

Conservation Measures 06/06 on the Management Of Vulnerable Deep Water Habitats And Ecosystems In The SEAFO Convention Area

The Parties to the SEAFO Convention:

RECOGNISING the need to adopt mechanisms to protect vulnerable deep water habitats and ecosystems in the South East Atlantic Ocean;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing and the need to respect the biological resources and their environment as well as the interests of consumers and other users;

CONSISTENT with the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, in particular the provisions requiring the application of the precautionary approach and the protection of biodiversity in the marine environment;

RECALLING the Ministerial Declaration of the Conference on the Governance of High Seas Fisheries and the UN Fish Agreement of May 2005 and the emphasis laid on the need to address gaps in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity and sensitive marine ecosystems;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the recovery from damage to vulnerable habitats produced by fishing gear is either impossible or very difficult and slow;

TAKING NOTE of the advice provided by the Scientific Committee as regards the areas of vulnerable habitats and ecosystems;

CONSIDERING that it is important to ensure that seamounts which had not been exploited to date or had been slightly exploited, should be protected from any new fisheries until the necessary scientific information has been collected in order to permit an assessment of the areas concerned

Have agreed as follows:

1. All fishing activities for species covered by the SEAFO Convention shall be prohibited from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2010 in the areas defined in Annex 1.
2. The Commission shall consider at its 2007 Annual Meeting according access from 1 January 2008 on a small scale and restricted exploratory fishery for an area not exceeding 20% of the fishable area of each seamount.

The Scientific Committee, based on existing survey and commercial data from these seamount areas, will recommend to the Commission the representative areas that may be fished on each seamount.

3. The Scientific Committee is requested to provide recommendations to the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Commission on:

- a) Areas that could be fished on each seamount, and,
 - b) A protocol for the collection of the data required to assess the stocks situation on these seamounts, with a view to developing future recommendations on management measures for these areas.
4. Contracting Parties shall communicate to the Executive Secretary information relating to fishing activities that have been undertaken in 2004, 2005 and 2006 in areas identified in annex 1, using the following format,

Type of Fishing	Effort Measurement	Total Catch (Mt)
Trawlers	a. Kilowatt / fishing days b. Vessel / fishing days	
Longliners	a. Gross tonnage / fishing days b. Average number of hooks deployed/ Number of deployments	
Others	a. Gross tonnage / fishing days	

5. Vessels may only fish from 1 January 2008 in the defined areas in accordance with the Commissions decision as mentioned in paragraph 2 and with the protocol for data collection adopted by the Commission. Such vessels fishing in the areas defined in Annex 1 shall, in addition, conform with the requirement of having a scientific observer on board and other pertinent measures.
6. If vessels fishing in the areas defined in Annex 1 encounter hard corals, immediate notification of the location of the coral area shall be provided to the Executive Secretary, who shall immediately implement a temporary closure of that area and notify this temporary closure to all Contracting Parties pending a decision of the Commission at the next Annual Meeting.
7. The measures provided in the above paragraphs shall be reviewed in 2010 by the Commission, based on the advice of the Scientific Committee, and a decision shall be taken on future management, which may include the extension of the application of these measures for an additional period or making the closure(s) permanent.

ANNEX 1

Areas (Seamounts), and their coordinates prohibited to fisheries in accordance with paragraph 1

SUB-DIVISION A1

Area: (Dampier Seamount), Number 1 on attached map - already slightly exploited

Coordinates:

10°00'S 02°00'W 10°00'S 00°00'E
12°00'S 02°00'W 12°00'S 00°00'E

Area: (Malahit Guyot Seamount), Number 2 on the attached map - already slightly exploited

Coordinates:

11°00'S 02°00'W 11°00'S 04°00'W
13°00'S 02°00'W 13°00'S 04°00'W

SUB-DIVISION B1

Area: (Molloy Seamount), Number 5 on the attached map - already exploited

Coordinates:

27°00'S 08°00'E 27°00'S 10°00'E
29°00'S 08°00'E 29°00'S 10°00'E

DIVISION C

Area: (Schmidt-Ott Seamount & Erica Seamount), Number 9 on the attached map - considered to be unexploited

Coordinates:

37°00'S 13°00'E 37°00'S 17°00'E
40°00'S 13°00'E 40°00'S 17°00'E

Area: (Africana seamount), Number 8 on the attached map - considered to be unexploited

Coordinates:

37°00'S 28°00'E 37°00'S 30°00'E
38°00'S 28°00'E 38°00'S 30°00'E

Area: (Panzarini Seamount), Number 10 on the attached map - considered to be unexploited

Coordinates:

39°00'S 11°00'E 39°00'S 13°00'E
41°00'S 11°00'E 41°00'S 13°00'E

SUB-DIVISION C1

Area: (Vema Seamount), Number 6 on the attached map - already exploited

Coordinates:

31°00'S 08°00'E 31°00'S 09°00'E
32°00'S 08°00'E 32°00'S 09°00'E

Area : (Wust Seamount), Number 7 on the attached map - considered to be unexploited

Coordinates:

33°00'S 06°00'E 33°00'S 08°00'E
34°00'S 06°00'E 34°00'S 08°00'E

DIVISION D

Area : (Discovery, Junoy, Shannon Seamounts), Number 11 on the attached map - considered to be unexploited

Coordinates:

41°00'S 06°00'W 41°00'S 03°00'E
44°00'S 06°00'W 44°00'S 03°00'E

Area : (Schwabenland & Herdman Seamounts), Number 12 on the attached map - considered to be unexploited

Coordinates:

44°00'S 01°00'W 44°00'S 02°00'E
47°00'S 01°00'W 47°00'S 02°00'E

