



SOUTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANISATION

REPORT OF THE 15TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

26 November to 30 November 2018

Swakopmund

NAMIBIA

The Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 The 15th Annual Commission Meeting was convened at the Strand Hotel, Swakopmund, Namibia, from 26th to 30th November 2018.

1.2 The Chairperson, Mr. Venâncio Soares Gomes (ANGOLA), delivered an opening address ([Appendix III](#)) and opened the meeting officially.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Dr. Hannes Holtzhausen was the rapporteur for the meeting.

3. Adoption of Agenda and Meeting Arrangements

The Commission adopted the agenda ([Appendix I](#)) with the following items to be added:

- Translation of SEAFO documents in Portuguese to be added under Agenda Point 16 (Any Other Matters).

4. Introduction and Admission of Observers

The observers present represented:

- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)
- Centre for Environment Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)
- Benguela Current Convention (BCC)
- Bolivia
- Taiyo Namibia (PTY) Ltd
- United States' Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMS)

The Commission welcomed the participation of observers at the meeting.

5. Opening Statements by Contracting Parties and Observers

5.1 Six of the seven Contracting Parties were represented. The Republic of Korea was not represented.

5.2 Contracting Parties presented their opening statements ([Appendix IV](#)) and introduced their respective delegates. The list of participants is provided in [Appendix II](#).

6. Status of the Convention in Respect of Membership

The Executive Secretary informed the meeting that no new notification for accession to the Convention was received during 2018 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The UK was approached by the EU in 2017 to become an official contracting party of SEAFO. The UK has yet to respond positively to this request.

Iceland has not been contacted bilaterally regarding their membership during the past year.

7. Extension of the SEAFO Convention Area

The Commission noted that there were no further developments on this matter since the last Commission meeting.

ACTION: The Commission agreed that this point will not be discussed in future meetings until the current situation changes.

8. Renumbering of the Conservation Measures (CM):

A working document ([DOC/COM/03/2018](#)) requested by the Commission meeting in 2017, was submitted and presented by the Executive Secretary.

By looking at the shortcomings of the current numbering system and comparing this to other RFMO's, it is clear that renumbering of the SEAFO CM's is needed.

Proposed solutions include:

- Conservation measures start with leading alphabetic code indicating the category.
- A trailing 2-digit number identifying the measure within that category.
- Followed in brackets the year the measure was adopted. E.g. CM-TAC-01-(2016),

Recommendations:

- Group the categories under more broad categories.

ACTION: The Commission agreed to adopt the proposed renumbering of the conservation measures bearing in mind the suggestions.

9. Future Biennial Meetings

A working document ([DOC/COM/04/2018](#)) requested by the Commission meeting in 2017 was submitted and presented by the Executive Secretary.

Common practices by other organisations that are conducting biennial Commission meetings includes, virtual meetings and electing Bureaus or Executive Committees to deal with urgent matters during the years the Commission does not meet physically.

The Commission agreed not to pursue the biennial meeting option for now as contracting parties did not reach consensus on such an arrangement due to several concerns due to the fears that virtual meetings and the technical complexities thereof can lead to deterioration of the status of SEAFO.

ACTION: Discussions on Biennial Commission meetings to be continued during the 2019 commission meeting.

10. Report of the 2018 Scientific Committee Meeting

10.1 The Chair of the Scientific Committee, Dr. P. Kainge (Namibia), presented the 2018 SC report to the Commission ([DOC/COM/05/2018](#)).

10.2 Nine Scientific Committee members from 5 Contracting Parties attended the Scientific Committee meeting. In addition, observers from CECAF and ACAP attended the meeting.

The Commission noted that two CP's (Angola and The Republic of Korea) did not attend the meeting and recalled the importance of attending SC meetings.

10.3 The team leader on Marine Biodiversity of CSIRO (Hobart-Tasmania) requested SEAFO to provide fishing effort data for a FAO-GEF-ABNJ Project "CSIRO Component on a Risk Assessment to Biodiversity from Deep Sea Fishing Gears" ([Appendix V](#)).

SC is of the opinion that more clarity is needed on how the data would be used and what the final product will be.

ACTION: The Commission requests that more clarity be provided by CSIRO before any data can be shared.

10.4 Review of Orange roughy TAC

The SC recommended a status quo (zero TAC and 4 tonnes bycatch) in Division B1 and a 50 tonnes TAC in the remainder of the SEAFO CA, subject to exploratory fishing protocols.

ACTION: The Commission adopted this recommendation.

10.5 Review of Deep-sea red crab TAC

The SC recommended a TAC of 171 tonnes in Division B1 and status quo in the remainder of the SEAFO CA (200 tonnes).

ACTION: The Commission adopted this recommendation.

10.6 Review of Patagonian toothfish TAC

The SC recommended a TAC for Sub-area D of 275 tonnes and a zero TAC for the remainder of the SEAFO CA.

ACTION: The Commission adopted this recommendation.

10.7 Review of Alfonsino TAC

The SC recommended a status quo (TAC of 200 tonnes) for the SEAFO CA, of which a maximum of 132 tonnes may be taken in Division B1.

ACTION: The Commission adopted this recommendation.

10.8 Review of Southern boarfish TAC

The SC recommended a status quo (TAC of 135 tonnes).

ACTION: The Commission adopted this recommendation.

10.9 Draft MoU between ACAP Secretariat and SEAFO

The SC recommended that the Commission considers the formalisation of a MoU with ACAP

ACTION: The Commission adopted this recommendation.

10.10 Consideration of protocols for opening of areas closed to all fisheries.

The SC recommended the protocols to the Commission for consideration.

ACTION: The Commission approved the protocols for opening of areas closed to all fisheries

10.11 Japan's Notice of intent for exploratory fishing in 2019.

The SC (excluding Japan) recommended no changes to the decision taken during the 2017 Commission meeting.

Japan noted that

- *The areas proposed for exploratory fishing by Japan were actual fishing grounds in the past. However, these areas were not incorporated into footprints at the outset. SEAFO considered that a small number of operations that had historically taken place did not justify incorporation of these areas into footprints. Through this exploratory fishing plan, therefore, Japan aims not only to re-collect data for the purpose of stock assessment, but also to verify the existence of VME and to examine whether or not these areas could provide grounds for fishing to take place in the future.*
- *If you may recall, at the last annual meeting, Japan submitted the exploratory fishing proposal for 2018, which the Scientific Committee had no objections against its implementation. However, as result of a compromise reached at the Commission, Japan came to terms with excluding the two areas in which only a few percentages of threshold values of VME species were found in the past.*
- *This year, however, the Scientific Committee based its argument on the compromise reached at the Commission last year to recommend that the two areas should be kept closed. The justification for closure of the two areas was the presence of a minimal threshold value of VME species that were found in the past.*

SEAFO 15th Annual Commission Meeting Report (2018)

- *Japan is not satisfied with this rationale of closure at all. The FAO Guideline clearly stipulates that the presence of VME indicators in certain areas does not automatically mean that VMEs do indeed exist in such areas. To base a recommendation of closure on less than a minimal threshold value of VME species found is not in line with the FAO Guideline. Furthermore, it closes doors to further collection of data by means of exploratory fishing, including data on VME.*
- *SEAFO is an international organization which makes its decision based on consensus of all the Contracting Parties present, which Japan respects. Besides, the Nansen survey that includes the two areas in question has not yet started. Therefore, Japan is prepared to accept the recommendation from the Scientific Committee, as per the decision taken by the Commission last year, and to wait for the Nansen survey result.*
- *Nevertheless, on accepting recommendation from the Scientific Committee, Japan must clarify the following points:*
- *First of all, I would like to ask the Scientific Committee, to present scientific justifications for the exclusion of two areas as recommendation to the Commission this year, even though the plan remains exactly the same as the previous year and that the proposal was said to have satisfied the criteria.*
- *On this point, I would like to stress once again that the presence of only less than a few percentages of threshold values of VME indicators does not automatically mean that the VME exists in that area. To stop the exploratory fishing from going ahead because of a minimal threshold value of VME indicators found in the past is to reject exploratory fishing altogether. It also fails to recognize exploratory fishing as a tool for data collection and other measures that are already in place such as VME indicator threshold and move-on rule.*
- *Lastly, Japan would accept recommendation from the Scientific Committee on a condition that the Nansen survey should cover the two areas in question. Unless the presence of VME is noted and the survey finds that the trot line fishery in those two areas could have Significant Adverse Impacts on VME, the two closed areas should be immediately open for exploratory fishing. Japan understands that SEAFO would eventually consider whether or not the explored areas, including the two areas, could be opened up as new fishing grounds for the future*

Norway confirmed that this area is covered in the sailing orders of the Nansen survey and that there is a possibility that this area might be opened if the findings are in line with what Japan is proposing.

ACTION: The Japanese delegation will wait for the results of the Nansen survey, and discuss the opening of these areas in the 2019 commission meeting and the results of the Nansen survey is to be discussed in the 2019 SC meeting.

10.12 Budget for 2019

The SC requires N\$220 000 for genetic (genomics) analysis of orange roughy samples. N\$50 000 is available for the SC from the previous budget (orange roughy and deep-sea red crab workshops). Therefore, the SC requested an additional N\$170 000 for 2019.

ACTION: The Commission took note of this and passed it on to SCAF for discussion

10.13 Norway proposed new text for insertion in the SC Rules of Procedure concerning science policy interface. After discussion no agreement was reached, and the Commission forwarded this point for discussion to the 2019 Commission meeting.

ACTION: The Commission moved this point to the Commission meeting in 2019 for further discussion.

11. Report of the 2018 Compliance Committee Meeting

The Chair of the Compliance Committee, Mr. L. Molledo (EU), presented the 2018 Compliance Committee Report to the Commission ([DOC/COM/06/2018](#)).

11.1 ICCAT Data Proposal

The ES is to draft a MOU between ICCAT and SEAFO regarding the data transfers of ICCAT bycatches in the SEAFO convention area with regards to SEAFO target fisheries.

ACTION: The Commission adopted this proposal and the draft by the ES is to be circulated for contributions by the CPs.

11.2 Training of observers and port inspectors

A request for further SEAFO training for observers (Angola (4 observers) and Namibia (6 observers)) and SEAFO landing procedures (South Africa port inspectors) was supported by the CC. ES to indicate an approximate amount to address the identified training needs for its consideration by SCAF.

ACTION: The Commission adopted this proposal

11.3 Annual Review of the “SYSTEM”

CC recommended the amendment of Article 8 of the SYSTEM to the Commission.

The EU did not support this idea.

ACTION: The Commission did not adopt the recommendation and suggested that this matter must be considered by the SC and CC next year and report back to the Commission.

11.4 Consideration of the provisional SEAFO IUU Vessel list cf. SEAFO “SYSTEM”

Attached to the compliance committee is the updated SEAFO IUU list which is recommended to the Commission for adoption.

ACTION: The Commission adopted this recommendation.

11.5 Bolivian request to remove their flag vessel FV Cape Flower from the SEAFO IUU vessel list.

The presentation by Bolivia during the CC meeting was not sufficient for the CC to make a final conclusion on this matter.

The CC recommended to reject the Bolivian request for the removal of the FV Cape Flower from the SEAFO IUU vessel list.

ACTION 1:

The Commission adopted the recommendation from CC not to remove the FV Cape Flower from the SEAFO IUU Vessel list.

ACTION 2:

Bolivia was requested by the Commission to make a further presentation, after which they were invited to submit the case documentation (in English and Portuguese): VMS positions with 2-hour intervals and the captain's logbook of the specific trip in question to the SEAFO Secretariat to facilitate further intersessional discussions on the case.

12. Report of the 2018 Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) Meeting Report

The Chair of SCAF, Mr. T. Ara (Japan), presented the 2018 report on Administration and Finance ([DOC/COM/07/2018](#)) and the proposed 2019 and forecasted 2020 budget to the Commission.

12.1 Approval of the 2017 Draft Annual Financial Statement (AFS).

SCAF recommended to the Commission to approve the SRF balance of N\$70 246-00 in the DRAFT Annual Financial Statements and therefore approve of the finalization of the AFS by the Secretariate and the Auditors.

ACTION: The Commission adopted the recommendation.

12.2 Amendment of employee contracts to comply with the Namibian labor law.

This topic is to be referred to the 2019 SCAF meeting and the Executive Secretary is to prepare a report on how to change the staff regulations to comply to the Namibian labor law and the financial implications thereof.

ACTION: The Commission adopted the recommendation

12.3 Approval of the 2019 Budget and 2020 forecast Budget

Two budgets were proposed for approval by the commission:

- Budget for 2019 of N\$ 4,180,051.27 (N\$ 82 050, for translation included)
- Alternative budget for 2019 of N\$ 4,249,801.27 (N\$ 150 000 for translation included)

SCAF proposed both budgets to the Commission to approve one of them.

ACTION: The Commission approved the first budget of N\$ 4,180,051.27

13. Report back from meetings attended by the Secretariat

The following reports on meetings presented by the ES during 2018, were submitted to the Commission and the Commission took note of them. The ES presented a synthesis of each meeting.

- 13.1 Joint meeting of BlueBRIDGE Technical Working Group (TWG3) and FIRMS TWG6 on the Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF) from 7-9 Feb 2018 in Rome ([DOC/COM/08/2018](#)).
- 13.2 Feedback Report on ABNJ Deep Seas Project 3rd Project Steering Committee Meeting from 17-18 April 2018 in Cambridge ([DOC/COM/09/2018](#)).
- 13.3 Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN) on 7 & 13 July 2018 in Rome ([DOC/COM/10/2018](#)).
- 13.4 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) from 9-13 July 2018 in Rome ([DOC/COM/11/2018](#)).
- 13.5 1st Session of the IGC on an international legally binding instrument under the UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of ABNJ from 4 to 17 September 2018 in NY ([DOC/COM/12/2018](#)).

14. Reports of SEAFO Representatives at 2018 meetings of other Intergovernmental Organisations.

The Commission noted the reports that were submitted and it was agreed that SEAFO should stop observing NAMMCO as it has little relevance to SEAFO.

- SIOFA annual meeting – EU ([DOC/COM/13/2018](#))
- NAFO annual meeting - EU ([DOC/COM/14/2018](#))
- NAMMCO annual meeting - Norway ([DOC/COM/15/2018](#))
- CCAMLR annual meeting - Norway ([DOC/COM/16/2018](#))
- NEAFC annual meeting - Norway ([DOC/COM/17/2018](#))
- ICCAT annual meeting - Japan ([DOC/COM/18/2018](#))

15. Nominations of Parties to represent SEAFO at 2019 meetings of other International Organizations.

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

- ICCAT: Japan
- CCAMLR and NEAFC: Norway
- NAFO and SIOFA: EU

16. Any other matters

16.1 The Commission took note of the request from Angola to translate all SEAFO documents into Portuguese.

ACTION: The ES was tasked to have as many documents possible translated within the current budget.

17. Election of New Chair and Vice-Chair

The Commission agreed that the current Chair and Vice-chair be elected for a second term. Angola will serve as Chair and the EU as Vice-chair for the next two years (2019 – 2020).

18. Venue and Date of 2019 and 2020 meetings

- Proposed dates for the 2019 Scientific Committee meeting is 19-22 November 2019.
- Proposed dates for the 2019 Annual Commission meeting (including SCAF and CC) is 25-28 November 2019.
- The venue for the 2019 Scientific and Annual Commission meetings is pending. Unless an invitation is provided by a CP before the end of March 2019, the meetings of the SC and the Commission (including SCAF and CC) will take place in Swakopmund.

ACTION: The ES to confirm the venue

19. Adoption of the Commission report

The Commission adopted the report.

20. Closure of the Meeting

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 11:54, Friday 30th November 2018 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 for their positive inputs and wished everyone a safe journey back home.

APPENDIX I: List of Documents, Agenda and Annotated Agenda of the 2018 Commission Meeting

DOC/COM/00/2018



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South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 15TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (COM) - 2018

CHAIR: Mr. V. Gomes (ANGOLA)

Venue: Strand Hotel, Swakopmund

VICE-CHAIR: Mr. L. Molledo (EU)

Date: 26, 29 & 30 November 2018

Document Number	Agenda Item	Document Title	Provider	Availability of Document
DOC/COM/00/2018		List of Documents for 2018 meeting	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/01/2018	All	Provisional agenda for the 15 th Annual Meeting of the Commission	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/02/2018	All	Provisional Annotated agenda for the 15 th Annual Meeting of the Commission	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/03/2018	8	Renumbering of Conservation Measures	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/04/2018	9	Future Biennial Meetings	Secretariate	Available before the meeting
DOC/COM/05/2018	10	Report of the 2018 Scientific Committee	SC	Available at the meeting
DOC/COM/06/2018	11	Report of the 2018 Compliance Committee	CC	Available at the meeting
DOC/COM/07/2018	12	Report of the 2018 Standing Committee on Administration and Finance	SCAF	Available at the meeting

SEAFO 15th Annual Commission Meeting Report (2018)

DOC/COM/00/2018

DOC/COM/08/2018	13	Joint meeting of BlueBRIDGE Technical Working Group (TWG3) and FIRMS TWG6 on the Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF) (7-9 Feb 2018 Rome)	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/09/2018	13	Feedback Report on ABNJ Deep Seas Project 3rd Project Steering Committee Meeting (17-18 April 2018 Cambridge)	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/10/2018	13	Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN) (7 & 13 July 2018 – Rome)	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/11/2018	13	33 rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) (9-13 July 2018 Rome)	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/12/2018	13	1 st Session of the IGC on an international legally binding instrument under the UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of ABNJ. (4 to 17 September 2018 NY)	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/13/2018	14	Report on SIOFA AM	EU	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/14/2018	14	Report on NAFO AM	EU	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/15/2018	14	Report on NAMMCO AM	Norway	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/16/2018	14	Report on CCAMLR AM	Norway	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/17/2018	14	Report on NEAFC AM	Norway	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/18/2018	14	Report on ICCAT AM	Japan	Available before meeting
DOC/COM/19/2018	19	Report on the 2018 Commission Meeting	Japan	Available at the meeting

Circulation Date: 26 October 2017



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South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 15TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (COM)
- 2018**

CHAIR: Mr. V Gomes (ANGOLA)
VICE-AIR: Mr. L. Molledo (EU)

Venue: Strand Hotel, Swakopmund
Date: 26, 29 & 30 November 2018

Agenda Item		Working Document
1	Opening of the Meeting	
2	Appointment of Rapporteur	
3	Adoption of the Agenda and Meeting Arrangements	DOC/COM/00/2018 DOC/COM/01/2018 DOC/COM/02/2018
4	Introduction and Admission of Observers	
5	Opening Statements by Contracting Parties and Observers	
6	Status of the Convention in Respect of Membership	
7	Extension of the SEAFO Convention Area	
8	Renumbering of Conservation Measures	DOC/COM/03/2018
9	Future Biennial Meetings	DOC/COM/04/2018
10	Presentation of 2018 Scientific Committee Rapport	DOC/COM/05/2018
11	Presentation of 2018 Compliance Committee Rapport	DOC/COM/06/2018
12	Presentation of 2018 Standing Committee on Administration and Finance Rapport	DOC/COM/07/2018
13	Reports of meetings attended by the Secretariat	DOC/COM/08/2018 DOC/COM/09/2018 DOC/COM/10/2018 DOC/COM/11/2018 DOC/COM/12/2018
14	Reports of SEAFO Representatives at 2018 meetings of other Organizations	DOC/COM/13/2018 DOC/COM/14/2018 DOC/COM/15/2018 DOC/COM/16/2018 DOC/COM/17/2018 DOC/COM/18/2018
15	Nominations of Parties to represent SEAFO at 2019 meetings of other Organizations	
16	Any other Matters	
17	Election of New Chair and Vice-Chair	
18	Venue and Date of the next Commission meeting	
19	Adoption of the Meeting Report	DOC/COM/19/2018
20	Closure of the Meeting	

Circulation Date: 26 October 2018



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South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE 15TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (COM) - 2018

CHAIR: Mr. V. Gomes (ANGOLA)

Venue: Strand Hotel, Swakopmund

VICE-CHAIR: Mr. L. Molledo (EU)

Date: 26, 29 & 30 November 2018

1. Opening of the meeting

The Meeting will be opened officially by the Chair.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Chairperson will ensure the appointment of rapporteurs.

3. Adoption of Agenda and Meeting Arrangements

The Meeting will review and adopt the agenda. Delegations will be informed of any practical arrangements for the meeting by the Executive Secretary ([DOC/COM/00/2018](#), [DOC/COM/01/2018](#) & [DOC/COM/02/2018](#)).

4. Introduction and Admission of Observers

The Chair will announce observers present.

5. Opening Statement by Contracting Parties and Observers

The Heads of Delegations will introduce members of their delegations and make opening statements. 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 Chair will inform the meeting of the current status of accession to the Convention. Feedback on approaching the UK on behalf of their offshore Territories, Iceland and the USA to accede to the Convention (EU bilaterally with UK and Iceland).

7. Extension of the SEAFO Convention Area

This matter will be further discussed as directed by the Commission meeting in 2017.

8. Renumbering of Conservation Measures

The Executive Secretary will present a proposal on how to renumber the Conservation Measures ([DOC/COM/03/2018](#)).

9. Future Biennial Meetings

The Executive Secretary will present a working document on the options of how to possibly run Biennial Commission meetings in future ([DOC/COM/04/2018](#)).

10. Presentation of the 2018 Scientific Committee Report

The Chair or acting Chair of the Scientific Committee will present a summary of the Scientific Report ([DOC/COM/05/2018](#)) including scientific advice and recommendations to the Commission. The Commission will discuss the Scientific Report and take appropriate decisions on the recommendations made.

11. Presentation of the 2018 Compliance Committee Report

The Chairperson of the Compliance Committee will present a summary of the Compliance Committee Report ([DOC/COM/06/2018](#)) including recommendations to the Commission. The Commission will discuss the Compliance Committee Report and take appropriate decisions.

12. Presentation of the 2018 Standing Committee on Administration and Finance Report

The Chair, Mr K. Bjorklund (Norway), of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance will present a summary of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance Report ([DOC/COM/07/2018](#)) including recommendations to the Commission. The Commission will discuss the report and take appropriate decisions.

13. Report back from meetings attended by the Secretariat

The Executive Secretary will report back on meetings attended namely:

- 13.1 Joint meeting of BlueBRIDGE Technical Working Group (TWG3) and FIRMS TWG6 on the Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF) (7-9 Feb 2018 Rome) ([DOC/COM/08/2018](#)) – Lizette Voges
- 13.2 Feedback Report on ABNJ Deep Seas Project 3rd Project Steering Committee Meeting (17-18 April 2018 Cambridge) ([DOC/COM/09/2018](#)) – Lizette Voges
- 13.3 Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN) (7 & 13 July 2018 – Rome) ([DOC/COM/10/2018](#)) – Lizette Voges
- 13.4 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) (9-13 July 2018 Rome) ([DOC/COM/11/2018](#)) – Lizette Voges
- 13.5 1st Session of the IGC on an international legally binding instrument under the UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of ABNJ. (4 to 17 September 2018 NY) ([DOC/COM/12/2018](#)) – Lizette Voges

The Commission will take note of the reports presented by the Executive Secretary.

14. Reports of SEAFO Representatives at 2018 meetings of other Intergovernmental Organisations

SEAFO representatives at 2018 meetings of other Intergovernmental Organisations will report back to Commission on meetings attended. SEAFO representatives will bring to the attention of the meeting specific issue(s), if any, arose from the meetings. The Commission will take note of the reports presented ([DOC/COM/13/2018](#), [DOC/COM/14/2018](#), [DOC/COM/15/2018](#), [DOC/COM/16/2018](#), [DOC/COM/17/2018](#), [DOC/COM/18/2018](#)).

ICCAT: Japan

NAFO and **SIOFA:** EU

NEAFC, CCAMLR and **NAMMCO:** Norway

15. Nominations of Parties to represent SEAFO at 2019 meetings of other International Organizations

The Commission will nominate representatives to the following meetings:

- ICCAT (2019)
- NEAFC (2019))
- NAFO (2019)
- CCAMLR (2019)
- NAMMCO (2019)
- SIOFA (2019)

16. Any other matters

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

17. Election of New Chair and Vice chair

The New Chair and Vice chair will be elected for 2019 and 2020.

18. Venue and date of the next Commission meeting

The meeting will agree on a venue and date for the next meeting.

19. Adoption of the meeting report

The meeting report will be adopted ([DOC/COM/19/2018](#)).

20. Closure of meeting

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

Circulation Date: 26 October 2018

APPENDIX II – List of Participants 2018 Commission Meeting

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SEAFO 15th Annual Commission Meeting Report (2018)

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SEAFO 15th Annual Commission Meeting Report (2018)

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SEAFO 15th Annual Commission Meeting Report (2018)

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Appendix III: Opening Address

Opening Address – Mr. Venancio Gomes (Chairperson of the SEAFO Commission)

OPENING SPEECH OF THE 15TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH EAST ATLANTIC
FISHERY ORGANIZATION – SEAFO
SWAKOPMUND-NAMIBIA

- *ESTEEMED HEADS OF DELEGATIONS,*
- *ESTIMATED DELEGATES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES,*
- *ESTEEMED OBSERVERS*
- *LADIES AND GENTLEMEN*

On behalf of Her Excellency Madam Minister for Fisheries and the Sea for the Republic of Angola **Dra. Victoria de Barros Neto**, in my personal name and the delegation accompanying me, I would like to firstly thank, for the invitation to preside over the opening of the *15th Annual Meeting of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization-SEAFO*, *I hereby Present, Cordials Greetings to all delegations present.*

Let me also say that it is with great satisfaction and pleasure that I take the floor, according to the opportunity granted to me to preside over this grand event, congratulating the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Executive secretariat of SEAFO, for the excellent organization, of this important event, in this beautiful town of Swakopmund.

Esteemed members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen,

Recognizing and congratulating the efforts made by the SEAFO secretariat to implement a dynamism in planning and conducting the activities of this Organization, our support is unconditional.

With this dynamism several activities were carried out and developed during the year 2018, of which we will have the opportunity to hear them during our work.

Still in the path of this dynamism, an effort should be concerted, in the following:

1. The sharing of information of all documents in the Portuguese language;
2. The continuation of the cooperation protocols with the member states;

3. Strengthening the human and technical resources of the Secretariat, with the aim of proceeding with the proper monitoring of SEAFO

Esteemed members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen,

The value and potential of the oceans are undeniable and constitute one of mankind's richest patrimony, contributing significantly to the progress of societies and to improving the lives of the populations in general.

The sea in particular has essential functionalities that have evolved according to the interests of States and international organizations.

The South East Atlantic Ocean, plays an important role in the development of our countries in particular in food security and job creation.

I consider that the sea, is the geostrategic, geopolitical and economic resource vital to contribute towards the development and creation of value in the world economy, despite being the least explored.

Esteemed members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen,

Prior to conclusion, I would bring you into remembrance that Angola took over the presidency of this very important organization in 2016, and today the mandate comes to an end, regardless of the challenges that have been recorded, I feel comfortable saying the Institutional duty has been fulfilled.

In this conformity I request support from everyone for the new Chairperson, to whom I wish and hope for a successful mandate.

Thank you very much!

I hereby officially declare open the 15th Annual Meeting of the South East Atlantic Fishery Organization – SEAFO.

Appendix IV: Opening Statements:

Angola

Muito Obrigado Senhor Presidente.

Bom dia a todos os Presentes.

Aproveitamos do ensejo para em primeira instância agradecer o Secretariado Executivo da SEAFO, pelo convite formulado à República de Angola com vista a sua participação em mais uma reunião anual da Organização. Expresso de igual modo os agradecimentos ao Governo da República da Namíbia por albergar a sede da Organização nesta bela cidade de Swakopmund e reconhecer todo o apoio que tem prestado para o pleno funcionamento da SEAFO.

Uma palavra de incentivo ao Presidente da Comissão da SEAFO recém indicado, augurando sucessos na sua nova tarefa.

Estimados Membros da Comissão;

A República de Angola está a viver uma nova era, que se enquadra num novo ciclo de gestão, com o foco principal na implementação de acções que encaminhem o País para o alcance do desenvolvimento sustentável, por conseguinte afigura-se imprescindível a sua participação e afirmação nas Organizações Regionais e Internacionais.

A realçar, Angola possui uma vasta extensão marítima, com uma linha de costa de 1650 km, a sua biodiversidade é bastante rica e diversificada, que tem sido objecto de estudo permanente por parte do Instituto Nacional de Investigação Pesqueira e Marinha (INIPM), Órgão superintendido do Ministério das Pescas e do Mar, vocacionado para a realização de estudos de investigação científica. Esta base de estudo vai ser reforçada, pois que, o Executivo Angolano adquiriu um novo navio de investigação de grande porte.

No entanto, é de todo interesse conhecer as potencialidades em termos de recursos e o ecossistema do mar profundo, adjacente a Zona Económica Exclusiva do País, que por sinal enquadra-se no perímetro da Zona de Convenção da SEAFO. Estamos cónscios de que este conhecimento só será adquirido com base nas iniciativas e acções (programas, documentos e estudos), gizadas em consenso entre as Partes que integram esta Organização Regional de Gestão das Pescarias do Sudeste Atlântico.

Senhor Presidente, Distintos Membros das Delegações, temos vindo a manifestar ao longo dos anos, a nossa firme intenção de beneficiar da exploração dos recursos disponíveis na zona de Convenção da SEAFO, sensibilizando os Armadores Nacionais e não só a efectuarem o licenciamento de embarcações para este fim. É uma tarefa que vamos continuar a desenvolver até que se alcance o desejado.

Para terminar, e mais uma vez devemos reiterar aqui, a prontidão do nosso País em continuar a fazer Parte desta importante Organização de Gestão das Pescarias do Sudeste Atlântico, cumprindo com as suas obrigações, pois que, partimos do pressuposto de que trabalhando de forma cooperativa e coordenada no âmbito da Organização, se alcançam mais rapidamente os objectivos preconizados.

Bem haja!

Muito obrigado.

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Japan

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Japanese delegation, I would like to thank the Government of Namibia for the hospitality to host the 15th Annual Meeting of SEAFO, and I am glad I am able to come back again to this beautiful coastal city of Swakopmund. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Secretariat staff for their excellent preparatory works for this meeting.

As everybody agrees, SEAFO has been playing an important role to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Convention Area. Japan fully supports the sustainable use of marine living resources while taking account of possible impact from fisheries to ecosystem based on the scientific evidences.

We will be busy this week as on top of the biennial TAC decisions for primary species, some less routine issues such as extension of the Convention Area to cover the southwestern part of the Atlantic and frequency of the Commission meeting—for us to meet physically every 2nd year—are on the Agenda.

We are quite ready to work with other delegations on these important issues which are critical for the future of SEAFO.

However, I would like to point out, at this point, that these issues arise from the recent trend of this organization. Activities of SEAFO are becoming less and less active with only a few vessels operating for a limited number of stocks. As we repeatedly said earlier that SEAFO Convention Area is not an attractive fishing ground for fishers thanks to the excessive protection of marine ecosystem and the stringent conservation measures adopted by SEAFO. We fully value the importance of marine ecosystem protection and the conservation of fishery resources. We respect the concept of precautionary approach. However, there should be an appropriate balance between the ecosystem protection, resource conservation and the sustainable utilization of fisheries resources. SEAFO must not only impose duty for fishermen but also provide proper opportunity for them.

I believe this is the right time for us to consider reactivation of SEAFO by making this organization much more friendly to fishers. Otherwise there will no future for this organization.

We are looking forward to working constructively with all delegations around the table in order to achieve the best possible result for SEAFO stocks and ecosystems and to make this meeting a success.

Thank you very much.

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Namibia

Chair, it is a great honor for me and my delegation to participate in this 15th Annual Meeting of the SEAFO Commission. Chair, I would firstly and foremost like to extend Namibia's congratulations on your appointment to the chair of the Commission. Namibia is confident that you will steer this organization in the right direction and we shall render our support to you in so doing. Furthermore, as the host nation, I would like to make use of this opportunity to welcome all delegations once again to this beautiful town of Swakopmund, and trust that you will take time to explore around and to experience the Namibian hospitality.

Chair, Namibia has been a party to this Convention since its inception and we are truly proud to have contributed to the growth and progress made by this Organization and the

achievements in our endeavor to strike a balance in the utilization and conservation of the resources in the Convention Area, since the Convention entered into force. Namibia is equally cognizant of the challenges that have been facing the Organization, especially the lack of adequate data to enable robust stock assessment and ensuring the sustainability of the resources under our purview.

Chair, I am glad to report that Namibia was compliant with the reporting requirements and obligations and that we shall strive to improve on the VMS requirement of reporting on a two hourly basis, the submission of annual updated vessel list and logbook reports which were submitted beyond the reporting date specified in the SEAFO System. To overcome some of these challenges, Namibia requests that SEAFO provides additional training to more fisheries observers and inspectors in areas of SEAFO Forms and reports, species identification and the SEAFO System, including port state measures.

Chair, I am glad to further report that Namibia had one Namibian registered vessel fishing in the SEAFO Convention Area during the reporting period under review. The vessel was fishing for Red Crab using pots as fishing gear and no IUU fishing was observed during their fishing operation in the SEAFO Convention Area. Chair, the vessel submitted advance request to enter port on completion of fishing and her offloading was monitored by Namibian fisheries inspectors where after Port Inspection was done and inspection reports submitted to SEAFO Secretariat.

The vessel managed to catch almost all of the allocated TAC for 2018 in the CA, clearly demonstrating the Namibian capacity to fully utilize the resource and provide the needed information for better management of the crab resource in the SEAFO CA.

Chair, Namibia has also been monitoring the orange roughy resource within our national jurisdiction and have collected samples during the 2018 annual survey for stock identification as was requested during the SEAFO Scientific Committee last year. Namibia will continue to avail information such as the catch and effort analysis of orange roughy and deep sea red Crab and resources to SEAFO, where possible, to contribute to a greater understanding of fish resources. Namibia therefore urges the Commission to seek mechanisms that would encourage CPs to harvest available resources and provide the required information without compromising the sustainability of the ecosystem.

Namibia wishes to extend our appreciation to CPs and partners who contribute significantly to towards managing the resources under the SEAFO purview responsibly. Namibia is aware that, in the coming months, the kingdom of Norway through the FAO/EAF Nansen program will undertake a scientific survey in SEAFO CA, which will provide much needed scientific information to enhance the understanding and management of these important fishing grounds.

Lastly Chair, we look forward to the deliberations during this meeting and hope that we shall reach consensus, bearing in mind our responsibility to sustainable utilize the SEAFO CA resources.

I thank you

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Norway

Chairperson, distinguished representatives, observers, ladies and gentlemen.

The Norwegian delegation is pleased to once again participate at an annual SEAFO meeting in Namibia, and in particular we are happy to be in Swakupmund, this beautiful spot at the Atlantic coast. I would like to thank the Government of Namibia for its hospitality and also the secretariat for organising the meeting.

Norway is looking forward to be informed about the outcome of the Scientific Committee that met last week. I am aware that there has been some challenges concerning the science-policy interface. We may consider to amend the rules of procedures of the Committee in order to make it clear that although members represent the different Contracting Parties in the Committee, scientists should commit to serve in their personal capacities. (Representatives shall adhere to the objective of SEAFO as described in the SEAFO Convention, ensuring that the advice generated shall be impartial and objective, based on best available science alone, and on best practice for science conduct.

Further on the science issue, As notified by the Executive Secretary, including several reminders, the research vessel Dr. Fridtjof Nansen will under an FAO program, undertake a survey in the SEAFO Convention Area early 2019 (24 January- 25 February). This is a follow-up of the successful cruise that took place in 2015. The overall objective is to further develop the databases and collections to benefit regional science and enhance the understanding of the Southeast Atlantic ecosystems. A particular effort will be made to sample target fish resources to obtain more biological data. Then it is most unfortunate that y scientists from only three Contracting Parties will participate. Norway would like to encourage broader participation in this important effort to gather more information of the area covered by the SEAFO Convention, and thereby improve the knowledge base for the Scientific Committee. It should be noted that participation is cost free.

Like other RFMOs, SEAFO has taken a series of measures in response to calls from the UN General Assembly to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems, including area closures and a framework concerning identification of existing and new areas. In this context, Norway would like to mention the so-called BBNJ process (i.e. the ongoing negotiations in the UN for the establishment of a new global agreement on biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction), which also will impact the management of fisheries. It is important not to create an instrument that undermines the competences and roles of RFMOs (such as SEAFO), and that for example the establishments of marine protected areas are done at regional levels, based on cooperation between regional and sectorial organizations. Norway would like to take this opportunity to strongly urge Contracting Parties to include fisheries management expertise in their delegations at the upcoming BBNJ meetings to ensure the interests of fisheries and RFMOs are adequately taken into account.

Last year the Commission had a preliminary discussion about the idea for the Commission to meet every second year, instead of annually like now. Norway is of the view that time is now right to agree on such approach, noting also that the Commission this year will establish two-year quotas for all the fish stock under SEAFO management.

Norway is prepared to work hard for the next days contributing to the success of this year's annual meeting

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South Africa

Good morning Chairperson of SEAFO

Heads of Delegations and their distinguished delegations

SEAFO Secretariat and Staff

Observers

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Chairperson on behalf of the South African Delegation, I would first like to take this opportunity to welcome you as the new Chairperson of SEAFO (Dr Venâncio Soares Gomes) and look forward to your leadership in the sustainable management of the high seas of the South East Atlantic. Further, I would once again wish to extend a special word of thanks to the Government and the people of the Republic of Namibia for hosting the 2018 Annual meetings of SEAFO in the beautiful town/city of Swakopmund where two very vast and different biomes of sea and desert are uniquely and intrinsically found right next to together.

Chairperson, it is a great pleasure for South Africa to be part of this 15th Annual meeting of the SEAFO Commission. In addition, South Africa wishes to express gratitude and appreciation to the Executive Secretary for the remarkable work they have done in organizing this meeting, as well the intercessional Committee Meetings that have preceded this one and those that will be taking place during the course of this week.

Chairperson, as South Africa approaches the 25 years of democracy the Government continues to have national priorities reaffirming its commitment to the people of South Africa: to eradicate poverty, improve food security, job creation, contribute to sustainable livelihoods, rural development, health, education and crime prevention. South Africa is a trading and maritime nation; our international relations actively seek to emphasize the significance of these through national initiatives such as Phakisa” and the focus on the Blue Economy to derive maximum economic benefit from our oceans. South Africa’s

security, the well-being of our people and international peace are all linked to economic growth. South Africa’s active participation in regional fisheries management organizations and world economic fora is a central part of its foreign policy.

Chairperson no RFMO opening address could be complete without addressing the world’s over a billion dollar single most threatening attribute to fishing, being Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Unfortunately, widespread unsustainable fishing practices have left capture fisheries with a shrinking resource base that translate into a shrinking contribution to food security. IUU fishing has been the major negative impact on biodiversity, social and economic development as well as food security. South Africa today is still experiencing illegal foreign fishing vessels in her shores; however concerted efforts to ensure that our ports are not used as ports of convenience have been well established. Having acceded to PSMA IN 2016, SA has the tools to effectively mitigate these problems and we recently notice decrease of suspected IUU vessels visiting or attempting to use our ports.

Chairperson, Distinguished delegates, South Africa is pleased to announce that on 29 September 2018 history was made when we allocated the first ever long-term small-scale fishing rights. This reaffirms South Africa’s commitment to her people in fishing as the first custodians of fisheries.

Chairperson, South Africa’s fisheries management is based on the Precautionary and Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management. This also attests to South Africa’s vested interest in the “Future of SEAFO” to ensure mechanisms are put in place to ensure its continued existence and progressive growth and advancement.

SEAFO 15th Annual Commission Meeting Report (2018)

Chairperson, I hope that all countries here today will continue to display improved commitment through discussions, as they have done in the past Commission meetings, to find a balance between long-term conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources in the South East Atlantic Ocean.

I thank you.