

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

THE EU LONG DISTANCE FISHERIES AND THE MARKET ADVISORY COUNCILS ADOPT A JOINT ADVICE ON THE ACTIVITY AND IMPACT OF THE CHINESE DISTANT WATER FLEET



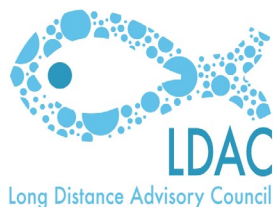
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The Long Distance Fleet (LDAC) and Market (MAC) Advisory Councils of the EU have adopted a [joint advice addressing China's global distant water fleet \(DWF\) activities and its implications for fisheries governance worldwide](#).

The statement analyses the scope and impact of the global fishing footprint of the Chinese DWF and the lack of transparency of its activities both at sea and on land, including unmonitored transshipments, the use of foreign flags by its vessels and a lack of traceability of its fishing products. It also highlights numerous documented cases of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing with links to labour and human rights abuses.

While acknowledging that progress has been made in the cooperation between the EU and China in fighting IUU fishing and in the country's capacity to address this phenomenon, the LDAC and the MAC are concerned that the pace at which this progress being made is not commensurate with the rapid expansion of the Chinese DWF and the global impact of its vast, unsustainable, and opaque activities.



The LDAC and the MAC also note that the progress claimed by China does not seem to have fully translated into a sufficient improvement of the transparency or accountability of the operations of its DWF nor improved traceability along the supply chain. The LDAC and the MAC also remain particularly concerned with widespread human rights abuses associated with this fleet.

In this context and bearing in mind the importance of the EU as a market for Chinese seafood, the LDAC and the MAC believe that it is essential for the EU to step up its engagement with China. This should encourage the urgent adoption of improved environmental, social and labour sustainability standards. China should also be urged to adopt transparency measures similar to those in the EU in order to drive positive changes along the supply chain. They highlight the importance to promote a level playing field for all fishing products entering the EU market, both in terms of documentation and control, as already explained in previous pieces of advice of the [LDAC](#) and the [MAC](#).

In the advice, there are a number of recommendations addressed to the European Commission on key topics such as transparency, human and financial resources, the fight against IUU fishing, sustainable fisheries partnership agreements, subsidies, trade and social rights and development cooperation. It also contains infographs and three informative appendixes.

The advice is available for download and reading here: https://ldac.eu/images/LDAC-MAC_Joint_Advice_China_Distant_Water_Fleets_13Dic2022.pdf

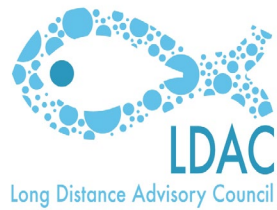
Information Note – About the LDAC

The **Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council (LDAC)** is an EU fisheries stakeholder body co-funded by the European Commission and recognized by the CFP Regulation (UE) No 1380/2013 as an organization aiming a European Interest. Its mission is to provide advice to the European Institutions (Commission, Council and Parliament) and EU Member States on matters related to Fisheries Agreements with Third Countries, relations with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) in which the EU is a contracting party, or with international organizations in whose waters the EC Fleet operates, as well as trade policy and international market for fish products.

The LDAC is currently made up by 52 fishing sector organisations (including catching, processing and marketing sectors, and trade unions), and other groups of interest (environmental NGOs, consumers and civil society) from 11 EU coastal Member States.

Contact:

Alexandre Rodríguez – LDAC Secretary General
C/ Núñez de Balboa 49, 3ª Izquierda. 28001 Madrid (España)
Tel: + 34 91 432 36 23
E-mail: alexandre.rodriquez@ldac.eu



Information note – About the MAC

As determined by Article 44 of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation, the Market Advisory Council (MAC) is an advisory body to the European Commission and EU Member States, which provides recommendations on the EU market of fishery and aquaculture products. It is currently composed of representatives of 61 member associations from 12 Member States, representing the entire value chain (primary producers, processors, traders, retailers, trade unions) and other interest groups (environmental and development NGOs).

Contact:

Pedro Reis Santos – MAC Secretary General

Rue de la Science 10, 1000 Brussels (Belgium)

Tel: +32 2 234 50 13

E-mail: secretary@marketac.eu