



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Yobana Bermúdez

Chair

Zoom

Tuesday, 2 December 2025

AGENDA (CET TIME ZONE)

- 14:00 Welcome from the Chair, Yobana Bermúdez
- 14:05 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (18.09.25)
- 14:10 Action Points
- 14:15 Membership of General Assembly
- 14:20 UN Trade and Development
- 14:50 Working Groups
- 15:00 Functioning of the Advisory Councils
- 15:30 Areas of Competence
- 16:00 External Representation
- 16:15 Chairs, Vice-Chair(s) and Executive Committee
- 16:20 AOB
- 16:25 Summary of actions points

16:30 End of the meeting

ACTION POINTS (18 SEPTEMBER 2025)

Working Groups:

- Draft letter on the state-of-play on labelling and consumer information concerning plant-based imitations of fishery and aquaculture products to be considered via written procedure.
- Letter agreed via written procedure on 21 October 2025.

Competitiveness of the EU Market of Fishery and Aquaculture Products:

- Questionnaire on simplification to be circulated to the Working Groups, to initiate the preparation of advice on the matter.
- Questionnaire circulated from 3 to 17 October 2025.

AOB:

- Secretary General to accept the invitation for a meeting with the Head of the Mission of Ecuador to the European Union.
- Meeting held on 24 September 2025.

MEMBERSHIP OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

➤ Endorsement for membership

- Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Almería (OPP-71) – Spain
 - Elvira Morote



- Organización de Productores de Mejillón de Galicia (OPMEGA) – Spain
 - Lino Suarez



UN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

- Presentation on ocean economy and fisheries initiatives, including South-South trade in the marine fisheries and aquaculture sectors
 - David Vivas Eugui (UNCTAD)
- Exchange of views



WORKING GROUPS

➤ Working Group 1

- Julien Lamothe

➤ Working Group 2

- Pierre Commère

➤ Working Group 3

- Benoît Thomassen

FUNCTIONING OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS

➤ Exchange of views on the participation of the various stakeholder groups

	Issue	Solution
1	Allowing all members to propose and initiate topics for discussion and advice from all sides, not only the industry sector	Following the suggestion of an E-NGO member, the LDAC has decided to start discussion on a joint advice on sharks across its WGs, in response to the increasing shark topics at RFMO meetings, and started the process following presentations by members, alignment within WGs and approval by the GA to start such work; this could also be done at all ACs, also including other important topics relevant not only to the industry but the E-NGOs.
2	More balanced representation of all AC members' views at external meetings or processes.	When ACs are invited to contribute to broader meetings and processes, always ensure that invitations extend to both the sector and OIGs. If that is not possible, ensure that statements and input are clearly agreed among all stakeholder groups in the AC. If this isn't possible, views of OIG must be properly reflected and respected.
3	Reaching more balance among Industry and OIG in Executive Committees	The 60/40 division of the ACs in Executive Committees is a root issue in terms of participation, not only from ENGOs, but also from less represented sectors of the fishing fleets. Thus, we propose a series of solutions - non mutually exclusive - that could resolve this issue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A 50%-50% membership split; - A 30% cap on fleet segment representation; "balanced" votes, so that regardless of the number of organizations voting on each category, the total votes from each one amounts to 50%.

- Table of "Suggestions and good practices" from e-NGOs letter to Commissioner Kadis

FUNCTIONING OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS

➤ Exchange of views on the participation of the various stakeholder groups

4	Unbiased representatives (Chair and Secretariat) of the ACs	The establishment of “Management Teams” in several ACs, where members from the OIG have a seat/seats, allows for a more balanced management and representation and provides a more plural framework for the secretariats to operate.
5	Reaching consensus and openly and clearly accepting discord.	<p>Sincere efforts by the Secretariats to actually find the common ground and phrase positions in such a way that most members can stand behind the advice.</p> <p>When it is not possible to reach consensus solutions/advice/proposals, minority positions have to be clearly outlined - they cannot be reduced to just an almost invisible footnote, but should be presented right after the majority position, so that all the different positions are easily readable and understandable.</p>
6	Respectful and professional atmosphere and behaviour in all meetings.	Some ACs are in the process of developing rules of conduct, including establishing “whistle blowing” mechanisms, and this should be developed in all ACs.

- Table of “Suggestions and good practices” from e-NGOs letter to Commissioner Kadis

FUNCTIONING OF THE ADVISORY COUNCILS

➤ Exchange of views on the participation of the various stakeholder groups

7	Ensuring only genuine/legitimate organizations are classified as “Other Interest Groups”.	<p>In addition to the provisions in the annex of Delegated Act (EU) 2015/242, two key safeguards must be implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Full disclosure of funding sources of every non-commercial organisation, updated annually with audits. 2) Full disclosure on full names and affiliations of board members, advisors of non-commercial organisations, updated annually, in addition to memberships if organisations are member based. <p>2) A clarification of the eligibility criteria such as no fishing companies or fisheries professional organisations funding, limited and well-defined government funding, a proven track record in the relevant field, a minimum of 2–3 years of active operation, and demonstrable stakeholder representation.</p> <p>Non-compliance with these safeguards shall be sanctioned with a 10-year ban of ACs participation and exclusion of all EU official institutions meeting and access.</p>
8	AC chair/vice chair/ secretariat representing the AC at external meetings but only presenting industry views or making statements where OIGs have not had the options to provide input	<p>Allow at the very least the ExCom to provide input and approval of all speeches and “key messages” when AC representatives attend external meetings on behalf of the AC.</p> <p>Management committee must approve all external representation in advance and consider relevance and budgetary implications</p>



AREAS OF COMPETENCE

➤ Exchange of views on the areas of competence foreseen in point 1 of Annex III of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation

Name	Areas of competence
Baltic Sea	ICES zones IIIb, IIIc and IIId
Black Sea	GFCM geographical sub-area as defined in Resolution GFCM/33/2009/2
Mediterranean Sea	Maritime Waters of the Mediterranean of the East of line 5°36' West
North Sea	ICES zones IV and IIIa
North Western waters	ICES zones V (excluding Va and only Union waters of Vb), VI and VII
South Western waters	ICES zones VIII, IX and X (waters around Azores), and CECAF zones 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0 (waters around Madeira and the Canary Islands)
Outermost regions	Union waters around the outermost regions as referred to in the first paragraph of Article 349 of the Treaty divided into three sea basins: West Atlantic, East Atlantic, Indian Ocean
Pelagic stocks (blue whiting, mackerel, horse mackerel, herring, boarfish)	All geographical areas excluding the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean Sea
High seas/long distance fleet	All non Union-waters
Aquaculture	Aquaculture, as defined in Article 4
Markets	All market areas

➤ Consideration of draft letter to DG MARE requesting clarification

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

- **Advisory Board of the European Fisheries Control Agency (Online, 21 October 2025)**
 - **Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**
 - State-of-play: MAC related to fisheries controls - Autonomous Tariff Quotas, IUU in Outermost Regions, EU import control rules, evaluation of the CFP, 2040 Vision, FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade
- **Inter-Secretariats Meeting with DG MARE (Online, 13 November 2025)**
 - **Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**
 - Proposal from Commissioner Kadis for “guidelines” for ACs, including examples of good practices / codes of conduct
 - Multiannual Financial Framework – funding foreseen for the ACs (EU Facility)
 - Working on reply to the MAC/AAC letter on classification of members
 - Encouragement of integration of SSF (e.g., ExCom seats)
 - Commissioner met with e-NGOs on ACs functioning

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

➤ **Inter-Advisory Councils Meeting with DG MARE (Online, 18 November 2025)**

- **Yobana Bermúdez (Chair), Christine Absil (Vice-Chair), Julien Lamothe (Vice-Chair / WG1 Chair), Pierre Commère (WG2 Chair), Benoît Thomassen (WG3 Chair), Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**
- General EU Fisheries Matters (Director-General Vitcheva):
 - European Oceans Pact: wide acceptance, work on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP & MSFD)
 - Mid-term assessment of Aquaculture Guidelines: progress, obstacles (licensing, access to space)
 - CFP evaluation: ongoing, expected in Spring 2026
 - Market: competition, sustainability, small-scale operators – support, bargaining power, market access)
 - Consumer information & labelling: sustainability, consumer demands, competitiveness advantage
 - 2040 Vision: operational document, welcoming inputs
 - Energy Transition: 2050 target, access to financing, aging fleet, high-level meeting in February 2026
 - EU Strategy for Islands and Coastal Communities: Collaboration with DG REGIO, call for evidence (early 2026), European Ocean Days (March 2026)
 - Simplification: reviewing all policies, digital tools, smarter regulation, no undoing of CFP achievements
 - 2026 Fishing Opportunities: first Council discussion, rebuilding trajectory, work of previous years
 - Fisheries Control Regulation: good feedback of February 2025 workshop, will organise another one

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

➤ Inter-Advisory Councils Meeting with DG MARE (Online, 18 November 2025)

- Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) (Director Mitolidis):
 - Redefinition of EU budget: “more integrated, flexible, impactful”
 - Three pillars: 1) National and Regional Partnership Plans Fund (EU Facility), 2) European Competitiveness Fund & Horizon Europe, 3) Global Europe Fund
 - Fisheries & Aquaculture: € 2 billion ring-fenced (amendments to make minimum clearer), Member States can allocate other resources (€ 453 billion), Member States must explain priorities
 - EU Facility (€ 72 billion): Includes € 11,5 billion for CFP implementation (fishers, energy transition, innovation, POs, income foregone, additional costs) + € 63 billion for Union action (emerging challenges), linked to performance (CFP, European Oceans Pact, maritime and aquaculture policies)
 - European Competitiveness Fund (€ 451 billion)
 - Global Europe Fund: various external policies (ocean diplomacy, international ocean governance, partnerships with non-EU countries, sustainable fisheries, fight against IUU fishing)
 - Advisory Councils: to be funded under the EU Facility (“direct management”)

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

➤ Inter-Advisory Councils Meeting with DG MARE (Online, 18 November 2025)

- Strategy on EU Fisheries External Action (Director-General Vitcheva):
 - Predictability in the market: Russia, Ukraine, dependence on international supply
 - Increase transparency on IUU fishing
 - Workable level-playing-field
 - Science, market access, food security, raising standards, stronger labelling
 - Next generation of SPFAs (tougher conditionalities)
 - Use of IT catch, rigorous import controls
 - Integration of climate change concerns & protection of deep sea

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

➤ **Inter-Advisory Councils Meeting with DG MARE (Online, 18 November 2025)**

- Joint Advice on the functioning (BSAC Chair):
 - Clarification of the roles of Chairs and Secretariats + safe working environment
 - Development of Memorandum of Understanding between various Advisory Councils
 - HR and 360 staff performance reviews, training, capacity building for Chairs & Secretariat
 - Term limits for Chairmanship positions
 - 1) Whistleblower mechanism, 2) Internal Committee for Issues Resolution, 3) External Mediation Service

- Discussion on functioning (representativeness, membership, rules on conduct, financing) (MARE ACs Coordinator):
 - Periodical external performance reviews
 - 2022 amendments to the delegated act on ACs functioning (representativeness, clarifications)
 - Growing demand for conduct rules – proposal from Commissioner Kadis for “guidelines”, including examples of good practices

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

- Implementation Dialogue on small-scale fisheries with Commissioner Costas Kadis (Brussels, 24 November 2025)
 - Julien Lamothe (Vice-Chair)



CHAIRS, VICE-CHAIR(S) AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

➤ Information on appointments for Chair, Vice-Chair(s), Chairs of Working Groups, and Executive Committee for the 2026-2029 period

▪ Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)

▪ Executive Committee

- Designated for 3 years by the General Assembly (vote in person & proxy)
- 60% for value chain / 40 % to Other Interest Groups
- Up to 25 members

College	Number
Representatives of Value Supply Chain (60%)	
Primary producers (catching)	5
Primary producers (aquaculture)	2
Processors, traders, suppliers and retailers	7
Workers (trade unions)	1
Other Interests Group (40%)	
Environmental or development non-governmental organisations (NGOs), consumers organisations, others	10
TOTAL	25

CHAIRS, VICE-CHAIR(S) AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

▪ Members of the Executive Committee 2023-2026

▪ Value Supply Chain (60%)

- Primary Producers (Catching)
 - EAPO, Europêche, COPA-COGECA, KFO, Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne
- Primary Producers (Aquaculture)
 - EMPA, FEAP
- Workers (trade unions)
 - ETF
- Processors, traders, suppliers, retailers
 - AIPCE, CEP, European Fishmeal, EuroCommerce, FEDEPESCA, Conxemar, ANFACO-CECOPECA

▪ Other Interest Groups (40%)

- MSC, Oceana, WWF, EJF, Good Fish Foundation
- (5 vacant seats)

CHAIRS, VICE-CHAIR(S) AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **MAC Chair (General Assembly & Executive Committee)**

- Designated, by consensus, for term of three years by General Assembly amongst the membership of the General Assembly

- **MAC Vice-Chair(s) (General Assembly & Executive Committee)**

- Minimum one and that one must be from different college than the MAC Chair
- Designated, by consensus, for term of three years by Executive Committee amongst the membership of the Executive Committee

- **Working Group Chairs & Vice-Chairs**

- Designated for term of three years by General Assembly
- Where possible, potential Vice-Chairs shall be from a different college than the Chair

AOB, ACTION POINTS, END OF MEETING

- **AOB**
- **Summary of action points**
- **End of meeting**