

ANNEX I

WORK PROGRAMME FOR LDAC Year 11

1 June 2017 - 31 May 2018

Background: Legislative framework, mission and objectives

The Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) is an EU fisheries stakeholder-led body that provides evidence-based advice to the European Commission and the Member States in relation to various issues on management of fishing resources outside EU waters. Its role and functioning is defined in the CFP Regulation (UE) No 1380/2013, namely articles 43-45 and Annex III; and in the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/242. Furthermore, it is recognised as an organisation aiming a European interest and is beneficiary of co-funding by the European Commission in accordance with recital 84 and article 89 of EMFF Regulation (EU) No 508/2014.

The LDAC is fully operational since 31 May 2007. It is currently made up by 50 member organisations from 12 EU coastal Member States having fleet with presence in the EEZ of third countries, high seas and international waters. It has a 60:40 composition of fishing sector organisations (including catching, processing and marketing sectors, and trade unions), and other groups of interest (representatives of the civil society and in particular environmental and cooperation for development NGOs), respectively. Its main goal is to promote the conservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use and management of fishing resources outside EU waters.

The LDAC will continue in Year 11 assisting and supporting the European Commission and Member States to develop and implement the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy as well as to improve international ocean governance and follow up progress, negotiations and agreements reached on external relations with regards to third countries, regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) and international organisations (UN/FAO, ILO, BBNJ...).

In order to contribute to the achievement of this goal, the LDAC plans to discuss topics of interest both at regular plenary meetings (see work calendar below) and through online consultations via email or Web conference. The aim is to ensure continuity of work and development of proposals and recommendations primarily to Commission and Member States, but also to the European Parliament, both under the LDAC's own initiative or at request of the European Institutions, on matters such as:

- Sustainable Fisheries and Partnership Agreements with Third Countries (non-EU);
- Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) where the EU is a contracting or signatory party or has observer status;
- Fight against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing (IUU);
- Agreements and resolutions reached at international organizations in whose waters the EU long distance fleet operates;
- International trade relations (e.g. Economic Partnership Agreements, Preferential Trade Agreements) for fishing products.
- Policy developments in global fora, such as the UNGA, FAO or WTO.

To be noted that the LDAC is in close contact with the newly created Market Advisory Council (MAC) and LDAC members and Secretariat will regularly attend its meetings (the Secretariat in observer capacity) to coordinate actions in those topics of shared interest.

Administrative and procedural matters

The LDAC recently updated its internal rules of procedure (statutes) in order to incorporate those necessary amendments that reflect the current improved working practices of the organisation as well as to align its content with the EU governing rules, namely the provisions of the CFP Regulation and the Commission's Delegated Act on the Functioning of the ACs.

The LDAC Secretariat made all necessary paperwork to register the new LDAC statutes, as well as the update of the applicable EU regulation, the corporate name of the organisation and its newly elected Executive Committee members in October 2016 in the Spanish National Registry of Associations, since this is the legal and corporate form of the organisation, in conformity with the Spanish Commercial Law rules. The consolidated version of the LDAC Rules of Procedure is available to all members and to any interested party on the LDAC website – direct link: <http://ldac.eu/download-doc/137071>

Work planning for Year 11

The LDAC will discuss topics of relevance and issue proposals and recommendations within the remit of its five (both area-based and topic-based) working groups:

Working Group 1: Highly migratory fish stocks (Tuna and Tuna-like species)

- International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT): LDAC will participate at the Commission's preparatory meeting with stakeholders and will provide an advice prior to the ICCAT Annual Meeting in November 2017.
- Coordination of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance measures and strategies for a more effective implementation of the Control and IUU Regulations at both national and regional level.
- Continuation of promotion of the Tuna Transparency Initiative and active search of candidate or existing projects in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean where the LDAC might join as participant or partner. .
- Discussion on the approach and proposals of the European Union for the tuna RFMOs in the Indian and Pacific Oceans
- Development of specific proposals on core policy subjects such as:
 - Fisheries management plans
 - Technical measures (including closures)
 - Discard avoidance and by-catch mitigation strategies
 - Marine Protected Areas and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems
- Reinforcement and harmonisation of the control effectiveness of the management measures in force at the different RFMOs and coordination between them for a common approach regarding to fleet capacity management, FADs, discards, etc.
- Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC): The will provide feedback to the EU Strategy in the Indian Ocean once this becomes available and advice the Commission re IOTC Annual Mtg.
- South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC): The LDAC will follow up its proposal on an agreement on minimum terms and conditions for fisheries access, submitted in March 2017, and also will consider to participate at meetings as an observer in the EU delegation. .
- Fishing Aggregated Devices (FAD): The LDAC will compile updated information and research on the regulatory framework and technological developments and scientific findings related to the management and use of FADs. It will also follow and attend, where possible, any relevant

RFMO meetings dealing with FADs, and review/update its publication from 2012:
<http://ldac.ldac.eu/download-doc/97602>

Working Group 2: North Atlantic Fisheries Agreement and RFMOs

- Follow up on the Northern Fisheries Bilateral Agreements with Norway, Iceland, Faroe Islands and Greenland including annual fishing opportunities, EEA negotiations and Svalbard. The LDAC shall ensure that EU vessels can benefit of the sustainable management of resources and it will focus to improve scientific research in this area.
- The LDAC will remain vigilant on a consistent and non-discriminatory treatment in relation to the implementation of fisheries management legislation in third countries (e.g. it will request official translations of Norwegian technical conservation measures and legislation made available into English) to avoid situations of legal uncertainty that might lead to seizures or sanctions.
- Regarding snow crab fishing management in Svalbard FPZ, the LDAC will provide ongoing advice to the European Commission and the Council in the course of its negotiations and diplomatic procedure open between the EU and Norway.

- A high profile event might be organised in the last quarter of 2017 to look at how to effectively implement the new External Dimension of the CFP with a specific focus in the North Atlantic. This is a similar initiative than the one held in Las Palmas Conference on September 2015.

- North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC):
 - Follow up on Coastal States consultations.
 - Provide advice on issues such as management of deep-sea species, protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, scientific work for stock assessments, etc.
 - Exchange views and work with the European Fisheries Control Agency in relation to control strategies and joint deployment plans (JDPs) in the area.

- Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO):

The LDAC will participate at EC preparatory meeting with stakeholders in August 2017 and will develop advice in advance to the NAFO Annual Meeting 2017 (Quebec, 19-23 September) with specific focus on:

 - Scientific aspects related to setting of fishing opportunities (TACs)
 - Risk based management strategies, notably MSE review of Greenland Halibut and conservation plan for Cod 3M
 - Control and enforcement measures
 - Vulnerable marine ecosystems and closed areas.
 - LDAC Participation in NAFO Annual meeting and Benchmark Meeting on 3M Cod.

- Implementation of landing obligation in :
 - In NAFO, the LDAC will follow the implementation of the forthcoming Delegated Regulation with specific derogations for the LO rules which are in conflict with relevant NAFO rules.
 - In NEAFC, the LDAC will ask the Commission to submit a request for advice to ICES to improve knowledge on biology and discard data for deep-water stocks as basis for evaluating potential impacts of LO for EU fleet fishing species subject to catch limits in the EU (e.g. by-catch and “choke species” issues).

Working Group 3: Other Regional Fisheries Organisations and high seas not covered by a RFMO

- Follow up of work of non-tuna RFMOs (SEAFO, CCAMLR, SPRFMO...).
- Atlantic South West (FAO Area 41): The LDAC will advocate for the creation of an RFMO (or its integration into an existing one) on this area and will continue discussions and work on topics such as the prohibition of transshipments at sea, the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems at the high seas in accordance with UN Resolution 61/105, or the effective control and management of fisheries capacity in the area, amongst others.
- The LDAC will participate at relevant fora and provide an advice on effective implementation of Objective 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.
- Follow of FAO agenda on sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation measures in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)
- Attention to possible changes in relation to the situation of allowing access to fishing ports to land and/or tranship swordfish in Chile.

Working Group 4: Bilateral relations with third countries

- Monitoring and exchange of views at LDAC meetings on negotiations and meetings carried out by the European Commission and third countries, in relation to the review, renewal or adoption of new bilateral fisheries agreements in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.
- Assessment and advice on specific aspects and elements of bilateral fisheries agreements (e.g. *ex-ante* and *ex post* evaluations, quota allocation and possibilities, technical categories, use of sectorial support...), under LDAC's own initiative or at the request of the European Commission; Enhanced communication with national Administration representatives, industrial and artisanal fishermen organisations, civil society and stakeholders in third countries.
- Request for more transparency and good governance in third coastal countries through better access to information and performance of public and private fishing agreements with long distance fleets (e.g. access rights, types of licenses, sectorial support...) and access to information on the work of their governing bodies (Joint Committee, Scientific Committee...).
- Ad-hoc meetings (e.g. reporting on use of sectorial support, role and importance of women in development of fisheries in coastal communities of third countries) will be organized when necessary to discuss issues arising from the implementation of the CFP reform in the context of future sustainable fisheries agreements, drafting advice, and monitoring the reform implementation.
- Support the development of coherent and comprehensive regional fisheries strategies for promoting sustainable fisheries in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, looking at the various EU policies that have an impact on these regions: Fisheries (CFP External Dimension including SFPAs), Development for Cooperation, Environment, Labour, Trade, Health, etc.
- Strengthen cooperation and work in joint initiatives and activities in West Africa with the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT). An annual coordination meeting between LDAC and ATLFCO-COMHAFAT will be organised in early 2018, with the goals of improving regional cooperation, monitoring, control and surveillance in the ATLAFCO area, including review of current legislative framework and MCS initiatives; strengthening of capacity building in coastal states; harmonization of training procedures and definition of a common core curricula for

inspectors; validated protocols for inspections and methodology for data collection and reporting.

Working Group 5: Horizontal matters

- Ensuring on-going stakeholders' participation and continuation in the provision of advice in relation to consultations launched by the EU institutions (European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers of the EU) on three key legislative instruments: Control, IUU and Fishing Authorisation Regulations.
- Developing a fully-fledged advice in relation to the EU Joint Communication on International Ocean Governance [SWD(2016)352 final], which sets and agenda for the future of our oceans and is considered as the EU's route map for safe, secure, clean and sustainable managed oceans. This advice will include a performance review of implementation aspects.
- Keeping informed of developments and progress on the work and meetings of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI): <http://fisheriestransparency.org/>
- Providing feedback on the implementation of landing obligation for the long distance fleets in non-EU waters (both in RFMOs and the high seas).
- Advocating compliance of international regulations, respect and observance of social, labour and human rights for crews on board EU and non EU fishing vessels and fish workers particularly in third countries, and link this to the renewal/withdrawal of fisheries and trade agreements, and concession of preferential conditions such as SGP+.
- Monitoring of issues concerning the competitiveness and level playing field of European catching and processing industry, in a context of the promotion of sustainable fisheries. An example of this would be the current situation of veto to the trade of sharks by international shipping companies, promoted by WWF Hong Kong, affecting the long line fleet from Spain, Portugal and France. Provision of expert opinions and assert a position on impact for long distance fleet of the "Brexit" process, in relation to fishing and market access if relevant.
- Monitoring of the negotiation and implementation processes of the Economic Partnership Agreements, Free Trade agreements (ASEAN, GSP+ beneficiaries, etc.).
- Collaboration with international organizations and development of activities on areas and scope of cooperation with UN, FAO, WTO, ILO, and other relevant organisations (EFCA...)

Overview / Additional Remarks

The LDAC will work on promoting sustainable fisheries and a level playing field for EU's Member States fleets. It will also look at how to provide input to improve expert scientific and technical opinions and certain fishing in non-EU waters and it will analyse the European Union's Regulations proposal on matters of its competence. The LDAC shall actively approach Member States on issues related to the scope of its work and present itself as a proactive and contributing advisory body providing the knowledge and expertise of the stakeholders represented. It will mainly address those areas of work laid down in article 18 of CFP Regulation under the new regional process of cooperation among MS, where Advisory Councils must be consulted (e.g. mixed fisheries multiannual management plans, technical measures and discards policy/landing obligation).

The LDAC is also a partner of the EU funded project FARFISH, which was the winner of the Horizon 2020-SFS-21-2016 Call on Responsive Results-Based and capacity building for EU Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement waters. The aim of this project contribute to sustainable and more efficient fisheries management of stocks that are of particular interests for the EU in SFPAs waters and implement. The project will build on a multidisciplinary expertise of the project consortium, where scientists, IT companies, universities and stakeholders will work together to develop Responsible Fisheries Management System (RFMS) particularly on four selected case studies: Senegal, Mauritania, Seychelles and South West Atlantic. FARFISH is a four year project expected to start officially in June 2017. The project kick off meeting will take place in Vigo on 13-15 June 2017. The LDAC will have an estimated total budget of EUR 118,125 that will be accounted for and audited separately. Regular reports will be made to the LDAC coordinator and DG MARE by a dedicated project officer hired for such purpose to avoid any mixing or conflict in the use of these funds with current operational budget.

PRIORITIES

The main goal of the LDAC is to promote the conservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use and management of fisheries resources whilst achieving a level playing field and improving the competitiveness of EU's Member States fleets. To develop this goal, the LDAC will work in Year 11 on a number of areas identified by its members as priorities. These are:

1. Fighting against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, including dialogue and engagement with the European Commission (DG MARE) and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) for improving coordination of MCS (Monitoring, Control and Surveillance) systems and advocating moving towards an integrated electronic central database (e-catch certificates, e-logbooks, VMS, AIS, etc.)
2. Promoting International Ocean Governance and role of fisheries in the Integrated Maritime Policy of the EU. In this particular, the LDAC will actively contribute to the UN process on a Convention for Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Conference in New York in June 2017). It will also participate and foster to its industry and NGO members to deliver commitments at the "Our Ocean" Conference to be held in Malta in October 2017.

3. Advocating EU policy coherence between fisheries and other EU policies (i.e. cooperation for development, trade, environment, health and food safety, labour) to ensure the result of all EU policies is the promotion of sustainable fisheries (as per TFEU art 208) through:
 - Achieving an effective implementation of the External Dimension of the CFP;
 - Ensuring best use of EU and international funding;
 - Avoiding duplication of efforts or inefficiencies in the allocation of such funds or completion of tasks (capacity building, training, MCS...);

The LDAC will include this topic on its 2nd International Conference on the Practical Implementation of the External Dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy focused on enhancing collaboration between the EU and North Atlantic countries (Norway, Iceland, Faroe, Greenland...).

4. Developing joint initiatives and activities with ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT in the framework of the MoU signed in May 2013 in the field of regional MCS, fight against IUU fishing, better transparency and good governance and improving networks and dialogue with African countries (both policy makers, representatives of the fishing sector and civil society). The LDAC will assist COMHAFAT in improving networks with the EU institutions to develop its initiative on a regional control observer programme and a regional programme of port control.
5. Improving transparency and good governance in decision-making in fisheries management through initiatives such as FiTI, H2020 project FARFISH or the Tuna Transparency Initiative (TTI) in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans.
6. Advisory work with DG MARE within the framework of negotiations in RFMOs. Some of the expected main topics to address will be conservation and management measures and plans (e.g. NAFO HCR for Greenland Halibut, or review of MSE for Cod 3M...), fleet capacity, allocation criteria or FADs within the tuna and tuna-like (e.g. ICCAT...) or impact of fishing and other economic activities (oil and gas) in the seafloor and environment (VMEs, MPAs, licenses for extractive industries...).
7. Liaise with DG DEVCO to be informed regularly on projects on improving regional fisheries governance, management and monitoring control system. In this regard, the LDAC has a special interest on the "PESCAO" project (West Africa) and the continuation of Smart Fish (Indian Ocean), and the African Union-IBAR project on fisheries governance funded by the EU.
8. Following up on the development of the new modality of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) and monitoring renewal of the existing protocols, as well as improving transparency, access of information and consistent reporting on use of funds related to sectoral support in third countries.
9. Screening of Commercial and Trade Agreements: EPAs and FTAs negotiations, as well as other trade international negotiations, looking at their impact on the promotion of sustainable

fisheries, including the establishment of a level playing field for EU operators fishing sustainably.

10. Preparing with the Commission issues related to the UN (e.g. UNGA Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries), FAO (e.g. implementation of Port State Measures Agreement) and ILO Conventions (namely C188 on Fishing Labour and Social Partnership Dialogue).

OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST

The LDAC would like to praise the work of the AC coordinators in the past. However, in light of the recent internal major restructuring of DG MARE services and the increase of ACs from 7 to 10, the LDAC would like to see a reinforcement of the role of the AC coordinator and give the main responsible a more stable profile and dedicated role to ensure appropriate coordination of policy and administrative issues and dealing with requests in terms of participation in external events by LDAC delegates as well as presence of Commission officials in LDAC meetings, to the extent possible.

It must be noted that the LDAC Secretariat is pleased to assist in this process and will continue minimising travel disruptions for Commission officials and facilitating their participation by holding its two series of plenary Working Group meetings (generally in March and October) in Schuman-Brussels.

PROVISIONNAL PLANNING

Title of the meeting	Date	Place	Issue to be discussed
Inter Sessional Group of LDAC Chairs and Vice Chairs on Horizontal Issues	September 2017	Madrid (tbc)	Development of proposals for advice in relation to high profile issues which must be dealt with by the LDAC prior to its next round of Working Groups (e.g. Fishing Authorisation Regulation, Social and Labour Rights, Landing Obligation...)
II International Conference on External Dimension of the CFP: North Atlantic waters	3rd quarter of 2017	Copenhagen/ (tbc)	To achieve a better understanding of how the CFP external dimension is implemented in practice, to promote good governance and level playing field for responsible fisheries. To highlight the pivotal role of the LDAC in providing advice to EU institutions regarding stakeholders' view of current issues / proposed solutions re bilateral agreements with third countries and RFMOs. To provide concrete examples of case studies / projects that highlight successful cooperation between the EU and North Atlantic countries and/or RFMOs.
Working Groups 1, 4 and 5	2nd half of October 2017	Brussels	Items related and important for each WG (see above)
Working Group 2	November 2017	London (tbc)	Items related to WG2 (North Atlantic Fisheries Agreements and RFMOs)
Executive Committee	Last week of November 2017	To be confirmed	Administrative, communication and financial issues. Adoption of letters and advice.
Working Groups 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5	March/April 2018	Brussels	Items related and important for each WG (see above)
Executive Committee	Last week of May 2018	To be confirmed	Administrative, communication and financial issues. Adoption of advices.
General Assembly	Last week of May 2018	To be confirmed	Global view of the AC year, actions, and advices adopted, summary
Ad-hoc Focus Group / Horizontal WGs	During the year (at request of the members)	To be confirmed	Topic-based meetings identified as important or relevant by the LDAC members (budget depending)