



MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LDAC

**Wednesday, 25 November 2015. From 9.30 am to 5.30 pm
Hotel Miguel Ángel, Madrid**

Chairman-in-Office: Mr. Juan Manuel Liria

Vice-chairman: Mr. Raúl García

1. Welcome.

The Secretary General, Alexandre Rodriguez, welcomes those attending and declares the meeting open, awaiting for the arrival of the Chairman.

Apologies for absence are expressed, indicating the delegations of vote received if necessary:

- Sean O Donoghue (KFO) and Gerard Van Balsfoort (DPFTA) delegate on Esben Sverdrup-Jensen (DPPO).
- Hjálmar Vilhjálmsson (ELDFA) delegates on Iván López (FEABP).
- Michel Goujon (ORTHONGEL) delegates on Marc Ghiglia (CNPMEM).

The full list of participants is enclosed in Annex I.

2. Reading and approval of the agenda

The agenda of this meeting is approved without comments or proposals for amendments or additions.

3. Reading and approval of previous meeting (Dublin, 28 May 2015)

The minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Committee are approved, which have been given out to the members prior to the meeting. The comments received have already been included.

4. Reports of the Working Groups: progress and pending actions

The Chairpersons of the Working Groups (or in their absence, the Secretaries) weigh up the actions completed in the second four-month period of 2015 and list the following pending actions:



WG1 – TUNA AND STOCK OF TUNA FISH AND LARGE MIGRATORS, AND THEIR RFMOs

Presenter: Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez (in the absence of Mr. Michel Goujon)

WPFC

- A proposal was made for the NGOs to be more active in terms of the big-eye tuna and of the red tuna of the North Pacific, requesting them to help the sector and the Commission for them to influence PNA countries with a view to rectifying the supply of scientific data and observer coverage.
- All members of this RFMO were requested to support EU proposals (letter was sent in the month of March in this regard), such as: the inclusion of stricter management measures with a view to limiting the capacity and putting into practice the restriction of the number of FADs and time area closures for stocks that are in a worse situation.

CTOI

- The LDAC will remain vigilant with respect to compliance with the Decision of CTOI on the distribution of the fishing capacity that is assigned to each one of the contracting parties. In general, greater transparency and clarity are required to exchange fishing modalities and arts in terms of total capacity.
- Asiatic countries (in particular South Korea) cannot use a different measure to calculate the GTs, which is the internationally accepted measure.
- The LDAC will request the Commission to get the EU to adopt a coherent and unequivocal strategy to address the limitation of the fishing capacity in coordination with the 4 main tuna RFMOs, given the extensive mobility and movement of the fleets devoted to tropical tuna.

ICCAT

- It is agreed that the LDAC as an organisation will continue for the moment, as part of the community delegation, to reinforce its capacities and internal working methods, to attend to the consultation needs of the Commission, and be able to attend the main preparatory technical and scientific meetings of the RFMOs, which the LDAC specifically monitors or issues decisions (e.g. ICCAT or NAFO).

FADs

- It was agreed to consider carrying out an updated review of the LDAC book on FADs (published in 2012) in light of recent changes that have occurred over the last few years. When considered appropriate, an editorial or drafting group will be formed, which will work on this update for subsequent distribution among members of WG1 to send comments.



PROHIBITION OF SHARK FINNING

- The LDAC will monitor and will issue a new decision after reading the report from the Commission on the social-economic impact that the application of the Community Regulation has caused on the European longline fleets affected.

MoU LDAC-COMHAFAT: FUTURE ACTIONS

- The LDAC will provide technical assistance and logistic aid to ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT in order to hold a second workshop on transparency in fishing agreements during the first quarter of the coming year, 2016, whose topic will be sustainable fishing agreements.
- The LDAC Secretariat will send a request to the Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fishery and to the Directorate General of Development (DGDEVCO) of the European Commission in order to arrange a joint meeting with a delegation of the LDAC and of COMHAFAT to study how to improve the projects and the possibility of carrying out a programme similar to Smartfish, but in the Atlantic.

WG2 – NORTH ATLANTIC AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THIRD COUNTRIES AND RFMOs.

Presenter: Mr. Iván López (Chairman)

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE EU AND NORWAY-ICELAND-FAROE IS.

- The LAC will request an informal meeting to make contact with the new negotiators of the Commission in order to exchange opinions on participation and communication dynamics between the Commission and the LDAC.

SVALBARD

- The LDAC will be closely observing the meetings that are held on Svalbard.

LANDING OBLIGATION (LO) OUTSIDE COMMUNITY WATERS

- The Secretariat will send members and observers participating in the meeting, the presentation given by Pablo Abaunza (IEO) on behalf of the consortium responsible for studying the application of the landing obligation outside community waters.

NAFO

- The Secretariat will request the IEO to provide the list of "conflictive" métiers in NAFO, ICCAT and NEAFC as well more data on the discards in order to be able to continue to work on the topic.

NEAFC

- The members involved will explain the proposal on management and cohabitation



measures for snow crab fishery.

WG3 – OTHER RFMOs and INTERNATIONAL WATERS
Presenter: Mr. José Antonio Suárez-Llanos (Chairman)

CCMLAR AND SRFMO

- A summary was carried out explaining the main novelties, which are included in the WG3 minutes of 11 March 2015.

VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS (VME)

- The Secretariat will present a draft decision to be discussed at the coming meeting of WG3, which will be prepared together with Mr. Juan Manuel Liria and Mr. Raul Garcia on the South-Western Atlantic in order to protect areas where vulnerable marine ecosystems have been identified, in order to extend this regulation to all fleets and ensure a level playing field.

NEW ASPECTS ON CHILEAN PORTS

- The Secretariat of the LDAC will maintain regular contact with the competent Commission staff to discover if there new aspects regarding the situation of Chilean ports, and will invite them to inform in this regard at future WG3 meetings.

WG4 – BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES
Presenter: Mr. Julio Morón (Chairman)

FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

- A general overview of the updates of the latest negotiations and meetings held by the European Commission with third countries was given. It is included in the minutes of the October WG4 meeting.

MAURITANIA

- The LDAC will contact the national authorities of Mauritania in order to study the collaboration possibilities to sign an agreement to implement the SFPA, supporting governance and transparency in the decisions taken.

REGULATION AGAINST IUU FISHING

- The progress made by the different countries evaluated to identify them as cooperating and non-cooperating countries (card system) since the entry into force of the Regulation against IUU fishing, was presented. An explanation indicated in the minutes of the WG4 meeting is included.

COOPERATION IN REGIONAL PROJECTS

- The LDAC will try to proactively contact the SWIOFC Secretariat, in order to discuss and promote sustainability initiatives in order to balance out environmental and economic sustainability.
- The LDAC Secretariat will support the COMHAFAT in organisation their workshops on the improvement of good governance and transparency.

GT5 – HORIZONTAL QUESTIONS

Presenter: Ms. Maria José Cornax (Chairman)

SGP+

- It was agreed to prepare two draft decisions (or one with two differentiated parts) on:
 - 1) Critical analysis of the general regulatory framework and review of concession criteria of the SGP+ system, associating it with negotiations of the free trade agreements (FTA).
 - 2) Specific situation on requirement to comply with human, social, and labour rights to obtain this preferential tariff system: Case of Philippines.

LANDING OBLIGATION (LO)

- Work will continue on the preparation of a decision about the effect of LO on community fleets with exemplification of specific problems and their consistency with RFMO regulations.

REVIEW OF THE FISHING AUTHORISATION OR PERMIT REGULATION (FAR)

- The LDAC will prepare a decision on this subject once the Commission Proposal has been published, and will organise an “ad hoc” meeting with all the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the Working Groups, as this is a crosscutting questions of common interest for all groups.

TUNA TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (TTI) IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

- LDAC will contact the desk officer of the Commission and Secretariat of SWIOFC in order to study possible collaboration channels in the future.



TRANSPARENCY AND USE OF FUNDS DERIVED FROM THE FISHING AGREEMENTS

- The LDAC Secretariat will contact the person responsible for the Stakeholders Platform of Mauritania, a body created to improve governance in that country.
- The Secretariat and members of the LDAC will monitor and participate in the seminar organised by CAOPA and the CSRP at the end of the month of January on conditions of fishing agreements signed by the African countries with third countries.
- The Secretariat and members of the LDAC will attend coming meetings of the Fishing Transparency Initiative (FITI), the next one being in the month of February in Nouakchott.

INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE OF THE SEAS AND OCEANS

- The Head of Unit E1 of DG MARE responsible for Maritime Policy, invites LDAC to send suggestions to improve the coordination of the different policies, of the different international organisations as well as on the maritime protected areas.
- The LDAC Secretariat will closely observe, during the first quarter of 2016, the report published by the EC on the analysis of the contributions of the consultation on international governance and will invite the Commission representative to present the results at future meetings.

CONTROL REGULATION REVIEW CONSULTATION

- Due to the deadline that the public consultation of the Commission will have (foreseen for the beginning of the year), organising an “ad hoc” meeting before the March Working Groups are held is considered positive. All the Chairperson/Vice-Chairpersons of the WG will be involved in them as it is a horizontal issue.



5. - Administrative and financial issues. Interim report of the Ex. 9 LDAC:

5.1. Budget and finances: statement of accounts and payment of fees:

The General Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodriguez, sums up the administrative and financial situation, showing a detailed presentation with a breakdown of accounts and the list of income received and expenses made by the LDAC. He also informs that the whole of the Spanish contribution was received on 1 June 2015 (amounting to: 139,810 Euros). On the other hand, he informs that four member states still have to pay their fees as well as seven associations. However, they are still within the deadline to make this payment.

The presentation is available to consult in the section of the meeting on the website of LDAC: www.ldac.eu

5.2. Request for membership: registrations and terminations

Mr. Alexandre Rodriguez, LDAC, informs that, despite VIANAPESCA's termination request, it is hoped that this will finally not be the case. In addition, four expressions of interest have been received, but they have not resulted, for the moment, in formal requests for membership, by 2 associations of the sector and 2 NGOs.

With respect to the calendar of meetings already established for the second half of 2016, the following is reported:

- Annual meeting of ICES with ACs and other stakeholders (MIACO), 14-15 January in Copenhagen.
- Initiative on Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI), 3-4 February in Nouakchott.
- Second Workshop of COMHAFAT on Fishing Agreements in Third Countries, March or April in Morocco.
- LDAC Working Groups 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in March/April in Brussels/London.
- General Meeting and Executive Committee, last week in May in Lisbon.
- Inter-AC meeting with the EC during the first quarter of 2016, in Brussels.

Mr. Alexandre Rodriguez, LDAC, indicates that, depending on the budget and the needs, an "ad hoc" group meeting may be held to analyse the new proposed Fishing Authorisation Regulation (FAR) of the Commission and to evaluate Control Regulation 1224/2009.

Ms. Beatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, points out that it is interesting for LDAC to participate in the COMHAFAT workshop, as well as in initiatives on the extractive industry and the exploitation of resources, highlighting the importance of harmonising the EU agreement conditions.

Mr. Javier Garat, CPESCA, indicates that the Navalía fair will be held in Vigo from 24 to 26 May. The organisers of this event have informed him that they will send LDAC an invitation to participate in the fair and they have also offered the possibility of holding the LDAC General Meeting and Executive Committee there.

Mr. Björn Stockhausen, Seas at Risk, requests that a representative from the NGOs should attend the annual coordination meeting between the CCs and ICES.

6. - Review of the LDAC articles

The coordinator of the ACs in DG MARE, Ms. Evangelia Georgisi, informs of the date of the next inter-AC meeting, which will be held in Brussels on 24 February. On the other hand, she confirms that the European Commission has increased the budget of the Consultative Councils by 50,000 Euros a year (increasing from a maximum co-funding amount of 250,000 to 300,000 Euros), which will start during the financial year following the approval of this decision (for the case of LDAC, starting on 1 June 2016).

6.1. Adaptation to applicable community regulation

Mr. Alexandre Rodriguez, LDAC, explains the regulation in force, through a presentation that is included on the LDAC website, highlighting the need to update and amend the articles to put them in line with the new community regulation that is currently applicable, such as the Base Regulation (EU) 1380/2013 on PPC and the Delegated Regulation of the Commission no 242/2015, listing the operating rules of the Consultative Councils, as well as the new Regulation on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

6.2. - Presentation of proposed amendments

Mr. Alexandre Rodriguez, LDAC, makes a comprehensive presentation of the amendments in the articles, proposed by the Secretariat based on the review of the Articles and the contributions received by the Chairman and the members. The presentation is available for consultation on the LDAC website.

6.3. Debate on pending issues:

- 6.3.1- Proposal of creation of the Honorary Chairman of the GM.
- 6.3.2- Composition of the Executive Committee.
- 6.3.3- Electronic consultation procedure (urgent)

Four questions were put forward by the LDAC Secretariat, for members to discuss and reach a conclusion. The questions were the following:

- 1- Do you want one Chairman for the General Meeting and the Executive Committee or do you prefer two different people?
- 2- Should the Chairpersons of the Working Groups be ratified by the Executive Committee?
- 3- Do members wish to make a formal request to the Commission regarding an increase from 25 to a maximum of 30 members of the Executive Committee? (Contemplated in art. IX of the articles of the LDAC)
- 4- Is it considered necessary to review the “urgency procedure” (8 calendar days) with a view to adopting decisions in order to reduce the consultation deadlines for urgent justified topics? (contemplate in article 25 of the articles of the LDAC)

After an extensive debate, the following is decided:

- 1- For there to continue being one single Chairperson for the General Meeting and the Executive Committee of the LDAC, leaving open the possibility to modify this in the future if required by the circumstances.
- 2- Ratification of the Chairpersons of the Working Groups by the Executive Committee is not deemed necessary.
- 3- It is decided to maintain the text of the draft version, in case it is necessary to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee in the future.
- 4- It is indicated that the wording of the current article is correct, although the possibility of the members requesting a shorter deadline will be added due to the importance of the matter to be discussed.

Based on the above, the Secretariat will distribute a new updated version of the Articles in view of the comments received during the course of the meeting, indicating the changes made in current format.

More specifically, it was agreed to amend the following articles:

- Art. XIV: Eliminate the reference to having two differentiated chairpersons for the General Meeting (honorary) and for the Executive Committee. Maintain the current model of a single chairperson for both bodies and, if necessary, modify the articles in the future.
- Art. XIX: Maintain the proposed wording that permits requesting the Commission to increase the seats from 25 to a maximum of 30, providing that the representation of inshore / small-scale fishing is justified.
- Art. XXV: Send a new wording of the text related to the fast track on the adoption of decisions by the Executive Committee to include the following: *“The response time for such consultations shall not be less than eight calendar days **except for those justified cases where there is a request from an external organisation (the European Commission or Member States) to reduce this deadline, prior approval of the LDAC Chairperson**”*.
- Art. XXVI: Re-write this article to update it (especially the third paragraph that refers to the competence and functions of the Focus Groups) with a view to clarifying it.
- Art. XXVI: Also eliminate the proposal that the chairpersons of the Working Groups must be formally ratified by the Executive Committee.

7. - Information about the election procedure for posts and members of the Executive Committee (Decision to adopt at General Meeting in May 2016)

Mr. Alexandre Rodriguez, Secretary General of the LDAC, informs that the three-year tenure period expires on 31 May 2016. The Secretariat will send out a call during the first quarter of the year requesting candidates to renew posts (Chair and Vice-chair) and members of the Executive Committee. This call will give a detailed explanation of the deadlines and procedure in agreement with the internal operating rules and the Community CFP Regulation.

8. - Meetings with LDAC participation and external relations with other organisations and institutions (Commission, Parliament, RMFOs, COMHAFAT...)

Mr. Julio Morón, OPAGAC, informs of the actions carried out with COMHAFAT, highlighting that the MoU signed with the LDAC is starting to give results. In fact, the EU supported the COMHAFAT to hold two seminars, one of which has already been held and another that will probably be organised in spring about EU fishing agreements.

He considers that LDAC must continue working to remind the EU about the importance of collaboration with COMHAFAT, so that they can develop regional programmes. Likewise, a meeting was requested with DG Development to study possible future collaboration channels in projects of common interest in the Atlantic Ocean.

On the other hand, he highlights that during a meeting of an LDAC delegation with the Commissioner, Vella, in the margins of ICCAT, special mention was made of the importance of cooperating with industry, NGOs, riparian states and DG MARE, tapping into the EU development policy to improve governance as a way to fix population in their countries of origin, contributing to the development of third countries, and increasing the control and coordination to eradicate the scourge of INDNR/IUU fishing.

On the other hand, he highlights the side event organised in ICCAT with ISSF, COMHAFAT and LDAC presenting the idea of developing a regional system of observers on board community tuna fishing boats as well as a regional control system in ports.

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, considers that the EU should earmark part of its budget to aid countries with a view to improving transparency, and later study the results obtained.

ACTION:

The LDAC will request the DG DEVCO to hold a meeting with COMHAFAT and LDAC at the beginning of 2016 to jointly analyse how to improve the effectiveness of ongoing projects as well as the possibility of launching another similar programme to Smartfish, but specifically for the Atlantic Ocean.

9. - Horizontal matters

9.1. Presentation of Study on Applying the Loading Obligation on the Community Fleet in waters outside the EU.

Mr. Pablo Abaunza, IEO, gives a presentation about the contract they have with the European Commission (DG MARE), which is specific to provide advice on the management of discards in EU fisheries outside community waters.

Mr. Abaunza highlights that the objectives of work entrusted by the Commission are:

- Analyse the international legislation in force and provide an overview of the existing legal obligations on managing landings, above all the function and role of the RFMOs and the APPD/SFPA in foreign waters. An individual analysis was also conducted on

the situation of the agreements with Greenland, Mauritania and Morocco.

- Identify the international problems in order to guarantee a level playing field in terms of international obligations relating to the management of discards.
- Advise the Commission in the specific Working Group about bycatches, discards and selectivity in the NAFO regulation area.

As a result, a total of four reports (two full and two abstracts) were prepared, divided into two phases: Phase 1, when information was compiled, describing the species, technical measures as well as available data on discards by fisheries taken from surveys, and Phase II, where recommendations are proposed to solve the problems of regulatory conflicts or specific problems with discards in some fisheries. Both documents have been distributed through the Secretariat to members of LDAC for their information.

Based on the preliminary analysis, it seems that the main problems in terms of conflicts involving application of measures or standards will be concentrated in ICCAT, NAFO and NEAFC. No special incidents are foreseen in the tuna fish RFMOs (IATTC, IOTC, WCPFC, and CCSBT). The exemptions foreseen in article 15.4 (survival rates of discard species, species whose catch is forbidden...) were analysed, and emphasis was placed on the need to improve the studies and scientific knowledge about the survival rates of species.

By way of conclusion, in the study the Commission is encouraged to actively promote negotiation with other contracting parties within the RFMOs to try to gradually implement this loading obligation policy (or at least specific measures to reduce by-catches) in waters outside the EU. The complete presentation is available on the LDAC website.

9.2. - EU Public Consultation on international governance of seas and oceans.

Mr. Haitze Siemers, EC representative, points out that the main idea is to study how biological and economic sustainability of the oceans can be maintained for decades, creating a sustainable maritime economy based on increasing investments in renewable energies and creating employment. The importance of reducing global fishing pressure in the oceans is highlighted, achieving coherence between fishing and environmental policies (in the EU and outside), having coordinated access to catch data as well as the need to increase the development of collaborations and consortiums to study phenomena such as the consequences of climate change and the acidification of the oceans on the behaviour of the species.

Finally, greater interaction at international, regional and local level is essential, reinforcing the application of International Law instruments and agreements.

The Commission has received around 150 written contributions to the consultation process, including the LDAC documents with recommendations from the Las Palmas Conference on the Application of the External Dimension of the CPF. All the answers received are at the public's disposal on the website of DG MARE enabled for this purpose¹. Currently, they are undergoing an analysis and review phase in order to issue

¹http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/ocean-governance/index_en.htm



an evaluation document with results and future steps.

Question time for members and answers from the Commission

Mr. Suarez-Llanos, ARVI, asks about the increase in licences for oil and gas explorations in the seas where fishing usually takes place.

The Commission representative, Mr. Haitze Siemers, responds that designating areas with permits for this type of activity is a complicated debate, sovereignty of the States in their EEZ. The Commission is aware of this problem concerning overlapping of marine uses and this debate will be maintained in the future.

Mr. Marc Ghiglia, CNPMEM, highlights that when blue growth is mentioned, the hydrocarbon extraction industry, the mining and pharmaceutical industries are taken into account, but rarely the fishing activity. With respect to climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gases, a decrease in fishing capacity has taken place, as well as in the installed power in boats, so there are less CO₂ emissions.

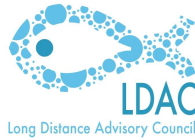
Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, points to the problem of lack of coherence between fishing policy, and commercial, labour and social policy, in terms of non-community fleets operating in international waters. She upholds the importance of the EU using the strength of being the first fishing product import market in order to achieve a sustainable balance. On the other hand, she highlights the importance of promoting Maritime Protected Areas, considering the implication in the decision-making of the coastal fishing communities of developing countries.

Ms. M^a José Cornax, OCEANA, points out the importance of each area, considered as a Maritime Protected Area (MPA), being coherent and complementing others that are already established, and for them to have a clear scientific base.

On his part, Mr. Ivan López, FEABP/AGARBA, is of the opinion that it is necessary to start a debate on this topic, considering that it is essential for there to be mapping of the seabeds, with solid scientific data, similar to what the IEO has done in Hatton Bank or in the South-western Atlantic. Likewise, he reflects the concern about gas and oil explorations being carried out in certain areas that are closed to fishing activity, as well as extraction plants that have an important environmental impact and incidence. He recalls that fisheries are well managed thanks to the work of the RFMOs and that there is no other similar international organisation for other activities that have an impact on seabeds.

Ms. Felicidad Fernandez, ANFACO-CECOPECA, underlines the importance of there being coordination between the different community and international policies, taking into account both social and commercial standards in order to achieve a level playing field.

Mr. Haitze Siemers, EC representative, responds that: regarding the fishing sector economy, in the DG MARE they have experience on blue growth, indicating that there is a reduction of extractive fishing and an increase in aquaculture. He says further that when the communication on Blue Growth was launched in 2012, it was done on sectors to be developed (that did not include the extractive sector). He indicates that he takes



note of the comments on fishing economy, confirming that they will take them into account when analysing the results of the consultation.

On the question of climate change, he underlines that this does not just have to do with reducing CO2 emissions, but also with species migration, acidification of the oceans and a rise in the sea level, among others.

On the other hand, he agrees on the importance of coherence between the different international organisations and policies, encouraging members to send them suggestions to achieve greater coordination. In his opinion, it is necessary to combine all the sea activities, including the MPAs, fishing and commercial policy issues. In fact, the EU must promote international standards. The important role of the RFMOs in fishing management and conservation is recognised, aiming at fostering their functioning. About the consultation process, he informs that they are still analysing the contributions and that a report will be published with the conclusions during the first quarter of 2016, which will be distributed to the Secretariat of the LDAC.

ACTION

The LDAC Secretariat will distribute the conclusions report with the results of the public consultation on international governance of seas and oceans and, if appropriate, will invite Mr. Siemers to future LDAC meetings.

9.3. Application of the External Dimension of the CPF: PE debate and ideas for a decision

Mr. Alexandre Rodriguez, Secretary of the LDAC, informs that, after the Seminar in Las Palmas de Gran Canarias, some recommendations were made. These were included in a document and transferred to all those attending, including the European Parliament and the European Commission. He suggests that within the LDAC, they should reflect upon the dialogue to be maintained with members of the Committee on Fisheries of the European Parliament on this issue. After listening to the opinion of several members, it is concluded that it is extremely important for representatives of the different member states and of the European Parliament to participate in LDAC meetings.

ACTION:

LDAC will issue an invitation to representatives of the national administrations of the Member States and to the EMPs/coordinators of the Committee on Fisheries of the European Parliament for them to regularly attend future meetings of the Working Groups and of the General Meeting or Executive Committee in 2016.

10. - Official presentation of the LDAC website and Communications policy.

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, Secretary of the LDAC, gives a presentation of the new website of LDAC and of the communications policy, available on www.ldac.eu.

The new version of the website improves navigability and use as a user, as well as the integration into a technological agricultural, environmental and fishing platform (Chil), which is shared by a community of enterprises and organisations of these sectors, and



depends on the Complutense University of Madrid (ETSI). Substantial improvements will be made over the coming months regarding the functionalities and design of the website.

With respect to the communications policy, the Secretary presents a proposal for a strategic action plan, which includes:

- Increase of presence in the media (TV, radio and written press).
- Improvement of data and quality of the contents that will appear on the website.
- Proactivity on social networks: The LDAC is present on Twitter with its account @ldac_eu, where it will be specified that any retweets do not necessarily reflect the opinion or agreement of LDAC or of its members.
- Registration in the Public Transparency Register of the EU (already completed).
- Review and update of publications and reference books (e.g., FAD management).
- Production of corporate material (Map of the ACs, institutional leaflet, infographics...) and merchandising (USB, office material...).

ACTIONS:

Members will be informed of the improvements and new functionalities of the LDAC website once they have been created.

A draft strategic communications plan will be distributed, developing the key ideas set forth for the consideration of LDAC members and their subsequent discussion and adoption, if fitting, at the next General Meeting.

11. -AOB

No other matters are proposed for discussion.

12. - Next meeting of the Executive Committee (place and date)

The date and specific place of the next Executive Committee still has to be set. With respect to the General Meeting, the Secretariat suggests it should be held in Lisbon, in honour of Antonio Cabral, during the second fortnight of May. If this were not possible, it could be held in Vigo, on the occasion of the Navalia fair.

CLOSURE

The Chairman thanks members for attending and participating, the Secretariat for organising the event, and the interpreters for the quality of their services.

The meeting is closed at 5.55 pm.



ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS

1. Juan Manuel Liria.FEOPE
2. Erik Bjørn Olsen.Living Sea
3. Beatrice Gorez.CFFA-CAPE
4. Juan Vieites.ANFACO-CECOPECA
5. Felicidad Fernández.ANFACO-CECOPECA
6. Despina Symons.EBCD
7. Björn Stockhausen.Seas at Risk
8. Esben Sverdrup-Jensen.DPPO
9. Javier Garat.FEOPE
10. Rocio Bejar.ONAPE
11. Marc Ghiglia.CNPMEM
12. Emil Remisz.NAPO
13. Claus Ubl.DHV
14. Cristian Castaño.ETF
15. Raúl García.WWF

CHAIRPERSONS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

16. Iván López.FEABP/AGARBA
17. José Antonio Suárez-Llanos.ANAPA-ANAMER-AGARBA-ANASOL
18. Julio Morón.OPAGAC
19. María José Cornax.OCEANA

OBSERVERS

20. Margarita Mancebo. SEGEMAR
21. Katarina Sipic.CONXEMAR
22. Irene Vidal.EJF
23. Pablo Abaunza.IEO
24. Haitze Siemers.EC
25. Evangelia Georgitsi.EC
26. Alexandre Rodríguez.LDAC
27. Manuela Iglesias.LDAC
28. Marta de Lucas.LDAC