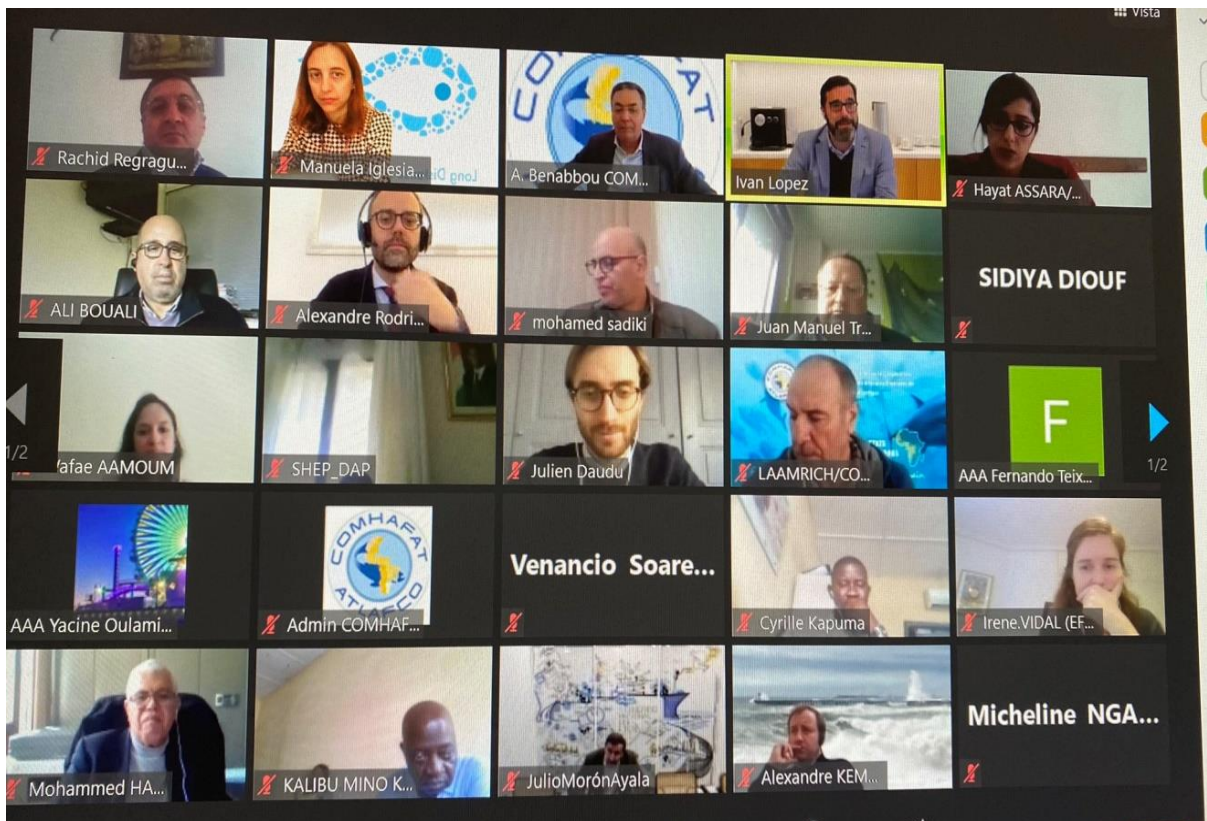


ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING LDAC-ATLAFCO

11 February 2021 (14:00h - 16:30h)

Report



*Due to the health situation caused by COVID- 19, the annual coordination meeting between LDAC and ATLAFCO was held online via Zoom, on 11 February, 2021.
(See this link for the full recording <https://we.tl/t-mVlytpTpij>)*

Took part at this meeting several participants from **Secretariat and members of LDAC and ATLAFCO (Annex I)**

1. Welcome/opening statements by the LDAC and COMHAFAT Chairs

Opening the session, **Mr. Iván LÓPEZ VAN DER VEEN** expressed his thanks to the participants and pointed out that the objective of this meeting is to strengthen the relationship between the two institutions and consolidate the common work articulated on shared interest activities.

From his part **Mr. Abdelouahed BENABBOU** thanked the participants with a special welcome for the new ones who attended this meeting for the first time. He then expressed his satisfaction in respect of the two institutions for the occurrence of this annual meeting. He took the opportunity to wish a good success for their main projects planned as part of their respective action plans.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was presented and approved as presented in (**Annex II**).

3. Adoption of the minutes of the last annual meeting

The report of the last annual meeting between ATLAFCO and LDAC (Rabat, 5-6 Feb 2020) was adopted unanimously.

4. Presentation on timeline, work priorities and meetings calendar for 2021

4.1 ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT: Update on studies, projects and activities.

ATLAFCO 2021 Action plan

In his presentation on the 2021 planned activities **Mr. Abdennaji LAAMRICH** pointed out that the objective of the action plan is to define the orientations and priorities to be undertaken by the secretariat of ATLAFCO as strategic axis with a view to maximizing the socio-economic benefits of sustainable exploitation of the fishery resources in the African Atlantic region. He added that the strategic axis concern topics that transcend national borders and require a committed regional cooperation and solidarity between the States and between the regional institutions by pooling the efforts and means.

He listed the activities that have special priorities and cover ATLAFCO objectives, namely:

- ✓ Conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources: *Aquaculture for a better contribution to the Blue Growth Initiative, Promotion of artisanal fisheries in Africa through sustainable management, Methods of improving essential environmental variables for effective monitoring of the impacts of climate change on fishery resources, Sustainable use for the conservation and development of living marine*

resources.

- ✓ Improving the sector performance: *Sustainable development for the benefit of women in the artisanal fishing industry, etc.*
 - ✓ Promotion of intra-regional trade of fishery products: *Identification of potentials and development of new projects to promote local fishery and aquaculture products.*
 - ✓ Strengthening ATLAFCO's group within international fisheries bodies: encouraging and supporting the *participation in different international conferences and events dealing with fisheries activities (COFI, ICCAT, IWC...).*
 - ✓ Maritime Safety and Security: *Coordination of rescue operations, development efficient maritime medicine.*
 - ✓ Protection of marine environment: *Fighting against marine pollution, the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity BBNJ.*
- **Launch of feasibility study on management and control of FADs**

Mr. Benabbou explained that is within the framework of the search for a solution that allows a sustainable use of FADs that ATLAFCO secretariat has launched this study. The objective of which is to take stock on FADs used by tropical tuna purse seiner and to propose the means to supervise their use in a sustainable way especially in the ATLAFCO area where the tuna fisheries is flourishing.

- **Developments on creating an RFMO for the ATLAFCO area**

In his presentation on developments concerning the creation of an RFMO for the ATLAFCO area, **Mr. Mohamed Sadiki** mentioned that an online workshop for the restitution of this study was organized by ATLAFCO on 22 September 2020.

In terms of way forward, the conclusions of the study enriched by the comments of the experts, will be submitted to the Ministers at the next ATLAFCO Ministerial Conference, for assessment and decision as to the follow-up to be given.

He added that this project is progressing as follows:

- ✓ The communication strategy to ensure that all parties concerned are at the same level of information and that the added value of the RFMO is understood with publication on the website, press coverage by MOSFA (the Media Observatory for Sustainable Fisheries in Africa);
 - ✓ The Development of a draft founding convention of a new RFMO inspired by those of existing RFMOs with adaptation the specificities of the fisheries in the ATLAFCO area.
- **State of play of feasibility MCS studies for regional control inspection plans at sea and regional port control scheme in ATLAFCO Convention area**

Mr. Sadiki highlighted in his presentation that the focus was made on the development of human skills by relevant and efficient training by using the expertise of REFMA.

In this effect the Secretariat of ATLAFCO organized on 25 August 2020 in collaboration with, the network of Maritime Training Institutes (REFMA) a webinar on "*the development of engineering standards for the training of port inspectors and on-board observers with regional competence in the ATLAFCO region*".

The output was the programing in ATLAFCO's 2021 Action Plan of:

- ✓ 2 training sessions of 7 days each for the benefit of 15 on-board observers and 15 port inspectors).
- ✓ Support to REFMA for the organization of a workshop on the restitution of their expertise on the conceptual phase of the "*engineering reference frame for the training of port inspectors and on-board observers with regional competence in the ATLAFCO region*".

4.2 LDAC: Alignment of work priorities and opportunities for collaboration

In his presentation, the LDAC Executive Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, made a presentation on the LDAC progress report in 2020 and proposals for collaboration in 2021.

The main areas of work and topics dealt with during 2020 were:

- ✓ Covid-19 Pandemic: Assessing social and economic impacts on fishing sector.
- ✓ FAO: Informing consultation on Social Responsibility in the fish value chains.
- ✓ RFMOs: Submitting advice to DG MARE on NAFO, ICCAT and IOTC.
- ✓ UN: Following processes of implementation of SDG targets / BBNJ (IGC) / ISA.
- ✓ IOG: Contributing to EU public consultation + participating at IOG Forums.
- ✓ IUU Fishing: Developing opinions to better implementation of EU IUU Regulation.
- ✓ Level Playing Field: Carrying out a position paper on LPF of fishing activities.
- ✓ Social Dimension of CFP: Promoting decent work for fishers at sea.
- ✓ FarFish H2020 project: Drafting of MRs for CS on Mauritania, Senegal, Cabo Verde.

Regarding the proposals for collaboration in 2021, Mr. Rodríguez enumerated the following:

- Developing joint multi stakeholder events and activities for sustainable fishing in the Atlantic façade of Africa and strengthen the EU role in the International Ocean Governance (e.g., webinar/conference on implementation of SFPAs in African countries...).
- Promoting the level playing field between EU and non-EU fishing operators in African countries in terms of social and labor rights, fish trade, value chains analysis...
- Implementing the recommendations formulated in the LDAC external performance review regarding building partnerships with international organisations: Collaboration with COMHAFAT on enhancing the role and weight of existing RFMOs as well as the creation of new ones (e.g., CECAF or similar body for demersal and small pelagic fisheries in West Africa).
- Exploring joint collaboration in prospective EU funded studies or projects in the domains of fisheries governance, fight against IUU Fishing, SFPAs, fish trade, etc.

Mr. Rodríguez ended his presentation by showing a roadmap published on DG MARE website (better regulation) on the EU public consultation on evaluation of SFPAs. He invited COMHAFAT to participate in this public consultation and the subsequent targeted consultations and to work together to consider those elements that can be integrated into a shared/joint advice eventually. In reply to a question made, the DG MARE, Ms. Morén, confirmed that this public consultation on retrospective evaluation of SFPAs is open to any interested parties and organisations.

5. Debate and identification of work priorities and key issues of mutual interest:

Following the presentations made from both sides, it was agreed that the LDAC and COMHAFAT will work jointly on the following areas for 2021:

- The promotion and visibility of benefits from EU SFPAs through the organization of a workshop taking into account practical aspects of the implementation of the agreements, including social dimension of fishers. This event will count with the opinion of the EU policy makers and stakeholders, as well as authorities from coastal countries and the participation of non-state actors with specific regard to artisanal fishers;
- Initiating a partnership in international forums for topics of shared interest;
- Collaboration with the EU-funded PESCAO project for the Improvement of Regional Fisheries Governance in West Africa, in particular for the implementation of the regional on-board observer program;
- To keep LDAC informed on studies to be undertaken by ATLAFCO namely, FADS, Compliance and the compilation of legislations (ToRs, details...);
- Providing by the LDAC studies on African fishery legislation made by EFCA under PESCAO project;
- Preparation by LDAC of a draft note on the content of the letter to be addressed to the European Commission on the effective implementation of the IMO resolution on International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F), 1995 that supports harmonization of qualifications by introducing a minimum level of training for everyone working on fishing vessels to which the Convention applies and facilitates free mobility of workers between countries that have ratified and implemented the STCW-F Convention. The idea is to eliminate administrative barriers and streamline procedures to make it possible the mutual recognition of training for crews of EU vessels operating in African countries. This note will also be shared with and addressed to ATLAFCO Secretariat so they can forward to those MS concerned seeking their involvement as signatory countries.

The complete list of actions agreed can be found under (Annex III)

All meeting presentations can be reached through the following link:
<https://ldac.eu/en/meetings/comhafat-ldac-annual-coordination-meeting>

Annex I: List of participants**ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING LDAC-ATLAFCO
11/02/2021**

N°	PAYS	NAMES	TITLE	E-MAIL
1	Angola	Mr. Venâncio SOARES GOMES	Department of International Cooperation	venanciogomes68@gmail.com
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3		M. Herman GANGBAZO	Head of the Fisheries Management/DFP	kasseau@yahoo.fr
4	Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Helguile SHEP	Director of Fisheries	shelguile@yahoo.fr
5	Delegation of the European Union to Morocco	Mrs. Delphine GOGUET	Attached to maritime affairs and fisheries (Morocco and Gulf of Guinea)	Delphine.GOGUET@eeas.europa.eu
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8		Madame Ngame Niongama Micheline	Head of office/DFMR	Michelinengame@yahoo.fr
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10	European Commission (DG MARE)	Mr. Luis Molledo	DG MARE: Unit B1 – RFMOs	Luis.MOLLEDO@ec.europa.eu
11		Ms Marta Morén Abad	DG MARE: Unit B3 – SFPAs	Marta.MOREN- ABAT@ec.europa.eu
12	European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)	Mr. Alexandre Kempff	International Dimension PESCAO Project	Alexandre.Kempff@efca.europa.eu
13		Mrs. Irene Vidal	International Fisheries PESCAO Project	irene.vidal@efca.europa.eu
14	LDAC	Mr. Iván López	President of LDAC	ivan.lopez@pesqueraancora.com
15		Mrs. Béatrice Gorez	Vice President LDAC	cffa.cape@gmail.com
16		Mr. Julio Morón	Chair of the WG4 LDAC (SFPAs)	Julio.moron@opagac.org
17		Mr. Julien Daudu	Chair of the WG5 LDAC (Horizontal)	julien.daudu@ejfoundation.org
18		Mr. Juan Manuel Trujillo	Executive Committee Member – ETF (Trade Unions)	jtrujillo@fsc.ccoo.es

19		Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez	Executive Secretary	alexandre.rodriguez@ldac.eu
20		Mrs. Manuela Iglesias	Policy Officer - Secr.	manuela.iglesias@ldac.eu
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Annex II: AGENDA

14:00h – 14:15 h

- 1. Welcome/opening statements by the LDAC and COMHAFAT Chairs**
- 2. Approval of the agenda**
- 3. Adoption of the minutes of the last annual meeting (Rabat, 5-6 Feb 2020)**

14:15h – 15:45h

- 4. Presentation on timeline, work priorities and meetings calendar for 2021**
 - 4.1- ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT: update on studies, projects and activities.**
 - 4.1.1. Launch of feasibility study on management and control of FADs
 - 4.1.2. Developments on creating an RFMO for the ATLAFCO area
 - 4.1.3. State of play of feasibility MCS studies for regional control inspection plans at sea and regional port control scheme in COMHAFAT Convention area
 - 4.2- LDAC: alignment of work priorities and opportunities for collaboration**
 - 4.2.1. ToR for an international workshop on the implementation of the SFPAs between the EU and African countries from the Atlantic.
 - 4.2.2. Initiatives for cooperation between EU stakeholders and African Coastal States on International processes (CBD, BBNJ, RFMOS...)
 - 4.2.3. Action plan for promotion of social dimension of the CFP, decent labour conditions for fisheries and maritime safety.

15:45 – 16:00 Health Break

16:00 – 16:20h

- 5. Open Discussion: Debate on item 4 + impact of COVID in the fishing sector**

16:20 – 16:30 h

- 6. Summary of actions agreed and recommendations: next steps**

Annex III: SUMMARY LIST OF ACTIONS

1. ATLAFCO studies in tender or implementation phase:

1.1. Management and control of FADs in tuna purse seine fisheries in the EEZ of Western African countries related to ICCAT

- Content of the Terms of Reference (ToR)
- Public tender results (call for tender)
- Work plan, schedule and participation in the consultation opened by the selected team
- Upon Mr. Morón's request, it is suggested that an evaluation of the impact assessment of FADs in the different countries be included. He also suggests working with them on the observer system issue.

1.2. Measures for the adoption of a regional sea control inspection programme and a harmonized port inspection protocol

- Specific implementation measures: on-the-ground training initiatives and projects, capacity-building, etc. Building on existing synergies (ICCAT, EFCA regional programmes, African subregional fisheries organisations, among other)
- Preliminary assessment of implementation results on the ground
- Consideration of potential participation by the EU long distance fleet

1.3. Study on regulatory framework and legislative instruments in force in terms of fisheries management and control in the countries in the African Atlantic coast

- LDAC (consulting DG MARE, if appropriate), ATLAFCO and EFCA will exchange relevant information on legislation applicable in the different African countries.
- EFCA will share information about its scoping study on regulations applicable in countries in the African Atlantic coast, from Mauritania to Nigeria, available within the framework of its project PESCAO.

1.4. Report for the establishment of an RFMO for small pelagics (and demersal fish) in West Africa

- The LDAC will coordinate its input with ATLAFCO and DG MARE to move towards the preparation of a proposal for the establishment of an RFMO in charge of managing and controlling demersal and small pelagic fisheries in the CEFAF areas in West Africa.
- The following elements will be discussed:
 - o Adoption of a roadmap to start the consultation process among states to set up an RFMO
 - o Study of its spatial and material field (area, mandate and functions)
 - o Organisational chart, structure and composition
 - o Discussion on clauses of the draft Convention
 - o Funding mechanisms
 - o Integration within the international regulatory and institutional framework and coordination with mandates of existing organisations with competence in fisheries in the region

2. EU consultation on the assessment of sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs):

2.1. The LDAC will send ATLAFCO information on the public consultation launched by the EC on SFPAs for them to participate in the roadmap and questionnaire phase.

Link: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12728-Fisheries-evaluation-of-the-EU-s-sustainable-fisheries-partnership-agreements-SFPAs-](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12728-Fisheries-evaluation-of-the-EU-s-sustainable-fisheries-partnership-agreements-SFPAs)

2.2. ATLAFCO will coordinate / share its response with the LDAC so that the LDAC may consider the inclusion of some of their elements in the drafting of advice or consider a joint advice throughout the specific consultation to be launched by the EC for active stakeholders on the assessment of SFPAs.

3. Organisation of a seminar on the effective implementation of SFPAs:

The LDAC will update and reach a consensus with ATLAFCO on the concept note and the drafting of specific terms of reference for the organisation of a seminar on the effective implementation of SFPAs. These shall include specific case studies of African countries benefiting from the agreements and not only EU and African fishers, political authorities and administrations will be invited and involved, but also African small-scale fishers, workers in the value chain including women, and civil society including NGOs.

4. International external meetings and events:

The LDAC will inform and invite ATLAFCO to participate in some of the meetings presented during the annual coordination meeting (LDAC working groups, Ministerial Conference “All-Atlantic R&I for sustainable ocean” in Lisbon in June, etc.)

In turn, ATLAFCO will follow suit with the LDAC in their events, particularly the symposium “For an active participation in the international management of living marine species” (3 and 4 March 2021).

5. Social dimension of fisheries: Problems to mutually recognise and harmonise professional qualifications between EU and African countries (implementation of IMO STCW-F):

The LDAC will send ATLAFCO a letter explaining the problems and requesting improved administrative and bureaucratic coordination between the administrations of flag, coastal and port states that have adopted and ratified IMO Convention on Training for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F). The representative of ETF and LDAC member, Mr. Juan Manuel Trujillo, will act as coordinator for this point.