



The Secretariat

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## South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

13 June 2023

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

**RE: RESPONSE FROM SEAFO on General Assembly resolutions 77/248 –  
report of the SG on oceans and the law of the sea 2023**

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 2022.

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 therefor considered as very low. Due to the low level of exploitation, SEAFO finds itself in a data poor situation when it comes to stock assessment and ecosystem management.

TACs are still set for five deepwater fish species

Changes which were made since 31 August 2022 are the following:

1. During the 2022 SEAFO Commission meeting the following changes (underlined and in Red) to Article 8 of the SEAFO SYSTEM OF OBSERVATION, INSPECTION, COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT:

*Each Contracting Party shall ensure that:*



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*(a) vessels operating with any gear shall have equipment on board to retrieve lost or abandoned gear;*

*(b) a vessel that has lost or abandoned gear shall make every reasonable attempt to retrieve it as soon as possible; including but not limited to a search and retrieval period of a minimum of 24 hours.*

*(c) no vessel shall deliberately abandon fishing gear, except for safety reasons, notably vessels in distress and/or life in danger; and*

*(d) if the lost gear amounting to 10% or more of longline and pot lines or any part of trawling gear cannot be retrieved the vessel shall notify the competent authorities of its flag State within 24 hours of the following:*

2. Furthermore the Commission adopted the recommendation from the Scientific Committee to implement the CCAMLR Tagging Protocol for Patagonian toothfish in the SEAFO CA, with a minimum of one toothfish per tonne of green weight fish caught to be tagged.

Yours sincerely

Lizette Voges

Executive Secretary