



SOUTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANISATION
REPORT OF THE 20TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

29th to 30th November 2023

Virtual & Hansa Hotel, Swakopmund

NAMIBIA

The Secretariat

NatMirc Bldg, Strand Street No. 1

Swakopmund, Namibia

Phone: + 264 (64) 406-885

Email: info@seafo.org

Url: www.seafo.org

Mr. Ichiro NOMURA (JAPAN)

Chairperson of SEAFO Commission

Email: inomura75@gmail.com

1. Opening of the meeting

The 20th Annual Commission Meeting was convened virtually with some in-person attendance at the Hansa Hotel in Swakopmund, Namibia from 29th to 30th November 2023.

The Chairperson, Mr. Ichiro Nomura (Japan), welcomed delegates to the meeting.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Secretariat was appointed as the rapporteur for the meeting.

3. Adoption of Agenda and Meeting Arrangements

The Commission adopted the agenda ([DOC/COM/01/2023](#)) ([Appendix I](#)) with the addition of the following item under agenda point 13 – Any other matters:

- Terms of Reference for the selection of a new ES (Chairperson)

The Executive Secretary (ES) informed the meeting of practical arrangements for the meeting.

4. Introduction and Admission of Observers

The Observers present were:

- Mr. Xolela Wellem: Compliance Officer from the Benguela Current Convention (BCC).
- Ms. Eszter Hidas: Manager/Technical Advisor Common Oceans Program, Deep-Sea Fisheries Project (FAO), General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the FAO.
- Mr Camille Manel – Executive Secretary of ICCAT
- Mr Thierry Clot – Executive Secretary of SIOFA

The Commission admitted and welcomed the observers at the meeting.

5. Opening Statements by Contracting Parties and Observers

All six Contracting Parties were represented at the meeting.

Contracting Parties introduced their delegations and some Parties presented short opening statements. The full opening statements are in [Appendix III](#).

The ES introduced the newly appointed Finance and Administration Officer, Ms Monika Haminga.

The list of participants is in [Appendix II](#).

6. Status of the Convention in Respect of Membership

The ES informed the meeting that no new notification for accession to the Convention was received during 2023 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

7. Report of the 2023 Scientific Committee (SC) Meeting

7.1. The Chairperson of the 19th Scientific Committee, Mr Granville Louw (South Africa), presented the 2023 SC meeting report ([DOC/COM/03/2023](#)) to the Commission for adoption.

The Commission noted that twenty-one Scientific Committee members from four Contracting Parties attended the Scientific Committee meeting by virtual means and two delegates from Namibia attended in person. No members from The Republic of Korea attended the meeting and recalled the importance of attending SC meetings.

ACTION: The Commission adopted the 2023 SC meeting report.

7.2. Orange roughy TAC: The SC recommended a TAC rollover for 2024 of zero tonnes (moratorium) with a 4 tonnes bycatch allowance in Division B1 and 50 tonnes in the remainder of the SEAFO CA, subject to exploratory fishing protocols.

ACTION: The Commission adopted the recommendation.

7.3. Deep-sea red crab TAC: The SC recommended a TAC rollover for 2024 to be set at 162 tonnes for Division B1, and 200 tonnes for the remainder of the SEAFO CA.

ACTION: The Commission adopted the recommendation.

7.4. Context: Patagonian toothfish TAC: The SC recommended a TAC rollover for 2024 for Sub-Area D of 261 tonnes and a zero TAC for the remainder of the SEAFO CA.

ACTION: The Commission adopted the recommendation.

7.5. Alfonsino TAC: The SC recommended a TAC rollover for 2024 of 200 tonnes for the SEAFO CA, of which a maximum of 132 tonnes may be taken in Division B1 for 2022-2023.

ACTION: The Commission adopted the recommendation.

7.6. Pelagic armourhead / Southern boarfish TAC: The SC recommended a TAC rollover for 2024 of 135 tonnes.

ACTION: The Commission adopted the recommendation.

7.7. The Commission welcomed the commitment of the Scientific Committee Chair for 2024 and 2025 from South Africa and also to avail another scientist to attend the SC meeting.

8. Report of the 2023 Compliance Committee (CC) Meeting

The Chair of the Compliance Committee, Mr. Tae-hoon Won (Republic of Korea), presented the 2023 Compliance Committee Report ([DOC/COM/04/2023](#)) to the Commission for adoption.

ACTION: The Commission adopted the 2023 CC meeting report.

8.1. Consideration of the provisional SEAFO IUU Vessel list for 2023

The CC recommended to the Commission to adopt the SEAFO IUU vessel list for 2024 presented in ([DOC/CC/04/2023](#)).

ACTION: The Commission approves the 2024 SEAFO IUU vessel list.

9. Report of the 2023 Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) Meeting

The Chairperson of SCAF, Mr. Wickness Rooifontein (Republic of South Africa), presented the 2023 SCAF Report ([DOC/COM/05/2023](#)) to the Commission for adoption.

ACTION: The Commission adopted the 2023 SCAF meeting report.

9.1 Approval of the 2022 Draft Annual Financial Statement (AFS).

The SCAF recommended to the Commission to approve the Audited Annual Financial Statements for 2022.

ACTION: The Commission adopted this recommendation.

9.2 Approval of the 2024 Budget and 2025 forecast Budget

The SCAF presented the provisional budget for 2023 of NAD 2,942,406.37 for consideration by the Commission.

ACTION: The Commission approved the budget of NAD 2,942,406.37 for 2024.

10. Report on meetings attended by the Secretariat

The ES submitted a document ([DOC/COM/06/2023](#)) to the meeting in which a synthesis of the meetings she attended during 2023 was presented.

The Commission took note of the report presented by the ES and encourage the participation of the ES in relevant meetings and to network with other RFMO's and projects.

11. Reports of SEAFO Representatives at 2023 meetings of other Intergovernmental Organisations

The Republic of Korea submitted a report as SEAFO Observer to the 28th Regular Meeting of ICCAT in November 2023 ([DOC/COM/08/2023](#)).

Japan submitted an Observer report of the 10th Meeting of the Parties of SIOFA in July 2023 ([DOC/COM/09/2023](#)).

The EU submitted a report as SEAFO Observer to the 45th Annual Meeting of NAFO in September 2023 ([DOC/COM/11/2023](#)) and the 42nd Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) in November 2023 ([DOC/COM/10/2023](#)).

The Republic of South Africa submitted a report as SEAFO Observer to the 42nd meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) which was held at its Headquarters in Hobart, Australia, during Oct/Nov 2023 ([DOC/COM/12/2023](#)).

The reports were presented to the meeting. After discussion by the Parties, the Commission agreed that the reporting will continue in future with short, precise reports.

12. Nominations of Parties to represent SEAFO at 2024 meetings of other International Organisations

The Commission adopted the following nominees to represent SEAFO as observers at the following meetings:

- ICCAT – Republic of Korea
- SIOFA - Japan
- NEAFC – EU
- NAFO – EU
- CCAMLR – Republic of South Africa

13. Any other matters

13.1. Angolan delegates English Training - ES

The Commission took note of the request by Angola for SEAFO to provide English training to Angolan delegates, in a country outside of Angola, to improve understanding of the email correspondence during the year and other documents. One member express sympathy and support for the English training. No consensus was reached among the Parties to support this request from the current SEAFO budget.

13.2. Terms of Reference for the selection of a new ES (Chairperson)

The Terms of Reference drafted by the ES were reviewed and the Commission adopted the Terms of Reference so that the Contracting Parties and the SEAFO Secretariat can initiate further action to recruit the new ES (**APPENDIX IV**).

13.3. Availability of Chairs and Vice-chairs for SEAFO meetings

Following the concern raised by Japan, regarding the availability of the Chairs and Vice-chairs for future SC meetings, some contracting Parties commented that procedures were already included in the Rules of Procedures.

SEAFO Body	Chair/Vice-chair	Duration
The Commission	(JAPAN) (REPUBLIC OF KOREA)	2023-2024
Scientific Committee	(SOUTH AFRICA) (ANGOLA)	2023-2025
Compliance Committee	(REPUBLIC OF KOREA) (NAMIBIA)	2023-2024
The Standing Committee on Administration and Finance	(SOUTH AFRICA) (ANGOLA)	2023-2024

14. Venue and Date of next meetings

- The dates for the 2024 Scientific Committee meeting will be 18 to 22 November 2024
- The dates for the 2024 Annual Commission meeting (including SCAF and CC) will be 25 to 28 November 2024.

15. Adoption of the 2023 Commission report

The Commission adopted the report.

16. Closure of the Meeting

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 13:11 on Thursday 30th November 2023 and he commended the Contracting Parties for their efficient and effective conduct during the meeting. He thanked the Secretariat for the preparations. He also thanked delegates and the interpreter for their positive inputs.

APPENDIX I: List of Documents, Agenda and Annotated Agenda of the 2023 Commission Meeting

DOC/COM/00/2023



LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 20TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (COM) - 2023

CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Ichiro NOMURA (JAPAN 2023-2024) **VENUE:** Virtual & Physical Swakopmund

VICE-CHAIR: Mr. Tae-hoon WON (Rep KOREA 2023-2024) **DATE:** 29-30 Nov 2023

Document Number	Agenda Item	Document Title	Provider	Availability of Document
DOC/COM/00/2023	All	List of documents	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/01/2023	3	Provisional Agenda for the 20 th Meeting of the Commission	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/02/2023	3	Provisional Annotated Agenda for the 20 th Meeting of the Commission	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/03/2023	7	Scientific Committee Meeting Report for 2023	SC	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/04/2023	8	Compliance Committee Meeting Report for 2023	CC	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/05/2023	9	Standing Committee on Admin & Finance Meeting Report for 2023	SCAF	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/06/2023	10	Report on meetings attended by the Executive Secretary during 2023	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/07/2023	16	Commission Meeting Report for 2023	COM	Available at the meeting
DOC/COM/08/2023	11	Rep Korea Observer Report ICCAT 28 th Regular Meeting Nov 2022	Rep Korea	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/09/2023	11	Japan Observer Report SIOFA 10 th Meeting of the Parties 2023	Japan	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/10/2023	11	EU Observer Report NEAFC Annual Meeting 2023	EU	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/11/2023	11	EU Observer Report NAFO 45 th Annual Meeting 2023	EU	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/12/2023	11	South Africa Observer Report CCAMLR 2023	South Africa	Available before meeting

DOC/COM/01/2023



The Secretariat

Physical Address: 1 Strand Street, NatMirc, Swakopmund, Namibia

Phone: + 264 (64) 406-885 - Fax: + 264 (64) 406-884 - Email: info@seafo.org - Website: www.seafo.org

South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 20TH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE COMMISSION (COM) – 2023**

CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Ichiro NOMURA (JAPAN 2023-2024) **VENUE:** Virtual & Physical Swakopmund

VICE-CHAIR: Mr. Tae-hoon WON (Rep KOREA 2023-2024) **DATE:** 29-30 Nov 2023

Item	Agenda Item	Working Document
1	Opening of meeting by Chairperson	
2	Appointment of Rapporteur	
3	Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements	DOC/COM/00/2023 DOC/COM/01/2023 DOC/COM/02/2023
4	Introduction & Admission of Observers	
5	Opening statements by Contracting Parties	
6	Status of the Convention in respect of membership	
7	Report of the 2023 Scientific Committee meeting	DOC/COM/03/2023
8	Report of the 2023 Compliance Committee meeting	DOC/COM/04/2023
9	Report of the 2023 Standing Committee on Administration & Finance meeting	DOC/COM/05/2023
10	Report on meetings attended by the Secretariat	DOC/COM/06/2023
11	Reports of SEAFO's representatives at other intergovernmental organization meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICCAT – Republic of Korea • SIOFA - Japan • NEAFC – EU • NAFO – EU • CCAMLR – South Africa 	DOC/COM/08/2023 DOC/COM/09/2023 DOC/COM/10/2023 DOC/COM/11/2023 DOC/COM/12/2023
12	Nomination of Parties representing SEAFO at intergovernmental organizations	
13	Any other matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angolan delegates English Training - ES 	
14	Venue & date of next meeting	
15	Adoption of the 2023 Commission Report	DOC/COM/07/2022
16	Closure of meeting	

DOC/COM02/2023



The Secretariat

Physical Address: 1 Strand Street, NatMirc, Swakopmund, Namibia

Phone: + 264 (64) 406-885 • Fax: + 264 (64) 406-884 • Email: info@seafo.org • Website: www.seafo.org

South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE 20TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (COM) – 2023

CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Ichiro NOMURA (JAPAN 2023-2024) **VENUE:** Virtual & Physical Swakopmund

VICE-CHAIR: Mr. Tae-hoon WON (Rep KOREA 2023-2024) **DATE:** 29-30 Nov 2023

1. Opening of meeting

The meeting will officially be opened by the Chairperson of the Commission.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Chairperson will ensure the appointment of a rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

Members will review and adopt the agenda ([DOC/COM/01/2023](#), [DOC/COM/02/2023](#)). The Executive Secretary will inform the Delegation of any practical arrangements for the meeting.

4. Introduction and admission of Observers

The Chairperson will announce Observers present.

5. Opening Statement by Contracting Parties and Observers

The Heads of Delegations will introduce their members and make opening statements. Written opening statements should be provided to the Secretariat before the meeting to be included in the meeting report. Observers who wish to make opening statements will do so after the opening statements of the Contracting Parties.

6. Status of the Convention in respect of membership

The Chairperson will inform members of the current status of accession to the Convention.

7. Presentation of the 2023 Scientific Committee Report

The Chairperson of the Scientific Committee will present a summary of the Scientific Committee Report including scientific advice and recommendations to the Commission ([DOC/COM/03/2023](#)). The Commission will discuss the Scientific Committee Report and take appropriate decisions on the recommendations made.

8. Presentation of the 2023 Compliance Committee Report

The Chairperson of the Compliance Committee will present a summary of the Compliance Committee Report including recommendations to the Commission ([DOC/COM/04/2023](#)). The Commission will discuss the Compliance Committee Report and take appropriate decisions on the recommendations made.

9. Presentation of the 2023 Standing Committee on Administration and Finance Report

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance will present a summary of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance Report including recommendations to the Commission ([DOC/COM/05/2023](#)). The Commission will discuss the report and take appropriate decisions on the recommendation made.

DOC/COM/02/2023

10. Report on meetings attended by the Secretariat

The Executive Secretary will provide a report on meetings attended during 2023 ([DOC/COM/06/2023](#)).

11. Reports of SEAFO Representatives at the 2022/2023 meetings of other Intergovernmental Organisations

SEAFO representatives at the 2022/2023 meetings of the other Intergovernmental Organisations will report back to the Commission on meetings attended. SEAFO representatives will bring to the attention of the members specific issues(s), if any, arose from the meetings.

ICCAT – Republic of Korea ([DOC/COM/08/2023](#))

SIOFA – Japan ([DOC/COM/09/2023](#))

NEAFC – EU ([DOC/COM/10/2023](#))

NAFO – EU ([DOC/COM/11/2023](#))

CCAMLR – South Africa ([DOC/COM/12/2023](#))

12. Nominations of Parties to represent SEAFO at other International Organisations in 2023/2024

The Commission will nominate representatives for the following meetings:

ICCAT
SIOFA
NEAFC
NAFO
CCAMLR

13. Any other matters

The Committee will discuss the matter below and any other matters raised that was not previously included in the agenda.

13.1 Angolan Delegates English Training – ES

14. Venue and date of the next Commission meeting

The members will agree on a venue and date for the next Commission meeting which should be a physical meeting according to the Commission decision in 2021.

The Commission concluded in 2021:

To continue to have annual meetings. On the principle of having biennial physical meetings.

That the next physical meeting will be in 2022 subject to the restriction of the pandemic.

15. Adoption of the 2023 Commission Report

The meeting report will be adopted ([DOC/COM/07/2023](#)).

16. Closure of meeting

The Chairperson will close and adjourn the meeting after all items have been concluded.

APPENDIX II – List of Participants 2023 Commission Meeting**CHAIRPERSON****Ichiro NOMURA (Japan)**

Special Advisor
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Tokyo 100-8907
Japan
Tel: +81 3 3591 1086
Email: inomura75@gmail.com

Luis Belmonte GONZÁLEZ

Subdirección General De Acuerdos Y
Organizaciones Regionales De Pesca
Dirección General De Pesca Sostenible
Secretaría General De Pesca
Madrid
Tel.: +34 91 347 60 79
Email: lbelmonte@mapa.es

VICE-CHAIRPERSON**Tae-Hoon WON (Republic of Korea)**

Assistant Director
International Cooperation Division
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
Republic of Korea
Tel: +82-44-200-5334
Email: th1608@korea.kr

Roberto SARRALDE

Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO)
Centro Oceanográfico de Vigo.
Subida a Radio Faro, 50
36390
Vigo
Spain
Tel: +34 660696415
Email: roberto.sarralde@ieo.csic.es

ANGOLA**Domingos AZEVEDO (Head of Delegation)**

Servico Nacional De Fiscalizacao Pesqueira e da
Aquacultura
Ministerio das Pescas e do Mar
Luanda
Angola
Tel: +24 49 23 340 100
Fax: +24 42 22 309 731
Email: domingosazevedo2001@yahoo.com.br

JAPAN**Masahiro AKIYAMA (Head of Delegation)**

Assistant Director
Fisheries Agency of Japan
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, 100-8907
Japan
Tel: +81 3 3591 1086
Email: masahiro_akiyama170@maff.go.jp

Paulo CUSSO

Ministerio das Pescas e do Mar
Luanda
Angola
Tel: +24 49 23 340 100
Fax: +24 42 22 309 731
Email: nkuso2015@gmail.com

Hiromi ISA

Executive Managing Director
Japan Overseas Fishing Association
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, 101-0052
Japan
Tel: +81 3 3291 8508
Email: isa@jdsta.or.jp

EUROPEAN UNION**Ignacio GRANELL (Head of Delegation)**

International Relations Officer
DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Brussels
Belgium
Email: ignacio.granell@ec.europa.eu

Hiroshi KUBOTA

Deputy Director, Highly Migratory Resources
Division FRA (Japan Fisheries Research and
Education Agency)
Yokohama, Kanagawa
Japan
Tel: +81 45 788 7615
Email: kubota_hiroshi89@fra.go.jp

Hiroto NAKAMOTO

Assistant Chief
Fisheries Agency of Japan,
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8907
Japan
Tel: +81 3 3591 1086
Email: hiroto_nakamoto890@maff.go.jp

Kyo UEHARA

Assistant Manager
Overseas Operations Department
Fisheries Operations Section
Taiyo A&F Co. Ltd., Cape Town Office
South Africa
Tel: +27 21 417 3440
Fax: +27 21 417 3450
Email: taiyoct@mweb.co.za

Ryo ONODERA

Officer
Fisheries Agency of Japan,
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
100-8907 Japan
Tel: +81 3 6744 2363
Email: ryo_onodera380@maff.go.jp

Shogo UEKI

Representative
Cape Town Representative Office
Taiyo A&F Co. Ltd.
Tel: +27 21 417 3440
Fax: +27 21 417 3450
Email: s-ueki@maruha-nichiro.co.jp

Takehiro OKUDA

Fisheries Resources Institute,
Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency,
Yokohama 236-8648,
Japan
Tel: +81-45-788-7502
Email: okuda_takehiro83@fra.go.jp

Tsutomu NISHIDA

Scientific Advisor
Japan Overseas Fishing Association
Email: aco20320@par.odn.ne.jp

NAMIBIA

Graca B. D'ALMEIDA (Head of Delegation)
Director-Resource Management
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Windhoek
Namibia
Email: Graca.D'Almeida@mfmr.gov.na

Anja VAN DER PLAS

Senior Scientist, Subdivision Environment
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Swakopmund
Namibia
Tel: +264-64-4101111
Fax: +264-64-404385
Email: anja.vanderplas@mfmr.gov.na

Beau M. TJIZOO

Directorate Operation: MCS
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Windhoek
Namibia
Tel: +264 61 205 3013
Cell: +264 81 143 0309
Email: Beau.Tjizoo@mfmr.gov.na

Titus IILENDE

Deputy Director: Resource Management Ministry
of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Private Bag 13355
Windhoek
Namibia
Tel: +264 61 205 3071
Fax: +264 61 220 558
Email: Titus.lilende@mfmr.gov.na

Johannes KATHENA

National Marine Information & Research Centre
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Swakopmund
Namibia
Tel: +264 64 410 1159
Fax: +264 64 404 385
Email: john.kathena@mfmr.gov.na

Paulus KAINGE

National Marine Information & Research Centre
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Swakopmund
Namibia
Tel: +264 64 4101127
Fax: +264 64 404385
Email: paulus.kainge@mfmr.gov.na

REPUBLIC OF KOREA**Jae-geol YANG**

Policy Analyst
Korean Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Center
Tel: +82-44-868-7364
Email: Jg718@kofci.org

SOUTH AFRICA**Saasa PHEEHA** (Head of Delegation)

Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
Branch: Fisheries Management
Cape Town
South Africa
Tel: +27 21 402 3563
Mobile: +27 82 558 5837
Email: spheeha@dffe.gov.za

Delricia AUGUSTUS

Deputy Director: Compliance
Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
Chief Directorate: Monitoring, Control & Surveillance
Directorate Compliance
South Africa
Cell: +27664714610
Tel: +2741 585 4051
Fax: +2741 5860385
Email: Daugustus@dffe.gov.za

Fatima SAVEL

Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
Roggebaai, 8012
CAPE TOWN
Tel: +27 21 402 3654
Email: Fsave@dffe.gov.za

Wickness ROOIFONTEIN

Chief Director: Financial Management of the Marine Living Resources Fund
Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
Tel: 082 822 2882
Email: wicknessr@dffe.gov.za

Granville LOUW

Marine Scientist
Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries
Fore trust Building,
Martin Hammerslag way, Foreshore
South Africa
Tel: +27 21 402 3167
Email: grlouw@dffe.gov.za

OBSERVERS**BCC****Xolela WELLEM**

NATMIRC Building
Swakopmund
Namibia
Tel: +264 64 406 901
Email: Xolela@benguelacc.org

FAO**Eszter HIDAS**

DSF Project
FAO
Rome
Italy
Email: eszter.hidas@fao.org

SIOFA**Thierry CLOT**

SIOFA Executive Secretary
Email: thierry.clot@siofa.org

ICCAT**Camille Jean Pierre MANEL**

ICCAT Executive Secretary
Email: camille.manel@iccat.int

SECRETARIAT

Elizabeth VOGES

Executive Secretary
NATMIRC Strand Street No. 1
Swakopmund
Namibia
Tel: +264 64 406885
Fax: +264 64 406884
Email: lvoges@seafo.org

Monika HAMBINGA

Admin & Finance Officer
NATMIRC Strand Street No. 1
Swakopmund
Namibia
Tel: +264 64 406885
Fax: +264 64 406884
Email: admin@seafo.org

INTERPRETER

Sebastiao SOARES

Appendix III: Opening Addresses

Opening Statement by the Delegation of the European Union

Mister Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The European Union is pleased to be part of the 20th Annual Meeting of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation.

We would like to express our appreciation for the efforts made by the SEAFO Secretariat to organize this meeting in hybrid format, allowing to carry the necessary business of this organisation in a format that is more cost efficient and greener.

In this regard, the accessibility to new technologies also facilitates the implementation of the principle that we agreed at the Annual Meeting in 2021, organizing a physical annual meeting biannually. In our view, the declining fishing activity in the Convention Area and the fact that TACs of harvested species can be set biannually, justify meeting physically every second year.

The European Union would also like to reiterate its support to the sustainable use of living marine resources, based of scientific evidence, the precautionary approach, and considerations of its ecosystem impacts. And in this regard, we note that SEAFO has been playing an important role in ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Convention Area.

Finally, the EU delegation looks forward to working with all SEAFO Parties in order to achieve the best possible results and to make this Annual Meeting a joint success.

Thank you very much.

Opening Statement by the Delegation of the Japan

Mr. Chair, Executive Secretary, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Japanese delegation, I would like to thank the Executive Secretary, Dr. Lizette Voges and the staff of the SEAFO Secretariat for their tireless efforts in organizing this meeting in the format to accommodate both virtual and in-person attendance as decided at the last annual meeting. Recognizing the merit of in-person meeting, we recognized that virtual or hybrid meeting can contribute to financial sustainability of this organization whose budget and activities are not as large as other RFMOs such as ICCAT. Regardless of the format , we are delighted to take part in discussion for sustainable management of fishery resources in the Convention Area with every participating member.

Although it is planned to conduct full stock assessments, determine the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2025 and select a new Executive Secretary next year, the Commission needs to discuss and share the common view of the foundations for the next year's discussion on the above items, including the selection process of the new Executive Secretary. We expect that the constructive discussion at this meeting will constitute the base for the fruitful outcomes next year.

With a view to promoting sustainable use of the marine living resources based on scientific evidence in the SEAFO Convention Area, Japan intends to submit a Notice of Intent for the 2024 exploratory fisheries after this meeting. Japan cordially asks the members of the Scientific Committee and the Commission to assess the proposed exploratory fisheries during the intersessional period in accordance with the provisions of the relevant conservation and management measure. As before, the assessment of Japan's exploratory fisheries plan would be thus conducted on a correspondence basis.

Finally, we would like to extend our gratitude to Ms. Delita Krauze for her longstanding contribution to SEAFO and generous assistance to members and hope all the best for her in the future. I would like to conclude my remarks by welcoming the newly appointed financial and administrative officer to SEAFO community.

Thank you very much.

Opening Statement by the Delegation of South Africa



forestry, fisheries and the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Honorable Chairperson, esteemed delegates, distinguished guests, it is with great privilege and honor that I stand before you today as a representative of South Africa at this 20th Annual Meeting of the Commission of SEAFO. On behalf of my delegation, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Namibia Government for hosting this significant Commission Meeting in Swakopmund. Our gratitude is further extended to the Secretariat for putting together this Meeting which is held in Hybrid. Hybrid Meetings are very challenging as they are a lot of moving parts and anything can go wrong at anytime, anywhere and so far, everything has been running smoothly over the past few days in the Compliance Committee and the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance.

The issues we deliberate upon here hold profound importance, not just for our individual nations but for the collective well-being of our oceans and the sustainable management of fisheries resources in the South East Atlantic. Our shared commitment to responsible and equitable governance of these resources remains paramount.

South Africa reaffirms its unwavering dedication to the principles of sustainable fisheries management, conservation of marine biodiversity, and the promotion of responsible fishing practices within the SEAFO region. Our nation remains steadfast in our efforts to support initiatives that foster cooperation, transparency, and scientific-based decision-making.

As we convene to discuss matters crucial to the prosperity and sustainability of our fisheries, we must collectively address the challenges posed by illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities. These detrimental practices continue to undermine the conservation efforts and threaten the very existence of our marine ecosystems. South Africa calls for strengthened collaboration and intensified measures to combat IUU fishing, promoting robust monitoring, control, and surveillance mechanisms across our shared maritime borders.

Moreover, recognizing the integral role of scientific research in shaping our policies, South Africa emphasizes the importance of data-driven approaches and urges increased investment in scientific studies to support informed decision-making. Collaboration with scientific institutions and leveraging technological advancements will be pivotal in enhancing our understanding of marine ecosystems and ensuring sustainable fisheries management.

In conclusion, South Africa stands committed to working in synergy with all SEAFO member states, fostering cooperation, and finding equitable solutions that prioritize the long-term health and viability of our shared fisheries resources. Let us seize this opportunity Chair, to forge consensus, uphold our commitments, and chart a path forward that ensures a sustainable and prosperous future for generations to come.

I thank you.

Opening Statement by the Delegation of Namibia

Chair, Namibia is delighted to yet again participate in the 20th Annual Meeting of the SEAFO Commission and we look forward to beneficial discussions. Chair, as a host, Namibia would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegates of Japan and South Africa, who are attending the meeting physically in Swakopmund and wish them a pleasant stay.

Chair, Namibia observed with keen interest the advances made by the Scientific Committee, particularly, with regard to the orange roughy genetic analysis and the standardization of SEAFO SC maps and that the final results are expected soon.

We also take note of the challenges, such as the lack of data, which continue to hamper the ability of SEAFO to conduct robust stock assessment. Namibia recognizes that collective efforts are required to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of all the living marine resources and to safeguarding the environment and marine ecosystem in the Convention Area, as enshrined in the Convention.

Chair, Namibia is also gratified to learn that surveys were conducted by the EAF Nansen in the SEAFO CA, and encourage continued collaboration with the FAO to enable further work of this nature.

In closing Chair, Namibia would like to thank the Finance and Administration Officer, Ms. Delita Krauze, for the services rendered to SEAFO during her time with the Organization and wish her luck in her future endeavors. We further, welcome the new incumbent of this position, Ms. Monika Haminga, and wish her a rewarding experience with the Organization.

With these few remarks Chair, I thank you

Appendix IV: Terms of Reference for appointment of ES

Rule 14 of the SEAFO Rules of Procedure provide for the appointment of an Executive Secretary by the Commission: “The Commission should appoint an Executive Secretary to serve the Commission, Compliance Committee and Scientific Committee, according to such procedures and on such terms and conditions as the Commission may determine. His or her term of office should be for four years, and he/she may be eligible for re-appointment.”

These Terms of Reference contain the proposed Appointment process for the position of SEAFO Executive Secretary.

SECTION 1: REAPPOINTMENT OF THE INCUMBENT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1. In accordance with Article 11.2 SEAFO CONVENTION: “The Executive Secretary shall be appointed for a term of four years and may be reappointed for one additional term not exceeding four years”.
2. At the Meeting of the Commission in the year preceding the year in which the incumbent Executive Secretary’s **first term** of appointment expires, the SEAFO Commission Chairperson (herein after "the Chairperson") should verify with the Executive Secretary his/her interest in being reappointed for a second term.
3. In the event of a positive reply, the procedure in paragraph 3 and 4 should be followed. In the event of a negative reply, the procedure under Section 2 should be followed.
4. At the meeting referred to in paragraph 1, the Chairperson should proceed to verify whether there is consensus among the Contracting Parties to re-appoint the incumbent Executive Secretary in accordance with Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure.
5. In the absence of consensus to re-appoint the incumbent Executive Secretary, the process for the selection of the Executive Secretary shall be launched according to the procedure under Section 2.
6. The Executive Secretary should assist the Chairperson with the recruitment process. If the incumbent Executive Secretary intends to apply or is also an applicant, he/she should abstain from any involvement in the process and nominate a staff member of the Secretariat to assist the Chairperson, providing that the appointed staff member does not intend to apply for the position.

SECTION 2: SELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**Position documentation and advertisement**

7. No more than [60 days] after the close of the Commission Meeting referred to in paragraph 1, the Executive Secretary should prepare a draft advertisement for the position of Executive Secretary, based on the template in Annex I. The draft advertisement should be guided by the following selection criteria:
- (a) Demonstrated high level leadership and management skills and experience in
 - i. provision of strategic and operational advice;
 - ii. preparation of reports, financial budgets and management of expenditures;
 - iii. demonstrated relevant experience or detailed knowledge of compliance, data management, science functions and information technology;
 - iv. Organisation of international meetings and provision of secretariat support for international meetings and committees, including preparation of meeting papers and reports;
 - v. human resource management, including selection and supervision of administrative and professional staff.
 - (b) demonstrated relevant experience or detailed knowledge in functions, operations and management of national, regional or international fisheries organisations;
 - (c) Knowledge or experience of fisheries management, including in RFMOs/treaties.
 - (d) Demonstrated ability to communicate and work constructively and effectively in a multicultural environment with delegates from a wide range of countries, including managers, scientists and technical experts;
 - (e) Fluent in spoken and written English. Knowledge of other languages of SEAFO CCPs, Portuguese, would be an asset.
 - (f) Advanced degree (Masters or PhD) in the field of natural or environmental sciences.
8. The advertisement shall be provided to the Chairperson for decision by SEAFO Contracting Parties
9. The Secretariat should seek to arrange for the approved advertisement on the SEAFO's website, as well as in national and international publications and websites, notably FAO and other RFMO's websites, for a period of 45 calendar days. SEAFO Contracting Parties may, at their own expense, also place the advertisement in appropriate national and international publications and websites in consultation with the Secretariat to avoid duplication.
10. The agreed vacancy advertisement should include relevant information regarding the vacancy and the application process and the deadline for applications, including a copy of this recruitment procedure. The advertisement should refer prospective applicants to the SEAFO's Secretariat for further information.

11. The applications should include the following:

- Cover Letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- List of publications, as appropriate
- Copies of academic and other relevant professional certificates (please provide English translation if applicable)
- Three references from persons with a knowledge of the applicant's character, qualifications, and experience (at least one referee should have a recent knowledge of the candidate)
- A health certificate or statement issued by a competent medical doctor indicating that the candidate is physically able to perform the functions as described in the advertising, or otherwise is in a good health.

Submission of applications

12. Applications shall be submitted in English or Portuguese to the **Chairperson** by email by the deadline indicated on the advertisement set in accordance with paragraph 8. Applications submitted by mail or in another language will not be accepted. Late or incomplete applications should not be considered.

Acknowledgement of receipt

13. The Chairperson should notify applicants, with support from the Secretariat, if necessary, by electronic means, within 7 days upon receipt of their complete application.

Circulation of applications

14. Applications should be treated confidentially. All applications that are complete and received by the Chairperson by the deadline should be circulated confidentially to one contact point per delegation no later than 4 weeks after the deadline. A list of incomplete and/or late applications received, including details of what was missing, should also be circulated to Contracting Parties for information. In this regard, each Contracting Party should appoint one contact point for that purpose and advise the Chairperson.

Ranking of applicants

15. Within 45 days of receiving the applications from the Chairperson, each Contracting Party should select no more than five preferred candidates, ranked on merit and should duly notify the **Chairperson** of its selection. Candidates will be ranked in order of preference, as follows:

- a. Five points for a first preference;
- b. Four points for a second preference;
- c. Three points for a third preference;
- d. Two points for a fourth preference;
- e. One point for a fifth preference.

16. On receipt of all preferences, the Chairperson, with support from the Secretariat, if necessary, will aggregate individual applicants' rankings based on the number of points received.
17. The individual rankings by Contracting Parties should remain confidential by the Chair, the Members, and the staff of the Commission.

Shortlist

18. The candidates with the three highest aggregate scores shall be shortlisted as candidates for an interview by the Contracting Parties in a meeting of the Heads of Delegation. Should the application of any candidate be withdrawn, he/she will be replaced by the next ranking applicant in descending order.
19. In case of a tie for the third place, all applicants with equal scores will be included in the short list of candidates.
20. The short-listed candidates should be notified by the Chairperson, with support from the Secretariat, if necessary, as soon as possible.

Interview process

21. Candidates will be interviewed by the Contracting Parties at a meeting of the Heads of Delegation at the Commission meeting, or at an alternate time as agreed by the Commission.
22. SEAFO shall bear the costs of the candidates who are invited for an interview (transportation including economy class airfares, accommodation and incidentals), except where a Contracting Party pays these costs directly. Incidental expenses will be paid in accordance with the UN DSA rates.
23. To ensure transparency and procedural fairness, all candidates will be asked the same questions. The topics of the questions should be prepared by the Chairperson in consultation with Contracting Parties at the meeting of the Heads of Delegation.
24. Where possible, the meeting of the Heads of Delegation should endeavour to conduct interviews within 45 minutes per candidate. Before the questions and answers session, each candidate has an opportunity to make a short (5 to 10 minutes) presentation.

Appointment Process for the Executive Secretary

25. The Chairperson should chair the appointment process. Following the interview, the Meeting of the Parties should endeavour to approve the preferred candidate as Executive Secretary by consensus. In the event that a consensus cannot be reached, the Contracting Parties will adopt the following procedure to establish a consensus for the appointment of a candidate:

- a. Polling will be done by secret ballot.
 - b. In each round each Head of Delegation should select one candidate. The candidate with the lowest number of votes each round will drop out of the ballot process.
 - c. A tie between candidates should result in a re-ballot between those candidates until one candidate drops out of the process.
 - d. The rounds will continue until a single candidate emerges with the largest number of votes.
 - e. The candidate that polls the highest in the final round will be confirmed by the Commission, consistent with the article 17 of the Convention.
26. A copy of this procedure will be made available to each of the candidates.
27. The chosen candidate should be notified at the conclusion of the Commission meeting.
28. If the chosen candidate declines the position, the next-highest-ranked candidate should be confirmed by the Commission, consistent with the article 17 of the Convention.
29. All unsuccessful candidates should be notified by the Chairperson by email, with support from the Secretariat, if necessary, that their application has not been successful.
30. A draft contract for the Executive Secretary position should be developed by the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) and reviewed by the Commission meeting as the selection process concludes. The contract should be finalised with the chosen candidate by the Chair of the Commission, in consultation with the Members at the latest within a week after the Commission meeting.

Start date

31. If possible, the contract of the chosen candidate should commence two weeks before the departure of the incumbent Executive Secretary in order to allow for the appropriate transition. The newly appointed Executive Secretary's term of office should officially start on the day after the expiration of the previous Executive Secretary's term or when he/she effectively fills the vacant position, whichever occurs sooner. This date should be notified to all CPs by the Chairperson.

Indicative Time Frame for ES Recruitment

27 Oct 2023	Circulation of the draft Procedures to recruit the Executive Secretary (ES) and Terms of Reference (ToR) as part of meeting documents
30 Nov 2023	Comments provided by CPs
30 Nov 2023	Compilation of comments, preparation, and distribution of final Draft of the Procedure and ToR
30 Nov 2023	Adoption of the Procedure and ToR (CPs)
31 Jan 2024	Draft advertisement circulated to CP's
15 Feb 2024	Comments provide by CPs
22 Feb 2024	Compilation of comments, preparation, and distribution of final advertisement
	Adoption of advertisement
31 May 2024	Advertisement posted on relevant websites and publications (ES)
15 July 2024	Deadline for applications to be received by the Chairperson of the Commission (Chairperson)
1 Aug 2024	All applications circulated to Contracting Parties (Chairperson)
15 Sep 2024	Deadline for receipt by Chairperson of rankings from Contracting Parties
29 Sep 2024	Deadline to circulate results of rankings to Contracting Parties (Chairperson)
2 October 2024	Notify shortlisted candidates (ES by request of the Chairperson)
2024 COM Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct interviews and decision on the future Executive Secretary (COM) • Define the parameters and conditions of the contract (COM + Chairperson)