



LDRAC PROPOSALS FOR THE 2013 UNGA RESOLUTION ON SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

State: approved by the Ex Com

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Original drafting language: English

BACKGROUND, EXPLANATION:

As outcome of the technical meeting on the 2013 United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries, held in Brussels on 12th July, and organized by the EC, the representatives of the European Commission encouraged the LDRAC members to send by writing the three proposals raised during the meeting.

The proposals were agreed by all the LDRAC members who attended the meeting, and the deadline the EC gave us for sending them is 14th August, since after that date, the UNGA won't accept more proposals.

As requested by the EC, the proposals are ranked as follows:

1. LDRAC Proposal for the 2013 UNGA Resolution on Fisheries – Fisheries Agreements

***“WELCOMES the ICCAT regulation on the exchange of information related to fishing Access Agreements through Recommendation 11-16; and the IOTC regulation for the creation of a Record of licensed foreign vessels for IOTC species and information related to fishing Access Agreements through Resolution 12-07; because both regulations reinforces the coastal States sovereign rights in a 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) with respect to their natural resources; constitutes a means to identify potential unreported fishing activities; is a key ingredient for the promotion of fisheries good governance, including transparency and the fight against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.*”**



URGES all countries to promote at their respective RFMOs to follow the steps given in ICCAT and IOTC to obtain a transparent Record of Licensed Vessels operating in their area of competence and a record of Access Fisheries Agreements.”

2. LDRAC Proposal for the 2013 UNGA Resolution on Fisheries - Participatory surveillance

BACKGROUND

[An essential ingredient in the fight against IUU fishing]

In West Africa, in the last 12 years, several ‘participatory surveillance’ initiatives showed the effectiveness of this system in the fight against IUU fishing in West Africa.

In the case of Guinea, in order to fight against the incursions of trawlers in the 12 miles zone reserved for artisanal fishing, a participatory surveillance project was launched in the early 2000’, where some fishermen using VHF radios and GPS communicated directly with the National Centre for Surveillance, which could then faster arrest trawlers fishing in the prohibited area. The living conditions of fishers greatly improved: illegal activities were reduced by 60%, in particular the incursions of trawlers in the fishing zone reserved for artisanal fishermen, where these incursions were the cause of many fatal accidents. Unfortunately, the project, limited to the northern part of the coast , wasn’t extended to the south, nor perpetuated as was demanded by coastal communities.

In the case of Senegal, participatory surveillance has been operating for several years within the context of the co-management of fishing activities, in particular marine protected areas (MPA). Local committees that involve all stakeholders in communities have been established to implement participative surveillance. Canoes are made available to work in cooperation with coastal surveillance. Coastal surveillance must act based on information provided by fishermen. A procedure exists to monitor cooperative actions involving national surveillance and maritime safety departments and the navy. Free telephone numbers are made available to fishermen to provide information on illegal operations witnessed at sea. Fines are paid directly



to the public Treasury. Communities participate financially to the participative surveillance project (hardware maintenance, fuel, etc.) so that the project does not entirely depend on the State. Fuel is supplied to pirogues involved in this project through a voucher system. In addition, 40% of revenues of the fishing permits and the fishmonger's permits are allocated for the operation of the local committees.

In the last couple of years, a similar project was supported in Sierra Leone. It seems also that there is now a commitment at the level of the West Africa Sub Regional Fisheries Committee (SRFC) to develop participative surveillance in the 7 Member States of the sub-region.

Lately, Gabon gave the possibility to foreign licensed vessels to also contribute to improve surveillance by reporting any illegal operation they witness at sea to the local authorities. (to be completed)

THE PROPOSAL:

“In its 2013 resolution on fisheries, in the chapter dealing with IUU, it should be proposed to ‘support the development of participative surveillance, involving all legal fishers, in particular fishing communities, as an cost effective way of improving MCS capacities and effectively deter IUU fishing’”

3. LDRAC Proposal for the 2013 UNGA Resolution on Fisheries – Stakeholders’ network

“Notes the importance of the stakeholders’ involvement in the fisheries Management, as a very important tool to improve the governance and transparency, and requests States and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations to promote the participation of the stakeholders in their meetings as well as to create a stakeholders network, parallel to the RFMOs since would be an important step to have the conditions of a participative e innovative governance, involving these networks in the decision making process, as well as an excellent platform for exchanging good practices and improving their capacities among the different stakeholders.”