



Meet Our Members

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

I started regularly attending the meetings of the LDAC in 2020, when I joined EJF – which is a long-standing member of the advisory council. This means we can provide the Commission and Member States with first-hand advice and information that is essential for achieving the objectives of the CFP. Moreover, the LDAC is a unique platform allowing discussion and progress on issues around long-distance fleets; this is of direct interest to EJF, as we are active across Africa, Asia and Europe. The LDAC is also characterised by the high quality and constructive atmosphere of its deliberations.

In a nutshell, it is a formidable platform allowing us learn from each other, move towards mutual understanding, and inform and guide the Commission and Member States. As such, it is an honour to be an active member of the advisory council and co-chair its working group 5.

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

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains a major hurdle to achieving sustainable fisheries globally. Combatting this phenomenon is a priority.

Three factors I believe are key to eliminating these activities and achieving sustainable fisheries are: increasing transparency, achieving a level playing field globally and ending human rights and labour abuses which are often associated with IUU fishing.

Transparency measures, such as giving all vessels unique ID numbers and publishing lists of fishing licences and authorisations, can allow governments, industry and NGOs share information and ensure that no illegal operators and products slip through the net.

Levelling the playing field for fishers and operators around the world, by ensuring all vessels and businesses from all countries are held to the same high sustainability standards is also crucial, and would have positive effects on the sustainability of global fisheries far beyond the sole issue of IUU fishing.

Finally, abuses perpetrated by unscrupulous operators – such as forced labour or inhumane working hours – to augment profits must also end before we can achieve true sustainability. Illegal fishing and human rights and labour abuses are part of a vicious cycle. Ending this cycle of abuse requires strong and coordinated action from governments, industry and NGOs.

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

I consider myself very privileged to have had the opportunity to work with Mr. César Debén on the implementation of the European Union's policy against IUU fishing in the 2010s. César Debén is a true source of knowledge. I learnt so much from him.

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

I used to regularly watch Thalassa, a French documentary television series. Thalassa is all about our seas and oceans. It is a true testimony of the importance of protecting them and respecting the work of those who dedicate their life to the sea. I can only recommend it.

What is your favourite fish dish and why?

When it comes to seafood, I have – since my early childhood – always been fond of a bivalve mollusc called 'tellines' (*Donax trunculus*) in Provence. It is delicious in persillade and brings back good memories for me.