

## Echebatar Sustainability Working Group

Meeting: August 6, 2024

10.00 h (CET)

### MINUTE

#### PARTICIPANTS

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

#### POINTS

1. The meeting opened with a review of the minutes of the previous one held May 27, 2024.
  - AZTI continues to work to improve efficient and effective data provision from the observer program data coverage in Seychelles.
  - The Public Certification Report confirming the recertification of the Echebatar purse seine skipjack fishery has been published on both the MSC ([Assessments Echebatar Indian Ocean purse seine skipjack tuna - MSC Fisheries](#)) and Echebatar ([2024 ECHEBASTAR MSC Certificate Reassessment | Echebatar](#)) web sites (both July 15, 2024).
2. Echebatar, has analysed the option to enter the In-Transition to MSC (ITM) programme but for the moment it will remain on standby.
3. Ane Iriondo attended as an observer at the first meeting of the FADWATCH Steering Committee held on August 2, 2024. ESWG reviewed the minutes for that meeting. The last campaign by the Seychelles coastguard vessel, Saya de Malla, found that few of the dFADs entering the alert areas were subsequently stranded. The next campaign is scheduled for September 2024 where the emphasis will be on the recovery of stranded dFADS.
4. The first meeting of the new IOTC WGSE (socio economics) will be held on October 25, 2024. ESWG hopes to be able to attend virtually.
5. The next meeting of the ESWG will be held on September 23, 2024. It will focus on three points:
  - Modification of the ESWG work plan 2024 -2028 (Ane Iriondo).
  - The implications for Echebatar of compliance with the new MSC standard (v3.1) that will be applied at the next recertification process that will begin in late 2028 (Ian Scott).
  - Review of the report being prepared by Scott on socio-economic factors related to the purse seine tuna fishery in the Indian Ocean.
6. The meeting closed at 11.30 (CET)