



## **MINUTES**

### **28<sup>th</sup> LDAC Working Group 4 Meeting Bilateral Relations with Third Countries**

**Thursday 30 September 2021, 10:00-13:00h (Videoconference)**

**Chair: Julio Morón (OPAGAC)**

**Vice Chair: Sara Fröcklin (SSNC)**

#### **1- Welcome and opening of the meeting.**

The Chair, Mr. Julio Morón, starts the meeting reminding attendees that it is World Maritime Day, so he would like to acknowledge all seafarers, and call upon recognition of the tough work they carry out.

He then welcomes members, observers, representatives of DG MARE, FAO and Member States, and thanks them for their attendance and participation. Finally, he presents apologies received by the Secretariat owing to absence by Messrs. Javier Garat (CEPESCA) and Abdel Benabbou (ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT).

The complete list of members and observers is included in Annex I.

#### **2- Approval of the minutes of the last WG4 meeting (held via videoconference on 16 March 2021)**

The minutes of the last meeting are approved with no additional comments.

#### **3- Approval of the agenda.**

The agenda is approved with no additional items or changes to it.

#### **4- State of play on negotiations with third countries.**

##### **4.1. Report from DG MARE on implementation of SFPAs in force; negotiations on renewals for existing ones and prospective new SFPAs.**

The representative of the EC and deputy head of the DG MARE Fisheries Agreements Unit, Mr. Emmanuel Berck, explains that this year there has been a heavy workload, with some significant achievements and many difficulties.

He highlights as main achievements the new protocol with Mauritania and with Cook Islands, and that the agreement with Gabon came into force in July.

He then informs on the new developments regarding fisheries agreements by country:

- Madagascar: negotiations have been speeding up in the last few months.

- Mauritius: it is a very important agreement for the EU in the Indian Ocean framework. The negotiation mandate was adopted a few days ago.



- Mauritania: after seven rounds of negotiation plus two extensions of the agreement in force for two additional years, an agreement with a five-year long protocol has finally been achieved. The new protocol will be adopted by the Commission in the next few days so that it is subsequently submitted to the Council WG for consideration. There are concerns about the Parliament's and Council's approval not becoming a reality prior to 15 November, which is the expiry date of the current agreement in force.

Regarding changes in the new protocol, the fishing area is extended for small pelagics according to a scientifically-based report by the Joint Committee. An amount of 480 tonnes worth EUR 5 million with an assessment after two years and a review clause after 3 is foreseen.

There is also a review mechanism, since the negotiated protocol is of 290,000 tonnes in total, with access cost amounting to EUR 57 million.

On the other hand, regarding the technical aspects of the agreement, prices for fleet segment in category 6 will be differentiated, the role of observers will be strengthened to verify catches obtained and reported by the ERS, banned species and by-catches will be defined, as well as the use of catches for fish oils. Finally, provisions related to seafarers' working conditions are included in conformity with ILO standards.

As for the sum provided in terms of sectoral support, it will amount to EUR 16.5 million. The aim was to simplify reporting models to ensure better monitoring of all matters. The Annex is a model that will examine the fleets and nourish the Scientific Committee.

He underlines that awareness has been raised among Mauritians regarding transparency when reporting fisheries activities.

- Cook Islands: It is a very important agreement to be present in the Pacific Ocean and they have devoted resources and staff to prevent fisheries activities from being interrupted as a consequence of the expiry of the current protocol. The agreement value amounts to EUR 750,000 and the most relevant piece of news is that they do not use a reference tonnage system anymore. They have reflected upon this internally and have decided to adopt the new system in force at WCPFC in the Pacific Ocean, which involves gradual charging, a new philosophy to be followed in the negotiations with Kiribati as well.

- Kiribati: Once the yellow card issued for IUU fishing has been withdrawn, they wish to follow the same system as that for Cook Islands, in order to have a common strategy for agreements in the Pacific and to reactivate dormant agreements with countries such as Solomon Islands. Although no specific date has been set yet, the debate is on the table and they are expecting to have a more specific timeline in the following weeks,

- Gabon: The new protocol came into force on 29 June. This is the largest agreement for the Atlantic tuna fleet in terms of volume of catches with 32,000 tonnes. Gabon has a great potential, in fact, they wish to develop a strategy at national level to encourage operators to land, transship and/or process at least 30% of their regional tuna catches in their hub port, to which end they ought to develop their infrastructures. In the negotiation, the EU rejected the possibility of requiring tuna catches be landed to defend the free economic decision of operators based on logistics and profitability related criteria. However, it is inclined to favour concertation mechanisms.



A new element of the agreement is exploratory fishing for deep demersal species (particularly prawns) so that it can be included as a specific fishing category in the long term.

In response to the issue raised by Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, about the fact that she considers excessive to open exploratory fishing to four demersal trawlers targeting prawn, Mr. Beck says that there are still many unknowns about the fishery in terms of knowledge of its biology. The aim of these licences is to have better knowledge of the state of populations, and he highlights that this is not commercial but exploratory fishing to collect scientific information about a resource that is currently being underexploited. In addition, he clarifies that there would not be 4 vessels operating at the same time, they would probably rotate in limited conditions and following the reports of the Joint Committee.

About the potential development of the tuna industry sector to land its catches in Gabon, Mr. Julio Morón, OPAGAC, clarifies that they have tested that with their vessels, but it is not easy as it is a port which is geographically very close to their main hub in Abidjan, which has better infrastructures and is better staffed and has fewer legal and administrative barriers. They will consider their options in the future and whether the Gabonese authorities are able to have a fluent dialogue with them, since this issue should be addressed at the next joint committee meeting planned for October.

- Cape Verde: He is satisfied with the level of compliance and enforcement of the agreement in force, both in terms of catches and of sectoral support use. The joint committee meeting will be held at the end of October.

- Liberia: This agreement has been interrupted since the end of 2020. However, there is dialogue and exchange of views regarding the fight against IUU fishing. There are no new specific developments.

- Gambia: Being monitored. Sectoral support is working fairly well.

- Senegal: The main problem compromising the enforcement of the agreement is the compulsory halt for pole and liners owing to live bait access restrictions in Hann Bay. He notes that both the EC and the sector concerned (Basque and French pole and liners and Senegalese local artisanal fishers supplying live bait) are highly concerned, since there is no alternative area for the supply of live bait and they cannot go further beyond owing to their level of specificity. This is a problem affecting other countries as well, as these pole and liners also operate in Mauritania and Guinea Bissau. Besides, he informs that there will be a scientific meeting to analyse if fishing with live bait is a problem for the ecosystem in the area of Hann Bay. Nevertheless, in June, the working group presented a proposal to have a legal framework permitting to continue supplying live bait to pole and liners, since most of it is currently used by Turkish and Chinese-owned fishmeal factories.

Although contacts have been enhanced at all levels, there has been no success. Senegal complains about there not being enough catches in this modality and about sectoral support being halted, so there is a need to find a short-term solution to this problem, to which end high-level diplomatic meetings are being called upon.

Moreover, Mr. Morón reports that between 7 and 9 Korean purse seiners of the company Don Won are operating in Senegal, having bought the canning factory, and having duty free access



to market their products in the EU and the USA (where they own the canning company STARFISH). He concludes that it is relevant to mention here the situation of the SFPA in terms of fishing opportunities for our fleet, which are being jeopardised.

Generally speaking, he voices his concern about the massive entry of tuna purse seiners from Asian countries in countries like Ghana or Liberia, notoriously failing to comply with data and activity reporting to ICCAT regarding bigeye tuna, for instance, diminishing sustainability and the appropriate scientific assessment of tuna species in the region.

He then informs about the countries in the Indian Ocean:

- Madagascar: Negotiations have been interrupted since the end of 2018 owing to changes in government and political instability. They will be meeting this week, since they do so every two weeks. They hope to conclude negotiations at the end of 2021 in order to sign a new protocol including a reasonable financial consideration both for freezer seiner trawlers and for longliners from Réunion.

- Mauritius: They already have a negotiating mandate from the Council. Negotiations will start in October in a virtual fashion. The EC is studying what proposals can be presented to Mauritius and how to base them on historical and geopolitical claims for other adjacent islands within their geographical scope to follow a consistent approach.

- Kenya: There is nothing specific yet, but progress is expected to take place by means of the new DG MARE fisheries attaché based in Nairobi.

- Tanzania: After numerous technical exchanges, they already have a negotiation mandate, as it is the case with Kenya, but it is very difficult to reach a common position. There are many uncertainties so they do not think they will reach an agreement.

- Somalia: It is quite a particular country owing to safety issues both on board and in land. It has great potential in terms of fishing opportunities, but there is institutional and political weakness.

- Angola: They are very interested in having a fisheries agreement, but there is a great deal of political instability.

- Guinea Conakry: They are also very interested in signing a fisheries agreement, however, there was recently a coup d'état. If they reach political stability, they will soon resume conversations.

- Morocco: Mr. Rob Banning, DPFA, informs attendees that the previous day there was a ruling from the Court of Justice of the European Union about the cancellation of the fisheries agreement and asks if he can react to it or assess it on behalf of the Commission and whether he thinks there are possibilities to continue fishing in the validity framework foreseen for this agreement.

The representative of the EC, Mr. Berck, confirms that the ruling was made public the previous day and that the EC legal services are still analysing it, so he does not have any comments regarding the content of the ruling or the EU official position so far.

According to the ruling, two decisions would be cancelled in a period of two months, but it can be appealed, and should that be the case it would continue in force and its effects could be

maintained until there is a final decision or judgement. He does not know now whether the EU institutions will appeal or not. Should they do so, a grace period would be permitted. They are still in contact with their counterparts at the Moroccan authorities to consider the paths to be followed and to continue implementing the agreement while possible.

As for the next steps to be taken, it is still difficult to know. Yesterday a press release was issued, but the Council should be the one to react first. Nevertheless, the EC is studying how to be able to continue with the fisheries agreement, although all Member States shall be consulted. He informs that in the event the ruling is appealed, he does not know how long the Court of Justice of the EU will take to reply.

During the round of questions, Mr. Laurens van Balsfoort, DPTFA, enquires when the Regulation for the reallocation of UK remaining quota will be adopted in Morocco.

Mr. Berck replies that Morocco's surplus was already adopted on 28 September with Morocco, and the Mauritanian one will be soon adopted.

#### **4.2. Questions from the floor and feedback from members.**

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, requests the EC to share the results from the study on sectoral support use in Côte d'Ivoire.

The representative of the EC, Mr. Berck, explains that owing to the pandemic they have struggled with communications when trying to monitor the use of sectoral support both in Côte d'Ivoire and in Sao Tomé and Príncipe. Therefore, he believes it is necessary to hold a Joint Committee meeting before the end of the year to identify existing difficulties.

Regarding Senegal, Mr. Julio Morón, OPAGAC, asks about Korean purse seiners with Senegalese flag, about 7 to 9 vessels; he believes it is a strategy of the Korean company that introduced itself in the Senegalese industry and that owns a canning company in the USA as well. In his opinion, this is also relevant for the fisheries agreement. In fact, this fleet is also extending to Liberia. Therefore, he wishes to voice the European fleet's concern about this fact.

Regarding Guinea Bissau, Ms. Antonia Leroy, WWF, enquires why the agreement does not mention a provision about prawn while others do.

The representative of the EC, Mr. Berck, replies that they will try to adopt a regional coordination approach for all agreements and says that this might be addressed at the Joint Committee meeting in order for vessels to respect technical measures, as well as the transition from an effort-based system to a quota-based one, with regards to ERS catch reporting. He points out that the political situation has stabilised and that there is willingness to cooperate. In fact, there is close collaboration in terms of sectoral support to implement sustainable fisheries, since it is an important agreement for West Africa.

In response to the question asked by Ms. Rocío Béjar, CEPESCA, about whether conclusions have been drawn from the Joint Committee meeting in Dakar and about future actions, Mr. Berck says that it took place at the beginning of July. At this moment in time, they are in the information exchange phase, although they do not have a date for the next meeting yet.

Mr. Julien Daudu, EJF, enquires about Mauritius. He underlines that they are highly concerned about compliance with the commitments acquired as Port State in terms of cooperation against



IUU fishing and about the role they offer as shelter port to fisheries, mainly to non-EU longliners operating illegally in the Atlantic and West of Mauritius. He declares that this situation is unsettling and enquires how a transparency clause could be considered in that fisheries agreement.

Mr. Berck, EC, replies that the EC shares that same concern regarding Mauritius. Therefore, there is a joint dialogue on this issue with the IUU fishing unit at DG MARE to include it as part of the negotiation.

As for Madagascar, the importance of transparency was also underlined, indicating that it is a very important objective for them. There is a firm will to be transparent, so they are going to try and reflect it in the agreement by means of a solid clause, as well as non-discrimination one, as it is the case with Gambia and Seychelles.

Mr. Julio Morón, OPAGAC, explains that there is a problem regarding the availability and qualification for boarding of observers as required by Gabon. He asks whether they could work on a series of workshops for observers to promote regional observer programmes that can also be used to report to ICCAT or whether they already have any other ideas. In fact, he asks whether ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT could be useful to find a solution.

Mr. Berck, EC, informs that the EU intends to favour regional observer programmes, although sometimes they are asked to have their own observers. Gabon says that new observers have already been trained and are ready to board, so we will see whether it works and the requirements set in the protocol are respected.

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

- **The LDAC Secretariat will keep track of the specific problems in the implementation of fisheries agreements, particularly the following:**

\* **Situation of the Spanish and Senegalese pole and line fleets;**

\* **Problems related to observers boarding and to landing and processing of tuna catches in Gabon;**

• **Alleged activity of IUU fishing vessels operating in Mauritius;**

• **Findings of the EC study on the use of sectoral aid in Côte d'Ivoire;**

• **Monitoring the timeline and developments regarding the legal procedure of the potential appeal to the CJEU ruling about the cancellation of commercial and fisheries agreements between the EU and Morocco owing to the Western Sahara conflict.**

#### **4.3. Update on the role of the LDAC in the H2020 FarFish project on the development of Case Studies in Mauritania, Senegal, Cape Verde and Seychelles.**

The LDAC project coordinator, Ms. Sonia Doblado, explains that the H2020 FarFish project will come to an end in November 2021 after four and a half years of work towards achieving European sustainable fisheries beyond European waters.

Throughout its duration, the FarFish project has permitted to compile and compare data on catches and effort, management, stock assessments, environmental and oceanographic changes, monitoring, control and surveillance, economy, governance and social impacts in every case study. Most of these data have been uploaded to the FarFish database, where they will be available after the project finishing date.



The FarFish project has also created visualisation tools supporting decision-making, and has implemented initiatives for enhanced understanding and more informed decision-making regarding the management of fish populations, including:

\* The tool “Data Limited Methods” (DLM) that helps scientists perform stock assessments when there are limited data. The representatives of the institutions involved in the case studies have received specific training on the use of the tool. These new insights will allow for improved stock assessments and enhanced management of the species targeted by the EU and by other fleets in the areas of the case studies.

- A self-sampling pilot programme in Senegalese and Mauritanian waters to improve on board identification of black hake. This allows for better assessment and management of the two hake species of commercial importance targeted by the EU fleet. The pilot programme is also an example of how scientists and the fishing industry can collaborate to obtain new data and knowledge.

In addition, FarFish analysed governance structures and value chains in the case studies, identified opportunities for improvement and issued recommendations. At the beginning of the project, an assessment of training needs was performed to identify key training areas in the case studies. Resulting capacity-building initiatives included:

- A six-month long postgraduate training programme aimed at building capacities for the collection and interpretation of data in fish populations. A total of five research fellows participated in the programme.
- A one-week long intensive certification programme at university level that provided participants with knowledge on different topics relevant to deep-sea fishing in the EU.
- Online preparation of teaching materials through Tutor-Web, an e-learning platform used by scientists, policy-makers and scholars worldwide.
- Workshops to build capacities and knowledge regarding the different topics related to the project.

Moreover, FarFish organised several conferences at international events attended by most interested parties, policy-makers and scientists. Attention should be drawn to the conference on sustainable management of the area FAO41, the seminar on the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy and the workshop on small pelagics and climate change in West Africa.

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez invites and encourages all attendees to participate in the final conference of the FarFish project to be held virtually on 11 November and where a summary of the results of the project will be presented by the consortium partners. All registration-related information will be sent via email.

The following ACTION is agreed:

**- The project coordinator, Ms. Sonia Doblado, will send WG4 members updated information on the rest of deliverables of interest to the LDAC, as well as an invitation to participate in the FarFish Final Conference to be held virtually on 11 November 2021.**

Lastly, WG4 chair and members thank Ms. Doblado for her work and expertise during the years of the project on behalf of the LDAC.



## **5- Evaluation of the EU SFPAs with third countries and regional dimension of SFPAs.**

### **5.1. Update by DG MARE / Poseidon on outcomes of the targeted consultation on EU Evaluation of SFPAs: way forward.**

The representative of the EC, Ms. Marta Morén, informs that a targeted consultation was published with the participation of the relevant actors and thanks the LDAC for its participation by means of a targeted interview. In the following weeks the consultants' report will be concluded and DG MARE services will review it, so she will be able to share more detailed information at the next WG4 meeting.

The aim of this consultation is to perform a review of the SFPAs that will help modify them and improve them.

The following ACTION is agreed:

**- The Secretariat will invite both the SFPa 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 retrospective assessment of SFPAs.**

### **5.2. Promotion of regional sustainable fisheries management for shared resources in West Africa.**

#### **5.2.1. Analysis of LDAC advice and EC Reply to it (June 2021)**

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, summarises the LDAC advice regarding this topic and the reply obtained from the EC.

Both documents are available on the following links:

- LDAC advice (May 2021): [https://ldac.eu/images/ES\\_Dictamen\\_LDAC\\_Gestion\\_Regional\\_Pesquerias\\_Africa\\_Occidental\\_R-04-21.WG4.pdf](https://ldac.eu/images/ES_Dictamen_LDAC_Gestion_Regional_Pesquerias_Africa_Occidental_R-04-21.WG4.pdf)
- EC reply (June 2021): [https://ldac.eu/images/EC\\_Reply\\_to\\_Advice\\_West\\_Africa\\_R-04-21-WG4\\_21June2021.pdf](https://ldac.eu/images/EC_Reply_to_Advice_West_Africa_R-04-21-WG4_21June2021.pdf)

#### **5.2.2. Presentation of state of play of small pelagic stocks in West Africa (Ad Corten)**

Ms. Floor Quirijns, Q-consultant and member of the FAO/CECAF small pelagics working group, gives a presentation providing preliminary results on the status of small pelagics stock.

Mr. Ad Corten, scientific researcher and expert, then explains his view on the possibilities of regional management in West Africa. He recalls that sardinella is in a very worrying situation, with a constant decline since the 1980's that renders its inclusion in agreements like the Mauritanian one impossible.

There are many organisations that could provide a regional approach, such as CECAF, CSRP, ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT... but they do not de facto do it as they are not binding regulatory bodies and have little communication. An additional problem, similar to what happened with the herring fishery in the 1970's in the NEA, is the lack of collaboration between coastal states like Senegal or Mauritania to adopt a regional approach without adopting restrictive management measures for their local fishers, with a short-term view that follows political rather than scientific criteria.





He encourages the EU to adopt a firm leading position based on its agreement network with West African countries, and to promote the role of CECAF and its working group on small pelagics that he helped set up in 2000, but that currently focuses on other species of secondary commercial importance.

Finally, he adds that a positive initiative was the joint working group on sardinella set up in 2018 by Senegal and Mauritania, which was unfortunately interrupted by the emergence of COVID-19 and subsequently invalidated by FAO-CECAF. His main proposal is to set up a special task force for the collection of data on sardinella and the issuance of a specific opinion.

The summary of his contribution is available on the following link:

[https://ldac.eu/images/Perspectives\\_of\\_regional\\_fisheries\\_management\\_in\\_northwest\\_Africa.pdf](https://ldac.eu/images/Perspectives_of_regional_fisheries_management_in_northwest_Africa.pdf)

### **5.2.3. Debate from the floor and way forward.**

Julio Morón and Béatrice Gorez support the importance of carrying out detailed studies and stock assessments on sardinella with a regional approach. They acknowledge the efforts made by ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT claiming to set up an RFMO in an area regulating small pelagic stocks, as well as their dialogue with subregional fisheries organisations. However, they believe it is not enough for speedy progress to be achieved and they think that the capacity and efforts made by CECAF and the EU should be strengthened, since the situation of this stock is critical.

After comments and discussion among the members, the following **ACTIONS** are agreed regarding regional management of fisheries 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 Gorez suggests that the Secretariat identify actions where the EC has progressed and those that have improved in order to resume the debate on this subject.**

- **WG4 agrees on using the concept note provided 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. Special reference should be made to the bad situation of the sardinella stock due to the lack of scientific assessments and fishing activity reports.**

## **6- Transparency of SFPAs - social and working conditions on board EU vessels:**

### **6.1. Discussion to develop advice on the inclusion and implementation of the "social clause" in SFPAs.**

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, presents a document based on the "social clause" of SFPAs: [https://ldac.eu/images/clause\\_sociale\\_discussion\\_CAPE\\_Sept2021.pdf](https://ldac.eu/images/clause_sociale_discussion_CAPE_Sept2021.pdf)

She explains that the idea is for this document to be used for a potential LDAC opinion.

Messrs. Laamrich and Sadiki, ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT, inform that their organisation has organised workshops on the agreements social clause. They believe that it is essential to ratify and implement existing international standards (e.g. ILO C188) and even transpose them into



national legislation. It is a critical issue, since there is a legal loophole in important subjects such as medicine on board. It would be very convenient to include it in the following agreements.

After a round of comments by the members, the following **ACTION** is agreed on:

- **The LDAC will call a Focus Group in the next few weeks to draft a specific opinion on this issue using the CFFA document "Intégration de la clause sociale dans les accords de partenariat pour une pêche durable (APPD)" as a starting point.**

## **6.2. Update on the ETF/ITF study in relation to the role of fishing agents and working conditions associated to fishing crews for EU vessels in third countries.**

Mr. Juan Manuel Trujillo, ETF, thanks the LDAC for its interest, work and commitment to this matter. He then explains the work carried out by ITF and ETF to improve working conditions for EU vessel crews fishing in third countries. In fact, they are currently drafting a future strategy to be discussed and presented at a conference in Marrakesh.

The aim of their work is to improve the conditions, attaching special importance to contact with local unions, with all countries in the area ratifying and implementing ILO Convention C-188, and also to workers complying with STCW-F and the development of Council Directive (EU) 2017/159 agreed by ETF, Europêche and Cogeca: [https://ldac.eu/images/ES\\_Directiva\\_UE\\_2017\\_159\\_del\\_Consejo\\_aplicaci%C3%B3n\\_convenio\\_trabajo\\_en\\_la\\_pesca.pdf](https://ldac.eu/images/ES_Directiva_UE_2017_159_del_Consejo_aplicaci%C3%B3n_convenio_trabajo_en_la_pesca.pdf)

In addition, they have managed to collaborate with Greenpeace to identify human rights abuses in fishing vessels, and an example of a success story is the fact that Thailand has ratified C188 and is prosecuting inhuman treatment of people and illegal fishing. They are also working on the EU-funded project "Pillars of the Sea".

Mr. Daniel Voces, Europêche, says he is thankful for having been able to work together with ETF on this matter. He highlights the words of the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, according to which the EU cannot permit the exploitation of fishing workers in third countries, so he believes consideration should be given to the EU proposal on the possibility of banning the entry of products coming from over-exploited workforce or subject to abuse or forced labour in the EU.

After some discussion and the mention by the chair, Mr. Julio Morón, of World Maritime Day, the following **ACTION** is agreed:

- **On the occasion of World Maritime Day organised by the IMO (29 September), the LDAC will consider the possibility of drafting a letter addressed to DG EMP+DG TRADE (cc: DG MARE) contemplating the need to raise awareness and socially protect fishers to the same level as merchant navy officials.**

- **Work will continue with ETF and Europêche in this regard following the joint work plan.**

## **7. Update on outreach and network of external partnerships:**

### **7.1. ECOFISH Programme: proposal for a concept note / ToR**

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, informs that little progress has been made since the last meeting. He adds that he has recently received a concept note and the LDAC has been requested to support a funding request for a UNPD project for the Western Indian Ocean.



Therefore, the following **ACTION** is agreed:

- **The Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary will 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. A possibility is the ECOFISH+ programme coordinated by the IOC and another one is the call for expressions of interest for a project funded by the UNDP for a regional framework of agreements granting access to fisheries in the Western Indian Ocean.**

#### **7.2. ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT: Observer and Inspector Programmes; Joint SFPAs Workshop.**

Messrs. Naji and Sadiki explain the work carried out by ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT in this regard, including a regional programme for professional training of port inspectors. The first one will be provided in collaboration with the Training Institute in Agadir (Morocco) and will start in November, followed by a regional programme for observers at sea to watch out for IUU fishing. It is aimed at control authorities and highly qualified professionals with knowledge combining navigation, maritime fisheries, biology and control. Furthermore, a collaboration protocol has been signed with the Regional Academy of Maritime Science and Research in Abidjan to develop another training action at the beginning of 2022. A call has been launched for the selection of candidates and many expressions of interest have been received that will be duly analysed. In the next meeting of this working group more information will be provided on the outcomes of the programmes.

The Chair, Mr. Julio Morón, thanks ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT for their work and hopes that the EU will be able to rely on this organisation to develop its projects. In addition, he encourages the members to inform the European Commission about practical examples of the work carried out by ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT.

Therefore, the following **ACTION** is agreed:

- **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.**

#### **8. Final remarks and closure**

Finally, WG4 Chair, Mr. Julio Morón, thanks the Secretariat for its efforts in coordinating and preparing working documents and meetings logistics; the members present for their attendance and active participation, the representatives of the European Commission for their availability to inform on the new developments regarding fisheries agreements, and the interpreters for their technical job.

With no other issues to address, the session is adjourned.



**ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**  
**Thursday, 30 September 2021**

**MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUP 4**

1. Julio Morón. OPAGAC
2. Sara Fröcklin. SSNC
3. Antonia Leroy. WWF
4. Raúl García. WWF
5. Béatrice Gorez/Joelle Philippe. CFFA-CAPE
6. Anertz Muniategi. ANABAC



7. Juana Parada. ORPAGU
8. José Beltrán. OPP-Lugo
9. Julien Daudu. EJF
10. Edelmiro Ulloa. Anapa, Anamer, Agarba and Acemix
11. Rocío Béjar. CEPESCA
12. Juan Manuel Liria. CEPESCA
13. Iván López. AGARBA/CEPESCA
14. Rob Banning. DPFA
15. Emil Remisz. NAPO
16. Rosalie Tukker. EUROPECHE
17. Daniel Voces. EUROPECHE
18. Despina Symons. EBCD
19. Jacopo Pasquero. EBCD
20. Juan Manuel Trujillo. ETF
21. Tim Heddeman. DPFTA
22. Katarina Sipic. AIPCE-CEP
23. Laurens Van Balsfoort. DPFTA
24. Aivaras Labanauskas. Lithuanian Long Distance Fisheries Association

#### OBSERVERS

1. Emmanuel Berck. EC DG MARE (point 4 SFPAs)
2. Marta Morén Abat. EC DG MARE (point 5.1)
3. Maria Ferrara. EC DG MARE
4. Natalie Florin. EC DG MARE
5. MM. Laamrich and Sadiki. COMHAFAT
6. Ad Corten. Corten Marine Research (point 5.2.2)
7. Floor Quirijns. Q-Consult (point 5.2.2)
8. Alberto Martin. MSC
9. Jesús Iborra. EP
10. Mariana Toussaint. FAO
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