

ESWG
MEETING MINUTES
November 5 2021
10.00 h (CET)

PARTICIPANTS

Ane Iriondo (Aztí), Marga Andres (Aztí), Ian Scott (Echebaster), Jose Luis Jauregui (Echebaster)

1. AGAC and CFTO

The AGAC certification of its Indian Ocean purse seine tuna fishery is currently in its final stages. It is not known if the potential objections relate to this part of the overall AGAC assessment.

The differences in scores between the three fisheries (including CTO) were noted. There was a discussion about these. While harmonisation led to the scoring of PI1.2.1, PI1.2.2 and PI 3.2.2., it is not clear this is the case for all PIs. In part this is due to the sequencing of the various audits, while another is the different jurisdictions considered under P3. Once the AGAC report becomes final, Scott will review the differences and assess cumulative impacts.

OPAGAC and CFTO will be contacted to assess how a common approach to responding to the conditions may be developed.

Scott remains concerned at the scoring of two PIs.

- PI 2.5.3. Neither CFTO nor AGAC considered Juan Jorda's 2021 paper. Curiously, CFTO harmonised with the Echebaster 2018 assessment outcome, and in turn it appears that the Echebaster SASA harmonises with that and does not consider the recent paper. The AGAC condition is prescriptive in requiring an ecosystem model for the Indian Ocean; something which is an ambition rather than a possibility in the medium term. ESWG is consulting with SIOTI on how to respond to the condition.
- PI 3.2.2. Scott continues to consider that the new condition is in effect triple jeopardy , as the point is covered by those on PI 1.2.1 and PI 1.2.2

2. Work plan November 2021 - April 2022

The draft work plan for the months up to the third annual surveillance audit was considered and refined. Progress and activities related to the work plan will be up-dated on a monthly basis to allow for an effective reference for the auditors.

3. SIOTI

The PMT had met on an irregular basis due to the cancellation of some weekly meetings. There has no success in identifying a consultant to complete work on harvest control tools. Accordingly, Scott will redraft the ToR to look for two specialists – one on HCT and the other in Socio economics.

It was noted that the SIOTI MOU is approaching its defined close date.

4. FADWATCH

Progress has been made with all equipment from Thalos earmarked for delivery. The steering committee has not met recently. Thai Union has prepared a draft press release for consideration of the committee.

5. Coral project

A local partner to implement the field work has been identified and a MOU is being drafted for discussion.

6. Silky shark project

The field work for the second phase has been completed. A meeting on 25 November will consider preliminary findings.

7. Data

Data collection and tabulation is recovering. It is anticipated that after a slow start the outcome for 2021 will reflect that for 2021.

8. IOTC WGTT

Scott and Jauregui attended the workshop.

9. MSC OSF

A final report on the implementation of the various projects using OSF funds has been sent to MSC.

10. Working practises standard

A decision on how to progress awaits the advice of Echebistar's main clients.

11. FADs

Jauregui and Scott will observe the new IOTC special session to consider 2021 – S25 - Prop. F - Rev 2(E).

Scott will up-date the Echebistar FAD MP once the outcome of that meeting is confirmed.

The next meeting will be on December 1.