

**ECHEBASTAR SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP (ESWG)  
SKYPE CONFERENCE CALL: MARCH 18, 2020  
MINUTES**

**AGENDA**

1. Consider the Strategic Approach to meeting the second year milestones to the Conditions to Certification;
2. Outline the annual work plan (April 2020 – March 2021) for the Condition to Certification.

**STRATEGIC APPROACH**

ESWG considered the potential ramifications of the OPAGAC withdrawal from the SIOTI FIP on the Echebatar annual work programme.

ESWG concluded that second annual surveillance audit (SASA) should be held at the same time as the one for the Maldives with a provisional timing of March 2021. This would: (i) facilitate coordination on P1 issues; and (ii) allow consideration of the outcome of the CFTO assessment process and any consequent harmonization needs.

Echebatar is a registered stakeholder in the CFTO process.

**CONDITIONS**

**Condition 1. ETP species information. By the fourth annual surveillance audit, the client must demonstrate that information is adequate to measure trends and support a strategy to manage impacts on ETP species.**

Milestone Year 2 (MSY2): Echebatar must provide evidence that the amount of processed data available has been significantly improved and that protocols for data processing have been established to assure the provision of the data required in future years.

Audit Outcome: On target.

Work Plan: Year 2.

- Data for the year 2019 will be published on the Echebatar web site in the third week of March.
- AZTI will up-date data each month. analysed and ready for publication next week.
- We will review CFTO data to understand potential cumulative effects.
- We will plan and implement new projects:
- Tagging of silky sharks to assess post release mortality.
- Mapping to indicate of the areas with the highest presence of silky shark in the catching operation.
- Correlation between set size and silky shark catch.

**Condition 2: 2.4.1 Habitat outcome By the fourth annual surveillance audit, the client must demonstrate that FADs are highly unlikely to reduce structure and function of coral reefs to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm.**

MSY2. Echebatar must provide evidence that the plan has been fully implemented with a description of the actions undertaken.

Audit Outcome: On target.

Work Plan: Year 2.

Echebatar will:

- Monitor IOTC policy on FAD numbers and consider any implications for implementation of the Echebatar FAD management plan from 2021.
- Work within SIOTI to promote the rapid implementation of FAD Watch.
- Continue to develop biodegradable FADs with biomaterials being studied to replace plastic elements.

**Condition 3: 2.4.2 Habitats management strategy. By the third annual surveillance audit, the client must provide evidence that a partial strategy in place that is expected to result that it will be highly unlikely that derelict FADs could reduce structure and function of the coral reefs to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm**

Audit Outcome: On target.

MSY2. Echebatar must provide evidence that the partial strategy has been fully implemented with a description of the actions undertaken

Work Plan: Year 2.

Echebatar will:

- Continue with the implementation of FAD Watch, although the work schedule will be affected by Coronavirus issue.
- Publish an up-date on progress in August, 2020, with a full report in February 2021, prior to SASA.

**Condition 4. 2.4.3 Habitats information By the fourth annual surveillance audit, the client must provide evidence that information is adequate to allow for identification of the main impacts of derelict FADs on coral reefs, and there is reliable information on the spatial extent of interaction and on the timing and location of use of the fishing gear.**

Audit Outcome: On target

MSY2. Echebatar must provide evidence that information is being collected.

Work Plan: Year 2.

- This is linked to condition 2 and 3.
- Smaller-scale projects related to the impact of FADs on coral reefs are being studied by Echebatar.
- Echebatar will publish a progress report in September 2020 with an up-date in June 2021.
- Data will be collected and analyzed as available from FAD Watch.

**Condition 5. 2.5.3 Ecosystem information. Sla. By the fourth annual surveillance audit, the client must provide evidence that the main impacts of the FADs used in the UoC on these key ecosystem elements can be inferred from existing information, and some have been investigated in detail. Sld. By the fourth annual surveillance audit, the client must provide evidence that there is adequate information on the impacts of the UoA on these components to allow some of the main consequences for the ecosystem to be inferred.**

Audit Outcome: On target

MSY2. Echebatar must provide evidence that the preferred option for investigation continues to be implemented

Work Plan: Year 2.

- A complete report will be prepared for SASA that may be an up-date of the AZTI one FASA
- Echebatar with SIOTI will develop the work of M<sup>a</sup> Jesús Juan Jorda.

**Condition 6. 3.1.2 Consultation, roles and responsibilities. By the third annual surveillance audit, the management system in the Seychelles includes consultation processes that regularly seek and accept relevant information, including local knowledge. The management system demonstrates consideration of the information obtained**

Audit Outcome: On target or slightly below target for Coronavirus adverse effects.

MSY2. Echebatar will provide evidence that the consultation process for tuna management in the Seychelles has met regularly with stakeholders and a formal record of those meetings as made available to all stakeholders is provided to the team.

Work Plan: Year 2.

- Confirmation of the work programme with visits to the Seychelles and meetings on FADs and Good Practices has been delayed due to the coronavirus restrictions.
- In April 2020, Echebatar will participate in a videoconference with EU fishing authorities at the start of the consultation process for potential EU proposals to the IOTC.

**Condition 7. 3.2.1 Fishery-specific objectives. By the third annual surveillance audit, short and long-term objectives, which are consistent with achieving the outcomes expressed by MSC's Principles 1 and 2, are explicit within the fishery-specific management system.**

Audit Outcome: On target or slightly below target for Coronavirus adverse effects.

MSY2. (Revised) Echebatar will provide evidence to the audit team in the second annual surveillance audit on the progress of the establishment of explicit short and long-term

Work Plan: Year 2.

- See Condition 6.

**Condition 8. Condition 8. 3.2.2 Decision-making processes. By the third annual surveillance audit: Sld. Information on the fishery's performance and management action relevant to the Seychelles fishery and private agreements is available on request, and explanations are provided for any actions or lack of action associated with findings and relevant recommendations emerging from research, monitoring, evaluation and review activity**

Audit Outcome: Ahead of target.

MSY2 (Revised). Echebatar will provide evidence to the audit team in the second annual surveillance audit that information on private agreements is available to stakeholders

Work Plan: Year 2.

- Fishing licenses for the Echebatar fleet will be published on the website.
- Echebatar will coordinate activity to clarify the position on "private licenses" .

**Conditions 9 1.2.1: By the first annual surveillance audit following re-certification (anticipated to be in 2024), the client must demonstrate that the harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving stock management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80 (i.e., it is highly likely that the stock is above the PRI and is at or fluctuating around a level consistent with MSY).**

Audit Outcome: New

MSY2: Echebatar must provide evidence at the Year 2 surveillance that, independently or jointly with industry groups, it has worked with relevant management authorities to press for IOTC action on ensuring adoption of appropriate measures consistent with scientific advice and responsive to the state of the stock such that management objectives reflected at PI1.1.1 are met. Expected score 75.

Work Plan: Year 2. See below.

**Condition 10: 1.2.2: By the first annual surveillance audit following re-certification (anticipated to be in 2024), the client must demonstrate that available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.**

Audit Outcome: New

MSY2. Echebatar must provide evidence at the Year 2 surveillance that, independently or jointly with industry groups, it has worked with relevant management authorities to press for IOTC action on implementing measures that are effective in ensuring catch limits for skipjack tuna set using the HCR adopted in IOTC Res16/02 (or any successor) are not exceeded. Expected score 70.

Work Plan: Year 2.

- Echebatar's approach to these conditions is dependent on other segments of the fishery: the CFTO assessment and potential assessments by SAPMER (Reunion) and OPAGAC.
- Echebatar will continue to work with SIOTI to develop HS and HCR for skipjack.
- Echebatar will participate in all relevant meetings.
- Echebatar will comply with established and agreed quotas.