



Echebatar Sustainability Working Group

Echebatar Indian Ocean Skipjack Tuna Purse Seine

MSC Certificate code: MSC-F-30029

Second Surveillance Report

The cycle for the second annual audit the MSC certified Echebatar fishery has been completed with the publication of the CAB's final report (<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/echebatar-indian-ocean-purse-seine-skipjack-tuna/@assessments>).

The findings of the audit team are extremely positive and reflect the success of activities of the ESWG over the past year in meeting the defined milestones for the individual conditions. Of the original 8 conditions to certification, two have been closed, while progress on meeting another 5 is judged to be ahead of target. In addition, progress on Conditions 9 and 10 that were set following the first annual surveillance report were found to be ahead of target.

We have various projects designed to close the condition on PI2.4.1.

Due to the need to harmonize with the now MSC certified CFTO fishery, a new condition was defined on PI 3.2.2, this despite the previous condition on this performance indicator having being met. Echebatar awaits clarification of this scoring in the soon to be published Public Comment Draft Report for the AGAC Indian Ocean fishery.

Condition	PI	Status	PI original score	PI revised score
C1	2.3.3	Ahead of target	70	N/A
C2	2.4.1	On target	70	N/A
C3	2.4.2	CLOSED	75	80
C4	2.4.3	Ahead of target	75	N/A
C5	2.5.3	Ahead of target	75	N/A
C6	3.1.2	Ahead of target	75	N/A
C7	3.2.1	CLOSED	75	75 ^[1]
C8	3.2.2	Ahead of target	75	N/A
C9	1.2.1	Ahead of target	70	NA
C10	1.2.2	Ahead of target	80 (revised to 75 in 1SA)	N/A
C11	3.2.2	NEW	75	75

We were disappointed that the work completed by SIOTI / ESWG with the commissioning of a second study by Juan-Jorda was not considered sufficient to meet the condition on PI 2.5.3. Again, we await clarification in the upcoming AGAC PCDR while noting the following comment in our audit report "This ... study represents an important contribution in different issues related to PI 2.5 (i.e. review of potential impacts to be considered, potential interactions and cross cutting issues between P2 PIs, review of past and on-going



ecosystem research, assessment of available information to score these PIs...). Based on this analysis, the team recommends that a harmonization process on how to assess PI2.5 for purse seine tuna fisheries is undertaken as soon as the AGAC fishery assessment is completed, and the engagement of the MSC in this process would be advisable”.

The third annual surveillance report is scheduled for May 2022. ESWG will develop a work plan to meet the conditions and keep stakeholders informed of the progress being achieved. We look forward to working with CFTO and AGAC in meeting the harmonised conditions.

In addition, ESWG will continue to develop activities designed to go beyond MSC requirements and respond to stakeholder concerns as appropriate.

Bermeo 27th August 2021

