

Press Release Swakopmund, Namibia

The South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) held its 19th meeting from 22 November to 1 December 2022. The contracting parties to SEAFO met in Swakopmund at the Hansa Hotel for their Annual Commission meeting and of its subsidiary bodies consisting of the Scientific Committee, the Compliance Committee and the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance.

SEAFO is a RFMO (Regional Fishery Management Organisation). The UN convention on the Law of the Sea and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement build on the RFMOs to pursue good governance of the oceans. The RFMOs are excellent tools to foster international cooperation and to maintain peaceful and harmonious co-existence of various fishing fleets. They also play a critical role in managing the effects of climate change and in maintaining biodiversity in the oceans.



Delegation of the 19th Commission Meeting

The Secretariat is based in Swakopmund, Namibia, headed by the Executive Secretary and assisted by an Administrative Officer. The primary aim of the Secretariat is to coordinate the activities of the Organisation.

The meeting this year brought together the contracting parties of the European Union, Japan, Korea, Namibia and South Africa. Angola could not attend.

The Commission meeting, chaired by Mr. Stefaan Depypere from the EU, considered the analysis and recommendations by the Scientific Committee of the organization, chaired by the Namibian scientist, Dr. Paul Kainge, which covered the status of the various fish stocks and of the vulnerable marine ecosystems in the South East Atlantic convention area. It

decided to maintain a Total Allowable Catch for the main species. In the convention area, the species discussed are Patagonian toothfish, Alfonsino, Pelagic armourhead, Orange roughy and Deep-sea Red crab.



Delegation of the 18th Scientific Committee Meeting

The parties worked in harmonious way and reached conclusions that guarantee further conservation and prudent exploitation of the resources in the convention area and was deemed very successful.

Stefaan Depypere said that he was very pleased with the good cooperation between the parties and with the outcome of the meeting.

“Cooperation in SEAFO is an example of good governance”, he said, “it contributes to international cooperation and maintaining a livable ocean and planet for the future generations. This is the way forward for International Ocean Governance. All contracting parties are committed to achieve this objective.”

Details of upcoming SEAFO annual meetings held in Swakopmund.

Scientific Committee	20-24 November 2023
Compliance Committee	27 November 2023
Standing Committee on Admin & Finance	28 November 2023
Commission	29-30 November 2023

For further details, please contact Dr. Lizette Voges, the Executive Secretary of SEAFO, email info@seafo.org