



COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO



REPORT

ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING LDAC - ATLAFCO

05-06 February 2020 Rabat, Morocco



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ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING LDAC - ATLAFCO REPORT

The annual coordination meeting between LDAC and ATLAFCO was held at headquarters of ATLAFCO in Rabat, Morocco on 05 February, 2020.

Took part at this meeting:

- From the LDAC side:

- Mr. Ivan Lopez Van, President of LDAC;
- Mr. Alexandre Rodriguez, Secretary General of LDAC;
- Mr. Julio Moron, Chairman of the Working Group on Fisheries Agreements between the EU and Third Countries;
- Monsieur Juan Manuel Trujillo, member of the Executive Committee and representative of European trade unions;
- Mrs. Manuela Iglesias, Secretariat of LDAC;
- Mrs. Béatrice Gorez, Vice-President of (CFFA);

- From ATLAFCO side :

- Mr. Serikpa Dadi Guillaume, Fisheries Engineer and Technical Inspector at Ministry of Animal and Fish Resources, representative of the current President of ATLAFCO (Côte d'Ivoire);
- Mr. Sidi Ali Boubakar, Director General of the exploitation of fishery resources, (Mauritania);
- Mr. Abdelouahed BENABBOU, Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO,
- Mr. Atsushi ISHIKAWA, Expert/OFCF at ATLAFCO;
- Mr. Abdennaji LAAMRICH, Head of the Cooperation and Information System Department at ATLAFCO;
- Mr. Mohamed SADIKI, Head of the Programs and Projects Department at ATLAFCO;
- Mrs. Hayat ASSARA, Assistant at ATLAFCO;
- Mr. Abdelkrim MRABTI, Webmaster at ATLAFCO;
- Mr. Rachid REGRAGUI, Officer at ATLAFCO;
- Miss Wafaa AAMOU, Officer at ATLAFCO;

I. Opening Ceremony:

Opening the session, Mr. Abdelouahed BENABBOU welcomed all participants who have responded to the invitation to take part in the annual coordination meeting between LDAC and ATLAFCO.

He expressed his satisfaction with the respect by the two institutions of this annual meeting, which allows the two parties to keep each other informed about their achievements over the past year and their main projects planned as part of their respective action plan.

II. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was presented and approved as presented in **Annex1**.

All presentations are available in the original language on the COMHAFAT website at the following address: <https://www.comhafat.org/en/actualites.php?id=79>

III. Overview of joint work between LDAC and ATLAFCO in 2019

1. LDAC Progress Report

In his presentation of progress report, the Secretary General of LDAC estimated that the dialogue between his institution and ATLAFCO is flexible and that the vision is common. He presented the subjects of shared interest between LDAC and ATLAFCO in 2019 that were summarized, as follows:

- The social dimension and working conditions in fishing;
- FAO Regional Dialogues on the social sustainability of the fisheries value chain;
- Strengthening the role of RFMOs (Case of the study on the opportunity of transforming ATLAFCO into an RFMO);
- Participation in the dialogue between the EU (MARE and MS) and the African CPC for ICCAT;
- The process of the UNGA (IGC BBNJ) and the implementation of the SDO 14 (Ocean Conference);
- Participation in international forums on the fight against IUU fishing;
- The IMO conference on the Torremolinos Convention and the ratification of the ILO Convention (C188) on work in fishing;
- The implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).

2. ATLAFCO Progress Report

After a brief reminder on the memorandum of May 29, 2013 linking ATLAFCO and LDAC and the main components that are:

- The fight against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing;
- Promotion of responsible and sustainable fishing;
- Improving the governance of the fishing sector in Africa,

Mr. A. Laamrich listed the 2019 activities of ATLAFCO, which are articulated, mainly, around following themes:

- Publication of a “Newsletter” relating to 30 years of ATLAFCO’s existence;
- Capacity building in area of fisheries and aquaculture development;
- Capacity building for sustainable management of fishery resources;
- Application of international fishing regulations;
- Improving maritime safety and security

IV. Strategic planning for 2020

1. Alignment of work priorities and key issues:

After presentation of the work priorities of each Party, they selected the following work priorities and key questions:

- Reinforced cooperation between the EU and ATLAFCO at RFMO level (example: coordinated approach to ICCAT stock management measures (tropical tuna, shark);
- The creation of a network of partnerships in international forums;
- Promotion of SFPAs through the organization of a workshop with the participation of non-state actors from Europe and Africa, including artisanal fishermen / networks of women / scientists from the EU and Africa;
- The adoption, ratification and implementation of international instruments for safety at sea (legislative instruments of the UN, FAO, IMO and ILO);
- Improving regional coordination on MCS and the fight against IUU fishing;
- The development by ATLAFCO of an action plan for the two studies on the regional observer program and the port control program;
- Collaboration with the EU-funded PESCAO project for the improvement of regional fisheries governance in West Africa;
- The implementation of the SMEFF regulation and capacity building through the SFPAs;
- Channeling proposals from African contracting parties, EU industry and NGOs to facilitate the UNGA process and the implementation of the SDGs (2-7-8-14);

1.1. Reflection on the international governance of living marine species:

- a- ATLAFCO informed the forthcoming holding (8-9 March 2020) of symposium "*For an active participation in international management of living marine species*" to evaluate the participation of Member States, and to propose actions to improve their participation in the international management of living marine species. LDAC's participation in this symposium is highly desirable.
- b- The 2 Parties recalled the main meetings related to international governance of the sea and marine species, scheduled for 2020, in which it will be necessary to participate and contribute (See. 4.2.2).

1.2. Reflection on maximizing socio-economic benefits of the activity of the EU fishing fleet in the context of fisheries agreements including conditions of fishermen

In their philosophy, the SFPAs consecrate the commitment of the European Union to contribute to the establishment of sustainable fishing, to fight against illegal fishing (IUU) and to develop several axes of cooperation (economic and financial, scientific, between operators and between administrations). To this end, the condition of fishermen in African countries must be taken into account in the SFPAs in order to improve their socio-economic situations

2. Calendrier des réunions: activités programmées et opportunités de collaboration

2.1. 1st semester 2020

Organization of a regional dialogue / workshop with stakeholders on the implementation of SFPAs in West African countries: transparency and responsibility for sectoral support.

This is the LDAC proposal to organize with the support of the EU a workshop taking stock of the issue of transparency in the management of the sector, including for the activities of the European fishing fleet operating in the framework of fisheries agreements with West African countries with a focus on

sectorial support, a decisive component of SFPAs for good governance of the fisheries sector in coastal countries.

The 2 parties have agreed to organize this workshop on May, and will take advantage of the time remaining to start the preparations.

2.2. 2nd half of 2020: Planning of possible side events in international forums (e.g. United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon, BBNJ IGC, Our Ocean Conference, FAO, COFI ...).

This is the opportunity to jointly organize side events during the various international forums, including:

- International Forum 2020 of change climate on fisheries and aquaculture 25-26 February. 2020 in Rome, Italy. By promoting interaction and dialogue between scientists, policy makers and industry, FAO will host this forum to discuss challenges that fisheries and aquaculture face today and will face in the future. Forum will address possible solutions and remaining knowledge gaps.
- 2020 High Level Conference of United Nations to support implementation of Sustainable Development Goal No 14: Conserve and use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, in Lisbon, from 2 to 6 June 2020 "
- The 34th session of FAO Committee on Fisheries, July 13-17, 2020, Rome, Italy. The Committee is currently the only global intergovernmental forum in which major problems of world fisheries and aquaculture are examined and recommendations addressed to governments, regional fisheries bodies, NGOs, sector workers, FAO and international community
- The 7th Conference "*Our Ocean*" scheduled for 17-18 August 2020 in Palau. It will be an opportunity to identify solutions to manage marine resources sustainably, increase the resilience of the oceans to climate change and protect their health for generations to come.

V. Presentation of the different projects:

1. Final report of the study which was carried out following the recommendation of the Conference of Ministers of ATLAFCO in August 2018 concerning the relevance of the establishment of an RFMO for the ATLAFCO area

A presentation of the main findings of the study on the relevance of the establishment of an RFMO for ATLAFCO area:

- Abandonment of the option of transforming ATLAFCO into ORGP;
- Creation of a new RFMO on the basis of a joint political declaration of the "Conference of Ministers";
- Mandate for ATLAFCO to pilot the process of creation of the new RFMO;
- Creation of a special fund to finance the participation of member states in international fisheries-related negotiations;
- Adaptation of the Convention to the specificities of the fisheries in the ATLAFCO zone;
- Integration of the RFMO in the institutional landscape of West Africa with an effective communication strategy.

2. State of progress of the implementation of regional on-board observation and port inspection programs in the ATLAFCO region

It was recalled that the 2 above-mentioned programs were recommended by the workshop entitled: "*Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), an effective tool for the fight against IUU fishing*", which was organized in 2015, with the participation active of the Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) and the financial support of the European Union.

A- Reminder of the recommendations of the Study for the establishment of a Harmonized Regional Port Inspection Program:

- Upgrading of the regulatory frameworks of the Member States (Alignment of national regulations on relevant international standards, including the PSMA);
- Reinforcement of the coordination mechanisms between the national agencies which carry out the control of ships in port;
- Development and implementation of training and capacity building programs for port inspectors.

Budget: nearly **700,000 EUR** over four years, including 400,000 EUR for actions to be implemented by ATLAFCO (addition budgets planned by donors)

Plan d'action pour la mise en place d'un programme régional d'observation embarquée :

B- Action plan for the establishment of a regional on-board observation program:

Les phases du Plan d'action :

- **Initiation phase** (institutional prerequisites): MoU signatures, preparation of the steering committee, general management of program;
- **Creation and launch phase**: Constitution and operationalization steering committee and general management;
- **Operational conditions phase**: Preparation and adoption elements key program: regional observer mandate, mutual recognition, harmonized training and collection standards, data dissemination rules, deployment procedures;
- **Completion time: 3 years.**

In the absence of funding, for the implementation of the 2 programs, ATLAFCO has planned for 2020, to launch the initiation of the institutional phase of on-board observation, and support for the regrouping of maritime training establishments (REFMA) as a regional network for training and strengthening the skills of agents responsible for MCS missions.

3. Update on the PESCAO project funded by the Directorate General for Development and Cooperation DEVCO (European Fisheries Control Agency)

The update on the PESCAO project was presented online on Skype by Mr. Alexandre Kempff, Head of IUU training and fishing section (AECP).

This assistance program, which runs from 2018 to 2022, is now halfway through. It is intended for the member states of the FCWC and the SRFC.

Thus, the PESCAO project has undertaken the following actions:

- ***The presentation of a study on the state of play for the benefit of the FCWC and the SRFC;***
- ***Technical assistance for the acquisition of VMS and AIS equipment;***
- ***Operational support (each year inspection operations are carried out for 5 to 10 days in port and at sea);***
- ***Training organized in Vigo and in the Member States for the benefit of inspectors.***

4. Presentation of Management Plan Recommendations for Case Studies of Mauritania, Senegal and Cabo Verde: next steps - FarFish H2020 Project

- **Mauritania : (actions and recommendations)**

- 1) Collect data on black hake as by-catch by all operators in Mauritanian waters by observers (IEO / CECAF / IMROP);
- 2) Identify gaps in the data for small pelagics;
- 3) Increase local demand and local markets for black hake, including those of other African countries;
- 4) Detailed analysis of the socio-economic impacts and conditions linked to small pelagics;
- 5) Development of user-friendly digital maps (based on VMS / AIS) which support the monitoring of all fleets operating in the region.

- **Senegal (actions and recommendations) :**

- 1) Launch a study of the potential and current state of the black hake market in Senegal and in neighboring countries;
- 2) Improve the current assessments of black hake stocks by carrying out separate stock assessments for the two species;
- 3) Identify data gaps, particularly for black hake stocks.
- 4) The development of user-friendly digital maps (based on VMS / AIS) that support the monitoring of all fleets operating in the region could be useful for this case study.

- **Cabo Verde (actions and recommendations)**

- 1) Active participation of Cabo-Verde in ICCAT is essential to guarantee access to the market (in particular for tuna), access to finance, improvement of scientific data and effective measures for collecting and managing ORGP data;
- 2) Difficulties related to the economic contribution to ICCAT should not constitute an obstacle;
- 3) The data reporting system needs to be strengthened;
- 4) Additional measures (eg tariff adjustments) for the processing industry intended for export to the EU must be integrated into an action plan to support the development, capacity and modernization of the fleet of national fishing

VI. Annex1

1. Agenda

Day 1: The Annual Coordination Meeting

1. Opening Ceremony

2. Approval of the agenda

3. Overview of joint work between LDAC and ATLAFCO in 2019

3.1. LDAC Progress Report

3.2. ATLAFCO Progress Report

4. Strategic planning for 2020

4.1. Alignment of work priorities and key issues

4.1.1. Reflection on the ocean governance in ATLAFCO convention area

4.1.2. Reflection on the maximization of socio-economic benefits from the activity of the EU fishing fleet within the framework of fishing agreements notably fishermen conditions

4.2. Meetings calendar: activities scheduled and opportunities for collaboration

4.2.1. 1st half of 2020: Organization of a regional dialogue/workshop with stakeholders on implementation of SFPAs in West African countries: transparency and accountability of sectoral support.

4.2.2. 2nd half of 2020: Planning of possible side events at international fora (e.g. UN Ocean Conference Lisbon, BBNJ IGC, Our Ocean Conference, FAO COFI...)

5. Presentation of the different projects:

5.1. Final report of the study which was carried out following the recommendation of the ATLAFCO Conference of Ministers in August 2018 concerning the pertinence of putting in place an RFMO for the ATLAFCO area.

5.2. State of play of feasibility studies for regional control inspection plans at sea and regional port control scheme.

5.3. Update on PESCAO Project funded by DG DEVCO (EFCA?)

5.4. Presentation of Management Plan Recommendations for Case Studies of Mauritania, Senegal and Cabo Verde: next steps - FarFish H2020 Project

6. Miscellaneous

7. Final interventions and closure

Day 2: Field visit

- Visit to the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center(MRCC) in Bouznika, Morocco.