



Press Release

Swakopmund, Namibia-The South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) held its 12th Annual Meeting on 30th November to 3rd December 2015.

Based on the best available scientific information, the Commission adopted the recommendations by the Scientific Committee to set TAC's for Patagonian toothfish and Deep-sea red crab.

The Commission adopted a Conservation Measure dealing with Bottom Fishing Activities and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the SEAFO Convention Area. The newly agreed measure consolidates existing measures aimed at protecting areas which contain concentrations of coral, sponge, and sea-pens. It aims to strengthen SEAFOs response to UNGA Res. 61/105 and further serves to protect the benthos from significant adverse impacts caused by fishing. As a result of the R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen survey conducted in the SEAFO Convention Area in 2015, the Commission agreed to close an additional area of approximately 195km² adjacent to the Valdivia Bank seamount. The closure will be effective for all gears except pots and longlines. Following several years of exploratory fishing, and based on a recommendation from the Scientific Committee, the Commission has agreed to extend the current "existing bottom fishing area", in sub-area D, to longline fishing.

The "SEAFO System" was improved to accommodate the mandatory reporting of logbook data, by vessels, to the Executive Secretary. To further facilitate the global fight against IUU and to be consistent with other similar fisheries bodies, SEAFO agreed to include the vessel IMO number in all reports relating to vessel identification. Moreover, the IMO number remains unchanged and therefore can be used to track the vessel during its lifetime. The SEAFO IUU Vessel list was adopted by the Commission.

The Commission agreed on guidelines for a second Performance Review of the Commission in 2016.

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