



DRAFT MINUTES

30th meeting of LDAC Working Group 1 Highly Migratory (Tuna and Tuna-like) Stocks and its RFMOs

Wednesday 26th October 2022, 10:00-13:30h

Hybrid meeting/Berlaymont Hotel, Brussels-Web conference – Zoom

Chair: Mr. Michel Goujon

Vice-Chair: Ms. Antonia Leroy

1. Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair of WG1, Mr. Michel Goujon, opened the meeting by thanking the members and observers of Working Group 1 for their presence and participation in this hybrid meeting.

The list of participants as members and observers is provided in Annex I.

2. Adoption of the minutes from the last WG1 meeting – 22 March 2022.

The minutes of 22 March, 2022 were approved without modification or comment.

3. Adoption of the agenda.

The agenda was approved without any changes.

ACTION: Members agreed on the need to discussed on the opportunity to send a letter to DG Mare on the absence at WG meetings, as they are held in Brussels.

4. ICCAT – Atlantic Ocean.

4.1- DG MARE Report on process and main priorities for ICCAT 2022 (14-21Nov)

As the DG Mare wasn't present, the WG1 president, Mr. Michel Goujon, recalled the priority the DG mare gave during the stakeholder meeting, held on 7th October. Since that date, EC had more meeting with Member States, so the EC mandate must have changed, for example on South Atlantic Shortfin Mako and South Swordfish. WG1 members wanted that LDAC work can be seen as a priority for the EC.

4.2- Update on Draft LDAC advice on ICCAT annual meeting 2022: discussion from the floor.

On the basis of work done by ICCAT focus group, the discussion held during the WG1 meeting allowed to exchange on Tropical Tuna position (level of TAC and allocation procedure and reserve, FAD closure, SKJ TAC). As the other subject couldn't be discussed, the ICCAT Focus Group had continued the discussion in the afternoon.

ACTION: It was decided to approve LDAC advice on ICCAT by written process (email).

5. WCPFC- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

5.1. DG MARE Report on process and main priorities for the Regular Session of WCPFC (Vietnam, 27Nov-3Dec)

As the DG Mare wasn't present, the LDAC secretariat made a sum-up of the exchange with the DG Mare during the preparatory meeting on WCPFC held on 18th October.

In this meeting, the DG Mare had recalled the outcomes of the 18th Scientific Committee meeting of WCPFC on listed (no management advice), shortfin mako (no management advice), southwest pacific blue shark (in the green light), pacific bluefin tuna (rebuilding target achieve), north pacific blue shark (in the green light), development of Harvest Strategies framework: management procedures for SKJ, mixed fisheries evaluation, draft CMM for South West Pacific SWO, ecosystem & climate indicators, seabird mitigation methods, by ACAP. The DG Mare explained also the outcomes from the 18th Technical and Compliance meeting of WCPFC which dealt with Compliance Monitoring Scheme and, most of all, on audit points in order to have a clear and objective framework to monitor compliance. This work could influence other RFMOs. Others issues were on biodegradable FADs, graphics for the guidelines for handling and safe release of cetaceans, VMS SWG.

Then, DG Mare had explained EU priorities for the 19th Regular Meeting of WCPFC:

- Australia (AUS) proposal for a new CMM on South West Pacific SWO: 40% of captures are not covered by management measures, because of bycatches.
- If TAC is based on current captures, EU catches possibility will be drastically reduced. Furthermore, the concept of « zone-based management » is problematic for this stock, caught mainly in international waters. Another problem is that the proposal gives quota to coastal state that doesn't target SWO. MSE wasn't yet discussed.
- Harvest strategies development, in particular SKJ MP & BET/YFT TRPs, and also for other stocks.
- Continuation of the SMD.
- Biodegradable FADs.
- CMS (improving transparency of the CMR process, aggregated tables, corrective actions)
- Draft CMM on labour standards: EC concern is on monitoring and enforcement of measure in relation with labour standard. Otherwise, labour standards are in MS mandate.
- Lifting of Covid derogations.
- Selection of new Executive Director (2 candidates)

5.2. Work plan and way forward.

After this presentation, LDAC members have expressed their views on the next Regular Meeting of WCPFC. The main subjects highlighted by members were: the AUS proposal on South West Pacific SWO to not see EU captures drastically reduced, the need to adopt Harvest Strategies, with a focus on SKJ management procedure, monitoring of transshipments at sea, adoption of recommendations made by the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) to inspect the compliance assessments.

ACTION: The Secretariat will call a Focus Group for drafting a LDAC advice before the plenary.

Another subject was pointed out by members on the risk of loss of fishing opportunities by EU across tuna and non-tuna RFMOs due to different structural problems (COVID, Fuel price...). It could be needed to organise a specific work on it between different WG (1 and 4).

6. IOTC – Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

6.1- DG MARE Report on the outcomes of the 26th Session of the IOTC (May 2022)

The EC representant, Mr. Marco Valletta, made a sum up of the last IOTC plenary discussions and also gave some information on future discussions for 2023 plenary.

He explained that on YFT, the situation is worrying because of objection by 6 majors CPCs on the rebuilding plan while the stock is in bad shape. In order to find a solution, EC has proposed to organise a specific meeting to deal with YFT. But this proposal was rejected. For that reason, it was decided to organise a consultation of the 6 objecting countries to understand what they want. This process has begun but it doesn't look good, as only one country participates to the first meeting.

On SKJ, even if the situation isn't the same than for YFT, the terms of the discussion were quite similar to the YFT discussion. A number of CPC doesn't want to talk about catch reduction for their fishing possibilities. So, it wasn't possible to reach a consensus on that issue for SKJ.

On FADs, the last EU proposal was the more binding but it wasn't possible to find a consensus because of the inclusion of measures on anchor FADs. In February 2023, a meeting will be held on this issue. EC wants to reach a compromise with all concerned CPC to avoid any objection.

During the last plenary, it wasn't possible to find a compromise on onboard inspection scheme, on compliance to improve the procedures. EC will reuse its proposals during the next plenary.

The only big achievement was the adoption of management procedures for BET, thanks to European and Australian scientists' work. The other agreed points were on: Electronic Monitoring System to improve the observer coverage scheme; transshipment.

All LDAC members understand the EU frustration on IOTC work. On the issue of convention evolution, the EC representative recalled that it is a long process work and couldn't be achieved to solve YFT situation.

7. IATTC – Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

7.1. DG MARE report on the outcomes of the 99th and 100th Annual Meeting of the IATTC (August 2022)

For this RFMO, the EC representative, Mr. Marco Valletta, informed that discussions were more constructive. The EU had 3 priorities: new Director election, improving compliance system and reinforce transshipment measures. Most of the elements in the resolution of transshipment (introduction of IMO Number, annual reporting of transshipment with non-CPCs, and prior notice of 5 days) were those included in the EU proposal. Compliance discussions were based on a workshop that took place on 1 June 2022.

On the monitoring of Pacific BFT, currently done by Mexico and USA, EC has tried to align some of the measures to what is applying in ICCAT. It wasn't possible to find a consensus but it was the first time this issue was put in the table.

On sharks, the EU submitted again a proposal of naturally attached fins, once again the opposition from Asian fleets made it impossible to achieve a consensus.

On 2023, EC will be able to focus again on other issues as new discussions on tropical tuna will occur in 2024.

7.2. Open discussion and questions

On the notion of monitoring, the Chair of WG1, Mr. Michel Goujon recalled that EMS is part of control measures and so it should be 100% to all vessels. On the opposite, scientific observer coverage can have different level according to the gear.

It could be interesting to develop an advice on this issue for IATTC but also for IOTC.



8. Update from COMHAFAT on regional observer programme at sea and regional control scheme at ports

COMHAFAT apologised for its absence at this meeting. Nevertheless, they sent a presentation which is uploaded on the LDAC website:

https://ldac.eu/images/LDAC_WG1_presentation_COMHAFAT_October2022.pdf

The annual coordination meeting between LDAC and COMHAFAT will be held in the following months.

The Chair of WG1 recalled that COMHAFAT has made a proposal to the PA1 of ICCAT on allocation scheme for BET which isn't much far from UE proposal. It could have been interesting to exchange with COMHAFAT on the issue.

ACTION: to add the point on allocation scheme for BET ICCAT TAC to the next coordination meeting and propose a collaboration for next ICCAT meetings to try to have a common position.

9. Closing

The Chair of WG1, Mr. Michel Goujon, closed the meeting recalling that the next WG1 will be held in March 2023. He thanked all attendees, the representative of the EC, the interpreters and the LDAC Secretariat for the work.



Annex I: Attendance list

LDAC Working Group 1

26 October, 2022

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (in person)

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| 1. Michel Goujon. ORTHONGEL | 8. Juan Manuel Trujillo. ETF |
| 2. Iván López. AGARBA | 9. Eduardo Miguez. Puerto Celeiro |
| 3. Isadora Moniz. AGARBA/CEPESCA | 10. Emil Remisz, High Seas Fish Producers Organization |
| 4. Edelmiro Ulloa. OPNAPA | 11. Xavier Leduc. UAPF |
| 5. Ángela Cortina. OPNAPA | 12. Aivaras Labanauskas. LLDFA |
| 6. Julien Daudu. EJF | 13. Héctor Fernández Álvarez. BOLTON FOOD |
| 7. Erik Olsen. The Danish Society for a Living Sea | |

OBSERVERS (in person)

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| 17. Marco Valletta, DG Mare | 19. Benoit Guérin. LDAC |
| 18. Manuela Iglesias. LDAC | 20. Caroline Mangalo. LDAC |

MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP (present via ZOOM)

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| 21. Rosalie Tukker. EUROPECHE | 28. Antonia Leroy. WWF |
| 22. Carlos Barciela Segura. ORPAGU | 29. Emilia Dyer. International Pole & Line Foundation |
| 23. Anertz Muniategui. ANABAC | 30. Roy Bealey. International Pole & Line Foundation |
| 24. José Beltran. OPP-Lugo | 31. Clara Gitto. Eartchworm Foundation |
| 25. Juan Manuel Liria. CEPESCA | 32. Tom Pickerell. GTA |
| 26. Rob Banning. DPFA | |
| 27. Raul Garcia. WWF | |

OBSERVERS (present via Zoom)

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| 33. Michael Cohen. ISSF | 37. Alberto Martín. MSC |
| 34. Carmen Paz. SGP | 38. Annika Mackensen. GIZ |
| 35. Ilenia Bonaccorso. SGP | 39. Stephanie Czudaj. GIZ |
| 36. Maria José Cornax. EFCA | |