



MINUTES
LDAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Venue: Brot für die Welt (Bread for the World) HQ
Caroline-Michaelis-Str.1, Berlin

Wednesday, 22 May 2024
09:30 – 12:30h

Chair: Iván López van der Veen
Vice Chairs: Vanya Vulperhost, Juan Manuel Liria and Marc Ghiglia
Rapporteurs (Secretariat): Alexandre Rodríguez and Manuela Iglesias

1. Welcome by the Chair and opening by the German Government

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, welcomes members, observers, DG MARE representatives and distinguished delegations of Ghana, Gambia, Senegal, Mauritania and Madagascar, as well as the rest of invited experts.

He then indicates the vote delegations received:

AG members not able to attend:	They delegate their vote to:
Sara Fröcklin (SSNC)	Béatrice Gorez (CFFA-CAPE)
Einar Bergur (ELDFA)	Aivaras Labanauskas (LLDFA)
Dominic Rihan (KFO)	Tim Heddema (DPFA)
Luis Vicente (ADAPI)	Edelmiro Ulloa (OPP3/OPNAPA/ACEMIX)

The Chair informs that there is the necessary quorum (over 50%) for adoption of decisions by members present or represented. The complete list of attendees is included in **ANNEX I**.

He then gives the floor to the representative of the German government, Mr. Bernd Söntgerath, Deputy Director of Fisheries, who makes an opening speech that can be found on the following link:

https://ldac.eu/images/Speaking_points_German_Federal_Ministry_Food_Agriculture_Bernd_S%C3%B6ntgerath.pdf

2. Approval of the agenda.

The agenda is then approved with no comments or modifications.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last Executive Committee meeting (7 March 2024)

The minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting held on 7 March 2024 in Madrid are approved.

4. Presentation on EFCA work in international fisheries and fight against IUU fishing - Mr. Pedro Galache

An introductory video of the EFCA director, Ms. Susan Steele, is projected, as she could not attend this Executive Committee meeting.

Then the floor is given to the EFCA representative, Mr. Pedro Galache, who makes a presentation about the work of the European Fisheries Control Agency regarding international fisheries and₁

the fight against IUU fishing, which can be found on this link:
https://ldac.eu/images/Presentaci%C3%B3n_EFCA_ExCom_P.Galache.pdf

The informative leaflet on the PESCAO project may also be downloaded here:
https://ldac.eu/images/PESCAO_LEAFLET_2023-2024.pdf

The Chair thanks the EFCA representative for his interesting presentation as well as for the good coordination, availability and dialogue with EFCA, noting that the LDAC will send a proposal on the 20th anniversary of the agency which will be held in 2025.

5. State of play and request for adoption of LDAC WG working papers and advice.

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, presents the letters for approval that had been distributed among ExCom members in advance, which are the following:

- Draft multi-AC letter on the initiative "Fishers for the Future". The following **ACTION** is agreed: **It is hereby approved for sending.**

- Draft joint NWWAC/PELAC letter requesting the EC to hold a workshop on the implementation of the new Control Regulation. After discussion among the members, the following **ACTION** is agreed: **Ms. Vulperhorst and Mr. Daudu will prepare a new draft requesting a clear agenda. It will be subsequently sent to the NWWAC and PELAC to see if they wish to accept the new drafting, otherwise, the LDAC will send the letter individually.**

- Draft joint LDAC/AFRIFISH-NET letter on the negotiation of future fisheries agreements. Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez informs that the previous day they received comments from Mr. Tim Heddema, DPFA, and Mr. Michel Goujon, ORTHONGEL, so the following **ACTION** is agreed: **to distribute the draft letter again including the new comments to be approved by the ExCom members in writing.**

6. Update on LDAC Working Groups:

6.1- Ongoing actions from the LDAC Working Groups:

• Working Group 1 - on Tuna and Tuna-like RFMOs

In the absence of WG1 Chair, Mr. Michel Goujon, the General Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, summarises what happened at the last Working Group 1 meeting and then explains the topics that WG1 will be working on in the coming months:

- ICCAT: preparation of draft advice, as well as for stocks such as swordfish and sharks.
- IOTC: preparation of draft advice; monitoring of previous recommendations and of the work on FADs, the Working Party on the Socio-Economic Aspects; cooperation with CCRUP regarding the exchange of information topics...
- WCPFC: monitoring and potential preparation of a piece of advice on the WCPFC, as well as studying EC priorities in terms of tropical tunas and sharks for the year; monitoring of transshipments; fighting against IUU fishing, observer coverage, climate change...
- IATTC: identification of priorities and issues raised by the EC to be addressed.
- ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT: to continue collaborating (e.g. regional observer programme...)

• Working Group 2 - on North Atlantic Fisheries

In the absence of WG2 Chair, Mr. Leduc, and Vice Chair, Mr. Heddema, the LDAC Chair, Mr. Iván López, summarises the topics that WG2 will be working on in the coming months:

- NAFO: preparatory work will start in order to draft a piece of advice for the annual meeting (Halifax, September 2025), including topics such as: MSE, annual fishing opportunities for key commercial stocks (COD, RED, GHL, PRA...), technical measures, VME, EBFM, climate change...
- NEAFC: work will be carried out regarding governance (interactions with coastal states provisions and stakeholder engagement), review of results, cooperation with OSPAR/ICES, EBFM, VME, MPA/OECM, climate change...
- Inter-AC Forum on Brexit: the LDAC will continue to participate in this forum and will participate in the meeting scheduled for late August or early September (before the SCF meeting takes place).
- Norway: work will be carried out regarding trade, governance, sustainability issues (salmon farming, Arctic snow, snow crab...)
- Bilateral and trilateral agreements on northern fisheries: the state of play of negotiations with United Kingdom, Norway, Iceland, Faroe Islands and Greenland will be followed up.
- Other RFMOs: the possibility of extending the work coverage of this group to other oceans such as the Pacific or Indian Oceans was raised (NPCF, SPRFMO, SIOFA).

- **Working Group 4 - on SFPAs with third countries:**

Mr. Julio Morón, WG4 Chair, summarises the areas on which WG4 will be working on in the coming months, which are the following:

- State of play and implementation of SFPAs: the idea is for the LDAC to draft a piece of advice with feedback for the EU retrospective evaluation and the MRAG study on future benefits and challenges for coastal communities in third countries.
- Fisheries management of small pelagic stocks shared in West African countries: work will be carried out to improve the quality of the scientific assessment and the regional approach, strengthen the role of CECAF, promote EU-funded projects aimed at enhancing governance and capacity building, and fight against IUU fishing, particularly from non-EU fleets.
- Improvement of the implementation of the social dimension of SFPAs: focusing on attempts to improve the content and application of the social clause, promoting the adoption and ratification of international maritime safety instruments as well as the training of fishers (ILO-IMO-FAO).
- Partnerships with ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT and AFRIFISH-NET: making progress on actions such as the role of women in fisheries, the regional dimension of fisheries agreement negotiations, transparency of fisheries activities of foreign fleets in coastal states, IUU fishing, regional observer programmes, guidance to RFMOs, etc.
- EU fishing investments in third countries: development of a legal framework to foster the role of sustainable "joint enterprises" in food supply, nutrition and social and economic development of coastal communities.

- **Working Group 5 – on Horizontal issues**

Mr. Julien Daudu, WG5 Chair, summarises the areas on which this group will be working on in the coming months, which are the following:

- Evaluation of the CFP: pieces of advice will be prepared on topics such as governance, stakeholder engagement and the CFP external policy.
- New EU Fisheries Control System: feedback will be given on new legislative developments in external fleet monitoring, as well as recommendations to improve the implementation of the revised IUU Regulation, particularly regarding IT-CATCH implementation.
- Fight against IUU fishing: specific pieces of advice will be prepared for each country regarding the carding system.
- International ocean governance: attendance to consultation meetings with DG MARE, FAO COFI, UNFSA, BBNJ, CBD, ISA, etc.

- Level playing field (LPF): International trade with China, IUU fishing and labour abuses of their DWF - analysis of the EC reply to the joint LDAC-MAC advice received in February 2024 and selection of issues to be addressed.

- Labour and social aspects related to the distant water fleet: close collaboration with the EU F-OECD regarding maritime safety and fishers training, migrant workers, social GTs and fishing capacity, and development of self-initiated advice on issues related to onshore and offshore abuses of human and labour rights (forced labour, due diligence, full traceability of the FVC...)

Climate change impact on distant water fisheries: re-energising work started in May 2024 - to prepare a report with recommendations and draft advice to be addressed at a Focus Group (June-July).

- Deep-sea mining in the high seas and impacts on distant water fisheries: the LDAC will fully lead this advice.

6.2- Introduction of the elected new Chairs / Vice Chairs of the Working Groups

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, summarises the list of elected chairs and vice chairs and asks them to introduce themselves very briefly.

The current composition for the next 3 years (1 June 2024-31 May 2027) is the following:

WG1:

Chair: Anne-France Mattlet (Europêche Tuna Group)

Vice Chair: Louis Lambrechts (WWF Europe)

WG2:

Chair: Emil Remisz (NAPO)

Vice Chair: Tim Heddema (DPFA)

WG4:

Chair: Béatrice Gorez (CFFA)

Vice Chair: Ángela Cortina (OPNAPA)

WG5:

Chair: Julien Daudu (EJF)

Vice Chair: Daniel Voces (Europêche)

6.3- Proposal for discussion on expanding RFMOs coverage in LDAC area

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, recalls the proposal for the LDAC to cover more RFMOs than those covered now (NAFO, ICCAT, IOTC, WCPFC, NEAFC) in terms of follow-up and drafting of advice and recommendations.

Therefore, the inclusion of the following RFMOs is suggested:

- North Pacific (NPFCA) and South Pacific (SPRFMO), mainly of interest to the pelagic fleet, in WG2.

These used to be addressed in the extinct WG3 and no follow-up has been carried out ever since.

- Indian Ocean: SIOFA and maybe SWIOFC.

- Antarctic Ocean: CCAMLR.

The idea behind following up on RFMOs, prior to THAT OF developing a full piece of advice,

focuses on responding to specific questions that may be put forward by European Commission negotiators.

Therefore, the proposal of the LDAC Chair, in line with that of WG2 chair, is to restructure the spatial and material scope of WG2 and to take on part of this work. The proposal is to start with the following RFMOs in a pilot fashion for the year 2024-2025:

- NPFC: North Pacific Fisheries Commission
 - SPRFMO: South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
- Other pending RFMOs such as SIOFA or CCAMLR remain to be discussed further.

The following **ACTION** is agreed: **to approve this proposal to include NPFC and SPRFMO in the scope of work and the agenda of the next WG2 meeting.**

In addition, the LDAC Chair, Mr. López, recalls his proposal to set up an Inter-AC forum with DG MARE that is similar to that on Brexit for bilateral and multilateral negotiations with North Eastern Atlantic countries (Norway, Iceland, Faroe...) transferring some matters that are currently addressed in WG2 and adding other interested Advisory Councils (NWWAC, NSAC, PELAC). He believes that this would result in improved coordination among all actors concerned (DG MARE representatives and common members participating in several ACs) allowing for an optimisation of time and resources (he clarifies that, in principle, the point on Svalbard would be kept in WG2).

In addition, regarding the EU request for scientific and technical guidance from ICES and STECF, he recalls that the LDAC Secretary is working together with the NSAC Secretariat and a small drafting group in order to prepare a proposal to improve participation by Advisory Councils in the formulation and shaping of requests for scientific guidance from ICES through the European Commission.

Therefore, it is suggested that a joint NSAC-LDAC letter be sent to work on draft guidelines to articulate the contributions of Advisory Councils through the EC to draw up non-recurring requests for guidance from ICES and the potential creation of a specific Focus Group (FG).

The following **ACTION** is agreed: **to prepare and circulate a draft inter-AC letter on participation in Advisory Councils to request scientific guidance from ICES and timely inform about progress made in this regard in future meetings.**

7. Summary report on state of play of partnerships and collaborations:

- 7.1. FAO**
- 7.2. ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT**
- 7.3. AFRIFISH-Net:**

This item is not discussed due to time restrictions.

8. Feedback on inter-AC work

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, makes a presentation summarising the work carried out at the Inter-AC meeting.

The latter is available for consultation in the specific presentation (slides 10 to 15) on the following link: https://ldac.eu/images/LDAC_Presentation_ExCom_22.05.2024.pdf

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

With no other issues to address, the session is adjourned by the LDAC Chair, Mr. Iván López, thanking speakers for the quality of their presentations, members and observers for their attendance and participation, the LDAC Secretariat for their technical work and their efforts in organising and coordinating logistics and documents, and the sound technician and the interpreting team for their technical quality and excellent work, respectively.

The meeting is closed.

ANNEX I: List of attendees Long Distance Advisory Council Executive Committee Berlin, 22 May 2024, 09:30-12:00h

Members

1. Iván López. AGARBA/CEPESCA
2. Béatrice Gorez. CFFA-CAPE
3. Francisco Mari. Bread for the World
4. Vanya Vulperhorst. OCEANA
5. Aivaras Labanauskas. Lithuanian Long Distance Fisheries Association
6. Edelmiro Ulloa. OPP3/OPNAPA/ACEMIX
7. Raúl García. WWF
8. Javier Garat. CEPESCA
9. Emil Remisz. High Seas Fish Producers Organization
10. Iris Ziegler. Seas at Risk
11. Juan Manuel Trujillo. ETF
12. Despina Symons. EBCD
13. Peter Breckling. DHV/DFV

WG Chairs and Vice Chairs

14. Julien Daudu. EJF
15. Julio Morón. OPAGAC
16. Tim Heddema. Dutch Pelagic Fisheries Association
17. Daniel Voces. EUROPECHE
18. Anne-France Mattlet. EUROPECHE
19. Louis Lambrechts. WWF

OBSERVERS

20. José Beltrán. OPP-7 Burela
21. Pedro Galache. EFCA
22. Barbara Pilz. EJV
23. Christine Xu. Aquatic Life Institute
24. Yobana Bermúdez. CONXEMAR
25. Janne Posti. CONXEMAR
26. David Troncoso. ANASCO
27. José Ramón Fontán. ANEPAT
28. Bernd Söntgerath. Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)
29. Ana Sedenko. Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania.
30. Dawda Foday Saine. CAOPA
31. Gaoussou Gueye. CAOPA
32. Nana Kweigyah. CaFGOAG
33. Barbacar Sarr. CAOPA
34. Francisco Xavier Cobas. Universidad de Vigo
35. Diénaba Beye. International legal consultant
36. Eida Ahmed El Heiba. CAOPA
37. Lala Ranaivomanana. Legal Expert CAOPA
38. Laura Sánchez Hernández. Secretariat General for Fisheries (SGP), Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) - Spain

LDAC SECRETARIAT

39. Alexandre Rodríguez. LDAC
40. Manuela Iglesias. LDAC