

**Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among
African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean
(ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT)**

State of play of ALAFCO's activities and perspectives



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ATLAFCO Secretariat Online 19 October 2023

Introduction

Strategic OBJECTIVES



ATLAFCO is conducting its work on the basis of its **Strategic objectives** namely:

Objective 1: Conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resource

Objective 2: Improving the sector performance

Objective 3: Promotion of regional trade of fisheries products

Objective 4: Strengthening ATLAFCO group in the international fisheries bodies

Objective 5: Maritime Safety and Security

Objective 6: Marine Environment Protection

The implementation is reflected in the 2023 activities carried out as well as the upcoming ones

Activities carried out -1-

- ❑ Training workshop “**Supporting female entrepreneurship through improving the valorization and marketing of artisanal fishing products**” (February 03-04, 2023 Agadir, Morocco)
 - ❑ Promoting the empowerment of women active in the fishing sector, which necessarily involves improving their well-being and their socio-economic and environmental living conditions
 - ❑ Promoting the inclusive development of women in the fishing value chain
 - ❑ Identifying innovative approaches to valorization, promotion and marketing of fishery products
- ❑ Workshop “**to upgrade the capacities of national observers for scientific observation missions** (March 15-17, 2023 Assinie-Mafia, Côte d’Ivoire)
 - ❑ Strengthening the capacities of fisheries service agents in the identification of fresh and frozen species falling within the mandate of ICCAT
 - ❑ Capacity building of collection agents in sampling and fisheries data collection methodologies;
 - ❑ Strengthening the capacities of MS fishing services in the management and processing of tuna fishing data (use of dedicated software tools for collecting and processing fishery data)

**The conduct of scientific observation missions as prescribed by ICCAT
Recommendation 16-14**



- ❑ **Workshop: "For better access to markets for fishery and aquaculture products: Improvement of exports to international markets through quality controls of fishery products and a good command of relevant international instruments"** (March 16-17,2023, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire)
 - ❑ Understand the markets for fishing and aquaculture products
 - ❑ Adapt offers to market requirements
 - ❑ Characterize the value chains and identify avenues for valorizing fishing and aquaculture products
 - ❑ Improve services offered to the private sector (positive externalities, facilities sales, export promotion, commercial information, etc.)
 - ❑ Develop public-private partnerships for research and development and better promotion of fishing products
 - ❑ Develop marketing policies adapted to fishing and aquaculture products;- Improve the competitiveness of fishing and aquaculture production



- ❑ Workshop on “**Sustainable Blue Economy in the context of maritime spatial planning at the level of ATLAFCO member state**” (April 14 -15, 2023 Tangier, Morocco)
 - ❑ Promoting the development of new sectors of the blue economy, in particular marine biotechnologies, renewable energies, ecologically responsible desalination and mining and fossil exploration and exploitation activities
 - ❑ Means of raising awareness on the promotion of the sustainable blue economy with particular emphasis on the fishing sector
 - ❑ Identifying challenges and opportunities related to the sustainable exploitation of the potential of fisheries within the framework of the blue economy in the Region
 - ❑ Improving maritime governance through the concepts of conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources and the management of conflicts with the other components of the blue economy
 - ❑ Identifying institutional coordination mechanisms to harmonize fishing activities with other areas of the blue economy
 - ❑ Highlighting best practices in the development of fisheries and their participation in the blue economy

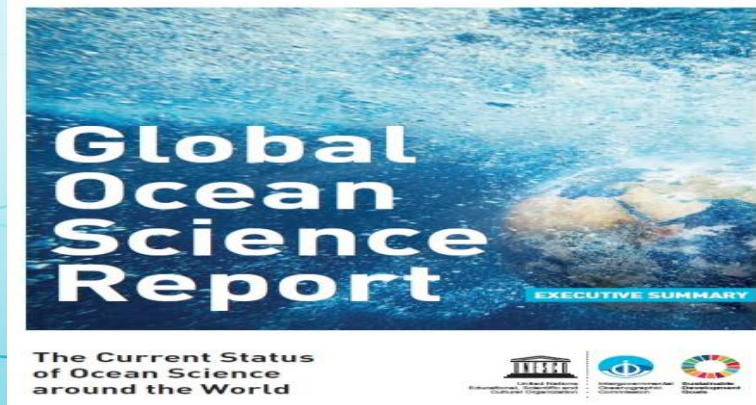
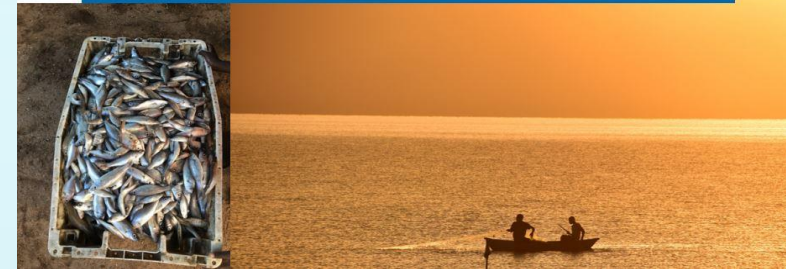


Activities carried out

-4-

- ❑ SYMPOSIUM: **"Fisheries in the Global Framework of Biodiversity POST-2020"** (May 09-10, 2023 Rabat, Morocco)
 - ❑ Draw attention and raise awareness among authorities responsible for fisheries and environmental issues regarding the challenges of environmental decision-making and the socio-economic aspects of fishing
 - ❑ Explore means of recognizing the importance of the fishing sector in discussions within international forums
 - ❑ Represent the interests of the fishing industry and facilitate information exchange between fisheries and environmental authorities
- ❑ Workshop on **"The results of the major international meetings dealing with the sea, oceans, fishing and biodiversity of 2022 on fishing activities"** (June 14-16, 2023 Tangier, Morocco)
 - ❑ Provide MOSFA members with a detailed understanding of the major international meetings of 2022 on sustainable fishing, the biodiversity and marine resource management results
 - ❑ Strengthen the skills of MOSFA members in terms of media coverage quality on the issues of sustainable fishing in Africa
 - ❑ Highlight ATLAFCO's initiatives to promote sustainable fisheries in Africa, and their impact on local communities
 - ❑ Develop effective communication strategies to disseminate information on the results of the major international meetings of 2022 among the general public, political decision-makers and stakeholders

**Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework:
An Indicator to Monitor the Threats to Inland
Fisheries, as a Component of Target 5**



Activities carried out

-5-

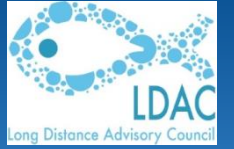
- ❑ **6th General Assembly of the Grouping of African Maritime Training Establishments (REFMA)/Capacity Building Workshop for an Inclusive and Sustainable Blue Economy in the ATLAFCO region (September 20-21, 2023 in Agadir Morocco)**
 - ❑ Introduction to the blue economy, with particular emphasis on the fishing sector
 - ❑ Raising awareness about the importance of human capital investment
 - ❑ Best practices in capacity building
 - ❑ introduction to setting up coordination of institutional, political and legal mechanisms

- ❑ **The 6th General Assembly of the African Platform for Regional Institutions for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Systems (APRIFAAS) (October 10-12, 2023, Tangier Morocco)**
 - ❑ Facilitating of the systematic exchange of information between regional institutions
 - ❑ Improving dialogue between stakeholders, and facilitate the development of a harmonized work program
 - ❑ Strengthening the African voice in the international forums and in dialogue process with partners





Coordination meetings -Example of ICCAT-

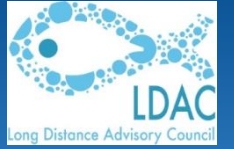


- ❑ **Defending the particular interests of developing coastal States** to develop their fishing opportunities and committing to achieve a more equitable distribution of fishing opportunities to developing coastal States over time
- ❑ **Better preparing** the participants and discuss the issues of the session of ICCAT
- ❑ **Contacts with different parties** (EU ,OPESCA ,Japan) aiming to exchange views between them on ICCAT tropical tuna management measures and to understand the interests of developing countries(virtual meetings on October 09,2023 and October 17,2023)
- ❑ **Preparing** proposals that aim participating in decision making





Declaration of ATLAFCO Member States relating to ICCAT recommendation 23-01 replacing recommendation 22-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management program for tropical tunas



- Delegations recognize the diversity of points of view and believe in the possibility of consensus on the elements of discussion
 - They call on the CPCs to demonstrate their good will to move the discussions forward
 - The recommendation under discussion concerns several measures including the definition of the TAC and its distribution, without forgetting the important measures relating to FADs and the temporary closure of fishing under FADs
 - For ATLAFCO MS delegations, the provisions of the current recommendation relating to the rights of developing coastal states must be considered with the greatest attention
- Indeed delegations wish that these provisions be considered as priorities in the decisions and be reflected in a concrete way in:
- Allocation of catch limits for our coastal states
 - The possibility for our States to develop their fisheries
 - The importance of establishing a sufficient reserve to guarantee the availability of additional catches for developing coastal CPCs in relation to their current catches

Upcoming activities

-1-

- ❑ **Training workshop for improving tuna fishing statistical data** (October 18 - 20, 2023, Rabat Morocco)
 - ❑ This training is part of the development of a capacity building plan for Member States in order to comply with ICCAT requirements
 - ❑ intended for candidates working in a government administration in charge of fisheries and having effective professional experience at the national level and knowledge of fisheries statistical data
- ❑ **Regional Workshop Access Agreements to Fisheries Resources in Atlantic Coastal States** (October 25-26, 2023, Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire)
 - Evaluate these agreements on the basis of the objectives assigned to them and to ensure that they really contribute to the sustainability of biological resources, economic development and equity
 - Explore in a second phase, the ways and means of improving these fishing agreements in order to maximize the benefits for African coastal States, local populations and other parties concerned

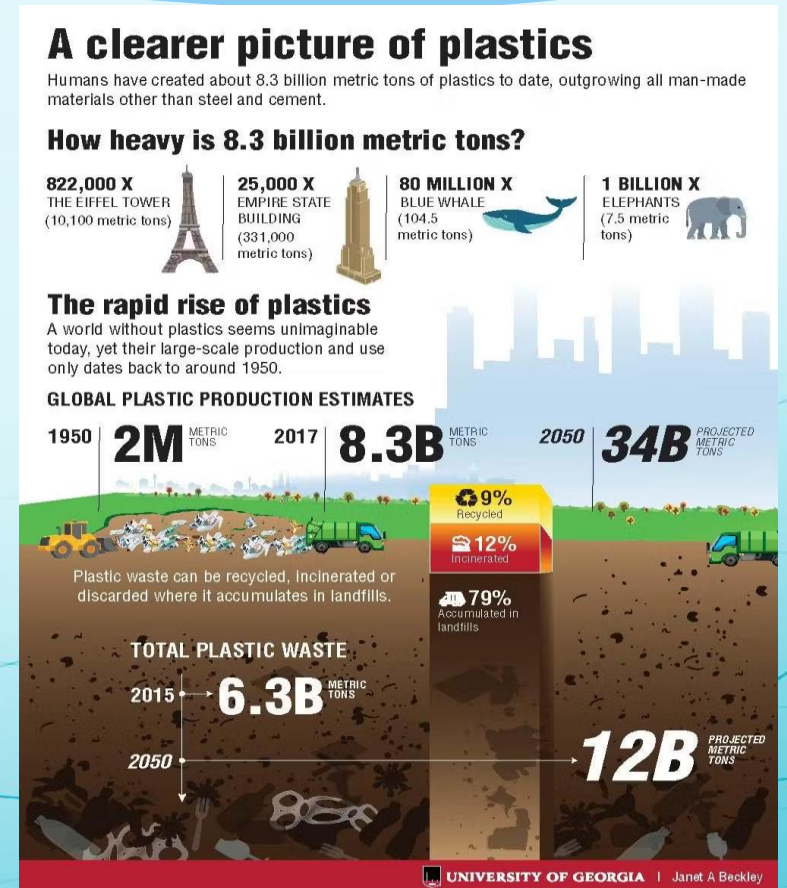


Upcoming activities

-2-

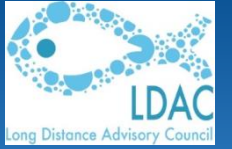
□ Oceans in Danger: Acting Against Global Plastic Pollution (07-08 November 2023 in Casablanca Morocco)

- The main objective is to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders, including environmental experts, government representatives, industry players, NGOs, researchers, educators and the general public, to discuss the challenges posed by ocean plastic pollution and explore effective ways of combating it
- The central aim of the meeting is to create synergy between a variety of key stakeholders, each bringing a unique perspective and specific skills to the fight against ocean plastic pollution





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THANK YOU



Plateforme de coordination

