



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
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联合国
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COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

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Report: SEAFO

SOUTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANISATION (SEAFO)

Information for the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), March 2007

1. Brief Information on SEAFO

SEAFO is a regional fisheries management organisation responsible for ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources within the Convention Area (see the attached map) in the high seas of southeast Atlantic Ocean. The idea to establish SEAFO came in mid 1990's because of the concern that certain commercially valuable straddling fish stocks (such as orange roughy, alfoncino, deep sea red crab, toothfish and oreo dories; see Table 1) required better protection to avoid compromising their potential within the EEZs of coastal States as a result of unsustainable fishing practices on the adjacent high seas.

Complex negotiations involved coastal States of Angola, South Africa and United Kingdom (on behalf of St. Helena and its dependencies Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Islands) and other States started in 1997 and completed in 2000 with the adoption of SEAFO Convention (Convention Text available under Basic Documents at www.seafo.org). SEAFO Convention is largely based on 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (<http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm>) and the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stock (<http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm>). The Convention was signed on 20 April 2001 in Windhoek by Angola, the European Community, Iceland, Namibia, Norway, Republic of Korea, South Africa, United Kingdom (on behalf of St. Helena and its dependencies Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Islands) and the United States of America. It entered into force on 13 April 2003 after the deposit of instrument of ratifications with the Director-General of Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) by Namibia and Norway and approval by the European Community. Angola deposited its instrument of ratification on 7 March 2006, making it a 4th Contracting Party of SEAFO by now.

The structures of the Organisation include the Commission (highest decision-making body), the Secretariat (that administering, coordinating and overseeing the application and implementation of the Convention) and the Scientific Committee (that provides advice to the Commission on the status of the resources as well as on harvesting levels). The Commission meets annually to deliberate on substantive issues including formulation and adoption of fisheries conservation and management measures and the approval of the budget and appropriations. The first meeting of the Commission was held in March 2004 in Swakopmund while both the 2005 and 2006 meetings were held in Windhoek. The Headquarters (or the Secretariat) of SEAFO is based in Walvis Bay.

2. Recent activities of special relevance with fisheries statistics and data collection

From 2005 up-to-date, SEAFO is developing its data management regime, as demonstrated by the activities below. In doing so, SEAFO is endeavouring to conform with international standards including those adopted by CWP:

- a Log-sheets, data-forms and sampling forms were developed and are implemented for each fishery [also available at seafo website <http://www.seafo.org>];
- b A permanent Sub-Committee was established to collate fisheries data and prepare the work of the SEAFO Scientific Committee;
- c Conservation measure 02/05 on the interim port State measures under which, *inter alia* port states would have to report on the results of their inspections of foreign vessels to the SEAFO Secretariat was adopted and a form for use by port State in collecting such data was developed and implemented;
- d Conservation measure 07/06 to among others, monitor the fisheries in the SEAFO area through the submission of data / information on the characteristics of authorised vessels, on fishing activities, on catch and fishing effort, on biological information, on VMS and by scientific observer on all vessels fishing in the area was adopted;
- e Scientific co-ordinators who are responsible for the establishment of sampling protocols, training of scientific observers, data quality control, and data provision to SEAFO are designated by Contracting Parties;
- f Closed areas for all fisheries in fragile marine habitats such as seamounts were introduced until such time when more information on the resources and the ecosystem functioning is available.

Fig. 1 SEAFO Convention Area map.

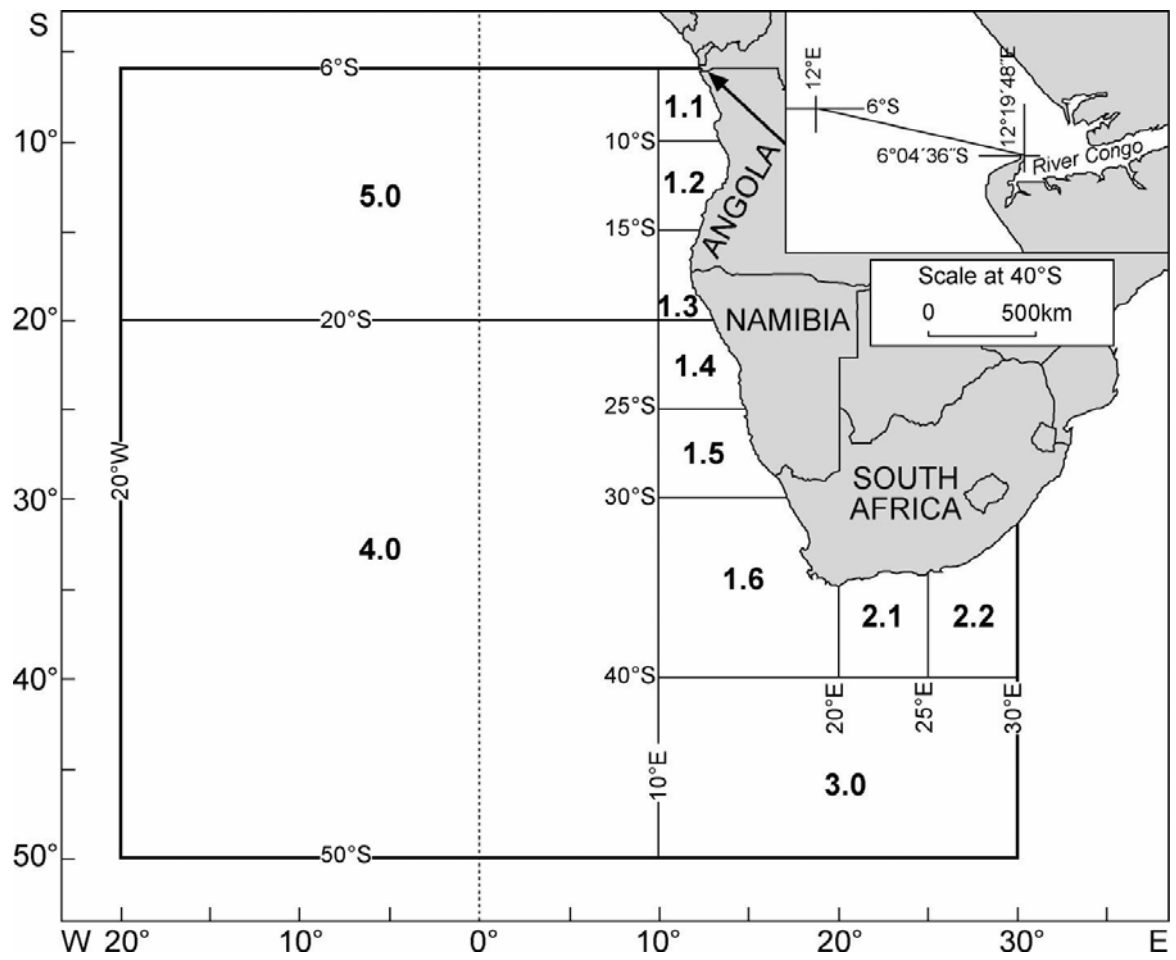


Table 1. The list of stocks for covered by the SEAFO Convention.

FAO 3 Alfa Code	Species	Latin Name
ALF	Alfonsino	Family Berycidae
HOM	Horse Mackerel	Trachurus spp.
MAC	Mackerel	Scomber spp.
ORY	Orange Roughy	Hoplostethus spp
SKA	Skates	Family Rajidae
SKH	Sharks	Order Selachomorpha
EDR	Armourhead	Pseudopentaceros spp.
CDL	Cardinal Fish	Epigonus spp.
CGE	Deep-sea Red Crab	Chaceon maritae
OCZ	Octopus	Family Octopodidae
SQC	Squid	Family Loliginidae
TOP	Patagonian toothfish	Dissostichus eginoides
HKC	Hake	Merluccius spp.
WRF	Wreckfish	Polyprion americanus
ORD	Oreo dories	Family Oreosomatidae