



Meet Our Members

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

Oceana has been a Member of the LDAC since 2011, Oceana in Europe has focussed on increasing transparency in the global seafood sector, as well as tackling illegal fishing, especially in long distance fleets and to improve governance and compliance in RFMOs like ICCAT. Oceana participates in the LDAC to discuss exactly these issues, to learn about the realities on the ground from the fishing sector and to have frank discussions on upcoming EU laws, with the aim to create a joint advice.

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

Despite progress for the EU external fleet there is a lack of transparency in the global fishing industry and governance loopholes are enabling illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. There is an urgent need for stronger global transparency policies. They underpin effective governance, whether it's the use of innovative technologies to gather and share detailed data on catches, making data and information accessible for more equitable decision making, or leveraging open data to push governments toward more sustainable practices. A fundamental shift toward transparency in fisheries governance is critical to the future of our ocean

Within the EU, again despite progress for some stocks, the EU has failed to follow scientific advice and meet the legal deadline to end overfishing by 2020, set in the Common Fisheries Policy and in UN Sustainable Development Goal commitments. Overfishing is the most serious threat to our ocean. It is the leading driver of marine biodiversity loss and critically undermines the resilience of fish and other wildlife to climate change.

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

Definitely Sylvia Earle, her energy, her pioneering research and dedication to improving ocean conservation is inspiring and she does not shy away from calling out decision makers in public for their lack of action on sustainable fisheries and protection of vulnerable habitats and species.

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

I would recommend the podcast and book from Ian Urbina, both are called the Outlaw Ocean, it explains in a very engaging way the challenges of managing the ocean responsibly, the governance issues that emerge from the incomplete or weak international fisheries laws and why authorities do not act against illegal fishing or human rights abuses at sea.

What is your favourite fish dish and why?

As a true Dutch person you can wake me up any time for smoked mackerel. Having grown up at the North Sea it is a dish that reminds me of my home and of the people in my hometown smoking the mackerel they caught themselves in their backyard. Also, fresh mackerel is beautiful to look at with the amazing shiny blue and silver pattern.