



**THE EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF THE
COMMON FISHERIES POLICY:
PRESENT CHALLENGES AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES**
1st -2nd June 2021

The event will offer a mix of panel discussions and interventions, and interactive plenary sessions, supported by visual presentations and working papers and publications, exploring how the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) External Dimension can be a driver for positive change in the field of sustainable fisheries and governance in international waters.

Registration process

This is a virtual meeting. All interested participants and invited experts can register free of charge. Simultaneous translation in Eng, Fr and Sp will be available.

A confirmation email will be submitted to all registered participants with details on how to log in and join the event. There will be a limitation in the number of attendees, with a maximum of 300 participants.

**Register here before the
26th of May**

Target audience

Policy makers, EC representatives, MEPs and national administrations from the EU member states and the coastal states from Africa

Scientists and researchers in the field of conservation and management of fishing resources

Fishing sector representatives from EU industrial fleets and third countries artisanal and small-scale fisheries.

Other interest groups, including environmental and cooperation development NGOs, and representatives of civil society.

Background

The EU distant water fleet is composed of approximately 250 industrial vessels over 24 metres. Despite their relatively small number (less than 0.5% of the total EU-27 fleet), they are important for supply of the EU market with nearly 15% of the landings of the EU in value (STECF AER 2020¹). They are also key in the generation of employment at sea (7,400 FTE) and on land, both in the EU and in coastal communities of third countries.

The EU distant water fleet operates within the legal framework of the external dimension of the CFP, including SFPAs, RFMOs and provisions on fisheries control and management of their activities (SMEFF²). They are composed of industrial vessels using multiple gears such as pelagic and demersal trawlers, purse seiners and long liners targeting demersal and small and big pelagic species, including tunas.

The international dimension has increased its visibility and relevance within the last decades, in particular in relation to its coherence with the internal dimension of the CFP and its links with other EU policies such as cooperation for development, labour, human rights, health and trade issues³.

The EU has an enhanced responsibility to promote sustainable and responsible fisheries management in international waters, in its double role as a major fishing player and the largest single market for fisheries products in the world. This is implemented in practice through active participation. To promote good governance, the EU works closely with other countries and partners from around the globe through the United Nations system, including the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Maritime Organisation or UNCTAD, as well as in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and Regional Sea Conventions, as well as other multiple international and regional bodies.

¹ https://ldac.eu/images/Maritime_Economic_Paper_The_EU_fishing_fleet_2020.pdf
² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32017R2403&from=EN>
³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:354:0022:0061:EN:PDF>



Objectives

The Conference held within the framework of the FarFish H2020 project (H2020-727891), and is organised by the Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) and CETMAR.

This event is aimed at analysing the implementation of the External Dimension and the creation of recommendations ahead of the CFP report in 2022. To meet such goal, it will invite high level experts and key stakeholders from the fishing, industry and NGO sectors, together with relevant policy makers, scientists and academics to discuss the importance, advantages and challenges of the EU role in international fisheries management and ocean governance.

Specific objectives:

- Discuss the achievements and shortcomings of the current external dimension of the CFP.
- Propose measures for enhancing Europe's role in the International Fisheries Governance (in line with the headline ambition of the European Green Deal).
- Discuss how to improve evaluations and transparency of SFPAs, to maximise fishing opportunities for operators and use of sectorial support by Coastal States.
- Recommend ways to strength EU input and influence in the RFMOs.
- Reflect on mechanisms to achieve sustainable management and conservation measures in the High Seas, through level playing field among all operators and better coordination and implementation of international legal instruments related to human activities and pressures in the seas.

Expected outcomes

The recommendations stemming from this Conference will serve as basis for a policy brief which will be presented as a contribution from FarFish for the EU consultations on the CFP.

The LDAC and CETMAR will be the responsible organisations in charge of this task. Publication of the policy brief is expected by July 2021 and will contain a critical overview of implementation of the External Dimension of the CFP. In terms of structure, it will formulate a number of recommendations and considerations on the following subjects:

- Evaluation of the SFPAs currently subject to an EU public and targeted consultations
- Input and participation of the EU at relevant RFMOs
- Role and engagement of stakeholders in advisory processes in relation to EU relations with third countries and fight against IUU fishing
- Improving transparency of fishing activities and governance in the high seas.



Organization



Project coordinator

Jónas R. Viðarsson
tel: + 354 858 5107 e-mail: jonas@matis.is

LDAC

Sonia Doblado (LDAC-FarFish Coordinator)
e-mail: sonia.doblado@ldac.eu

This Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under grant agreement no. 727891.

