

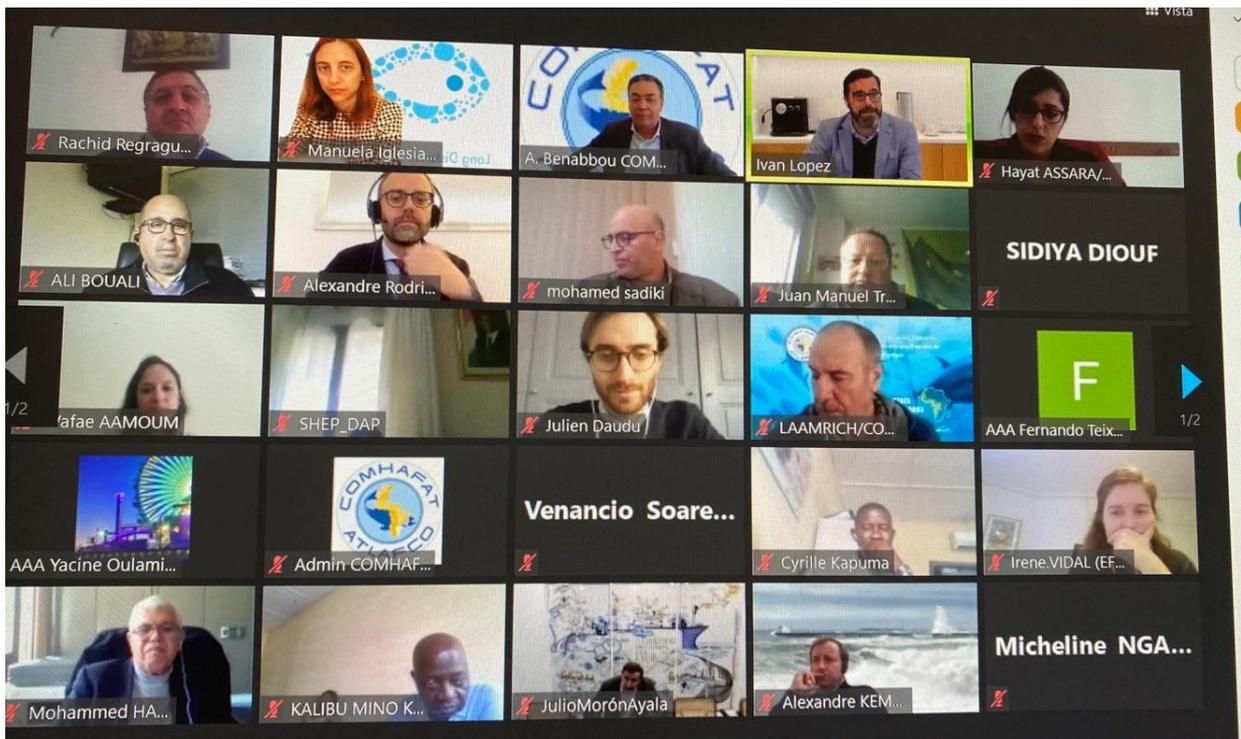


COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO

## 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-mVIytpTpij>)

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 institution 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 with the respect by the two institutions of this annual meeting and took the opportunity to wish a good success for their main projects planned as part of their respective action plan.

## **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 the 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 the 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 then listed the activities that have special priorities and covering all 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...*
- ✓ 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.

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 Mr. Alex Rodriguez made a presentation on the LDAC progress report in 2020 and proposals for collaboration in 2021.

**The main topics carried out 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 opinion 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 MRs CS on Mauritania, Senegal, Cabo Verde

**Regarding the proposals for collaboration in 2021, Mr. Rodriguez 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 on SFPAs...).
- Promoting the level playing field between EU and non-EU fishing operators in African countries in terms of social and labor rights, fish trade, traceability of value chains...
- Implementing the recommendations formulated in the LDAC performance review Collaboration on enhancing role of RFMOs and creation of new ones (e.g., CECAF or similar for demersal and small pelagic fisheries in West Africa)
- Exploring joint collaboration in prospective EU funded studies / projects on fisheries governance, fight against IUU Fishing, SFPAs, fish trade, etc.

**Mr. Rodriguez** ended his presentation by a roadmap published on DG MARE website (better regulation) on EC consultation on evaluation of SFPAs.

5. Following the presentation of each Party, there was an open discussion that has been enriched by different participants especially on the impact of COVID in the fishing sector and the future steps to overcome this difficult period by pointing out the future actions agreed to be taken.
6. Actions agreed and recommendations: next steps

#### **6.1 ATLAFCO studies in tender or implementation phase:**

- **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.
- **Measures for the adoption of a regional sea control inspection program 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 programs, African sub regional- fisheries organizations, among other)
  - ✓ Preliminary assessment of implementation results on the ground
  - ✓ Consideration of potential participation by the EU long distance fleet
- **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.
- **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:
    - Adoption of a roadmap to start the consultation process among states to set up an RFMO
    - Study of its spatial and material field (area, mandate and functions)
    - Organisational chart, structure and composition
    - Discussion on clauses of the draft Convention
    - Funding mechanisms
    - Integration within the international regulatory and institutional framework and coordination with mandates of existing organisations with competence in fisheries in the region

## **6.2 EU consultation on the assessment of sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs):**

- 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>
- 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.
- **Organization 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 organization 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.

- **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).

- **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, Mr. Juan Manuel Trujillo, will coordinate this point.

All 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**

<b>N°</b>	<b>PAYS</b>	<b>NAMES</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
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19		Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez	Executive Secretary	<a href="mailto:alexandre.rodriguez@ldac.eu">alexandre.rodriguez@ldac.eu</a>
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## **Annex II: AGENDA**

### **14 :00 – 14 :15**

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 :15– 16 :45**

4. Presentation on timeline, work priorities and meetings calendar for 2021
  - 4.1- **DG MARE** : Point sur les priorités de l'UE en matière de gouvernance internationale des océans et de la dimension extérieure de la PC
    - 4.1.1. Mise en œuvre de la dimension extérieure de la PC
    - 4.1.2. Actions dans le domaine de la gouvernance internationale des océans
  - 4.2- **ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT**: Update on studies, projects and activities.
    - 4.1.3. Launch of feasibility study on management and control of FADs
    - 4.1.4. Developments on creating an RFMO for the ATLAFCO area
    - 4.1.5. State of play of feasibility MCS studies for regional control inspection plans at sea and regional port control scheme in COMHAFAT Convention area
  - 4.3- **LDAC**: Alignment of work priorities and opportunities for collaboration
    - 4.3.1. ToR for an international workshop on the implementation of the SFPAs between the EU and African countries from the Atlantic.
    - 4.3.2. Initiatives for cooperation between EU stakeholders and African Coastal States on International processes (CBD, BBNJ, RFMOS...)
      - 4.2.1. Action plan for promotion of social dimension of the CFP, decent labour conditions for fisheries and maritime safety.

### **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