



DRAFT MINUTES

21st meeting of LDAC Working Group 1 Stocks of Large Migrants and Tuna Fish RFMOs

**Friday, 20 October 2017. From 9 am to 1 pm
Silken Berlaymont Hotel – Brussels, Belgium.**

**Chair: Mr. Michel Goujon
Vice-chair: Mr. Julio Morón**

1. Welcome and apologies.

The Chair of WG1, Mr. Michel Goujon, opens the meeting and thanks the Commission representatives and members for their attendance and participation.

The list of attendees as members and observers is enclosed in Annex 1.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last WG1 meeting - Brussels, 6 April 2017.

The minutes of the previous meeting are adopted with the modifications received by Mr. Michel Goujon and Ms. Gunilla Greig regarding their own interventions.

3. Approval of the agenda.

The agenda is approved with no more comments or proposals for additional points.

Update by the European Commission of Work in Tuna Fish RFMOs:

4. ICCAT – Atlantic Ocean

4.1 Preparation of the 25th ordinary meeting of ICCAT (Marrakech, 14-21 Nov. 2017)

4.2 Calendar of meetings and priority actions for the EU for 2018.

Due to the last-minute absence of the Commission representatives, the Chair gives a presentation of the recommendations and conclusions of the ICCAT Scientific Committee (SCRS) on the biological state of the stocks.

This presentation is available for consultation on the LDAC website. Link:

<http://ldac.ldac.eu/attachment/a0abfa1e-6664-460c-8679-793ece7b1b28>



The main species are summed up below:

- Bigeye Tuna (BET): The stock is overexploited and the SCRS recommendation for their recovery entails maintaining catches at 72,000 tons in agreement with the MSY. The TAC was revised and reduced in 2015 and in 2016, and in 2017 it was set at 65,000 tons. Although catches exceed this TAC, they remain within the MSY.
- Albacore tuna (ABT): Both the northern and southern stocks are in good conditions, without any overfishing or overexploitation. There has been a development of the harvest control rules (HCR) which is being implemented for the northern stock. However, catches in 2016 were higher than the TACs.
- Swordfish (SWO): Evolution is good. Catches were less in the North. Although there is overfishing of this stock in the south, there is no overexploitation, hence a reduction of the TAC should not have much impact.
- Sharks/Blue sharks: The blue shark northern stocks are in a good state although the catches are higher than the TACs. A lot of parameters are lacking in the south and a precautionary approach is recommended.
- Mako: According to the scientists, there is overexploitation. In the south, the HCRs recommend limiting or forbidding catches. However, other measures can also be adopted such as releasing live sharks or forbidding fishing aimed at these species. The mako standards should be harmonised as it is fished in several RFMOs. Fishing blue shark is forbidden in several countries.

Mr. Alexandre Rodriguez, Secretary General, transmits the apologies of the EC representative for his last-minute absence from this working group, due to a meeting with the Commissioner's office to prepare the ICCAT. To foster debate and encourage members to pass on their comments and recommendations for their inclusion in the LDAC draft opinion, a summary is given of the Commission's position for each one of the Atlantic stocks of interest, as well as some of the deliberations and conclusions presented during the course of the preparatory meeting that the Committee held with stakeholders on the day prior to this meeting in Brussels.

The summary given by the Secretary General is included as an attachment to the minutes.

Comments by members

Swordfish and sharks (blue shark and shortfin mako)

Mr. Edelmiro Ulloa, ANAPA/ANAMER/ACEMIX/AGARBA, highlights that he maintains the position that they presented at the preparatory meeting for the Commission on stocks of Atlantic swordfish, blue shark and shortfin mako, and hopes they will appear in the LDAC opinion.

On the other hand, and regarding the need for industry to improve its catch and discard data reporting, he recalls that there is a flexibility standard in ICCAT for swordfish that permits including a by-catch percentage, so, in practice, there are no discards. He also highlights that the information of the Spanish fleet is the best ever and they do not understand the problem of lack of data for the aforementioned stocks.

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, Executive Secretary, asks Mr. Ulloa to send the explanation and justification of data and reports he was referring to, to the Secretariat.

Mr. Raul Garcia, WWF, indicates that they are aware that Spain is increasing the observer coverage in the longliner fleet directed at sharks and swordfish. Regarding shortfin mako, he acknowledges that the European longliner fleet has been asking for management measures for this stock for the past 10 years, and that having to close the fishery at this moment in time would be terrible for its activity. However, consistent with the precautionary principle, he does consider that WWF should ask for the closure of the fishery. On the other hand, he highlights that an attempt must be made to speed up the stock assessment or carry out an external review.

Mr. Edelmiro Ulloa, ANAPA/ANAMER/ACEMIX/AGARBA, informs that, to avoid any deficiency in the observer plan of the IEO, it was decided to add a complementary observer plan, assumed by the sector, and coordinated with the Spanish Administration, with an increase of 7% in all fishing grounds. This plan has been ongoing since the second quarter of 2017 and the landing expectations are being fulfilled. This will help clarify a series of loopholes that might exist with respect to swordfish and blue shark. Moreover, the Spanish surface longliner sector will establish an FIP to improve and give shape to the work that is being carried out.

Mr. Michel Goujon, ORTHONGEL, believes that there is a scientific participation problem at EU level in the ICCAT Scientific Committee and other RFMOs. He believes that it is a problem for Spain and for France as increasingly fewer scientists participate in these meetings. It appears that there are scientists of other nationalities (Australians,...) with other new models that are difficult to assess. He also highlights that, seemingly, the work of European scientists is not held in consideration, so he suggests that there should be coordination at European level to increase scientists' participation and to enhance their work. Collaboration from the fishing sector is crucial to all row in the same direction. This could be addressed in detail at the LDAC WG5.

Mr. Edelmiro Ulloa, ANAPA/ANAMER/ACEMIX/AGARBA, states that the case of Spain is very serious, he agrees and suggests that the NAFO model should be drawn on.

Tropical tuna fish

Mr. Raul Garcia, WWF, indicates that the current regulatory framework is insufficient. In his opinion, the standards should be defined better, highlighting that there is a problem of compliance. He believes that the control and monitoring requirements are slightly obsolete, so they should be aligned with other systems to be able to move forward. The recovery possibilities for these stocks are currently below 50%.

Mr. Michel Goujon, ORTHONGEL, indicates that the European purse-seine fleets of ANABAC, OPAGAC and ORTHONGEL are respecting the regulation, indicating that the loopholes are the result of failure by other non-community fleets to comply with the management plan.

Mr. Raul Garcia, WWF, responds that the EU would be legitimised to demand improvements in terms of compliance. He believes they are aware of the points to be strengthened, so the EU must clearly transmit to the coastal states the effort invested to control IUU fishing. He thinks that there should be greater coordination. In his opinion, the LDAC opinion could include a message in this regard.

On the other hand, Mr. Michel Goujon, ORTHONGEL, believes that, although there must be an increase of observers in long-liners, the achievements already reached by the European fleet must be made known.

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, recalls that the first LDAC opinion in 2007 referred to the problem of high-seas transshipments, pointing out that it would be a good idea to remind the EC of this, with current elements, such as for instance: the benefit that passing high-seas transshipments to landings in ports would represent for the economic activity of coastal states; a more effective control of the fleet's fishing activities, which would also contribute to the application of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures; the compilation of scientific information, greater efficiency in the observer coverage rates for other activities, and the potential decrease of IUU fishing activities and non-compliance with decent working conditions, among others.

Furthermore, on management strategies, he states that a request should be made for the scientists to develop catch control rules (HCR) for tropical species.

Mr. Michel Goujon, ORTHONGEL, proposes including a specific point at the next WG1 meeting on HCR, inviting expert scientists in this field.

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, recalls that the purse-seine fleet has been applying moratorium measures for more than 20 years, and no improvement has been achieved in the three species highlighted, including the bigeye tuna.

Shark finning policy.

Mr. Alexandre Rodriguez, Executive Secretary, recalls that both the EU and the LDAC will request the shark finning policy again, to try to seek supports in ICCAT. Mr. Miguel Goujon, ORTHONGEL, points out that Japan, China and Korea sustain their negative position and that this, seemingly, is definite.



ACTIONS:

ICCAT – International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

- **The LDAC will send an Opinion to the Commission, with the recommendations on the Atlantic stocks of interest in ICCAT (*ex post note: this opinion was unanimously adopted by fast-track procedure and it was sent on 14 November 2017, prior to the annual meeting of ICCAT*).**
- **The LDAC Secretary will attend the annual meeting of ICCAT in Marrakech and will take part in the coordination meeting(s) set by the European Commission.**

The LDAC will be waiting to receive the reply from the EC and will invite the Commission to present recommendations agreed at the meeting as well as the pending actions at the next WG1 meeting to be held in March-April 2018.

5. WCPFC – Central and Western Pacific Ocean

5.1 - Update of the Commission on work and 2018 meeting calendar.

- **14 Ordinary Meeting of the Commission (1-7 December 2017, Philippines).**

5.2 – Development of management measures for sharks and manta rays.

Ms. Angela Martini, EC representative, highlights that although the Pacific is a very important fishing area in volume of catches, the presence of European vessels is small. At the annual meeting of WCPFC, assessments will be made for the management strategy. The (SKJ) list is in a good situation. However, the bigeye tuna (BET) is overexploited, even though the conservation measures seem to be more reliable and are taking effect. They await the recommendations of the Scientific Committee in summer next year to review several management models. There are many outstanding issues to be solved, such as the management of the fishing capacity and the use of FADs. The differences in approach between high sea and the jurisdictional exclusive economic zones of coastal states are considerable. If a closure or prohibition of the use of FADs should occur at high sea, these would be moved to the exclusive economic zone and would, therefore, pay rates to the Coastal States. This leads the latter to be moved by economic interests and not by conservation interests in many cases. The EC wants the conservation and management measures to be consistently and non-discriminatorily applied to all coastal states without exception. There must be transparency in the information flow, effective control and responsibility by the small island developing states (SIDS).

Proposing a closure of FADs at high sea is not justified from a conservation viewpoint, which is why he thinks that the proposal for total closure at high sea is out of proportion, a measure that will be paid by the long-distance fleet. He also mentions the examples of China or Kiribati that fish in that zone without taking any conservation measures into account. He highlights that the measures must always be coherent and non-discriminatory, in line with other RFMOs and based on scientific advice.



Respect to the North Pacific albacore tuna, it is in the green area without problems.

Regarding the bluefin tuna he highlights the depletion of this stock in Western Pacific, its biomass being at 2.6%. Although the correct direction was taken at the meeting of the Northern Committee, establishing the objective of reaching 20% biomass in 2034, it was thanks to the EU remaining firm in this regard, despite attending as observers.

Finally, he indicates that there is a proposal from the Marshall Islands on marine litter in line with the language used in MARPOL.

- Round of questions and comments by LDAC members:

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, thanks Angela for her presentation informing about the measures that the Commission is going to put forward as a proposal for negotiation at the annual meeting of WCPCF in December. He highlights the good news for the bigeye tuna, which appears to be in a good situation after 20 years with problems, which favours greater peace of mind for the PNAs. He believes that the EU could consider more management measures, placing emphasis on his desire to establish a long-term regulatory management framework. He asks Ms. Angela Martini, EC, about the result of CIAT, as it is quite remarkable, because, finally, the bigeye tuna is in green. However, he highlights that the basic problem is still the excessive fleet capacity. Although, this can be considered as a lesson for other oceans as the fleet will stop for 10 more days, increasing from 62 to 72 days.

The EC representative, Ms. Angela Martini, states that the EC is interested in discussing capacity issues; in fact, there will be a workshop in Cartagena on this issue.

Mr. Edelmiro Ulloa, ANAPA/ANAMER/ACEMIX/AGARBA, asks the EC representative to keep the Spanish longline sector informed about the state of sharks in the Western Pacific.

Mr. Raul Garcia, WWF, asks about the closure of the Indian Ocean and how the supply problem can be solved. He believes that CIAT already has some measures, but he asks how it works and how other RFMOs could accept them. He does not understand why no mechanisms have been put in place by the RFMO secretariat to warn countries that they should not exceed quota. He insists that there must be an effective mechanism.

Ms. Angela Martini, EC representative, states that they do inform the Spanish Administration about the state of the sharks. There is considerable discussion about this fishery, but they do not have a lot of data about shark stocks. In fact, this year they did not manage to adopt a conservation measure, they adopted a system whereby the fishery had to stop in August. She emphasises that they have asked Western scientific personnel to provide alternative measures. They are aware that they no longer want to close it. CIAT is controlled well and there are stoppages due to the fishery closures. In her opinion, the best thing is to have a simple system that is controlled well and that works.

Ms. Despina Symons, EBCD, asks about the migratory species convention, as, seemingly, DG ENV on Environment has the competence and there is a proposal to include shark species in the CITES 21 list, but in marine affairs they must consult DG MARE. She asks if there are



consultation mechanisms between the DGs of the Commission to prepare their common position on the migratory species convention.

The EC representative, Ms. Angela Martini, informs that they have been consulted by DG ENV about the migratory species convention.

Mr. Julio Morón, OPAGAC, in answer to the question by Mr. Raul Garcia, informs that they carry out the supply, for example, from Ecuador, by buying fish from Taiwan. On the control, he adds that the CIAT has its own observer programme with weekly report of catches and quota consumption.

Ms. Sandra Jen, PEW, as observer and regarding the working conditions, asks the EC representative if she believes that there will be a preliminary meeting or if it will be necessary to wait until Manila. Regarding all the other issues, she expresses her support to the development of harvest control rules and management strategies for tropical tuna stocks, especially for the bigeye tuna. She believes that this is the right path.

Ms. Angela Martini, EC representative, responds that, in her opinion, she believes that there will be no new events regarding working conditions prior to Manila. She also thinks that although they will find solutions in some cases, the problem will exist with the longliners due to the control and monitoring system.

ACTION: On the Chair's request, it is agreed to invite an EC representative to the next WG1 meeting to inform about the Migratory Species Convention.

6. CTOI – Indian Ocean

6.1 Conclusions of the plenary meeting (22-26 May 2017).

6.2 Update of the EU Strategy development process for the Indian Ocean

Mr. Michel Goujon, ORTHONGEL, presented a summary table with the decisions adopted at the last meeting of the CTOI. This can be found on page 18 of his presentation, available on the LDAC website at the following link:

<http://ldac.ldac.eu/attachment/a0abfa1e-6664-460c-8679-793ece7b1b28>

Mr. Orlando Fachada, EC representative, informs of the conclusions of the plenary meeting. He highlights that the environment has changed a great deal and is becoming degraded as the Coastal and Island States are trying to develop a strategy like the Pacific strategy. This is based on Coastal States being moved by purely economic factors to impose strict measures on foreign fleets in the short term, forgetting about conservation issues.

What the countries also perceive at times is that criteria are being unilaterally imposed, without any consensus, when they should be adopted in forums such as the RFMOs. An attempt at progress must be made, but the situation is not easy. Some countries are also not aware of what the CTOI measures represent for the future.

On the other hand, he explains that the EU position in the CTOI is the same, that they must try to adapt to the new circumstances to continue to be active in the Indian Ocean, as this is the most important fishing zone for tropical tuna species with more than 50% of the total tuna catches for the European fleet.

Regarding the plenary meeting, he highlights that several decisions were approved:

- The yellow-fin tuna recovery plan (YFT) focuses on preventing some countries, such as the Seychelles, from being penalised or submitted to recovery plans. Not reducing the total yellow-fin tuna catches could be disastrous and virtually only the European fleet is going to apply this reduction, although the Scientific Committee recommended reducing total catches by 70%.
- Limitation of the number of FADs. Despite there being no scientific base to support it, several contracting parties expressed their wishes to adopt this measure that penalises the European fleet, also reducing the number of auxiliary supply vessels. They want to have allocation criteria.
- Study the prohibition of all the discards of the tuna seiners, force the landing of all the species in port. This is a measure that restricts the fishing operation, aimed only at one segment of the fleets that catch tropical tuna. The EC will make recommendations on this study, requesting the inclusion of all segments such as longliners, pole-and-lines and gillnets.
- Prohibition of finning for fresh marketed shark, not being achieved for frozen, which is why they will continue requesting it for all sharks.
- On the other hand, a measure was also adopted on the prohibition of driftnets in the EEZ of the Coastal States of the CTOI, which represents the extension of the application field that only affected the high seas before. The only country that was against it was Pakistan, so progress can be made to enforce it.
- Measures on transshipments for artisanal vessels. The EU refused the Indonesian proposal that wanted its small-scale vessels to also participate in the transshipment programme. As an alternative plan, the EU requested a moratorium for these small vessels, but the measure was finally adopted.

Then he highlighted another two important measures that unfortunately were not adopted: One for the marlin (population that is practically depleted and continues to be fished) and another for other species (*billfish*), and that the scientific committee recommends a reduction of more than 30% in catches.

The non-compliance and technical rules will probably be discussed at the meeting of the Technical Committee on allocation criteria that will be held in February.

- Round of questions from LDAC members and observers:

Mr. Michel Goujon, ORTHONGEL, highlights the importance of the issue of limiting FADs, considering that there is parallelism with what is happening in IUU fishing, in other words, that a system of measures is taken but with exceptions. These means that the regulation is not only not effective, but that the European fleet, and seemingly the Japanese one, too, which are trying to comply with it, are not seeing their efforts reflected in a greater effectiveness of the measure.

On the other hand, Ms. Beatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, proposes that the LDAC should support the proposal of the EU creating a specific ad hoc group in CTOI on working conditions, which will include the importance of tuna for food safety, the dependence of the sector on the stocks being in good conditions, etc.

Mr. Michel Goujon, ORTHONGEL, suggests that Ms. Gorez should send a draft opinion on this issue.

The EC representative, Mr. Orlando Fachada, confirms that there will be a meeting in Seychelles in the month of February.

Mr. Raul Garcia, WWF, appreciates the progress towards an EU strategy for the Indian Ocean. He offers collaboration from the LDAC. He is in favour of the proposal of Ms. Gorez and congratulates on the progress made on the shark finning policy. He asks how this is viewed by other RFMOs.

The EC representative, Mr. Orlando Fachada, believes that coordination among everyone is very important, and that it must continue to be requested in order for the measure against finning to have long-term results.

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, thanks Mr. Fachada for summing up the management measures. He highlights the dramatic situation of the Indian Ocean, as the European fishing fleet only catches 34%. There is a reduction of 15% in yellow fin tuna and only 5% in the rest, and that they also know that the European fleet will comply and the others will not. By way of an example, the Spanish fleet will stop fishing by ministerial order as from 5 November, which entails some serious economic consequences. He calls for coherence on part of the EU, that faced with these situations, commercial derogations are very serious, insofar as there is a commercial war behind all of this.

In addition, he supports the proposal of Ms. Gorez to create a socio-economic analysis group within the CTOI. He believes that we must be self-critical insofar as the European fleet has not been able to show the benefits from its presence in places such as Seychelles or Madagascar. He underlines that the current situation is dramatic, and it not based, either, on scientific arguments. Nobody talks about the fishing capacity limitation, effort management system, illegal fishing arts, nobody wants to talk about that. In his opinion, coastal countries are going to have some very bad years, as is the European fleet.

Mr. Orlando Fachada, EC representative, expresses his general agreement with the analysis conducted by Mr. Moron.

Actions:

- **The European Commission will send the EU proposal document on the allocation of new distribution criteria for the CTOI and will organise a meeting with Member States and stakeholders, inviting the LDAC to be able to formulate appropriate comments prior to the mission of the Commission scheduled for December.**
- **The LDAC delegation will send a written summary with the conclusions of the meeting and will consider the possibility of drafting a specific LDAC opinion to be presented at the CTOI meeting that will take place in February on this topic.**

EX POST NOTE: Notification of the meeting was received on Monday, 13th of November, and the meeting was held on Friday the 17th in the afternoon. The LDAC delegation was comprised of Miguel Herrera (OPAGAC), Beatrice Gorez (CFFA) and Daniel Voces (CEPESCA-EUROPECHE, delegated by Javier Garat)

- **The LDAC Secretariat will monitor and coordinate communication between the Commission and members respect to the publication of a future European Strategy in the Indian Ocean.**
- **CFFA-CAPE (Beatrice Gorez) will send a draft opinion supporting the Seychelles and JEF proposal at the last plenary session of the CTOI regarding the creation of a working group engaged in improving social and working conditions for the tuna fish sector, and also reflecting on its importance for the food safety of developing countries.**



7. Initiatives of the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC).

The EC representative, Mr. Orlando Fachada, states that he is aware of the LDAC demand for the EU to become a full member of this regional fishing organisation, and they are aware of the importance of participating in this forum. However, more personnel and resources are required for this. At the present time, DG MARE is internally studying the implications and legal obligations. If they become full members, they will have 4 to 6 missions a year of additional workload. The debates for access to member states is managed by the fisheries agreement directorate of DG MARE. He has been informed that there are very few new aspects for the moment, and that work continues.

The Indian Ocean strategy also has links with SWIOFC and a draft proposal is being prepared for the quota allocation criteria for the CTOI. Feedback about the Maldives and South Africa was given, which also toughened the distribution of catches. They hope to be able to talk to M.S about this proposal and an attachment will be sent with the project for the Indian Ocean.

Work will continue on the allocation criteria, which are the focal point of the strategy, which is not just limited to the CTOI. He believes that they hear about the commissioner's reaction within 15 days and they will inform the LDAC. The current situation is getting worse, and European shipowners may have to change strategy. If they make a proposal outside Maldives, the fishing possibilities will be reduced by more than 50%, which is not admissible at all. Once the proposal has been approved, a mission should be carried out with countries of the region to be able to implement it. The EC has contacts with several countries of the Indian Ocean.

Mr. Michel Goujon, ORTHONGEL, informs that a meeting will be held in the month of February in Seychelles. He asks the EC representative to send the document as soon as possible, for it to be discussed later.

Ms. Gunilla Greig, as observer from the Swedish Marine and Water management Agency, adds that she participated in the last working group of SWIOFC in March, and that the Secretariat will send the guideline document with the minimum fishing access conditions to waters of the Member States of the SWIOFC, and that this week is the deadline for member states to send comments. Respect to the distribution criteria, no great changes have occurred, the meeting having been postponed until February. Despite the fact that the SWIOFC can only issue guidelines, its intention is to be able to agree upon a document that binds the States.

The EC representative, Mr. Orlando Fachada, gives his thanks for the information on SWIOFC. He indicates that the deadline to send the document is January for it to be able to be binding, so they will organise a meeting with member states and stakeholders at the beginning of December.

Horizontal Questions

8. Update of the Knowledge and of the Management of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) used by seiners in Tropical Tuna Fisheries.

8.1. Analysis of the information received, and presentations made during the technical session on FADs in WG1 (Brussels, 4 April 2017).

This topic will be discussed in point 8.3.

8.2. Conclusions of inter-RFMO meeting on FADs (Madrid, 19-21 April).

Ms. Angela Martini, EC representative, informs that she was the EU representative at the inter-RFMO meeting on FADs held in Madrid, which was attended by more than 50 parties and organisations and helped improve knowledge and identify cooperation areas. She highlights that the quality of the presentations was very good and that all the main stakeholders were present except for WCPFC. This helped identify the most important points, define or fine-tune concepts. The lack of data was pointed out as main liability.

Having good global knowledge about FADs, where they go, the impact they may have on the stocks, their impacts on the environment, the materials they are made of, etc. is agreed as starting point. She acknowledges that there have been advances regarding the mitigation of their impact on stocks and marine medium, with more sustainable solutions. Now the important thing is to know how progress can be made in improving the management of the FADs. There must be a commitment from the different stakeholders, and there must be coordination. From their viewpoint, the KOBE process is quite weak; however another meeting will be organised in 2018.

Mr. Michel Goujon, ORTHONGEL, indicates that, prior to this meeting, PEW organised a symposium with ISSF with Western Pacific experts, an initiative that was very useful for the working group of the RFMOs. On the other hand, he indicates that several initiatives are being prepared, suggesting that a point should be added on the KOBE process at the next meeting of the WG1.

Ms. Angela Martini, EC, points out the importance of always basing all types of initiatives on science.

ACTION: On the Chair's request, an update on the Kobe process among tuna RFMOs will be included as a point on the agenda of the next WG1.



8.3. Future initiatives: update of the LDAC publication on FADs.

Mr. Alexandre Rodriguez, Executive Secretary, asks members if they want to update the 2012 publication with recent information from the last WG1 session and from international forums, or if they wish to carry out something more strategic, focusing on recommendations based on specific aspects on the management and use of FADs, which can later be presented to the RFMOs.

Mr. Alberto Martin, MSC, as observer, suggests that an attempt could be made to prepare a document with good practices regarding FAD management. On the other hand, he asks the EC representative if she believes that progress will be made or if a significant meeting will soon be held, as well as if, in her opinion, she believes that an agreement can be reached on measures between the different RFMOs.

Mr. Raul Garcia, WWF, believes that it is important to carry out an update regarding the current situation in terms of the level of good practices in the EU. It would be very positive to have a reference document from the LDAC for the EU as well as an opinion that highlights the need to have management objectives, with specific deadlines and work calendar, trying to make it global. He believes that we could have the support of PEW and ISSF in this regard.

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, informs, on his part, that they are carrying out a fisheries improvement programme with WWF (FIP) and in terms of FADs, they are studying to see that can be done. He thinks it is a good idea to update the LDAC publication along the lines suggested by Mr. García.

Ms. Anna Boulova, FRUCOM, wants to recall that FAD management is not harmonised, so they must not be demonised, per se.

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, points out that improvements should be made in the management of FADs, which is just another problem within the management of tropical tuna fish, there being many more that must not be forgotten.

Ms. Angela Martini, EC representative, responds to the questions asked. She indicates that only the RFMO meeting on FADs is scheduled. The aim is to monitor the conclusions of the Madrid meeting at the end of 2018 or beginning of 2019. She believes that if the LDAC prepares the document it would be very useful for the EC. Regarding biodegradable FADs she informs that there is no design that is both effective and has a reasonable cost, so they must continue to investigate. Finally, she agrees with the observation of Mr. Moron regarding the fact that the FADs are not the only problem in tuna fish management.

Actions:

- **The possibility of updating the 2012 LDAC publication is agreed, with two non-exclusive and complementary possibilities:**
 1. **Include all the presentations and documents presented at the special session held within the framework of the WG1 meeting in April 2017, adding an explanatory preamble and a summary of the main conclusions.**
 2. **Develop a decalogue or manual of good practices for the management and use of FADs, so that it can be validated by community institutions and considered in the mid-term as a reference document for application by the RFMOs and objectively assess the practices of interested tuna purse-seiner fleets. This publication could be complemented in the future with an opinion including management objectives. The possibility of organising an inter-session meeting to address this issue will be assessed.**

Other matters of interest

9. Update of FARFISH Project: Tuna fish case study.

Mr. Alexandre Rodriguez, Executive Secretary, sums up the objectives of the project, highlighting the three parts that comprise it: 1) advance knowledge about EU fishing outside EU waters; 2) develop management plans; and 3) develop results dissemination capacities and work.

It was recalled that the LDAC as a partner of FARFISH has its own budget of approximately 25,000 Euros per annum for a 4-year period, which will be earmarked mainly to hire a scientific coordinator for the project.

Action:

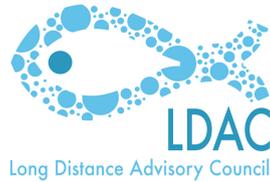
- **The Secretary will send information about future FARFISH meetings as well as the descriptive characterisation of the case studies on tropical tuna so that interested partners can make their comments and contributions. Members will also be informed about the state of the process to hire an LDAC project coordinator.**

10. Exchange of information on external meetings of interest for WG1.

There were no further notifications from those attending.

11. Date and place of next meeting.

It will be held in Brussels in the month of March or April 2018.

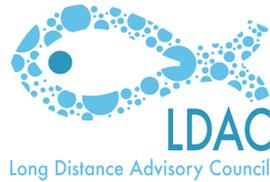


Summary of points requested to be included in the agenda for the next WG1 meeting:

- **Presentation by Scientists on HCR and management measures for tropical tuna species (Proposal by Julio Moron).**
- **Update by the Commission on the EU position with relation to the CITES Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species: Invite someone from the EC to inform in this regard. (Proposal by Despina Symons)**
- **Update of the Commission on State of Kobe Process for tuna RFMOs (Proposal by the Chair).**
- **Support actions to European scientists for them to be held in greater esteem and to encourage their participation in meetings of the RFMOs, placing particular emphasis on ICCAT (Proposal by Edelmiro Ulloa and Michel Goujon).**

The meeting adjourned at 12.55 h

BORRADOR



ANNEX I. LIST OF THOSE ATTENDING

LDAC Working Group 1 Brussels, 20 October 2017

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

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