

MINUTES
LDAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, 11 May 2021
12:00h-13:30h
Virtual meeting - Online (Zoom)

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

1. Welcome by the Chair: approval of the agenda and the minutes.

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, welcomes all members, observers and representatives of the member states who are present.

He then informs that Mr. Erik Olsen, The Danish Society, is absent and delegates to Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE.

After counting the representatives of the member organisations present (21 of 24), the Secretariat informs that, in conformity with Article XXIV of the LDAC Rules of procedure, the necessary quorum for adoption of decisions by simple majority (at least 50% of the members present or represented) is acquired, if so required.

The complete list of participants (members and observers) is included in **ANNEX I**.

a. Approval of the minutes of the last Executive Committee meeting (26 March 2021)

The minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting held on 26 March 2021 are approved.

b. Approval of the agenda.

The agenda is then approved with no comments or modifications.

2. Presentation and/or adoption of advice from Focus Groups and Working Groups:

2.1. WG5: Draft Advice on: Level Playing Field

WG5 Chair, Mr. Julien Daudu, briefly summarises the document, which was previously distributed via e-mail among all members on 30 April.

He points out that the draft advice is the result of extensive work by a Focus Group, made up of members of all sectors and sensitivities, throughout the year.

He then explains that, after receiving significant comments from ANFACO to the specific section on markets and listening to the members during the discussion held in this meeting, the following **ACTIONS** are agreed:

a) To redistribute the draft advice among the Executive Committee members and the Focus Group co-authors for the last time for their knowledge and comments. In this final consultation stage it will not be possible to reopen other sections different to that on markets and propose comments contributing new information.

b) Insofar as possible, a consensus-based document shall be sought. The representative of OCEANA, Ms. Vanya Vulperhorst, suggests using the text from the MAC advice on LPF in the trade arrangements mentioned (marketing standards, labelling and rules of origin) to be included in this review in order to quickly reach a compromise text or use previously agreed language to contribute to a consensus-based position.

In the event that it is not possible to reach a consensus-based agreement, the inclusion of a minority position in the final advice may be considered for its adoption.

c) The review period will be of 8 calendar days, as of Thursday 13 May, and the deadline will be Friday 21 May. If approved, the final advice will be sent to DG MARE services and will be published on the LDAC website on Monday 24 May.

2.2. WG5: Inter-AC Focus Group on Deep-sea mining

The General Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, explains that after having distributed a concept note on deep-sea mining in the high seas among the members on 27 April, the next steps are to set up and call a joint Focus Group in May in accordance with the Terms of Reference set forth. The aim of this Group will be to prepare draft advice that may guide the negotiating position of the European Commission in order for the EU to participate in the negotiations of the Mining Code and the draft Exploitation Regulation at the Council and General Assembly of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to be held in Kingston (Jamaica) on the second half of July.

2.3. WG4: Draft Advice on: Promoting regional sustainable fisheries management for shared resources in West Africa

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, as proponent of the latter, explains the draft advice which was previously distributed among the members on 19 April.

After some comments voiced by Mr. Gerard van Balsfoort, DPFTA, the following **ACTION** is agreed:

- Upon Mr. van Balsfoort's request, and in order to give members more time to review/comment on this document, the consultation period will be extended by another 8 days, the new deadline being Wednesday 19 May. Subsequently, in the event that there are no objections or significant changes to it, the advice will be adopted and submitted to DG MARE services.

2.4. WG2: Draft Letter on Arctic Cod in Svalbard

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, informs that last 5 May the draft letter was sent to all members. Due to the latest developments that have taken place regarding Norway, the following **ACTION** is approved:

- The LDAC Chair, in his capacity as proponent of this letter, requested the withdrawal of this version to be able to work on an updated version of the modified letter that bears in mind the latest response by Norway to the EU, received by means of a "Note verbale".

Interested members representing fleets with fishing interests in Norway/Svalbard will suggest updating the said draft letter. Once this draft is received, the LDAC Secretariat will carry out an urgent consultation to consider its possible adoption.

3. Update on Inter-AC meetings:

3.1 Report on outcomes of recent Inter-AC meetings

- Inter-AC Secretariat coordination meeting (6 April 2021)

- Inter-AC formal coordination meeting with DG MARE (5 May 2021)

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, summarises the content of both meetings, highlighting the importance of currently having fluent and regular conversations with DG MARE at institutional level, having increased the frequency of inter-AC meetings to every two months approximately and producing detailed minutes in writing. This will involve a significant improvement vis-à-vis previous years in order to follow up discussions and actions agreed. This change in dialogue fostered by the new Director General and her cabinet is welcome by all Advisory Councils.

At the inter-AC session held in May, the EC made several presentations on topical issues such as the Biodiversity Strategy or the Green Deal. In addition, DG MARE presented the findings of their consultation to the Advisory Councils with five specific recommendations that mainly reflect the arguments sent by the LDAC in the past.

Lastly, DG MARE carried out a consultation regarding the documents presented at the said meeting, and as a result the following **ACTION** is agreed:

- **The Secretariat will send an e-mail with all the necessary basic information and the presentations made by DG MARE at the last inter-AC meeting (5 May 2021) regarding the proposals put forward to improve advisory councils' performance following Brexit and its impact on the CFP. These proposals by DG MARE include changes to aspects such as the review of the representation of the fisheries sector/other interest groups as Chairs and Vice Chairs of WGs; the inclusion of minority or divergent positions in advice; carrying out external and regular performance reviews by ACs; the criteria set forth to classify member organisations under the categories of "Fisheries sector" and "Other interest groups"; or the development of a standard template for the submission of advice to DG MARE by ACs.**
- **The Secretariat will compile the opinions and comments of the Executive Committee members on the presented recommendations in order to draft an unofficial reply to be sent to DG MARE before the end of May, if possible. This feedback will be useful for the Commission to prepare a final proposal that will be presented at the next Inter-AC meeting (N.B. after this Executive Committee meeting, it was confirmed that it will take place on 15 July).**

3.2. Issues related to impact of Brexit on functioning of Advisory Councils.

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, believes that we have to wait for the EC to provide us with more information.

After some discussion, the following **ACTION** is agreed:

- **To set up a Focus Group on Brexit: A call for expressions of interest shall be issued to set up this Focus Group devoted to the impact of Brexit on fisheries governance in the North East Atlantic. This will enable to reflect upon the LDAC's mission regarding Brexit and fisheries governance and management mechanisms in the North East Atlantic, as well as to agree on a clear position of what the LDAC wishes to propose in this regard before having a meeting with the rest of Advisory Councils.**

3.3. Decision on membership of non-EU nationals.

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, points out that this item will be postponed until the EC provides us with new guidelines that we are meant to receive around mid July after the next inter-AC session.

Closure of the meeting:



With no other issues to address, the session is adjourned by the Chair thanking members and observers for their attendance and collaboration, the LDAC Secretariat for their efforts in organising and coordinating logistics and documents, and the interpreting team for their excellent work.

The meeting is closed right on time.

ANNEX I: LIST OF ATTENDEES

LDAC Executive Committee 11 May 2021, Videoconference

ATTENDEES

EXCOM MEMBERS

1. Iván López. AGARBA/CEPESCA
2. Béatrice Gorez. Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA-CAPE)
3. Rocío Bejar. Confederación Española de Pesca (CEPESCA)
4. Juan Manuel Liria. CEPESCA
5. Javier Garat. CEPESCA
6. Luis Vicente. ADAPI
7. Vanya Vulperhorst. OCEANA
8. Julien Daudu. Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)
9. Christine Adams. Seas at Risk
10. Michel Goujon. ORTHONGEL
11. Marc Ghiglia. CNPMMEM/UAPF
12. Despina Symons. European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)
13. Jacopo Pasquero. EBCD
14. Juan Manuel Trujillo. European Transport Federation
15. Sara Fröcklin. Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
16. Francisco Mari. Bread for the World
17. Esben Sverdrup-Jensen. Danish Pelagic Producers Organisation
18. Raúl García. World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
19. Gerard van Balsfoort. Demersal Pelagic Freezer Trawlers Association (DPFTA)
20. Rob Banning. DPFTA

GA MEMBERS

21. David Troncoso. ANASCO
22. Roberto Alonso. ANFACO-CECOPECA
23. Edelmiro Ulloa. Anapa, Anamer, Agarba and Acemix
24. José Manuel F. Beltrán. OPP-07 Lugo
25. Rosalie Tukker. EUROPECHE
26. Daniel Voces. EUROPECHE
27. Xavier Leduc. UAPF
28. Pierre Commere. FIAC/EUROTHON

OBSERVERS

29. Jesús Iborra. EP
30. Paulus Tak. The Pew Charitable Trusts
31. Florie Hovine. Earthworm Foundation
32. Jean-Christophe Vandeveld. The Pew Charitable Trusts
33. Anna Gruszczynskar. Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation - Poland
34. Sonia Doblado. Farfish Project.
35. Alexandre Rodríguez. LDAC
36. Manuela Iglesias. LDAC
37. Marta de Lucas. LDAC