



MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND SHIPPING

COMMUNIQUE

Fish analysis-MV Wakashio

Following the grounding of MV Wakashio and the oil spill in the region of Pointe d'Esny, the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping undertook a series of test (Fish, Sediment and Water) in the lagoon.

Since the 14th August 2020, fish samples have been collected in the lagoon of all affected regions by the Albion Fisheries Research Centre (AFRC). Those regions are namely:

1. Pointe D'Esny,
2. Deux Freres,
3. Bambous Virieux
4. Grande Riviere Sud Est,
5. Albion
6. Blue Bay
7. Trou d'Eau Douce
8. Palmar

The Albion Fisheries Research Centre also conducted same tests in other regions around the island which have not been affected by the Oil Spill, namely:

1. Belle Mare
2. Mahebourg
3. Souillac
4. Riambel
5. St Felix
6. Baie du Cap
7. St Martin
8. Le Morne
9. Poudre D'Or
10. Melville

11. Grand Baie
12. Pointe des Lascars
13. Cap Malheureux

Fish samples of different species were submitted to Quantilab Ltd for the analysis of Heavy Metals, Total Hydrocarbons (HCT) and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs).

Total hydrocarbon was detected only in fish samples collected on 14 and 15 August 2020 at Pointe d'Esny and Deux Freres respectively.

Hydrocarbons and PAHs were also detected in shellfish collected on 24 August 2020 at Mahebourg.

Based on recent results obtained from the Albion Fisheries and Research Centre, the Ministry wishes to inform the public that Fish and Fish products of the region from Mahebourg up-to Trou D'eau Douce should not be consumed nor commercialised at the moment.

The Ministry maintains that no fishing activities are being carried out in the affected regions while ensuring a continuous and sustained surveillance. The National Coast Guard and the Fisheries Protection Services are working together to ensure surveillance on a 24/7 basis.

No hydrocarbon was detected in fish samples collected from Riambel, Baie du cap, Belle Mare, La Morne, Poudre d'Or, Melville, Pointe aux Cannoniers, Grand Baie, Cap Malheureux, Pointe des Lascars, St Felix, Souillac, St Martin and Albion.

The Ministry reassures the public that fish available on the market from other regions around the country have not been affected and are therefore consumable.

These results have been communicated to the Ministry by the Quantilab Ltd. The latest results indicate that Fish and Fish products in these region are safe and consumable.

The Ministry reassures the public that all sanitary measures are being taken to ensure that no contaminated fish is being sold on the market.

The public is invited to inform the Ministry of any illegal activities at sea in the affected areas. All information may be transmitted through the Hotline of the Ministry: 173 which is free and anonymous.

8th September 2020

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