



**REPORT**  
**Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council (LDAC)**  
Web: [www.ldac.eu](http://www.ldac.eu)

**MIACO – Meeting between ICES, the ACs and Other Observers**  
**ICES HQ, Copenhagen, 13-14 January 2015**

**Date: 28 January 2015**

*Priority area of work (extracted from the LDAC Work Programme for 2014-2015)*

*To work closely with the scientists looking for the involvement of the LDAC not only in the evaluation of the fishing stocks, but also in the recovery plans of the species this AC is affected by.*

**1. Terms of Reference**

ICES will invite the Advisory Councils (ACs) and ICES observer organizations to meet with the ACOM leadership, chaired by ACOM Chair, Eskild Kirkegaard, at ICES Headquarters 13–14 January 2015 to:

- a) Discuss practical arrangements in 2015 for cooperation between ACs/observers and ICES, including procedures for delivering and discussion of the ICES advice;
- b) Review progress on following up of action points from the 2014 MIRAC meeting;
- c) Invite ACs/observers to report on their experience of working with ICES during 2014 and to present their research and advisory needs, and discuss ICES' experience of participating in RAC meetings in 2014;
- d) Discuss the plan for further development of ICES advice in relation to integrated advice (bycatch), integrated ecosystem assessments and ecosystem overviews, format of advice, MSY-approach and landing obligation/discard ban;
- e) Discuss options for further development of the accessibility of ICES advice.

**2. LDAC contribution to the meeting**

The LDAC attended this meeting and was represented by a delegation of three representatives: Juan Manuel Liria (Vice-Chair, representing the Fishing Sector); Javier López (Oceana, representing the Other Groups of Interest); and Alexandre Rodríguez (Executive Secretary).



The ACs were asked to make an assessment of dialogue held with ICES during 2014 and formulate proposals for future collaboration in 2015 and onwards. The following summary was given by the LDAC Executive Secretary:

### 2.1. ICES participation in AC meetings

The LDAC appreciates the increased level of openness and transparency of ICES towards external users/stakeholders during the last years. Dialogue between scientists and fisheries stakeholders has improved and become more frequent in the ACs, within ICES groups and in workshops, EU projects and other fora. This increased transparency will hopefully enable fishermen, NGOs and citizens to benefit of a better understanding of the state of the stocks, although there are still mixed messages regarding uncertainty and scientific basis for data limited (deficient) stocks.

The LDAC is thankful of the possibility of prominent ICES scientists to attend AC meetings and present relevant ICES advice via the annual MoU signed with the European Commission.

### 2.2. Presentation of ICES Advice and Training Programmes

Due to the specific nature of the LDAC, with few stocks outside Community waters dealt with by ICES, there has been no direct participation of ICES scientists at LDAC meetings in 2014. However, the LDAC would be interested in inviting an ICES ACOM representative to participate regularly at WG2 meeting (Regional Fisheries Organisations and north Atlantic agreements), which takes place twice a year. ICES attendance will help to improve mutual understanding in relation to ICES advice for the North East Atlantic and interaction between ICES and the Scientific Council of NEAFC.

Regarding better understanding of science, the LDAC is supportive of the continuation of training courses on basics of stock assessment for EC and stakeholders.

### 2.3. LDAC participation in ICES meetings

The LDAC is committed to nominate representatives to attend those benchmark and data compilation workshops focused on stocks that are relevant for us, for example some of the Arctic stocks such as redfish, Greenland halibut, etc.



The LDAC also wishes to be more involved and participate in contributing to the thinking on fully documented fisheries, multispecies approach, etc. The LDAC is of the opinion that ICES WG on Maritime Systems (WGMARS) might be a good platform and act as a “think tank” on this. WGMARS is a well-established body which allows interaction and in-depth discussions between scientists involved in assessments and fisheries and marine stakeholders with the aim to achieve a sustainable exploitation and conservation of fishing resources from a biological, social and economic perspective.

#### 2.4. Future areas for collaboration

The LDAC would be interested in strengthening links with ICES in the coming years and find ways of collaboration for scientific support in areas such as improving selectivity and reducing catches of juvenile tuna stocks and other associated by-catches (e.g. improvement of the use of FADs); or assisting in evaluating, jointly with STECF, the biological and economic effects of the implementation of the forthcoming landing obligation for EU fleets in international waters.

The LDAC is also interested in improving the communication between LDAC, ICES and scientific bodies of RFMOs such as NEAFC (ICES client) and NAFO in terms of provision of advice regarding key commercial stocks for the long distance fleet (e.g. Greenland halibut, redfish...). Also collaboration with ICCAT in this area would be sought.

This spirit of collaboration between the LDAC and ICES could be articulated in several ways proactively, for example through special requests for advice via the Commission or by securing dedicated funding through EMFF or transnational projects such as fisheries-science partnerships.

#### 2.5. Implementation of landing obligation

The development of discard plan for pelagic and demersal species is a key topic for all EU vessels fishing both in EU waters and offshore outside the EEZ; the scientific advice (including ecosystem and mixed fisheries considerations) will be much needed for these plans to be successful and effective and periodic review of the effectiveness of management measures in place will be crucial for improving the biology of the stocks.

The LDAC will pursue to secure a seat, in observer capacity, at STECF EWG on Implementation of LO so it can be actively involved in shaping the definition of the different constituent elements of the discards plans (e.g. survivability exemptions, *de minimis*, etc.)



### 3. Main outcomes and actions of the meeting

- Interested ACs should contact ICES Secretariat to propose specific research initiatives including funding sources under existing (FP7, Atlantic Programme) or coming projects (H2020).
- There are new funding opportunities for research and scientific projects for the ACs under articles 85-86 of the EMFF Regulation. These will be based on individual calls for proposals for pilot projects/studies launched by the Commission, and will be dependent on budget availability and eligibility criteria for each call.
- The ACs must inform ICES Secretariat on their forthcoming meetings (dates and venues) and invitations to scientists should be submitted in due course. The LDAC will try to secure participation of an ICES ACOM representative at the next WG2, likely to take place in Bilbao (Spain) in late April.
- ICES Head of Advisory Services noted that participation from stakeholders is possible in observer capacity at the ACOM, ADG and EWG – registration available at: [advice@ices.dk](mailto:advice@ices.dk)
- A Pelagic AC representative suggested to have half a day consultation before and half a day after you come to the Advisory Drafting Groups for providing stakeholders' input through the advisory process.
- The ACs are invited to provide requests for Benchmark Workshops (BWK) for 2016 and onwards so ICES can consider to include them on their annual budget. However, it was also noted that input from stakeholders will be limited at BWK unless it is a good preparation and relevant data are submitted beforehand (i.e. generally at least 2 months before through the Data Compilation Workshops).
- Upon request by some fishing sector representatives, an exchange of anecdotes of the practical implementation of the landing obligation that was in place for 12 days took place, including details of port and control authorities.
- ICES will change the current standard format of advice from 2016 and present a new format with a structure of advice for each ecoregion in three levels:
  1. Ecosystem based advisory deliverables;
  2. Fisheries based advisory deliverables;
  3. Fish stocks based advisory deliverables.

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LDAC Summary report on MIACO 2015 – Copenhagen, 13-14 January 2015