



MINUTES

33rd Working Group 5 Meeting – HORIZONTAL ISSUES

Wednesday, 6 March 2024, 09:30-17:00h CEST

Venue: Martin's Brussels EU Hotel - Boulevard Charlemagne 80, 1000 Brussels

Chair: Julien Daudu (EJF)

Vice Chair: Daniel Voces (Europêche)

1. Welcome by the Chair

WG5 Chair, Mr. Julien Daudu, welcomes all members and observers, including rapporteurs, representatives of the European Commission, Human Rights at Sea and of EU Member States' national administrations.

The complete list of attendees is included in **ANNEX I**.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last WG5 meeting – Brussels, 19 October 2023

The minutes of the previous WG5 meeting are approved with no changes or additional comments.

3. Approval of the agenda

The draft agenda is approved with no changes or comments to it.

4. Election of WG5 Chair and Vice Chair (1 June 2024 – 31 May 2027)

Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, explains the election procedure informing that the expressions of interest received in good time and appropriate manner were those sent by the current WG5 chair and vice chair: Julien Daudu (EJF) for the position of chair and Daniel Voces (EUROPÊCHE) for that of vice chair.

DECISION:

The members who are present and represented unanimously approve the appointment of the mentioned candidates, Julien Daudu and Daniel Voces, for the positions of WG5 Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. They will have a 3-year mandate starting on 1 June 2024 and ending on 31 May 2027.

The LDAC Chair, Mr. Iván López, thanks the Chair and Vice Chair for their continuity, commitment and dedication.



5. International Ocean Governance: conclusions and role of the EU (DG MARE)

5.1. UNGA processes for 2024 and resolutions for 2023 (Sustainable Fisheries)

The EC representative, Alexandra Lamotte, summarises the United Nations processes for 2024.

Regarding the UN Ocean Conference co-organised by Costa Rica and France, she stresses that the overarching theme is the acceleration of the sustainable use of the oceans, with the desire to improve concrete actions in the oceans to mitigate the effects of climate change. This includes references to the global biodiversity framework, BBNJ, the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, the Agreement on Tariffs or the Water Conference. In preparation to this Conference, three high-level meetings will be held in 2025: a scientific forum (4-6 June), a forum on climate change and coastal cities (7-8 June) and a final preparatory meeting in Monaco.

She points out that a specific concept note on the ocean panel will be prepared.

As for the Our Ocean Conference to be held in Nice, she highlights that much attention was attached to sustainable and environmental aspects, with different ministerial meetings and specific sessions to promote and encourage ratification of the different legal instruments such as BBNJ, ILO C188, etc.

She adds that a meeting will be held in July in New York. In addition, Costa Rica will organise a high-level meeting in June on actions in the ocean in order to exchange good practices related to healthy oceans.

Regarding the UNGA process, she says that the UN Treaty on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) was adopted in June and signed in September 2023. UNGA adopted a resolution in February 2024 and convened a meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the first COP to be held before the end of the year. At this meeting, preparation of the terms of reference and proposals for the composition of the discussion and governing bodies will be carried out, as well as a proposal for the financial budget and the Secretariat headquarters. This international meeting is likely to be held in August.

Regarding the sustainable fisheries resolution adopted in December 2023, the EC representative stresses that the text suggested by the EU was included, although China firmly objected to it because of high seas inspections. Moreover, it was proposed that the text of the resolution should include proposals on decent working conditions both for crew members and for fisheries inspectors and observers.

As for the Our Ocean Conference in Greece, she notes that the EU will engage in six policy areas: fisheries, marine protected areas, ocean and climate, blue economy, maritime safety and marine pollution.

She points out that commitments announced at previous conferences may be followed up on the web site, those corresponding to 2024 can be found on this link:

<https://www.ourocean2024.gov.gr/commitments/>

5.2. FAO Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (online, 15-18 January 2024)



Alexandra Lamotte, EC representative, informs that the first meeting of this sub-committee was held online and was chaired by Stefan Amundson. It was successful in terms of virtual attendance, with 61 countries represented (between participants and observers). She stresses the importance of this new sub-committee in order to adequately prepare the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), to be held in July 2024 in Rome.

All COFI-related information is available on the following link:

<https://www.fao.org/cofi/en>

5.3. 29th Session of International Seabed Authority (ISA) (Kingston, March 2024)

Regarding deep-sea mining, the EC representative, Ms. Lamotte, notes the importance of effectively protecting the deep sea from the impact of underwater mining activities on the marine environment and the need to better understand these impacts from a scientific point of view.

Regarding the ISA Council: she points out that a positive result was obtained, since no commercial exploitation can be performed until there is a mining code and welcomes the agreement with the ISA Council not to conduct any commercial exploitation activities in the absence of rules and regulations in force, which translates into the adoption of the set of rules known as the Mining Code.

They are currently working on the draft regulation on exploitation. A meeting is expected to be held in March. She notes that the EU is closely monitoring the work on the marine environment and will report back at the next LDAC meeting.

The General Secretary, Alexandre Rodríguez, informs about an informal meeting held with some expert members and the Secretariat to identify key issues, arguments and documentation for a future piece of advice to be drafted by the LDAC in the coming months.

The following **ACTION** is agreed:

- The LDAC will try to update its advice on underwater mining, proposing to set up a Focus Group (FG) for discussion, with the possibility of conveying this to other Advisory Councils who might be interested.

5.4. 16th UN Convention on Biodiversity (October-November 2024)

Ms. Despina Symons, EBCD, informs that this year the 16th UN Convention on Biodiversity (COP16) will be held from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali, Colombia, with a preparatory meeting to be held in May in Nairobi.

There are four long-term goals and 23 targets divided into 3 categories, most of them related to fisheries, that is why FAO and CBD will analyse these goals to see the consequences that this may entail. The group of experts analysed this and conducted a preliminary analysis.

Besides, Mr. David Vivas, UNCTAD, informs that his organisation will host the 7th BioTrade Congress, (more information available on this link: <https://unctad.org/meeting/7th-biotrade-congress-global-governance-trade-and-biodiversity>) as well as the Oceans Forum to be held in June 2025 in France, and invites the LDAC to participate in both.



6. Update on EU Revised Fisheries Control Systems

6.1. EU Control Regulation: specific items of interest for external fishing fleets

The EC representative, Ms. Desiree Kjolsen, makes a presentation showing the main issues of the Control Regulation affecting distant water fleets (digitalisation, control/data tools, sanctions and tolerance margins, etc.).

The content of the presentation is available at:

[https://ldac.eu/images/CR_revision - Important for the external fleet point6.1.pdf](https://ldac.eu/images/CR_revision_-_Important_for_the_external_fleet_point6.1.pdf)

6.2. Questions to DG MARE on latest developments regarding implementation of Catch Documentation Scheme & IT-CATCH in light of revised Fisheries Control and IUU Regulations

Ms. Desiree Kjolsen, EC, explains developments in IT-CATCH, highlighting that there is a document with frequently-asked questions regarding developments in the new EU catch certification scheme after amendment of the European Regulation against IUU fishing. The document is available on the following link:

https://ldac.eu/images/i/FAQ-amendment-IUU-Regulation_en.pdf

In addition, all these new developments are summarised in the presentation she makes and are available on the following link:

[https://ldac.eu/images/CR_revision - Important for the external fleet point6.1.pdf](https://ldac.eu/images/CR_revision_-_Important_for_the_external_fleet_point6.1.pdf)

6.3. Discussion: identification of elements for potential advice

Ignacio Fresco (Oceana) asks about the existence of a valid and unambiguous legal definition of beneficial ownership and to whom it is notified. The only country that is aware of there being some level of control over ultimate ownership is Spain. The requirement to disclose ownership should not only apply to the operator, but also to notaries public, insurance and service companies. We have to attach importance to cooperation, the value chain, as well as to traceability when vessels are sold to third countries.

Desiree Kjolsen replies that it is too early to know and have a homogeneous definition of beneficial ownership, and that enhanced communication is required among Members States' authorities. There is a need for dialogue and agreement on a joint action plan with MS.

The Chair, Julien Daudu, says that the seminar that the LDAC will hold in May in Berlin will provide an opportunity to share ideas on this topic linked, for instance, to the use of port infrastructures and access to ports of entry to the EU.

After discussion among the members, the following **ACTION** is agreed:

- To request the EC representative to provide answers in writing and to continue discussing the issue of beneficial ownership.

7. China's role in world fisheries and aquaculture

7.1. DG MARE reply to the LDAC-MAC joint advice on the impact of China's fleet activities

WG5 Chair, Mr. Julien Daudu, recalls that in December 2022 the LDAC sent the EC a piece of advice together with the MAC on Addressing China's global distant water fleet activities implications for fisheries governance, to which a reply has been received in writing:



This piece of advice is available on the following link:

<https://ldac.eu/images/LDAC-MAC Joint Advice China Distant Water Fleets 13Dic2022.pdf>

The response by the EC to the advice is available at:

https://ldac.eu/images/2024_02_05 - Reply to LDAC-MAC recommendations on China DWF ci clean.pdf

Béatrice Gorez mentions the FITI study on information made available by Chinese authorities and agrees to share it internally with the LDAC members.

Vanya Vulperhorst and Julien Daudu invite attendees to reflect on how this topic can be addressed in future, with the possibility of inviting experts from external organisations that are researching or have findings on the activities of the Chinese distant water fleet including flagrant evidence of forced labour. It is also noted that China has blocked in some RFMOs the proposal on high-seas boarding inspection scheme and other control measures for Asian longline fleets targeting sharks linked to fight against IUU fishing.

After a round of comments and some discussion, the following **ACTION** is agreed:

- **To study the EC reply received in February 2024 to the joint LDAC-MAC advice presented in December 2022, to gather new evidence from existing reports (EJF, FITI report and other) and to reflect upon feedback developed in the coming months.**
- **To think about whether to invite Mr. Ian Urbina or the Outlaw Ocean team or similar to the next WG5 meeting for them to make a presentation on their latest publications/pieces of research.**
- **To reflect upon the idea of strengthening RFMO work and commitment to labour rights, minimum standards and the new regulation on forced labour.**

7.2. Updated report on problems with exports of EU fishery products for renewal of licences in the sanitary registry of China.

Mr. Sergio López, OPP-Lugo, explains the difficulties faced during the process to be included in lists of authorised establishments to export products of animal origin for human consumption to China. He notes that it is a complex process for all products of animal origin for human consumption, in fact, during the process there are changes in criteria and a lack of transparency by China regarding requirements for authorisations (e.g. the CIFER form was in Chinese and not in English, and the same 15 codes were requested for all vessels and some were authorised while others were not). Furthermore, the whole approval process is very slow, with three different approvals being required, as well as numerous requirements and delays, some of which are even contrary to the Data Protection Regulation and Organic Law.

The presentation made by Mr. López is available on the following link:

<https://ldac.eu/images/Problem%C3%A1tica tramitaci%C3%B3n China Sergio L%C3%B3pez.pdf>

Mr. Héctor Hernández, Bolton Food, Mr. Edelmiro Ulloa, OPNAPA, and Ms. Felicidad Fernández, ANFACO, agree with Mr. López on it being a very complicated process, with many changes in criteria and paperwork in terms of review or renewal of registration expiry dates affecting the whole chain except for traders, which in practice limits being registered as an authorised exporter in China.



Mr. Ulloa points out that China authorises a different list of species for each country. He also informs that a Chinese delegation of inspectors visited the port of Vigo invited by the Spanish Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) and by health authorities in order to increase the list of species. He adds that they conducted a one-week inspection (13-18 February) and that they are now waiting to receive answers or a report from them.

Iván López adds that this regulatory barrier could go against the WTO principles.

David Vivas notes that the fisheries sector, together with the pharmaceutical one, is one of the two most heavily regulated by non-tariff measures in the world. Asia is the main consumer of fisheries products and there are clear tensions in international trade flows between the EU and China, as both markets are eminently consumer-driven.

7.3. Other related issues and future actions

After a round of comments and some discussion, the following **ACTION** is agreed:

- To conduct a benchmark study on import requirements for fisheries products for China and the EU. If necessary, to consider the possibility of applying to the EU for "mirror clauses" on the requirements to be met by Chinese fisheries products to enter the EU market in order to meet the same or similar requirements to those demanded from EU companies wishing to export their products to the Chinese market.

- If applicable, the representatives concerned will propose a letter to the LDAC and the Secretariat will distribute it for WG5 and ExCom members to discuss it and approve it.

8. Social Dimension of the CFP and labour issues linked to imports and trade

8.1. Presentation on "Safety, security and well-being of Fisheries Observers. Recent reporting." – David Hammond, HRAS International

Mr. David Hammond, Human Rights at Sea (HRAS) International, makes a presentation on the need to protect observers at sea, which was published in October 2023. The aforementioned report may be downloaded here: https://ldac.eu/images/Presentation_HRAS_I_Protecting_Fisheries_Observers_FINAL_David_Hammond.pdf

He adds that humanitarian sustainability is essential in fisheries and in the high seas. After 10 years' worth of research, conclusions indicate that maritime safety aspects have not been addressed thoroughly, and Pew in their FISH project talk about 100.000 dead fishers at sea per year. The work methodology followed by HRAS is an approach based on evidence, party investigations and sightings.

Ten aspects to be improved and recommendations were presented, some of which were followed by NAFO in the Northwest Atlantic.

Mr. Vivas, UNCTAD, highlights that the ILO C188 Convention covers fishers but not fisheries observers, so it would be of the essence to start working on this matter.

Mr. David Hammond, HRAS International, adds that C188 has only been ratified by 21 countries, 97 other flag states have not yet done so. In addition, he insists that this convention covers fishers but not fisheries observers.



For his part, the representative of the Spanish Secretariat General for Fisheries (SGP), Mr. Ismael Yagüe, underlines the importance of the information provided by fisheries observers, stressing that many RFMOs already have specific rules for them, such as: NAFO, SPRFMO or CCMLAR, among other. In fact, he points out that last year a specific working group was set up for their protection. He offers the collaboration of the Spanish administration to work on this matter.

8.2. Update on work of the European Social Dialogue Committee – ETF/Europêche

Mr. Daniel Voces, Europêche, and Mr. Juan Manuel Trujillo, EJF, summarise the work of the European Social Dialogue Committee, highlighting the legislative package approved last week in the trilogue on maritime safety, as well as the important event that was jointly carried out by IMO and ILO on work at sea. More information is available at: <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/meeting/41432>

Finally, they underline the continuity of the project "Pillars of the Sea", the information of which may be found on the following link: <https://europeche.chil.me/post/pillars-of-the-sea-236770>

8.3. STECF EWG on social criteria for policy making

Mr. Daniel Voces, Europêche, informs that the STECF recently published a report on socio-economic criteria in fisheries, which includes the assessment of progress made in the different member states with examples from the Netherlands, Denmark and Spain.

He points out that, in a first stage, scientists will also assess how to integrate social indicators in the preparation of policies, the economic situation of fishers and companies, the dependence of coastal communities on fisheries, etc.

Prior to the second stage, the Commission will launch a public consultation with stakeholders based also on the application of article 17 of the CFP Regulation for the dissemination of good practices.

8.4. Way forward: LDAC contribution for future advice

The General Secretary, Alexandre Rodríguez, informs that the EC will consult stakeholders.

Mr. Julien Daudu, Chair, suggests setting up a focus group (FG) inviting all those interested to participate in order to prepare a structure or outline of contents for a draft piece of advice.

The following **ACTION** is agreed: **to set up this specific focus group.**

9. Report by LDAC Secretariat on work plan and draft advice on impact of climate change for high seas fisheries and external fleets.

Alexandre Rodríguez makes a specific presentation on the LDAC work programme on climate change, that is available on the following link: https://ldac.eu/images/LDAC_Secretariat_Climate_Change_DWF.pdf

Béatrice Gorez voices her agreement with the process and timeline proposed by the Secretary, and suggests focusing on distribution changes regarding small pelagic species due to their vulnerability to climate change and their high nutritional value as food source for developing countries.

Iván López agrees with Alexandre and Béatrice on the fact that it is a very important issue and that aspects like changes in the migration of stocks will bring geopolitical conflicts to stock



conservation and management. This includes the EU-Norway relationship in the North East Atlantic Ocean.

David Vivas, UNCTAD observer, notes that according to a study based on Copernicus satellite measurements, the average temperature in the marine surface is of 21 degrees, with an increase of virtually 1.2 degrees in 2 years. He volunteers to make a presentation indicating CO2 emissions from the fisheries sector by country as well as other comparative statistics.

Javier Garat supports this line of work as well as the UNCTAD presentation.

Raúl García says that climate change needs to be framed in the current geopolitical context and an equitable and fair energy transition ought to be achieved, with many protests, implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda. No one is unaware of the consequences of global warming, the context of protests, the 2030 agenda, laws on sustainable fisheries in Spain and on nature restoration in the EU, etc. He adds that many RFMOs (NAFO, ICCAT) have started to introduce studies and resolutions to fight against global warming. He recalls that there is some uncertainty regarding the North Atlantic currents and that there is a need to analyse very complex issues of interdependencies of climate with habitats and species.

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

- **Having WG5 accepted the proposal to prepare a report and a subsequent draft advice on this matter, the calendar proposed by the General Secretary is approved and it is agreed that a draft advice be started partially based on recommendations and findings from the Workshop held in Stockholm in May 2023.**
- **Mr. David Vivas (UNCTAD) will be invited to present the statistical report on climate change at one of the next WG5 meetings.**

10. Implementation of the CFP Regulation: critical overview

10.1. Discussion on how to improve the Implementation of the CFP and in particular the External Dimension

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, recalls that Commissioner Sinkevicius recently announced by surprise that DG MARE will carry out a comprehensive review of the CFP to prepare a report to be put at the next Commissioner's disposal.

This assessment covers all aspects or blocks of the CFP Regulation (in addition to the ongoing study assessing the landing obligation) including:

1. Management of fisheries measures for the conservation and sustainable exploitation of marine biological resources
2. Regionalisation of governance and involvement of stakeholders
3. Common Market Organisation
4. External policy
5. Aquaculture
6. Control and enforcement

Following the improvement of the Regulation, DG MARE will launch a call for tests at some point in June/July and later on a public consultation for stakeholders in the second half on



2024, that will include a questionnaire and a specific consultation to assess the elements of the CFP.

In addition, he informs that there are two reports of particular interest which are:

- One on the reform of the CFP:

https://ldac.eu/images/i/MATO_REPORT_CFP_REFORM_A-9-2023-0357_EN.pdf

- One on food security in fisheries:

https://ldac.eu/images/i/MELO_INI_REPORT_IUU_FISHING_A-9-2023-0433_EN.pdf

Julien Daudu proposes to start reflecting upon the development of an outline with ideas to inform the next European Commission and European Parliament on WG5 priorities regarding the external dimension of the CFP. He suggests setting up a focus group, which the following members have already joined: OPNAPA (Edelmiro Ulloa), CFFA (Béatrice Gorez), EJF (Julien Daudu), Oceana (Vanya Vulperhorst).

10.2. Way forward: identification of items for developing potential LDAC advice

The following **ACTIONS** are agreed:

- **The LDAC will focus on elements regarding the external dimension of the CFP, as well as on aspects related to international ocean governance, the role of ACs, control and enforcement.**

- **A Focus Group (FG) will be set up to define the scope, identify key areas and prepare a draft strategic advice with key messages.**

- **The ultimate aim is to prepare an own-initiative position paper that can be shared with the new Commissioner for Fisheries, his cabinet and the future EP-PECH.**

11. Fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

11.1. EU IUU carding process: questions from members on third countries (including yellow and red carded countries)

The EC representative, Mr. Pawel Swiderek, starts by thanking the LDAC for the questions sent in advance and says that they will answer them in writing, expanding as well the list of frequently asked questions available on the EC website, on the following link:

https://ldac.eu/images/i/FAQ-amendment-IUU-Regulation_en.pdf

He then informs about developments that have taken place in the following countries with regards to yellow and red cards and the implementation of the IUU Regulation:

- Ecuador: it is believed that this country will soon go from a yellow to a green card. For 6-8 months, the political situation has had an impact, including security problems to participate in the mission meetings. It is hoped that they will soon be able to go from a yellow card to a green one. The main challenge, apart from the political situation, is supporting the creation of the control system to fight against IUU fishing and fisheries in general.

- Vietnam: there is no sign of them having reached the necessary minimum level of control despite their good will. They need to keep on improving.

- Thailand: there is the intention to review the articles implemented since 2015. It is hoped that dialogue with this country will not be delayed. The authorities are listening to feedback on control and enforcement, but there is a lack of commitment. The EC has proposed to set up a working group on IUU fishing, although they have not managed to organise it yet.



- Ghana: more time is being given to this country, since it is thought that an assessment now would have a negative outcome. A meeting was going to be held at the beginning of the year, and although there is a willingness to carry out stricter controls, more time is needed. Efforts are being made to help in every way possible in order for the implementation to be positive.
- Panama: the situation is not satisfactory, developments cannot be finalised so soon. In addition, the Director General for Fisheries has changed again.
- Senegal: there does not seem to be a desire to address past deficiencies, as it was confirmed at the recent ICCAT meeting.
- Liberia and Sierra Leone: their elections were held and there were meetings with Sierra Leone, but there is a lack of political capacity and responsibility by the flag state. In fact, fisheries authorities are not in a position to control their flagged fishing vessels. As for Liberia, the EC representative points out that they are more optimistic.
- Cameroon: efforts are being made to engage in a dialogue with FAO as well in order to receive help to try and improve fisheries control.
- Trinidad and Tobago: it will evolved into a red card. There is a commitment to conduct some actions, but the situation is catastrophic and their fisheries code and regulations are seriously outdated.
- Guinea-Bissau: contacts will take place soon to be able to engage in a dialogue.
- Seychelles: there is an active dialogue going on.
- Morocco: strategic partner that puts efforts into the catch documentation system and compatibility between operating systems. Moroccans want to have another catch certificate for their imports, but this can create obstacles and difficulties for operators. It is also difficult to coordinate actions regarding the fight against IUU fishing, free trade agreement.
- Côte d'Ivoire: the country was visited in 2019, and was given many recommendations to improve their catch certification and monitoring system. They need to improve their monitoring and control centre, to invest in catch certification mechanisms, etc. Enforcement mechanisms are not satisfactory. There is no plan to return to this country soon, but work will continue through the catch certification system applying a risk management criterion.
- Indonesia: not much progress has been made, they need to ratify FAO PSMA, count their vessels. It is a huge country with great potential for improvement and help, particularly in terms of their involvement in RFMOs.
- Philippines: they still don't have a second yellow card, there is a strong commitment to improve their control policy, as well as to amend their fisheries code. However, there are concerns about both aspects (BILL AND CONTROL). It is a country that is still closely monitored.



https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/dac17bdf-42cf-4525-884c-44050b31d6a0_en?filename=illegal-fishing-overview-of-existing-procedures-third-countries_en.pdf. The yellow card was withdrawn in 2015.

Finally, regarding the enforcement and verification mechanisms between MS and the EU, our team is making efforts to verify MS reporting, with checks and verifications of their practices, methodologies used (with EFCA), advice. A new biannual reporting period begins, hopefully not as time-consuming as before. The European Court of Auditors is also informing that the Commission can act by omission of a MS. Inter-agency cooperation needs to be improved within Member States with ministries and bodies responsible for fisheries, maritime, customs, sanitary and health related issues.

Then there is a Q&A session:

In response to the question asked by Ms. Felicidad Fernández, ANFACO, on the need for policy-wide coordination on tariff and quota issues (e.g. Vietnam has a yellow card and no quotas), Mr. Swiderek, EC, says that coordination will take place internally with DG TRADE, and that they are coordinating all these aspects. However, coordination between the IUU fishing policy and free trade agreements is difficult.

Mr. Héctor Fernández, Bolton Food, notes that the same arguments that can be used when talking about quotas may be used when regulating forced labour.

Mr. Julien Daudu, EJF, says that the MAC adopted a piece of advice in this regard on Thailand.

The EC representative, Mr. Swiderek, notes that, although the processes are not the same, the same arguments may be used in both cases.

Finally, he adds that China is taking action against Chinese nationals who are engaged in IUU fishing activities.

Regarding Member States' performance on regulation and control, Mr. Julio Morón, OPAGAC, highlights the different levels of both customs control and control points.

Regarding compliance and verification by EU Member States, Mr. Swiderek, EC, points out that the DG MARE team is making great efforts in order to verify their practices, in fact, they are starting a new biennial report which they hope will not take as long as the previous one.

11.2. [Joint AFRIFISH-NET-AWFISHNET-CAOPA Statement s/ IUU fishing in the context of fisheries effective management \(FAO, COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, January 2024\)](#)

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, sets out the joint statement adopted by three pan-African organisations AFRIFISH-Net, AWFISHNET and CAOPA which was presented on behalf of civil society and artisanal fisheries at the FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, held in January 2024.



The document addresses issues for tackling IUU fishing in the context of effective fisheries management, linked to the development and implementation of regulations, with specific initiatives like the promotion of participatory monitoring as well as the involvement of artisanal fishers in the decision-making process. In addition to the importance of giving more visibility to artisanal fisheries and its role within the local economy of the countries, it should be remembered that digital technology contributes to controlling resources and catches with management systems and zonal control notices for issues like MPA.

Mr. Carlos Lorenzo, Spanish Secretariat General for Fisheries (SGP), points out that he participated at the COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management and notes that it was not possible to include this statement in the final report due to the opposition of China.

12. Any other business

With no other issues to address, the Chair, Mr. Daudu, announces that the next WG5 meeting will be held in October in Brussels. To wrap up, he thanks participants for their contributions, the interpreters for the quality of their work and the Secretariat for their coordination work.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING



**Annex I: List of LDAC WG5 attendees
Brussels, 06 March 2024**

Working Group 5 Members

1. Julien Daudu. EIJ
2. Daniel Voces. EUROPÊCHE
3. Béatrice Gorez. CFFA-CAPE
4. Raúl García. WWF
5. Antonia Leroy. WWF
6. Felicidad Alonso. ANFACO-CECOPECA/AIPCE
7. Sean Parramore. EIJ
8. Julio Morón. OPAGAC
9. Edelmiro Ulloa. Opanapa / OPPC-3/ ACEMIX / AGARBA
10. David Troncoso. ANASCO
11. Rosalie Tukker. EUROPÊCHE
12. Ignacio Fresco. OCEANA
13. Vanya Vulperhorst. OCEANA
14. Joelle Philippe. CFFA-CAPE
15. Javier Garat. CEPESCA
16. Irene Prieto. AGARBA
17. Emil Remisz. High Seas Fish Producers Organization
18. Despina Symons. EBCD
19. Maximilian Schwarz. EBCD
20. Janne Posti. CONXEMAR
21. Héctor Fernández. Bolton Food
22. Sergio López. OPP-Puerto Burela
23. Juan Manuel Trujillo. European Transport Federation
24. Aivaras Labanauskas. Lithuanian Long Distance Fisheries Association
25. Juana Parada. ORPAGU

Observers

26. Desiree Kjolsen. DG MARE
27. Charlotte Goulot. DG MARE
28. Alessandra Lamotte. DG MARE (Zoom)
29. Pawel Swiderek. DG MARE
30. David Hammond. Human Rights at Sea International
31. David Vivas. UNCTAD
32. Ismael Yagüe. Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA)
33. Rita Santos. EFCA
34. Alberto Martin. MSC
35. Luis Belmonte. SGP
36. Konstantinos Kalamatis. EP
37. Carlos Lorenzo. Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) Secretariat General for Fisheries, Spain (Zoom)

LDAC Secretariat

38. Alexandre Rodríguez. LDAC
39. Manuela Iglesias. LDAC
40. Marta de Lucas. LDAC (Zoom)