

Echebatar Sustainability Working Group

Monthly Meeting: June 2 2022

10.00 h (CET)

MINUTE

PARTICIPANTS

Ane Iriondo, Marga Andrés (AZTI), José Luis Jauregui, Ian Scott (Echebatar)

Pierre-Alain Carre, Sarah le Couls, Rob Banning (CFTO)

POINTS

- Sarah le Couls chaired the meeting.
- The outcome of the IA process for the AGAC fishery was that 13 of the 14 heads were dismissed. However, the 14th was on PI 3.2.3 Sid was remanded for further consideration by the CAB:

193. The CAB must re-consider the score of 80 for PI 3.2.3 and consider whether AIS is part of the management strategy, whether legislation applies to AGAC in respect of AIS and whether it should be followed and whether in fact during the period of assessment it was being followed.

- As a result of the reconsideration, on May 19, the CAB rescored the PI, concluding that it did not meet SG80 Sid thus reducing the score of PI 3.2.3 to 75. Subsequently, the client responded to the CAB on May 25 requesting the IA to reconsider the conclusion of the CAB prior to publication of the Final Report. On May 26, the objector submitted more evidence to justify its position. As of June 7, the IA has not responded.
- There was a discussion on a potential new condition on both fisheries due to harmonisation with the AGAC fishery. For several reasons, the new scoring was not considered appropriate, and should a new condition be applied to AGAC there should be a measured response by Echebatar and CFTO.
- Timing of surveillance audits. The Echebatar TASA will be in the week beginning June 26 in Bermeo. The P1 expert will participate virtually. That of CFTO will take place in September. The Maldives requested a variation to delay its fourth annual surveillance audit past the certification anniversary in May; it has not confirmed the actual date.
- The coral project: The AZTI team had recently returned from D'Arros. While a written report is not yet available, the indications are that the two-week stay was successful and achieved its objectives.
- CFTO reported that IRD have recently conducted some field work in the Indian ocean, during which they collected data on unobserved mortality under FADs that could be used to up-date the findings of Filmalter.
- The silky shark project: Progress awaits the output of data from the mini pads.
- Scott had prepared a brief report on Echebatar compliance with the conditions to certification prior to drafting a more complete report for submission to the TASA auditor. His findings are that there appears to be sufficient evidence to conclude that:
 - The conditions on PIs 2.3.3 may be closed,
 - The fishery is on target for milestones on the conditions defined for PIs 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 2.4.1, 2.4.3, and 3.2.2, although Echebatar continues to consider that the last one is not required.
 - CFTO should request the closure of its condition on PI 2.4.2 due to harmonisation with the Echebatar and AGAC fisheries
 - The condition on PI 2.5.3 should be closed
 - The Echebatar conditions on PIs 3.1.2 and 3.2.1 should be harmonised with the AGAC fishery and closed.

NEXT MEETING

23 June 10 a.m. CET