



LONG DISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Annual General Assembly

LDAC Year 18 (1 June 2024 – 31 May 2025)

Venue: El Tinglado del Puerto de Vigo
Tuesday 13th May 2025





AGENDA General Assembly 2025

1. **Welcome by the Chair.**
2. **Adoption of the agenda.**
3. **Adoption of the minutes of the previous GA meeting (Berlin, May 2024)**
4. **Policy Report on LDAC Year 19 (1 June 2025 - 31 May 2026) - Chair/Secretary**
 - 4.1- Presentation of Strategic Plan / Annual Work Programme 2025-2026.
 - 4.2- Provisional calendar of meetings.
 - 4.3- Ratification and endorsement of annual Work Programme and meetings.
5. **Administrative and Financial Report on LDAC Years 18 and 19 - Secretariat**
 - 5.1. State of annual accounts (Income/Expenditure) in Financial Y18 (2024-2025).
 - 5.2. Budget proposal for LDAC Financial Year 19 (2025-2026).
 - 5.3. Adoption / Ratification of budgets for Y18 and Y19.
6. **Elections of the LDAC Executive Committee**
 - 6.1. Voting and Appointment of Members of the Executive Committee
 - 6.2. Voting and Appointment of LDAC Chair and Vice Chairs
7. **LDAC Performance Review: draft conclusions**
8. **Overview of LDAC membership**
 - 8.1. Withdrawn of LDAC members.
 - 8.2. Admission of new members.
9. **AOB and CLOSE OF THE MEETING**



Overview of Work in Year 18

1 June 2024 - 31 May 2025



OUTPUT: 18 RECOMMENDATIONS & ADVICE ADOPTED TO DATE

SEVEN PIECES OF ADVICE ON CORE PRIORITIES – AS PER ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

1. LDAC Advice on NAFO Annual Meeting – November 2024 (WG2)
2. LDAC Advice on NEAFC Annual Meeting – November 2024 (WG2)
3. LDAC Advice on ICCAT Annual Meeting – November 2024 (WG1)
4. LDAC Advice on WCPFC21 Annual Meeting – December 2024 (WG1)
5. LDAC Advice in preparation of the IOTC 29th Annual Session - April 2025 (WG1)
6. Joint LDAC-NWWAC-PELAC-SWWAC Advice on Deep-Sea Mining (DSM) and its impacts on fisheries
7. Joint NSAC-LDAC-PelAC-NWWAC-SWWAC-BSAC Advice on stakeholder engagement in ICES advice request formulation



RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED IN Y18 (2024-2025)

OUTPUT: 18 RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS TO DATE:

ELEVEN LETTERS (ON PROCESS AND CONTENT) INCLUDING CONTRIBUTION TO SOME INTER-AC INITIATIVES

8. Joint LDAC-MAC-AAC request for clarification on role and involvement of ACs in Energy Transition Partnership Support Group
9. LDAC letter on questions concerning the Code of Conduct for EU delegates in RFMO meetings.
10. Inter AC letter on the parliamentary approval of the Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans
11. LDAC letter requesting clarification on work of the Africa-Europe Ocean Strategic Group.
12. LDAC letter on request for meeting on GLOBAL GATEWAY programme and linkages with EU fishing investments in third countries
13. LDAC letter on the need for a level playing field with 'mirror clauses' for imports from China to the European Union.
14. LDAC Letter of welcome and invitation to the new Director of MARE B (Mr. Fernando Andresen)
15. Multi-CC Council on Stakeholder Engagement in STECF
16. LDAC Letter regarding the participation of DG MARE in LDAC meetings
17. Joint LDAC-MEDAC-CCS-CCRUP letter on ICCAT management strategy evaluation (MSE) processes. Request for information on the calendar and progress of MSE for 2025 and participation in ambassador's meetings.
18. LDAC letter on implementation of new EC Fisheries Control Regulation - provisions related to EU external fishing fleet

THREE DRAFT PIECES OF ADVICE FOR ADOPTION TODAY

*The below consultations have been completed both at Working Group and Executive Committee level.
The Secretariat has not received any major objections nor substantial modifications to the final draft.*

1. **DRAFT LDAC Advice on Improving transparency of fishing joint ventures in third countries (WG4/WG5)**
2. **DRAFT LDAC Advice on Regional Management of Small Pelagic Stocks in West Africa (WG4)**
3. **DRAFT LDAC Position paper to answer the EU public consultation on evaluation of CFP (ExCom)**





LDAC Work Programme Year 19

1 June 2025 - 31 May 2026



Work Priorities for Y19 – core themes (I)

1. International Ocean Governance

- Recommendations for implementation of EU IOG agenda for 2030
- Review on achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals targets (in particular SDG14)
- Work on advice to EC for mandate/proposals made at Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs)
- Follow up of work at UNGA and subsidiary bodies as well as other international governance bodies (FAO, CBD...)

2. Promotion of level playing field of fishing products between EU and non-EU operators and traders to ensure the environmental and social sustainability of products in EU market

- Pursue to engage in active dialogue with DG MARE, DG TRADE, DG EMPL, DG GROW and DG SANTE on this subject.
- Consideration to develop theme-specific pieces of advice in development of the advice adopted in Y16
- Fine tune a SWOT analysis specifically address to improve LPF at RFMOs (WG1-WG2)

3. Towards a Strategy for a new EU Fisheries External Action

- Recommendations to inform MARE B on tackling questions and topics addressed at the LDAC ExCom meeting in March 2025
- Actively engage and submit a written contribution to the call for evidence expected to be launched in 4Q 2025
- Provide regular input and feedback to the public consultation and targeted stakeholders' consultation processes, which will lead to the adoption of an EC Communication sometime in 2026



Work Priorities for Y19 – core themes (II)

4. Towards a new generation of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) with Third Countries

- Look at questions posed by DG MARE at its presentation at the WG4 meeting in March 2025 and try to address them + own initiative comments on: regional network and prioritization of targeted partner countries; improving quota utilisation by fleet segments/categories; share of contribution to access axis by industry; how to implement social, transparency and non-discrimination clauses; identification and effective use of sectoral support; policy coherence in actions and use of funds...
- Continue assisting independent experts appointed by the Commission for ex ante/ex post evaluations, by distributing the questionnaires and collecting any necessary responses from the industry and/or NGOs
- Look at specific impacts of SFPAs on marine environment, including by-catch and non-targeted species; look at socio-economic conditions and co-habitation with coastal fleets; promote transparency of value chains and trade flows.

5. The role of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) in sustainable use of fishing and marine resources

- Provide input to the EC designated negotiation teams of key regional fisheries management organizations, either in the form of writing input/advice (e.g., NAFO, ICCAT, IOTC, WCPFC) or via informal feedback in reply to specific questions or meaningful participation in preparatory technical coordination meetings (e.g., IATTC, NPFC, SPRFMO, ...).

6. Implementation of newly revised EU Fisheries Control Systems; and Regulations on Fight against IUU fishing and SMEFF

- Develop recommendations to improve the effective implementation EU Fisheries Control Regulation for EU external fleets.
- Invite DG MARE to discuss the effective implementation of the IUU (carding system, CDS / IT-CATCH) and SMEFF Regulations.



Work Priorities for Y19 – core themes (III)

7. Social Dimension of the CFP

- Promote ratification and implementation of legal instruments of maritime safety at sea both within EU law and level playing field for labour standards at international fora such as RFMOs for policy coherence.
- Prepare feedback to the EU vision for the Fisheries Sector for 2040.
- Continue working closely with the EU Social Dialogue Committee (EUROPECHE-ETF) with specific and tangible deliverables.

8- Role of EU fisheries investments in EU third countries (“joint ventures”) and promotion of cooperation and development of artisanal fisheries and coastal communities from Africa

- Contribute to make more visible and accountable the role of EU fisheries investments in third countries (aka joint ventures).
- Development and cooperation with artisanal fisheries and coastal communities from Africa.
- Progress with advice on making it an element of the CFP External Dimension in light of the evaluation of the CFP.

D1 – 11 planned recommendations for Y19

1	INTERNATIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE + CFP - Towards a new EU Strategy for External Fisheries Action	WG4-WG5
2	NAFO 2025 - Preparation for NAFO 47th Annual Meeting (Halifax, September)	WG2
3	SFPAs - Recommendations towards a “New generation of SFPAs”	WG4
4	NEAFC 2025 - Conservation and management of stocks, Ecosystem Approach and governance framework	WG2
5	ICCAT 2025 - Management measures for tropical tunas and sharks (<i>+Inter-AC advice on horizontal topics?</i>)	WG1
6	WCPFC 2025 - Conservation and management measures for tuna and tuna-like species and sharks	WG1
7	LABOUR AND SOCIAL ASPECTS - Social dimension of CFP: <i>maritime safety at sea, forced labour and human rights</i>	WG
8	IOTC 2026 - Management measures for tropical tuna stocks and sharks in preparation	WG1
9	WEST AFRICA - Regional approach to fisheries management for shared stocks in West African countries	WG4
10	MCS AND CONTROL - Implementation of revised Fisheries Control Systems: aspects related to EU external fleets	WG5
11	FIGHT AGAINST IUU FISHING - CDS, control imports, carding system (country), transparency, flags of convenience	WG5





Meetings Calendar Year 19

1 June 2025 - 31 May 2026





D2 - LDAC Meetings Calendar for Y19 (I)

Date	Topics /Subjects of meeting
June-July-August 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Focus Group on Evaluation of CFP and/or External Fisheries Action (WG5)- Focus Group on Level Playing Field for RFMOs (WG1-WG2)- Focus Groups on conservation and management for sharks (WG1)- Focus Group on Fisheries Investments in Third Countries (WG4-WG5)- Focus Group on the new generation of SFPAs (WG4)- Focus Group in preparation for NAFO Annual Meeting (WG2) + EC stakeholders mtg.
Early-mid September 2025	Coordination mtg of LDAC Chairs and Vice Chairs in preparation of WGs
Mid-late September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Focus Group on ICCAT – CMM for tropical tuna stocks and sharks (WG1)- Focus Group on NEAFC (WG2)
October 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Working Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 – likely in Brussels- EFCA Advisory Board (online)- Inter-AC Policy Coordination Mtgs with DG MARE + Control Workshop (tbc)
Late October/ early November 2025	Focus Group on Western and Central Pacific (WCPFC) stocks

D2 - LDAC Meetings Calendar for Y19 (II)

Date	Topics /Subjects of meeting
January-February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inter AC annual coordination meetings with ICES (MIAC-MIACO) - Executive Committee - Annual Coordination Meeting with COMHAFAT (Rabat?) - Annual Coordination Meeting with AFRIFISH-NET (Dakar/Kenya?)
February 2026	Coordination mtg of LDAC Chairs and Vice Chairs in preparation of WGs – Madrid/Brussels
Early-mid March 2026	Working Groups 1, 2, 4, 5 – likely in Brussels
Mid/late March-April 2026	<p>Mostly will take place online:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus Group on IOTC (WG1) - Focus Group on SFPAs (WG4) - Focus Group on Climate Change (WG5)
Mid/late May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual General Assembly + Executive Committee - OPEN TO HOST COUNTRIES – VOLUNTEERS?





Proposal for tentative dates for LDAC in person meetings

WGs + Executive Committee in Brussels

Week 14-16 October or Week 21-23 October 2025

Executive Committee in Madrid

Move the November 2025 to late January/February 2026



Report by Secretariat on Administration and Finances

Update on Y18 accounts (2024-2025)
Proposed Budget for Y19 (2025-2026)
Membership Overview



Update on LDAC Year 18 Financial Report State of Accounts

1 June 2024 – 31 May 2025



Accounts Y18 - Income

Sources of income	Actual Income at 09-05-25	Outstanding balance
10 Member States (€ 2,021 fee each)	€ 20,210 (all 10 MS)	€ 0
Spain (non-refundable annual contribution)	€ 139,810	€ 0
European Commission (annual grant)	€ 226,277.62	As per EU grant** € 56,569.94
Membership Fees(*) 23/23 GA + ExCom x € 900 30/31 GA only x € 300	€ 20,700 € 9,000	€ 0 € 300 (FIPS)
TOTAL	€415,997.62	€ 56,869.94

****** European Commission's income is dependant on the compliance with the work programme – ex post verification



Accounts Y18

Budget Headings	Budget 24-25	Already spent (09/05/25)	Estimated expenses
Staff	€254,690.40	€246,392	€253,390
Participation in meetings	€ 66,022.02	€46,076	€63,000
Information and preparation Meetings	€41,584.04	€45,027	€50,849
Operating Costs	€32,710.08	€29,165	€32,710
Interpretation and Translation	€60,343.12	€50,480	€66,000
Other Contracts	€17,517,36	€16,283	€22,500
TOTAL	€ 472,867.02	€433,423	€488,449 *deficit circa EUR 15 581.98

Closing Year 18 – Financial Timeline

- 31 May 2025

Close of the financial budgetary year.

- 1-30 June 2025

Processing of outstanding payments (reimbursements and invoices)

- 1-15 July 2025

Completion of account auditing process (external accountant)

- 15-31 July 2025

Issuing of financial statement and submission of LDAC final report to EC.



Proposed Budget for Year 19

1 June 2025 – 31 May 2026



Overview of Income & Expenditure Y19

CONTRIBUTORS / DONORS	Income Y19 (2025-2026)
10 Member States out of 11 (€2,021 each)	€20,210
Spain* (€139,810 already received)	€ 139,810
European Commission (max. amount of the grant)	€ 288,503.56
Members Fees 23 of GA & ExCom members x €900 31 of GA members only x €300 Total no of members: 54*	€20,700 € 9,300
TOTAL	€ 478,523.56

BUDGET HEADINGS	Budget Y19 (2025-2026)
Staff	€254,690.40
Participation in meetings	€66,022.02
Information & preparation Meetings	€42,584.04
Operating Costs	€32,710.08
Interpretation & Translation	€62,342.72
Other Contracts	€20,174.30
TOTAL	€ 478,523.56



EXTRA ACTIVITY NOT FORESEEN IN THE LDAC ANNUAL BUDGET:
LDAC Seminar on The Evaluation Of The CFP External Dimension (13-14 May 2025)

ESTIMATED BASIC COSTS TO BE PAID BY THE LDAC DIRECTLY	AMOUNT IN EURO
Interpretation services	3,500
Catering (onsite lunch + networking dinner)	5,500
Specific design of Seminar (Branding + brochures)	1,000
Technical Equipment (sound and video system)	7,500
Reimbursements of LDAC members (proportional share)	10,000
Reimbursements of invited experts/speakers	8,000
Travel and subsistence costs for LDAC Staff	500
TOTAL COSTS (No sponsors)	EUR 36,000

Budget cut proposals for LDAC Y20 (2026-2027)

**THERE IS A NEED TO REDUCE COSTS AND INCREASE INCOME IN COMING YEARS
THE SECRETARIAT PROPOSES TO SECURE THE VIABILITY OF THE LDAC:**

- To reduce newsfeed subscriptions from EUR 6,000 to 3,000
- To reduce the ceiling for travel expenditure (e.g., flights cost) for members from EUR 1,200 to 800
- To reduce the frequency of the e-newsletter “Fishing Far” from 2 to 3-4 months
- To reduce office supplies from EUR 1,500 euros to 700
- To reduce translation costs of documents from EUR 14,500 euros to 8,000



Proposal to increase membership fees for 2026-2027

AIM: TO AVOID MORE DEFICITS (IN THE REGION OF EUR 15 000 - 30 000 ANNUALLY)

The membership fees have remained unaltered since the creation of the LDAC in 2007.

Our fees are the lowest among all the Advisory Councils (incl. no fees per WG)

The Secretariat proposes to increase the membership from year 2026/2027 onwards as follows:

- General Assembly:

From 300 to 600 euros/year

Assuming 55 members, this would bring an extra income of 16,500 euros.

- Executive Committee

From 600 to 1,000 euros/year

Assuming 23 members, this would mean an extra income of 9,200 euros

IMPORTANT: MAINTAIN CRITERIA OF NOT CHARGING NEW FEES PER WORKING GROUP

EXPECTED EXTRA INCOME OF 25,700 euros /year



Report on LDAC Membership Y19

Leaving organisations with effective date 1 June 2025:

The following organization have informed in writing of their wish to withdraw membership of the LDAC:
International Pole & Line Foundation

Incoming new member organisations with effective date 1 June 2025:

TWO NEW ORGANISATIONS HAVE SUBMITTED IN DUE COURSE ITS APPLICATION TO JOIN THE LDAC (NO OBJECTIONS):

Name: OPROMAR - SPAIN

Category: Fishing Sector / Main representative: Juan Carlos Martín Fragueiro

Name: Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC) - NETHERLANDS

Category: Other Interest Group (NGO) / Main representative: Sian Owen

**STATE OF PLAY: FULL CONSULTATION PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED
NO OBJECTIONS RAISED AND/OR ENDORSEMENT BY MEMBER STATES (ES AND NE)
THE LDAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

MERCI / GRACIAS / THANK YOU / OBRIGADO!



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