



The Secretariat

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South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE 13TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC) - 2017

CHAIR: Mr B Tjizoo (NAMIBIA)
VICE: Mr G Louw (SOUTH AFRICA)

Venue: Strand Hotel, Swakopmund
Date: 20-24 November 2017

- 1. Opening and welcome remarks by the Chairperson**
The Chairperson will open the meeting and welcome delegates.
- 2. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements**
The Meeting will review and adopt the agenda. Delegates will be informed of any practical arrangements for the meeting by the Executive Secretary ([DOC/SC/01/2017](#) & [DOC/SC/02/2017](#)).
- 3. Appointment of Rapporteur**
The chairperson will ensure the appointment of rapporteurs who would take the minutes for the Scientific Committee Report.
- 4. Introduction 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**
The meeting will review research/working documents and presentations submitted ([DOC/SC/00/2017](#)).
- 7. Review 2017 work program**
SC listed the following tasks for 2017:
 - 7.1 Orange Roughy:**
 - 7.1.1 Working document to be presented at 2017 meeting from Namibia on comparing historic catch positions and CPUE in Namibia and SEAFO CA. See how it changed over time (Elizabeth Voges (Namibia)).
 - 7.1.2 Report on Namibian survey of 2016 and assessment of the Namibian stock (Elizabeth Voges (Namibia)).
 - 7.1.3 Explore and report on the possibility of extending the Namibian biomass survey to former orange roughy fishing areas in the SEAFO CA (Elizabeth Voges (Namibia)).
 - 7.2 Patagonian toothfish:**
 - 7.2.1 Further exploration of the stock dynamics on the different fishing grounds and possible CPUE standardization methods as a group. (Ivone Figueiredo (EU), John Kathena (Namibia), Tsutomu Tom Nishida (Japan), Elizabeth Voges (Namibia)) and other members).

7.3 Further considerations of guidelines and principles underlying evaluations of appropriateness of closures and possible protocols for revision of closures:

- 7.3.1 Draft document prepared for SC meeting 2017 (Odd Aksel Bergstad (Norway)). ([DOC/SC/04/2017](#))

7.4 FAO/ABNJ deep-sea project:

- 7.4.1 Explore the possibility of convening an international workshop on deep-sea pot fisheries (Secretariat).
7.4.2 Support the Namibian orange roughy assessment by arranging a meeting of experts (Secretariat).
7.4.3 SC in collaboration with FAO/ABNJ to develop a checklist, application and evaluation template for exploratory fishing applications (Secretariat). ([DOC/SC/10/2017](#))
7.4.4 SC Chair to send a letter to FAO/ABNJ indicating the need for additional research surveys in the SEAFO CA by the RV Dr. Fridjof Nansen (Chair).

7.5 2Participation in FAO/CECAF meeting - Dakar 8-10 November 2016 (Ivone Figueiredo (EU)).

- 7.7.1 Participation supported by the budget allocation to SC for activities in ABNJ project 2016, and report back at 2017 SC meeting. ([DOC/SC/17/2017](#))

7.6 Reporting on SIOFA SC meeting (Luis Lopez-Abellan (EU)). ([DOC/SC/19/2017](#))

7.7 Bycatch species that could be incidentally taken in the SEAFO CA by ICCAT Fisheries:

- 7.7.2 Explore and report on possible bycatch of SEAFO species in the ICCAT. (Beau M. Tjizoo (Namibia)).

8. Report by the Executive Secretary presenting landing tables updated to October 2017.

The Executive Secretary will present all landings, incidental by-catch and discard tables updated to October 2017.

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

The meeting will review the catches and spatial distribution of non-benthic species as reported by the fishing vessels in 2017 and make recommendations if necessary.

10. Review the spatial distribution of reported catches of benthic organisms (corals, sponges etc.)

The meeting will review the spatial distribution of benthic organisms as reported by the fishing vessel in 2017 and make recommendations if necessary.

11. Review Stock Status Reports

The meeting will review the Stock Status Reports compiled in 2016 and updating the reports where necessary. ([DOC/SC/05/2017](#); [DOC/SC/06/2017](#); [DOC/SC/07/2017](#); [DOC/SC/08/2017](#); [DOC/SC/09/2017](#))

12. Review research activities in the SEAFO CA since October 2016 to date

The meeting will review research activities conducted between October 2016 and date of the SC meeting.

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

The meeting will examine assessments done by CCAMLR and if applicable and available assessments from the South Africa, Namibia and Angola.

14. Further Research on SEAFO seamounts under the EAF-Nansen programme in 2019.

([DOC/SC/11/2017](#)) The current science plan of the EAF-Nansen suggesting an opportunity for further studies in SEAFO, similar to those in 2015, may be proposed for 2019. SC should discuss this opportunity in the light of priorities expressed after the previous voyage. The aim should be

to work out a concrete first draft of a proposal to be considered for submission by the Commission.

15. Proposal for Scientific and Technical Cooperation on the Walvis Ridge – MARISMA/BCC/Namibia/Strong High Seas Project.

The Project requested the floor as observer to present possible scientific and technical cooperation with SEAFO in management of the Walvis Ridge ([DOC/SC/12/2017](#)).

16. Review Total Allowable Catches and related management conditions for Patagonian Toothfish, Alfonsino, Amourhead, Orange Roughy and Deep-sea Red Crab and Deep-sea Red Crab

SC will recommend TAC's for Patagonian Toothfish, Alfonsino, Amourhead, Orange Roughy and Deep-sea Red Crab for 2018/2019.

17. Review Recommendations from 2nd Performance Review

17.1 The Commission should identify criteria for maximum acceptable ecosystem impacts of fisheries in relation to inter alia habitat impacts and incidental bycatch. In order to initiate this process, the Commission should request the SC to consider candidates for maximum acceptable impact which are relevant, measurable and can be monitored.

ACTION: The Commission took note of the recommendation and referred the recommendation to the Scientific Committee for advice.

17.2 The SC should continue its work on updating the Stock Status reports for stocks targeted by fisheries or where there may be future commercial interest, with an emphasis on the species-specific information as required for the Commission to fulfil its role as responsible for fisheries harvesting target species sustainably in the convention area.

ACTION: The Commission took note of the recommendation and requesting the Scientific Committee to continue producing Stock Status Reports.

17.3 For those potential target species where there are no current fisheries this could be based on a risk assessment rather than attempting to move to a full-fledged stock assessment in a situation where no data are available from non-existing fisheries.

ACTION: The Commission noted the recommendation and referred the recommendation to the Scientific Committee for consideration and possible implementation.

17.4 The SC should develop Ecosystem status reports regarding the interactions between fisheries and the marine ecosystem within the convention area. This could be one for the convention area or a set of reports for different subsystems within the area. The Ecosystem status report(s) should provide information and scientific advice as required by the Commission to fulfil its role in relation to ensuring that fisheries impact on the marine ecosystem are acceptable. In order to use available resources efficiently on this task a risk based assessment, as discussed in the context of fish species, could be extended to fisheries and also include the wider ecosystem effects of fisheries.

ACTION: The Commission noted the recommendation and referred the recommendation to the Scientific Committee for consideration and implementation. The Commission requested that in the future the SC report systematically contains a chapter on Ecosystem status reports. SC.

17.5 The SC should modify its rules of procedure to include guidance on how to proceed in order for the SC to provide conclusions which are helpful to the Commission in cases where there may be different opinions of a scientific nature between scientists

ACTION: The Commission referred the recommendation to the Scientific Committee for advice.

17.6 The basis for analysis and recommendations by SC, which has important economic, social or political implications for fisheries or member states, should be subject to independent peer review as is normal in science in order to provide trust in the integrity of the advice and recommendation in question. Peer review should apply regarding the scientific soundness of methods to be applied. In cases where a methodology is implemented repeatedly on updated data sets, such as a stock status which is using peer reviewed methodology on a data set which has just been updated with recent data, the SC should be in a position to internally review whether the prescribed methodology has been applied according to standards. Independence of peer reviewers can be judged on basis of the normal criteria used in science including that the reviewer or the organisation he or she is affiliated to should not have an interest in the matter under scrutiny and that there are no relations in terms of organisation, family or economy to any scientists involved in the analysis in the first place.

ACTION: The Commission referred the recommendation to the Scientific Committee for advice.

17.7 The Commission to consider a revision of protocols for opening of areas closed to all fisheries in order to enable decisions to be made on basis of data which can realistically be collected without jeopardising the health of ecosystems and fish stocks.

ACTION: The Commission referred the recommendation to the Scientific Committee for advice.

18. Develop a protocol on Exceptional Circumstances on the application of Harvest Control Rules (HCR) to be considered by the Commission

The Commission (2016) requested the Scientific Committee to develop a protocol on Exceptional Circumstances on the application of the HCR, such as no sufficient data is available for HCR, for consideration during the Commission meeting in 2017. EU prepared a paper for discussion ([DOC/SC/13/2017](#)).

19. Genetic analysis of orange rougy in Namibia

The Commission (2016) requested the Scientific Committee to conduct a genetic analysis of orange rougy occurring in Namibia to establish if orange rougy is a straddling stock.

20. Letter of intent and Standards for the 2018 Exploratory Fishing – Japan

Japan plans to submit a Letter of Intent and Standards for the 2018 Exploratory Fishing to the Secretariat by the end of October and would like to request SC to evaluate it during the 13th Session of SC.

21. Data Request from New Zealand's Ministry of Primary Industries for seabird risk assessment

New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries, MPI, is asking permission to access non-public domain effort and observer data aggregated by month and 5x5 degree squares for all fishing activities conducted under SEAFO jurisdiction, from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2015. The data will be used to conduct a southern hemisphere seabird risk assessment. More details can be seen in [DOC/SC/15/2017](#).

22. Data Request from Russia for *Antimora* spp. Genetic study

Assistance was requested in conducting of research project dealing with taxonomy, distribution, microevolution and biology of *Antimora* spp. worldwide. The SC to discuss the request. More information in [DOC/SC16/2017](#).

23. Any other matter:

The following documents will be discussed:

(DOC/SC/18/2017) Draft arrangement between ACAP and SEAFO (Secretariat)

(DOC/SC/04/2017) Proposal for a CM on banning of Gillnets (EU)

(DOC/SC/04/2017) Proposal for the revision of CM 04-06 (EU)

24. Collate advice and recommendations to the Commission on issues emanating from the 2017 meeting

SC will collate all recommendations emanating to the Commission for adoption.

25. 2018 work program

SC to compile a work plan for 2018.

26. Budget for 2018.

SC will compile a budget for 2018.

27. Adoption of the report.

The meeting will review and adopt the 2017 SC report.

28. Date and place of the next meeting.

The meeting will agree on a date and venue for the 2018 SC meeting.

29. Closure of the meeting.

The Chairperson will close and adjourn the meeting.