

Echebatar Sustainability Working Group

Monthly Meeting: March 8th, 2022

10.00 h (CET)

AGENDA

PARTICIPANTS

Iker Zudaire, Josu Santiago, Ane Iriondo, Marga Andrés (AZTI), José Luis Jauregui, Ian Scott (Echebatar)

Prior to the ESWG meeting there was an hour-long meeting with CFTO. Items discussed:

- Timing of coordinated annual surveillance audits. Taking into account a number of factors it was decided that these be held in early July (The 4th of July proposed by Jose Luis seems to be acceptable for all) and the respective CABs should be contacted to confirm their availability.
- The size of the PS fleet in the Indian Ocean.
- The draft MSC Standard v3.0.
- Marine waste.
- The coral project and silky shark projects.

1. Progress on conditions

The outcome of the AGAC adjudication process was considered. Scott had presented a paper with his thoughts on each of the 14 objections and was reasonably confident that Echebatar would not negatively impacted.

Condition 1. PI 2.3.3

The % of sets for which data is available has recovered following the upheaval resulting from COVID and 2021 is expected to close 2021 at about 70 %. Data is available to stakeholders on the Echebatar web site.

Condition 2. PI 2.4.1

Scott up dated the meeting on FADWATCH.

The approval of the Seychelles Bureau of Standards to complete the research on the impact of derelict dFADs on corals in D'Arros is pending. In the meantime, strong progress has been made on planning for the site visit by 3 AZTI personnel end-May. A number of companies have provided data to allow derelict dFADs in the area to be identified

Condition 3. PI 2.4.2

CONDITION CLOSED

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 is anticipated to respond sufficiently to close part of the condition.

Condition 5 PI 2.5.3

Scott had prepared a brief on the issue for CFTO.

Condition 6 PI 3.1.2

It is understood that the Seychelles tuna FMP has been started.

Condition 7 PI 3.2.1

Nothing new to report.

Condition 8. 3.2.2 Sla

CLOSED

Condition 9: PI 1.2.1

The SIOTI funded project will start in March.

Condition 10: PI 1.2.2

SIOTI had contracted consultants to complete work on potential harvest control tools and the economic contribution of the PS fleet to IO economies. Scott had sent potential references to the team.

Condition 11: PI 3.2.2

Scott had prepared a brief on the issue for CFTO.

The subject of the AGAC objection was noted (use of AIS on OPAGAC vessels). The outcome of the adjudication process is awaited.

2. Other Issues**THE DRAFT MSC STANDARD V3.0.**

Scott had assessed the modifications to the Standard. The major one is the combination of C2.2. and C2.3 with much more rigorous requirements in relation to ETP species.

DERELICT FADS / CORALS

See above. Other tuna companies have expressed interest in joining the project. A complete report on the desk research will be available in June, 2022

SILKY SHARKS

Project is on-going. Of the 33 mini pads used, 8 did not function and 3 had been recovered by other PS vessels. 8 were dormant. To-date the data indicates much more positive results on post release survival compared to previous research by Hutchinson and Poisson *et al.* However, conclusions cannot be finalized until project end in November, 2022.

MARINE WASTE

As previous, we will review the options to establish a project to consider this emerging issue which is part of MSC v3.0.

AGAC

Scott had analysed of the implications of AGAC objection for Echebatar.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Scott had reviewed the draft MSC v3.0. The treatment of cumulative issues has been modified.

SIOTI

The meeting planned for the previous week had been cancelled.

3. Next meeting.

April 8th at 10.00 (CET)