

## **Echebatar Sustainability Working Group**

**Monthly Meeting: January 31 2022**

**12.00 h (CET)**

### **AGENDA**

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

Ane Iriondo, Marga Andres (AZTI), Jose Luis Jauregui, Pablo Gonzales Villoria Ian Scott (Echebatar), CFTO meeting

Prior to the ESWG meeting there was an hour long conversation with CFTO representatives: Pierre Alain Carre, Sarah Le Couls . Items on the agenda were issues on MSC certification, nature & areas of potential cooperation, the timing of the next annual surveillance audits, SIOTI and AGAC.

Next meeting: March 10th at 09.00 (CET)

#### **1. Progress on conditions**

##### **Condition 1. PI 2.3.3**

It was noted that this PI is subject to two objections in the on-going MSC assessment of the AGAC fishery to which the CAB has responded.

Discussion indicated that whatever the outcome of the AGAC process, Echebatar needs to consider unobserved mortality and how this may be measured.

Also, we should better inform stakeholders on a number of issues, most importantly: non-entangling FADs are the only ones we use; the process to introduce biodegradable continues; we voluntarily restrict our number of dFADs below that permitted by IOTC; information on interactions with silky sharks has considerably improved since the publication of research most commonly quoted by stakeholders; and our data is sufficient to measure the impact of our fishery on ETP species. Furthermore, that we have gone beyond MSC strict requirements to better understand the impacts of our fishery on silky sharks and coral communities.

##### **Condition 2. PI 2.4.1**

It was noted that this PI is subject to objection in the on-going MSC assessment of the AGAC fishery to which the CAB has responded.

The MOU between SOS, AZTI and Echebatar was signed January 22. The application for approval from the Seychelles Bureau of Standards to complete the research has been submitted. Detailed planning of the field research is underway, with the first steps being the confirmation of the dates of the site visit and the identification of derelict dFADs that may be useful for research.

##### **Condition 3. PI 2.4.2**

#### **CONDITION CLOSED**

It was noted that this PI is subject to objection in the on-going MSC assessment of the AGAC fishery to which the CAB has responded.

There does not seem to be reason for concern that the condition will be reopened and this could be confirmed at CFTO FASA. However, it should be borne in mind that PI 2.4.2 is subject to consideration of cumulative impacts and this emphasizes the importance of expanding consideration of the impacts of derelict dFADs away from Seychelles. Options may be identified by the AZTI desk research in the on-going project.

##### **Condition 4. PI 2.4.3**

It was noted that this PI is subject to objection in the on-going MSC assessment of the AGAC fishery to which the CAB has responded.

The ongoing work of FADWATCH and the AZTI project should respond sufficiently to close part of the condition, but we must look at other coral communities, and develop mitigation measures and provide the evidence that they are effective.

### **Condition 5 PI 2.5.3**

Given Juan Jorda's findings it is difficult to consider how to respond to this condition in the period before the next annual audit. This is especially the case as SIOTI must be renewed in mid – year and there is uncertainty on available funding. Whatever, Echebatar cannot work on this issue independently.

In preparation for TASA we should develop short papers with CFTO to show that we have met the 2 nd year milestone to the condition. Scott will send an aide memoire to CFTO and write to Bureau Veritas.

### **Condition 6 PI 3.1.2**

For the TASA we need to review the AGAC score of 90 and determine if we may apply the same rationale. Scott will write to Bureau Veritas and seek to up-date knowledge of the Seychelles tuna FMP process.

### **Condition 7 PI 3.2.1**

For the TASA we need to review the AGAC score of 85 and determine if we may apply the same rationale.

### **Condition 8. 3.2.2 Sla**

CLOSED

### **Condition 9: PI 1.2.1**

The same condition was applied to CFTO and AGAC with whom we should develop a strategic approach.

### **Condition 10: PI 1.2.2**

The same condition was applied to CFTO and AGAC with whom we should develop a strategic approach.

Scott will write to CFTO.

Scott has identified consultants to undertake SIOTI commissioned advisory paper on HCT.

### **Condition 11: PI 3.2.2**

The same condition was applied to CFTO and AGAC with whom we should develop a strategic approach.

Scott will write to CFTO.

## **2. Other Issues**

### **PI 2.1.2 = 80**

As previous, the concern here is that while neither we nor CFTO have a condition, there is one on AGAC. This may be put down to the greater number of AGAC vessels and the OPAGAC catch and the failure of its vessels to limit catches to the level required by Res 05/01.

We will consider cumulative impacts on bigeye and present an analysis of Echebatar catches to justify our score for PI 2.1.2. We will prepare an Echebatar FMP for bigeye.

### **SILKY SHARKS**

Project is on-going.

### **MARINE WASTE**

As previous, we will review the options to establish a project to consider this emerging issue

### **AGAC**

The analysis of the implications of AGAC objection is on hold as the objection process continues to develop.

### **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

We will review implications of the up-dated MSC standard currently under preparation

### **SIOTI**

We await outcome of February Board meeting.

## **3. Next meeting.**

March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 (CET)