



PRESS RELEASE – READY FOR CIRCULATION

The LDAC calls for climate-resilient fisheries strategy in non-EU waters



Image source: Nature

Madrid, 23 March 2026

The Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) has adopted an advice with several recommendations urging the European Commission to systematically integrate climate change considerations into its future EU external fisheries action policy, including Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs).

Climate change is already affecting fish stock distribution, productivity and seasonal availability, with direct consequences for both EU distant-water fleets and non-EU coastal communities' dependent fisheries, with specific focus on small-scale fisheries. The LDAC highlights the need to avoid a “loss–loss” situation and calls for a balanced approach combining environmental sustainability, socio-economic resilience and legal certainty.

Key recommendations include climate-informed fisheries management; stronger and reliable environmental scientific data; support for adaptation and mitigation measures in partner countries; and improved forecasting and early detection tools.

“Climate change is no longer a future risk — it is already reshaping fisheries globally. The EU must act now to integrate climate resilience into its external fisheries policy. We need a fair and cooperative approach that safeguards sustainable fishing and the livelihoods of coastal communities.”

– Alexandre Rodríguez, LDAC Secretary General

In conclusion, integrating climate resilience into EU fisheries relations is essential to safeguard long-term partnerships and ensure sustainability for both EU fleets and coastal communities.

The LDAC advice can be accessed here:

https://ldac.eu/images/EN_LDAC_Advice_Climate_Change_International_Fisheries_SFPA_RFMOs_12March2026.pdf



Information note about the LDAC:

The [Long Distance Advisory Council](#) (LDAC) is an EU fisheries stakeholder body which provides evidence based advice to the European Commission and EU Member States on matters related to Fisheries Agreements with Third Countries, relations with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) in which the EU is a contracting party, or with international organizations in whose waters the EC Fleet operates, as well as other policy aspects such as fight against IUU fishing, social dimension or labour rights..

The LDAC is currently made up by 55 member organisations including fishing sector (including catching, processing and marketing sectors, and trade unions), and other groups of interest (environmental NGOs and civil society) from 11 EU coastal Member States.