

ECHEBASTAR SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING: 26th MARCH 2021

PARTICIPANTS

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

MINUTES

The meeting opened at 09.30 (CET)

1. CONDITIONS TO MSC CERTIFICATION

Scott had prepared a report on the progress being achieved in meeting the defined milestones for the 10 on-going conditions to the MSC certification.

The major change affecting the planning of the second annual surveillance audit (SASA) as the extension of the time frame for meeting conditions by 12 months for all performance indicators (PIs) with the exception of those related to outcome (i.e. 1.1.1, 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 2.5.1). In effect while the SASA would go ahead with the CAB reviewing progress and the current status of the stocks, the 2nd year milestone will now be applied in the 3rd year.

Scott advised that, in his opinion, the fishery would have no issues in successfully passing the SASA which should be held on the (new) anniversary date at the end of May, 2021. JL: would confirm this with the CAB.

There was then an exchange of views on activities to be completed. These were: reports on the number of active FADs to provide evidence of the number being used in 2021; delay in up-dating the Echebatar FAD management plan until after IOTC policy was clarified; the process in developing bio-degradable FADs with the progress made in the material used for floats; up-date of the best practises manual; up-date of the report on FAD traceability; the situation in the Seychelles taking into account coronavirus and the change of government; continued Echebatar contact with Seychelles stakeholder; the need to present a short report on “private” agreement and other arrangements to fish within the EEZ of Indian Ocean countries; and the use of Gorka Merino’s report to consider options for fisheries management.

2. SIOTI

The main point for consideration was the issue of the SIOTI decision making process.

3. The Data.

Observer data for 2020 and 2021 (to-date) was just below 50 % due to the coronavirus restrictions limiting the ability to take aboard observers. Despite this, there is confidence that the data that is available will be sufficient to measure trends in the catch of ETP species.

4. Ecosystem Report 2: Jorda

Despite the submission of the report at the end of February, no comments had been received from SIOTI.

5. FAD Watch.

Signing of the MOU is confirmed

6. Derelict dFADs//Corals

Echebatar is pressing SIOTI to give the go-ahead for the Project to start immediately after Easter.

7. Silky Shark: Stage 2

Scott will prepare ToR.

8. New projects?

AZTI would be interested in two SIOTI projects that would also contribute to the scope of ESWG: Study on expert opinion of PS trends in catchability to improve CPUE standardisation; Study on how multispecies catch limits can be incorporated in MSE, HCRs and HS

9. Other MSC tuna/IO

The publication of the CFTO Draft Report has been delayed due to the number of stakeholder comments received.

10. Next Meeting

27 April 10.00 CET.