



SOUTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANISATION

REPORT OF THE 15TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE - 2019

19 - 22 November 2019
Swakopmund
NAMIBIA

The Secretariat

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Chairperson of SEAFO Scientific Committee

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1. Opening and welcome remarks by the Chairperson

The 15th Annual Meeting of the SEAFO Scientific Committee (SC) was convened between 19 and 22 November 2019 at the Strand Hotel, Swakopmund, Namibia. The Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Granville Louw, stood in for the Chairperson (Mr. Åge Høines, who was delayed due to flight technicalities) and opened the meeting. Mr. Louw noted that it would be a discussion of scientific issues and that all delegates were expected to express their scientific views so that issues are resolved, and the best possible advice forwarded to the Commission.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Erich Maletzky was appointed as rapporteur for the 15th SEAFO Scientific Committee meeting.

3. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements

SC adopted the agenda ([Appendix I](#)) with the following amendments:

- AGENDA POINT 14: *Deferred* – SC agreed that only the SEAFO Commission has the authority to address this agenda point and noted that it will be discussed at the Commission meeting.
- AGENDA POINT 16.1: *Added* – Japan: Notice of intent for exploratory fishing in 2020.

Members were informed of the practical arrangements for the meeting by the Executive Secretary.

4. Introduction and Admission of Observers

One observer, Dr. James Bell from CEFAS, attended the meeting – contact details listed under the “Observers” section of [Appendix II](#).

5. Introduction of Delegates

A total of 11 Scientific Committee members attended the 15th SEAFO SC meeting (see [Appendix II](#) for list of participants). No members from Angola, the EU or the Republic of Korea attended the meeting.

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

A total of 18 working documents were submitted to the Scientific Committee for review and were considered during the 15th SEAFO SC meeting ([Appendix I](#)).

7. Review of the 2019 work program.

7.1 Establish an orange roughy task team (with Namibia as a coordinator) to develop survey design protocols and criteria intersessionally. The Task Team will consist of four members from Namibia, EU, Norway and South Africa.

SC started work on the survey design protocol ([DOC/SC/03/2019](#)) but require more time to complete the document as certain important aspects of the protocol still need to be ascertained from third parties. The new protocol is based on the existing “Guidelines for fisheries research and basic marine science activity in the SEAFO CA” ([DOC SC 04 2019](#)).

7.2 Establish a working group (Secretariat, Namibia and EU) that will collect and collate all available orange roughy data and analyse CPUE.

The Executive Secretary informed the SC that Namibia is still busy collating the Orange roughy data since the scientist responsible for Orange roughy resigned during the year, and as such the data collation will only be completed during 2020.

7.3 Collection of genetic samples of orange roughy in the SEAFO CA and the South African EEZ.

South Africa conducted a demersal research survey in January 2019, however they were unable to collect genetic samples. There is, nevertheless, another opportunity for genetic sample collection during the January & April 2020 demersal surveys.

No orange roughy catches were recorded during the 2019 Dr. Fridtjof Nansen survey and as such no genetic samples were obtainable from the SEAFO CA during this survey.

Namibia managed to collect some orange roughy samples during its July 2018 survey, but noted that the samples were stored at room temperature which may impact the viability of the samples.

For the aforementioned reasons SC agreed that another attempt will be made to collect orange roughy samples for genetic comparison from all three locations (i.e. Namibia EEZ, South Africa EEZ and SEAFO CA), and that the samples will be forwarded to the University of Stellenbosch for analysis. A sample collection & storage protocol will be sourced from the University of Stellenbosch and provided to the three sampling surveys.

The Executive Secretary noted that funds were already set aside during the 2018 Commission meeting for the genetic study to be conducted and thus it is important to get the samples collected and analysed as soon as possible.

7.4 South African to provide more information on orange roughy (distribution plots and length/weight relationships) in the South African EEZ.

Mr. Louw presented the orange roughy bycatch data from the South African hake-directed fishery for the period 2003 – 2017 and noted that South Africa has never had an orange roughy directed fishery within its EEZ. Orange roughy bycatch by the hake-directed trawls

ranged between 0.001 % and 0.035%. During this 15 year period (2003-2017) the total bycatch of orange roughy from the hake-directed fishery was 168 tonnes ([Appendix III](#)).

7.5 Establish a FAO-Nansen survey task team to prepare and present feedback from the 2019 Nansen survey.

In the period 24.1 – 24.2.19 the research vessel Dr. Fridtjof Nansen surveyed Heardman seamount (closed for fishing), Shannon seamount, and the Discovery seamount complex (which includes the eastern Tablemount seamount) in the SEAFO Division D0 ([DOC/SC/05/2019](#)). The objective of the survey was to collect detailed bathymetric data and to analyse the occurrence and abundance of sessile epibenthos, including indicators of VMEs, benthopelagic fish, and benthic organisms. A total of 27 hours of video footage from 14 different locations covering depths between 400 and 1860m was analysed as well as benthic grab data from 13 stations. The video footage showed that VME indicators, including soft corals, stone and lace corals, sea pens and seawhips, as well as sponges were present at all locations, varying in counts (15 to 148 observations) and diversity (6 to 15 taxa) between locations and also with depth. Highest observations of VME indicators were made on the eastern part of Tablemount seamount (148), in the vicinity of an area currently not part of an existing fishing ground, as well as on the northern slope of the Discovery seamount (135). None of the fish and crab species currently assessed by SEAFO SC were identified in the video footage. A total of 34 benthic taxa were collected, with species diversity and abundance varying between stations, and an average richness of 19.9 species by station. The newly collected data clearly shows that the surveyed areas, regardless of location, generally have a high diversity and abundance of a range of benthic species, including VME indicators. There was no evidence of human footprint (lost fishing gear, marine debris etc.) in all of the areas surveyed.

The SC acknowledges that although these findings are still preliminary and further detailed analyses are necessary, the data from the Nansen survey should be used to evaluate existing fishing areas and inform the development of new fishing areas.

RECOMMENDATION: SC agreed that, given the presence of VME indicators in the Shannon and Discovery seamounts (Figure 1), the Commission should take precautionary action within existing fishing areas (i.e. closure for bottom trawling).

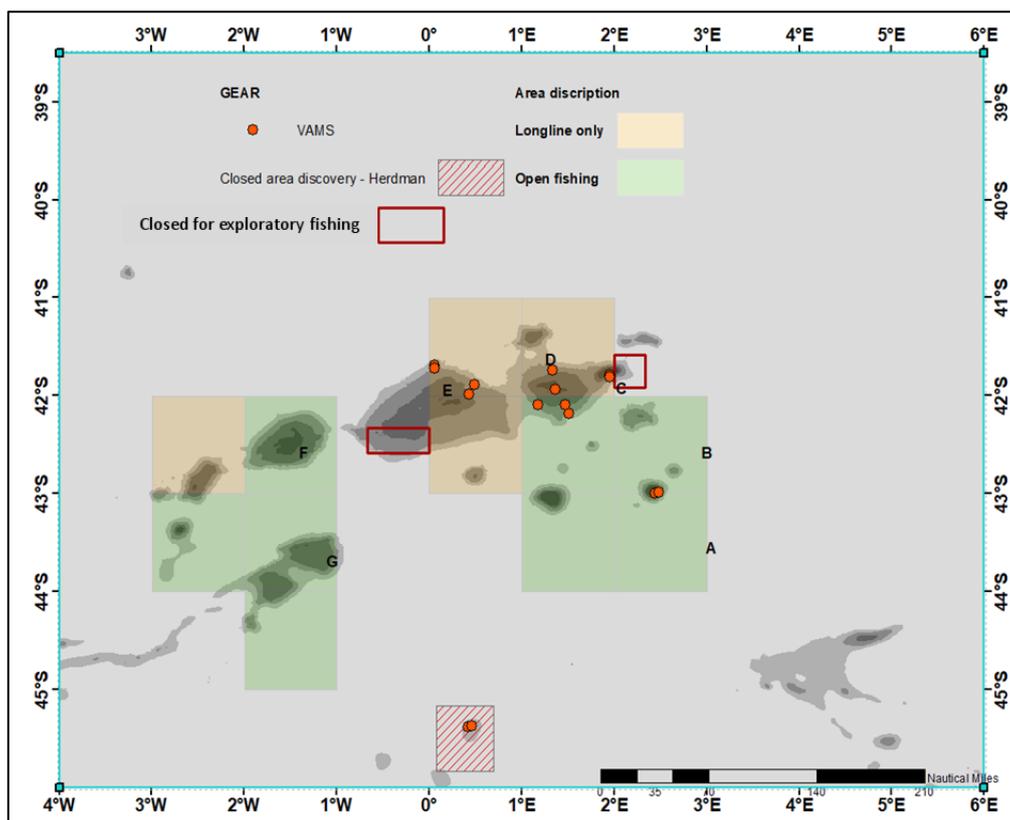


Figure 1 – Map showing the areas in Division D0 that were video surveyed during the 2019 Nansen Seamount Survey.

8. Report by the Executive Secretary presenting landing tables updated to September 2018.

The Executive Secretary presented data and related information submitted by CPs, including additional information made available by SC members. All retained and discarded catches are presented in the landings tables ([DOC/SC/06/2019](#)).

SC noted that only one vessel fished in the CA this year which is a vessel from the Patagonian toothfish longline fishery. By September 2019 the fishery had landed 37 tonnes (13.5 %) of the 275 tonnes TAC set for Sub-Area D.

More Patagonian toothfish catches were made (29 October Exit Report) after the date of completing this report which will be included in the landing tables for 2020.

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

During 2019 the only fishing activities recorded in the SEAFO CA were from the Patagonian toothfish longline fishery. The spatial distribution maps for all fishing activities recorded during 2019, as well as the biological data tables, were provided and included in the updated Stock Status Report for Patagonian toothfish.

The SC reviewed the spatial and temporal maps as provided by the Secretariat and noted that fishing activities occurred in the traditional fishing grounds. The SC also noted a decrease in the number of sets and fishing days compared to 2018 ([Appendix IV](#)).

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 species from the bottom longline fishery (see Tables 23-38 of [DOC/SC/06/2019](#) for data on VME catches). The SC reviewed both the quantities and spatial distribution of catches and noted that a few (11 out of 68 sets – 16%) had VME indicator species. The set-specific bycatch of VMEs from the longline fishery ranged from 0.01 to 5.1kg with a mean bycatch of 0.56kg/set during 2019.

11. Review Stock Status Reports

All Stock Status Reports were reviewed, updated and presented as follows:

11.1 Patagonian toothfish - ([DOC/SC/07/2019](#))

The SC noted that for the last 9 years catches were very low and well below the TAC set for Sub-Area D of the SEAFO CA. The Japanese vessel only operated for 2 months during 2019 and it should be noted that the fishing effort associated with this vessel is of an opportunistic nature contingent to fishing activities in the adjacent CCAMLR area.

11.2 Orange roughy - ([DOC/SC/08/2019](#))

The SC approved all changes made to the report.

11.3 Deep-sea red crab - ([DOC/SC/09/2019](#))

The SC approved all changes made to the report.

11.4 Pelagic armourhead / Southern boarfish - ([DOC/SC/10/2019](#))

The SC approved all changes made to the report.

11.5 Alfonsino - ([DOC/SC/11/2019](#))

The SC approved all changes made to the report.

12. Review research activities in the SEAFO CA since October 2018 to date

Notwithstanding the Dr. Fridtjof Nansen seamount survey conducted in January 2019 (addressed in Agenda Point 7.5), no new research activities were conducted within the SEAFO CA during the aforementioned period.

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

13.1 *RRS Discovery survey to Tristan da Cunha and St Helena* ([DOC/SC/12/2019](#)).

Dr. James Bell (Observer, CEFAS) presented feedback on a research survey conducted in March and April 2019 on board the *RRS Discovery* covering the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of Tristan da Cunha and St Helena. This survey was conducted to investigate the marine environments of these remote areas and address knowledge gaps identified during discussions with local governments and stakeholders. The survey was conducted with very similar objectives to a previous survey (JR17-004), the report of which was presented at the 2018 SEAFO SC meeting.

The SC expressed its appreciation of the presentations and requested to be kept informed of any new developments or progress with the project.

13.2 *Orange roughy surveys in Namibian waters*

Namibia presented the 2016, 2017 & 2018 orange roughy survey results ([APPENDIX IV](#)) to SC and noted that commercial catches of orange roughy had decreased from 1998 until 2008 when a moratorium was applied to the fishery. There is a decrease in average size from north to south with juveniles only being recorded in the southern ground (Johnnies & PAVS).

SC took note of the presentation and indicated that the comparison with EEZ data could be linked to the genetics study planned for the SEAFO CA. However, SC noted that comparison between the Namibian EEZ and SEAFO orange roughy catch trends will only be possible next year after the SEAFO catch trends have been completely analysed.

14. Proposal for amendment of the rules of procedures of the SEAFO SC

The SC did not address this agenda point as it agreed that only the SEAFO Commission has the authority to address this agenda point.

15. Data Requests and Research Proposals

15.1 *Proposal to develop a pilot project to introduce e-logbooks in the SEAFO CA via the FarFish project* ([DOC/SC/14/2019](#)).

Dr. Staby (representing the Institute of Marine Research, Norway) introduced the FarFish Project (www.farfish.eu) to the SC and outlined the objectives of the project. He

highlighted that one of the deliverables of the FarFish Project includes a proposal for implementing a pilot e-logbook project with a Namibian vessel that conducts deep-sea red crab fishing operations in the SEAFO CA.

The SC took note of the project objectives and agreed that any advancement that may enhance data integrity & quality should be pursued by SC. However, SEAFO already uses an electronic reporting system (i.e. Entry & Exit Fishing Reports & 5-day Catch Reports). Furthermore, with the limited information presented on the setup costs (as well as hardware & software implementation requirements) of the proposed e-logbook system SC agreed that there would be very little benefit from upgrading to another electronic system.

RECOMMENDATION: SC agreed that no further action is required from the Commission on this proposal from the FarFish Project.

15.2 Request for access to SEAFO VMS data from the FarFish project ([DOC/SC/15/2019](#)).

The Executive Secretary informed the SC about the request for VMS data from the FarFish Project related to EU vessels operating within the SEAFO CA. The SC discussed the request and agreed that no data for EU vessels currently exist in the SEAFO database – as such no data can be availed to the FarFish Project on this request. The SC further agreed that action to this request is not within the mandate of the Scientific Committee and as such forwards the request to the Commission for further consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: SC refers the request for access to SEAFO VMS data on EU vessels active within the SEAFO CA to the Commission for further consideration.

15.3 Proposal for collaboration between ongoing deep-sea research projects in the South-East Atlantic ([DOC/SC/16/2019](#)).

Dr. Bell informed the SC on a UK Habitat Suitability Modeling Project for cold water corals currently underway in the territorial waters of Ascension, St. Helena and Tristan da Cunha, and the potential for collaboration with SEAFO. This project requires ship-based bathymetry data and has requested for access to existing SEAFO bathymetric data.

SC agreed that this is a good project and supports the request for data access and collaboration with the project.

RECOMMENDATION: SC recommends the Commission to support the CEFAS request for access to all high-res (i.e. ship-based) bathymetry data from the SEAFO CA and collaboration between SEAFO, EAF Nansen Programme and UK.

15.4 Notification of the 2020 Dr. Fridtjof Nansen survey in the SEAFO CA was presented by Dr Arved Staby on behalf of the EAF Nansen Programme ([DOC/SC/17/2019](#)).

Dr. Staby presented a proposal for the 2020 Nansen SEAFO Survey which has a similar objective as the 2019 survey but focusses on the northern part (Sub-Area A) of the SEAFO

Convention Area. It was noted that there is very little time left to get the preparations for the survey underway as such the SC formulated a small interim group (headed by Dr. Staby) to oversee the planning of the 2020 survey particulars.

2020 Nansen SEAFO Survey Planning Group:

- Dr. Arved Staby (Norway)
- Dr. Paul Kainge (Namibia)
- Mr. Granville Louw (South Africa)
- Dr. Tsutomu Nishida (Japan)
- Dr. Elizabeth Voges (SEAFO ES)

16. Any Other Matters

16.1 Japan: Notice of intent for exploratory fishing in 2020.

Japan informed SC that a new vessel (*Shinsei Maru No. 8*) will continue the exploratory fishing operations from the current vessel (*Shinsei Maru No. 3*) and as such will only be able to finalize and submit a proposal for exploratory fishing for Sub-Area D in January 2020.

17. Collate advice and recommendations to the Commission on issues emanating from the 2019 meeting

Agenda Point 7.5

- **Context:** VME indicators recorded during 2019 Nansen Seamount Survey ([DOC/SC/05/2019](#)).
- **ADVICE:** SC agreed that, given the presence of VME indicators in the Shannon and Discovery seamounts, the Commission should take precautionary action within existing fishing areas (i.e. closure for bottom trawling) – refer to Fig. 1.

Co-ordinates for closure of bottom trawling in existing fishing area in Division D0:

Latitudes	Longitudes
44°W	1°E
42°W	1°E
42°W	3°E
44°W	3°E

Agenda Point 15.1

- **Context:** FarFish proposal for pilot e-logbook project ([DOC/SC/14/2019](#)).
- **ADVICE:** SC agreed that no further action is required from the Commission on this proposal from the FarFish Project.

Agenda Point 15.2

- **Context:** FarFish request for access to SEAFO VMS data ([DOC/SC/15/2019](#)).
- **ADVICE:** SC referred the request for access to SEAFO VMS data on EU vessels active within the SEAFO CA to the Commission for further consideration.

Agenda Point 15.3

- **Context:** Data request for collaboration on cold water coral habitat modeling ([DOC/SC/16/2019](#)).
- **ADVICE:** SC recommends the Commission to support the CEFAS request for access to all high-res (i.e. ship-based) bathymetry data from the SEAFO CA and collaboration between SEAFO, EAF Nansen Programme and UK.

Agenda Point 19

- **Context:** Budget 2020.
- **ADVICE:** The SC recommends to keep the N\$220 000 for genetic (genomics) analysis of orange roughy samples which was allocated to the budget in 2018.

18. 2020 Work Program

The SC discussed the work program for 2020 and outlined activities still pending for the remainder of 2019 as follows:

- 18.1 Continue work by the working group (Secretariat, Namibia and EU) to collect and collate all available orange roughy data and analyse CPUE.
- 18.2 Collect samples of orange roughy in the Namibian EEZ, South African EEZ and SEAFO CA for genetic comparison at the University of Stellenbosch. Mr. Granville Louw to draft a guideline protocol for the collection and storage of genetics samples.
- 18.3 Task team to prepare the survey plan for the 2020 EAF Nansen Survey and to give feedback from the 2019 & 2020 Nansen surveys (final and preliminary reports, respectively) at the next SC meeting.
- 18.4 South Africa to continue with the orange roughy data (catch depths & length frequencies) analysis for catches recorded in the EEZ.
- 18.5 Draft guidelines for using scientific data (video footage & survey counts) in the determination of threshold limits of VME encounters in relation to guidelines in other RFMOs and scientific bodies – assigned to ES.
- 18.6 INTERSESSIONAL WORK ON THE STOCK STATUS REPORTS:
 - Patagonian toothfish: Make length-frequency graphs more legible, align x-axes for all graphs and include modal length on individual graphs to easily view size changes across years – assigned to Dr. Tsutomu Nishida.

- ALL STOCKS STATUS REPORTS: Standardize maps across Stock Status Reports (preferably design an R-script for catch positions and hexagonal aggregations of catch totals per year) – assigned to Mr. Erich Maletzky.
- ALL STOCKS STATUS REPORTS: Standardize referencing across Stock Status Reports – assigned to Executive Secretary.
- STOCKS STATUS REPORTS: Update & validate Alfonsino (BYS) Stock Status Reports catch maps and tables (3, 4 & 5) – assigned to Dr. Arved Staby.
- STOCKS STATUS REPORTS: Standardize and update all tables in the Pelagic armourhead (EDR) Stock Status Reports – assigned to Mr. Granville Louw.

19. Budget for 2020

The SC requested to keep the N\$220 000 for genetic (genomics) analysis of orange roughy samples which was allocated to the budget in 2019.

20. Adoption of the report

The 2019 Scientific Committee Report was adopted at 16:05 on Friday, 22 November 2019.

21. Date and place of the next meeting

SC agreed that the date and the venue for the 2020 SC meeting be at the discretion of the Commission.

22. Closure of meeting

On Friday 22 November 2019 at 16:08, the Chairperson declared the 15th SEAFO Scientific Committee meeting closed. The Chairperson expressed his satisfaction for the work accomplished and thanked all participants for their valuable contributions.

APPENDIX I – List of Documents, Agenda and Annotated Agenda of the 15th Scientific Committee Meeting

DOC/SC/00/2019



LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 15TH SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETING (SC) – 2019

CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Åge Høines (Norway 2019 - 2021) **VENUE:** Strand Hotel, Swakopmund
VICE-CHAIR: Mr. Granville Louw (SA 2019 - 2021) **DATE:** 19-22 November 2019

Document Ref. Number	Agenda Item	Document Title	Provider	Availability of Document
DOC/SC/00/2019	All	List of documents	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/01/2019	All	Provisional agenda of the 15 th Meeting of the Scientific Committee	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/02/2019	All	Provisional annotated agenda of the 15 th Meeting of the Scientific Committee	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/03/2019	7	Exploratory Orange roughy Fishing Protocol in SEAFO	Task Team (NAM, EU, NOR, SA)	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/04/2019	7	Guidelines for fisheries research and basic marine science activity in the SEAFO Convention Area.	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/05/2019	7	Dr Fridtjof Nansen Survey 2019 – Cruise Report	EAF Nansen Project	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/06/2019	8/9/10	Landing tables 2019	Secretariat	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/07/2019	11	Stock Status Report – Patagonian toothfish	SC Members	Available during meeting
DOC/SC/08/2019	11	Stock Status Report – Orange roughy	SC Members	Available during meeting
DOC/SC/09/2019	11	Stock Status Report – Deep-sea crab	SC Members	Available during meeting
DOC/SC/010/2019	11	Stock Status Report – Pelagic armourhead/Southern boarfish	SC Members	Available during meeting
DOC/SC/11/2019	11	Stock Status Report – Alfonsino	SC Members	Available during meeting
DOC/SC/12/2019	13	RRS Discovery Survey to Tristan da Cunha & St Helena	Cefas	Available before meeting

DOC/SC/00/2019

DOC/SC/13/2019	14	Proposal for amendment of the rules of procedure of the SEAFO Scientific Committee	Norway	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/14/2019	15	Proposed development of a pilot project to introduce e-logbooks	FarFish Project	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/15/2019	15	Request for access to VMS data in SEAFO CA	FarFish Project	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/16/2019	15	Proposal for collaboration between ongoing deep-sea research projects in the South-East Atlantic	Cefas	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/17/2019	15	EAF Nansen survey proposal for 2020	EAF Nansen Project	Available before meeting
DOC/SC/18/2019	15	EAF-NANSEN Programme Data Policy August 2019 update	EAF Nansen Project	Available before meeting

Circulation date: 19 October 2019

DOC/SC/01/2019

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	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 15TH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC
COMMITTEE (SC) - 2019**

CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Åge Høines (Norway 2019 - 2021) **VENUE:** Strand Hotel, Swakopmund
VICE-CHAIR: Mr. Granville Louw (SA 2019 - 2021) **DATE:** 19-22 November 2019

Item	Agenda Item	Working Document
1	Opening of meeting by Chairperson	
2	Appointment of Rapporteur	
3	Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements	DOC/SC/01/2019 DOC/SC/02/2019
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/00/2019
7	Review of the 2019 work program	DOC/SC/02/2019 DOC/SC/03/2019 DOC/SC/04/2019 DOC/SC/05/2019
8	Report by the Executive Secretary presenting landing tables updated to September 2019	DOC/SC/06/2019
9	Review spatial and temporal distribution of fishing activity and biological data	DOC/SC/06/2019
10	Review the spatial distribution of reported catches of benthic organisms	DOC/SC/06/2019
11	Review Stock Status Report 11.1 Patagonian toothfish 11.2 Orange roughy 11.3 Deep-sea crab 11.4 Pelagic armourhead / Southern boarfish 11.5 Alfonsino	DOC/SC/07/2019 DOC/SC/08/2019 DOC/SC/09/2019 DOC/SC/10/2019 DOC/SC/11/2019
12	Review research activities in the SEAFO CA since October 2018	
13	Examine, where appropriate, assessments and research done by neighboring States and other organisations	DOC/SC/12/2019
14	Proposal for amendment of the rules of procedure of the SEAFO Scientific Committee	DOC/SC/13/2019

DOC/SC/01/2019

15	Data Request & Research Proposals	DOC/SC/14/2019 DOC/SC/15/2019 DOC/SC/16/2019 DOC/SC/17/2019 DOC/SC/18/2019
16	Any other matters	
17	Collate advice and recommendations to the Commission on issues emanating from the 2019 meeting	
18	2020 Work Program	
19	Budget for 2020	
20	Adoption of the report	
21	Date and place of the next meeting	
22	Closure of meeting	

Circulation Date: 19 October 2019

DOC/SC/02/2019

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PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE 15TH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC) - 2019

CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Åge Høines (Norway 2019 - 2021)	VENUE: Strand Hotel, Swakopmund
VICE-CHAIR: Mr. Granville Louw (SA 2019 - 2021)	DATE: 19-22 November 2019

1. **Opening and welcome remarks by the Chairperson**
The Chairperson will open the meeting and welcome delegates.
2. **Appointment of Rapporteur**
The Chairperson will ensure the appointment of the rapporteur who will take minutes of the Scientific Committee meeting.
3. **Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements**
Members will review and adopt the agenda. Delegates will be informed of any practical arrangements for the meeting by the Executive Secretary ([DOC/SC/01/2019](#) & [DOC/SC/02/2019](#)).
4. **Introduction and admission of Observers**
The Chairperson will announce observers present.
5. **Introduction of Delegates**
The Chairperson will allow participants to introduce themselves.
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/00/2019](#)).
7. **Review 2019 work program**
SC listed the following tasks for 2019
 - 7.1 Establish an Orange roughy Task Team with Namibia (as a coordinator) to develop survey design protocols and criteria intersessionally. The Task Team will consist of four members from Namibia, EU, Norway and South Africa ([DOC/SC/03/2019](#); [DOC/SC/04/2019](#)).
 - 7.2 Establish a working group (Secretariat, Namibia and EU) that will collect and collate all available orange roughy data and analyse CPUE.
 - 7.3 Collect genetic samples of orange roughy in the SEAFO CA and the South African EEZ as well as getting funding for analysis.

DOC/SC/02/2019

- 7.4 The South African delegate was requested to provide more information (distribution plots and length/weight relationships) on orange roughy in the South African EEZ at the 2019 SC meeting.
- 7.5 Establish a FAO-Nansen survey task team to prepare and present feedback from the 2019 Nansen survey at the next SC meeting ([DOC/SC/05/2019](#)).
- 8. Report by the ES presenting landing tables updated to 18 October 2019**
The Executive Secretary will present all landings, incidental by-catches and discard tables updated to 18 October 2019 ([DOC/SC/06/2019](#)).
- 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 in 2019 and make recommendations if necessary ([DOC/SC/06/2019](#)).
- 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 in 2019 and make recommendations if necessary ([DOC/SC/06/2019](#)).
- 11. Review the Stock Status Report**
Members will review the 2019 compiled Stock Status Report and update where necessary ([DOC/SC/07/2019](#); [DOC/SC/08/2019](#); [DOC/SC/09/2019](#); [DOC/SC/10/2019](#); [DOC/SC/11/2019](#)).
- 12. Review research activities in the SEAFO CA since October 2018 to date**
Members will review research activities conducted between October 2018 and date of SC meeting. SC will discuss and review information regarding the EAF-Nansen survey done in 2019.
- 13. Examine, where appropriate, assessments and research done by neighbouring States and other organisations**
Members will examine CCAMLR's assessments and, if applicable and available, assessments from South Africa, Namibia and Angola.
An observer from Cefas will present the RRS Discovery Survey to Tristan da Cunha & St Helena ([DOC/SC/12/2019](#)).
- 14. Proposals for amendment of the rules of procedure of the SEAFO SC**
A proposal submitted by Norway will be discussed ([DOC/SC/13/2019](#)).
- 15. Data Requests and Research Proposals**
- A proposal to develop a pilot project to introduce e-logbooks will be presented by the FarFish project ([DOC/SC/14/2019](#)).
 - A request to access to SEAFO VMS data from the FarFish project will be presented ([DOC/SC/15/2019](#)).
 - A Proposal for collaboration between ongoing deep-sea research projects in the South-East Atlantic will be presented by an Observer from Cefas ([DOC/SC/16/2019](#)). The EAF-NANSEN Programme Data Policy August 2019 update ([DOC/SC/18/2019](#)) is available as information.
 - A proposal for another Dr Fridtjof Nansen survey during 2020 in the SEAFO CA will be presented by the EAF Nansen Project ([DOC/SC/17/2019](#)).

DOC/SC/02/2019

16. Any other matters

17. Collate advice and recommendations to the Commission on issues emanating from the 2019 meeting

SC will collate all the recommendations emanating from the Commission meeting for adoption.

18. 2020 Work Plan

SC to compile a work plan for 2020.

19. Budget for 2020

SC will compile a budget for 2020.

20. Adoption of the report

Members will review and adopt the 2019 SC report.

21. Date and place of next meeting

Members will agree on a date and venue for the 2020 SC meeting to be approved by the Commission.

22. Closure of the meeting

The Chairperson will close and adjourn the meeting.

Circulation Date: 19 October 2019

APPENDIX II – List of Participants: 2019 Scientific Committee Meeting**CHAIRPERSON****Åge HØINES**

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