

*Article 7**Functions of the Commission*

1. The Commission shall, in accordance with the principles set out in Article 3 and based on the best scientific information available and the advice of the Scientific Committee:
 - (a) adopt conservation and management measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fisheries resources within the Convention Area, including the total allowable catch or total allowable level of fishing effort for those fisheries resources as the Commission may decide;
 - (b) ensure that levels of total allowable catch or total allowable level of fishing effort are in accordance with the advice and recommendations of the Scientific Committee;
 - (c) adopt, where necessary, conservation and management measures for species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks;
 - (d) adopt, where necessary, management strategies for any fisheries resources and for species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks, as may be necessary to achieve the objective of this Convention;
 - (e) adopt conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems in the Convention Area, including but not limited to:
 - (i) measures for conducting and reviewing impact assessments to determine if fishing activities would produce such impacts on such ecosystems in a given area;
 - (ii) measures to address unexpected encounters with vulnerable marine ecosystems in the course of normal bottom fishing activities; and
 - (iii) as appropriate, measures that specify locations in which fishing activities shall not occur;
 - (f) determine the nature and extent of participation in existing fisheries, including through the allocation of fishing opportunities;
 - (g) establish by consensus the terms and conditions for any new fisheries in the Convention Area and the nature and extent of participation in such fisheries, including through the allocation of fishing opportunities; and