

## ECHEBASTAR SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP

### MINUTES OF MEETING: 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

#### PARTICIPANTS

- Echebatar: José Luis Jauregui & Ian Scott
- AZTI: Ane Iriondo, Marga Andrés

#### MINUTES

The meeting opened at 10.00 (CET)

##### 1. SIOTI

JL & IRS briefly described the previous day's meeting of SIOTI and the implications for ESWG activities flowing from the definition of SIOTI's 2021 work plan. The main issues discussed were: the project to assess the interaction between derelict dFADs and corals; silky shark (tracking/tagging – phase 2; management plan); MSE for tuna fisheries; and the Seychelles tuna fisheries management plan to prepared within the context of a World Bank project.

##### 2. IOTC (SS4)

The submissions to the IOTC SS4 meeting were discussed, drawing out the varied interests of different stakeholders (purse seiners, Kenya, Sri Lanka, EU and IPNLF).

##### 3. Data

MA stated that the available data on the web site is up-to-date.

##### 4. Report Ecosystems

María José was reviewing the final draft prior to the completed report being sent to SIOTI.

##### 5. FAD Watch.

The MOU has been modified and was awaiting signature by the Seychelles representatives.

##### 6. dFAD /Corals

The project is ready to start once approval received from the appropriate Seychelles authority to complete field work.

##### 7. Silky Sharks

The update draft report was awaited. There will be a second phase that will concentrate on silky sharks with least risk of post release mortality (as measured by viability, lactate content and size).

##### 8. Echebatar – Conditions

See below. IRS will draft a comprehensive review of the position for presentation at the next ESWG meeting.

##### 9. Gill Nets / Drift Nets

There was a brief assessment of the use of this fishing gear in the IO.

##### 10. Other MSC tuna/IO

It was noted that WWF is reported to be considering its position in relation to the AGAC, CFTO and TUNACONS fisheries.

##### 11. MSC SASA Echebatar

It was noted that Macarena Garcia who has managed the Echebatar account has left BV.

##### 12. Next meeting

March 26, 2021. 10 am (CET).

**Condition 1**

PI	2.3.3 ETP species information
Condition	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.
Year 2: Milestone	Years 1-3. Echebatar must provide evidence at the 1-3 annual surveillance audits 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.
Progress 1/21	While there have been issues with the continuity of data due to the impact of Corona (observer numbers), there is no reason to believe that this will prevent SASA auditors from concluding that Echebatar has met the milestone.  It will not be possible to close this condition until 4ASA.
Progress 26/2/21	The information from the AZTI silky shark project (including the potential second phase) will provide information to support a strategy. SIOTI will commission a report on silky shark management.

**Condition 2**

PI	2.4.1 Habitat outcome
Condition	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.
Year 2: Milestone	Echebatar must provide evidence to the second annual surveillance that the plan has been fully implemented with a description of the actions undertaken.
Progress 1/21	It is anticipated that FADWATCH and the Echebatar/AZTI project will provide evidence to the SASA auditors that Echebatar has met the milestone.
Progress 26/2/21	FADWATCH has not been implemented on schedule.  The new AZTI coral project should meet milestone.

**Condition 3**

PI	2.4.2 Habitats management strategy
Condition	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.
Year 2: Milestone	Echebatar must provide evidence to the second annual surveillance that the partial strategy has been fully implemented with a description of the actions undertaken.
Progress 1/21	It is anticipated that the implementation of FADWATCH, the Echebatar/AZTI project, reduced number of FADs, bio-degradable FADs and accounting of active FADs will provide evidence to the SASA auditors that Echebatar has met the milestone. Given that results from all those activities will not be confirmed in 2021, the condition will likely remain open in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> year.
Progress 26/2/21	No change

**Condition 4**

PI	2.4.3 Habitats information
Condition	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.
Year 2:	Year 2-3. Echebatar must provide evidence to the second and third annual surveillance that information is being collected.

Milestone	
Progress 1/21	The activities identified above should show that the milestone is being met. If progress is as expected it may be possible that the condition will be closed at 3ASA.
Progress 26/2/21	No change

#### **Condition 5**

PI	2.5.3 Ecosystem information
Condition	<p>3Ia. By the fourth annual surveillance audit, the client must provide evidence that the main impacts of the FADs used in the UoA/UoC on these key ecosystem elements can be inferred from existing information, and some have been investigated in detail.</p> <p>3Id. 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.</p>
Year 2: Milestone	Echebatar must provide evidence to the second annual surveillance that the preferred option for investigation continues to be implemented
Progress 1/21	While it is to be confirmed, it may be that the report by Maria Jose will allow SASA to close the condition. It will be useful to have the outcomes of the AGAC and CFTO assessments.
Progress 26/2/21	Maria Jose report is almost complete for approval by SIOTI and sending to IOTC working party.

#### **Condition 6**

PI	3.1.2 Consultation, roles and responsibilities												
Condition	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.												
Year 2: Milestone	Echebatar will provide evidence to the audit team in the second annual surveillance audit 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.												
Progress 1/21	Two aspects may allow SASA to conclude that the milestone has been met; Echebatar communications with the Government; and Echebatar associate membership of SBOA.												
Progress 26/2/21	<p>SIOTI 2021 work activities include</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Y4o</td> <td>Explore mechanisms to improve industry consultation with Seychelles fisheries authorities</td> <td>PMT activity</td> <td>3.1.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y4p</td> <td>SIOTI to participate in consultation process to draft Seychelles tuna fisheries management plan</td> <td>PMT activity</td> <td>3.2.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y4q</td> <td>SIOTI to review outcomes of Seychelles report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative</td> <td>PMT activity</td> <td>3.2.2</td> </tr> </table>	Y4o	Explore mechanisms to improve industry consultation with Seychelles fisheries authorities	PMT activity	3.1.2	Y4p	SIOTI to participate in consultation process to draft Seychelles tuna fisheries management plan	PMT activity	3.2.1	Y4q	SIOTI to review outcomes of Seychelles report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative	PMT activity	3.2.2
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#### **Condition 7**

PI	3.2.1 Fishery-specific objectives
Condition	By the second 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
Year 2: Milestone	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 objectives for the Seychelles skipjack tuna fishery within the management system for the national purse fishery for skipjack tuna. Expected outcome:

Progress 1/21	This issue must be monitored in the initial months of 2021 to assess progress and identify actions for the second and third quarters. It will be useful to have the outcome of the AGAC assessment.
Progress 26/2/21	SIOTI activity y4p

**Condition 8**

PI	3.2.2 Decision-making processes
Condition	By the third annual surveillance audit:  Std. Information on the fishery's performance and management action relevant to 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
Year 2: Milestone	Echebatar will provide evidence to the audit team in the second annual surveillance audit that information on private agreements is available to stakeholders
Progress 1/21	This issue must be monitored in the initial months of 2021 to assess progress and identify actions for the second and third quarters. It will be useful to have the outcomes of the AGAC and CFTO assessments.
Progress 26/2/21	To be done

**Condition 9**

PI	PI 1.2.1 Harvest strategy
Condition	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).
Year 2: Milestone	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.
Progress 1/21	Echebatar has clear evidence that it has pressed for IOTC to act on HS, with the latest example being the submission to SS4.
Progress 26/2/21	We must catalogue all emails and submissions related to meeting this milestone.

**Condition 10**

PI	PI 1.2.2. Harvest control rules and tools
Condition	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.
Year 2: Milestone	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.
Progress 1/21	Echebatar considers clear evidences sent to IOTC to act on HCR & T, with the latest example being the submission to SS4.
Progress 26/2/21	We must catalogue all emails and submissions related to meeting this milestone.