

Echebastar Sustainability Working Group
Echebastar Indian Ocean Skipjack Tuna Purse Seine

MSC Certificate code: MSC-F-30029

Third Annual Surveillance Audit

The third annual audit of the MSC certified Echebastar fishery has been completed with the publication of the CAB's report ([Assessments Echebastar Indian Ocean purse seine skipjack tuna - MSC Fisheries](#)).

The findings of the audit team are extremely positive and reflect the success of Echebastar in meeting the defined milestones for the individual conditions.

As can be seen from the table below, 7 of the original 8 conditions to certification have been closed, while progress on meeting the other one (PI2.4.3) is on target.

We were particularly happy that the CAB accepted that the evidence presented in the second study by Maria Jose Juan Jorda was sufficient to close the condition on PI 2.5.3.

In addition, progress on Conditions 9 (PI 1.2.1) and 10 (PI 1.2.2), set by the first annual surveillance, and Condition 10 (PI 3.2.2), defined by the second surveillance due to harmonisation with the CFTO fishery, were found to be on target

Activities related to Condition 4 (PI 2.4.3) continue to progress and we anticipate that our cooperative work with SIOTI and AZTI will provide the evidence required to close it at the fourth annual surveillance audit scheduled for late June 2023 prior to the start of the recertification assessment.

Due to harmonisation with the AGAC fishery, a new condition was defined for PI 3.2.3 relating to the need to justify the turning off the AIS when our vessels are at sea. We are in the process of implementing the activities needed and we are confident that the evidence to close the condition will be available by June 2023.

ESWG will continue to work diligently to not only meet the conditions to certification and have our fishery recertified in 2024, but to go beyond MSC requirements to further improve understanding of the nature and scale of the interaction between our fishery and other elements of the ecosystem.

We will maintain stakeholders informed.

Bermeo, 3rd November 2022

Condition number	Condition	PI	Status	PI original score	PI revised score
C1	By the fourth annual surveillance audit, the client must demonstrate that information is adequate to measure trends and support a strategy to manage impacts on ETP species	2.3.3	Ahead of target and CLOSED	70	80
C2	By the fourth annual surveillance audit, the client must demonstrate that FADs are highly unlikely to reduce structure and function of coral reefs to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm.	2.4.1	Ahead of target and CLOSED	70	90
C3	By the third annual surveillance audit, the client must provide evidence that a partial strategy in place that is expected to result that it will be highly unlikely that derelict FADs could reduce structure and function of the coral reefs to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm	2.4.2	CLOSED (at 2SA)	75	80
C4	By the fourth annual surveillance audit, the client must provide evidence that information is adequate to allow for identification of the main impacts of derelict FADs on coral reefs, and there is reliable information on the spatial extent of interaction and on the timing and location of use of the fishing gear.	2.4.3	On target	75	N/A
C5	Sl.a. By the fourth annual surveillance audit, the client must provide evidence that the main impacts of the FADs used in the UoA/UoC on these key ecosystem elements can be inferred from existing information, and some have been investigated in detail. Sl.d. By the fourth annual surveillance audit, the client must provide evidence that there is adequate information on the impacts of the UoA on these components to allow some of the main consequences for the ecosystem to be inferred.	2.5.3	Ahead of target and CLOSED	75	80
C6	By the third annual surveillance audit, the management system in the Seychelles includes consultation processes that regularly seek and accept relevant information, including local knowledge. The management system demonstrates consideration of the information obtained.	3.1.2	Ahead of target and CLOSED	75	80
C7	By the second annual surveillance audit, short and long-term objectives, which are consistent with achieving the outcomes expressed by MSC's Principles 1 and 2, are explicit within the fishery-specific management system.	3.2.1	Ahead of target and CLOSED	75	90
C8	By the third annual surveillance audit: Sl.d. Information on the fishery's performance and management action relevant to the Seychelles fishery and private agreements is available on request, and explanations are provided for any actions or lack of action associated with	3.2.2	CLOSED (at 2SA)	75	Overall PI score did not change since a new condition
	findings and relevant recommendations emerging from research, monitoring, evaluation and review activity.				(C11) on a different SI was set as a result of harmonization activities
C9	By the first annual surveillance audit following recertification (anticipated to be in 2026), the client must demonstrate that the harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving stock management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80 (i.e., it is highly likely that the stock is above the PRI and is at or fluctuating around a level consistent with MSY).	1.2.1	On target	85 (revised to 70 in 1SA)	NA
C10	By the first annual surveillance audit following recertification (anticipated to be in 2026), the client must demonstrate that available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.	1.2.2	On target	80 (revised to 75 in 1SA)	NA
C11	By the first annual surveillance audit following recertification (anticipated to be in 2026), the client fishery should demonstrate that at IOTC level, decision-making processes regarding skipjack stock management respond to important issues, specifically to skipjack catches in excess of the annual catch limit corresponding to the HCR, in a transparent, timely and adaptive manner. This could be done by implementing the harvest strategy set out in Resolution 16/02 (to be superseded by Res 21/03) and in Condition 1, or by some other means as appropriate.	3.2.2	On target	75	75
C12	By the fourth surveillance audit, demonstrate that "There is no evidence of systematic non-compliance."	3.2.3	NEW	75	NA