

# Celebrating Women in the fisheries sector and wishing all women a Happy Women's day!



## Nella Victor – Fisher, Entrepreneur

My name is Nella Victor. I am a fisherwoman and an entrepreneur. My responsibilities are to give and provide access to fresh and quality sea product to my local communities. I would encourage woman to join the fisheries sector. Although it is dominated by males, it is full of opportunities.

I face the challenge of stereotyping, but I am a positive person and I accept things as they come and work with what I have. I don't like being stagnant, I'm always one step ahead of things and I always find a solution. Unfortunately, women don't get enough support from parties as woman in this field. They are always doubting our capabilities. I feel like they should show more support and give us the chance to move forward as woman in the fisheries sector / fishing industry. We can do it. Happy women's day to all.



## Joanne Lucas – Fisheries officer, Seychelles Fishing Authority

My name is Joanne Lucas and I am a fisheries officer. As a fisheries officer my responsibility is to ensure the efficient management of our marine resources by conducting analyses and engaging with the fishing community, the fishing industry and relevant regional fisheries management organisations. Many believe that working in the fishing industry entails being at sea, and that one needs to be a marine biologist to work in fisheries, but I am proof of the diversity and potential that exists in the sector, especially for women and young girls. Whilst there is the stereotype of the sector being male-centered, a lot of what is not often seen, is the background work that keeps things running, where women are at the forefront of the many processes involved. I would encourage women to pursue a career in fisheries and Science, it is a worthwhile investment. Happy Women's Day!



## Shana Laporte – Export coordinator, Ocean Basket Pty Ltd

Women are present in all phases of fish production, I see it every day. My main role for example, is to interact with the airlines and authorities, prepare documents for shipments for exportation of fish products. I ensure that records are accurately maintained and documented.

Fish processing adds value to fish caught and by exporting the fish products, I have a role to play in ensuring our products reach the far corners of the earth. I would encourage women to join the sector because you learn more about different species, marketing and trading techniques. Also with the variety of opportunities and types of work, you can find something that's convenient for you.

Although the fishing industry is male dominated, honestly, it has never been a problem for me because everyday I aim do better than the day before. I wish all the women in the sector and everywhere a happy women's day.



## Evita Auguste – Policy Analyst, Department of The Blue Economy

My name is Evita Auguste and I am honoured to have a place in the maritime field, both as a woman and a young Seychellois. I have been working with the Department of Blue Economy for about eight months now and my work mainly revolves around matters to do with maritime boundary delimitation; establishing our maritime zones and deciding how to best manage our ocean space.

My line of work allows me to feel empowered as a young woman in the maritime sector, and this has a lot to do with the dynamic and non-discriminatory environment in which I work. I would encourage more women in SIDS and Seychelles to make a dramatic entrance to this sector and take ownership. Today, technology and innovation have left us with unprecedented access and opportunities in the maritime field. This has been largely a requisite of women involvement and will broaden the scope of the sector, making it more accessible to all. Women can and will take leadership roles in the development of the Blue Economy in Seychelles and we will also teach the world how to do it.

'Contributed by SFA and the Ministry of Fisheries and The Blue Economy'