



LDAC SECRETARIAT REPORT

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS RESULTING FROM MEETINGS WITH PARTICIPATION OF LDAC, HELD IN BRUSSELS

1. Meeting of the Advisory Board of the Fisheries Control Agency Tuesday, 23 February 2016 – 14:00-18:00 h

LDAC Representative: Alexandre Rodríguez
(In the absence of Juan Manuel Liria and Raúl García)

- At the meetings held between national control authorities of the Member States in order to coordinate the application of the landing obligation in different areas and fisheries (example of the North Sea and the Baltic), EFCA will propose the possibility for the ACs or stakeholders to participate in specific workshops.
- The LDAC will inform the EFCA about its request to create a Regional Working Group of Member States for the implementation of the LO outside EU waters, and will incorporate the proposal of dividing it into subregional groups defined by fisheries subject to RFMOs (ICCAT, NAFO, NEAFC, IOTC...).
- The LDAC will carry out regular monitoring and will be active in requesting funding for projects to develop regional observer and control programmes, in particular on stocks of large migrants (tuna fish). The LDAC will support the EFCA in terms of it having a relevant role to collaborate with third country coastal states in terms of training work (face-to-face and e-learning), capacity building (inspection resources), and improvement in the development of systems such as the use of already existing VSC/MCS tools (VMS, capture certificates).
- The LDAC will support the Commission in strengthening the role of the EFCA in the area of fight against IUU fishing. In this sense, the Agency could have a specific mandate to act as coordinator in the preparation of a specific control programme (JDP) for IUU fishing activities.
- The LDAC will invite a representative from the EFCA to present the result of the joint deployment plans and inspections in waters of NEAFC and NAFO, as well as other areas of work, such as the creation of a European Coastal Guard or advances in data monitoring and networks. This presentation will be given during the coming Working Group 2 (agreements of the North Atlantic and its RFOs), or in the Executive Committee, depending on availability and agenda priorities.



- TIC platforms to exchange information on control activities: the LDAC will send a separate letter or will indicate in its future advice (if adopted) of the FAR Regulation to the Commission and to the EFCA, proposing the creation of a “one stop shop” that will enable the Flag States to verify the fishing authorizations issued in third countries.

The integration of these authorizations in one same technology platform, with the verification of the electronic capture certificates and even e-logbooks, VMS, etc. will be proposed. The aim of this initiative is to optimize existing resources and ensure the coherence of transparency and control work of the fishery activities and fight against IUU fishing.

- Development of core curricula instruments: The LDAC will assist in disseminating the materials produced by the EFCA (manuals and e-learning portal once developed) as well as in identifying the training needs of the third country authorities.
- Public Consultation on Control Regulation Assessment: the LDAC will attempt to respond to some of the questions asked in the Commission’s consultation document questionnaire before the scheduled deadline (13 March). If so, a copy will be sent to the EFCA, which supports the idea of creating an integrated electronic system that will harmonize the MSC tools.
- The LDAC will request its permanent representative(s) to cover the form sent by the EFCA in compliance with the prevention and management policy on “conflict of interests”, as a result of a report of the European Parliament on increasing the transparency of the institution and of its members.
- The EFCA will provide the ACs with the content of the presentations made during this meeting.
- An internal debate will be held among the Consultative Councils about the possibility of modifying the current annual rotation system of the AC representatives on the Administrative Board in order to extend their mandate period, as this would entail a modification of the articles of the EFCA. The representatives of the newly established ACs (Markets, Aquaculture and Black Sea) will be invited to the debate.
- Before the start of each meeting, a list of topics or items tabled by the ACs for discussion will be included in the agenda and its deliberations accordingly reflected in the report of each meeting of the EFCA Advisory Board.



2. Seminar of Commission on Application of the Landing Obligation Wednesday, 24 February – 9:30-12:30 h

LDAC Delegation: Björn Stockhausen, Alexandre Rodríguez, Manuela Iglesias
Apologies for the absence of the Chairman, Juan Manuel Liria

The aim of this meeting was to exchange information and identify the practical problems derived from applying landings in different industrial and small-scale fisheries.

The Commission underscored that the landing obligation is a priority although they are aware of the problems and of the need to be flexible in the search for solutions to them.

- The DG urges the CCs to inform about practical LO application problems, as well as ideas of projects to be carried out and their specific funding needs charged to the EMFF (e.g., PELAC requested carrying out campaigns for acoustic surveys on the composition and sizes of mackerel populations). Quicker aid must be provided to solve urgent problems and bear in mind project proposals in future project calls.
- The LDAC will work on a recommendation regarding the application of the landing obligation for all fisheries outside community waters.
- The LDAC will send a formal document to all Member States with fleets in distant waters, requesting the creation of a Regional Working Group for distant water fisheries. Organizing the work into subgroups of fisheries by RFMOs (ICCAT, NAFO, NEAFC...) is recommended, suggesting that Spain should lead this. A copy will be made available to DG MARE, and the involvement and active participation of the LDAC in the Member States WG in the entire process from the start will be requested.
- The LDAC will follow with interest any progress on the initiative of DG MARE to prepare an informative guide on practical aspects and the interpretation of the regulation relating to the LO application, to be able to distribute it to the fishermen-owners and fishermen to help them understand the new regulation.
- The Commission will be requested to clarify the content of some provisions of article 15 and of Discard schemes.
- DG Mare will provide participants with the Seminar presentations.



3. Inter AC Coordination meeting **Wednesday, 24 February 2015 – 14:30-18:30 h**

LDAC Delegation: Raúl García, Alexandre Rodríguez and Manuela Iglesias
Apologies for the absence of the President, Juan Manuel Liria

- The Communication from the Commission announcing the start of the functioning of the ACs of markets, Black Sea and aquaculture will be published in the DOUE at the end of the week/month.
Ex post note: it was published on Friday, 26 February:
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:JOC_2016_074_R_0001
- DG MARE urges the ACs to send their reasoned opinions/advice without delay. With respect to the adoption procedure, they point out that it is important to receive any relevant advice within the time requested, either adopted by consensus or including minority positions.
- DG MARE underlines the importance for the ACs to participate in the relevant consultation processes. In particular for the LDAC:
 - International Ocean Governance (they are currently in the process of studying and analyzing the contributions received in the public consultation and they foresee issuing a report with their conclusions)
 - EC Proposal of New Fishing Authorization Regulation (FAR).
 - Evaluation of Control Regulation.
- The LDAC transmits the following key messages:
 - Importance of the external/international dimension of the CFP and its coherence with the “internal” dimension and other EU policies (ENV, DEVCO, TRADE, SANCO, EMPL, HEALTH, LABOUR)
 - Importance of the cooperation of third country coastal states to achieve sustainable and responsible management of fishing resources. This cooperation must exist in all fields: political, institutional, administrative, control, scientific, intersectorial, etc.
 - The International Conference of the LDAC in Las Palmas (16-17 September 2015) as a milestone that has helped establish a clear direction in terms of the effective application of the external dimension of the CPF. In this regard, the main recommendations will be briefly listed, in the fields of :
 - Improvement of the governance and participation of the stakeholders in the decision-making process;
 - Promotion of the new generation of sustainable fishing partnership agreements (SFPAs) as a tool to improve transparency, equal and responsible access to the exploitation of resources and as a model of cooperation for development;



- Reinforcement of capacity building and improvement of the MCS / SVC systems;
 - Coherence of this dimension with the Control and fight against IUU fishing policies (improvement in data exchange and vessel registration, issue and validation of capture certificates, participative surveillance projects...);
 - Harmonization of the minimum access conditions and improvement of transparency in terms of information on fleet activity, public and private licenses, agreements signed by Coastal States with third countries, etc.
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- DG MARE explains the procedure to access EMFF funds: a series of strict requirements must be satisfied and there is little margin for flexibility or for avoiding red tape that is both costly in time and resources for the CCs.
 - The LDAC, in its Working Group 1, will discuss the proposal of the Commission to develop a strategic work plan for stakeholders so that the EU can organize its participation in the tuna RFMOs regarding items of business with and availability of personnel in the 2016-2020 horizon. Special emphasis will be placed on the need to coordinate horizontal issues that are addressed in several RFMOs (for example, fishing capacity, use of FADs, etc.)

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