



The Secretariat

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South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

13 June 2025

Elinor Hamma Ukjold

Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and UN Legal Counsel

(email: doalos@un.org; ruth.valenzuela-hijar@un.org)

RE: REPORT FROM SEAFO on the Contribution of SEAFO in Implementing General Assembly Resolution 79/144

Dear Elinor

I acknowledged receipt of your said request. Below please find SEAFO response regarding new developments in the SEAFO Convention Area since 31 August 2024.

Introduction

The South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) has been actively contributing to the sustainable management and conservation of marine resources in the South East Atlantic Ocean. This report outlines SEAFO's activities, including the adoption of measures and development of programmes, in line with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 79/144. Additionally, it highlights the main developments in SEAFO in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea since the last reporting period, which ended on 31 August 2024.

Implementation of General Assembly Resolution 79/144

1. Adoption of Measures: SEAFO has adopted several measures to ensure the sustainable use of marine resources and the protection of marine ecosystems. The CM25/12 on Reducing Incidental By-catch of Seabirds are currently under review by the Scientific Committee to be updated where needed.
2. Development of Programmes: SEAFO has developed various programmes to support the implementation of sustainable fishing practices and the protection of marine biodiversity:



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Scientific Research Programmes: SEAFO has initiated research programmes to improve the understanding of fish stocks and marine ecosystems. These programmes involve stock assessments, habitat mapping, and the study of the impacts of fishing on marine biodiversity. The SEAFO Scientific Committee is involved in projects which is looking at stock assessment models for data poor stocks. There are also projects in the pipeline to train scientists on VME identification and quantification from survey videos.

Capacity Building and Training: SEAFO are conducted training workshops and capacity-building initiatives for member states to enhance their ability to implement and comply with SEAFO and UN regulations. Training of Namibian observers is one of the projects envisaged for 2025. SEAFO contracting parties also took part in a workshop organised by the FAO Deep-sea Fisheries project on an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries during March 2025.

Main Developments in Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

Since the last reporting period, SEAFO has made significant progress in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea:

1. **Strengthening Regional Cooperation:** SEAFO has strengthened its cooperation with other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and international bodies. This includes joint efforts with the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The MOU with ACAP was renewed in November 2024. An agreement regarding tagging of Patagonian toothfish and the subsequent sharing of information on tagging and recapture was agreed upon between CCAMLR and SEAFO during the November 2024 Commission Meeting of SEAFO.

2. **Advancements in Marine Conservation:** SEAFO has made strides in marine conservation by updating its list of VMEs and other species in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This ensures that the identification and protection of VMEs are based on the latest scientific data.

Conclusion

SEAFO's contributions to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 79/144 and its ongoing efforts in ocean affairs and the law of the sea demonstrate its commitment to sustainable marine resource management. Through the adoption of effective measures, development of comprehensive programmes, and



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strengthening of regional cooperation, SEAFO continues to play a crucial role in the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in the South East Atlantic Ocean.

Yours sincerely

Lizette Voges

Executive Secretary