

## Press Release

Swakopmund, Namibia-The South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) held its 10th Annual Meeting on 9-13 December 2013. The meeting was officially opened by the Honourable Minister Bernhardt Esau of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources in Namibia. Progress was made in further strengthening the Organisations' scheme of monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS). Notably, provisions for at-sea inspections, and procedures for conducting fisheries research, were agreed upon by the Commission. The Commission also agreed to extend SEAFOs existing bottom fishing areas to include two new areas.

### **Conservation Measures**

The "SEAFO System" is a comprehensive management utility used to promote compliance in the Convention Area (CA) and came into effect in February 2013. Moreover, the "SEAFO System", in its application, is essential for the conservation of species under the SEAFO Convention and for the international efforts to combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing (IUU).

SEAFO strengthened its compliance measures by agreeing on provision for at-sea inspection and fishing research. The provisions agreed upon by the Commission are primarily based on the UN Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA) and allows patrol vessels, from Contracting Parties, to inspect vessels fishing in the SEAFO Convention Area. The Commission also adopted procedures that will facilitate fishing research in the Convention Area.

Subsequent to exploratory fishing, and based upon the best available scientific information, the Commission adopted the recommendations by the Scientific Committee to extend the existing bottom fishing areas within SEAFOs CA. However, the extended areas are subject to gear specific provisions.

Based on scientific advice, a biannual total allowable catch of 276 tonnes was adopted, by the Commission, for Patagonian toothfish, and 400 tonnes for deep sea red crab.

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