

**SOUTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANISATION
(SEAFO)**

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SEAFO SECRETARIAT OPENS IN WALVIS BAY

After about five years of complex negotiations between the coastal States in the South East Atlantic Ocean and the distant water fishing nations, the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources in the South East Atlantic Ocean was signed in April 2001 in Windhoek. The signatories are: Angola, the European Community, Iceland, Namibia, Norway, Republic of Korea, South Africa, United Kingdom (on behalf of St. Helena and its dependencies of Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Islands) and the United States of America. The Convention entered into force on April 2003 after the deposit of instruments of ratification by Namibia and Norway and approval by the European Community as required under Article 27 of the Convention. Other signatories are in preparation to become full members of the organisation.

SEAFO Convention provides for a management regime ensuring long-term conservation and sustainable use of fish resources (fish species, molluscs, crustaceans and other sedentary species) on the high seas of the South East Atlantic Ocean. The Convention is one of the first fisheries agreements to be adopted since the conclusion in 1995 of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement.

Since 2003, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Namibia acted as an interim secretariat for the organisation. The first meeting of the Commission took place in March 2004 in Swakopmund where it was resolved to among others, support the establishment of the permanent secretariat of the Organisation. SEAFO is the first international fisheries management organisation in the region with its headquarters in Walvis Bay.

The structures of the Organisation include the Commission (highest decision-making body), the Secretariat (that administering and overseeing the application and implementation of the Convention), Scientific Committee (that provides advice to the Commission on the status of the resources as well as on harvesting levels) and Compliance Committee (that provides the Commission with information, advice and recommendations on the implementation of, and compliance with the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission).

The current Chair of the Commission is the European Community and Namibia is the Vice Chair.

The known commercial fish species within the Convention area including orange roughy, armourhead, alfonsino, wreckfish, deep-sea red crab, deep-

water hake, octopus, squids, sharks, cardinal fish, oreo dories. As yet there are no known major fishing operations exploiting these deep-sea species. However, the FAO has noted some fishing activity over years and suggested that increasing interest is being shown in deep-water fisheries.

SEAFO HEADED BY A NAMIBIAN

Dr. Hashali Hamukuaya of Namibia has been appointed as the first Executive Secretary of South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation, SEAFO. His appointment takes effect on 1 March 2005.

Hamukuaya has considerable experience in fisheries resources management, fisheries sciences and in regional and international fisheries affairs, having led the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) Programme's activity centre in Namibia for the past three years. The activity centre focused on the trans-boundary management of marine living resources, and Hamukuaya was responsible to coordinating dozens of regional projects in Angola, Namibia and South Africa.

Hamukuaya obtained his Master of Sciences degree in Marine Sciences at the State University of New York, Stony Brook and a doctorate degree in zoology at the University of Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Between 1991 and 1998 he worked as a fishery scientist at the National Marine Information and Research Centre in Swakopmund, Namibia. He was later appointed as deputy director and stationed in Windhoek. During his career, Hamukuaya has served as Namibia's Commissioner to International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and has intricately involved in the Benguela Environment Fisheries Interaction and Training Programme (BENEFIT) and the Nansen programmes. He was a member of the team that negotiated the SEAFO Convention and the SADC Protocol on Fisheries.

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