

Press Release

Busan, Korea -The South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) held its ninth Annual Meeting from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012. The meeting focused on further strengthening its fisheries management regime and to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs).

### **Status of SEAFO participation**

SEAFO was established in March 2004 after the entry into force of the SEAFO Convention in 2003. Angola, the European Union, Japan, Republic of Korea, Namibia, Norway and South Africa are currently members. Republic of Korea has become the 7th member of SEAFO in March 2011. SEAFO reaffirms its calls on other states, particularly those that have vessels currently fishing in the Convention Area, to join the Organisation.

### **Conservation Measures**

SEAFO adopted, in accordance with Article 16 of the Convention, the **SYSTEM OF OBSERVATION, INSPECTION, COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**. The “**SYSTEM**” is a comprehensive management tool addressing control measures, monitoring of fisheries, sea inspection, observer programme, port State control measures of foreign vessels and measures to promote compliance. The “**SYSTEM**”, in its application, will be essential for the conservation of species under the SEAFO Convention and for the international efforts to fight Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing (IUU).

To protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems a new move-on rule as well as rules and procedures for opening of new fishing areas were adopted. The Commission has adopted new total allowable catches (TAC) for Patagonian toothfish, deep-sea red crab, orange roughy and alfonsino. The revised IUU Vessel List has been adopted.

South Africa and Angola will be the chair and the vice-chair of the Commission respectively for the years 2013 and 2014. Norway has been the chair of the Commission since 2009.

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