Report of the 2013 SEAFO Compliance Committee Meeting

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Mr. Domingos Azevedo
Chairperson of Compliance Committee

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Report of the 6th Compliance Committee Meeting
Swakopmund, Namibia 11th December 2013

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair, Mr. Domingos Azevedo, from Angola opened the meeting and welcomed Contracting Parties to the 6th Compliance Committee meeting.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements

The agenda was adopted with the following amendments:

3.1 Point 7: Report of the Extra-Ordinary Compliance Committee meeting was deleted from the agenda.

4. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegates

The Chairperson requested the heads of delegations to introduce their delegates.

4-1.1. Angola - Mr. Dielobaka Ndomebele, Mr. Kumbi Kilongo

4-1.2. Japan - Mr. Kenro Iino, Mr. Tsunehiko Motooka, Mr. Kimiyoshi Hiwatari, Ms. Aya Murayama, Dr. Tsutomu Nishida, Mr. Junichiro Okamoto, Mr. Takeshi Shibata

4-1.3. EU - Mr. Orlando Fachada, Mr. Jon Lansley, Dr. Luis López Abellán

4-1.4. Korea - Mr. Chungmo Jung, Ms. Jihyun Kim, Ms. Boram Jo, Mr. Kunwoong Ji

4-1.5. Namibia – Mr. Titus IiIende, Mr. Stanley Ndara, Mr. Peter Amutenya

4-1.6. Norway - Mr. Terje Lobach, Mr. Kristoffer Bjorklund

4-1.7. South Africa - Mr. Xolela Wellem

5. Introduction of observers

5-1. The Executive Secretary informed the meeting that CCAMLR, NAFO, NAMMCO, and NEAFC were present as observers.

6. Executive Secretary’s Report on Compliance (DOC/CC/03/2013)

6-1. The Compliance Report was presented jointly by the Executive Secretary (Dr. Ben van Zyl) and the Data Manager (Mr. George Campanis).

6-2. Following a presentation of the Compliance Report, the following points were noted:

6-2.1 The meeting agreed that the Secretariat should work intersessionally to produce a working document on VMS pricing and possible options to implement the VMS requirements contained in the SEAFO System.

6-2.2 The meeting agreed to update the format of the VMS position messages to include speed and course. The Secretariat was tasked with making necessary changes to Annex III of the SEAFO System.

6-2.3 The meeting commended Japan for fully complying with regulations whilst fishing in the Convention Area in 2013.
6-2.4 Several Contracting Parties expressed that they encountered challenges in complying with all measures, and emphasized that the SEAFO System only came into effect in February 2013. There was general agreement that Contracting Parties should work with the Secretariat and make every effort to improve compliance over the next year.

6-2.5 The meeting agreed to set the reporting period for the annual Compliance Report to 1st October - 31st September.

6-2.6 The meeting took note of the reference to the Oslo Convention identification of vessel tonnage contained in the SEAFO authorized vessel list. It was agreed to remove the footnote referring to the Oslo Convention (1947), as all Contracting Parties use “gross tonnage (GT)” and not “gross register tonnage (GRT)” for identifying vessel tonnage. Furthermore, members emphasized the need to replace all references, in the SEAFO System, from “gross register tonnage (GRT)” to “gross tonnage (GT)”

6-2.7 The meeting expressed gratitude, to the Secretariat, for the improved format of the Compliance Report which contributed to improved comprehension and analysis of compliance within the SEAFO CA.

7. Consideration of the revision of the SEAFO IUU Vessel list

7-1. The meeting took note that no IUU sightings were reported by Contracting Parties.

7-2. The meeting clarified that updates to SEAFO’s IUU vessel list from NEAFC, NAFO, and CCAMLR could occur during the year as necessary and following the procedures identified in Article 26 of the SEAFO System. However, listing of IUU vessels occurring upon IUU sightings in the SEAFO CA, would be required to be approved at the annual meeting. The SEAFO System only has provisions to delist vessels during the intersessional period.

7-3. The meeting approved the IUU vessel list provided.

8. International MCS network membership

8-1. The meeting discussed the prospect of SEAFO joining the IMCS Network and agreed that the Committee would further study the invitation and noted, however, that some benefit may be gained by, notably, developing States being members. Individual member States may join the IMCS Network on their own accord.

9. Recommended additional measures on compliance

9-1. There were no additional measures on compliance recommended at this Compliance Committee meeting. However, additional compliance measures were proposed at the Extra-Ordinary Compliance Committee meeting.

10. Any other Matters

10-1. There were no other matters tabled for discussion.

11. Venue and date of next meeting

11-1. The meeting venue and date will be determined by the Commission.

12. Closure of the Meeting

12-1. The Chairperson thanked all delegations for their active participation and for their valuable inputs. The meeting adjourned at 15h20.