



Meet Our Members

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

I personally started to participate in LDAC meetings in 2018, although ANFACO-CECOPESCA has been a member since LDAC was set up.

The reason for my participation is to be able to make contributions based on my experience in processing and marketing within our industry, and to this end, help collaborate with LDAC in strategic areas such as trade and market policy. Also to contribute our knowledge in terms of advising the European institutions and Members States in relation to seeking a comprehensive vision for legislations across the whole sector.

In this way, the LDAC offers an excellent platform to promote dialogue and collaboration between the entire value chain, which is essential to achieving the sustainable development of the sector as a whole and to maintain Europe's position as a global benchmark.

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

Sustainability can only be achieved by focusing on three aspects: environmental, social and economic, I would highlight:

Coherence: There must be coordination between all policies that have a direct impact on the sector's activity (fishing, commercial, social, environmental, health, etc.) with the aim of adopting balanced legislation that does not harm our competitiveness.

Level playing field: All operators must be subject to the same rules to guarantee fair competition in the market, however, this is a very complex issue due to the surveillance and control systems of the authorities in third countries, and even because of weaknesses in the harmonisation of controls between EU Member States.

Commitment: It is essential that all operators commit to the goal of sustainability and work actively towards it.

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

I can assure you that in ANFACO-CECOPECA itself there are scientists and professionals, all of whom are women; I admire them for their perseverance and knowledge. There are many people in this sector who deserve recognition. To mention one close to the LDAC, in Vigo we are lucky to have the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), and the current executive director, Susan Steele, seems to me to be an admirable professional. With a friendly and approachable character, she knows how to defend her work, lead change, and motivate those around her in a positive and balanced way. I think we need more people like this nowadays, less extremist, less self-centred, and more generous, focused on finding solutions and willing to work hard.

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

We participate in a Foundation, called FUNPROMAR, which seeks to promote the cultural and social heritage of the sector. One of their activities is called "sereas", which aims to give a voice to women who have played an important role within the industry. Their audiovisual stories are inspiring, and I invite you to listen to them. Their passion is, quite simply, to motivate us to keep doing what we do. Their work can be accessed through <https://sereasdomar.org/multimedia/#videos>

Although they are in Spanish, the video platform allows automatic subtitling, I hope you like it.

What is your favourite fish dish and why?

Canned mackerel in olive oil. In terms of sales volume, it would appear to not be so popular, but it is a spectacular product that, eaten with a little wholemeal bread, gives you a complete meal. This is due to the high-quality protein and omega 3 content of the fish, as well as the carbohydrate from the bread which, being wholemeal, also contains fibre.

As I said, a complete meal, with a high nutritional value, simple and delicious.