

24th March 2015

Echebatar Indian Ocean Purse Seine Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna Fishery

Marine Stewardship Council Certification

Certification Body: Food Certification International Ltd

Notification - Determination and Release of Final Report for Stakeholder Consultation

The Determination reached by the Certification Body is that Echebatar Indian Ocean Purse Seine Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna Fishery **should be certified according to the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fisheries**.

The Final Report relating to this assessment is now available on the MSC website. As a point of clarification resulting from stakeholder comments on the Public Comment Draft Report we would advise all stakeholders that within the full assessment notification there are 6 units of certification based on harvest method. Although the fisheries began full assessment at the same time with the intent of progressing each unit of certification together it became clear that the 3 Units of certification listed below requires further information to allow the team to score these elements. It is the intention to split the UoC and each harvest method "free sets" and "FADs" will have a separate report and, if successfully certified, a separate certificate.

UoC1

Species:	Skipjack Tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
Stock:	Indian Ocean Stock
Geographical area:	FAO 51 & 57
Harvest method:	Purse Seine operated using FADs
Client Group:	Member vessels of Echebatar

UoC2

Species:	Yellowfin (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)
Stock:	Indian Ocean Stock
Geographical area:	FAO 51 & 57
Harvest method:	Purse Seine operated using FADs
Client Group:	Member vessels of Echebatar

UoC3

Species:	Bigeye (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)
Stock:	Indian Ocean Stock
Geographical area:	FAO 51 & 57
Harvest method:	Purse Seine operated using FADs
Client Group:	Member vessels of Echebastar

We can also confirm that FCI has adjusted its scoring of PI 1.2.2 to use CR v2.0 at SG 60 as a result of agreed outcomes from additional harmonisation meetings held in February and March 2015 between FCI and IFC (Intertek Fisheries Certification) who are assessing the Maldives pole and line tuna fisheries.

Please note that this is a determination, not a final certification result. This fishery is therefore not certified, nor is it able to use the MSC's logo on any products until the final consultation period has been concluded and a certificate has been issued.

There is now a 15 working day period during which any party that disagrees with this determination, and that has previously provided input to the assessment team (or can establish that necessary procedures were not followed to seek their involvement prior to this point) may send a written statement of intent to lodge an objection. A description of applicable grounds for objection, along with all other directions for the objections process, can be found here:

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

Should you wish to submit an objection please follow the directions detailed on the MSC website via the above link. This must be actioned **no later than 17:00 GMT on 14th April 2015**

Please note: Any claim/s or claimed error/s of fact made regarding this fishery assessment through this formal objection procedure must be in the correct format, as dictated by the MSC Objections Process. A template and guidance on the Objections process as a whole is available through the link given above. Any such claim/s or claimed error/s of fact must be supported by objective evidence.