



**ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING BETWEEN THE  
LONG DISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (LDAC)  
AND THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES  
COOPERATION AMONGST AFRICAN COASTAL STATES  
IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN (ATLAFCO)**

**European Fisheries Control Agency  
Vigo (Galicia-Spain)**

**Tuesday 24 January 2017, 10:00-13:00h**



## REPORT

### **ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING LDAC– ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT**

**European Fisheries Control Agency HQ, Vigo (Galicia-Spain)**

**Tuesday 24 January 2017, 10:00-13:00h**

***Agenda, working papers and presentations available here:***

<http://ldac.ldac.eu/post/coordination-meeting-between-efca-ATLAFCO-Ldac-129260>

#### **1. Opening of the meeting / Welcome by Authorities**

The EFCA Executive Director, Mr. Pascal Savouret, opened the session and welcomed the participants. *The list of attendees is appended to this report.*

The LDAC Chair, Mr. Iván López, thanked the opportunity of having the meeting hosted by EFCA and counting with a high representation of its officials.

Mr. Savouret informed on EFCA mission, structure, functions and activities in the field of control and compliance, in particular on the elaboration and implementation of Joint Deployment Plans (JDPs) and operational plans within and outside EU waters, underpinned by a risk-based approach. This is done in collaboration with the European Commission and control authorities of EU Member States. He summarised the work undertaken by the Agency in 2016 and presented its Multiannual Work Programme for the period 2017-2021. The increased role and budget of EFCA to develop the European Coastguard Force in conjunction with FRONTEX and EMSA was highlighted.

*The EFCA presentation is available on the LDAC website.*

#### **2. Overview of work collaboration between LDAC and ATLAFCO in 2016**

##### **2.1. ATLAFCO views**

ATLAFCO Executive Secretary, Mr. Abdelouahed Benabbou, underlined that the activities between ATLAFCO and LDAC are progressing in a satisfactory manner, especially in the field of fisheries governance and fight against IUU. He also highlighted that both organizations share the same principles and values. He subsequently defined the operational area, legal status, structure, mission, networks, initiatives and actions of ATLAFCO as well as its main lines of work with the LDAC.

The main output presented for 2017 is the regional cooperation to improve monitoring, control and surveillance in the ATLAFCO area, including review of current legislative framework and MCS initiatives; strengthening of capacity building in coastal states; harmonization of training procedures and definition of a common core curricula for inspectors; validated protocols for inspections and methodology for data collection and reporting, etc.



*COMHAFAT presentation is available at the LDAC website.*

## **2.2. LDAC views**

The LDAC Executive Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, underlined the excellent relationship and ongoing collaboration between LDAC and ATLAFCO and explained that this meeting is one of the commitments laid down under article 3.1 of the MoU signed between both organisations in 2013 in Brussels.

Mr. Rodriguez stressed that ATLAFCO has a distinctive value as regional organisation due to its membership, comprising the 22 Atlantic coastal countries from Morocco to Namibia, and mandate, being the only African political body in the Atlantic Ocean dealing specifically with fisheries management issues. Furthermore, as a strategic partner of the LDAC in the region, close collaboration and interaction between Secretariats and key members has been encouraged, and regular participation and attendance in mutual meetings between both organisations occurs ordinarily.

The main output has been the successful organisation of two EU- funded workshops by COMHAFAT with the assistance and support of the LDAC. The Workshops took place in Morocco in October 2015 (MCS as a tool to fight IUU Fishing in Africa) and June 2016 (EU SFPAs as an example of transparency in access agreements with African countries) and the programmes, reports and presentations are available in COMHAFAT website.

## **3. Strategic planning for 2017**

The LDAC offered its collaboration to assist ATLAFCO to look for support from the EU in the form of funding from DGDEVCO (Cooperation for Development Fund) or DGMARE (Annual Budget of Financial Regulation and EMFF) in relation to projects aligned with EU priorities on international ocean governance and implementation of external dimension of the CFP. The LDAC also showed its willingness to continue participating at future joint events with ATLAFCO throughout 2017.

### **3.1. Alignment of work priorities and key items**

The following areas of work were identified as specific priorities for 2017:

- Increasing stakeholder involvement in fisheries governance projects;
- Progressing with setting a Regional Control Observer Programme at Sea endorsed by the members of both organisations;
- Engaging in initiatives related to fight against IUU and Maritime Safety in the Atlantic coast of Africa (and in particular the Gulf of Guinea);
- Actively promoting the ratification and Implementation of FAO PSMA by European and African coastal MS;



- Advocating for transparency of (Public and Private) Fisheries Agreements in Coastal African States, in line with the new EC Proposal of Fishing Authorisation Regulation (FAR), the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) and relevant national and international laws.

### **3.2. Meetings calendar for 2017**

Mr. Alexandre Rodriguez informed that the next LDAC Working Groups will take place in Brussels in late March/early April 2017. The LDAC will liaise with DG MARE and DG DEVCO there to propose bilateral coordination meetings in Brussels to present and foster collaborative work between both organisations. Furthermore, the LDAC is planning to host in summer 2017 an International Conference on North Atlantic Fisheries and Stocks. This event will be likely held in Norway. EFCA will be invited and more detailed information will follow soon.

ATLAFCO announced that their biannual Ministerial Conference is planned to take place in the first quarter of 2017. The date and venue will be discussed during the next HALIEUTIS Fair (Agadir, 15-19 Feb 2017) and it will bring a good opportunity to present the work and joint actions described in this report. The LDAC and EC will be invited to HALIEUTIS and the Ministerial Conference.

## **4. Regional Cooperation**

Mr. Mohammed Sadiki, ATLAFCO Secretariat, made a presentation of the scoping study on the implementation of a Regional Fisheries Observers Programme at Sea in ATLAFCO area. This study was published in December 2016 and is publicly available for consultation on LDAC website.

The main conclusions of this study are:

- The regional program is technically feasible and cost-effective.
- Its goal is to achieve a common, unique and permanent control system.
- It would be the first collective regional initiative of institutional and private actors aimed to build upon existing projects and initiatives.
- It will be done in coordination (and no competition) with the relevant African sub-regional fisheries bodies in the area, within the framework of the MoU signed between ATLAFCO and SRFC, FCWC and COREP.
- It will contribute to reinforce the institutional framework and facilitate a common approach to monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities; fight vs IUU fishing and improvement of scientific data.
- A successful experience of the fleet adhered to this scheme (initial phase with EU tuna purse seine fleet) will promote the expansion of the program to other segments of the fleet (e.g. the freezer pelagic trawlers).



A second presentation was made by Mr. Naji Laamrich, ATLAFCO Secretariat, about the Regional Control at Port Inspection Scheme in ATLAFCO area. The main objective of this scheme is to develop national capacities and promote regional coordination amongst African coastal states in order to harmonize their national port state measures (PSM) and to effectively coordinate national, sub regional and regional strategies to fight against IUU. This will be achieved by optimising application of relevant legislative tools of FAO Port State measures to combat IUU fishing (i.e. 2005 FAO Model Instrument and 2009 FAO Agreement).

*Both COMHAFAT presentations are available for consultation at the LDAC website.*

Dr. Julio Morón explained the Tuna Transparency Initiative (TTI), promoted by the EU tuna purse seine fleet and channeled through the LDAC since 2010 with the aim of having a coordinated approach to all existing and future initiatives that contribute to improve transparency of fishing operations in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. There are already a number of concrete actions under this programme, such as 100% observer coverage or electronic eye onboard certain pilot vessels. This initiative has been presented at several international fora such as FAO-COFI or ICCAT and will continue in 2017.

## **5. EU strategy on MCS to fight against IUU fishing in the Gulf of Guinea.**

### **5.1. Report on outcomes of “*Pedro Cardoso Naco Operation*” (EFCA)**

Glenn Quelch, EFCA representative, provided a brief presentation on the structure, means deployed and results of the “*Pedro Cardoso Naco Operation*”. This operation was set to detect infractions of IUU fishing and was carried out in Guinea Bissau from 28 August to 1 September 2016. It was also suggested a possible involvement and collaboration of EFCA in future operations in the region. *The EFCA presentation is available for consultation at the LDAC website.*

Dr. Julio Morón asked EFCA what would be the best way to cooperate with the EU on issues such as the eradication of piracy in the Atlantic and put as example Atalanta operation in the Indian Ocean. Mr. Savouret replied that this should be done through the EC and both EFCA and stakeholders’ involvement will depend on the scope and target of the programme launched by the Commission. Mr. Savouret explained that piracy is a broader and more complex issues than IUU fishing itself.



## 5.2. Existing projects and initiatives at EU level:

The DG MARE representative and LDAC coordinator in the European Commission, Ms. Ramune Genzbigelyte-Venturi, informed that a prospective DG DEVCO sub-regional project on Monitoring, Control and Compliance in West Africa called PESCAO was at its latest stages of definition.

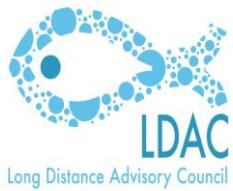
PESCAO will be a multiannual project (2017-2021) of 15 million Euro funded by the EU under the Development Cooperation Fund. It is expected to be officially adopted in the first semester of the year and it will include in its call for proposal ECOWAS and African sub regional fisheries bodies (SRFC and FCWC) as target addressees. Its aim is to reinforce cooperation for development in West Africa for improving regional fisheries governance. Possible involvement of EFCA is being considered in terms of capacity building support actions on MCS.

The main challenges to address in this project are:

- Poor management of fisheries stocks;
- Threats to marine environment;
- Fight against IUU fishing;
- Lack of coordination and cooperation among existing national institutions and competent authorities;

The DG MARE representative also informed on the “Our Oceans” Conference hosted by the EU in Malta on the 5th and 6th of October 2017. This will be a high level conference led by the DG MARE and where the EU stakeholders such as the LDAC are invited to contribute by delivering on commitments from both the public and the private sector. If the LDAC is aware of innovative companies which are committed to sustainable blue solutions, it is welcome to establish links with them and share with DG MARE.

ATLAFCO and LDAC asked if it would be possible to organize a joint side event as they have done in other international fora (e.g. ICCAT, FAO-COFI...). They also suggested to the Commission to consider inviting the newly established Indian Ocean RFMO. The DG MARE representative replied that Commission does not intend to organise side events (perhaps with one exception), however, stakeholders can organise side events on their own initiative.



## **6. Concluding remarks and closure of the meeting**

Both LDAC and ATLAFCO Secretariats concluded that there is a valuable ongoing collaboration and goodwill built between both organisations, with regular communication and attendance to meetings.

However, there are also constraints linked to limited resources available for moving forward to developing more ambitious joint projects. Both organisations will continue on this strand of work and look for funding.

The LDAC Chair closed the meeting thanking on behalf of its membership to ATLAFCO and DG MARE for their attendance, and to EFCA for hosting the meeting.

He believes that inclusive and full involvement, communication and engagement of policy makers, control authorities and stakeholders is key to progress for achieving the common goal of ensuring a sustainable fishing activity of long distance fleets in African waters, compliant with decent labour and social conditions of its workers and the conservation of the marine environment.



## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

### **LDAC Delegation**

Iván LÓPEZ	GA & ExCom Chair - AGARBA
Julio MORÓN	WG4 Chair - OPAGAC/AGAC
Hélène BOURS	ExCom member - CFFA/CAPE
Alexandre RODRIGUEZ	Executive Secretary
Manuela IGLESIAS	Fisheries Policy and PR - Secretariat

### **ATLAFCO Delegation**

João Gomes PESSOA LIMA	DG Fisheries - Sao Tomé Principe
Momadou NDIAYE	DG Fisheries - Senegal
Abdelouahed BENABBOU	Executive Secretary
Abdennaji LAAMRICH	Fisheries Expert, Secretariat
Mohamed SADIKI	Fisheries Expert, Secretariat

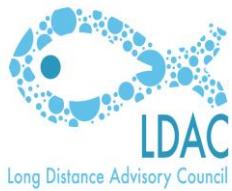
### **EU Institutions and Agencies**

Pascal SAVOURET	Executive Director - EFCA
Glenn QUELCH	Control Operational Unit - EFCA
Ramune GENZBIGELYTE-VENTURI	LDAC Coordinator – DG MARE – EC

### **Registered Observers**

Mercedes MARTINEZ	CETMAR – International Cooperation
Idoia MANCEBO	CONXEMAR – Communications and PR

*Apologies were noted from Isabelle Viallon (DG DEVCO), IUU Unit from DG MARE, María José Cornax (OCEANA) and José Carlos Castro (ANFACO-CECOPESCA).*



### **LIST OF ACTIONS AGREED**

1. A meeting page will be set up to upload the agenda, report and presentations, which will also be distributed between the attendees (completed).
2. The LDAC and ATLAFCO will progress with work in relation to funding and operationalization of the initiatives presented for a regional control inspection programme and regional control at port scheme and will discuss in further bilateral meetings with DG MARE and DG DEVCO in 2017.
3. ATLAFCO will invite the LDAC to attend its next Ministerial Conference planned for the first half of the year.
4. The LDAC and ATLAFCO will consider joint participation or organisation of side events at EU “Our Ocean” Conference in Malta on October 2017.
5. ATLAFCO and the LDAC will ask to the Commission to be actively involved or consulted in the implementation of the project PESCAO as it is relevant for their work.
6. All participants will give further reflection and consider future proposals for collaborative partnerships or actions to deter piracy activities in the Gulf of Guinea.
7. The LDAC and COMHAFAT Secretariat will be in contact to plan next Annual Coordination Meeting in early 2018 (date and venue to be confirmed).

**-END-**