

**FOOD CERTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL LTD**

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Tuesday 2 April, 2013

Echebatar Indian Ocean Purse Seine Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna Fishery**Marine Stewardship Council Certification****Certification Body: Food Certification International Ltd****Use of Risk Based Framework**

In addition to specified use of the default assessment tree (as set out in the MSC Certification Requirements (CR) Annex CB), FCI also intends to use elements of the Risk Based Framework in the independent evaluation of this fishery.

A key purpose of the site visit stage of the assessment is to collect information and speak with stakeholders with an interest in the fishery under assessment.

For those parts of the assessment involving the MSC Risk Based Framework, we will be using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative analysis during the site visit. To achieve a robust outcome from this consultative approach, this analysis relies heavily on the participation of a suitably broad range of stakeholders with a good balance of knowledge of the fishery. We therefore encourage any stakeholders with experience or knowledge of the fishery to participate in these stakeholder meetings.

RBF Table

1	Applicant fishery	Echebatar Indian Ocean Purse Seine Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna Fishery
2	Conformity Assessment Body	Food Certification International
3	Date that the proposal to use the RBF is submitted to the MSC	19/03/2013
4	Date stakeholder comment period closes on the proposal to use the RBF	18/04/2013
5	PI that RBF is to be used for	Under Principal 2 – PI's 2.1.1,2.2.1,2.4.1,2.5.1
6	Justification for use	A range of mainly pelagic elasmobranch and teleost fish species are known to interact with the fishery including. Typically, western Indian Ocean tuna purse seine fisheries may encounter pelagic oceanic sharks, rainbow runners, dolphin fishes, trigger fishes, wahoo, bill fishes, mobulas and mantas, mackerel scad, barracudas as well as other

		<p>fishes, all of which are non-target species that may be retained or in other cases discarded (bycatch). Most of these are captured in small numbers and are of little commercial significance. However for many species there is little information in relation to stock status and it is considered that the RBF may offer a solution for estimating the likely outcome status for identified non-target stocks that are retained or discarded in the fishery.</p> <p>Similarly, the RBF may also be used in determining the outcome status score for Principal 2 performance Indicators 2.4 and 2.5 in the event that available information is inadequate or does not support a robust evaluation of the Habitats and/or Ecosystem Status performance indicators (2.4.1 and 2.5.1).</p>
7	Summary of stakeholder comments and CAB responses pertaining to choice to use the RBF	N/A at this stage – will be added during the reporting process.
8	Date MSC notified of final decision to use RBF	To be confirmed.

All stakeholders are now invited to provide comments on the proposed use of the MSC's Risk Based Framework. **Any such comments must reach us by 17:00 GMT on Thursday 2 May, 2013.**

Please note: Any claim/s regarding the suitability or otherwise of the proposed use of the Risk Based Framework for this fishery assessment should be accompanied by objective evidence in support of the aforementioned claim/s.

Comments must be made as specific as possible to individual Performance Indicators and Scoring Guideposts, and their potential for scoring this particular fishery against the MSC Sustainable Fisheries standard (the Principles and Criteria).

The MSC provides a set of guidelines and templates to assist in the transfer of information between stakeholders and Certification Bodies. These should be used for any comments you wish to make on this or any other stage of the assessment process and can be found here:

<http://www.msc.org/documents/get-certified/stakeholders>

Comments should be sent in the first instance to:

Joanna Kabut - Fisheries Administrator

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