



SOUTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANISATION
REPORT OF THE 21ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE - 2025

18 - 20 November 2025
Virtual & In Person, Swakopmund
NAMIBIA



The Secretariat

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Chairperson of SEAFO Scientific Committee

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1. Opening of meeting by the Chairperson

The 21st Annual Meeting of the SEAFO Scientific Committee (SC) was convened from the 18th to the 20th of November 2025 virtually and some in person attendance at the Swakopmund Sands Hotel in Swakopmund, NAMIBIA.

The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Ms. Zimasa Jika from the Republic of South Africa. She encouraged all SC members to participate freely in order to find best possible advice to the Commission.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Erich Maletzky was appointed as rapporteur for the 21st SEAFO SC meeting.

3. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements

An addition to the original agenda was made under Agenda Point 15.3 related to Observer Training by the FAO Deep-Sea Fisheries (DSF) Project ([DOC/SC/01/2025](#)) ([Appendix I](#)). Members were informed of the practical arrangements for the meeting by the ES.

4. Introduction and Admission of Observers

Three observers joined the meeting – contact details listed under the “Observers” section of [Appendix II](#).

- Dr. Megan Tierney: Vice-Convenor of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) Seabird Bycatch Working Group
- Dr. Keith Reid: Consultant for the FAO Deep-Sea Fisheries (DSF) Project
- Dr. Edoardo Mostarda: EAF-Nansen Programme

5. Introduction of Delegations

The Heads of Delegations introduced their delegations. Five SC members attended the 21st SEAFO SC meeting in person and seven members attended virtually (see Appendix II for list of participants). No members from the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Angola attended the meeting.

6. Review of submitted SEAFO working documents and any related presentations, allocation to the agenda items.

Fourteen documents were submitted to the SC for review and were considered during the 21st SEAFO SC meeting ([DOC/SC/00/2025](#)) ([Appendix I](#)).

7. Review of the 2025 work program.

The work program for 2025 was discussed and covered the following areas of work:

7.1 *Inclusion of historical catches from EEZs in Stock Status Reports (SSR):*

The ES followed up with the Republic of South Africa to provide catches recorded in the EEZ to get a full picture of the Orange roughy historical catches in the SE Atlantic.

It was noted that historical catch data from adjacent EEZ areas for other species (i.e. Deep-sea red crab, Alfonsino and Patagonian toothfish) also need to be added to the stock status reports, as in the Orange roughy SSR, for consistency.

SC discussed the issue of genetic studies that revealed differences, for some species, between the SEAFO CA and adjacent EEZ areas. In the case of Deep-sea red crab, a genetics study conducted in 2017, indicated that Deep-sea red crabs found in the SEAFO CA and the adjacent Namibian EEZ are two genetically distinct species (*Chaceon erytheiae* and *Chaceon maritae*, respectively). Furthermore, the genetics study concluded in 2024 revealed that (although being the same species) the Orange roughy stocks found in the SEAFO CA and Namibian EEZ appear to be separate stocks. SC agreed that, notwithstanding the results of the genetic studies, inclusion of historical catches (from adjacent National EEZs) in the SSRs remains beneficial for the scientific work required in the SEAFO CA.

7.2 *Finalization of CPUE standardization for the Patagonian toothfish fishery and possibly carry out model assessment (e.g. JABBA) (Mr. John Kathena et al.):*

SC noted that the outstanding data required for the completion of this assignment was received relatively late during 2025 – which limited the due diligence on the CPUE standardization work needed for this stock. The SC noted that data on a new fishing gear was made available during the last two years; it will be interesting to include this data into the “gear covariate” of the CPUE standardization for this stock. SC postponed the feedback on this assignment to the 2026 SC Meeting.

7.3 *Finalization of Standardized SEAFO SC maps:*

Mr. Maletzky informed SC that work on the Standardized SEAFO Maps is ongoing and that finalization of the maps are delayed by technical issues related to 3rd Party Software required for ensuring the user-friendly implementation of the R Scripts used for compiling the maps. Mr. Maletzky was unable to give a timeline on the finalization of the maps, but will notify the Secretariat as soon as the maps are ready for use.

7.4 a) *Approaches to identify and quantify VME indicator species:*

ES followed up with the Nansen Programme since February 2025 for a proposal in this regard but is still awaiting a response. This activity will be conducted in collaboration with the proposed CORDAP Cartography Project (Agenda Point 15.1).

b) *Submit a letter of intent to continue corroborative research work with EAF-Nansen Programme:*

The ES sent the Letter of Intent, compiled by SC, to the programme manager on the 17th of February 2025. The response was that the Nansen programme cannot confirm that the vessel will operate in west Africa in 2026. Therefore, the EAF-Nansen Programme will not be able to support SEAFO with a survey, unless there are cancellations in the planned surveys for 2026 – in which case SEAFO will be notified accordingly. SC was informed that the Dr. Fridtjof Nansen is scheduled for research work along the coast of West Africa in 2027 – with the intent to allocate survey time to the SEAFO CA in the 1st quarter of 2027.

7.5 *Review of the conservation measure (CM 25/12) to be finalised intersessionally:*

A draft review of Conservation Measure 25 of 2012 (CM 25/12) was presented to SC by Mr. Roberto Sarralde and Dr. Megan Tierney (DOC/SC/10/2025) for consideration by the SC. Amendments included structural changes (restructuring of the original text) as well as a number of amendments and additions to the original text to bring CM 25/12 into alignment with international developments and ACAP Best Practice Advice on the mitigation of seabird bycatch in commercial fisheries. SC discussed the proposed amendments at length and agreed that more time is needed to fully appreciate the proposed changes, and as such the final decision on the proposed changes will be deferred to the 2026 SC Meeting. SC agreed that the document would be further investigated intersessionally with inputs or comments on Table 1 of the document to be forwarded to the Secretariat by the 13th of April 2026, and a virtual meeting scheduled for the 13th of May 2026.

7.6 *Alignment of Observer data form and Captain logbook for longlines:*

The ES informed SC that the revised Observer Data Form and the Captain's Logbook for SEAFO Longline Fisheries were deployed since April 2025. Based on feedback from Observers, Captains and CPs, some changes were made, and the ES will further streamline the forms for continued use during the 2026 fishing season and onwards.

7.7 *The ES to update VME bycatch summary table with the column on kg/1000 hooks to be given to the maximum bycatch segment for sponges and corals rather than for the whole trip:*

The ES informed SC that this assignment was completed and implemented during 2025.

7.8 *Look into the potential of adding maps to identify hotspots of VMEs bycatch in the stock status report of the Patagonian toothfish:*

The SC noted that the current VME maps only plot incidence of occurrence (VME taxa reported during commercial fishing operations) while more detailed maps on VME hotspots are needed. It was agreed that for the interim the maps generated by the ES will be incorporated in the SSRs until more detailed VME bycatch maps are produced for the SSRs.

7.9 *ES to add confidence intervals to CPUE for Orange roughy in the stock status report (Fig. 3) (DOC/SC/06/2025):*

The ES prepared Figure 3 with the CI's included and circulated it to the SC – which was incorporated into the 2025 Orange roughy SSR.

7.10 The SC to review the HCR intersessionally:

The SC noted that the context around the HCR review pertains to the 5-year slope of the CPUE trend applied to the Patagonian toothfish fishery. SC discuss the review and agreed that this should be postponed to the next physical (in-person) meeting of the SC. The current situation is that there exists three different CPUE series (from Namibian, Spanish & Japanese fleets) which need to be standardized into a single CPUE index to be used in the HCR.

7.11 Review CCAMLR toothfish tagging protocol to implement in the SEAFO CA:

Mr Roberto Sarralde and Mr. John Kathena submitted a document to the SC for consideration (DOC/SC/13/2025) which proposed an increase in the tagging rate from the current one to three fish per tonne of green weight (from commercial fishing activities), but not on a voluntary basis. The SC recalled the discussion in SEAFO SC 2024: The SC recognised the merit of increasing the tagging rate but decided to first evaluate the recapture statistics at the current tagging rate (SEAFO/SC/Report/2024, AP: 16.3). The SC noted the low recapture numbers in 2025 and the need to revisit the fish/tonnage tagging criterion for report-back to the 2026 SC Meeting.

8. Report by the Executive Secretary presenting landing tables updated to the end of August 2025.

The ES presented data and related information submitted by Contracting Parties up to the end of August 2025.

Landings data from five fishing trips (one longline trip from 2024; three longline trips from 2025 and one Pot trip from 2025) have been validated and added to the landing tables. All retained and discarded catches were presented in the landings tables (DOC/SC/03/2025).

Japan fished in the SEAFO CA after the end of August 2025 and the data will be added to the landing tables to be presented at the next SC meeting in 2026.

SC noted a concern on the high bycatch of macrourids (Table 18) from the autolines employed by certain fleets within the SEAFO CA. SC suggested exploring measures to reduce or mitigate the high bycatch from this fishing gear, such as spatial closures; bycatch thresholds (move-on rules) and others.

9. Review spatial and temporal distribution of fishing activity and biological data.

The spatial distribution maps for all fishing activities recorded from September 2024 to the end of August 2025, as well as the biological data tables, were presented to the SC by the ES (DOC/SC/04/2025).

The ES reported on the tag releases of Patagonian toothfish which were conducted in 2025 by the longline vessels. Four recaptures were recorded in the SEAFO CA, two in Division D1 and two in Division D0, of fish that were tagged in the same areas in 2024 and 2025 and also two fish which were tagged in the CCAMLR area in 2013.

10. Review the spatial distribution of reported catches of benthic organisms (corals, sponges etc.).

The SC reviewed the updated data on incidental catches of VME taxa from the bottom longline fishery (Tables 27-47 of DOC/SC/03/2025) for data on VME taxa. The SC reviewed both the quantities and spatial distribution of catches (DOC/SC/04/2025) and noted that no encounters (as per Article 8 of CM 30/15) have been recorded to date.

11. Review Stock Status Reports

Stock status reports for Patagonian toothfish, Orange roughy, Deep-sea red crab, Pelagic armourhead, and Alfonsino were updated and reviewed by the SC. In line with directives from the 2024 Commission Meeting catches from neighbouring EEZ areas for relevant stocks were added to the Stock Status Reports during the 2025 SC Meeting. Most CPs provided the requested EEZ catch data with catch data from other CPs still pending (for inclusion in the 2026 SSRs).

11.1 Patagonian toothfish - ([DOC/SC/05/2025](#))

The SC reviewed and approved all changes made to the Stock Status Report during the 21st SEAFO SC meeting.

11.2 Orange roughy - ([DOC/SC/06/2025](#))

The SC reviewed and approved all changes made to the Stock Status Report during the 21st SEAFO SC meeting.

11.3 Deep-sea red crab - ([DOC/SC/07/2025](#))

The SC reviewed and approved all changes made to the Stock Status Report during the 21st SEAFO SC meeting.

11.4 Pelagic armourhead / Southern boarfish - ([DOC/SC/08/2025](#))

The SC reviewed and approved all changes made to the Stock Status Report during the 21st SEAFO SC meeting.

11.5 Alfonsino - ([DOC/SC/09/2025](#))

The SC reviewed and approved all changes made to the Stock Status Report during the 21st SEAFO SC meeting.

12. Review research activities in the SEAFO CA from October 2024 to date

The EAF Nansen Programme indicated that no survey was planned for 2026 for the SEAFO CA. Should there be any changes in the current schedule, SEAFO will be informed. SC noted that, as captured under Agenda Point 7.4b, potential exists for an EAF-Nansen survey within the SEAFO CA for 2027.

13. Examine, where appropriate, assessments and research done by neighbouring States and other organisations

No research done by neighbouring states and other organisations were presented at the 21st SEAFO SC meeting.

Dr. Keith Reid informed SC that the DSF Project is undertaking a project related to data limited fish stock assessments in the ABNJ. The FAO DSF Project has been engaging with ICES on supporting and improving data-limited stock assessments - bringing assessment scientists together to discuss their assessments with like-minded experts from other areas, and to learn and to develop or revise methods together. The work plan involves four workshops: WKLIFE XIV which took place in the Azores on 1-5 September 2025; a workshop in Tokyo (tentative February 2026); a workshop in Europe (probably in August 2026), and the WKLIFE XV meeting (provisionally at FAO in Rome). Presentations at WKLIFE XIV relevant to SEAFO included Alfonsino & Pelagic armourhead assessments in SEAFO and SIOFA by Takehiro Okuda; Toothfish assessments in SEAFO, SIOFA, SPRFMO and CCAMLR by Takehiro Okuda & Roberto Sarralde; and Red Crab in SEAFO by Erich Maletzky.

14. Data Requests and Research Proposals

The SC revisited the 2022 Commission report under section 7.7 (Future SC work) during the 2024 SC meeting. The SC is awaiting directives from the Commission to determine the way forward with regards to removing the maps indicating fishing location, landing tables and other information that the Commission regards as confidential, from the Stock Status Reports on the SEAFO Website.

15. Any Other matters**15.1 CORDAP Cartography Project**

The ES presented the Project - Coral Cartography: Mapping Atlantic Cold-Water Corals to support areas which received funding from the CORDAP Coral Accelerator Program (CAP). SEAFO is a partner in this project as co-owner of the VME data collected in the SEAFO CA.

The aims of the project are to:

- Develop a quality-controlled, standardised coral image dataset drawn from the substantial data holding of all partners, including the Nansen programme, as well as open access imagery data sets.

- Train deep-learning Artificial Intelligence (AI) models using the standardised dataset and apply these models in a ‘human in the loop’ approach to identify, classify and count cold water coral species observations in a large Atlantic-scale image dataset.
- Use these observations together with high resolution environmental data to develop the most advanced maps of the distribution, density and diversity of CWCs throughout the Atlantic Ocean under present conditions, and under climate change scenarios.
- Use these maps to identify coral areas at risk from current human activities and future changes in climate, as well as candidate sites for protection of CWC within nations’ EEZs and on the High Seas.

SEAFOS role in the project would be to:

- Contributing to analysis of Nansen image data from areas beyond national jurisdiction, through funding a masters studentship or bursary with the allocated budget.
- Be a potential repository of the new coral species observation data generated; and
- Work with the output maps to identify new areas for potential protection as the relevant RFMO, potentially funding a workshop on this from the allocated budget.

In terms of capacity building, key areas are:

- Cold water coral identification / taxonomy
- Image annotation
- Habitat suitability modelling and how to interpret models for management.
- This would largely involve the student or staff member doing this work but would be open to others interested.

15.2 ACAP Update

Dr. Megan Tierney, Vice-convenor of the ACAP Seabird Bycatch Working Group, presented a paper titled “*Addressing a Conservation Crisis: saving albatrosses and petrels through improved fisheries management*” ([DOC/SC/12/2025](#)). In her presentation Dr. Tierney gave an overview of the current global status and population trends of the 16 ACAP-listed albatross and petrel species whose distributions overlap with the SEAFO Convention Area ([DOC/SC/12/2025](#)). It was noted that global longline and trawl fisheries remain a critical conservation challenge, and that a number of these species are facing serious population declines. An update was provided on ACAP Best Practice Advice for reducing seabird bycatch in trawl and demersal longline fishing gear.

A summary of other ACAP resources (that could be used to monitor or mitigate seabird bycatch in fisheries), including guidelines on electronic monitoring and seabird identification, and the ACAP Bycatch Mitigation Factsheets were also presented. It was highlighted that at the 8th Session of the Meetings of Parties to ACAP a new Resolution ([ACAP Resolution 8.5](#)) was adopted that encourages ACAP Parties who are Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties to regional fisheries management and conservation organisations, whose fisheries pose bycatch risk to albatrosses and petrels,

to promote the adoption and implementation of ACAP's Best Practice Advice to minimize seabird bycatch. Dr. Tierney expressed that ACAP had been encouraged by the tasking of the SC to review CM 25/12 (*Reducing Incidental By-catch of Seabirds in the SEAFO Convention Area*) during the previous intersessional period and had welcomed the opportunity to input to this review. The importance of SC members engaging with the ongoing review of CM 25/12 was stressed, not only to ensure better alignment with updated ACAP Best Practice Advice, but also to help enable SEAFO to achieve the objectives in Article 3 of the Convention. Areas for future collaboration between SEAFO and ACAP regarding analysis of seabird distribution data in the SEAFO Convention Area and options for sharing this across different platforms such as the SEAFO website were identified.

The SC encouraged Contracting Parties (CPs) and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) to:

1. Acknowledge the conservation crisis declared at the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties of ACAP.
2. Participate in the ongoing, intersessional review of CM 25/12 (ref: SC Report 2025, AP: 7.5).
3. Continue to support research into assessing risk of fishing to seabirds in the SEAFO CA.
4. Provide information and feedback on the use and effectiveness of mitigation measures and monitoring tools to further their development.
5. Initiate requests to ACAP on SEAFO-specific seabird information (for publishing on the SEAFO website); as well as more detailed information on the interaction and impact of fur seals on the Wandering albatross population trends of Bird Island (South Georgia).

15.3 FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Project Observer training

Dr. Keith Reid, as a consultant for the DSF Project, presented the upcoming Observer Training scheduled for 19-21 January 2026 in Walvis Bay, Namibia. Dr. Reid noted that the overall aim of this initiative is to assist RMFOs with the Scientific Observer Coverage of commercial fleet via capacity building initiatives directed at Contracting Party officials/observers. He noted that this training has a much wider scope than pure Observer Training (e.g. covering key aspects related to deployment on international fishing vessels); and that the training also has a "Training of Trainers" scope that should ensure continuity over the long-term.

SC took note of Dr. Reid's input to the meeting and noted this will certainly be beneficial for SEAFO in terms of improving observer coverage within the CA – as implemented via Contracting Party obligations of the SEAFO Convention. SC noted that this training will also include seabird bycatch monitoring, VME taxa classification and tagging of Patagonian toothfish.

16. Advice and recommendations to the Commission on issues emanating from the 2025 meeting.**Agenda point 7.4b**

Context: EAF Nansen Programme surveys.

Advice: The SC recommends that the Commission keep working with the EAF Nansen Programme.

Agenda point 15.2

Context: ACAP Update.

Advice: The SC recommends that the Commission keep working with ACAP on seabird bycatch mitigation best practices.

Agenda Point 15.3

Context: FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Project.

Advice: The SC recommends that the Commission keep working with the FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Project on various projects.

17. 2026 Work Program

The SC compiled the work program for 2026 which included activities pending from previous years. The 2026 SC Work Plan is as follows:

17.1 Patagonian toothfish CPUE standardization

New data on gear type to be incorporated into the CPUE standardization process for input to the 2026 SC Meeting. Furthermore, the three CPUE indices require translation into a single CPUE index – or what the best approach would be for TAC recommendation purposes (John, Takehiro, Erich, Roberto & Yonela)

17.2 SEAFO SC Standardized Maps

Work on Standardize SC Maps to continue with data privacy considerations implemented for public maps (Erich)

17.3 Review of Conservation Measure (CM 25/12)

All CPs to submit comments on Table 1 ([DOC/SC/10/2025](#)) to ES by 13 April 2026 for finalization during the virtual meeting scheduled on 13 May 2026. (All CPs)

17.4 Maps to identify VME hotspots

Consider options for including VME hotspot maps in the Stock Status Reports for relevant SEAFO species – for feedback during 2026 SC Meeting (Takehiro & Erich)

17.5 Conduct further analysis on Tag-and-recapture data

A detailed analysis of existing tag-recapture data needs to be conducted prior to updating the existing tagging rates within the SEAFO CA (Roberto, Takehiro, Erich & John)

17.6 Review of Harvest Control Rule for Patagonian toothfish & Deep-sea red crab

Updates to the HCR review will also be tabled for the virtual meeting of 13 May 2026. (Takehiro, Roberto, Erich, John & Yonela)

18. Budget for 2026

No additional budget is requested for the SC for 2026.

19. Adoption of the report

The 2025 Scientific Committee Report was adopted by the members.

20. Date and place of the next meeting

The 2026 SC meeting shall coincide with the date and place/format of the Commission meeting (preferably 16-20 November 2026).

21. Closure of meeting

On Thursday 20 November 2025 at 14:30, the Chairperson declared the 21st SEAFO Scientific Committee meeting closed.

The Chairperson expressed her satisfaction for the work accomplished and thanked all participants and the Secretariat for their valuable contributions. The SC encourages all Contracting Parties to be committed and participate in future SC meetings as this greatly improves the work of the SC and the Commission.

APPENDIX I – List of Documents, Agenda and Annotated Agenda of the 21st Scientific Committee Meeting

DOC/SC/00/2025



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South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 21st SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETING (SC) – 2025

CHAIRPERSON: Ms. Zimasa JIKA (Rep. South Africa 2025 - 2026)**VENUE:** Virtual & Sands Hotel, Swakopmund**VICE-CHAIR:** (ANGOLA)**DATE:** 18-21 November 2025

Document Ref. Number	Agenda Item	Document Title	Provider	Availability of Document
DOC/SC/00/2025	All	List of documents	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/01/2025	All	Provisional agenda of the 21 st Meeting of the Scientific Committee	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/02/2025	All	Provisional annotated agenda of the 21 st meeting of the Scientific Committee	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/03/2025	8/9/10	Landing tables 2025	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/04/2025	9/10	Report on spatial and temporal distribution of fishing activity	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/05/2025	11.1	Stock Status Report – Patagonian toothfish	SC Members	Available during meeting
DOC/SC/06/2025	11.2	Stock Status Report – Orange roughy	SC Members	Available during meeting
DOC/SC/07/2025	11.3	Stock Status Report – Deep-sea crab	SC Members	Available during meeting
DOC/SC/08/2025	11.4	Stock Status Report – Pelagic armourhead/Southern boarfish	SC Members	Available during meeting
DOC/SC/09/2025	11.5	Stock Status Report – Alfonsino	SC Members	Available during meeting
DOC/SC/10/2025	7.5	Technical Review of SEAFO Conservation Measure 25/12 in relation to ACAP Best Practice Advice on Seabird Bycatch Mitigation	Roberto Sarralde and Megan Tierney (ACAP)	Available before meeting

DOC/SC/00/2025

DOC/SC/11/2025	15.1	CORDAP Cartography Project	ES	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/12/2025	15.2	Addressing a Conservation Crisis: saving albatrosses and petrels through improved fisheries management	Megan Tierney (ACAP)	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/13/2025	7.11	2025 Proposal about the tagging protocol for toothfish (<i>Dissostichus</i> spp) in SEAFO	Roberto Sarralde and John Kathena	Available before meeting

DOC/SC/01/2025



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South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 21ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SEAFO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC) - 2025

CHAIRPERSON: Ms. Zimasa JIKA (Rep. South Africa 2025 - 2026)**VENUE:** Virtual & Sands Hotel, Swakopmund**VICE-CHAIR:** (ANGOLA)**DATE:** 18-21 November 2025

Item	Agenda Item	Working Document
1	Opening of meeting by Chairperson	
2	Appointment of Rapporteur	
3	Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements	DOC/SC/01/2025 DOC/SC/02/2025
4	Introduction & Admission of Observers	
5	Introduction of Delegations	
6	Review of submitted SEAFO working documents and any related presentations, allocations to the agenda items	DOC/SC/00/2025
7	Review of the 2025 work program 7.1 South Africa Orange roughy data analysis from EEZ 7.2 Finalization of CPUE standardization for the Patagonian toothfish fishery 7.3 Finalization of standardised SEAFO SC maps 7.4 Approaches to identify and quantify VME indicator species. Research proposal for RV Dr. Fridtjof Nansen in 2026-2027 7.5 Review of the conservation measure (CM 25/12) 7.6 Alignment of Observer data form and Captain logbook for longlines 7.7 Update VME bycatch summary table with the column on kg/1000 hooks.	<u>DOC/SC/10/2025</u>

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DOC/SC/01/2025

	7.8 Look into the potential of adding maps to identify hotspots of VMEs bycatch in the stock status report of the Patagonian toothfish. 7.9 Confidence intervals to CPUE for orange roughy in the stock status report (Fig. 3). 7.10 Review of HCR 7.11 Review CCAMLR toothfish tagging protocol to implement in the SEAFO CA.	
8	Report by the Executive Secretary presenting landing tables updated to end of August 2025	DOC/SC/03/2025
9	Review spatial and temporal distribution of fishing activity and biological data	DOC/SC/04/2025
10	Review the spatial distribution of reported catches of benthic organisms	DOC/SC/04/2025
11	Review Stock Status Reports 11.1 Patagonian toothfish 11.2 Orange roughy 11.3 Deep-sea red crab 11.4 Pelagic armourhead / Southern boarfish 11.5 Alfonsino	DOC/SC/05/2025 DOC/SC/06/2025 DOC/SC/07/2025 DOC/SC/08/2025 DOC/SC/09/2025
12	Review research activities in the SEAFO CA since October 2024	
13	Examine, where appropriate, assessments and research done by neighboring States and other organizations	
14	Data Requests and Research Proposals	
15	Any other matters 15.1 CORDAP Cartography Project 15.2 ACAP Update	DOC/SC/11/2025 DOC/SC/12/2025
16	Collate advice and recommendations to the Commission on issues emanating from the 2025 meeting	
17	2026 Work Program	
18	Budget for 2026	
19	Adoption of the report	
20	Date and place of the next meeting	
21	Closure of meeting	

DOC/SC/02/2025



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South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE 21ST MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC) - 2025

CHAIRPERSON: Ms. Zimasa JIKA (Rep. South Africa 2025 - 2026)**VENUE:** Virtual & Sands Hotel, Swakopmund**VICE-CHAIR:** (ANGOLA)**DATE:** 18-21 November 2025

NR	AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION
1	Opening of Meeting by the Chairperson	The Chairperson will open the meeting and welcome delegates
2	Appointment of Rapporteur	The Chairperson will facilitate the appointment of the rapporteur of the Scientific Committee meeting
3	Adoption of Agenda and Meeting Arrangements	Members will review and adopt the Provisional Agenda. Delegates will be informed of any practical arrangements for the meeting by the Executive Secretary
DOC/SC/01/2025; DOC/SC/02/2025		
4	Introduction and Admission of Observers	The Chairperson will announce observers present as indicated by the Executive Secretary
5	Introduction of Delegations	The Chairperson will allow Heads of Delegation to introduce the members of their delegations
6	Review of submitted SEAFO Working Documents and any related Presentations, Allocation to the Agenda Items	Members will review research/working documents and presentations submitted
DOC/SC/00/2025		

DOC/SC/02/2025

7	Review 2025 Work Program	<p>7.1 The ES to follow up with the Republic of South Africa to provide catches recorded in the EEZ to get a full picture of the orange roughy historical catches in the SE Atlantic.</p> <p>Historical catch data from adjacent EEZ areas for other species (i.e. deep-sea Red crab, alfonsino and Patagonian toothfish) also need to be added to the stock status reports as in the orange roughy stock status report for consistency.</p> <p>7.2 Finalization of CPUE standardization for the Patagonian toothfish fishery and possibly carry out model assessment (e.g. JABBA) (Mr. John Kathena et al.).</p> <p>7.3 Finalization of standardised SEAFO SC maps – potential virtual meeting on the status of the R-script development (tentatively February 2025 – Mr. Erich Maletzky).</p> <p>7.4 Approaches to identify and quantify VME indicator species. Contracting Parties to provide names to the EAF-Nansen programme of potential scientist/students to take on the responsibilities to co-lead the work for quantifying VMEs in the SEAFO area together with an expert from the EAF-Nansen scientific team.</p> <p>Submit research proposal to be carried on board RV Dr. Fridtjof Nansen in 2026-2027 before February 2025. ES to submit a letter of intent to continue corroborative research work with EAF-Nansen programme.</p> <p>7.5 Review of the conservation measure (CM 25/12) to be finalised intersessionally (Mr. Roberto Sarralde in collaboration with Dr. Megan Tierney- ACAP). (DOC/SC/10/2025)</p> <p>7.6 Alignment of Observer data form and Captain logbook for longlines The ES finalise the Excel forms by adding data validation and revising SEAFO species lists. To be ready for use by April 2025.</p> <p>7.7 The ES to update VME bycatch summary table with the column on kg/1000 hooks to be given to the maximum bycatch segment for sponges and corals rather than for the whole trip.</p> <p>7.8 Look into the potential of adding maps to identify hotspots of VMEs bycatch in the stock status report of the Patagonian toothfish (Mr. Erich Maletzky and Mr. Takehiro Okuda).</p> <p>7.9 ES to add confidence intervals to CPUE for orange roughy in the stock status report (Fig. 3).</p>
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DOC/SC/02/2025

		<p>7.10 The review of the HCR including the exceptional circumstance protocols to clarify the "recent five years" and use all available data when setting future TAC intersessionally (Mr. Roberto Sarralde, Mr. Taro Ichii, Mr. Erich Maletzky, Mr. John Kathena and Mr. Tobias Endjambi).</p> <p>7.11 Review CCAMLR toothfish tagging protocol to implement in the SEAFO CA (Mr. Roberto Sarralde and Mr. John Kathena) (DOC/SC/13/2025)</p>
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8	Report by the ES presenting Landing Tables updated with data received until 31 August 2024	The Executive Secretary will present all landings, incidental by-catches and discard tables
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[DOC/SC/03/2025](#)

9	Review Spatial and Temporal Distribution of Fishing Activity and Biological Data	Members will review the catches and spatial distribution of non-benthic species as reported by the fishing vessels from 1 st September 2024 to 31 st August 2025 and make recommendations if necessary
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[DOC/SC/04/2025](#)

10	Review the Spatial Distribution of Reported Catches of benthic organisms (corals, sponges, etc.)	Members will review the spatial distribution of benthic organisms as reported by the fishing vessels from 1 st September 2024 to 31 st August 2025 and make recommendations if necessary
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[DOC/SC/04/2025](#)

11	Review the Stock Status Report	Members will review the 2025 compiled Stock Status Reports and update where necessary
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[DOC/SC/05/2025; DOC/SC/06/2025; DOC/SC/07/2025; DOC/SC/08/2025; DOC/SC/09/2025](#)

12	Review Research Activities in the SEAFO CA since October 2024	Members will review research activities conducted between October 2024 and the date of the SC meeting
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13	Examine, where appropriate, Assessments and Research done by neighbouring States and other organisations	Members will examine assessments and research done by neighbouring states and other organisations, if applicable and available
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DOC/SC/02/2025

14	Data Requests and Research Proposals	Members will consider any data requests and research proposals forwarded to the SC
15	Any other matters	<p>Any Other Matters will be discussed</p> <p>15.1 CORDAP Cartography Project (DOC/SC/11/2025) ES to present the Coral Cartography Project: Mapping Atlantic Cold-Water Corals to support Area Based Management.</p> <p>15.2 ACAP Update (DOC/SC/12/2025) Dr Megan Thiery will present: "Addressing a Conservation Crisis: saving albatrosses and petrels through improved fisheries management"</p>
16	Collate Advice and Recommendations to the Commission on issues emanating from the 2025 meeting.	SC will collate all the recommendations emanating to the Commission meeting for adoption
17	2026 Work Plan	SC to compile a work plan for 2026
18	Budget for 2026	SC will compile a budget for 2026 if needed
19	Adoption of the Report	Members will review the 2025 SC report for adoption
20	Date and Venue of Next Meeting	Members will agree on a proposed date and place for the 2026 SC meeting to be approved by the Commission
21	Closure of the Meeting	The Chairperson will close and adjourn the meeting

APPENDIX II – List of Participants: 2025 Scientific Committee Meeting

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