

MINUTES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING LONG DISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Venue: El Tinglado, Port of Vigo, Vigo (Spain)
Tuesday 13 May 2025
11:00 – 13:00h**

Chair: Iván López van der Veen

Vice-Chairs: Vanya Vulperhorst, Julio Morón and Marc Ghiglia

Rapporteurs (Secretariat): Alexandre Rodríguez and Manuela Iglesias

1. Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair, Mr Iván López, welcomes those present.

He then lists the delegations of powers received by the Secretariat from representatives of absent member organisations in favour of other representatives of member organisations present:

- SSNC (Ms Sara Fröcklin) delegates to CFFA-CAPE (Ms Béatrice Gorez)
- Port of Celeiro (Mr Eduardo Míguez) delegates to CEPESCA (Mr Javier Garat)
- KFO (Mr Dominic Rihan) delegates to DPFA (Mr Tim Heddema)
- FRUCOM (Ms Anna Boulova) delegates to CFFA-CAPE (Ms Béatrice Gorez)
- DFV (Mr Sigurdur Steinn Einarsson) delegates to EUROPÊCHE (Mr Daniel Voces)
- Bolton Food (Mr Héctor Fernández) delegates to AIPCE (Ms Katarina Sipic)
- VIANAPESCA (Mr Francisco Portela Rosa) delegates to ADAPI (Mr Luis Vicente)
- ORTHONGEL (Mr Michel Goujon) delegates to CNPMEM (Mr Marc Ghiglia)
- DPPO (Mr Esben Sverdrup-Jensen) delegated to the Dutch Pelagic Fisheries Association (Mr Tim Heddema)

The full list of participants (including members and observers) is set out in **ANNEX I**.

The Secretariat informed the members that, in accordance with the statutory rules, the necessary quorum for decision-making was present, as at least 50% of the total membership was present or represented.

2. Approval of the agenda.

The agenda was approved without amendments.

3. Approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly meeting (Berlin, May 2024).

The minutes of the previous General Assembly held on 22 May 2024 are approved, without comments or amendments.

4. Report on the LDAC Year 19 (1 June 2025 – 31 May 2026) – Chair/Secretary

4.1. Presentation of the Strategic Plan / Annual Work Programme 2025–2026.

Mr Alexandre Rodríguez, Secretary General, explains the strategic plan together with the LDAC's annual work programme for financial year 18 (2024–2025) and requests formal approval from the members of the General Assembly. The full presentation is available at the following link:

https://www.ldac.eu/images/LDAC_Presentation_GA_13.05.2025.pdf

4.2. Provisional meeting schedule.

Mr Alexandre Rodríguez, Secretary General, reports on the provisional meeting schedule, highlighting that meetings of Working Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 are scheduled to take place in October 2025 and March 2026 in Brussels. The Executive Committee will meet in both Brussels and Madrid.

The full meeting schedule is available to all members in the presentation:

https://www.ldac.eu/images/LDAC_Presentation_GA_13.05.2025.pdf

4.3. Ratification and approval of the annual work programme and meetings.

The members of the General Assembly ratify the two previous points as follows:

DECISION:

The members of the General Assembly approve the LDAC's annual strategic plan for Financial Year 19 (2025–2026) as well as the provisional calendar of meetings included therein, although the venue for the General Assembly and the specific month of one of the Executive Committee meetings will be decided at a later date Executive Committee.

With the approval of the General Assembly, the process is concluded and the strategic plan is formally adopted in accordance with Articles XIII and XV(a) of the LDAC's statutory rules.

5. Administrative and financial report on LDAC years 18 and 19 – Secretariat

5.1. Statement of annual accounts (Income/Expenditure) for Financial Year 18 (2024–2025)

The Secretary-General, Mr Alexandre Rodríguez, presented, on behalf of the President and the Executive Committee, a review of the work carried out by the organisation during Financial Year 18 (1 June 2024 – 31 May 2025) in relation to its programme, summarising the actions taken and agreements reached. The recommendations (letters and opinions) adopted during Financial Year 18 were also cited.

This information can be found in the specific presentation for the General Assembly:

https://www.ldac.eu/images/LDAC_Presentation_GA_13.05.2025.pdf

Once the accounts for the current financial year had been presented, a motion was put to the Assembly to approve the accounts as presented. The final accounts will be submitted once the financial year has ended (31 May 2025) and they have been duly audited.

5.2. Proposed budget for LDAC Financial Year 19 (2025–2026).

The Secretary General, Mr Alexandre Rodríguez, presented the proposed new budget for Financial Year 19 (1 June 2025 – 31 May 2026).

The draft budget has already been sent in writing to all members of the Executive Committee for adoption by email and to the members of the General Assembly in advance of the minimum notice

period required by the statutory rules (date of dispatch: 24 March) and was approved under the urgent procedure, which allows a period of 8 calendar days.

Furthermore, it is proposed and agreed to ask the EC about the possibility of increasing its contribution to the LDAC from financial year 20 (2026–2027) onwards, as the four-year framework agreement will expire. The Secretary requests that this matter be included as an item on the agenda of the next Inter-AC meeting and that negotiations with the Commission on this matter be initiated on behalf of the LDAC.

Following the presentation of the draft budget by the Secretary General and its approval by the Executive Committee in due course, the Chair recommends that the General Assembly ratify this draft budget for the coming financial year.

5.3. Approval / Ratification of the budgets for financial years 18 and 19.

It is agreed: to approve and ratify unanimously, without changes or amendments, the financial report with the updated accounts for the year 18; and the proposed new budget for the year 19. And to authorise the Secretary (to grant a mandate) to submit the proposal for an increase in the EU grant to the Commission from the 2020 financial year onwards.

6. Elections to the LDAC Executive Committee

The Secretary General, Alexandre Rodríguez, explains the electoral procedure, which has previously been sent to members in writing.

6.1. Voting and appointment of Executive Committee members.

The nominations received for membership of the LDAC Executive Committee 2025–2028 are as follows:

No.	ORGANIZACIÓN	CATEGORÍA	PAÍS	NOMBRE
0	Iván López (AGARBA) - PRESIDENCIA			
1	CEPESCA	Sector Extractivo	España	Julio Morón
2	CEPESCA	Sector Extractivo	España	Javier Garat
3	Associação dos Armadores das Pescas Industriais (ADAPI)	Sector Extractivo	Portugal	Luis Vicente
4	Lithuanian Long Distance Fisheries Association	Sector Extractivo	Lituania	Aivaras Labanauskas
5	Organisation de Producteurs de Thon Tropical Congelé et Surgelé (ORTHONGEL)	Sector Extractivo	Francia	Michel Goujon
6	Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins (CNPMEM)	Sector Extractivo	Francia	Marc Ghiglia
7	German Deep Sea Fisheries Association (DHV)	Sector extractivo	Alemania	Sigurdur Einarsson
8	Danish Pelagic Producer Organisation (DPPO)	Sector Extractivo	Dinamarca	Esben Sverdrup-Jensen
9	Estonian Long Distance Fishing Association (ELDFA)	Sector Extractivo	Estonia	Einar Bergur Ingvarsson
10	Dutch Pelagic Freezer Trawler Association (DPFTA)	Sector Extractivo	Holanda	Tim Heddema
11	High Seas Fish Producers Organization	Sector Extractivo	Polonia	Emil Remisz
12	Organización de Productores Nacional de Palangre de Altura (OPNAPA)	Sector Extractivo	España	Edelmiro Ulloa
13	European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF)	Sector Trabajadores - Sindicato	UE	Juan Manuel Trujillo
14	European Fish Processors Association (AIPCE) - European Federation of National Organisations of Importers and Exporters (CEP)	Sector Transformación	UE	Katarina Sipic
15	UNION DES ARMATEURS DE PECHE EN FRANCE (UAPF)	Sector Extractivo	Francia	Xavier Leduc
16	World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	ONG	UE	Raúl Garcia
17	Fundación OCEANA Europa	ONG	UE	Vanya Vulperhorst/Ignacio Fresco
18	Environmental Justice Foundation Charitable Trust (EJF)	ONG	UE	Steve Trent
19	European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)	ONG	Bélgica	Despina Symons
20	Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA-CAPE)	ONG	Bélgica	Béatrice Gorez
21	Seas At Risk (SAR)	ONG	Bélgica	Iris Ziegler
22	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)	ONG	Suecia	Sara Fröcklin
23	Bread for the World (BFW)	ONG	Alemania	Francisco Mari

DECISION: It is unanimously approved that the composition of the Executive Committee shall be as set out in the table of nominations.

6.2. Voting and appointment of the LDAC President and Vice-Presidents.

The Secretary General, Mr Alexandre Rodríguez, reports on the nominations received for the posts of President and Vice-Presidents of the LDAC Executive Committee and General Assembly:

- Nominations received for the Presidency:
 - Iván López (AGARBA) Extractive sector
- Nominations received for the three Vice-Presidencies:
 - Vanya Vulperhorst (OCEANA) Other Stakeholder Groups
 - Julio Morón (CEPESCA) Extractive sector
 - Marc Ghiglia (CNPMEM) Extractive sector

The election of the Chair and the three Vice-Chairs for a three-year term (1 June 2025–31 May 2028) was unanimously agreed upon with the following results:

- Chair of the LDAC Executive Committee: Mr Iván López.

- First Vice-Chair: Ms Vanya Vulperhorst.
- Second Vice-Chair: Mr Julio Morón.
- Third Vice-Chair: Mr Marc Ghiglia.

7. LDAC Performance Review: presentation of provisional conclusions

Mr Benoît Guerin, BG Sea Consulting, selected to carry out this audit and evaluation, presents the provisional conclusions of the LDAC performance review.

This presentation can be viewed via the following link:

https://www.ldac.eu/images/LDAC2ndPerfoReview-GeneralAssembly_BG.pdf

8. List of new members and resignations among LDAC member organisations

Mr Alexandre Rodríguez, Secretary-General, reports that the LDAC currently comprises 55 organisations from 11 member states.

8.1. Withdrawal of LDAC members.

With regard to the 2019 financial year, it is reported that the **International Pole & Line Foundation** has requested to cease its membership of this Advisory Council.

DECISION: The General Assembly ratifies the withdrawal of the International Pole & Line Foundation as a member of the LDAC with effect from 1 June 2025.

8.2. Admission of new members.

Mr Alexandre Rodríguez, Secretary-General, reports that two organisations have formally applied for membership of the LDAC, having met the requirements in due time and form to become full members of this Advisory Council with effect from 1 June 2025.

These two organisations are as follows:

- OPROMAR – extractive fishing sector (Spain) – principal representative: Juan Carlos Martín Fragueiro.
- Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC) – Other interest groups (NGOs) – principal representative: Siam Owen.

The Secretary-General reports that both applications were circulated to the members of the Executive Committee with all the necessary documentation, having first been sent for extensive consultation to Member States and brought to the attention of the Commission, without any objections having been received.

DECISION:

The General Assembly ratifies the membership of OPROMAR and the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC) as members of the LDAC, following prior approval by Member States and in the absence of objections from members of the Executive Committee.

9. Any other business and CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair, Mr Iván López, closed the session by thanking the members and observers present for their attendance and participation; the team of interpreters for their work during the meeting; and the Secretariat staff for all the logistical, organisational and substantive work in preparation for this meeting.

-END-

ANNEX I: List of attendees

General Assembly of the Long-Distance Fleet Advisory Council

13 May 2025, Vigo

MEMBERS

1. Iván López. AGARBA/CEPESCA
2. Béatrice Gorez. CFFA-CAPE
3. Joelle Philippe. CFFA-CAPE
4. Julio Morón. OPAGAC
5. Francisco Mari. BFW
6. Julien Daudu. EJF
7. Vanya Vulperhorst. OCEANA
8. Aivaras Labanauskas. Lithuanian Long Distance Fisheries Association
9. Edelmiro Ulloa. OPP3/OPNAPA/ACEMIX
10. Daniel Voces. EUROPÊCHE
11. Raúl García. WWF
12. Javier Garat. CEPESCA
13. Juan Carlos Martín Fragueiro. OP-ANACEF
14. Mati Sarevet. ELDFA
15. Despina Symons. EBCD
16. José Beltrán. OPP-7 Burela
17. Emil Remisz. High Seas Fish Producers Organisation
18. José Ramón Fontán. ANEPAT
19. Tim Heddema. Dutch Pelagic Fisheries Association
20. Pablo Cadarso. CONXEMAR
21. Anne-France Mattlet. EUROPÊCHE Tuna Group
22. Luis Vicente. ADAPI
23. Iris Ziegler. SEAS AT RISK
24. Anertz Muniategi. ANABAC
25. Ángela Cortina. OPNAPA
26. Ignacio Fresco. OCEANA
27. Marc Ghiglia. UAPF/CNPMEM
28. Katarina Sipic. AIPCE
29. Lucas Lorenzo. ANASCO
30. Paula Alfonso. ORPAGU
31. Jean Christophe Vandavelde. PEW

OBSERVERS

32. Benoit Guerin. BG SEA Consulting
33. Catherine Weller. Fauna & Flora International
34. Francisco Fernández. OPROMAR

LDAC SECRETARIAT

35. Alexandre Rodríguez. LDAC. Secretary General.
36. Manuela Iglesias. LDAC. Head of Policy and Communications.
37. Marta de Lucas. Administration and Finance (Zoom)