



Concept Note

Workshop on the energy transition in the fisheries sector in the ATLAFCO region

April 28 and 29, 2026, Casablanca (Morocco)

1. General context

The global fisheries sector is undergoing a profound transformation marked by the gradual decline of models based on fossil fuel dependence. The acceleration of climate change now makes an energy transition imperative in energy-intensive production sectors, foremost among them marine fishing and aquaculture. This dynamic, fueled by the evolution of global energy systems, places decarbonization and the pursuit of greater efficiency at the heart of new sustainable development strategies and the blue economy.

This transition takes place within an increasingly binding international legal and regulatory framework. To this end, ATLAFCO member states are urged to consider aligning their national policies with global commitments to combat climate change, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its related instruments.

The challenges of this transformation are multidimensional, combining economic vulnerability and structural issues. On the one hand, processing and fish product valorization industries are particularly exposed to energy price fluctuations, making their industrial performance and market access dependent on the adoption of energy and environmental labels. On the other hand, the region faces major technological constraints, characterized by high investment costs for ship modernization and limited access to energy-efficient innovations.

In this context, reducing the carbon footprint must be part of an integrated and equitable approach, inseparable from the sustainable management of fisheries resources and the resilience of coastal communities. Furthermore, this process must be gradual, progressive, and adapted to local realities, taking into account the specific challenges of artisanal fishing, in order to guarantee a successful social transformation.

2. Workshop objectives

- **General objective:** To raise awareness among stakeholders in the ATLAFCO region about the challenges of decarbonization and to propose a regional approach for a sustainable energy transition in the fisheries sector.
- **Specific objectives:**
 - Identify the international normative and legal frameworks applicable to the sector.
 - Analyze the energy vulnerabilities of ships, ports and processing units.
 - Promote the technological transition.
 - Establish a regional roadmap

3. Main Themes

The workshop will be structured around four major pillars:

- 1) Global strategic, legal and normative framework
- 2) Energy assessment of the fisheries value chain
- 3) Critical constraints and financing solutions
- 4) Regional cooperation and social resilience

4. Target Audience

- Heads of fisheries administrations of ATLAFCO member states.
- Port and fisheries infrastructure managers.
- Representatives of professional organizations

5. Expected Results

- A better understanding of the challenges of decarbonization by regional decision-makers.
- Identifying realistic and reproducible technical solutions for the region.
- The formulation of strategic recommendations to integrate energy efficiency into national regulatory frameworks

6. Logistics

The workshop will be held in Casablanca. The venue will be announced later. Airfare (economy class) and accommodation (hotel) **for each representative of a Member State, as well as for invited experts/panelists, will be covered by ATLAFCO.**

Each participant will also receive a daily subsistence allowance from the Executive Secretariat, in accordance with the scale applied by international organizations.

For information regarding logistics, practical matters and institutional requirements (visas, etc.), please contact the ATLAFCO Secretariat at the following address :

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