

Report from Norway, the NEAFC observer to the 2007 Annual Meeting of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

The 4th SEAFO Annual Meeting took place 8-11 October 2007 in Windhoek, Namibia. For the first time SEAFO adopted measures to limit catches in South East Atlantic waters, namely by fixing quotas for deep-sea red crab and Patagonian toothfish, in accordance with the advice and recommendations of its Scientific Committee. These actions were necessitated by the concerns on the sustainability of the current fisheries and of the potential negative impacts on the vulnerable marine habitats.

SEAFO adopted last year a system for listing of IUU vessels, similar to that established by NEAFC. The Commission this year extended the scope of this measure with the aim of targeting IUU fishing in the whole of Atlantic Ocean. In so doing, the Commission amended the measure so that IUU vessels on the IUU lists of Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Resources (CCAMLR), the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) and NEAFC are included in the SEAFO IUU list.

Moreover, SEAFO established more stringent port State measures, based on standards set forth in the FAO Model Scheme. These measures include among other things designated ports, establishment of a SEAFO record of ports, notification requirements before granting port access, inspection procedures and a harmonized format for reporting. At the meeting, SEAFO also established a Compliance Committee to advise the Commission on compliance issues.

SEAFO called on other parties, notably Japan and Republic of Korea, currently fishing in the area, to join the Organisation and accept responsibility and costs, thereby balancing the benefits they draw from their fisheries in the area.

SEAFO was established in March 2004 after the entry into force of the Convention in April 2003. Angola, European Union, Namibia and Norway are currently Members.
