



# **LONG DISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **Annual General Assembly**

**LDAC Year 19 (1 June 2025 – 31 May 2026)**

**Venue: NH Den Haag hotel, The Hague**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026**



# AGENDA General Assembly 2026

- 1. Welcome by the Acting Chair, Vanya Vulperhorst**
- 2. Institutional opening from Directorate General for Fisheries and Nature, The Netherlands**
- 3. Adoption of the agenda**
- 4. Adoption of the minutes of the previous GA meeting (Vigo, 13 May 2025)**

**5. Policy Report on LDAC Year 20 (1 June 2026 - 31 May 2027) – Secretary**

- 5.1. Presentation of LDAC Strategic Plan / Annual Work Programme for 2026-2027*
- 5.2. Proposal for a provisional calendar of meetings for Y20.*
- 5.3. Proposal for event to celebrate 20th LDAC Anniversary (May 2026)*
- 5.4. Ratification of items 5.1.-5.2. and decision on 5.3.**

**6. Administrative and Financial Report on LDAC Years 19 and 20 - Secretariat**

- 6.1. State of annual accounts (Income/Expenditure) in Financial Y19 (2025-2026).*
- 6.2. Budget proposal for LDAC Financial Year 20 (2026-2027)*
- 6.3. Adoption / Ratification of annual accounts for Y19 and budget for Y20*  
***Ratification of decisions made by the ExCom on the following issues:***
- 6.4. Revision (increase) of membership fees*
- 6.5. Amendments to the LDAC statutes & code of conduct*
- 6.6. Proposal of technical and scientific collaboration with ECO-AFRIK project*

**7. Presentation of industry fisheries sector initiative/projects:**

- 7.1. INTERFISH*
- 7.2. FIP Blues*

**8. AOB**

**CLOSE OF THE MEETING**



# **Overview of Work in Year 19**

**1 June 2025 - 31 May 2026**





# RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED IN Y19 (2025-2026)

## 21 RECOMMENDATIONS (INCL. SOME INTER-AC) ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS: FOURTEEN (14) PIECES OF ADVICE

- 1- Joint LDAC-MAC advice on control of imports from non-EU products
- 2- Joint AC Recommendations to Enhance the Role and Functioning of the EU Advisory Council (*coordinated by the LDAC*)
- 3- LDAC Advice: Towards A New Generation of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)
- 4- LDAC Advice: Advancing Sustainability in EU-linked Fishing Joint Ventures
- 5- LDAC advice: Sustainability and competitiveness within RFMOs
- 6- LDAC advice in preparation of NAFO Annual Meeting 2025 (Halifax, September)
- 7- LDAC Advice in preparation of NEAFC Annual Meeting 2025 (London, November)
- 8- LDAC advice in preparation of ICCAT Annual Meeting 2025 (Sevilla, November)
- 9- LDAC-MEDAC-CCRUP-CCSUR joint advice in preparation of ICCAT AM 2025: cross-cutting issues
- 10- LDAC Advice in preparation of WCPFC Annual Meeting (Manila, December)
- 11- LDAC Advice: Protocol for the Prevention and Eradication of Labour and Sexual Harassment in Fishing Vessels
- 12- LDAC Advice: Addressing climate change in non-EU fisheries: implications for SSFs and EU distant-water fleets
- 13- LDAC Advice in preparation of IOTC Annual Meeting 2026 (Maldives, May)
- 14- LDAC advice on practical interactions between the UN BBNJ Agreement and RFMOs/RFABs



# RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED IN Y19 (2025-2026)

## SEVEN (7) LETTERS (BOTH ON CONTENT AND OF PROCESS)

15- LDAC Letter: Exploring alternatives for the continuation of EU pole-and-line tuna fisheries with live bait in Senegal

16- LDAC Letter on Reasons for absence from MARE team at LDAC meetings prior to RFMOs/multilateral negotiations

17- LDAC response to EU public consultation: call for evidence on future EU Strategy for Fisheries External Action

18- LDAC letter: "The importance of the social dimension of the CFP and promoting sustainable and responsible supply chains"

19- LDAC letter: "IMO 2012 Cape Town Agreement and Recast of the Fishing Vessel Safety Directive"

20- LDAC Letter on the "Need of a detailed response to LDAC advice to consider the key role of the sustainable and transparent fishing joint ventures"

21- LDAC letter on implementation of new EC Fisheries Control Regulation - provisions related to EU external fishing fleet



# **LDAC Work Programme Year 20**

**1 June 2026 - 31 May 2027**





# Work Priorities for Y20 – core themes (I)

## **1. International Ocean Governance**

- Implementation of EU IOG Agenda including outcomes of Evaluation of CFP, EU Ocean Act and Fisheries External Action.
- Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs).
- Implementation of UN BBNJ
- Follow up of work of biodiversity and fisheries international bodies (FAO COFI, CITES, 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**

- Engage in active dialogue with DG MARE, DG TRADE, DG EMPL, DG COMP, DG GROW and DG SANTE on this subject.
- Develop recommendations on fair competition, traceability, transparency, due diligence and market access.
- Identify areas where there are LPF imbalances, both internally (within the EU) and externally (imported products).

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

- Draw up practical recommendations to MARE ahead of the adoption of this strategy (end of 2026).
- Follow up on implementation and provide ongoing feedback on key issues.
- Produce evidence-based advice on benefits on multilateral alliances and public-private partnerships between EU and other international actors (incl. partner countries) to enhance accountability and transparency of fishing activities by all fleets.



# Work Priorities for Y20 – core themes (II)

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

- Follow up on recommendations agreed at Conference on SFPAs (Brussels, 8 April 2026).
- Assisting EC providing feedback and active input (via Secretariat, members or both) to ex-ante/ex-post evaluations.
- Set up a dedicated work on analysing the causes of dormant agreements and formulating strategic proposals.
- Look at specific impacts of SFPAs on conservation of marine environment, incl. mitigation of by-catch/non-targeted species.
- Investigate development of social clause and socio-economic effects both on DWF and SSF.
- Promote full transparency of value chains and trade flows for all (EU and non-EU) actors entering the EU market.

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

- Provide input to the MARE designated negotiation teams of regional fisheries management organizations.
- Input can be either in the form of:
  - Advice adopted in writing (e.g., NAFO, NEAFC, ICCAT, IOTC, WCPFC); or
  - Informal feedback by members participating in preparatory technical coordination meetings with MARE (e.g., IATTC, NPFC, SPRFMO, SIOFA...). In this case, previous coordination will be required and supervised by the Secretariat.



# Work Priorities for Y20 – core themes (III)

## **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.
- Exchange views with Control Unit at regularly organized Inter-AC stakeholders meeting on this subject (next: July 2026).
- Invite DG MARE and EFCA reps to discuss identified topics of interest on effective implementation of the IUU (*e.g. state of play of carding system, practical implementation aspects of CDS / IT-CATCH*).
- Contribute to study on evaluation of SMEFF Regulation.

## **7. Social Dimension of the CFP**

- Raise the profile of labour and social issues relating to the fishing industry on the European Union's agenda. - Promote ratification and implementation of legal instruments of maritime safety at sea both within EU and international law.
- Defend level playing field for labour standards at 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 (i.e. EUROPECHE-ETF) with specific and tangible deliverables (*e.g. recognition of rights of migrant workers, promotion and ratification of IMO STCW-F, ILO C188...*).



# 13 planned recommendations for Y20

1	SFPAs - Recommendations on the new generation of SFPAs	WG4
2	SVALBARD - Management of EU fishing rights and quota allocations in ICES I&II	WG2
3	IOG - Implementation of BBNJ and role of RFMOs	WG5
4	NAFO 2026 - Preparation for NAFO 48th Annual Meeting (Lithuania, September)	WG2
5	NEAFC 2026 - Conservation and management of stocks, Ecosystem Approach and governance framework	WG2
6	ICCAT 2026 - Management measures for tropical tunas and sharks	WG1
7	WCPFC 2026 - Conservation and management measures for tuna and tuna-like species and sharks	WG1
8	IOG - Towards a new EU Strategy for External Fisheries Action	WG4-WG5
9	SOCIAL DIMENSION – Dedicated advice on Social dimension of CFP	WG5
10	IOTC 2027 - Management measures for tropical tuna stocks and sharks	WG1
11	WEST AFRICA - Regional approach to fisheries management for shared small pelagic and/or demersal stocks	WG4
12	CONTROL AND FIGHT AGAINST IUU FISHING	WG5
13	SMEFF - Evaluation of SMEFF Regulation	WG5



# **Meetings Calendar Year 20**

**1 June 2026 - 31 May 2027**





# D2 - LDAC Meetings Calendar for Y20 (I)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics /Subjects of meeting</b>
June-July-August 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Focus Group on Report of Evaluation of CFP and/or EU External Fisheries Action (WG5)</li><li>- Focus Group on preparation for NAFO Annual Meeting (WG2) + EC stakeholders mtg.</li></ul>
First fortnight of September 2026	Coordination mtg of LDAC Chairs and Vice Chairs in preparation of WGs
Second fortnight of September 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Focus Group on ICCAT – CMM for tropical tuna stocks and sharks (WG1)</li><li>- Focus Group on NEAFC (WG2)</li><li>- Focus Group on dormant agreements (WG4)</li></ul>
October 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Working Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 (14-16 Oct, Brussels)</li><li>- EFCA Advisory Board (online)</li><li>- Inter-AC Policy Coordination Mtgs with DG MARE (tbc)</li></ul>
Late October/ early November 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Focus Group on Western and Central Pacific (WCPFC) stocks</li></ul>



# D2 - LDAC Meetings Calendar for Y20 (II)

Date	Topics /Subjects of meeting
January-February 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Inter AC annual coordination meetings with ICES (MIAC-MIACO)</li><li>- LDAC Executive Committee (Madrid)</li><li>- Annual Coordination Meeting with COMHAFAT (Rabat?)</li><li>- Annual Coordination Meeting with AFRIFISH-NET (Dakar/Kenya?)</li></ul>
February 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Coordination mtg of LDAC Chairs and Vice Chairs in preparation of WGs (Madrid/Brussels)</li></ul>
14-16 March 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Working Groups 1, 2, 4, 5 (NH Brussels EU Berlaymont)</li></ul>
Mid/late March-April 2027	Mostly will take place online: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Focus Group on IOTC (WG1)</li><li>- Focus Group on IOG (WG5)</li></ul>
Mid/late May 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Annual General Assembly + Executive Committee</li><li>- <i>Special Event: Celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the LDAC</i></li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROPOSAL FOR 2-3 DAYS COMBO PRIOR TO EMD 2027</b> <b>OPEN TO HOST COUNTRIES – VOLUNTEERS?</b></p>
European Maritime Day (Santander, 20-21 May 2027)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- LDAC to lead/co-organise with other ACs a side event</li></ul>



# Report by Secretariat on Administration and Finances

**Update on Y19 accounts (2025-2026)**  
**Proposed Budget for Y20 (2026-2027)**  
**Membership Overview**



# **Update on LDAC Year 19 Financial Report State of Accounts**

**1 June 2025 – 31 May 2026**

# Accounts Y19 - Income

Sources of income	Actual Income at 08-05-26	Outstanding balance
<b>10 Member States</b> (€ 2,021 fee each)	€ 12,126 (6/10 MS)	8,084€
<b>Spain (non-refundable annual contribution)</b>	€ 139,810	€ 0
<b>European Commission (annual grant)</b>	€ 230,803.17	€ 57,700.79*
<b>Members Fees</b> 23/23 GA & ExCom x € 900 29/31 GA only x € 300	€ 20,700 € 8,700	€ 0 € 600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€412,139.17</b>	<b>€ 66,384.79</b>

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



# Accounts Y19

Budget Headings	Budget 25-26	Already spent (08/05/26)	Estimated expenses
<b>Staff</b>	€254,690.4	€257,100.00	€279,300.00
<b>Participation in meetings</b>	€ 66,022.02	€54,801.00	€64,000.00
<b>Information and preparation Meetings</b>	€42,584.44	€40,817.00	€45,291.00
<b>Operating Costs</b>	€32,710.08	€33,627.00	€35,993.00
<b>Interpretation and Translation</b>	€62,342.72	€71,573.00	€96,500.00
<b>Other Contracts</b>	€20,174.30	€15,034.00	€19,836.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 478,523.96</b>	<b>€472,952.00</b>	<b>€540,920.00*</b> <b>Déficit = 62.396,04</b>

- **31 May 2026**

*Close of the financial budgetary year.*

- **1-30 June 2026**

*Processing of outstanding payments by Secretariat  
(reimbursements and invoices)*

- **1-15 July 2026**

*Completion of account auditing process (by external accountant)*

- **16-31 July 2026**

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



# **Proposed Budget for Year 20**

**1 June 2026 – 31 May 2027**





# Overview of Income & Expenditure Y20

CONTRIBUTORS / DONORS	Income Y20 (2026-2027)
<b>10 Member States out of 11</b> (€2,021 each)	€20,210
<b>Spain*</b> (€139,810 received)	€ 139,810
<b>European Commission</b>	€ 361.882,08
<b>Members Fees</b> 23 of ExCom x €800 55* of GA x €800	€18,400 €44,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 584,302.08</b>

BUDGET HEADINGS	Budget Y20 (2026-2027)
<b>Staff</b>	€271,000
<b>Participation in meetings</b>	€87,822
<b>Information &amp; preparation Meetings</b>	€61,700
<b>Operating Costs</b>	€37,352.60
<b>Interpretation &amp; Translation</b>	€94,865
<b>Other Contracts</b>	€31,562.48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 584,302.08</b>

## COSTS ITEMS

Interpretation services (CESE and EP)

Catering (onsite lunch)

Side event entitled “Sustainable Tuna Experience”

Technical Equipment (sound and video system) and meeting room

Reimbursements of LDAC members (including LDAC Staff)

Reimbursements of invited experts/speakers

Civil liability insurance and publication costs

**TOTAL COSTS: 74,000 EUROS**

- LDAC own funds: 29,000 Euros
- Junta de Andalucía: 14,999 Euros
- Gobierno Canario: 14,999 Euros
- Gobierno Vasco: 14,999 Euros



# Proposal to increase membership fees for 2026-2027

**AIM: TO ENSURE FINANCIAL VIABILITY FOR THE LDAC IN THE SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM (NEXT 4 YEAR PERIOD) BY ALIGNING AVERAGE LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN THE LAST 5 YEARS WITH INCOME RECEIVED FROM CO-SPONSORS (EC, MEMBERS)**

## Main characteristics:

- An annual membership fee of 800 euros (current 300 euros) for **General Assembly**;
- An annual membership fee of 800 euros (current 600 euros) for **Executive Committee**;
- **No membership fee for Working Groups** (*this cost is already included in the GA fees*).

**MERCI / GRACIAS / THANK YOU / OBRIGADO!**



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