

MINUTES

LDAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 16 February 2022
Virtual meeting - Online (Zoom)

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

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

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, starts the meeting noting that it is a sad day for the fisheries community, especially for the one in Vigo, due to the tragedy of the "Villa de Pitanxo" vessel, rendering tribute on this day to seafarers from Galicia, Ghana and Peru that lost their lives on board this vessel, conveying his condolences on behalf of the whole LDAC and joining in the pain of the whole fisheries sector and the families.

He then welcomes attendees and informs of apologies received from Mr. Xavier Leduc, WG2 vice chair, for not being able to attend.

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

N.B. The Secretariat notes that there is the necessary quorum for adoption of decisions by members present or represented.

The minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting held on 30 November 2021 are approved.

The agenda is approved after deleting item 7.3- *LDAC draft reply to EU public consultation on functioning of the CFP* that will be addressed during presentation of items 2 and 5 (within update provided by Working Group 5).

2. Presentations from DG MARE on ongoing EU consultations

2.1. EU targeted consultations on the 2022 report on the functioning of the CFP & CMO. Roadmap and calendar of publication of studies

The representative of the EC, Ms. Fleur Breullin, informs that the deadline to reply to the online questionnaire has been extended to 14 March 2022. She explains that it is a wide consultation paying special attention to the topics of social dimension, climate change and achieving clean oceans.

The main aim is to have technical evidence, facts, opinions and proof indicating what CFP elements are working and what parts could be improved within the regulatory framework in force.

She clarifies that there is the possibility of focusing on specific parts of the questionnaire and sending position documents on certain sections where one might wish to submit complementary information. She explains that in addition to the questionnaire, every input received will be

analysed and the consultation findings will be presented at regional events and at a high level one. Regarding the latter, she confirms that there will be a workshop on 10 June where the functioning of the CFP and future challenges will be discussed.

In addition, DG MARE is coordinating a series of specific studies on aspects such as climate change, regionalisation and landing obligation. They hope to be able to publish the results of each report in the next few weeks and to have them all finalised by the summer. Furthermore, they are analysing developments taking place in the studies carried out by the European Parliament and the consultation led by MEP Gabriel Mato, and they are paying attention to the regional events to be organised.

In reply to the question asked by Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, about their format of and how these regional events will be organised and whether country nationals could be included, Ms. Breullin, EC, says that the idea is that Member States' regional groups help them in the organisation of these events, and she thinks that ACs could also be invited to participate.

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, asks whether the study under preparation on the retrospective assessment of sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs) will be part of the report and whether there is more information in terms of content and estimated publication date, as well as whether it will be presented separately before stakeholders. The representative of the EC, Ms. Breullin, notes that it will be available around the summer and that it will be presented before stakeholders. She adds that they will study the consistency of this report with the general one to avoid contradictions or repetitions, noting that the next CFP will not be a reform and that they shall analyse the areas that are working and those parts can be improved.

Mr. Iván López, AGARBA, declares that he finds it a bit confusing for stakeholders to monitor the work since it is conducted in parallel to the action plan on marine ecosystems. In this regard, he would like there to be more clarity in order to contribute to the process and know where efforts ought to be directed, including the European Social Dialogue Committee

Mr. Daniel Voces, Europêche, explains that in his opinion the public consultation was hastily launched without having had sufficient dialogue with stakeholders. From his point of view, the adoption of any action plan where no analysis was previously conducted to see what actually works and what does not should be postponed.

Then, the representative of the EC, Mr. Frangiscos Nikolian, informs that the 2022 targeted consultation on the functioning of the Common Market Organisation (CMO) has been extended to 14 March in parallel to that of the CFP. It is the CFP pillar for post-harvest activities. The aim of the latter is to take stock of the CMO application, drafting a report with different data and evidence, not an assessment *per se*. The main outcome of the consultations will be included in a report that will compile evidences and inputs by interbranch and stakeholder organisations. It will be a transparent process also based on the figures provided by the EUMOFA observatory, as well as on the existing rules of origin in the field of competition, and on information regarding marketing aspects of POs, Eurobarometer data. He points out that they will participate in a specific cross-sectional workshop (no regionalisation here) to be organised on the CMO. He urges all stakeholders to send their replies to the consultation.

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, highlights the LDAC advice on reaching a level playing field, more precisely the section on markets, as well as a specific study on LPF carried out by the MarInnLeg Foundation.

Mr. Raúl García, WWF, states the importance of traceability in canned products, especially in cans of tuna. He believes it is essential to review traceability of the latter regarding their origin, as well as labour conditions in which they were produced.

Mr. Juan Manuel Trujillo, ETF, underlines the importance of granting equal treatment to imports of fishery products, favouring compliance with labour and social rights and promoting a level playing field for EU and non EU fishery operators when accessing markets. He thinks it is something that the CMO should consider.

Mr. Roberto Carlos, ANFACO, believes that the CMO brings an opportunity for the sector and the sea-industry complex, he underlines that import control is critical and that there is a long way to go even within the EU, since some countries comply in a very strict way while others still need to fill gaps. In his opinion, these issues must be addressed prior to implementing regulations that may jeopardise compliance by operators and that can make European companies creating a large number of jobs in the whole European value chain lose competitiveness. He underlines the importance of the EU defending the strategic position of the European processing industry at the CMO in order to protect our economies and industries.

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, considers essential to study the impacts on local coastal communities and enquires whether the assessments will take into account products not targeting human consumption (such as fish meal and fish oil for the West African population).

The representative of the EC, Mr. Frangiscos Nikolian, agrees on the fact that import control is essential and could help the European fisheries sector in making a difference vis-à-vis foreign competitors. He adds that the CMO integrates a control component where traceability is included; and also labelling, highlighting that both are closely related. He notes that they will pay special attention to coordination mechanisms between both components, since having good traceability would also be an indicator of good labelling.

In addition, he explains that the consultation is not an impact assessment, since it does not intend to review or reopen this regulation, but it is just a report to identify gaps or deficiencies. The next step could be to carry out an assessment in the future, having a political mandate then.

As for the LPF, he highlights that the CMO has launched a review of marketing standards and they will try to include sustainability criteria.

He does not have much more information on the CMO workshop, but it will develop in parallel to the CFP one, they still have topics to be defined.

2.2. Call for evidence - Update of the international Ocean Governance (IOG) Agenda

The representative of the EC, Ms. Alessandra Lamotte, informs that a call for ideas on how to implement international ocean governance had been published the previous month, the deadline of which had been the previous day. She encourages the LDAC to share its opinions.

She highlights the following as the pillars to this call: the UNCLOS framework, reducing the pressure of fishing practices and research and knowledge regarding oceans. In fact, she notes that since 2016 they have been publishing reports showing progress made regarding the implementation of these policies that have sustainability at their core, observing enhanced awareness and concern by Member States on ocean governance.

In terms of events, the One Ocean Summit was recently held in France, with the next large dialogue forum being the UN Ocean Conference to be held in Lisbon in June. They wish to reach an agreement at COP 15 on international ocean governance and on plastics. They are currently preparing a new communication. They expect to have it approved in June.

The General Secretary, Alexandre Rodríguez, explains why the LDAC did not formally contribute to the public consultation regarding the call for evidence, since it was a very ambitious and complicated approach to be summarised in a prompt reply. It was decided that informal exchanges and discussions should continue with DG MARE, sending feedback with new elements such as how to ensure food supply or the importance of the role of fisheries in the blue economy.

Ms. Lamotte, EC, thanks Mr. Rodríguez for the explanations given and encourages the LDAC to contribute its knowledge in this regard, especially concerning the social dimension.

Mr. Michel Goujon, ORTHONGEL, informs that he participated in the One Ocean Summit in France himself. Regarding activities in the high seas, he says that he made a presentation on the role of RFMOs in the future framework at the high seas (BBNJ) that could be the starting point for the preparation of LDAC draft advice. He adds that he will put in on the table at the next Working Group 1 meeting to be held in March.

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, explains that the week before the EU-Africa Summit was held, where last Monday DG MARE organised a gathering on dialogue and importance of international ocean governance. Moreover, she points out that the latter addressed artisanal fisheries, since it is an essential element and its inclusion and integration in SFPAs with the EU must be studied. Another essential element is acknowledging the work carried out by women in local communities and the problems they face. In this regard, the LDAC prepared specific advice on this matter in the past¹.

Finally, she highlights the importance of the role of fisheries in the blue economy, voicing her concern about the dominance or priority given to other extractive sectors with a larger impact on the environment and fewer social and economic benefits for local economies depending upon these marine ecosystems, as the extraction of hydrocarbons and underwater mining.

Mr. Iván López, AGARBA, emphasises that RFMOs are fundamental tools to achieve international and fisheries governance. He notes that the EU is the only actor present in most RFMOs. He believes that RFMO scientific bodies must be coordinated using knowledge about the seabed as a basis for new industries and sectors.

Mr. Okeloh W'Namadoa, AFRIFISH coordinator and LDAC observer, says -on the meeting chat- that discussion on IOG is essential for communities that rely on the ocean for their livelihood, especially fishers and artisanal coastal communities. In addition, as representative of AFRIFISH, he welcomes this discussion, which recalls the attempts to implement the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy under the Nairobi Convention.

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, LDAC, replies that the LDAC will be delighted to continue discussing with AFRIFISH on this matter and other related to regional governance and partnerships and collaboration between the EU and Africa.

Ms. Lamotte, EC, informs that the commitment of the EU with RFMOs was reaffirmed at the Ocean Summit, highlighting that the EU was involved in the preparation of 3 protocols: one with Africa, one on Blue Economy and one on IOG.

¹ https://ldac.eu/images/EN_LDAC_Advice_on_Women_in_Fisheries_SFPAs_26May2020.pdf

3. Presentation of EP questionnaire on state of play of implementation of the CFP and post-2020 perspectives: key issues for the external dimension

Mr. Gabriel Mato, MEP, starts by sharing his condolences with all the fisheries family over the tragedy of the sunken vessel. He then thanks the LDAC for having invited him to present the questionnaire on state of play of implementation of the CFP and post-2020 perspectives².

He notes that there are EC and EP consultations in parallel, wishing both parties to have further dialogue with the EC and for the latter to take further into account the own-initiative report (INI) to be published by the Parliament in the future.

In his opinion, currently environmental sustainability is *de facto* above economic and social sustainability in the CFP, and he believes a balance among all three of them needs to be achieved. He thinks that politicians must listen more to all actors and stakeholders in order to set objectives that we are able to comply with.

He points out that one of the targets of the UN sustainable development goals is food security in order to reduce import dependency.

Another fundamental aspect is the social side of fisheries, paying special attention to the essential role of fishers as seafarers, as well as the problem regarding generational replacement, which is quite a challenge for European fisheries nowadays.

Concerning governance, he highlights that it is important to reflect upon the way in which we can manage to achieve governance within the EU and how the EU can ensure sustainable fisheries for the benefit of all. He hopes fisheries and aquaculture will have the central position they deserve within European policies, relying on the involvement of sectors concerned in order to achieve feasible and fair legislation.

He underlines that the role of EU advisory councils for fisheries and aquaculture is of the essence in order to not only guide the European Commission but also the European Parliament in its role as co-legislator together with the Council. Moreover, he considers of extreme importance early involvement and consultation of sectors concerned to have applicable, fair and realistic legislation, and he reflects upon the role of ACs regarding decision-making and whether they should have a strengthened advisory body role.

Besides, he points out that the EU is leading the fight against IUU fishing. He wishes the European fleet to continue to be exemplary and competitive, but in a level playing field framework where non EU operators have to comply with the same compliance and quality standards. The EU is a very important actor in international fora, as it is the case of the UN, FAO or RFMOs. Sustainable fisheries agreements are essential for the development of EU fishing activities in third countries in a transparent and fair framework, with mutual benefits for the EU and third countries. We need to avoid the temptation of these countries to replace us by means of private or public agreements with fleets from other countries, such as Russia or China, with looser conditions.

Finally, he recalls that the deadline to reply to the consultation is the end of March, since the report is planned to be drafted in April. Furthermore, he informs that the EP Committee on Fisheries will organise a public hearing on the "State of play of the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and future perspectives" in mid March.

Then there is a round of questions by the members present:

² https://ldac.eu/images/EP_draft_report_G_Mato_Implementation_CFP_and_perspectives_questionnaire.pdf

Mr. Raúl García, WWF, congratulates Mr. Mato on his initiative, agreeing with him on most of the elements mentioned in his CFP impact assessment and insisting on his concern for the social dimension of the fisheries policy. As an example, he says that 33% of European fishers do not reach the minimum salary, and it goes up to 70% when we talk about artisanal fisheries, highlighting that there are no social aims, which should be at the same level as economic and environmental aims. In fact, since 2014 knowledge of socio-ecological systems has been strengthened with bio-economic models that can be very helpful. He asks how this system analysis can be included in art. 17 of the CFP for it to be implemented in the Member States, and he thinks that in Spain it should be included both in the future law on sustainable fisheries and on the national biodiversity strategy.

Mr. Mato, MEP, replies that in his opinion the EU biodiversity strategy has forgotten about fisheries to a large extent, adopting positions without bearing in mind scientific studies, for instance, regarding 30% of marine protected areas. Therefore, they wish and encourage to keep on working together.

Mr. Daniel Voces, Europêche, is grateful for consultations launched by the EP but regrets that aims are not being achieved, there being many problems regarding their implementation. He agrees on the fact that the social and economic aim has been forgotten, and this comes with the loss of jobs and of profitability for fleets. In fact, he points out that no socio-economic references are made in the multiannual plans, although environmental standards are definitely mentioned. From his point of view, food sovereignty is forgotten and so is the fact that distant water and deep-sea industrial fleets provide 95% of the fish we consume in the EU.

He then recalls the importance of paying attention to the role of RFMOs, fisheries agreements and international biodiversity strategies. In addition, he insists on the importance of promoting a level playing field and economic competitiveness for European fleets vis-à-vis non EU fleets.

Mr. Mato, MEP, agrees with the comments made by Mr. Voces and replies that they request proportionality and a level playing field for all fleets, being aware of the importance of this aspect.

4. STECF Annual Economic Report (AER) 2021 - Distant Water Fleet (DWF) (Raúl Prellezo)

4.1. Presentation on AER 2021: performance and trends of DWF by regions

Mr. Raúl Prellezo, Chair of the Expert Working Group (EWG) of the Annual Economic Report (AER) of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), starts by thanking the LDAC Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, for his work as expert and coordinator of the chapter on the distant water fleet (DWF).

He then makes a detailed presentation on the STECF AER for 2021, full content of which can be consulted and downloaded on the following link:
https://ldac.eu/images/STECF_AER_2021_presentation_DWF_LDAC.pdf

4.2. Way forward: LDAC participation in STECF AER EWGs for 2022

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, explains the importance of this 2021 AER work to enhance knowledge about the economic performance and added value of the European DWF in terms of high-quality fish supply, creation of jobs and production of wealth.

Therefore, Mr. Rodríguez requests the LDAC to renew his annual mandate to work in the two EWG foreseen for 2022 in his capacity as expert and technical coordinator of the DWF at the EWG meetings to be held by the STECF in order to prepare the AER.

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, supports the renewal of his mandate and suggests the members follow suit. Precisely, he believes it is very important that the LDAC continues to collaborate in this economic report to make sure that it is as comprehensive as possible, encouraging Member States and those interested to collaborate in the collection of data.

ACTION:

- **It is unanimously approved to renew Mr. Rodríguez's mandate to continue working in his capacity as EU DWF coordinator in the STECF Expert Working Group (EWG) in 2022, allowing for his registration and participation as expert.**

5. Presentation on procedure for elections of LDAC Chair and Vice Chairs; members of the LDAC Executive Committee and classification of members (Secretariat)

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, starts by informing that the new Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/204 laying down detailed rules on the functioning of Advisory Councils under the CFP has already been published³. It clarifies criteria to classify AC members in the categories "sector organisations" and "other interest groups".

He then explains that at the next annual General Assembly meeting, planned for 18 May 2022, the positions of LDAC Chair and Vice Chairs shall be elected, as well as the 25 members of the Executive Committee. He recalls that the mandate will have a 3-year duration, from 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2025. He notes that the Secretariat circulated among the members an election procedure proposal to be approved today and that can be found on the following link:

https://ldac.eu/images/EN_Electoral_Procedure_Executive_Committee_LDAC_2022_web.pdf

DECISION: The members of the Executive Committee unanimously agree to approve the election procedure drafted by the Secretariat.

6. Update on the work of Working Groups.

6.1. Report on actions agreed at WG1, WG2, WG4 and WG5 meetings (September-October 2021)

Mr. Michel Goujon, WG1 Chair, summarises the actions agreed at the last Working Group 1 meeting:

* ICCAT: The Secretariat compiled a document with all the opinions and comments received from members concerned regarding voluntary self-regulating measures and initiatives adopted by the industry for tropical tuna and shortfin mako stocks.

* IOTC The Secretariat will coordinate the invitation to the representatives of the EC and scientists to present an update of discussions and results from the last annual meeting, as well as to the Working Group on FADs at the next WG1 meeting.

* Collaboration between the LDAC and ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT:

³ https://ldac.eu/images/EN_Delegated_Regulation_2022_204_functioning_ACs.pdf

* ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT will share with the LDAC the main conclusions of the desk study on the review of national and international legislation applicable to West African countries related to FAD control and management; as well as the potential impact of using FADs on the marine environment. ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT invited the LDAC to participate in an "atelier de restitution" (specific workshop) where the findings of this study were presented.

* Regarding the regional observer programme at sea: The LDAC will work together with ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT to prepare a draft opinion on the possibility to continue developing a regional scientific observer programme at sea complementary to those developed by Spanish and French tuna purse seiners in collaboration with their national scientific institutes and MCS authorities.

The following **ACTIONS** are agreed:

- **WG1 chair, Michel Goujon, suggests preparing a draft opinion on "the role of RFMOs in the future high seas framework", so after some discussion the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the next WG1 meeting is approved.**
- **Mr. Raúl García, WWF, suggests setting up a FG to discuss allocation criteria for tropical tuna stocks for the next ICCAT and IOTC meetings.**

WG4 Chair, Mr. Julio Morón, summarises the actions agreed at the last WG4 meeting:

- State of play of SFPAs currently in force: The LDAC Secretariat will follow these agreements and will coordinate all necessary work to address specific problems highlighted by the members, such as for instance, the situation of the Spanish pole and line fleets in Senegal; problems regarding embarking (and disembarking) of observers as well as the processing possibilities of fishery products in Gabon; problems with vessels which are suspicious of carrying out IUU fishing activities operating in Mauritius; findings of the EC study on the use of sectoral support in Côte d'Ivoire; the appeal to the CJEU ruling about the cancellation of trade and fisheries agreements between the EU and Morocco owing to the Western Sahara conflict, etc.
- Regional fisheries management in West Africa: As follow-up to the reply of the EC to the LDAC advice issued at the beginning of the year, Ms. Béatrice Goretz, CFFA-CAPE, suggested that the Secretariat identify actions where the EC has progressed and those that have been improved. WG4 agreed on using the concept note drafted by Mr. Ad Corten on the historical view of developments in regional governance in West Africa as a starting point to initiate discussions at Focus Group level in order to issue a specific recommendation.
- Results of the EU consultation targeting stakeholders on the assessment of SFPAs: The Secretariat will invite both the SFPAs unit at DG MARE and external consultants who are carrying out this work to the next WG4 meeting so that they can present the final recommendations of the study about the assessment.
- Implementation of the "social clause" in SFPAs: A focus group was set up at the end of 2021 that has already met several times and is working on a draft opinion.
- On the occasion of World Maritime Day organised by IMO: the LDAC will study the possibility of drafting a letter to be addressed to DG EMP and DG TRADE (copying DG MARE) considering the need for awareness and social and safety protection of fishers to be at the same level as that of the merchant navy. The following **ACTION** is agreed: **to resume the drafting of this letter.**

- Partnership network and external organisations: the idea is to continue looking for potential ways to collaborate with new international organisations to expand the partner network and promote collaboration and commitment in fisheries management, with special focus on the Indian Ocean.
- ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT: The LDAC will continue working with ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT on the organisation of a joint workshop on the implementation of agreements granting access to fisheries in Africa in 2022. It will also closely follow the development of training and the implementation of a regional system of observers at sea and of harmonised control inspections at port.

WG5 Chair, Mr. Julien Daudu, summarises the actions agreed at the last WG5 meeting:

- Fight against illegal, undocumented and unregulated (IUU) fishing: the EC published a handbook/guide on its website to help Member States with the correct interpretation of standards⁴.
- The EC shared the information requested about Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Kitts and Nevis.
- Morocco: In view of the recent ruling by the General Court of Justice of the EU cancelling Council decisions on EU trade and fisheries agreements in the Sahara dispute, work on the drafting of an opinion is postponed until there is further legal certainty regarding this matter.
- China: EJF is preparing a report with conclusions on the impact of the global fishing footprint and the activity of the Chinese distant water fishing fleet in international waters. The idea is that, in 2022, once this report is made publicly available, the LDAC starts working to state its opinion on this matter. The possibility of setting up a focus group to this end and/or of discussing it directly within WG5 will be considered.
- Trade policy:
 - Commission document on the review of the generalised system of preferences (GSP)⁵: It is agreed that a list of all relevant questions that LDAC members may have is to be compiled, so that they can be submitted to DG TRADE and invite them to participate (through DG MARE coordinators) in the next WG5 meeting to reply to them.

- WG4 Chair, Mr. Julio Morón, suggests holding a high level meeting to open discussion and find solutions so that fishery products coming from fleets violating human rights cannot access or be sold in the UE. Communication channels should be opened between DG TRADE and the LDAC. It is agreed that the debate on how to organise this event will be opened and it is suggested that a letter be written to the Commissionaire or the Director General for Fisheries, Ms. Vitcheva, requesting a meeting in this regard once face-to-face meetings can be resumed.

- The LDAC General Secretary virtually attended -in his capacity as LDAC permanent observer- the MAC WG2 meeting in January 2022 to follow matters of common interest for both ACs.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/system/files/2021-12/frequently-asked-questions-iuu-regulation_en.pdf

⁵ https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/september/tradoc_159803.pdf

- "Sustainable blue economy in the EU: the role of fisheries and aquaculture": the European Parliament own-initiative report (INI) was published, the rapporteur of which is the MEP Isabel Carvalhais. Information was sent to the rapporteur on the importance of taking fisheries into account in the international dimension of the blue economy, with special emphasis on access and priority to local artisanal fisheries in coastal countries over other catching activities, particularly in those countries with which the EU has signed sustainable fisheries agreements.

- Work on the social dimension of the CFP with the members of the European Social Dialogue Committee: LDAC WG5 will continue to work on the priorities identified in its roadmap to send key messages to the EC and the Member States.

- "Due diligence" in the fisheries value chain: A focus group will be set up that will include all stakeholders to discuss the EC proposal and decide the way forward. In addition, aspects related to food security (e.g. fishmeal not intended for direct human consumption) or to the link between human rights and the environment will also be included.

- WG5 will work together with WG4 to progress on the drafting of an opinion on the importance of the social clause in fisheries agreements, showing its link with the strategy and origin of the different products that gain access to the European market, and the interest of other ACs to participate in the preparation of a joint opinion on this matter will be analysed.

- International Ocean Governance (IOG): The LDAC Secretariat will closely follow any updates and the publication of the 2030 agenda for IOG implementation.

- Deep-sea mining in international waters: the draft advice was approved and sent to the EC, and the Secretariat will follow negotiations leading to the adoption of an Underwater Mining Exploitation Regulation for 2022 and 2023 according to the work schedule approved by ISA. The possibility of drafting a follow-up opinion will be considered if necessary.

- Strengthening the relationship LDAC-FAO: a virtual coordination meeting was held to identify different common working points with FAO beyond the merely social field.

The General Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, summarises the actions agreed at the last WG2 meeting:

- Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation - NAFO: The Secretariat will call a Focus Group between mid June and August 2022, depending on the availability of the report of the NAFO Scientific Council. The aim of this meeting is to prepare a first draft that will be ready to be presented at the technical coordination meeting with DG MARE that is usually held on the last week of August.
- Proposal of Recommendation of the LDAC on the (re)positioning of the EU in the post-Brexit new fisheries governance framework in NEA: The Secretariat called a focus group to discuss the document prepared by the Secretariat itself based on the inputs received from Européche and Pew in June and September 2021, respectively. Once agreed, a first draft was sent to WG2 that is presented today before the Executive Committee for approval.
- Proposal to set up an EU stakeholder forum in NEA: The PELAC and LDAC Secretariats will call a joint focus group in 2022 (open to other ACs) to discuss a concept note on potential scenarios and modalities for the organisation of an Inter AC meeting on this matter. Once agreed, the

secretariats will analyse the possibility of initiating a process to adopt joint advice on this matter.

6.2. Planning and topics to be included for Working Groups / Focus Groups

These items were already addressed under item 6.1.

7. Presentation of LDAC working papers and advice:

FOR APPROVAL:

7.1. Draft LDAC advice on the (re)positioning of the European Union towards Northeast Atlantic fisheries multilateral negotiations in the post-Brexit scenario (WG2)

The General Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, explains that the draft advice is the result of discussions held in the second half of 2021 by a small working group and followed by a WG2 consultation in January. The members were invited to present their final comments by Tuesday 15 February 2022. The draft is available here:

https://ldac.eu/images/Rev_EN_DRAFT_LDAC_Advice_on_EU_NEA_governance_web9Feb2022.pdf

DECISION: It was agreed that the draft advice should be approved and sent to the EC.

7.2. Draft LDAC Letter supporting resources for staff of DG MARE (Ex. Com)

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, presents the draft letter and the reasons for it to be approved (available at: https://ldac.eu/images/Draft_letter_Reduction_budget_Feb2022rev8Feb.pdf) inviting LDAC members to make comments to it.

DECISION: It was agreed that the draft letter should be approved to be sent to the EC.

FOR DISCUSSION:

7.3. LDAC draft reply to EU public consultation on functioning of the CFP (WG5).

This item was deleted according to modifications made to the agenda.

7.4. Roadmap on European fishing investments in third countries (Ex. Com)

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, explains the approved roadmap (available at https://ldac.eu/images/EN_Hoja_de_ruta_emp_inver_ext_Feb2022_rev_9Feb2022.pdf).

The idea is to hold a conference with high level participants focusing on fisheries investments in third countries, as well as on compensations in SFPAs and in the countries of origin, showing successful cases in Africa. He encourages all members wishing to be part of the Steering Committee to inform the LDAC Secretariat.

Mr. David Troncoso, ANASCO, expresses his congratulations on the initiative, stating that he finds it extremely appropriate and highlighting the fundamental role that this kind of companies have in food security.

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, supports the initiative and suggests that sustainability should be underlined, highlighting that there are good examples of European fisheries investments that are sustainable and others which are not. She believes it is essential to analyse both strengths and weaknesses and requests all stakeholders get involved in this initiative.

DECISIONS. The following ACTIONS are agreed:

- To approve the roadmap and the organisation of a conference on fisheries investments in third countries.

- The LDAC Secretariat will send a call addressed to WG5 members so that they can send their expressions of interest to be part of the Steering Committee.
- This item will be included in the agenda of the next WG5 meeting.

8. State of play of collaboration partnerships (Chairs, Vice Chairs, Secretariat):

8.1. AFRIFISH

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, summarises the content of the letter received from AFRIFISH, which is available here: https://ldac.eu/images/LETTRE_Afrifish_20-01-2022.pdf

He then gives the floor to Mr. Okeloh W'Namadoa, General Secretary of AFRIFISH, who thanks the LDAC for its invitation to interact with them. He explains that AFRIFISH is the continental shelf that gathers non State actors of African fisheries, placing special emphasis on coastal communities' artisanal fisheries. He underlines that the letter sent to the LDAC aims to establish strategic and close collaboration that he thinks can be very positive for both parties. He hopes that they can continue collaborating.

Then, Mr. Gaoussou Gueye, AFRIFISH, says that it is a shelf divided into 5 regions, where there is a lot of work to be carried out in order to improve governance and transparency. He highlights the importance of artisanal fisheries and of small pelagics to ensure food supply, giving as an example the use of catches to prepare fishmeal when there is a lack of food in some populations.

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, suggests that AFRIFISH should participate in the event regarding fisheries investments in third countries, also in order to support decent conditions in third countries, pointing out that Senegal has ratified ILO Convention 188, although they need to study how they are going to implement it.

Mr. Raúl García, WWF, supports Ms. Gorez's proposal and believes that CAOPA can also help them understand coastal communities.

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, thanks AFRIFISH for their letter and collaboration offer which they value in a very positive way, since it will allow the LDAC to closely get to know the African regions' point of view. He suggests that they may join the LDAC as permanent observers to participate in as many meetings as they wish.

The following **ACTION** is agreed:

- **To reply to the AFRIFISH letter, to define the terms of collaboration and to invite them to participate in LDAC future meetings with the status of permanent observer.**

8.2. FAO

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, informs that last 11 February a scope meeting was held between the main representatives of FAO and a LDAC delegation to identify common work priorities and potential collaboration paths.

The aim was to agree on an informal roadmap on which the LDAC work will be based for 2022 in their preparation of guidance for the European Commission on topics related to FAO.

Identified common interest work areas are the following:

- * Common Oceans ABNJ Programme: Deep-sea fisheries and tunas
- * Impacts of climate change on fisheries
- * The value of small-scale fisheries for food security and sustainability: role of blue economy and innovation in the fisheries value chains and the IYAFa

- * Links between the EU Blue Growth Strategy and the FAO Blue Growth Initiative/Forum
- * Fish trade: traceability of fishery products
- * Regional cooperation among Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs)
- * Fight against illegal, undocumented and unreported (IUU) fishing and implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)
- * Social responsibility of the fisheries value chain.
- * FAO report on agreements granting access to fisheries – more information: <https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/news-events/details-news/fr/c/1456413/>
- * Preparation of FAO COFI35 planned for September 2022

To conclude, Mr. Rodríguez highlights that FAO has an open attitude to maintain informal dialogue with the LDAC, since they believe that it is very important to adopt a multistakeholder and participatory approach in order to achieve fisheries sustainable and responsible management.

The following **ACTION** is agreed:

- **The Executive Secretary will send the identified initiatives where the LDAC could work with FAO. This item will be included in the agenda of the next WG5 meeting.**

8.3. MarInnLeg Foundation

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, summarises the content of the letter received from MarInnLeg, which is available here: https://ldac.eu/images/Letter_MarInnLeg_2Feb2022.pdf

Then, Ms. Annina Bürgin, manager at MarInnLeg, explains that the aim of the foundation is to strengthen sectoral capacities by means of the creation, management and transfer of legal, maritime and fisheries related knowledge. That is why they search to create a common base of knowledge in favour of sustainable development that will influence competitiveness in all sectors, while they are given access to knowledge, analysis, information and tools and contribute to the creation of stable jobs.

They hope to keep on contributing with the LDAC as they have done in WG5 with the level playing field advice. In addition, she shows their interest in being part of the Steering Committee on investments in third countries.

Mr. Julien Daudu, EJP, thanks Annina in his capacity as WG5 Chair for their collaboration and informal guidance in the preparation of the level playing field advice.

The following **ACTION** is agreed:

- **To reply to the MarInnLeg letter and consider inviting them to participate in future LDAC technical meetings as external advisors.**

9. Presentation of the interactive Web GIS tool for dynamic mapping relating to fisheries management in NEA (Mo Mathies)

Ms. Mo Mathies, NWWAC Executive Secretary, makes a presentation on the Web GIS dynamic mapping initiative, which is now in the pilot phase of development. Ms. Mathies' presentation is available here: https://ldac.eu/images/NWWAC_Web_GIS_Tool_LDAC_16February2022C.pdf

The following **ACTION** is agreed:

The members support the Chair's proposal to closely follow this initiative and consider the inclusion of this point in the agenda of the next WG5 meeting in order to study the possibilities of developing something similar for the LDAC once the NWWAC tool, which is expected for the end of 2022, becomes available.

10. Summary on inter-AC work (Secretariat)

10.1. Summary report from Inter AC coordination meetings held in the last quarter of 2021 and January 2022 between Secretariats, Chairs and DG MARE.

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, informs that two Inter-AC meetings between AC Secretariats and the DG MARE coordination team were held on 4 November 2021 and 18 January 2022 to solve administrative and financial issues and to prepare and coordinate high level Inter-AC meetings between ACs and DG MARE, attended by AC Chairs and Vice Chairs, where political guidelines, strategies and consultations by the Commission are addressed. These were held on 25 November 2021 and 19 January 2022, respectively.

The main topics addressed in the Secretariats' meetings were: coordination of work plan for joint advice by different ACs; identification of horizontal matters of common interest for all or some ACs; speeding up of decision-making processes for Inter-AC consultations (both at internal and external level); preparation of a letter on the strengthened role of ACs in public or targeted consultations; as well as administrative and financial issues (e.g. the new lump sum financial model, member classification criteria as fisheries sector or other interest groups, review of the functioning of ACs...)

10.2. Inter-AC meetings calendar for the first half of 2022.

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, notes that, in principle, the provisional calendar foreseen (which may be subject to changes) is the following:

- Inter-AC coordination meetings with DG MARE: 31 March and 28 June 2022.
- Meetings of AC Secretariats on administration and finances: 25 February, 12 May and a third meeting would be held in July if necessary.

10.3. Joint AC work priorities and collaboration in horizontal issues: Brexit, deep-sea mining, market aspects, review of functioning of the CFP, etc.

This item was not deeply discussed due to lack of time.

10.4. Financial aspects: update on contingency fund and lump sum methodology or justification of subsidy based on objectives

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, informs that the EC has updated the AC funding methodology, and from mid 2022 onwards the lump sum concept will be used, which involves receiving funding depending on the results and objectives achieved and not on costs and that can be summarised as follows:

- * Using a simplified format for justification and reporting of income and costs to obtain the EU contribution (unit costs; fixed amounts).
- * Payment of a global lump sum made when tasks foreseen in the subsidy agreement are fulfilled: compliance with objectives set in the annual work programme including advice, as well as the number of meetings foreseen.
- * Fulfilment of tasks is assessed when making the final payment, so the work programme gains more importance and the same applies to the description of indicators according to which such fulfilment is assessed.
- * If the number of recommendations issued and/or meetings held is below 50%, the final amount allocated could be reduced by 50% (worst case scenario).
- * Each AC shall make an objective estimation of their budgetary needs for a 4-year period. The EC will review this estimation and will make a lump sum decision proposal comparing income



requested and actual average costs of the four previous years (without counting period 2020 owing to COVID). In addition, the peculiarities of each Advisory Council will be borne in mind regarding the number of members; distance from the Secretariat headquarters to Brussels; number of working languages to take into account interpreting and translation needs, etc.

11. Closure of the meeting:

With no other issues to address, the session is adjourned by the Chair thanking all invited rapporteurs as well as the LDAC members and observers for their attendance, the Secretariat for their coordination efforts and the interpreting team for their excellent work.

ANNEX I: LIST OF ATTENDEES
LDAC Executive Committee, 16 February 2022

MEMBERS

1. Iván López. AGARBA/CEPESCA
2. Béatrice Gorez. CFFA-CAPE
3. Joelle Philippe. CFFA-CAPE
4. Anaid Panossian. CFFA-CAPE
5. Juan Manuel Liria. CEPESCA
6. Juan Manuel Trujillo. ETF
7. Rosalie Crespín. CNPMEM
8. Roberto Alonso AIPCE-CEP. AIPCE-CEP
9. Emil Remisz. NAPO
10. Despina Symons. EBCD
11. Alexandra Philippe. EBCD
12. Jacopo Pasquero. EBCD
13. Rob Banning. DPFA
14. Raúl García. WWF
15. Francisco Mari. BFW
16. Lise Lausten. DPPO
17. Luis Vicente. ADAMI
18. Christine Adams. Seas at Risk
19. Sean O'Donoghue. KFO
20. Aivaras Labanauskas. Lithuanian Long Distance Fisheries Association
21. Tim Heddema. Pelagic Freezer-Trawler Association

WG Chairs and Vice Chairs

22. WG4 - Julio Morón. OPAGAC
23. WG1 - Michel Goujon. ORTHONGEL
24. WG5 - Julien Daudu. EIJ
25. WG5 - Daniel Voces. EUROPÊCHE

OBSERVERS

26. Angela Cortina. OPNAPA, OPP3, Agarba y Acemix
27. Ferenc Szalay. Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive
28. Tom Pickerell. Global Tuna Alliance
29. David Troncoso. ANASCO
30. Ignacio Fresco. OCEANA
31. Agnes Lisik. OCEANA
32. Annina Bürgin Piñeiro. MarInnLeg Foundation
33. Carla Baz. MarInnLeg Foundation
34. Alessandra Lamotte. DG MARE B1 (IOG)
35. Fleur Breuillin. DG MARE D3 (CFP)
36. Frangiscos Miko Nikolian. DG MARE A4 CMO (Head of unit)
37. Gabriel Mato. MEP – Committee on Fisheries
38. Konstantinos Kalamantis. EP – Assistant to Gabriel Mato.

39. Rosalie Tukker. EUROPECHE
40. Raúl Pallezo. STECF
41. Gaoussou Gueye. AFRIFISH
42. Okeloh W'Namadoa. AFRIFISH
43. Michael Cohen. ISFF
44. Jean-Christophe Vandeveld. The Pew Charitable Trusts
45. Annika Mackensen. GIZ
46. Ana Sedenko. Ministry of Agriculture of Lithuania
47. Amaia Silanes. Secretariat General for Fisheries, Spain
48. Carmen Paz. Secretariat General for Fisheries, Spain
49. Mónica Corrales. Secretariat General for Fisheries, Spain
50. Mo Mathies. NWWAC
51. Matilde Vallerani. NWWAC
52. Pedro Reis. MAC
53. Alexandre Rodríguez. LDAC
54. Manuela Iglesias. LDAC
55. Marta de Lucas. LDAC