



14 June 2024

Miguel de Serpa Soares  
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and UN Legal Counsel

RE: RESPONSE FROM SEAFO on General Assembly resolution s 77/248 –  
report of the SG on oceans and the law of the sea 202 4

Dear Miguel

I acknowledged receipt of your said request. Below please find SEAFO response regarding new developments in the SEAFO Convention Area since 31 August 2023.

The Convention Area of SEAFO are not rich in fisheries resources with about 2-3 % of the whole area being shallower than 2000m of depth. The fishing effort since 2005 never exceeded 5 vessels and 4 contracting parties in any one year. Since 2013, only Longline and Pot fishing were conducted with maximum catches of 60 tonnes and 196 tonnes respectively. The situation have not changed much over the years.

The fishing pressure in the SEAFO CA is considered as very low with only two vessels fishing in the past reporting year. Due to the low level of exploitation, SEAFO finds itself in a data poor situation when it comes to stock assessment and ecosystem management.

Changes which were made since 31 August 2023 are the following:

- The Observer and Captain reporting logbooks have to be aligned with the CCAMLR and SIOFA forms which was changed in 2023. By having comparatable reporting forms, it is easier for the industry and observers to report to the various organisations. During 2024 the forms will be redesigned and if approved, implemented in 2025.



The Secretariat

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South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

- The SEAFO Commission and subsidiary bodies meetings will be physical only every second year and inbetween the meetings will be conducted virually. The Scientific Committee Stock assessment (which is done every second year) will coincide with the physical meeting.
- TACs were set for five deepwater fish species for the calendar year of 2024 – to be reviewed during the Nov 2025 Scientific Committee meeting for the period from 2026-2027.

Yours sincerely

Lizette Voges

Executive Secretary