

Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

This fishery is part of a pilot for a revised assessment process. This process aims to simplify the assessment process – reducing complexity and cost whilst improving effectiveness of stakeholder engagement and maintaining credibility.

[Read more about the simplification pilot process >](#)

In this process, the stakeholder comment period has been brought forward. The first comment period is 20 days after this announcement and covers the review of the desk review report. These comments will be published before the site visit. The next opportunity to comment is at the site visit itself.

Written stakeholder comments for either period should be submitted using the [Template for Stakeholder Input into MSC Assessments](#), which has been designed for the purpose. Please note that if stakeholders do not comment on a particular topic here or at the site visit, that topic shall not be accepted as a subject for objection later.

Announcement Details

Name of Fishery	Echebastar Indian Ocean purse seine skipjack tuna
Assessment Number	Initial Assessment
Reduced reassessment	N/A
Statement that the fishery is within scope	The Echebastar Indian Ocean purse seine skipjack tuna fishery meets the scope requirements in FCR 7.4 for MSC fishery assessments (FCR 7.8.3.1) having been reviewed by the assessment team.

Unit of Assessment and Unit(s) of Certification	UoA 1	
	Species	Skipjack Tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
	Stock	Indian Ocean Stock
	Geographical area	FAO 51 & 57
	Harvest method/gear type	Purse Seine (all set types)
	Client group	Member vessels of Echebatar Group
	Other Eligible Fishers	Other EU, Seychelles and Mauritius purse seine fishers, catching in the same geographical area, with the same harvest method and target species
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	Client group	Member vessels of Echebatar Group
	Certificate sharing statement	Other EU, Seychelles and Mauritius purse seine fishers, catching in the same geographical area, with the same harvest method and target species will be able to share the certificate under the conditions stated in the certificate sharing agreement in Appendix 2.
Name of proposed Team Leader	Joe DeAlteris (P2) Acoura can confirm this assessor has no conflict of interest with this fishery and meets the competency requirements of Annex PC in CR V2.0 (for further information see page 4 of this document).	
Names of proposed assessors	Kevin Stokes (P1) and Ian Scott (P3) – Acoura can confirm these assessors have no conflict of interest with this fishery and meets the competency requirements of Annex PC in CR V2.0 (for further information see page 4 of this document).	
Assessment tree to be used	Default CR V2.0 Assessment Tree	
Harmonisation	The stock to be assessed is Indian Ocean skipjack tuna. As of February 2017, this assessment must be harmonised with the “Pole and Line Skipjack Fishery in the Maldives” that was certified in November 2012 using CR Ver 1.2. The site visit for the fourth annual surveillance of the Maldives fishery and the start of its	

	<p>re-assessment process (using MSC CR 2.0) took place in December, 2016. The CAB conducting the re-assessment is DNV-GL.</p> <p>Completed assessments and most recent surveillance reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pole and Line Skipjack Fishery in the Maldives. Certified in November 2012. https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/maldives-pole-line-tuna/@@assessments <p>Most recent Audit reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surveillance No. 3 Report for the Maldives pole & line skipjack and yellowfin tuna fisheries. https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/maldives-pole-line-tuna/@@assessments - Surveillance No. 4 Report for the Maldives pole & line skipjack and yellowfin tuna fisheries. https://cert.msc.org/FileLoader/FileLinkDownload.aspx/GetFile?encryptedKey=ULQUpTCI853cTm0YT0S8s2FjZZGH/SqaWIDd1qBO0w28rMPbqq6CIDnzUJH4SFnS
Site Visit	<p>The site visit will be held the week commencing 27th March in Bilbao, Spain, followed by a site visit in the Seychelles the week commencing 3rd April 2017.</p> <p>All stakeholders are invited to participate in meetings with the assessment team to discuss the fishery and findings of the Certifier's desk review. Please contact fisheries@acoura.com if you wish to participate. Remote participation will also be possible.</p>
Stakeholder consultation	<p>Prior to the Site Visit, stakeholders can submit comments until 15th March 2017, 20 days from announcement posting.</p> <p>Comments must be made using the Template for Stakeholder Input into MSC Assessments.</p>
Submitted by	Billy Hynes
Date	23 rd February 2017

Appendix 1: Summary profiles of team leader and assessors

Joe DeAlteris (P2 and Team leader)

Dr. DeAlteris retired from the University of Rhode Island (URI) in May of 2012, and was awarded Professor Emeritus status. In 30 years of service to URI he is taught course work, conducted research, and developed outreach programs in fisheries conservation engineering, fish population dynamics and quantitative ecology, and shellfish aquaculture. He mentored more than 40 graduate students completing MS and PhD degrees. He served on numerous government committees including the National Research Council. He authored more than 35 publications in peer-reviewed journals, and also authored and co-authored numerous books, manuals, non-referred articles, and technical reports in the fields of fisheries biology, stock assessment and fishing gear technology.

Dr. DeAlteris has an international reputation as an expert in the field of stock assessment and fishing gear technology. He brings intimate knowledge of finfish and invertebrate fisheries and has considerable experience in MSC fishery evaluations. He has worked for several certifying bodies (CBs). Dr. DeAlteris has worked the full assessment of the Louisiana blue crab and Atlantic red crab fisheries, the Echebaster Indian Ocean tuna fishery, the re-assessment of British Columbia halibut fishery, and annual audits of Dungeness crab, red crab blue crab, Canadian haddock, Full Bay sea scallop and the shrimp fisheries. He has also conducted pre-assessments, and assessment peer reviews. He recently worked as a expert evaluator on the Global Seafood Sustainability Initiative (GSSI).

Kevin Stokes (P1)

Kevin is a fisheries science, management, and policy consultant with extensive international and Pacific experience. He has worked at senior management levels in both the public and private sectors as a fisheries scientist, manager, and advisor. Kevin worked for the Ministry, Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) in the UK for 15 years. He was responsible for all finfish monitoring, assessment and advice and worked extensively in Europe, serving as chair of the EC Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) and as UK representative on the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) advisory Committee for Fisheries Management (ACFM), as well as chairing working groups and committees. He served on multiple UK research councils, led the UK scientific delegation to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and served as UK Alternate IWC Commissioner for many years. He served for many years as an ad hominem member of the UK Special Committee on Seals. Kevin worked as Chief Scientist for the New Zealand Seafood Industry Council (SeafIC) for 9 years, responsible for science policy and process as well as leading a consulting group drawing on diverse international expertise. He has worked on a wide range of marine shellfish and finfish, and environmental issues and has provided advice nationally and internationally at senior governmental and ministerial levels, as well as to fishing, processing and retail industries, and to NGOs. For nine years he chaired the New Zealand National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG). Kevin was for many years a member of the New Zealand Institute of Directors and has worked on governance and strategy development projects, particularly in New Zealand. For the past 6 years, Kevin has worked as a private consultant in the general area of fisheries but extending to governance and wider advisory matters. He has worked extensively across the globe as well as in New Zealand, doing technical reviews; certification programme review and design work as well as certification assessment; governance review and design; and sustainability advice to retailers and processors. He has worked on Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) design and implementation. In 2007 Kevin participated in the MSC Quality and Consistency work, reviewing advice on development of the new P1 CR, and as part of the group that led development of the new P2 and P3 CR. He has undertaken more than 60 MSC pre-assessments as well as acting as an assessor, auditor, and peer reviewer for multiple certification assessments, ranging from prawns to tunas. He has carried out work for a number of Certification Assessment Bodies (CABs). From late 2013 for one year, Kevin worked exclusively to Conservation International, leading development work on the Global Tuna Initiative, with a focus on the Western Central Pacific. Among his current, contracted activities relevant to this assessment, he is involved in MSC certification and surveillance of tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean. He previously undertook surveillance on the certified PNA non-associated purse seine fishery for skipjack in the WCPO.

Ian Scott (P3)

Ian holds a BA degree in Economics and an MA in Labour Economics. He started working in the fishery sector in 1978, since when one of his main specialisations has been fishery management, completing his first Fishery Management Plan in 1980. His work experience is worldwide and includes providing advice on fisheries management to many Governments. Over the years he has gained substantial experience and understanding of many aspects of the fishery sector. This provided the basis for his success in completing a significant number of MSC certifications (as Lead Auditor and Principle 3 expert), pre-assessments and chain of custody audits since 2008. He is trained as a team leader, incl. RBF, according to CR v. 2.

Appendix 2: Client certificate sharing statement

Echebatar are willing to share their certificate with other fisheries targeting the same stock, using the same gear, with a contribution to the assessment process and under the condition that they agree to the rigorous processes we have in place with the goal of sustainable fishing. The final decision on certificate sharing lies with Echebatar.