

Press Releases

Windhoek, Namibia -The South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) held its eight Annual Meeting from the 10th to the 14th of October, 2011. The meeting focused on further strengthening its fisheries management regime and to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs).

Status of SEAFO participation

SEAFO was established in March 2004 after the entry into force of the SEAFO Convention in 2003. Angola, the European Union, Japan, Republic of Korea, Namibia, Norway and South Africa are currently members. Republic of Korea has become the 7th member of SEAFO in March 2011. SEAFO reaffirms its calls on other states, particularly those that have vessels currently fishing in the Convention Area, to join the Organisation.

SEAFO establishes a fishing foot print.

The Commission has adopted a comprehensive fishing foot print to regulate bottom fishing in the SEAFO Convention area. Bottom fishing in unfished area's is regulated by the adoption of technical measures that require an initial impact assessment of the known and anticipated impacts of its bottom fishing activities on vulnerable marine ecosystems to ensure the protection of VME's.

Conservation Measures

Two new conservation measures were adopted by the Commission dealing with port State control and bottom fishing activities in the SEAFO Convention Area. With regards to compliance, SEAFO adopted a new Port State Measure fully in line with the FAO Port State Control Agreement. Its application will be essential for the conservation of species under the SEAFO Convention and for the international efforts to fight Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fisheries. To protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems a new threshold levels for VME species were adopted for the various fishing gear namely Trawl tow – more than 600 kg of live sponges and/or 60 kg of live coral in existing fishing areas and more than 400 kg of live sponges and/or 60 kg of live coral in new fishing areas. Longline set – at least 10 VME-indicator units (1 unit = 1kg or 1 litre of live coral and/or live sponge) in one 1200m section of line or 1000 hooks, whichever is the shorter, in both existing and new fishing areas; Pot set – at least 10 VME-indicator units (1 unit = 1kg or 1 litre of live coral and/or live sponge) in one 1200m section of line in both existing and new fishing areas.

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