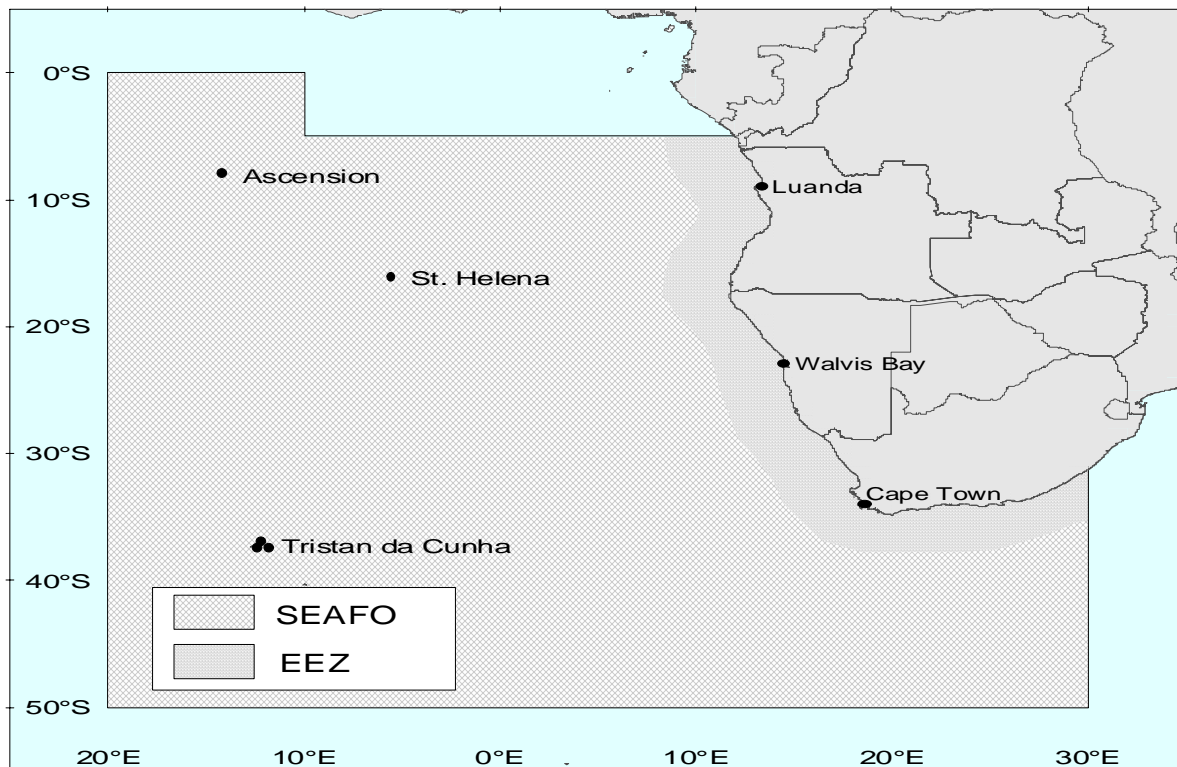




REPORT OF SEAFO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, 2005



**SOUTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION
(SEAFO)**



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(SEAFO)**

**REPORT OF SEAFO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
2005**

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This document is produced in the official languages (English and Portuguese). Copies are available from the Secretariat and in the website.

1. Opening of the Meeting

The inaugural meeting of SEAFO Scientific Committee was convened on 28-30 September 2005 at Windhoek Country Club and Resort, Windhoek, Namibia. The Meeting was opened by the Executive Secretary who extended a warm welcome to attending delegates.

2. Election of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

The Executive Secretary officiated in the elections of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the Parties representatives. He explained to the meeting that the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee (Rule 8) require members to elect a Chair and Vice Chair.

The Executive Secretary invited Parties for the nomination of the first Chairperson of the Scientific Committee. Namibia nominated Dr. Reidar Toresen of Norway and the nomination was seconded by the European Union. Then EU nominated Dr. Ben van Zyl as Vice-Chair. Both the Chair and the Vice Chair accepted the nominations and they were elected. Executive Secretary congratulated the new office bearers and assured the support of the Secretariat in carrying out their duties. The Chairperson immediately assumed his responsibilities.

The Chair expressed gratitude for the trust bestowed by other members to head the Committee. He forthrightly stated his expectations and visions for the future work of the Committee. He elaborated on the various challenges that the Committee has to deal with. These include issues such as science-based ocean governance (advice on clean environment, ecosystem-based fishery management, advice on appropriate research to be conducted, on appropriate system of data collection and eventually on assessment-based harvesting levels of commercially important species under SEAFO jurisdiction. He underscored the significance of the Committee as the conservation and sustainable management of the resources will depend on scientifically-based advice to the Commission.

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Chair called for the appointment of a Rapporteur to which EU nominated the Secretariat. Kolette Grobler of Namibia volunteered to assist the Secretariat in its rapporteurship.

4. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements

The agenda was adopted after minor changes in the order of matters to be considered. The Agenda is given in **Annex I**.

The Executive Secretary informed the meeting of practical organization and arrangements.

A total of seventeen scientists attended the meeting. A list of the participants and their addresses are given in **Annex II**.

5. Opening Statements and Expectations

The Chair opened the floor for opening statements of expectations and scope. There was no statement from the delegates.

6. Rules of Procedure

The Chair invited the Executive Secretary to lead the discussion on document Doc/SC/Meeting/03/2005 that contains the draft Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee. The SC made some changes in the Rules of Procedure. The final version to be presented to the Commission for approval is attached as DOC/SC/Meeting/03/2005. The Scientific Committee recommends that the Rules given in **Annex III** be approved by the Commission.

7. Reports on the Status of Fisheries and Oceanography

A Report made by a consultant on the Status of Fisheries and Oceanographic Environment in the Convention Area was presented to the meeting by the Executive Secretary. Discussion that ensued concluded that the oceanographic data (bathymetry, surface features, currents, productivity etc) are largely available from various sources but there were serious concerns about the scarcity and availability of fishery data.

The SC made a general description of the oceanographic features, topography and the main primary production areas in the region. This description is presented in **Annex IV**.

On the basis of the consultant report and on additional information from member states, the SC selected the following species (in descending order by weight) as the most commercially important species that the Commission should deal with:

1. Orange roughy
2. Alfonsino
3. Sharks (Blue- and short finned mako shark)
4. Swordfish
5. Armourhead
6. Deep sea red crab
7. Patagonian toothfish.

A more detailed information on the commercially important species in terms of landings by weight in a selection of sub-areas in the SEAFO region is presented in **Annex V**.

8. Matters and Activities of Scientific Committee Arising from Relevant Articles of SEAFO Convention

The setting up of the criteria and methods to be used for the purposes of Conservation and Management Measures, including the consideration of ecosystem-based management (item 8a of the agenda, Annex I) was considered a central issue whereas items b) – h) are all subsidiary to a) so it was agreed only to address elements of a). These include:

8.1 Data handling:

- Collation of appropriate historical data, identification of important gaps, collection of new data by observers, development of data time series for key resources and good database management. (Article 10.4a)
- The Scientific Committee should identify where shortcomings in the data exist and develop a strategy to address them
- Generic criteria for observer collected data need to be developed, with respect to types of samples, areas, frequencies, etc. Later, when key species have been identified, species-specific criteria can be developed.

8.2 Prioritization of work to be done on key stocks should be carried out by the SC. Criteria for this would be total value, catch volume, ecological impact, or a combination of any of these.

8.3 The core of the work done by the SC would probably be resource stock assessments, carried out by a Working Group appointed by the SC. This requires collection and analysis of accurate species-specific catch and effort information, fisheries biological information and abundance and distribution information (of target species and where necessary of the by-catch species) (Article 10.4c).

8.4 The SC should also address and make recommendations on the wider ecosystem impacts of the fisheries activities such as over-exploitation, by-catch depletion and dumping, gear effects such as habitat destruction, and furthermore linkages and impacts on adjacent EEZ areas (Article 10.4d). Pollution caused by fishing activities (e.g. bunker oil spillages, dumping of garbage, fishing gear) may also be addressed by the SC.

8.5 The SC should advise on the undertaking of fisheries and oceanographic surveys in priority areas.

8.6 The SC must prepare results and recommendations in a comprehensive form for the Commission to consider, and also make provision for minority reports (views which differ from the consensus view).

8.7 In dealing with the above issues, the SC should advise the Commission on appropriate management actions to ensure sustainability of the fisheries and conservation of the ecosystem (Article 2,3, 10.4f). These could include:

- Setting quotas and/or limiting effort in any given fishery or associated fisheries. Recommendation on interim measures to limit effort until proper assessment procedures have been developed.
- Closing a fishery if stocks are deemed to be in danger of collapse (accepted international criteria should be used to determine these levels) or if the effects of fishing in the ecosystem are unacceptably detrimental (Article 3d,e)
- Advising on closed areas/closed seasons/size limits as appropriate (Article 10.4e)
- Advising on gear types, taking into account also the ecological impact on sensitive habitats and species such as birds, turtles and marine mammals (Article 3c). Where nets are used, advising on mesh size, and fishing methodology to minimize ecological impacts.
- Advising on the development of new fisheries. It is recommended that a policy for new fisheries should be developed (Article 20.1f, 2b)
- In advising on the above, the precautionary approach should be adopted (Article 7)

8.8 As an interim measure, and taking into account the precautionary principle in Article 7 of the Convention, the SC recommends that the fishing effort should not be allowed to increase above the current levels for fisheries in the Convention Area in 2006.

8.9 Recommendations concerning observers and data collection:

- All member countries should agree to and comply with data collection procedures determined by SEAFO
- Log-sheets and data-forms to be developed and implemented for each fishery as soon as possible.
- **Sampling forms for key fisheries will be developed by the SC not later than 31 December 2005**
- Standardised fisheries and environmental databases to be set up
- Countries to ensure that observers placed on all vessels.
- Observers to collect information about the catch, as well as biological and environmental data, officers to report on landing data.
- Observer agencies or the country authority to type data into databases, send electronic and hard-copy summaries to the Scientific Committee of SEAFO.
- SEAFO SC country specialists to verify and assess data quality

9. Cooperation with other organisations

9.1 The Chair introduced the topic, emphasizing the need for cooperation with other organisations or programs working in the region. He underscored the need for exchange of information on fisheries and the environment. The resources exploited within EEZs sometimes also overlap with the high seas areas, there are advantages to

pooling scientific and management resources, there are many synergies and the programmes have access to funding which can be also be applied in SEAFO.

A BCLME representative explained that this program was in transition and would be transformed into the Interim Benguela Current Commission in the near future. Cooperation with other organisations in the BCLME region would strengthen a second phase of the BCLME and the establishment of the IBCC, and supported a cooperation with the SC of SEAFO.

A BENEFIT representative explained that this program is also in transition and would undoubtedly be incorporated into the BCC in the near future as a scientific arm. He stated that BENEFIT in the near future can assist where feasible the work of SEAFO. The relationship can be formalized with IBCC.

The Chair stated that the current and urgent need of the SC is fisheries data and that it would be advisable for the WG to cooperate with BENEFIT and the BCLME programs on this matter. BENEFIT stated that it would support SEAFO and suggested that the Secretariat should write a letter to its Management Advisory Committee (MAC) on the requirements of SEAFO.

The use of research vessels as well as a reference fleet were also discussed. The meeting felt that there would be a gain when all organisations in the region are cooperating in terms of research / shipstime.

It is for the above mentioned reasons recommended to the Commission that a formal relationship between BCLME and SEAFO should be established.

9.2 It was agreed that synergies should be sought with all organizations that are active in the region. It was decided to list all organizations with which SEAFO could possible collaborate and the Executive Secretary was requested to communicate with them about possible synergies, collaboration and particularly about sharing of data. Apart from BENEFIT and BCLME, the following organizations could be potential partners:

- International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (**ICCAT**)
- Southern African Development Community (**SADC**)
- South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (**SWIOFC**) and its Scientific Committee
- South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Programme (**SWIOFP**)
- Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem (**ASCLME**) programme
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (**CSIR**) and its oceanographic database Southern African Data Centre for Oceanography (**SADCO**) and the Satellite Applications Centre (SAC)
- South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (**SIOFA**)
- Global Ocean Observing System (**GOOS**)
- Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics (**GLOBEC**)

- National Aeronautical and Space Agency (**NASA**)
- New Partnership for Africa's Development (**NEPAD**)
- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (**CCAMLR**) and its Scientific Committee
- Commission for Eastern Central Atlantic Fisheries (**CECAF**) and its Scientific Committee
- Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Programme (**GCLME**)
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (**ACAP**)
- International Whaling Commission (**IWC**)
- Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (**FAO**)
- International Commission for the Exploration of the Sea (**ICES**)

10. Proposal for Establishment of a Subsidiary Body

The SC recommends the establishment of a Provisional Working Group (PWG) for the basic analyses of fisheries and oceanographic data. The PWG should meet by correspondence and once during the following year (2006). The SC elected Mr. Titus lilende from Namibia as Chairman for the Group. The PWG should have the following terms of references.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PROVISIONAL WORKING GROUP (PWG)

1. Source and analyse catch data for the main fish stocks (orange roughy, alfonsino, blue shark, shortfin mako shark, armourhead, deep sea red crab, Patagonian toothfish) in terms of quantity and geographical positions for the SEAFO region using all existing information including observer data.
2. Establish and evaluate trends in the total catches and where possible catch per unit effort for the stocks as outlined under point 1.
3. Propose sub-divisions within the SEAFO region based on geographic distributions of the catches of the main fish stocks, as well as ecosystems and sub-ecosystems characteristics.
4. Prepare a background document for the SEAFO region giving a description of oceanographic features and where the main biological production takes place. The document should also have a description of the main fisheries resources as outlined under point 1 including present knowledge about their biology.
5. Analyse length distribution data of the main species.
6. Source and analyse fleet information for the main species in the region.
7. Determine species and quantify of the by-catch caught by the fisheries.

8. Examine links between commercially exploited fish stocks in the SEAFO region and similar stocks within the EEZ of the BCLME countries.

9. Evaluate information on fisheries, oceanography, productivity and biodiversity around seamounts in SEAFO region

10. If information exists, evaluate impacts of fishing gears on seabed and benthic ecosystems.

11. Budget for 2005/06

The meeting recommends that N\$ 80,000.00 for the WG in addition to the allocation made for the SC for 2006.

12. Any Other Matters

No any other matter was raised.

13. Presentation and Adoption of the Draft Report

The report was presented and adopted by the meeting.

14. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The meeting decided to postpone this matter until the date and place of the Commission meeting are known.

15. Close of Meeting

On Friday 30 September at 15:30hrs, the Chairperson declared the closure of the meeting after all items have been completed. In his closing remarks, the Chair expressed his satisfaction for the work accomplished and thanked all participants for their valuable contributions.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the 1st Meeting of the SEAFO Scientific Committee

1. Opening Welcome by Executive Secretary
2. Election of Chairperson
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Adoption of Agenda and Arrangements
5. Opening Statements of Expectations and Scope
6. Rules of Procedure
7. Report on the Status of Fisheries and Oceanographic Environment in the Convention Area
8. Matters and Activities of Scientific Committee Arising from Relevant Articles of SEAFO Convention
9. Co-operation with other Organisations
10. Proposals for Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies, if required
11. Budget for 2005/06
12. Any Other Matters
13. Presentation and Adoption of the Draft Report
14. Date and Place of Next Meeting
15. Close of Meeting

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NAME	COUNTRY / ORGANISATION	TEL	FAX	E-MAIL
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Annex III

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

PART I REPRESENTATION

1. Each Member of the Commission shall be represented by one representative who may be accompanied by alternate representatives and advisers. However, at its discretion, the Scientific Committee may restrict its deliberations to representatives/heads of delegation only, and such other persons that the Scientific Committee may invite.
2. Each Member of the Commission shall notify the Executive Secretary as far as possible in advance of any meeting of the name of its representative and before or at the beginning of the meeting the names of its alternate representatives and advisers.
3. Each Member of the Commission shall nominate a correspondent who shall have primary responsibility for liaison with the Executive Secretary between meetings.

PART II TAKING OF DECISIONS

4. The Chairperson of the Scientific Committee shall put to all Members of the Committee questions and proposals requiring decisions. Decisions shall be taken according to the following provisions:
 - a. Decisions of the Scientific Committee on matters of substance shall be taken by consensus. The question of whether a matter is one of substance shall be treated as a matter of substance.
 - b. Decisions on matters other than those referred to in paragraph (a) above shall be taken by a simple majority of the Members of the Scientific Committee present and voting.
5. At a meeting of the Scientific Committee, votes shall be taken by a show of hands. However, a roll call or a secret ballot vote shall be taken at the request of a Member of the Scientific Committee. In the case of conflicting requests as between a roll call or a secret ballot vote, a secret ballot vote shall be used. A roll call vote shall be taken by calling the names of the Members of the Scientific Committee entitled to vote in alphabetical order of the language of the country in which the meeting is held, beginning with the Member which has been chosen by lot.
6. At a meeting of the Scientific Committee, unless it decides otherwise, the Scientific Committee shall not discuss or take a decision on any item that has not been included in the provisional agenda for the meeting in accordance with Part IV of these Rules.

7. When necessary, the taking of decisions and votes on any proposal made during the period between meetings may be carried out by post or by other means of textual communication.
 - a) The Chairperson or a Member which requests the application of the procedure laid down by this Rule shall convey with the proposal a recommendation as to whether the decision should be taken in accordance with Rule 4(a) or Rule 4(b). Any disagreement on this matter shall be resolved in accordance with the provisions of Rule 4, and the following provisions.
 - b) The Executive Secretary shall distribute copies of the proposal to all Members.
 - c) If the decision is to be taken in accordance with Rule 4(a):
 - i. Members shall immediately acknowledge receipt of the Executive Secretary's communication and respond within 60 days of the date of acknowledgment of the proposal, indicating whether they wish to support it, reject it, abstain on it, refrain from participating in the taking of the decision, or whether they require additional time to consider it, or whether they consider that it is not necessary for the decision to be taken during the period between meetings. In the latter case the Chairperson shall direct the Executive Secretary to inform all Members accordingly and the decision shall be remitted to the next meeting.
 - ii. If there are no rejections and if no Member either seeks additional time or objects to the decision being taken between meetings, the Chairperson shall direct the Executive Secretary to inform all Members that the proposal has been adopted.
 - iii. If the responses include a rejection of the proposal, the Chairperson shall direct the Executive Secretary to inform all Members that the proposal has been rejected, and provide them with a brief description of all individual responses.
 - iv. If the initial responses do not include a rejection of the proposal or an objection to the decision being taken between meetings, but a Member requests additional time to consider it, a further 30 days shall be allowed. The Executive Secretary shall inform all Members of the final date by which responses must be lodged. Members who have not responded by that date shall be deemed to be in support of the proposal. After the final date, the Chairperson shall direct the Executive Secretary to proceed in accordance with subparagraphs (ii) or (iii), as the case may be.
 - v. The Executive Secretary shall distribute to each Member copies of all responses as they are received.
 - d) If the decision is to be taken in accordance with Rule 4(b):
 - i. Members shall immediately acknowledge receipt of the Executive Secretary's communication and respond within 60 days of the date of acknowledgment of the proposal, indicating whether they wish to support it,

reject it, abstain on it or refrain from participating in the taking of the decision.

- ii. At the end of the 60-day period, the Chairperson shall count the votes and direct the Executive Secretary to inform all Members of the result.
 - iii. The Executive Secretary shall distribute to each Member copies of all responses as they are received.
- e) A proposal that has been rejected may not be reconsidered by way of postal voting until after the following meeting of the Scientific Committee, but may be considered at that meeting.

PART III CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

8. The Scientific Committee shall elect from among its Members a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, each of whom shall serve for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election for one additional term. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall not be representatives of the same Contracting Party.
9. A person representing a Member of the Scientific Committee as its Representative who is elected as Chairperson shall cease to act as a Representative upon assuming office and, whilst holding this office, shall not act as Representative, Alternate Representative or Adviser at meeting of the Scientific Committee. The Member of the Scientific Committee concerned shall appoint another person to replace the one who was hitherto its Representative.
10. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall take office at the conclusion of the meeting at which they have been elected, except for the first Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson who shall take office immediately upon their election.
11. The Chairperson shall have the following powers and responsibilities:
 - a) convene the regular and extraordinary meetings of the Scientific Committee;
 - b) preside at each meeting of the Scientific Committee;
 - c) open and close each meeting of the Scientific Committee;
 - d) make rulings on points of order raised at meetings of the Scientific Committee, provided that each representative retains the right to request that any such decision be submitted to the Scientific Committee for approval;
 - e) put questions and notify the Scientific Committee of the results of votes;
 - f) approve a provisional Agenda for the meeting after consultation with representatives and the Executive Secretary;
 - g) sign, on behalf of the Scientific Committee, the reports of each meeting for transmission to its Members, representatives and other interested persons as official documents of the proceedings; and

- h) exercise other powers and responsibilities as provided in these Rules and make such decisions and give such directions to the Executive Secretary as will ensure that the business of the Scientific Committee is carried out effectively and in accordance with its decisions.

12. Whenever the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee is unable to act, the Vice-Chairperson shall assume the powers and responsibilities of the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson until the Chairperson resumes his or her duties. Whilst acting as Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson will not act as Representative.

13. In the event of the office of Chairperson falling vacant due to resignation or permanent inability to act, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson until the Scientific Committee's next meeting on which occasion a new Chairperson shall be elected. Until the election of a new Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson will not act as Representative, Alternate Representative or Adviser.

14. The Scientific Committee shall be assisted by the Secretariat according to such procedures and on such terms and conditions as the Commission may determine.

PART IV PREPARATION FOR MEETINGS

15. The Executive Secretary shall prepare, in consultation with Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, a preliminary agenda for each meeting of the Scientific Committee and its subsidiary bodies. He or she shall transmit this preliminary agenda to all Members of the Scientific Committee not less than 65 days prior to the beginning of the meeting.

16. Members of the Scientific Committee proposing supplementary items for the preliminary agenda shall inform the Executive Secretary thereof no later than 45 days before the beginning of the meeting and accompany their proposal with an explanatory memorandum.

17. The Executive Secretary shall prepare, in consultation with the Chairperson, a provisional agenda for each meeting of the Scientific Committee. The provisional agenda shall include:

- a. all items which the Scientific Committee has previously decided to include in the provisional agenda;
- b. all items the inclusion of which is requested by any Member of the Scientific Committee;
- c. proposed dates for the next regular annual meeting following the one to which the provisional agenda relates.

18. The Executive Secretary shall transmit to all Members of the Scientific Committee, not less than one month in advance of the Scientific Committee's meeting, the provisional agenda and explanatory memoranda or reports related thereto.

19. The Executive Secretary shall:

- a. make all necessary arrangements for meetings of the Scientific Committee and its subsidiary bodies;
- b. issue invitations to all such meetings to Members of the Scientific Committee and to such states and organisations as are to be invited in accordance with Rule 33;
- c. take all the necessary steps to carry out the instructions and directions given to him by the Chairperson.

PART V CONDUCT OF BUSINESS AT MEETINGS

20. The Chairperson shall exercise his or her powers of office in accordance with customary practice. He/she shall ensure the observance of the Rules of Procedure and the maintenance of proper order. The Chairperson, in the exercise of his or her functions, shall remain under the authority of the meeting.
21. No representative may address the meeting without having previously obtained the permission of the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Chairperson may call a speaker to order if his or her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
22. The Chairperson or / and Vice-Chairperson of the Scientific Committee may attend all meetings of the Commission. They shall be entitled to present the report of the Scientific Committee to the Commission and to address the Commission with regard to it. The Commission shall take full account of the report of the Scientific Committee.
23. Proposals and amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to all delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the Scientific Committee unless copies have been distributed to all delegations in a reasonable time in advance. The Chairperson may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals even though such proposals have not been circulated.
24. As a general rule proposals which have been rejected may not be reconsidered until the next meeting of the Scientific Committee.
25. A representative may at any time make a point of order and the point of order shall be decided immediately by the Chairperson in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the Chairperson. The appeal shall be put to a vote immediately and the Chairperson's ruling shall stand if upheld by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative making a point of order shall not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. A point of order made during voting may concern only the conduct of the vote.
26. A representative may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the session. Such motions shall not be debated, but shall be put to the vote immediately. The Chairperson may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker putting such a motion.

27. A representative may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, two representatives may speak in favour of, and two against the motion, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. The Chairperson may limit the time to be allowed to speakers.
28. A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, two representatives may speak against the motion, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. If the meeting is in favour of the closure, the Chairperson shall declare the closure of the debate and a decision shall be taken immediately on the item under discussion. The Chairperson may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.
29. Subject to Rule 27 the following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the session:
- a. to suspend the session;
 - b. to adjourn the session;
 - c. to adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
 - d. for the closure of the debate on the item under discussion.
30. With the exception of recording the devices for use by the Secretariat, the use of film, video, sound and any other media devices to record meeting proceedings shall be prohibited for all participants in Scientific Committee or subsidiary body meetings.

PART VI OBSERVERS

31. The Scientific Committee may:
- a. extend an invitation to any signatory of the Convention to participate, in accordance with Rules 36, 37 and 38 below, as observers in meetings of the Scientific Committee;
 - b. invite as appropriate, any non-Contracting Party to attend, in accordance with Rules 36, 37 and 38 below, as observers in the meetings of the Scientific Committee;
 - c. invite, as appropriate, organisations referred to in Article 18(1) and (2) of the Convention to attend, in accordance with Rules 36, 37 and 38 below, as observers in the meetings of the Scientific Committee;
 - d. invite, as appropriate, non-governmental organisations referred to in Article 8(8) of the Convention, to attend in accordance with Rules 36, 37 and 38 below, as observers in the meetings of the Scientific Committee unless the majority of the Contracting Parties object. Invitations to these organisations shall be issued in accordance with the procedure set forth in Rule 39 below.

32. The Executive Secretary may, when preparing with the Chairperson the preliminary agenda for a meeting of the Scientific Committee, draw to the attention of Members of the Scientific Committee his or her view that the work of the Scientific Committee would be facilitated by the attendance at its next meeting of an observer referred to in Rule 33, an invitation to which was not considered at the previous meeting. The Executive Secretary shall so inform Members of the Scientific Committee when transmitting to them the preliminary agenda under Rule 17. The Chairperson shall request the Scientific Committee to take a decision on the Executive Secretary's suggestion in accordance with Rule 7 and the Executive Secretary shall so inform Members of the Scientific Committee when transmitting to them the provisional agenda under Rule 19.
33. Observers may be present at public and private sessions of the Scientific Committee. If a Member of the Scientific Committee so requests, sessions of the Scientific Committee at which a particular agenda item is under consideration shall be restricted to its Members and Observers referred to in Rule 33(a) and Rule 33(b). With respect to any session so restricted, the Scientific Committee may also agree to invite Observers referred to in Rule 33(c).
34. The Chairperson may invite observers to address the Scientific Committee unless a Member of the Scientific Committee objects. Observers are not entitled to participate in the taking of decisions.
35. Observers may submit documents to the Secretariat for distribution to Members of the Scientific Committee as information documents. Such documents shall be relevant to matters under consideration in the Scientific Committee. Unless a Member or Members of the Scientific Committee request otherwise such documents shall be available only in the language or languages and in the quantities in which they were submitted. Such documents shall only be considered as Scientific Committee documents if so decided by the Scientific Committee.
36. Observers shall be granted timely access to documents subject to the terms of the confidentiality rules that the Scientific Committee may decide. Invitations to these organisations shall be issued in accordance with the following procedure:
- a. Any non-governmental organisation concerned with the stocks found in the Convention area, which desires to participate as an observer in meetings of the Scientific Committee, shall notify an application for observer status to the Executive Secretary at least 60 days in advance of the meeting. This application must include:
 - b. name, address, telephone, fax number and e-mail address of the organisation and the person(s) proposed to represent the organisation;
 - c. address of all its national/regional offices;
 - d. aims and purposes of the organisation and a statement that the organisation generally supports the objectives of the Convention;
 - e. information on the organisation's total number of members, its decision making process and its funding;

- f. a brief history of the organisation and a description of its activities;
- g. representative papers and other similar resources produced by or for the organisation on the conservation, management, or science of fishery resources to which the Convention applies;
- h. a history of SEAFO observer status granted/revoked, where appropriate;
- i. information or input that the organisation plans to present at the meeting in question and that it would wish to be circulated by the Executive Secretary for review by Contracting Parties prior to the meeting, supplied in sufficient quantity for such distribution.
- j. The Executive Secretary shall review applications received within the prescribed time and, at least 50 days before the meeting for which the application was received, shall notify the Contracting Parties of the names and qualifications of non-governmental organisations having fulfilled the requirements stipulated this Rule. Contracting Parties shall reply in writing within 20 days of the date at which the notification was sent, stating whether they approve or object to the application and giving reasons thereon. The application shall be considered accepted unless a simple majority of the Contracting Parties that replied objects. An organisation whose application has been rejected may submit a new complete application prior to any subsequent meeting of the Scientific Committee.
- k. Any Contracting Party may propose, giving its reasons in writing, that the observer status granted to a non-governmental organisation be revoked. Decisions to revoke observer status shall be taken by a simple majority of the Contracting Parties present and voting. The Scientific Committee may agree that this decision becomes effective at its following meeting.

PART VII SUBSIDIARY BODIES

37. The Scientific Committee may determine the composition and terms of reference of any subsidiary body established by it and submit them to the Commission for approval. Insofar as they are applicable these Rules of Procedure shall apply to any subsidiary body of the Scientific Committee unless the Scientific Committee decides otherwise.

PART VIII LANGUAGES

38. The official and working languages of the Scientific Committee shall be English and Portuguese.

PART IX REPORTS AND NOTIFICATIONS

39. Reports of meetings of the Scientific Committee shall be prepared by the Chairperson. A draft report of such meetings shall be considered by the Scientific Committee before it is adopted at the end of the meeting. The Executive Secretary shall transmit reports of meetings of the Scientific Committee to all Members of the Scientific Committee, and to Observers that have attended the meeting, as soon as possible after the meeting.

Annex IV

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OCEANOGRAPHIC FEATURES, TOPOGRAPHY AND THE MAIN PRIMARY PRODUCTION AREAS IN THE REGION

Northern boundary: The South Atlantic Equatorial current flowing westward along the equatorial area.

Western boundary: Open end of the South Atlantic gyre.

Eastern boundary: It mainly consists of the Benguela and Angolan Currents along the African continent.

- The Benguela flows in a north to north-westerly direction (~15-35S). The Benguela is a major upwelling area, very productive and characterized by cool surface temperatures.
- The warm Angolan current flows in a southerly direction along the Angolan coast and meets the Benguela roughly around 17-15S commonly referred to as the Angola/Benguela front. In this frontal area offshore flow into the SEAFO area occurs. This is clearly demonstrated by the offshore extension of primary production in this area and has also been observed from the flow tracks of surface floats that have been deployed in this area.
- The warm Agulhas Current flows south of the African continent in a westerly direction where it meets up with the Benguela Current. Warm eddies are spawned in this area and transported northwesterly into the SEAFO area.

Southern boundary: The Southern Ocean current forms the southern boundary of the SEAFO area. The Antarctic convergence zone is close to the southern boundary of this area.

SST variability

Solar insolation is responsible for the warmer sea surface temperatures that occur in summer and the reduction thereof in winter for the lower winter sea surface temperatures (Figure 1). This is especially true for the open ocean region. Wind driven upwelling along the southwestern African coast (Namibia & RSA) is responsible for cooler SST in the coastal areas; cool filaments often extend offshore into the SEAFO area from the Lüderitz upwelling region. Inter-annual variability is quite clearly illustrated by the SST anomaly maps in Figure 2.

Productivity

Figure 3a&b illustrates the average chlorophyll-a concentration over the SEAFO area and clearly identifies the main EEZ areas as areas of highest production (EEZ areas indicated with blue dotted line).

Largest offshore extension of chlorophyll-a production into the SEAFO area exists at the Angola/Benguela frontal area and farther north at the equatorial region. Relatively high

chlorophyll-a concentrations are also found in the southern ocean. The western part of the SEAFO region is clearly part of the unproductive oceanic type.

Topography

Some of the main topographic features inside the SEAFO area are listed below:

- Walvis Ridge, which extends from around 18S, off the Namibian coast, into a southwesterly direction towards the mid-Atlantic ridge. This feature sub divides the area into the Cape Basin (south) and the Angola Basin to the north of this area. Deep ocean circulation is guided and obstructed by this feature. Several important seamounts, banks and plateaus are associated with this feature e.g. Valdivia Bank etc.
- Agulhas Ridge extends from around 35S, south of Cape Town, into a southwesterly direction. This feature separates the Agulhas Basin from the Cape Basin to the north. Several important seamounts, banks and plateaus are also associated with this feature.
- Mid Atlantic Ridge at around 15W that runs through the entire SEAFO region from north to south.
- Many other important features such as seamounts (e.g. Mount Vema) and rises (Meteor Rise) exist in this area and should be highlighted and discussed more comprehensively.

Meteorology

The south Atlantic high-pressure system and the associated low over the sub-continent drives the upwelling along the eastern boundary of the SEAFO area (Benguela Current). The position of this high varies seasonally and is located farther south in summer and farther north in winter, which is responsible for the seasonality in the upwelling activity.

Major anomalous environmental events in the region (mainly inside the EEZ)

The *Benguela Nino* affects the coastal areas off Angola and Namibia on a decadal scale. It is associated with the advection of warm water across the equator (very similar to the Pacific Nino) towards the African coast and farther down the coast into northern Namibian waters, resulting in strong positive temperature anomalies. It usually occurs in summer/autumn and persists for several months (January to April). The offshore impact of it into SEAFO area is unknown.

Oxygen poor bottom waters along the central/northern Namibian coast as well as along the Angolan coast is another well-documented phenomenon of the region. However, it is mainly limited to the continental shelf (inside the EEZ) and it is unlikely that this extends as far offshore as the SEAFO area.

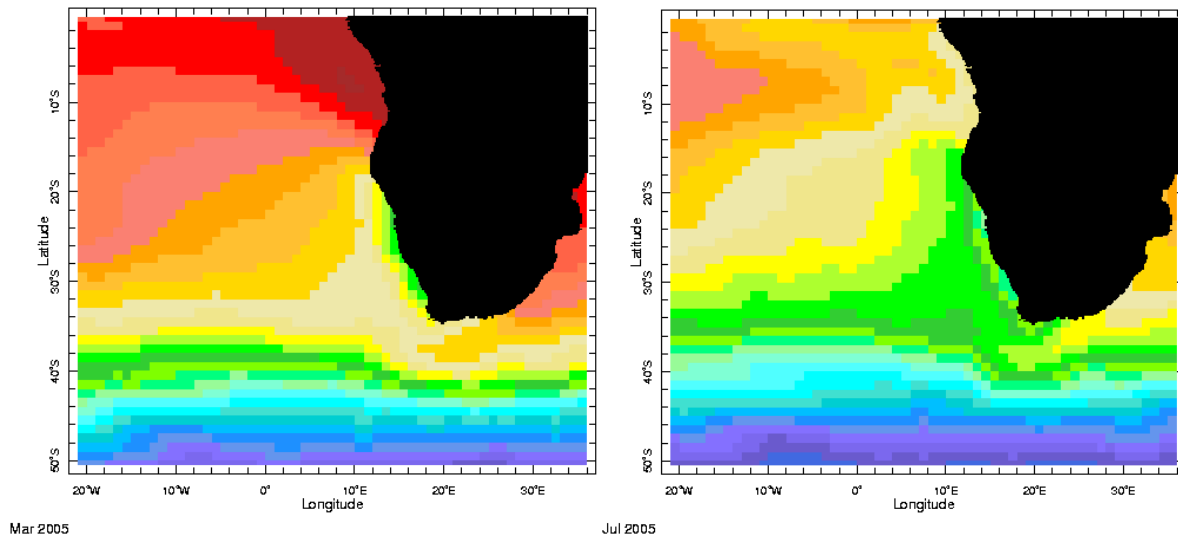


Figure 1. Typical summer and winter SST patterns in the SEAFO region. The colour scale ranges from blue (cold) to red (warm). *Data obtained from NCEP database.*

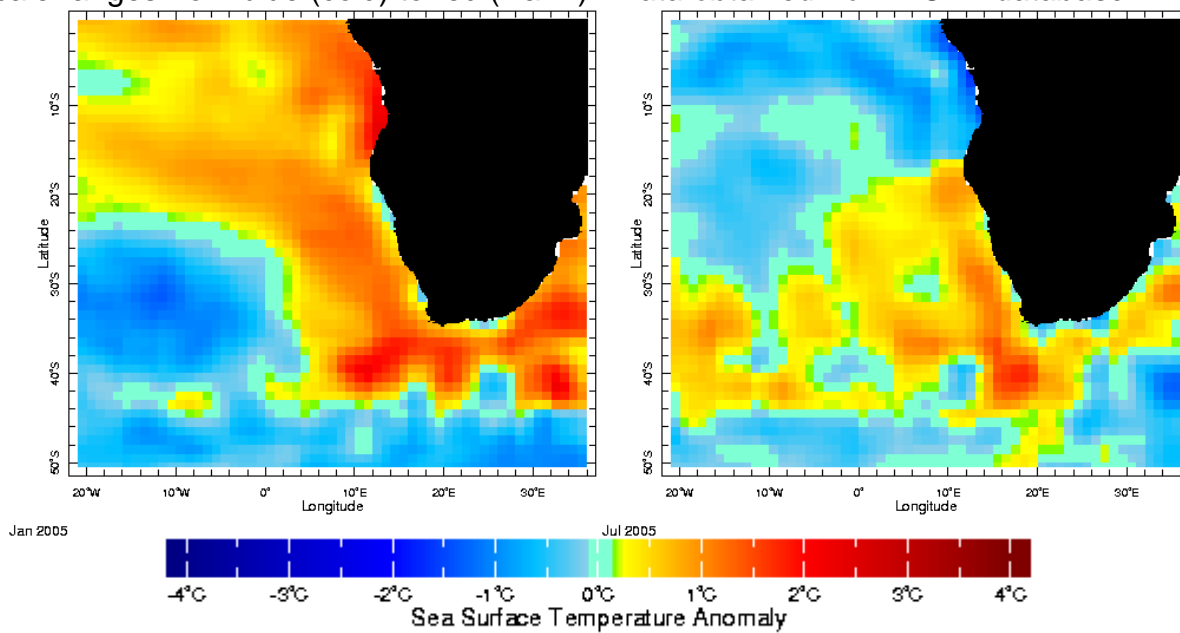


Figure 2. Examples of SST variability in the SEAFO area. These represent anomalies for January and July 2005. *NCEP database.*

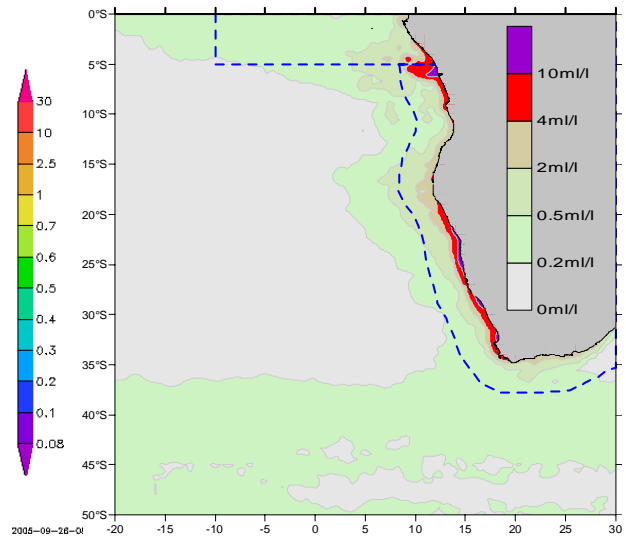
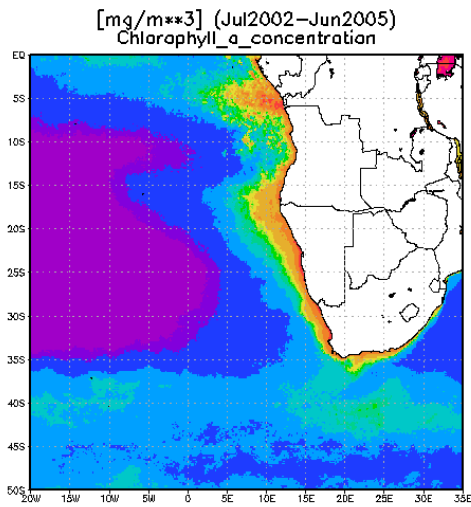


Figure 3a&b. Average chlorophyll-a concentration calculated for the SEAFOD area representing primary production (2002-2005). The dotted line (**3b**) is a rough indication of the EEZ areas. Plot derived from MODIS data.

Annex V

SUMMARY OF MAIN SPECIES CAUGHT IN SEAFO AREA

For this summary the SEAFO area was divided into 3 broad regions according to areas outside the EEZ's of Angola, Namibia and South Africa. Input from various countries summarised as follows:

1. Northern SEAFO area: thus outside Angola EEZ

Main species caught (in order of priority):

1. Alfonsino - targeted (Russian and Korean fleets) - bottom trawls
2. Orange roughy - targeted (Russian & Korean fleets) - bottom trawls
3. Sharks - targeted (Korean fleet) - bottom trawls
4. Deep sea red crab - targeted (Japanese 1 vessel) - pods
5. Deep water shrimps - bycatch - probably in bottom trawls

2. Central SEAFO area: thus outside Namibia EEZ

Main species caught (not in any specific order):

1. Orange roughy - targeted - bottom trawls
2. Alfonsino - targeted - bottom trawls
3. Sharks (blue-, shortfin mako-, hammerhead-, porbeagle shark) - targeted (and bycatch) - longlines
4. Deep sea red crab - bycatch in bottom trawls and targeted
5. Deep water shrimps (e.g. *Aristeus varidens*) - bycatch - bottom trawls
6. Swordfish

3. Southern SEAFO area: thus outside South Africa EEZ

Main species caught (not in any specific order):

1. Orange roughy
2. Alfonsino
3. Armourheads
4. Sharks (blue, mako, hammerhead)
5. Swordfish

4. EU list (pers.com. Susanna Junquera)

2 Spanish vessels with license - 2001-2004 (only catches >10 t/yr):

1. Patagonian toothfish
2. Argentines

3. Boarfish
4. Deep sea red crab
5. Grunts (African striped & bigeye)

Portugese fleet for 2004, only species >10 t/month:

6. Blue shark - Longlines
7. Mako - Longlines
8. Octopus - ?
9. Lobster (6.7t Mar, 5t Apr) Lagostas Nep

5. Heymans (the consultant) list (>100 tonnes per year)

1. Alfonsino
2. Armour head
3. Orange roughy
4. Deep sea red crab
5. Others between 10 and 100 t / yr
Swordfish, Oreo dories, Cardinal, Kingclip, Hake, squid, horse mackerel, rubyfish, bluenose, oilfish, toothfish, octopus

Summary from above

Main spp (most frequently landed & highest catches)

1. Orange roughy
2. Alfonsino
3. Sharks (Blue and short finned mako)
4. Swordfish
5. Armourhead
6. Deep sea red crab
7. Patagonian toothfish.