



Meet Our Members

Iris Ziegler (Belgium/Germany)

Head of Department at German Foundation for Marine Conservation (DSM)

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

I started representing SAR at LDAC in 2022. Meeting with stakeholders from all sectors is essential to discuss how to resolve the urgent problems our oceans are facing and to find solutions that we can jointly promote and advocate to the EU Commission. These solutions should and must be viable for both, conservation needs and fisheries' interests, but in order to do so we need to abandon old paradigms and rethink how fishing can be made truly sustainably for the benefit of ocean health, marine life, biodiversity, food security and future income of fisheries from marine resources. While finding consensus between all stakeholders should be the overall objective, sometimes we will have to "agree to disagree", but still continue working together constructively for improved solutions. This is why meeting in person at LDAC is so important.

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

- All fishing must be ecosystem sustainably, i.e. we can no longer afford to manage only tuna but have to consider the overall impacts fisheries have on the complete ecosystem and therefore fisheries management must ensure that all species are managed to a level where they can at least perform their roles in the ecosystem e.g. as top predators, or forage fish and not just to support maximum sustainable yield for one or two species of interest.
- We must manage not only target and secondary target species but also all bycatch species and maintain all other impacts on the ecosystem at a level where we can rebuild overfished stocks and restore ecosystems to their pre 1970 levels, as we build resilient marine ecosystems, ensure food security and help combat climate change.

- **These tasks need to be approached as a global community sharing responsibility and burdens among all players, while recognizing that the Global South and especially subsistence fisheries do have also substantial impacts on our oceans and contribute to overfishing and the loss of biodiversity but are not having the same opportunities and means to tackle these and therefore need support for capacity building from high income countries and grant equitable shares from ocean resources to support the low income countries, fishermen and fisher women who are most dependent on healthy marine ecosystems.**

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

Daniel Pauly as he has addressed these issues already at a time when the world was still thinking the oceans can be exploited without limits forever and Rainer Froese, a bold German marine researcher at Geomar, who has challenged the appropriateness of MSY and BMSY as target points for the sustainable management of fisheries for many years by now.

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

BBC Blue Planet and Shark Waters.

What is your favourite fish dish and why?

I love Ahi-ahi, which is raw tuna slightly seared with a crust of sesame and really delicious. However I do not eat any fish unless I am really sure it has been caught sustainably without any bycatch of sharks, marine mammals or sea turtles or destroying marine habitats and today unfortunately this is only the case when I am on a boat and see how myself how the tuna has been caught ... one at a time without bycatch.