



MINUTES
LDAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Haffner Hotel. Jana Jerzego Haffnera 59, 81-715 Sopot, Poland
Wednesday, 22 May 2019
10:00-12:00 h

Chair: Iván López
Vice-Chairs: Béatrice Gorez and Juan Manuel Liria

1. Welcome by the Chair and the Authorities.

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, welcomes attendees, thanking the Polish authorities for their presence.

Then, the representative of the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation of the Polish government, Ms. Justyna Szumlic, thanks the LDAC for having chosen the city of Sopot to hold these LDAC meetings, wishing that they are fruitful.

Afterwards, the Secretariat informs about the delegations of vote received by the members.

Delegations of vote:

- Ms. Andrea Ripol (Seas At Risk) delegates to Mr. Raúl García (WWF)
- Mr. Michel Goujon (ORTHONGEL) delegates to Ms. Béatrice Gorez (CFFA-CAPE).
- Ms. Sara Fröcklin (SSNC) delegates to Ms. Béatrice Gorez (CFFA-CAPE)
- Mr. Gerard van Balsfoort (DFTPA) delegates to Mr. Emil Remisz (NAPO)
- Mr. Steve Trent (EFJ) delegates to Ms. M^{re} José Cornax (OCEANA)
- Mr. Hjálmar Vilhjálmsson (ELDFA) delegates to Ms. Jane Sandell (NFFO)
- Mr. Francisco Mari (BFW) delegates to Ms. Béatrice Gorez (CFFA-CAPE).
- Mr. Francisco Portela Rosa (VIANAPESCA) delegates to Mr. Luis Vicente (ADAPI)
- Mr. Pierre Comerre (AIPCE-CEP) delegates to Ms. Katarina Sipic (CONXEMAR)
- Ms. Livia Spera (ETF) delegates to Ms. Rosalie Tuckker (Europêche)

*The whole list of participants is included as **Annex I**.*

2. Reading and approval of the agenda.

After counting the representatives of the member organisations present and represented with delegation of vote, attendees are informed that, in conformity with Article XXIV of the LDAC Rules of procedure, the necessary quorum for adoption of decisions by simple majority (at least 50% of the members present or represented) is acquired, if so required.

The agenda is then approved with no comments or additional items to be included.



3. Reading and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.

- **Executive Committee Minutes - Madrid, 3 December 2018**

The Executive Committee minutes are approved including correction on page 10 whereby the amount regarding the commitments with the Conference Our Ocean in 2018 is deleted.

Action:

- **To amend the draft minutes to include the correction mentioned.**

- **Extraordinary Executive Committee Minutes - Brussels, 27 March 2019**

The minutes of the Extraordinary Executive Committee held on 27 March 2019 are approved with no comments or additional items to be included.

4. Presentation of Pending Actions of Working Groups (26-28 March 2019)

- **Working Group 1 - Tuna Fisheries and their RFMOs**

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, in the absence of WG1 Chair, Mr. Michel Goujon, summarises pending actions of this working group as follows:

- Draft document about good practices of the tuna freezer purse-seine fleet, including management and research on FADs: make changes in all 3 languages, as agreed at the WG meeting.
- To include an item in the agenda of WG1 on the FAD-WATCH monitoring and recovery project as soon as new results are obtained in other fisheries different to Seychelles.

Mr. Raúl García (WWF) wishes to clarify that he would like to improve work dynamics for next year at ICCAT in comparison with last year so that work is performed in a coordinated way and among interested members first in order for a draft opinion to be presented and discussed at the next WG1 meeting.

Mr. Iván López, AGARBA/CEPESCA, voices his agreement with the comment made by Mr. García, insisting on the fact that it is a priority included in the LDAC work programme and that it would be very positive for the LDAC to submit an annual opinion for ICCAT at the European Commission in a correct and timely manner, like it does for other RFMOs, such as NAFO.

Ms. Yaiza Dronkers, International Pole and Line Foundation, shows her interest to actively participate both in the focus group and in the discussions about the ICCAT opinion within WG1.

Action:

- **The WG1 Chair and the Secretariat will coordinate themselves to organise a focus group and prepare a first opinion draft to be discussed at the WG1 plenary.**
 - **Working Group 2 - Regional Fisheries Organizations and North Atlantic Agreements**



WG2 Chair, Ms. Jane Sandell, summarises pending actions, highlighting that their priority is to organise the work in order to prepare the opinion for the NAFO annual meeting.

In addition, she highlights the importance of carrying out experimental surveys and initiatives to improve the selectivity of cod catches in Subdivision 3M, so she calls out for all stakeholders to collaborate with scientists, since the commitment of science is essential. She insists on the importance of LDAC members whose fleet fishes in NAFO waters participating in this opinion drafting focus group and collaborating with comments about the stocks they are interested and specialised in.

Mr. Iván López agrees with Ms. Sandell but clarifies that it is important that the NAFO Scientific Council or the European Commission provide some guidelines to validate the results obtained in those experimental surveys that cost time and money to ship-owners.

Mr. Raúl García, WWF, asks whether there are any NGO representatives participating in the NAFO opinion.

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, answers that that has not been the case in the last 2 years since there were no candidates with knowledge about this fishery, but that it would be very positive to receive input from NGOs. He suggests that, for the next call, they should appoint at least a representative or coordinator to participate in the preparation of the opinion, especially on aspects regarding considerations of the Working Group on Ecosystems, Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems and impact assessments of scientific surveys.

WG2 Chair, Ms. Jane Sandell, declares that all those interested are welcome to participate, and encourages them to do so. She then mentions the rest of pending actions in detail:

- The LDAC will closely follow developments regarding Brexit negotiations and will propose its counterparts in PELAC, NWWAC and NSAC to hold a new Inter-AC meeting or workshop as soon as there is clear information about post Brexit scenarios and their implications for fisheries in order to discuss adjustments in their structure, membership and competencies.
- Consideration will be given to a proposal by the LDAC to find a solution (for instance, through the delegation of powers or competencies by the European Parliament and the Council to the Commission) to speed up the transposition of provisions or resolutions adopted by RFMOs into EU Law in a more direct and immediate way.
- It is agreed that the research team involved in the multispecies assessment projects of the Flemish Cap (Subdivision 3M) shall be invited to participate in future meetings and in discussions within the NAFO Working Group on Ecosystems to contribute the operators' perspective when appropriate.
- The LDAC will closely follow the evolution of Snow Crab in Svalbard, including possible legal actions among Member States by the International Court of Justice of The Hague regarding the interpretation of the Treaty of Paris.



- **Working Group 3 - Other RFMOs and High Seas Governance**

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, in the absence of WG3 Chair, Mr. J.A. Suárez-Llanos, summarises pending actions:

- The Secretariat will send a concept note on the role of Joint Ventures or fisheries investments of EU capital in third countries including a definition proposal for them, as well as a questionnaire for the compilation of socio-economic data resulting from their activity in order to prepare future studies on this subject matter.

- Ms. Carmen Paz will send the European Parliament study: “Research for PECH Committee - Seafood Industry Integration in the EU: all 22 Member States with a coastline” - Note: the study is already available on the LDAC website:

https://ldac.eu/images/Study_EP_Seafood_Industry_Oct2018.pdf

- Chilean Ports: the representative of the EC suggests that as a private initiative an interested ship-owner could send a surface longline vessel to check whether landings are being allowed and the legal and technical-administrative rules are being met.

- **Working Group 4 - EU sustainable fisheries partnership agreements with third countries**

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, in the absence of WG4 Chair, Mr. Julio Morón, summarises pending actions as follows:

- When a new International Governance director B in DG MARE is appointed, the possibility of considering the organisation of an international conference led by the LDAC on conversations with third countries will be reopened to improve the implementation of sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs) in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

- The Secretariat will coordinate the submission of the concept note on fisheries joint ventures together with the draft questionnaire to be filled in by interested member organisations.

On this issue, Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, clarifies that ideally, in line with Commissioner Juncker’s strategy on sustainable investments, they should have a protocol to analyse the different investment models and types, in order to conduct a benchmark process, adding sustainability and environmental impact aspects. Among other elements, information shall be provided on CSR actions developed, transparency in data reports, etc.

- The representative of the EC, Catherine Chapoux, requests that obstacles hindering access to tuna raw material in the Port of Abidjan by women’s processing cooperative in Côte d’Ivoire be identified.



○ **Working Group 5 – Horizontal issues**

WG5 Chair, Ms. M^a José Cornax, OCEANA, summarises pending actions:

- To find a way to coordinate efforts with the Market Advisory Council (MAC) and the European Commission to give feedback about aspects relating to the state of play of negotiations and technical meetings in terms of trade agreements.
- Once we have access to the MAC opinion or document on issues regarding unfair competition and a level playing field, it will be analysed and discussed within the LDAC.
- WG5 agreed that the LDAC will organise a workshop on the social and labour dimension of fisheries on 23 May after the General Assembly to be held in May in Sopot, Poland.
- The Secretariat will send the information on the FAO online consultation platform to all LDAC members as soon as it is available, so that they can submit comments to the guidance document on social responsibility in the fisheries value chain. In addition, the possibility of organising a workshop and/or side event in the FAO COFI framework in 2020 shall be considered.
- The presentation made by the EC regarding the progress report on international ocean governance will be available on the LDAC website https://ldac.eu/images/EC_Presentation_on_Progress_report_International_Oceans_Governance.pdf
- Upon initiative of the interested members, and pending reception of updated information by Mr. Le Manach, the Secretariat will set up a focus group to prepare a draft opinion on the prohibition of harmful subsidies to fishing activities with representatives of the sector and of other stakeholders. Mr. Voces, Mr. le Manach and Ms. Gorez will be part of this group.
- WG5 members unanimously approve the LDAC draft opinion requesting a moratorium for underwater mining with no objections but with small modifications to be sent to the ExCom to be adopted at the plenary session in May.
- The LDAC Secretariat in collaboration with DSCC will prepare press releases on the adoption and content of the opinion on underwater mining and will be sent to the written media contact network.
- The General Secretary will participate with an express mandate restricted by ExCom members at the UN ISCP-14 Conference on RFMOs Performance Review to be held on 2 and 3 May 2019 in New York. The Secretary will prepare a draft concept note and a presentation that will be sent to the members for them to review and submit comments.



- Depending on the conclusions of the United Nations panel, and using the ideas reflected on the presentation as a starting point, the preparation of a draft opinion on improving the performance of RFMOs will be considered.
- The European Commission will be invited to offer an update on the state of play of negotiations and the review process of the Control Regulation, as well as on improvements regarding the application of the IUU Regulation, including updates about the carding system, and the work on the CATCH platform on an Electronic Catches Certification pilot project, at the next WG5 meeting to be held in October/November.
- The LDAC draft letter on the application of the SMEFF Regulation will be sent to the ExCom members for comments and approval.
- The LDAC Secretariat will be awaiting the publication of the internal report on the capacities of Member States, deficiencies and gaps of the SMEFF Regulation by the EC, to distribute it among the members as soon as it is available.

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, informs that the MAC set up a specific focus group on how to reach a level playing field and NGO members suggested it should collaborate with the LDAC in this regard, and also insisted on the importance of including this aspect in trade agreements, as well as social, labour and environmental conditions.

Mr. Iván López, AGARBA/CEPESCA, points out that at the meeting held with the EC this issue was already addressed, concluding that the LDAC would continue preparing opinions on these topics and sending them to the MAC and the EC if appropriate. In his opinion, coordination among ACs will improve as time goes by.

Then, the General Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, summarises his participation as rapporteur in one of the United Nations panels where specific issues were presented on RFMOs' performance reviews.

His whole contribution can be seen in a video on the LDAC YouTube channel – direct link: <https://ldac.eu/es/actualidad/video/699-intervention-ldac-executive-secretary-as-panellist-at-united-nations-new-york-may-2019>

As for the social dimension of the fishing activity, Mr. Iván López informs that in June a FAO workshop will take place in Rome on this topic, that will be attended by the Chair and Vice Chair and he says that if there is anybody interested in participating in the delegation, the LDAC Secretariat should be informed.

5. Approval of the WG recommendations and letters by the Executive Committee:

- **LDAC guidelines on best practices for tropical tuna purse seine fisheries with special consideration to FAD management (WG1)**

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, explains the document, which is approved by consensus after adding the sentence *“according to the relevant environmental and socio-economic factors”*

DECISION: The guidelines are adopted by consensus.



- **Opinion on underwater mining in the high seas (WG5)**

The draft opinion on underwater mining in the high seas is approved under the jurisdiction of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and a press release is agreed to be prepared for the media.

Regarding this issue, Mr. Raúl García, WWF, points out that it would be positive to send the same clear messages by means of a joint document drafted by several ACs on the impact of other economic activities different to fisheries in the high seas. He highlights that, in this sense, the South Western Waters AC (SWWAC) recently adopted an opinion on the impact of wind energy in the high seas and that they could coordinate themselves or request their support for actions in the field of underwater mining.

DECISION:

- **The opinion on underwater mining in the high seas is adopted by consensus.**

6. Approval by the ExCom of a mandate for the LDAC Secretariat to prepare draft opinions on the different RFMOs identified in the annual work programme

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, AGARBA/CEPESCA, introduces the topic explaining that at the meeting held between an LDAC delegation and the European Commission, Mr. Anders Jessen and Ms. Veronika Veits insisted on the importance of the LDAC preparing opinions on other RFMOs apart from NAFO. Moreover, he says that in the first part of the report on the LDAC performance review this aspect was also stressed. Therefore, he suggests a mandate is approved so that, in case of inaction or delay in the delivery by the rapporteur, the Secretariat can, by its own initiative, prepare a first opinion draft on the different RFMOs identified on the annual work programme, based on the available information, in order for it to be used as a basic discussion document and avoid a gap in this regard. He gives the example that last year there was no opinion on ICCAT since the Secretariat did not have a specific mandate to prepare a first draft to be discussed within WG1.

DECISION: After deliberation among the members, it is agreed to approve the mandate for the LDAC Secretariat to prepare a first draft suggesting that members are informed at least one week prior to the preparation of the document so that they can send their contributions to the Secretariat.

7. Description of the procedure for the election to the Executive Committee 2019-2022

- **Expressions of interest received for Chair and Vice Chair**

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, conveys the expressions of interest received as follows:

For the position of LDAC Chair (2019-2022) the only expression of interest received was that of:

- Mr. Iván López (AGARBA) Fisheries Sector



For the position of LDAC Vice-Chairs (2019-2022) the following expressions of interest were received:

- Ms. Béatrice Gorez (CFFA-CAPE) Other Groups of Interest
- Mr. Juan Manuel Liria (CEPESCA) Fisheries Sector
- Mr. Marc Ghiglia (CNPMEM) Fisheries Sector

- **List of expressions of interest for ExCom membership: voting procedure by category**

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, reminds the members of the election procedure, which is available on the following link:

https://ldac.eu/images/ES_Procedimiento_Electoral_Comit%C3%A9_Ejecutivo_LDAC_Mayo_2019.pdf

He then informs about the expressions of interest for ExCom membership (2019-2022) received, which are available as **ANNEX II**.

It is highlighted that there are more expressions of interest than positions, so seats will be decided after voting at the General Assembly meeting on 22 May 2019.

8. Any other business and closure

Not being any more issues to address, the Chair thanks all attendees for their participation and closes the meeting.



ANNEX I. List of attendees

**Long Distance Advisory Council Executive Committee
Sopot, 22 May 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT AND WITH VOTE DELEGATIONS

1. Iván López. AGARBA/CEPESCA
2. Emil Remisz. NAPO
3. Javier Garat. CEPESCA
4. Rocío Béjar. CEPESCA
5. Béatrice Gorez. CFFA-CAPE
6. Luis Vicente. ADAPI
7. María José Cornax. OCEANA
8. Katarina Sipic. CONXEMAR/AIPCE
9. Raúl García. WWF
10. Despina Symons. EBCD
11. Erik Olsen. Danish Society for a Living Sea
12. Jane Sandell. NFFO

OBSERVERS

13. Juana Parada. ORPAGU
14. Edelmiro Ulloa. Anapa, Anamer, Agarba and Acemix
15. Deimantė Komkienė. Atlantic Fisheries Company
16. Ian Gatt. SPFA
17. José Manuel F. Beltrán. OPP Lugo
18. Rosalie Tukker. EUROPECHE
19. Raymond Maes. EC
20. Justyna Szumlicz. Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation
21. Barbara Lewkowska. Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation
22. Yaiza Dronkers. International Pole & Line Foundation
23. Justine Guiny. Birdlife International
24. Benoit Guerin. BGSea Consulting

LDAC SECRETARIAT

25. Alexandre Rodríguez. General Secretary
26. Manuela Iglesias. Fisheries Policy and Communications
27. Marta de Lucas. Administrative and Financial.

ANNEX II.
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST RECEIVED FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(2019-2022)

NUM ERO	ORGANIZACIÓN	CATEGORÍA	PAÍS
1	Confederación Española de Pesca (CEPESCA)	Sector Extractivo	España
2	Confederación Española de Pesca (CEPESCA)	Sector Extractivo	España
3	Associação dos Armadores das Pescas Industriais (ADAPI)	Sector Extractivo	Portugal
4	Cooperativa de Produtores de Peixe de Viana do Castelo (VIANAPESCA, OP)	Sector Extractivo	Portugal
5	Organisation de Producteurs de Thon Tropical Congelé et Surgelé (ORTHONGEL)	Sector Extractivo	Francia
6	Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins (CNPMEM)	Sector Extractivo	Francia
7	German Deep Sea Fisheries Association (DHV)	Sector Extractivo	Alemania
8	Danish Pelagic Producer Organisation (DPPO)	Sector Extractivo	Dinamarca
9	Estonian Long Distance Fishing Association (ELDFA)	Sector Extractivo	Estonia
10	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO)	Sector Extractivo	Irlanda
11	Dutch Pelagic Freezer Trawler Association (DPFTA)	Sector Extractivo	Holanda
12	North Atlantic Producers Organisation (NAPO)	Sector Extractivo	Polonia
13	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO)	Sector Extractivo	Reino Unido
14	European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF)	Sector Trabajadores	UE
15	European Fish Processors Association (AIPCE) - European Federation of National Organisations of Importers and Exporters (CEP)	Sector Transformación	U.E
16	OP ANACEF	Sector Extractivo	España/Spain
17	Lithuanian Long Distance Fisheries Association	Sector Extractivo	Lituania
18	World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	ONG	UE
19	Fundación OCEANA Europa	ONG	UE
20	Environmental Justice Foundation Charitable Trust (EJF)	ONG	UE
21	European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)	ONG	Bélgica
22	Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA-CAPE)	ONG	Bélgica
23	Seas At Risk (SAR)	ONG	Bélgica
24	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)	ONG	Suecia
25	The Danish Society for a Living Sea	ONG	Dinamarca
26	BFW	ONG	Alemania
27	Birdlife	ONG	UE/EU