

**SC-03-INFO-07**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)  
Scientific Committee  
20-24 March 2017, Saint Denis, La Reunion**

**Report on the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation  
(SEAFO) 2017 Scientific Committee**

*Relates to agenda item: 11*

Working paper  Info paper

**Delegation of the European Union**

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**Abstract**

A summary of the main items raised on the 2017 SC SEAFO meeting is presented in this information paper.

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**Recommendations** *(working papers only)*

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REPORT ON THE SOUTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANISATION (SEAFO)  
2017 SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
Swakopmund (Namibia), 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Submitted to SIOFA SC annual meeting (Saint-Dennis, La Réunion, 20-24 March 2018)

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The most relevant issues raised in the 2017 SC meeting there were about:

- The connection between the SEAFO and Namibian EEZ orange roughy stocks that was not clarified. In fact, the results of the 2016 orange roughy Namibian survey did not shed any new light.
- The SEAFO SC revised and discuss the guidelines and principles underlying evaluations of appropriateness of closures and possible protocols for revision of closures. Concerns were raised in relation to the strategy and proposed criteria for opening the closed areas.
- SEAFO SC did not assume collaboration with local high seas project, outside the SEAFO framework. Under this topic it was also stressed the importance that SC be fully aware of research activity within the SEAFO CA, even if those are referring to other science fields, such as seismology as were the cases of 2014 GEOMAR cruise and the 2012 US Walvis Ridge “MV1203 Expedition” cruise. It was also stressed that any research activity, when taking place in SEAFO CA should follow the SEAFO research guidelines.
- SEAFO SC reviewed the recommendations from 2nd Performance Review; some of recommendations are highly constrained by current limited data and knowledge.
- The adoption of Harvest Control Rules (HCR) by SEAFO did not solved constrains on managements measures application, due to the lack of fishing activity in recent years. Thus, it was necessary to develop a protocol on Exceptional Circumstances on the application of HCR.

Meetings where EU members of the SEAFO SC acted as SEAFO representatives in 2016:

- FAO/CECAF meeting, organized as part of the FAO/ABNJ Deep Sea Project
- Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Association (SIOFA) SC

Relevant future research activities and studies that EU SEAFO SC participants considered relevant to increase the knowledge and improve scientific advice that the Commission may consider:

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- exploration on the Patagonian toothfish stock dynamics and CPUE standardization, to which the SC establish a team of SEAFO members, headed by Tom Nishida (Japan), to conduct this task intersessionally;
  - evaluation of the adequability of developing an ecological risk assessment on SEAFO species; and
  - elaboration of a proposal for research on SEAFO seamounts under the EAF-Nansen programme in 2019s.