

## Press Release: SEAFO Annual Meeting Outcomes

Date: December 4, 2024

During the past two weeks (18 Nov to 28 Nov 2024), the contracting parties to SEAFO met in Swakopmund, Namibia at the Alte Brücke Resort for their Annual Meeting.



*SEAFO Commission delegates 2024*

The meeting, chaired by Mr Ichiro Nomura from Japan, considered the analysis and recommendations by the Scientific Committee of the organisation -chaired by the Japanese scientist, Dr. Takehiro Okuda- which covered the status of the various fish stocks and of the vulnerable marine ecosystems in the South East Atlantic convention area. Total Allowable Catches were determined for the five main commercial species.

- 1. Total Allowable Catch (TAC):** The SEAFO agreed to the following TAC's for 2025 and 2026, ensuring sustainable management of the stocks:
  - Patagonian toothfish –274 tonnes for 2025 and 2026 in the Sub-Area D
  - Alfonsino - 200 tonnes for the SEAFO CA, of which a maximum of 132 tonnes may be taken in Division B1 Pelagic armourhead – 135 tonnes
  - Orange roughy – 4 tonnes bycatch allowance in Division B1, and 50 tonnes in the remainder of the SEAFO CA (subject to exploratory fishing protocols)
  - Deep-sea Red crab - 162 tonnes for Division B1, and 200 tonnes for the remainder of the SEAFO CA Orange roughy
  - Pelagic armourhead - 135 tonnes in the SEAFO CA
- 2. Compliance Measures:** A compliance measure regarding offloading in non-contracting party ports, were modified.
- 3. Bycatch Mitigation:** The requirement for tagging of Patagonian toothfish was included in Conservation measure CM-TAC-01(2024).

4. **Scientific Research:** Continued support for scientific research was reaffirmed, with a focus on potentially another research survey conducted by the Dr Fridtjof Nansen and continued collaboration with the FAO Deep-sea Fisheries project.



*SEAFo Heads of Delegation 2024*

The SEAFo remains committed to the sustainable management of bottom fish and will continue to work collaboratively with member nations and stakeholders to achieve this goal.

The parties worked in harmonious way and reached conclusions that guarantee further conservation and prudent exploitation of the resources in the convention area and was deemed very successful. Ichiro Nomura said that he was very pleased with the good cooperation between the parties and with the outcome of the meeting. “Cooperation in SEAFo is an example of good governance”, he said, “it contributes to maintaining international cooperation and to maintaining a liveable ocean and planet for the future generations. This is the way forward for International Ocean Governance. All contracting parties are committed to achieve this objective.”