



C/o Seychelles Fishing Authority, Fishing Port, Victoria

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

ECHEBASTAR PROPOSED MSC CERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR THEIR INDIAN OCEAN TUNA FISHERY

FBOA fully support any initiative taken by any company wishing to meet and comply with the objectives of Fisheries Improvement Projects (FIP).

Having viewed the Echebastar Company action plan, and their Internal Company Management Plan for the implementation of their Fishery Improvement Standards and Company Code of Ethics, we find that many of the FBOA objectives in respect of a responsible and sustainable fishery are aligned in their process. This project will assist to improve transparency in their fishery operations and thus contribute towards achieving a responsible and sustainable tuna fishery in the Indian Ocean.

We acknowledge and appreciate Echebastar's efforts towards a leading and realistic approach for MSC certification of their Indian Ocean tuna fishery. This approach is also clearly identified in their new FAD Management Plan proposal with the aim for a further reduction in the number of active FADS from 350 to 250 and including a reduction in the purchase of buoys from 700 to 500. The reduction in both categories is proposed to be achieved by 2022. The proposal includes a FAD Recovery Program and the use of Bio Fads which will assist in reducing the impact on the environment especially the coral reefs.

We have taken note of Echebastar's insistence to the Seychelles Fishing Authority to prioritize the observer information programme from Echebastar purse seiners to assist with the compliance conditions for the audit team which will be carrying the MSC certification process. This demonstrates the company's willingness towards not only compliance but also transparency in its effort to ensure that their fishing operation is carried out in a responsible manner in assisting towards an MSC certified sustainable tuna fishery in the Indian Ocean.

We support the initiative taken by Echebastar and take this opportunity to wish them success in their endeavors and remain optimistic that they continue their effort towards a more responsible tuna fishery in the Indian Ocean. This process will, we believe, lead the way for others to follow in having a tuna fishery in the Indian Ocean which is responsible and sustainable. As a partner in this fishery, FBOA requests that it is kept informed of the progress made towards their certification as we view a sustainable fishery as extremely important for our country and local fishermen, in our socio-economic development and food security for our people.

Thank you.

KEITH H.S. ANAND
CHAIRMAN



BRATTY O. HARAU
TREASURER