65% of the surface of the oceans

40% of the surface of our planet

Nearly 95% of the ocean’s volume

Complex ecosystems

Many actors, different agendas

Failing on targets: Rio, WSSD, CBD

Many challenges
Threats from various sectors on ABNJ

- Increased fishing for highly migratory species
- Ocean fertilization
- Extraction of hydrocarbons and mineral exploration
- Maritime shipping
- IUU fishing
- Marine debris and pollution
- Weak implementation of regulatory frameworks and management options
- Expansion of deep-seas fisheries
We therefore commit to protect, and restore, the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, and to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations, and to effectively apply an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in the management, in accordance with international law, of activities having an impact on the marine environment, to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development.
History

- **SEAFO** is the first post UNFSA, RFMO for straddling and discrete stocks
- Convention came in force in April 2003
- Secretariat based in Swakopmund, Namibia
- Membership open to all States and regional economic integration organisations who have participated in SEAFO negotiations or whose vessels fish for stocks covered by the Convention
- C-Parties: Angola, EU, Japan, Korea, SA, Namibian and Norway
- Signatories: Iceland, UK and USA
and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

by
Evelyne Meltzer
Objective

- **SEAFO Convention** is to ensure **long-term conservation** and **sustainable use** of the fishery resources in the Convention Area through the implementation of the Convention.
Seafo PROFILE

7 • Contracting Parties

26 • IUU listed vessels

36 • Authorised vessels

7 • Authorised ports

11 • Conservation Measures
Structure of SEAFO

- Functional Structures of the Organisation are established:
  - The Commission
  - The Scientific Committee
  - Compliance Committee
  - Administration and Finance Committee
  - The Secretariat

- The Commission is the highest decision-making body and meets annually.

- The Scientific Committee provides advice to the Commission on resources conservation and management
Decision making & dispute settlement

- Decision on all matters of substance are by consensus
- Other decision may be determined by a simple majority
- Cons & mgt measures adopted by the Commission become binding on all Parties 60 days after notice is given by the Secretariat
- Objection procedure exists
- Disputes resolved by negotiation, mediation, arbitration, judicial settlement or other peaceful means
- Technical disputes may be referred to an ad hoc expert panel established by the Commission
Participating criteria

- Each Party contribute to the budget on agreed formula.
- Parties must ensure that their national industries fishing in the Convention Area comply with the provisions of the Convention.
- Non-Parties vessels are to cooperate fully by agreeing to apply conservation and management measures.
- Non-Parties will enjoy benefits from participation in the fishery with their commitment to compliance.
Fishing

Number of vessels fishing in the CA

Bottom logline / Pot fishing / Midwater trawl
Stocks covered by SEAFO

- SEAFO regulates two types of fish stocks:
  - Those which straddle the Convention Area and adjacent waters under the jurisdiction of coastal States
  - Discrete high seas stocks (those associated with seamounts which do not occur at any stage of their biological cycle in waters under national jurisdiction).
Data Collection and Reporting

- Parties be required to collect and exchange scientific, technical and statistical data
- Parties must provide info on fishing activities including fishing areas and fishing vessels in order to facilitate compilation of reliable catch and cpue information
Stocks covered by SEAFO

Armourhead

Orange roughy

Patagonian toothfish

Crab

Alfonsino
Conservation measures in force

- Ban transhipments at sea in order to combat IUU fishing. It also adopted procedures to identify and list IUU vessels.
- Reduce incidental by-catch of seabirds, ban deep sea sharks catches, reduce incidental mortality of sea turtles in fishing operations.
- Management on the landing of VME species including move on rule.
- Port State inspection scheme.
- Banning of gillnets.
- TAC’s for four species in place.
Conservation Measure

- 11 sensitive marine areas with prominent seamounts are closed for fishing

- Adopted bottom fishing footprint (reference period 1987 to Jul 2011)
Cooperation

- SEAFO has established strong working relations with organisations such as ICCAT, NEAFC, NAFO, CCAMLR, FAO, UN-DOALOS and CWP on fisheries Statistics
  - Data (by-catches) exchange, info exchange (e.g. on IUU, conservation and management measures adopted, exchange of experiences on administrative matters, VMS (MoU with NEAFC), etc

- At regional level, SEAFO work closely with the BCC and has observer status in the Program Management Board
Transparency

- Meeting minutes / reports are available on the webpage
- NGOs and IGOs may be invited to the meetings as observers
- Financial activities of the Organisation are subjected to annual audit by independent auditors
Challenges

- Need to ensure full participation (ratification, accession etc) by all States and entities that have *real interest* in SEAFO fisheries
- Coastal states in SEAFO Area are developing nations that requires assistance to fully participate in SEAFO - SRF
- Extent of IUU fishing not known
- Obtaining reliable data for stock assessment and fisheries management
Concluding remarks

- Significant progress made to-date towards the implementation of the Convention
- Effective implementation of measures and policy adopted by the Commission would require commitment by the Parties
- SEAFO has lifted off

Thank you