

LDAC - ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT Annual Coordination Meeting Madrid, 12 September 2024



Over 10 Years of
Collaboration



ATLAFCO can benefit from the LDAC's role of privileged interlocutor of the EU distant water fleets and NGOs with the European Commission.

The LDAC benefits from ATLAFCO's specific mandate as the only African regional body dedicated exclusively to fisheries management bringing together the views of 22 African Coastal States.

A bit of context: the beginnings

2012

- Identification of pathways for cooperation between both organisations, establishing a framework, defining a working programme...

2013

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed.
- COMHAFAT-LDAC Workshop in the European Parliament
- LDAC Recommendation on improving good governance and fight against IUU through the LDAC-COMHAFAT dialogue

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES COOPERATION
AMONG AFRICAN STATES BORDERING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN (ATLAFCO)
AND
LONG DISTANCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (LDRAC)

Whereas the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO) is an inter-governmental organization created in 1989 and composed of 22 States; from Morocco to Namibia, and the Convention establishing ATLAFCO, "The Atlantic Regional Convention for Fisheries Cooperation," was adopted in 1991, with the main objectives to promote and strengthen the regional cooperation on fisheries development; and to coordinate and to harmonize efforts and capacities of stakeholders for the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources;

Whereas the "Long Distance Regional Advisory Council" (LDRAC) has been created in 2004 on the basis of the EU Council Decision 585/2004, and it has become operational in 2007 following the adoption of the EU Commission Decision 2007/206/CE, with the aim to advise the European Commission on issues regarding the management and conservation of fisheries resources to contribute to the implementation of the principles of the Common Fisheries Policy outside Community waters and to improving the external relations of the EU in fisheries matters;



Conclusions and recommendations



2014

Publication: *“Improving Good Governance and Transparency in the Fight against IUU Fishing in Africa”*

2015

COMHAFAT participation at the LDAC

[Conference on the External Dimension of the CFP](#)

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, September 2015

2016-2021

- In person annual coordination meetings (last Jan 2020)
- Post-COVID: online meeting in February 2021.
- Resuming today our mutual collaboration!



2022-2023

Briefings and updates from COMHAFAT members in LDAC meetings online (WGs, Ex.Com, G.Assembly)

Several COMHAFAT workshops attended by LDAC members and delegates, including:

CONFERENCE MINISTERIELLE SUR LA
COOPERATION HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES ETATS
AFRICAINS RIVERAINS DE L'OCEAN ATLANTIQUE



MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES
COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES
BORDERING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO

Online Workshop

Restitution of the study on fish aggregating devices (FADs) in the ATLAFCO
convention area
February 02, 2022



CONFERENCE MINISTERIELLE SUR LA COOPERATION HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES ETATS AFRICAINS
RIVERAINS DE L'OCEAN ATLANTIQUE

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES BORDERING
THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO

Atelier Régional

Les Accords d'Accès aux Ressources
Halieutiques des Etats Côtiers Riverains de l'Atlantique

Abidjan, 25-26 Octobre 2023

2024

- Comhafat participation in the [LDAC-CFFA joint seminar on Joint Ventures or EU fishing investments in African countries](#) (Berlín, 23 May 2024)
- Video recording of the full session and presentations now available: <https://www.ldac.eu/en/meetings/archive/ldac-cffa-seminar-on-the-role-of-fishing-companies-with-investments-and-operations-in-third-non-eu-countries>
- Report and recommendations to follow before the end of the year.





Recent work from LDAC in 2024

ICCAT: Recommendations on conservation, management and control measures for tropical (BET-YFT-SKJ) and temperate (ALB) tunas and shark (BSH, ASM) – *Expected TBA this week.*

[Letter on Negotiation of Future Fisheries Arrangements \(May 2024\)](#)

[AFRIFISH-LDAC advice on Role of women on fisheries - African states with SFPAs \(Jan 2024\)](#)

[Advice on role and effective protection of fisheries observers at sea \(Dec 2023\)](#)



Exploring common areas of interest for LDAC and COMHAFAT (i)

- **Foster cooperation and preparation of RFMOs of shared interest (ICCAT)**
- **Promote upgrading / enhanced role of CECAF as decision-making body**
- **Improve implementation of sectoral support in SFPAs:** promoting consultation among stakeholders on priority setting, transparency and accountability in its use.
- **Fight against IUU Fishing:** Interactive training sessions - use of EU SMEFF database.
- **Role of artisanal fisheries from non-EU coastal states:** cohabitation.
- **Visibility of women in fisheries:** access to fish, commercialization, health and safety, training, child caring.



Exploring common areas of interest for LDAC and COMHAFAT (ii)

- **Capacity building:**

Regional cooperation on scientific and MCS in ATLAFCO area, including

- Implementation of regional programmes for scientific observers
- Harmonized control schemes for EU vessels at African ports;
- Shared methodology for data collection / reporting to Flag & Coastal States;

- **Social dimension & labour conditions in fisheries:**

- Ratification and implementation of legal instruments of maritime safety
- Improving working conditions at sea and protection of observers
- Training of crews and observers (ILO C188, IMO STCW-F...)

- **International ocean governance processes (UN, FAO, CBD, ISA...)**

- **Impact of Climate Change for African artisanal fisheries**

- **Food security** (overfishing /IUU, production of fishmeal for animal feed)

- **Blue Economy and Fishing:** impact of other extractive activities



LDAC MEETINGS PLAN FOR Q4 2024 & 2025

- LDAC Working Groups 1-2-4-5 + ExCom (Brussels, 15-17 Oct)
- LDAC Executive Committee (Madrid, 7 November)
- LDAC Focus Groups on Climate Change, DSM, small pelagics in West Africa – 1 Q2025.
- LDAC Working Groups 1-2-4-5 + ExCom (Brussels, March 2025)
- LDAC General Assembly, International Seminar + ExCom (Vigo, May 2025)
- Participation at RFMO Annual Mtgs.: NAFO, ICCAT, IOTC...)

N.B. The LDAC is also a member of the EFCA Advisory Board and was the AB representative before the Administrative Board (May 2023-April 2024).



MERCI!
GRACIAS!
THANK YOU!
SHUKRAN!

