

## LDAC-Working Group 5 (Brussels, 16th October 2024)

### - Preparation of point 5.1 of the agenda:

5.1- EU IUU carding process: questions from members on the state of play of dialogues with non-EU countries (based on a list of countries of interest and questions from the members shared with the Commission beforehand)

### General updates:

- South America
  - Brazil
  - Ecuador
  - Panama
- Africa
  - Comoros
  - Ghana
  - Liberia
  - Morocco
  - Senegal
  - Sierra Leone
  - Cameroon
- Asia
  - Indonesia
  - Malaysia
  - Philippines
  - South Korea
  - Vietnam

We would appreciate getting information about the state of play of the dialogues with these countries (if any updates since the last Working Group 5 meeting)

More generally: What can we expect for 2025?

### Specific questions:

1. Given the inconsistencies in the tropical tuna catches reported by **Senegal** and **Ghana** to ICCAT over the past few years and the well-founded suspicions that their purse seine fleets have not been complying with the FAD closure under ICCAT Recommendation 22-01 (extended by Recommendation 23-01), what are the chances that their yellow cards turn into red cards?
2. Also, in relation to **Ghana**, is the European Commission intervening at Minister level to avoid the rushed adoption of a Fisheries Bill that is unfit for purpose due to political motivations, with the general election approaching at the end of the year? Can you tell us more about how the EU is working to ensure this (without being seen as interfering in national politics)?
3. Can you update us on the cooperation with **Brazil** (and other relevant non-EU countries) in light of the distressing situation in neighbouring EU waters and its socio-economic impact? Is the European Commission investigating supply chains of poached catches with **France** and discussing that with **China** who would be a significant market supplied from pirate fishing in our own waters?
4. In a November 2023 letter to the LDAC, the European Commission stated that it would work closely with Member States to ensure that the fisheries products coming from **Morocco** comply with the applicable rules. Is the European Commission alerting Member States about the continued use of illegal driftnets and possible exports to the EU?

5. How does the Commission determine when a **long-carded country** has made sufficient, timely, and meaningful reforms to remove its yellow card status, as opposed to allowing these countries to remain indefinitely carded while continuing to access the EU market? For instance, St Kitts (carded since Dec. 2014), Sierra Leone (Apr. 2016), Liberia (May 2017), and Vietnam (Oct. 2017) have all been yellow-carded for over seven years.
6. Regarding **Liberia**, are there possible steps the EU is taking as part of its technical assistance or further diplomatic efforts to address the country's FoC and ensure it does not proliferate IUU worldwide?
7. What is the European Commission's position on **Uruguay's** role as a port state, particularly regarding the use of Montevideo as a hub for fishing fleets operating in the South Atlantic, including for in-port transshipments? Given the concerns about potential links to IUU fishing, is there any ongoing dialogue or cooperation with Uruguay to strengthen port controls and ensure compliance with PSMA?
8. **Japan** is making steps in better protecting its market from IUU catches, these steps should be praised, but are extremely limited. It needs to do more, to follow the EU's footsteps. Can you tell us more about how you are addressing this with them through the EU-Japan IUU Working Group? What is Japan saying, on species coverage for example? Arguments members of the LDAC have heard are not entirely convincing: lack of capacity to digitalise the system, claimed obligation to abide by tuna RFMO rules which have lower standards than what could be contemplated and can't be exceeded, etc. How can the LDAC help? We also note that Japan is one of the last major marker states not to be a member of the IUU Action Alliance.
9. Regarding **Thailand**: is the fisheries deregulation process on their minds? could it affect the (FTA) negotiation?