faithfully passed down to our future generations. The Ministry is committed to working towards achieving this goal, and to implement the government's policies on the expansion of the blue economy agenda. To this end, we have compiled this plan to steer our efforts towards maximising long-term benefits of marine resources to Maldivians.

Since the time of our forefathers, the fishery sector has been a major pillar of our economy, upon which our incomes, our livelihoods and our sustenance are dependent. Therefore, the measures included in these fisheries management plans are geared towards the sustainable development and management of these fisheries resources. These legally recognised fisheries management plans mark a watershed moment in the history of marine resource management in the Maldives.

Fisheries resources are common goods, of which all Maldivians hold a share. These plans have been developed based on principles of

the Precautionary Approach, Ecosystem-Based Management, Sustainable Development and Equity, with due regard to the various and variety of interactions within an ecosystem and to ensuring timely and cost-effective measures are taken to safeguard ecosystems and prevent irreparable damage to them. This process has been informed by meaningful suggestions and constructive feedback from various stakeholders including fishers, others engaged directly and indirectly within the fisheries sector as well as civil society organisations working towards natural resource management, conservation, and protection.

The fisheries management plans will be the primary basis for guiding the authorities as well as stakeholders in the sustainable management of the fisheries sector in the Maldives. These plans comprise of developmental goals and objectives for each fishery, measures and actions to achieve them, the roles and responsibilities of stakeholder agencies in the implementation of these measures and an implementation timeline for the measures. It is my sincere hope that these plans contribute towards realising the vision set forth by the Fisheries Act of the Maldives.

—

Zaha Waheed

Minister of Fisheries, Marine Resources
and Agriculture

Abbreviations



FIS	Fisheries Information System
IGO	Intergovernmental Organisation
LGA	Local Government Authority
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MCS*	Maldives Customs Service
ME	Ministry of Environment
MFDA	Maldives Food and Drug Authority
MIRA	Maldives Inland Revenue Authority
MMRI	Maldives Marine Research Institute
MNDF - CG	Maldives National Defence Force – Coast Guard
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoT	Ministry of Tourism
MoED	Ministry of Economic Development
MoFMRA	Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture
MPS	Maldives Police Services
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
RFB	Regional Fisheries Body
SDFC	SME Development Finance Corporation
SWIOFC	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
UCSB	University of California, Santa Barbara

Chapter 1



Preamble

1.1 Introduction and Title

This Plan is made pursuant to Article 18 of the Act No. 2019/14 (Fisheries Act of the Maldives) and provides for the management of the fishery stated in Section 17 (a) (12) of the Act. The plan will be the primary basis for guiding the authorities as well as stakeholders in the sustainable development of the lobster fishery and trade in the Maldives. This Management Plan shall be cited as “Maldives Lobster Fishery Management Plan”.

1.2 Overall purpose

The overall purpose of the management plan is to:

- (a) Establish an effective management and monitoring structure for the lobster fishery and ensure long-term benefits to the people of Maldives through the responsible management of the fishery;
- (b) Guide the authorities as well as stakeholders in the sustainable development of the lobster fishery and trade.



1.3 Scope and Application

This Plan applies to all lobsters belonging to the infraorders Astacidea and Achelata. The Plan shall apply to all activities carried out in the Maldives that may impact lobster resources, including but not limited to harvesting, processing, storage, trading, and exporting of lobster products from the Maldives. The Plan also applies to all parties, vessels, processing and export facilities or places engaged in or otherwise connected with any activity within the scope of this Plan.

1.4 Guiding Principles

1.4.1 Precautionary Approach: Timely and cost-effective measures shall be taken to safeguard ecosystems and prevent irreparable damage to them despite the lack of full scientific certainty.

1.4.2 Ecosystem-based management: The various and variety of interactions within an ecosystem, including anthropogenic elements, shall be recognised as opposed to accounting for matters, species, or ecosystem services in isolation.

1.4.3 Universal Responsibility: Local policies governing marine resource management shall be in harmony with global efforts to protect, conserve and manage biodiversity.

1.4.4 Sustainable Development: In developing the fishery, the needs of the present shall be met without compromising the ability of the future generations to benefit from the resource.

1.4.5 Equity: Resources shall be acknowledged as shared and common goods and benefits obtained from the utilisation of resources shall be shared in a fair and just manner among all through the application of transparency, legitimacy, accountability and decentralisation.

1.4.6 Participatory Approach: All stakeholders, particularly those who are directly affected by a policy or a measure, shall be engaged in the decision-making process to ensure inclusivity and consensus-oriented outcomes.

1.5
Interpretation

Unless stated otherwise, words or expressions used in this Plan have been given the meaning specified in Annex 1: Glossary.

1.6
Entry into
Force

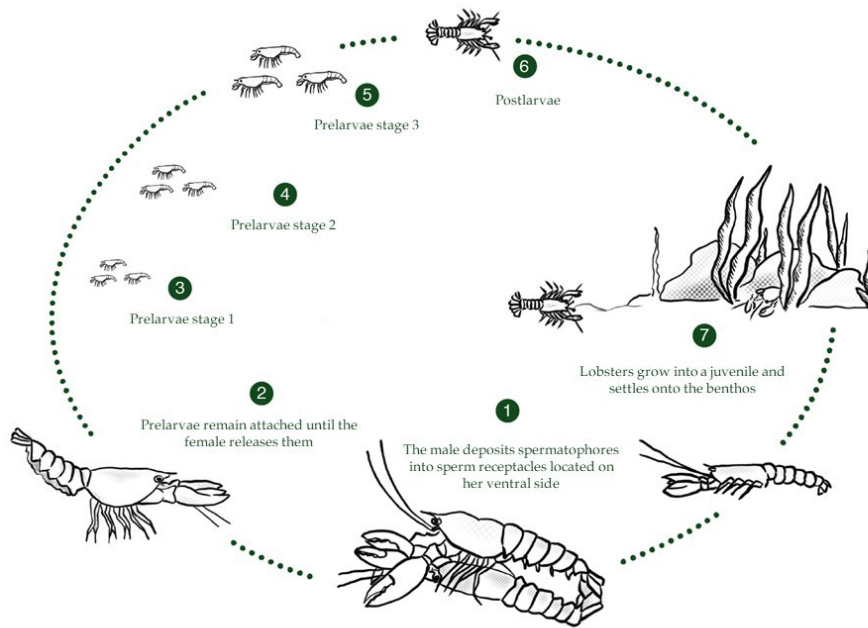
This Plan shall come into force upon its publication on the Government Gazette.

Chapter 2



Habitat and Ecology

Lobsters have a complex life cycle, with a long-lived adult phase and a relatively late onset of maturity. When the female moults, the male deposits spermatophores into sperm receptacles located on her ventral side (Wahle and Fogarty 2006). These are stored up to several months, until the female is ready to release her eggs. Fertilisation then occurs externally. Prelarvae remain attached until the female releases them by fanning her swimmerets in rhythmic waves. The larvae then hatches and drift for up to several months and passes three distinct planktonic larval stages before reaching the postlarva stage (Jaini 2011). They then grow into a juvenile and settles onto the benthos. During the early benthic phases, lobsters are often cryptic, solitary and shelter bound, most of their nursery habitats consisting of rocks, coral rubble, macroalgae or seagrass. The typical life cycle of a lobster is shown in Figure 1.



• **Figure 1:** Life cycle of a lobster

Majority of the lobsters feed on molluscs, crustaceans and algae, although some juveniles have been documented as suspension feeders (Loo et al. 1993). The growth rate for lobsters vary between and sometimes within species and such differences may be linked to factors such as food availability, temperature and oceanic currents (Kensler 1967; Farmer 1974; Groeneveld 1997; Bianchini et al. 1998).

As adults, spiny lobsters have been observed to exhibit a more social behaviour (Butler et al. 2006). This has been largely linked to their predation pressures (Childress and Jury 2006). For example, the sociality exhibited by spiny lobsters is a cooperative group defence strategy used to minimise individual risks (Childress and Jury 2006). Lobsters are subject to an array of predators throughout their life history, including groupers, sharks, triggerfishes, string rays and octopuses (Buscaino et al. 2011).

Chapter 3



Overview of the lobster fishery

3.1 Lobster Species Recorded in the Maldives

The lobster species, locally known as *Ihi*, recorded in the Maldives are of the families Palinuridae (spiny lobsters), Scyllaridae (slipper lobsters) and Enoplometopidae (reef lobsters). The species recorded in the Maldives are listed below.

Table 1: List of recorded lobster species in the Maldives

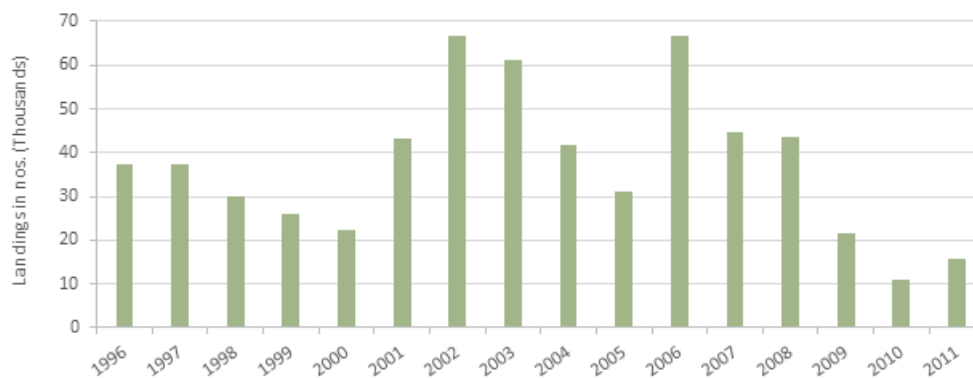
Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Presence Reported In
Spiny lobsters (Palinuridae)			
<i>Panulirus femoristriga</i>	Stripe-leg spiny lobster	Benthic, tropical waters. Depth range 35 - 15 m	Chan and Chu, 1996
<i>Panulirus japonicus</i>	Japanese spiny lobster	Demersal, subtropical waters. Depth range 15 - 1 m	Chan and Chu, 1996
<i>Panulirus longipes</i>	Long-legged spiny lobster	Benthic, tropical waters. Depth range 122 - 1 m	Ahmed et al., 1997

<i>Panulirus ornatus</i>	Tropical rock lobster, Ornate rock lobster, Ornate spiny lobster and Ornate tropical rock lobster	Benthic, tropical waters. Depth range 50 - 1 m	Ahmed et al., 1997
<i>Panulirus penicillatus</i>	Pronghorn spiny lobster	Benthic, tropical waters. Depth range up to 200 m	Borradaile, 1904
<i>Panulirus polyphagus</i>	Mud spiny lobster	Benthic, brackish tropical waters. Depth range 90 - 3 m	Borradaile, 1904
<i>Panulirus versicolor</i>	Painted rock lobster, Common rock lobster, Bamboo lobster, Blue lobster, and Blue spiny lobster	Benthic, tropical waters. Depth range up to 900 m	Jonklaas, 1967
Slipper lobsters (Scyllaridae)			
<i>Eduarctus martensii</i>	Striated locust lobster	Benthic, tropical waters. Depth range up to 1399 m	Borradaile, 1904
<i>Parribacus antarcticus</i>	Sculptured slipper lobster	Benthic, tropical waters. Depth range 20 - 0 m	Coleman, 2013
<i>Scyllarides squammosus</i>	Blunt slipper lobster	Reef-associated, tropical waters. Depth range 80 - 20 m	Coleman, 2013
Reef lobsters (Enoplometopidae)			
<i>Enoplometopus voigtmani</i>	Voigtmann's reef lobster	Benthic, tropical waters. Depth range 35 - 6 m	Chan, 2019

3.2 Lobster Fishery and Trade

A considerable amount of lobster harvest is attributed to opportunistic catch during sea cucumber fishing trips. Similar to sea cucumbers, lobsters are also often handpicked while diving and sea-wading, usually at night with the aid of lights.

The true extent of lobster fishery in the Maldives is not yet fully understood as there is no mechanism to enumerate lobster landings in the country. However, some estimations can be determined through the fishery data collection mechanism that was established in 1970s. The system then was organised such that the fishermen reported daily catches to a designated staff member at their respective Island Offices who compiled the information into a “Monthly Fishing Report” and forwarded to the then, Statistics and Data Management Section of the Ministry (Anderson, Adam and Hafiz, 2003). However, it is noteworthy that these reports are not a true representation of the total lobster landings in the country. Figure 2 shows the amount of lobsters harvested as reported by fishers then.



• **Figure 2:** Lobster landings reported from islands from 1996-2011

Since the introduction of logbooks in 2010, the previous system of data reporting was gradually phased out and by around 2017, the reporting on lobster fishery had stopped. The logbooks were designed to collect data on mainly tuna, reef fish and grouper fisheries. Therefore, information on invertebrates such as lobsters have not been recorded through the logbooks.

Based on surveys conducted by the Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture between 2017 and 2018, it is estimated that around 200 vessels and 1100 fishers are engaged in this fishery.

The primary market for commercial lobster fishers is the tourism sector (resorts and guesthouses). Other markets include restaurants and local markets.

Chapter 4



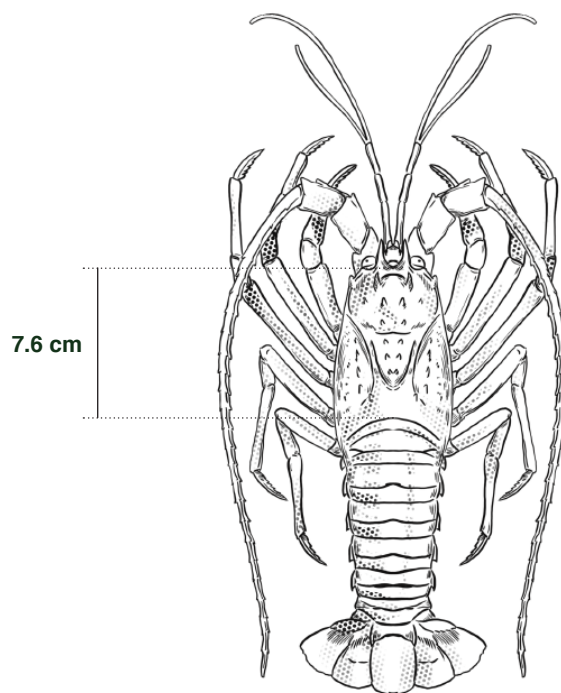
Previous Management Measures

As lobsters have a long-lived adult phase and a relatively late onset of maturity, they are highly susceptible to overfishing. Therefore, it is critical that timely management measures are introduced in order to minimise impacts to their populations, reduce juvenile catch, allow them to effectively reproduce as well as to ensure that long-term benefits to the people of Maldives through the responsible management of the fishery. In this regard, the Ministry has implemented various measures to sustainably manage the lobster fishery, most of which was imposed through announcements issued in the 1990s. For instance, berried lobsters and lobsters under 25cm in total length were protected from extraction in 1993, and in 1996, exporting lobster and lobster meat was banned. These measures have also been incorporated into the General Fisheries Regulation of the Maldives that came into effect in 2006. Using SCUBA diving gear in lobster fishery was also prohibited under this regulation.

These measures, some of which have been revised, have been included in the regulations enacted under the Act No. 2019/14 (Fisheries Act of the Maldives) that came into force in 2019. In this regard, prohibition of harvesting berried lobsters and exporting lobsters and lobster meat was maintained under the Regulation No. 2020/R75- (General Fisheries Regulation of the Maldives). In addition, a size limit of 17.6cm in carapace length has been imposed on the following species of lobsters. Harvesting, trading or processing in contradiction to this size limit is an offence.



- a) *Panulirus japonicus* (Japanese spiny lobster);
- b) *Panulirus longipes* (Long legged spiny lobster);
- c) *Panulirus ornatus* (Ornate spiny lobster / Ornate tropical rock lobster);
- d) *Panulirus penicillatus* (Pronghorn spiny lobster);
- e) *Panulirus polyphagus* (Mud spiny lobster);
- f) *Panulirus versicolor* (Painted rock lobster / Common rock lobster / Blue spiny lobster)



- **Figure 3:** illustration of how to measure the carapace length of a lobster

Chapter 5



Objectives and Strategies

This management plan comprises of objectives, strategies, and actions that would contribute towards achieving the overall purpose.

The five specific objectives are;

- (1) Ensure that the harvesting, processing and trading of lobsters is carried out through the application of principles of sustainability, ecosystem-based management and the Precautionary Approach;
- (2) Prioritise evidence-based policymaking through the collection of biological and socio-economic data on lobster fishery and associated resources;
- (3) Implement a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) mechanism and strengthen data collection and data reporting mechanisms for the lobster fishery and trade; and
- (4) Increase education and awareness on lobsters and associated resources amongst stakeholders and the general public.

Strategies and actions developed to achieve these objectives are summarised in Table 1.



Table 2: Breakdown of each objective by strategies, actions, timeframe and responsible parties

Objective 1 Ensure that the harvesting, processing and trading of lobsters is carried out through the application of principles of sustainability, ecosystem-based management and the Precautionary Approach			
Strategy	Action	Time frame	Responsible parties
1.1 Adopt precautionary approach for the management of the fishery in the absence of reliable biological or fishery data	1.1.1 Prohibit the export of lobsters to ensure sustainability of their population	Immediate	o Ministry o MMRI o Maldives Customs Service
	1.1.2 Apply minimum harvest / export size limits on lobster species	Immediate	o Ministry o MMRI
1.2 Promote the use of environmentally friendly gears and techniques in the lobster fishery	1.2.1 Implement and enforce the restriction on the use of fishing methods or gears prohibited in the Act No.2019/14 (Fisheries Act of the Maldives) and its pursuant regulations	Immediate	o Ministry o MNDF - CG o MPS
	1.2.2 Prohibit the use of SCUBA gear in the lobster fishery	Within one year of implementation of this Plan	o MMRI o Ministry
1.3 Maintain a leading role in Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) and relevant Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGOs) in management and conservation of reef fishery resources	1.3.1 Actively participate in the scientific and management processes of SWIOFC and other relevant regional and international bodies	Immediate	o MMRI o MoFMRA
Objective 2 Prioritise evidence-based policymaking through the collection of biological and socio-economic data on lobster fishery and associated resources			
Strategy	Action	Time frame	Responsible parties
2.1 Improve data collection and management on biological, ecological, and socio-economic aspects of reef fishery to support evidence-based policymaking	2.1.1 Gather geographical information on fishing grounds using fishery data and field survey to understand the spatio-temporal exploitation patterns in lobster fishery	Immediate	o MMRI o Ministry

	2.1.2 Conduct a series of surveys to identify and understand socio-economic aspects of lobster fishery in the Maldives	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ministry o NBS o Local councils
2.2 Identify and engage stakeholders to ensure that policy decisions are made through a Participatory Approach	2.2.1 Establish, maintain, and update a fishers' registry, <i>Masveringe Dhaftharu</i> , to identify fishing communities dependent on lobster resources	Within one year of implementation of this plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ministry o Local councils
	2.2.2 Engage with stakeholders and take their views and feedback into account in the implementation of management measures	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ministry o Local councils
	2.2.3 Work in close liaison with key lobster fishing communities, traders, civil society and the tourism sector	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ministry o Local councils o MoT
Objective 3 Implement a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) mechanism and strengthen data collection and data reporting mechanisms for the lobster fishery and trade			
Strategy	Action	Time frame	Responsible parties
3.1 Establish an effectively controlled and monitored trade flow	3.1.1 Establish licensing arrangements for commercial lobster fishing vessels	Within one year of implementation of this plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ministry o Local Councils
	3.1.2 Establish licensing for third parties (resellers) trading lobster species to tourism markets	Long-term (5 - 10 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ministry o Local Councils o MoT
	3.1.3 Establish registration arrangements in "Fisheries Information System - Keyolhu" for those engaged in lobster fishery and trade	Within one year of implementation of this plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ministry o Maldives Customs Service
3.2 Establish an efficient documentation scheme for reef fishery	3.2.1 Establish mechanisms to collect catch and effort data from harvesters through fishery logbooks, and conduct awareness programmes to improve accuracy of data submitted by fishers	Within one year of implementation of this plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ministry o Local Council



	3.2.2 Require any third-parties (resellers) trading lobsters to tourism markets to maintain and submit purchase reports to the Ministry	Long-term (5 - 10 years)	o Ministry o Local Councils o MoT o MoED
3.3 Establish an effective monitoring, control and enforcement system to ensure effective compliance	3.3.1 Establish mechanisms to inspect fishing vessels, processing facilities, landing sites and airports to ensure compliance	Immediate	o Ministry o Maldives Customs Service
	3.3.2 Ensure compliance to regulations related to lobster fishery and trade through fisheries rangers established in different regions of the country	Short-term (1 - 3 years)	o Ministry o Local councils
Objective 4 Increase education and awareness on lobsters and associated resources amongst stakeholders and the general public			
Strategy	Action	Time frame	Responsible parties
4.1 Promote awareness and understanding of the lobster fishery in the Maldives, its contribution to the economy, and management interventions	4.1.1 Based on data availability, compile and disseminate information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • status of the fishery; • trade; and • revenue to Maldives. 	Short-term (1 – 3 years)	o MMRI o Ministry o MoED o MIRA o Maldives Customs Service o NBS
	4.1.2 Educate fishers, traders and enforcement officers about new and existing regulations via workshops, trainings and awareness campaigns	Immediate	o Ministry o MMRI o Maldives Customs Service o MPS o MNDF – CG
	4.1.3 Develop education campaigns for school children and/or the general public on the important role lobsters play in marine ecosystems	Short-term (1 – 3 years)	o Ministry o MMRI o MoE
4.2 Promote appreciation for the marine environment and resources through public engagement in citizen science programmes	4.2.1 Implement a citizen science monitoring programme to collect and record photographic and observational data on reef resources	Medium-term (3 – 5 years)	o MMRI

Chapter 6



Management Measures Under This Plan

In the best interest of fishing communities and industry, it is critical that timely management measures are introduced so that this resource is sustainably managed to the benefit of stakeholders and future generations. Measures that will be implemented to achieve the objectives and strategies of this Plan are summarised below.

6.1 Establishment of an advisory committee

An advisory committee will be established to advise the Ministry on management of lobster populations, fishery and trade. The committee will also give recommendations to the Ministry on research and sustainable development of this fishery. The meetings of the committee will be convened at least once per year.

The committee will comprise of the following members:

- (a) A Chairperson (representative of the Fisheries Department);
- (b) Representative of MMRI;
- (c) 2 (two) representatives of lobster harvesters;
- (d) A representative from the Ministry of Tourism;
- (e) A representative from the Ministry of Environment;

- (f) A representative from the Ministry of Economic Development;
- (g) A representative from Local Government Authority;
- (h) A relevant locally registered NGO.

A public announcement will be made by the Ministry, calling for Expressions of Interest for the following Committee positions:

- Representatives of lobster harvesters;
- Representative from the NGO

The responsibilities of the Committee will include:

- (a) Monitoring the implementation of this Plan and briefing the Minister on its progress on an annual basis;
- (b) Reviewing technical and other reports pertaining to the lobster fishery;
- (c) Advising on management measures in response to the outcomes and recommendations from the technical reports and stakeholder workshops and consultations;
- (d) Advising the Ministry on implementation of relevant regional and international management measures on a national scale; and
- (e) Advising the Ministry on the implementation, monitoring and review of this Plan.

6.2 Licensing

One of the overarching aims of establishing a licensing mechanism is to identify parties that are engaged in the fishery and those who are economically dependent on the fishery resources. Such a mechanism also supports the collection and management of fisheries data. Furthermore, the licensing mechanism plays a crucial role in providing the Ministry with information that contributes towards the development of the fisheries sector and the extension of essential services to fishers.

In addition, a licensing mechanism also allows for the formal recognition of stakeholders engaged in the fishery and trade, which in turn facilitates the Ministry to safeguard their rights and ensure their social and economic security. Maintaining records of the fishing fleet and crew members, as well as information on fish processing facilities, through a licensing system assures the international community that the Maldivian fisheries are effectively and responsibly managed. Such records also serve as an important basis for planning and implementing fishery development projects.

In light of these considerations, all commercial fishing vessels operating within the lobster fishery will be required to acquire a license. The general process of application for and issuance of licenses, their renewal and revocation as well as conditions of the licenses will be set forth in the relevant regulations. The Ministry will establish, maintain and update a database of licensed parties.

6.3 Data collection and Management

Collection and management of comprehensive catch and effort data and maintenance of fisheries statistics is an important measure that contributes towards assessing changes in the abundance of fish stocks in response to fishing. It also plays a critical role in ensuring that stocks are fished at sustainable levels and that future generations continue to benefit from these resources. The fundamental tool used for this purpose is the fishery logbooks, in which catch composition, fuel usage, fishing grounds and other trip details, for each fishing trip, are recorded and submitted by the licensed vessels. Other vital information collected on the fisheries sector include details on processing and trade of fish and fishery products.

In consideration of the aforementioned factors, an integrated data collection system will be established and used to collect logbook / fishery data from licensed fishing vessels.



6.4 Precautionary Measures

The Precautionary Approach promotes the application of timely and cost-effective measures to safeguard ecosystems and prevent irreparable damage to them, despite the lack of full scientific certainty. This approach falls within the purview of international best practices for sustainable management of natural resources (UNCED, 1982). In this regard, additional measures that are not stated in this Plan may be taken to protect and manage lobster populations. These measures may include but are not limited to the following:

- (a) Declaring the closure of a specific area within Maldives and prohibiting the extraction of lobsters from the no-take zone;
- (b) Prohibiting the capture or processing of a specific species of lobster;
- (c) Adjusting size requirements of lobsters that can be harvested;
- (d) Implementing a catch quota by species;
- (e) Impose other restrictions on activities that may affect lobster populations.

Chapter 7



Implementation of this Plan

The Ministry is responsible for the implementation of each objective in this management plan, by strategies and actions, as outlined and in coordination with the relevant agencies. The Ministry shall also formulate a regulation, under the Fisheries Act of the Maldives, to implement and enforce all lobster fishery management measures stated in this Plan. The Maldives Marine Research Institute shall formulate and implement a plan of action to undertake all research activities that the institute is responsible for under this Plan.

Chapter 8



Reviewing the Management Plan

This Plan will be reviewed and revised every 6 (six) years. The Ministry will ensure the engagement of lobster fishing communities, lobster traders, civil society, and other stakeholders in the review process. Where there is an immediate need to revise any part(s) or measures of this Plan, the Ministry shall carry out such revisions in consultation with the Committee.

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Annex 1: Glossary



(a) Carapace length	Length measured from the rear of the eye socket of a lobster to the rear of the carapace on a line parallel to the centre line of its body shell.
(b) Commercial Fishing	Fishing or Harvesting for the purpose of obtaining a financial benefit
(c) Enforcement officer	Any officer designated pursuant to Section 57 of the Act No. 2019/14 (Fisheries Act of the Maldives) to enforce regulations made under the Act.
(d) Fisheries Ranger	Persons who are appointed for and by the Ministry under Section 58 of the Act No. 2019/14 (Fisheries Act of the Maldives).
(e) Fishing / Harvesting	<p>(1) Searching for the purpose of catching, taking, killing and harvesting of fish;</p> <p>(2) Attempting to search for, catch, take, kill or harvest fish;</p> <p>(3) Engaging in any other activity that results in the searching, catching, taking, killing or harvesting of fish;</p> <p>(4) Placing or searching or retaking of any fish aggregating device or equipment including “radio beacons”;</p> <p>(5) Undertaking any operation at sea or on an island in preparation for any activity mentioned in subsections (3) ,(2) ,(1) or (4).</p>
(f) Fishing vessels	Any type of vessel, ship or any other thing which is used for fishing, which has been prepared for fishing, or which is usually used for fishing or related activities.

(g) Logbook	Any instruments used to record data on fishing trips, including catch and effort data, submitted electronically or via any other medium determined by the Ministry
(h) Management plans	The plan with regard to fisheries planning, management and development in relation to Chapter Three of the Act no.: 2019/14 (Fisheries Act of the Maldives).
(i) Minister	The minister responsible for fisheries, including aquaculture.
(j) Ministry	The ministry responsible for fisheries, including aquaculture.
(k) Precautionary measures	In the absence of complete information based on scientific research or where a matter has not been proved, measures adopted to manage the natural resources in a sustainable manner considering the possibility of an adverse outcome if such measures are not taken.
(l) Processing	Activities undertaken to package, pack or bring any change to fish in order to preserve fish for a long period.
(m) Processing facilities	Lands, buildings, or such other places on or in which: <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) fish or aquaculture products are cleaned, packaged, dried, salted, chilled, frozen or otherwise processed for sale in and outside the Maldives; or(2) fish or aquaculture products are stored for the purposes of packaging, canning, drying, cleaning, salting, chilling, freezing or otherwise for processing for sale in and outside the Maldives.

(n) Reseller	Any third-parties trading fish to exporters or tourism markets as middlemen, but do not engage in the harvesting process.
(o) Fisheries Information System - <i>Keyolhu</i>	A web-enabled fishery information system designed to upload record catch data and issue permits and licenses to fishery and fishery related activities.
(p) <i>Vessel Owner</i>	The person who fulfils the duties and obligations of, represents as having the rights of, or accepts the obligations of, whether in personal capacity or through another person, the owner; and person or persons associated with the owner, or the manager, director or secretary of a legal entity.



Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources & Agriculture

Malé, Maldives