

The South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization is a regional fisheries management organisation in the South East Atlantic Ocean and was established in line with the provisions of the United Nations Law of the Sea and the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement. The Convention was signed in April 2001 and enters into force on April 2003. In March 2005, the Secretariat was established and is located in Swakopmund. Membership is 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. Current Contracting Parties are Angola, EU, Japan, Korea, SA, Namibian and Norway. The Commission is the highest decision-making body and meets annually. The Scientific Committee provides advice to the Commission on resources conservation and management based on the best available scientific information. Parties are required to collect and exchange scientific, technical and statistical data. The Objective of the Convention is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Convention Area, which is about 16 million square kilometres in size. Significant progress has been made to date towards the implementation of the Convention and several Conservation Measures have been adopted to protect Biodiversity and VME's in the Convention Area. The Commission has adopted the bottom fishing footprint (reference period 1987 to Jul 2011) resulting that the area open to bottom fisheries is about 3% of the total Convention Area.