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Abidjan Meeting for Securing the Foundations
for Fish Food Security in a Changing Ocean
in West, Central and Southern Africa,
Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, 15-17 July 2014

Overview regional fisheries bodies off the Atlantic coast of Africa

OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL FISHERIES BODIES OFF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA

*Area of competence, objective, functions, structure, membership
(BCC - CECAF - COMHAFAT - COREP - FCWC - ICCAT - SEAFO - SRFC)*

information document prepared for

*Scoping Meeting on Securing the Foundations for Fish Food Security in a Changing Ocean in
West and Central Africa*

Abidjan, 15-17 July 2014



References to provisions of constitutive instruments have not all been verified and participants are invited to provide written feedback/corrections.

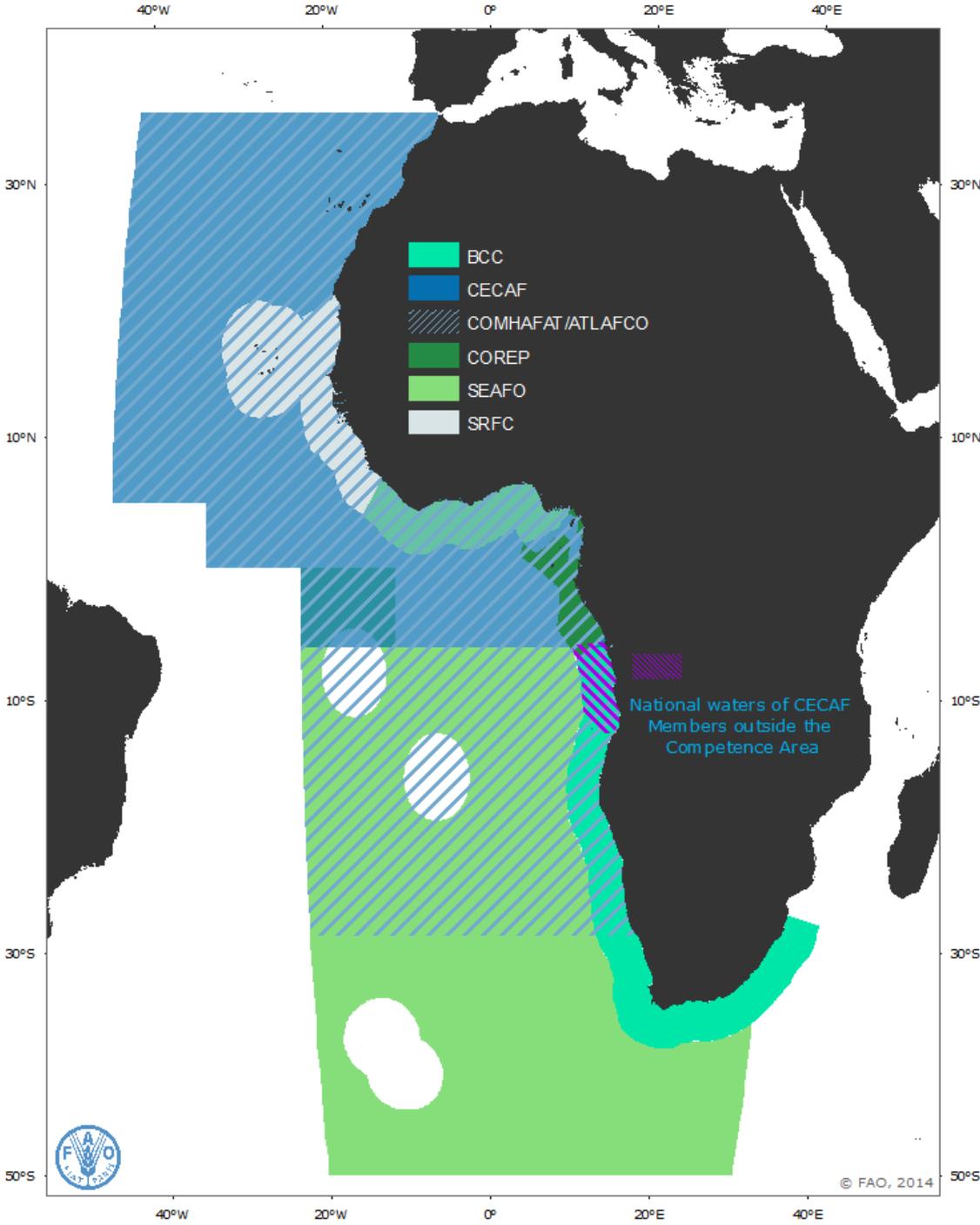
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MAP OF THE REGIONAL FISHERIES BODIES OFF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA



REGIONAL FISHERIES BODIES: area of competence, objective, functions, structure, membership

Benguela Current Commission (BCC)

Constituting legal text:

The Commission was established through an Interim Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Angola and the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Government of the Republic of South Africa on the Establishment of the Benguela Current Commission signed by January 2007. The convention of the Commission was open for signature by the Parties on 18 March 2013. It is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval in accordance with the domestic law and procedures in force in the countries of the Parties.¹

Area of competence:

The area of competence are waters under national sovereignty and jurisdiction and the convention applies to all human activities, aircrafts and ships under jurisdiction or control of a Party to the extent that these activities or the operation of such aircraft or ship result in, or are likely to result in adverse impacts.²

Objective/mission:

The objective of this Convention is to promote a coordinated regional approach to the long-term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem, to provide economic, environmental and social benefits.³

Functions:

The functions of the BCC include: to coordinate the implementation and review of the Strategic Action Programme and recommend changes to the programme as well as possible action plans as may be necessary from time to time; Provide strategic direction, coordination and evaluation in the implementation of the work plans and budget; Agree on, where necessary, measures to prevent, abate and minimise pollution caused by or resulting from dumping from ships or aircrafts; exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil and-based sources; agree on, where necessary, conservation and management measures concerning transboundary marine resources and the environment; agree, as appropriate, on participatory rights, such as harvest levels and sharing arrangements concerning transboundary fishery resources; promote, to the greatest extent possible, harmonisation, implementation and enforcement of existing policies and laws pertaining to the conservation and management of transboundary marine resources and environment; encourage harmonisation of conservation and management measures concerning marine resources and the environment; promote and support research programmes related to the transboundary marine resources and the environment; promote the collection, exchange, dissemination and analyses of the relevant data and information, including statistical, biological, environmental and socio-economical; promote collaboration on monitoring,

¹ Benguela Current Commission (BCC), "Preamble", online: <http://www.benguelacc.org/index.php/en/>; Benguela Current Commission Convention at "About", online: <http://www.benguelacc.org/index.php/en/about/the-benguela-current-convention>.

² Benguela Current Convention, Article 3. Available online: <http://www.benguelacc.org/index.php/en/about/the-benguela-current-convention>, http://www.benguelacc.org/index.php/en/component/docman/doc_download/1-benguela-convention.

³ Benguela Current Convention, Article 2

control and surveillance, including joint activities in the Southern African Development Community region; support training and strengthening of capacity in areas covered by this Convention.⁴

Structure:

The organisational structure is the following: A Ministerial Conference; a Commission; and a Secretariat.⁵ Each Party shall authorise Ministers to attend the Ministerial Conference, one of whom shall be the head of the delegation, and may be accompanied by alternative representatives, experts and advisers. A Ministerial Conference shall be convened at least every two years.⁶ The Commission consists of Commissioners, alternates and sectoral experts and meets every year.⁷ The Commission coordinates implementation and review of the Strategic Action Programme and agrees on, where necessary measures related to pollution and to management and conservation of shared marine resources, as well as on participatory rights. It promotes harmonisation, implementation and enforcement of measures related to conservation and management of marine transboundary resources. The Commission furthermore appoints the Executive Secretary, and may establish subsidiary bodies.⁸ In addition, a number of permanent committees to the Commission are established: an Ecosystem Advisory Committee, a Finance and Administration Committee, and a Compliance Committee, to provide advice to the Commission in their respective areas of competence.⁹ The Secretariat, headed by an Executive Secretary, among others serves the Ministerial Conference, the Commission and the its subsidiary bodies to facilitate the execution of its functions.¹⁰

Members:

The Government of the Republic of Angola, the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Government of the Republic of South Africa.¹¹

⁴ Benguela Current Commission, Article 7.

⁵ Benguela Current Convention, Article 5.

⁶ Benguela Current Convention, Article 6.

⁷ Benguela Current Convention, Article 7.

⁸ Benguela Current Convention, Article 8.

⁹ Benguela Current Commission, Article 9.

¹⁰ Benguela Current Commission, Article 13

¹¹ Benguela Current Commission, "About", online: <http://www.benguelacc.org/index.php/en/about/what-is-the-bcc>; Convention at "Preamble".

CECAF

Constituting legal text:

The Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic CECAF was established in 1967 under Article VI (2) of the FAO Constitution. Rules of Procedure were developed in 1969 and amended in 1992.¹²

Area of competence:

The area of competence of CECAF is in the Eastern Central Atlantic. This area coincides with the FAO Major Fishing Area No. 34, and includes areas under national jurisdiction as well as high seas. The Committee covers all living marine resources within its area of competence. The Committee established a Scientific Sub-Committee in 1998.¹³

Objective/mission:

The main objective of CECAF is to promote the sustainable utilization of the living marine resources within its area of competence by the proper management and development of the fisheries and fishing operations.

Functions:

The Committee does not have regulatory powers but can adopt recommendations on management issues. CECAF's functions include: to keep under review the state of the resources within its area of competence and of the industries based on them; to promote, encourage and coordinate research in the area related to the living resources thereof and to draw up programmes required for this purpose and to organize such research as may appear necessary; To promote the collection, interchange, dissemination and analysis or study of statistical, biological, environmental and socio-economic data and other marine fishery information; to establish the scientific basis for regulatory measures leading to the conservation and management of marine fishery resources, to formulate such measures through subsidiary bodies, as required, to make appropriate recommendations for the adoption and implementation of these measures and to provide advice for the adoption of regulatory measures by Member Governments, subregional or regional organizations, as appropriate; to provide advice on monitoring control and surveillance, especially as regards issues of a subregional and regional nature; To encourage, recommend and coordinate training in the priority areas of the Committee; To promote and encourage the utilization of the most appropriate fishing craft, gear and techniques; to promote liaison among and with competent institutions within the sea area served by the Committee and to propose and keep under review working arrangements with other international organizations which have related objectives within that area.¹⁴

¹²Regional Fishery Bodies Summary Descriptions, Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), online: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/cecaf/en>; CECAF Statute, Constituting Document at Preamble and Preamble Article 1, available on line: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/cecaf/CECAFstatutes1967.pdf>; Revised Terms of Reference of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), approved by the FAO Council, in FAO CL/124/REP, paragraph 118 (Article 3 of the Statutes, as amended).

ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/cecaf/CECAFstatutes_amend_CL124.pdf, CL 124/REP.

¹³ Statutes, Article 1.

¹⁴ Revised Terms of Reference of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), approved by the FAO Council, in FAO CL/124/REP, paragraph 118 (article 3 Statutes, as amended).

Structure:

The Committee, which is composed of all CECAF member States, is the central body in CECAF.¹⁵ Sessions of the Committee are normally held every two years.¹⁶ Decisions of the Committee are taken by a majority of the votes cast, unless otherwise provided.¹⁷ Each member has one vote. The Committee also established a Scientific Sub-Committee in 1998. The main function of the Scientific Sub-Committee is to provide appropriate advice to the Committee for fisheries managing decisions.¹⁸

Members:

The current members of CECAF are: Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Togo, United States of America.¹⁹

¹⁵ Statutes, Article 2.

¹⁶ Rules of Procedure, Rule IV

¹⁷ Rules of Procedure, Rule VI.

¹⁸ Statutes, Article 4, Rules of Procedure, Rule IX.

¹⁹ Regional Fishery Bodies Summary Descriptions, Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), online: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/cecaf/en>;

Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT)

Constituting legal text:

COMHAFAT was established in 1989 and reinforced through an intergovernmental agreement adopted in 1991, which entered into force in 1995.²⁰

Area of competence:

The area of competence of COMHAFAT is the Central and Southeast Atlantic, from Namibia until Morocco, including waters under national jurisdiction and high seas. COMHAFAT covers all living marine resources within its area of competence.²¹

Objective/mission:

The main objectives of COMHAFAT are: to promote an active and organized co-operation in the area of fisheries management and development in the Region; to take up the challenge of food self-sufficiency through the rational utilization of fishery resources; to stimulate the national economic sectors through the direct and secondary effects resulting from fishery resources exploitation; to enhance, coordinate and harmonize their efforts and capabilities for the purpose of conserving, exploiting, upgrading and marketing fishery resources; to reinforce solidarity with African land-locked States and geographically disadvantaged States of the Region.²²

Functions:

COMHAFAT's functions and interest areas include: the conservation and management of fishery resources; Assessment and conservation of highly migratory species; Monitoring, surveillance and control of fishing vessels; Development of fishery production and means of production; Marketing of fishery products; Fisheries planning and financing; Social conditions of fishermen; Enhancement of vocational and technical training; Development of marine scientific research; Protection and preservation of the marine environment; Harmonization of policies; Fisheries cooperation agreements; Maritime data and information bank; and solidarity with land-locked African States and with geographically disadvantaged States of the Region.²³

Structure:

The institutional framework of COMHAFAT, the headquarters of which is based in Rabat, Morocco, is composed of: the Ministerial Conference, which meets every two years, is the guiding and deciding body; the Bureau, which is the body responsible for coordination and follow-up and which meets once during the year without a Ministerial Conference; and the Executive Secretariat, which is responsible to stimulate the activities of the organization by managing all the administrative, organizational and coordination-related tasks which are entrusted to it by the Ministerial Conference and the Bureau. COMHAFAT has reinforced its institutional framework by amendment of its statutes²⁴.

²⁰ Regional Convention on Fisheries cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean, Preamble. Regional Fishery Bodies Summary Descriptions, Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic (COMHAFAT-ATLAFCO), online: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/comhafat-atlafco/en>; COMFAHAT, online: <http://www.comhafat.org/def.asp?codelangu=23&info=1172&fonc=1>.

²¹ Convention, Article 1.

²² Convention, Article 2.

²³ Convention, Article 3 to 16.

²⁴ Convention, Article 17. See also: Protocol on the Institutional Framework of the Regional Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean, 1991.

Members:

The current members of COMHAFAT are: Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.²⁵

²⁵ Convention at Article 1.at "Members," online:
<http://www.comhafat.org/def.asp?codelangue=23&info=1139&fonc=2>.

Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea (COREP)

Constituting legal text:

COREP was established by the Convention Concerning the Regional Development of Fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea, signed at Libreville, Gabon, on 21 June 1984. The Convention was superseded by a new Convention of the same name.²⁶ Since 2007, the COREP is a specialized organization of the economic community of central African States (ECCAS).²⁷

Area of competence:

The area of competence is the Gulf of Guinea and inland waters of the members, and extends to waters under national jurisdiction only. COREP has a mandate over all living resources within its area of competence.²⁸

Objective/mission:

COREP is a sub-regional body established for the cooperation towards sustainable development of the fisheries in the sub-region.

Functions:

It is mandated to coordinate, harmonize and develop the fisheries in the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of member States, in particular the fisheries policy and legal frameworks. As well, it is to determine a concerted attitude towards the activities of foreign fishing vessels and to give priority to the needs of the fishing vessels originating from member countries; to preserve and protect aquatic ecosystems, both marine and inland waters; to harmonize members' national regulations with a view to having a unified regulation fixing the conditions of fishing and the control of fishing operations in the area covered by the Convention; to assess the status of shared or transboundary stocks; and to collect, analyse and make available scientific data as well as information and techniques for fisheries and aquaculture.²⁹

Other specific functions of COREP include: evaluation and characterization of the fishery potential and characterization of stocks (straddling, shared or common economic interest); Characterization and evaluation of the economic potential associated with fisheries resources (pension); Institutional strengthening scales i) the PRC entire region, ii) States parties and, iii) fisheries primary or common economic interest; Costing and study ways and means of regional structuring and building services research, monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries; Harmonization of access and exploitation of fishery resources taking into account the international fisheries agreements and human migration conditions; Technical and financial assistance across the PRC region and coastal areas dependent on fishing; Information, communication and training.³⁰

Structure:

The COREP structure is composed of a Council of Ministers – the governing body in which Ministers for fisheries of each member/party are participating, a Technical Committee – to

²⁶ Date of the adoption of the new Convention not available on-line publicly.

²⁷ Regional Fishery Bodies Summary Descriptions, Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea (COREP), online: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/corep/en>, online: <http://www.un.org/depts/los/Links/COREPpage.htm>; COREP Convention, online: http://www.ceeac-eccas.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30&Itemid=53 at Article 1.

²⁸ Convention at Article 3, 4.

²⁹ Convention at Article 5.

³⁰ Convention at Article 8.

provide advice on scientific and technical issues to the Council of Ministers; a Scientific Sub-Committee – which issues scientific and technical advice to the Technical Committee and the Secretariat, and an Executive Secretariat.³¹

Members:

The current members of COREP are: Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe. Angola and Equatorial Guinea are observers.³²

³¹ Convention at Article 6.

³² Convention at Article 3.

Fishery Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC)

Constituting legal text:

FCWC was established by Ministerial declaration in Abidjan in July 2006. The first ministerial conference in Cotonou, Benin, in November 2007, approved the Convention for the establishment of the Fishery Committee as well as the Rules of Procedure.³³

Area of competence:

The area of competence comprises all marine waters under national jurisdiction of the States party. The Committee covers all living marine resources, without prejudice to the management responsibilities and authorities of other competent fisheries management organizations or arrangements within the area of competence.³⁴

Objective/mission:

The Committee promotes cooperation among its member States with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of the living marine resources covered by the Convention and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on these resources.³⁵

Functions:

The functions of the FCWC include to: provide a forum for discussion on any fishery-related matter; improve the livelihoods of small-scale fishers and processors, including the devising of appropriate measures to deal with migrant fishers; harmonize fisheries legislation and regulations among the Contracting Parties; enhance cooperation in respect of relations with distant water fishing countries; strengthen sub-regional cooperation in monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement, including the progressive development of common procedures; (f) promote the development of fisheries research capabilities; promote the development of standards for the collection, exchange and reporting of fisheries data; develop and promote common policies and strategies, as appropriate, in the subregion to enhance sub-regional standing in international meetings; and to promote sub-regional cooperation in the marketing and trading of fish and fish products.³⁶

Structure:

The Committee is composed of a Conference of Ministers, and Advisory and Coordination Committee and a secretariat.³⁷ The Conference of Ministers is the supreme body of the Committee. Each State party is represented at this meeting by the Minister responsible for fisheries or his or her authorized representative. The Conference of Ministers is responsible for determining the course of cooperation between the member countries.³⁸ The Advisory and Coordinating Committee (ACC) meets every year.³⁹ Each State party has one member in the ACC, who is the head of the department responsible for marine fisheries. The tasks for the ACC is to supervise the activities of the secretariat, provide technical and scientific advice to the Conference of Ministers, assist the coordinator and insuring implementation of the

³³ Regional Fishery Bodies Summary Descriptions Fishery Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), online: <http://www.fcwc-fish.org/about-us/focus-area>; FCWC, "About Us", online: <http://www.fcwc-fish.org/about-us/about-fcwc>; FCWC Convention at Preamble, General Provisions Article 1.

³⁴ Convention, Article 2.

³⁵ Convention at Article 5.

³⁶ Convention, Article 5.

³⁷ Convention, Article 6.

³⁸ Convention, Article 7 and 8.

³⁹ Convention, Article 9.

decisions of the Conference of Ministers.⁴⁰ The secretariat is hosted in Tema, Ghana, and is the executive body of the Committee. The Secretary General is the legal representative of the Committee and directs the work of the Committee in accordance with the decisions of the Conference of Ministers and under the guidance of the ACC.⁴¹

Members:

The current members of FCWC are: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Togo.⁴²

⁴⁰ Convention, Article 10.

⁴¹ Convention, Article 11 and 12.

⁴² Regional Fishery Bodies Summary Descriptions Fishery Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), online: <http://www.fcwc-fish.org/about-us/focus-area>;

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

Constituting legal text:

ICCAT was established by the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, signed in Rio de Janeiro on 14 May 1966, and which entered into force on 21 March 1969. The Convention was amended in 1984 and 1992.⁴³

Area of competence:

The area of competence of the Commission is defined as all waters of the Atlantic Ocean, including the adjacent seas. The area of competence includes both waters under national jurisdiction and high seas. The species covered by the Commission are the tuna and tuna-like fishes, and such other species of fishes exploited in tuna fishing in the Convention area that are not covered by another international organization.⁴⁴

Objective/mission:

The main objective of the Convention is to maintain the populations of tuna and tuna-like species found in the Atlantic and adjacent seas at levels which permit the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes. The Commission is responsible for the conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in its area of competence.⁴⁵

Structure:

The commission is composed of Contracting Party Delegations and pursues objectives set forth in the 1966 International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. The commission is composed of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD), the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), panels responsible for keeping under review the species, group of species, or geographic area under its purview, and for collecting scientific and other information relating thereto, a Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee, two working groups, and the Secretariat.⁴⁶

Members:

The current members of ICCAT are: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cabo Verde, China, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Mexico, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent/Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Bolivarian Rep of Venezuela. Cooperating non-contracting parties are: Colombia, Curaçao, El Salvador, Suriname, and Taiwan Province of China.⁴⁷

⁴³ Regional Fishery Bodies Summary Descriptions International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), online: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/iccat/en>; ICCAT, online: <http://www.iccat.int/en/introduction.htm>; ICCAT Basic Texts, online: <http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Commission/BasicTexts.pdf>.

⁴⁴ Convention at Article 1.

⁴⁵ Convention at Article 4, Article 6.

⁴⁶ Convention at Article 5.

⁴⁷ ICCAT, online: <http://www.iccat.int/en/introduction.htm>;

South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

Constituting legal text:

The Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources in the South East Atlantic Ocean was signed on 20 April 2001, and came into force on 13 April 2003.⁴⁸

Area of competence:

The area of competence comprises all waters beyond national jurisdiction in the South-East Atlantic Ocean, particularly, particularly those waters outside national jurisdiction of South-Africa, Namibia and Angola. The Convention covers all living marine resources (fish, molluscs, crustaceans and other sedentary species within the Convention area) but excluding sedentary species subject to fishery jurisdiction of coastal States pursuant to article 77(4) of the UNCLOS, and highly migratory species listed in Annex I of UNCLOS.⁴⁹

Objective/mission:

The objective of South East Atlantic Fishery Organization (SEAFO) is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in SEAFO's area of competence.⁵⁰

Functions:

The functions of SEAFO include to: identify conservation and management needs; formulate and adopt conservation and management measures; determine total allowable catches and/or levels of fishing effort, taking into account total fishing mortality, including of non-target species; determine the nature and extent of participation in fishing; keep under review the status of stocks and gather, analyse and disseminate relevant information on stocks; encourage, promote and, where appropriate by agreement, coordinate scientific research on fishery resources within the Convention Area and in adjacent waters under national jurisdiction; manage stocks on the basis of the precautionary approach to be developed in accordance with article 7; establish appropriate cooperative mechanisms for effective monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement; adopt measures concerning control and enforcement within the Convention Area; develop measures for the conduct of fishing for scientific research purposes; develop rules for the collection, submission, verification of, access to and use of data; compile and disseminate accurate and complete statistical data to ensure that the best scientific advice is available, while maintaining confidentiality, where appropriate; direct the Compliance and Scientific Committees, other subsidiary bodies, and the Secretariat; approve the budget of the Organisation; and carry out such other activities as may be necessary to fulfil its functions.⁵¹

Structure:

SEAFO is comprised of the Commission, the Compliance and Scientific Committees, as subsidiary bodies, and any other subsidiary bodies that the Commission shall establish from time to time to assist in meeting the objective of this Convention, and the Secretariat.⁵²

⁴⁸Regional Fishery Bodies Summary Descriptions, South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), online: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/seafo/en>; SEAFO, "General Introduction" "About Us", online: <http://www.seafo.org/>; SEAFO Convention, at Preamble, online: <http://www.seafo.org/AUConventionText.html>;

⁴⁹ Convention, Article 4, online: <http://www.seafo.org/AUConventionText.html>.

⁵⁰ Convention, Article 2, online: <http://www.seafo.org/AUConventionText.html>.

⁵¹ Convention, Article 6.

⁵² Convention, Article 5.

Members:

The members of SEAFO are: Angola, European Union, Japan, Namibia, Norway, Republic of Korea, and South Africa.⁵³

⁵³ Convention, Article 4.

Sub-Regional Commission on Fisheries (SRFC)

Constituting legal text:

The Convention for the establishment of a sub-Regional Commission on Fisheries was signed by Cabo Verde, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal in Dakar, Senegal, on 29 March 1985 and amended in 1993.⁵⁴

Area of competence:

The Convention covers all fisheries resources within its area of competence. However, the Convention does not explicitly address the area of competence or define the precise area covered by the Commission but references are made to the “Sub-Region” and the EEZs of the contracting parties. Hence, it is considered that the area of competence is composed of the members’ territorial waters and EEZs.

Objective/mission:

The objective of the PRSP is to strengthen cooperation and coordination of the policies of Member States, particularly through emphasis on the following fields: harmonization of policies for the preservation, conservation and exploitation of fishery resources in the subregion; adoption of common strategies in international fora; development of sub-regional cooperation in monitoring, control and surveillance; developing the capacity of countries to undertake research in the fisheries sub-regional level.⁵⁵

Structure:

SRFC is composed of: the Conference of Ministers, the Coordinating Committee and the Permanent Secretariat.⁵⁶ The Conference of Ministers is the supreme decision maker of the SRFC. It consists of the Ministers in charge of fisheries in different Member States. The Conference of Ministers is chaired in turn by each Member State according to the French alphabetical order of countries for a period of two years. It meets once every two years in regular session and whenever necessary in extraordinary session.⁵⁷ The Coordinating Committee is the technical and advisory body responsible for monitoring implementation of the various decisions of the Conference of Ministers. It consists of the Heads of Fisheries or any other expert appointed by the Member States. It makes recommendations to the Conference of Ministers on the technical aspects. It provides support to the Permanent Secretariat for the development and implementation of strategic action plans to achieve the objectives of the PRSP.⁵⁸ The Permanent Secretariat is the executive in charge of implementing the decisions of the Conference of Ministers.⁵⁹

Members:

The current members of SRFC are: Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.⁶⁰

⁵⁴ Regional Fishery Bodies Summary Descriptions, Subregional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), online: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/srfc/en>; Convention, Commission SOUS-REGIONALE DES PÊCHES (C.S.R.P.), online: <http://spcsrp.org/medias/csrp/documents/CSRP-1993-ConvPraya.PDF>; SRFC, online: <http://www.spcsrp.org/>.

⁵⁵ Convention, Article 2.

⁵⁶ Convention, Article 4

⁵⁷ Convention, Article 5, 6, 7

⁵⁸ Convention, Article 9, 10, 11

⁵⁹ Convention, Article 12

⁶⁰ Convention online: <http://www.spcsrp.org/medias/csrp/documents/CSRP-1993-ConvPraya.PDF>.