Report by SEAFO Observer (Norway) on the 15th Meeting of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO-XIV), Swakopmund, 26 – 30 Nov. 2018.

The 15th Annual Meeting of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO-XIV) took place in Swakopmund, Namibia, during 26 - 30 Nov. 2018, under the chairmanship of Mr. Dielobaka Ndombele (Angola).

The member countries of SEAFO, Angola, Namibia, the Republic of South Africa, Norway, the European Union, Japan, and South Korea confirmed their commitment to ensuring the sustainable utilization of living marine resources through active regional cooperation and science-based management decisions.

In addition to delegates from the Contracting Parties, the United States, Bolivia, The Benguela Current Commission (BCC), The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), The Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), Taiyo Namibia (PTY), as well as the following organizations observed the meeting: NAMMCO, CCAMLR, NAFO, and NEAFC.

Much of the proceedings were devoted to discussing the possibility of arranging biennial meetings. Based on the experiences of other fisheries management organizations, several options for implementing biennial meetings were looked at. A conclusion was not reached, and the discussion will continue at the next commission meeting.

Furthermore, SEAFO adopted a new numbering system for decisions in order to address shortcomings in the previous system. The new system is based on that of other RFMOs. In addition, a protocol for the application of HCRs when stocks and fisheries evaluations indicate that exceptional circumstances are occurring, was adopted. Also, with some additional mitigation measures added, a Japanese Notice of Intent for Exploratory Fishing was approved.

The total allowable catch level for the target species orange roughy, deep-sea red crab, patagonian toothfish, and alfonsino in the convention area were agreed upon at the Commission meeting, with a duration of two years.

The next Annual Meeting of the SEAFO will be held in Swakopmund, Namibia during 25.–28. November 2019.