



# Meet Our Members

**Anne-France Mattlet (Belgium)**

Director of Européche Tuna Group

**When did you start to participate in LDAC meetings? What is your motivation for participating in them?**

**I started participating to LDAC meetings two years ago, when joining Européche Tuna Group. By giving a voice to European fleets operating in distant seas, to me this Council functions somewhat like embassies that enable expatriates, with their unique perspective, to vote. In this regard, it is an essential element of civil society in the field of fisheries.**

**What are in your view the three main priorities/current challenges for achieving sustainable fisheries?**

**I believe that sustainability would be achieved through, notably, making clear that fisheries' sustainability refers not only to environmental, but also social and economic sustainability; ensuring a level playing field between EU and third countries' fleets; and banning political interests from RFMOs scientific committees.**

**Can you name an inspiring figure in your field of expertise?**

**Expanding the said field of specialization to encompass maritime affairs broadly, I think of Doña Isabel Barreto: the first and only woman admiral of the Spanish Armada. In the late 16th century, when wives were confined to land and even homes, she went further than Christopher Columbus, crossing the Pacific from Peru and discovering (almost!) the Solomon Islands and the Marquesas. She indeed had to navigate right through what is today one of the best tropical tuna spots in the world. Intrepid and intelligent, she extended the boundaries of navigation.**

**Which book, radio show, TV series or film related to the sea would you recommend?**

**The poem “La chevelure” by Baudelaire has made a significant impression on me when I was young. Although the ocean is not named even once, it is present throughout, as a metaphor to evoke mystery, desire, and journey alike. I had never seen the sea and it represented freedom and distant discoveries in my imagination. I recommend it as reminder of the fascination the ocean can exert and as a call to explore beyond our known horizons.**

**What is your favourite fish dish and why?**

**Without a doubt, and at the risk of being unfaithful to tropical tuna, Patagonian toothfish, the one from Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises, caught in the depths of the furious fifties by a few French longliners, under strict control of the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle. Simply grilled and served with a ‘sauce chien’ (my personal recipe: half olive oil, half limon, with cut tomato, sliced red onion, chopped cilantro and a generous spoon of chili) it’s delicious. I appreciate it even more that I have to go all the way to La Réunion to eat it: It tastes of travel and unknown lands.**