

Echebatar Sustainability Working Group

Tuesday, January 16th, 2024. 09.00 am (CET)

Minute

Participants: **ECHEBASTAR:** Pablo Gonzalez (Teams), Jose Luis Jauregui, Ian Scott
AZTI: Marga Andres, Ane Iriondo

1. The objective of the meeting was to consider the work plan for the second period of certification until 2029 when the fishery may look to be recertified for the second time.
2. Prior to the meeting, Scott had distributed a detailed draft strategy on the proposed approach. Action fiches were prepared based on: (i) the conditions defined in the recertification process (that remains in process), (ii) issues to be taken into consideration given that any new recertification will be based on MSC Standard 3.0 that contains a number of substantive changes compared to the previous version; and (iii) the SIOTI work plan 2023 – 28 that incorporates various activities that will contribute to the success of the Echebatar actions.
3. Analysis of the many scoring guidelines that comprise the 25 performance indicators in v3.9 identified the need for 25 actions over the next five years. In addition, 6 administrative actions were defined,
4. Individual action fiche considered the objective of each together with responsibilities.
5. Progress in meeting the objectives along with sources of verification will be monitored every two months.
6. Due to lack of time, AZTI comments on the draft were not considered. However, these will be included in the final document.
7. A number of other issues were discussed including the new EU regulation on the use of AIS, interactions with SIOTI, ANABAC and CFTO, and FADWATCH.
8. There is an updated fisheries control regulation on AIS, that will be analysed to identify any implications for Echebatar.
9. Jose Luis spoke of the advances being made in developing biodegradable dFADs with the possible use of wood pieces as floats.
10. It was noted that the ANABAC objection hearing was recently held in London. Echebatar awaits with interest the outcome.
11. The next meeting with CFTO will be held on Thursday 18 January, and the SIOTI PMT on Thursday 25 January.
12. The ESWG will continue to meet every two months. Ane Iriondo has been offered and accepted a full-time role with Echebatar as from March this year.
13. The next meeting of ESWG will be scheduled for the first half of March.
14. The Meeting ended at 13:00 hours (CET)