SIOFA | APSOI
Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
Accord relatif aux Pêches dans le Sud de l'Océan Indien

10th Annual Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC10)

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SC-10-47

Convener's Report of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific Committee (SC) Workshop on Scientific Observer Forms (WS2024-OBS2)

The Workshop Convener

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Abstract

This paper presents the Convener's Report of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific Committee (SC) Workshop on Scientific Observer Forms (WS2024-OBS2). The recommendations of this paper summarize the recommendations given in the report.

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[2] Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

The following is a list of recommendations from the report:

- Regarding the instruction provided to fill the forms, the Workshop recommended that the SC considers recommending that future development of the observer logbooks consider including a short form of help within the logbook spreadsheets, e.g. using the "cell comment" function in Excel, in addition to external instructions and the observer manual.
- Regarding the lack of dropdown fields to facilitate data entry and prevent errors, the Workshop recommended that the SC considers encouraging the use of dropdown fields as much as possible in the forms during their future development.
- Regarding the trips that span across calendar years, the Workshop noted that there are different solutions available and recommended that this could be dealt with at the Secretariat level rather than with a change in the forms.
- The Workshop discussed the utility of reporting longline branchline information, and requested the SC further considers whether it is useful to maintain it in the observer forms.
- The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers if the use and makeup of additional bycatch mitigation gear should be recorded, e.g. mammal exclusion devices.
- The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers whether additional information should be provided to describe details of escape ports in the pot fishery forms, both within the observer forms and as part of an instruction manual.
- The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers how observer could best record effort in handline fisheries.
- The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers the possibility of recording more detailed information on the severity of seabird warp strikes, and cross checks with ACAP recommendations on this subject.
- The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers the possibility of observers recording marine mammal depredation, as a fishery-independent measure of what recorded in catch-effort logbooks.
- The Workshop recommended that the SC further develops a list of Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species, and ensure that this list is provided within observer manuals and ETP observer logbook forms. The SC should also consider that ETP species might end up being reported in more than one observer form (e.g. mammals and seabirds captures) and should develop a way forward to avoid double reporting.
- The Workshop recommended that the SC further advises on the best unit of measure for observers to record the weight of gonads.
- The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers the list of changes proposed to observer logbooks detailed in WS2024-OBS2-03-Rev1 and included in Annex B of this report.
- The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers the best approach to reflect these changes in observer logbooks in the SIOFA regulatory framework. These could be reflected as an amendment of CMM 02 , as a new standalone observer CMM or perhaps a specification of CMM 02 at a different regulation level.

- The Workshop recommended that the SC considers further improvements to the observer logbooks, including introducing field validation routines and locking cells with the aim to reduce input errors.
- The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers whether the creation of a training manual alongside the data collection manual constitutes duplication or is necessary.
- The Workshop recognized the need for further discussion on this project and recommended that the SC further develops the draft project description in Annex C and as per the following table and adds it to its workplan.

Project code	Lead	Title	Budget	Funding source	Project status	Priority
OBS-2025-03 •	TBD	Development of a SIOFA scientific observer data collection manual	€ 15 000	MoP	Planned	TBD

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Convener's Report of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific Committee (SC) Workshop on Scientific Observer Forms (WS2024-OBS2)

Virtual

28 November 2024

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Agenda item 1 – Opening

1a. Welcome from Convener

1. The Workshop was convened by Mr Alistair Dunn (SIOFA SC Chair).
2. The Convener opened the Workshop and welcomed the participants.

1b. Introduction of meeting participants

3. The list of registered participants is included in Annex A.

1c. Adoption of agenda

4. The provisional agenda was adopted (WS2024-OBS2-ADM-04).

1d. Confirmation of meeting documents

5. The Convener advised the Workshop that the meeting documents are available on the dedicated page on the SIOFA website (https://siofa.org/meetings/WS2024-OBS2).

1e. Workshop report arrangements

6. The Convenor introduced the meeting arrangements, including the timeline for circulating and finalising the Workshop Convener's Report (WS2024-OBS2-ADM-03).
7. Dr Marco Milardi (SIOFA Secretariat) served as rapporteur and supported the Convener in preparing the Convener's report.

Agenda item 2 – Background

2a. Summary of the new observer forms

8. The Data Officer, Mr Pierre Peries, presented a summary of the history of SIOFA discussions and work related to the development of a SIOFA Observer Framework, including the recent development of new observer logbook forms under SIOFA Project SEC-2022-OBS1 and the related WS2024-OBS Workshop (https://siofa.org/meetings/WS2024-OBS). Both Thailand and Chinese Taipei reported trialling the new forms in their most recent data submission.
9. The Convener recalled that these forms are still not endorsed by the SC and that this Workshop will serve to formulate relevant recommendations to the SC.

Agenda item 3 – Revisions to the observer forms

3a. Summary of issues identified by CCPs

10. The SIOFA Data Officer introduced paper WS2024-OBS2-02 detailing the comments that one CCP (Thailand) provided to the Secretariat comments on their trial of the observer logbook forms developed under SIOFA Project SEC-2022-OBS1.
11. Thailand's comments covered three main issues they encountered when trialling the forms:
    1 – Need for an instruction sheet within the same file that describes how to record data in each section of the observer's forms. This will help CCPs clearly understand and record data easily and accurately. For example, explanation of some technical terms, e.g., Horizontal opening (m), Vertical opening (m), Fish serial number, etc., should be provided.
    2 – Lack of dropdown fields to facilitate data entry and prevent errors (e.g. FAO Species codes). Noting that this may not cover all species encountered in fishing within SIOFA area, and therefore an open field to insert additional information should be included in any case.
    3 – Some fishing trips in the SIOFA area span across calendar years. If reported as a trip report, this would not align with the requirements specified in SIOFA CMM 02(2023) Data Standards, which mandates reporting by calendar year.
12. The Workshop discussed the issues encountered by Thailand during their trial of the observer logbook forms developed under SIOFA Project SEC-2022-OBS1. The invited expert, Melanie Williamson, noted that future development of an observer manual would further aid the development of instructions within the logbook files.

13. Regarding the instruction provided to fill the forms, the Workshop recommended that the SC considers recommending that future development of the observer logbooks consider including a short form of help within the logbook spreadsheets, e.g. using the "cell comment" function in Excel, in addition to external instructions and the observer manual.
14. Regarding the lack of dropdown fields to facilitate data entry and prevent errors, the Workshop recommended that the SC considers encouraging the use of dropdown fields as much as possible in the forms during their future development.
15. Regarding the trips that span across calendar years, the Workshop noted that there are different solutions available and recommended that this could be dealt with at the Secretariat level rather than with a change in the forms.

3b. Summary of issues identified by the Secretariat

16. The SIOFA Data Officer introduced paper WS2024-OBS2-03 detailing the Secretariat comments on the observer forms developed under Project SEC-2022-OBS1 for collecting and reporting observer data. The SIOFA data officer reviewed the templates and checked them against CMM 02 requirements. This paper compiles the notes and comments made during this review. While most of the data requirements driven by CMM 02 are reflected in the templates, a few items are missing, and other items are not strictly labelled as in CMM 02.
17. The Workshop discussed the comments by the Secretariat on the observer logbook forms developed under SIOFA Project SEC-2022-OBS1. The Data Officer clarified that specific forms for some fisheries, as the forms on lobster potting and squid jigging, have been requested to be presented by CCPs at SC10. Furthermore, the Data Officer further noted that some specific forms, as those for the handline fisheries, have been proposed and could be further developed in the future if observers are to be deployed on board of vessels conducting these fisheries.
18. The Convener encouraged the Workshop to discuss the proposal of the Secretariat included in paper WS2024-OBS2-03 in detail, and agree on a list of proposed modifications for the consideration of the SC. A criterion that the Workshop followed in their revision of the observer logbook forms was to further align them with corresponding CCAMLR forms (for demersal longlines) or IOTC forms (for pelagic longlines) in order to reduce discrepancies in reporting across the boundaries of competence. The Workshop also revised the observer logbooks with a view to be more specific about units of measurement for the fields, the source of categorical information (e.g. FAO ISSGFC gear codes), and introducing further explanations where things were unclear.
19. The Workshop noted that there are several fields in the observer forms that require cooperation and coordination between the vessel skipper and crew and the observer, to reduce discrepancies between the observer and catch-effort reporting.
20. The Workshop discussed the utility of reporting longline branchline information, and requested the SC further considers whether it is useful to maintain it in the observer forms.
21. The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers if the use and makeup of additional bycatch mitigation gear should be recorded, e.g. mammal exclusion devices.
22. The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers whether additional information should be provided to describe details of escape ports in the pot fishery forms, both within the observer forms and as part of an instruction manual.
23. The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers how observer could best record effort in handline fisheries.
24. The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers the possibility of recording more detailed information on the severity of seabird warp strikes, and cross checks with ACAP recommendations on this subject.
25. The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers the possibility of observers recording marine mammal depredation, as a fishery-independent measure of what recorded in catch-effort logbooks.

26. The Workshop recommended that the SC further develops a list of Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species, and ensure that this list is provided within observer manuals and ETP observer logbook forms. The SC should also consider that ETP species might end up being reported in more than one observer form (e.g. mammals and seabirds captures) and should develop a way forward to avoid double reporting.
27. The Workshop recommended that the SC further advises on the best unit of measure for observers to record the weight of gonads.
28. The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers the list of changes proposed to observer logbooks detailed in WS2024-OBS2-03-Rev1 and included in Annex B of this report.
29. The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers the best approach to reflect these changes in observer logbooks in the SIOFA regulatory framework. These could be reflected as an amendment of CMM 02 , as a new standalone observer CMM or perhaps a specification of CMM 02 at a different regulation level.
30. The Workshop recommended that the SC considers further improvements to the observer logbooks, including introducing field validation routines and locking cells with the aim to reduce input errors.

Agenda item 4 – Development of the project description for OBS-2025-03: *Development of a SIOFA scientific observer data collection manual*

31. The Convener introduced paper WS2024-OBS2-01, presenting a Draft Project proposal on the Development of a SIOFA scientific observer data collection manual. The paper detailed a schematic draft description of the project, in the format used by the SIOFA SC to develop its workplan, which included a description, the objectives of the project (i.e. a list of topics the manual would be expected to cover), the budget, and the project outputs.
32. The Workshop further discussed and revised the draft description of this project, which was submitted to the Workshop as WS2024-OBS2-01-Rev1 and is included as Annex B of this report.
33. The Workshop noted that it did not have time to consider this document in detail and that there might be further revisions needed to be undertaken during the next annual meeting of the SC.
34. The Workshop also noted that an observer training manual could be supplemented alongside the data collection manual, with the training manual providing much more details than the data collection manual (which is a summary version of the training manual).
35. The Workshop recommended that the SC further considers whether the creation of a training manual alongside the data collection manual constitutes duplication or is necessary.
36. The Workshop recognized the need for further discussion on this project and recommended that the SC further develops the draft project description in Annex C and as per the following table and adds it to its workplan.

Project code	Lead	Title	Budget	Funding source	Project status	Priority
OBS-2025-03	TBD	Development of a SIOFA scientific observer data collection manual	€ 15 000	MoP	Planned	TBD

Agenda item 5 – Summary of advice to SC10

37. Paragraphs with recommendations and advice to the MoP are highlighted in grey above, within each agenda item.
38. The Convener thanked the participants for their active contributions.
39. The Workshop was closed at 10:15 a.m., UTC, Thursday 28 November 2024.
40. The report was circulated via email following the close of the workshop and the Convener invited participants to provide any comments by the end of 15 December 2024.

Annex A – List of registered participants

Delegation	Title	First name	Last name	Position	Organisation
China	Dr	Jun	Yu	HoD	Shanghai Ocean University
China	Dr	Zhou	Fang	Alternate	Shanghai Ocean University
Cook Islands	Ms	Bermy	Ariihee	Cook Island representative	Ministry of Marine Resources
Cook Islands	Mr	Saiasi	Sarau	Cook Island representative	Ministry of Marine Resources
EU	Dr	Sebastián	Rodriguez Alfaro	HoD	Marine Sciences/EU
EU	Mr	Roberto	Sarralde Vizuete	Alternate	Instituto Español de Oceanografía
France-OT	Dr	Alexis	Martin	HoD	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle
France-OT	Ms	Charlotte	Chazeau	Expert	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle
France-OT	Mr	Nicolas	Gasco	Expert	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle
France-OT	Ms	Marion	Kauffmann	Expert	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle
Japan	Dr	Takehiro	Okuda	HoD	Fisheries Resources Institute, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency
Japan	Dr	Midori	Hashimoto	SC Alternate	Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency
Japan	Mr	Taisuke	Iwano	MoP Head of Delegation	Fisheries Agency Government of Japan
Japan	Mr	Kazuki	Tsuda	Alternate	Fisheries Agency Government of Japan
Mauritius	Mr	Doorvanand	Kawol	Senior Technical Officer	Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping
Seychelles	Ms	Sabrena	Lawrence	HoD	Seychelles Fishing Authority
Seychelles	Mr	Vincent	Lucas	Expert	Seychelles Fisheries Authority
Seychelles	Mr	Alex	Tirant	Expert	Seychelles Fisheries Authority
Seychelles	Mr	Daniel	Bristol	Expert	Seychelles Fisheries Authority
Thailand	Mr	Weerapol	Thitipongtrakul	HoD	Department of Fisheries, Thailand
Thailand	Ms	Kanyarat	Woraprayoth	Alternate	Department of fisheries, Thailand
Thailand	Mr	Bunyarit	Permnak	Alternate	Department of Fisheries, Thailand
Thailand	Mr.	Nattawut	Aiemubolwan	Alternate	Department of Fisheries, Thailand
Observers SIODFA	Mr	Charles	Heaphy	HoD	SIODFA (President, UFI, Rarotonga)
Observers FAO	Dr	Anthony	Thompson	Observer	FAO, Rome (DSF Project)
Invited Experts	Ms	Melanie	Williamson	Director	CapMarine International and National Observer Programs and Training
Workshop Convener	Mr	Alistair	Dunn	Director	Ocean Environmental
SIOFA SC Vice Chair	Dr	Pavarot	Noranarttragoon	Senior expert	Marine Fisheries Research and Development Division Department of Fisheries, Thailand
SIOFA SC Vice Chair	Dr	Zhou	Fang	Alternate	Shanghai Ocean University
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Thierry	Clot	Executive Secretary	SIOFA Secretariat
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Pierre	Peries	Data Officer	SIOFA Secretariat
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Johnny	Louys	Compliance Officer	SIOFA Secretariat
SIOFA Secretariat	Dr	Marco	Milardi	Science Officer	SIOFA Secretariat

Annex B – List of proposed changes to the observer logbooks for further consideration by the SIOFA SC

3.1. General information logbook sections.

Sheet: Observers Details

Proposal: rename sheet to **trip and observers' details**

Section Vessel details

All vessel details may not be necessary to be recorded, since all vessels information are already recorded when the flag state register or update its fishing vessel on the SIOFA record of authorized vessels. Suggestion is to keep all these fields for now.

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Vessel Name	No change	
Vessel Flag	No change	
Vessel callsign	No change	
Vessel IMO	No change	
Vessel Length (m)	No change	
Vessel Gross Tonnage	No change	
Engine Power (kW)	No change	Use kW only
Vessel Type	To improve	Clarify label with Vessel Type (ISSCFG code) and link to the list of vessel codes
Total Frozen Hold Capacity (m3)	No change	

Section Vessel trip information		
Field	Comment	Proposed action
Port of Departure	To improve	Link to a lookup list of ports
Date of Departure	No change	
Date of Entry into SIOFA	There might be several SIOFA entry-exit events during a trip	Update to date of first entry into SIOFA on this trip
Date Start Fishing in SIOFA	Not useful since it would be also recorded in the operations sheet	Remove
Date End Fishing	Not useful since it would be also recorded in the operations sheet	Remove
Date of Exit from SIOFA	There might be several SIOFA entry-exit events during a trip	Update (i.e., the same as Date of Entry)
Targeted Species	not the proper place to provide this information, it is a haul-level information	Remove
Port of Landing	to improve	Link to a lookup list of ports
Date of landing	No change	

Section Observer details		
Field	Comment	Proposed action
Observer full name	No change	
Nationality	No change	
Employer Organisation Name	No change	
Employer Organisation Address	No change	
Employer Organisation Email	No change	
Employer Organisation Phone	No change	
Embarkation location	Embarkation can happen at-sea, in such case coordinates should be provided	Link to a lookup list of ports and add optional Latitude and Longitude fields in cases where the location is not a port. Split latitude/longitude into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
Embarkation latitude (deg)	Improve	
Embarkation latitude (MM.mmm)	Improve	
Embarkation longitude (deg)	Improve	
Embarkation longitude (MM.mmm)	Improve	
Embarkation date	No change	
Disembarkation location	Disembarkation can happen at-sea, in such case coordinates should be provided	Link to a lookup list of ports and add optional Latitude and Longitude fields. Split latitude/longitude into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
Disembarkation latitude	Improve	
	Improve	
Disembarkation longitude	Improve	
	Improve	
Disembarkation date	No change	
Report submitted date	Unclear to which date this refers to	Improve label: Date should be the date the logbook was submitted to employer
Observer ID	No change, but will be linked to all other observerID fields	

3.2. Logbook sections that are gear/fishery specific.

Sheet: Gear Details

This information should exclusively be collected by observers

Gear: Line (from demersal longline template, pelagic longline template, handline template)

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Line Type	Unclear label	Rename to Gear Code (from ISSFGC) and link to a dropdown list of codes
Line Configuration	Unclear label, and only applies to LLS	Rename to Longline Configuration with a dropdown list (including a not-applicable value)
Mainline Material	No change	
Mainline Diameter (mm)	No change	
BranchLine Material	No change	
BranchLine Length (m)	No change	
Snood Material	No change	
Snood Length (m)	No change	
For non-IWL:		Additional information requested for Spanish gear configuration. This may require a change to CMM 02
Weight spacing (m)	Add	
Number of measured weights	Add	
Weight type	Add	
Average weight (kg)	Add	
Standard deviation (kg)	Add	
For IWL:		
Line Weight (IWL) g/m	Improve	Change weight units to be grams/meter
Hook Type (J, C)	The current hook details requirements in CMM 02 should be revised to require just the hook manufacturer and model information.	
Hook Manufacturer		Rename label
Hook marking (leave blank for none)		Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change
Hook Model Name		

Note that no gear details form was provided in the drop/dahn line template, it is proposed that the above form is used.

Gear (mitigation gear)

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Mitigation_ID	**No change**	
Streamer line height above water attached (m)	No change	
Number of streamer lines regularly set	No change	
Streamer line position	No change	
Streamer line length (m)	No change	
Streamer Length min (m)	No change	
Streamer length max (m)	No change	
Streamer line distance between streamers (m)	No change	
Distance from attachment point to first streamer (m)	No change	
Number of streamers	No change	
Streamer material	No change	
Streamer diameter (mm)	No change	
Streamer colours	No change	
Streamer line aerial extent of line	No change	
Towed object	Improve	Add a yes/no list
Streamer line method used to assess extent	No change	
Distance from stern to bait entry point	No change	
Vertical distance from bait entry point to streamer line	No change	

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Other Mitigation Device	No change	

A drawing of a typical streamer line can be provided on that sheet, it can help observer to identify the parameters to be recorded.
Note that the mitigation gear form is proposed in all templates but drop/dahn lines.

Gear: Trawl

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Net ID	No change	
Net type	Unclear label	Rename to Gear Code (from ISSFGC) and link to a dropdown list of codes
Headrope length (m)	No change	
Groundrope length (m)	No change	
Bobbin diameter (cm)	No change	
Otterboard to wing length (m)	No change	
Horizontal opening (m)	No change	
Vertical opening (m)	No change	
Codend mesh size (mm)	No change	
Codend circumference (m)	No change	
Mesh type	No change	
Otterboard type	No change	
Otterboard weight (kg)	No change	
Net design	Unclear label	Rename to *net manufacturer and model (if available)*
Ground rope bobbins present?	Add (ref: SEC2022- OBS1)	Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change
Ground rope bobbins material (steel or rubber)	Add (ref: SEC2022- OBS1)	Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change
Ground rope bobbins weight (combined)	Add (ref: SEC2022- OBS1)	Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change
By-Catch reduction device present?	Improve. Is currently labelled as Bycatch mitigation measures employed with further notes: Were bird scaring (tori) lines in use? (Yes/No) Were bird bafflers in use? (Yes/No)	Provide a Yes/No choice
Selectivity device present?	Add (ref: SEC2022-OBS1)	Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change. Provide a Yes/No choice
Selectivity device description	Add	Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change. Provide a Yes/No choice
Bycatch reduction device present?	Add (ref: SEC2022-OBS1)	Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change. Provide a Yes/No choice
Bycatch device description	Add	Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change. Provide a Yes/No choice

Gear: Pot

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Gear Material	Add	Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change.

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Pot Type	Improve	Link to a list of pot type, according to ISSFGC (e.g. FPO).
Mesh Size (mm)	No change	
Number of chambers	No change	
Port Orientation	No change	
Port Aperture	No change	
Escape Port Present	Improve	Provide a Yes/No choice
Dimensions of escape port	Improve	Correct typo
Weights attached?	Add (ref: SEC2022-OBS1)	Provide a Yes/No choice
Min Weight (kg)	Add	Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change.
Max Weight (kg)	Add	Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change.

Sheet Fishery Operations

Fishing operations: handline template

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Set_ID	No change	
Set type	Missing(is required in CMM 02)	Set type was used to define the purpose of the set (like Commercial or Research). Proposal is to maintain this field and have it defaulted to "C"
Gear ID	No change	To be linked to the standard list for gear codes
Start fishing Date	No change	
Start fishing Time	No change	
Start fishing Latitude (deg)	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
Start fishing Latitude (M.mm)	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
Start fishing Longitude (deg)	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
Start fishing Longitude (M.mm)	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
Start fishing Bottom depth (m)	No change	
End fishing Date	No change	
End fishing Time	No change	
End fishing Latitude (deg)	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute, fields
End fishing Latitude (M.mm)	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute, fields
End fishing Longitude (deg)	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute, fields
End fishing Longitude (M.mm)	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
End fishing Bottom depth (m)	No change	
Target Species	No change	
Number of Fishers	No change	
Lines per Fisher	No change	
Hooks per line	No change	
Bait Species	No change	
Effort	Requirement to record observed effort (e.g. fisher*days or the start and end observation time)	Suggest that this be raised at SC for further discussion on the specific measure of effort. Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change.
Mitigation device used?	Add	Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change. Provide Yes/No
Mitigation gear ID	Provide mitigation ID if a mitigation gear is used	Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Comments	No change	

Fishing operations: Demersal longline template

Field		Comment	Proposed action
Set_ID		No change	
Line ID		No change	Improve instructions and refer to the line recorded in the fishing gear sheet
Start setting	Date	No change	
	Time	No change	
	Latitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Longitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Bottom depth (m)	No change	
End Setting	Date	No change	
	Time	No change	
	Latitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Longitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	No change	OK	
Target Species		No change	
Setting Observed?		Improve	Provide a Yes/No list
Offal Dumping		Improve	Provide a Yes/No list
Main line length (m)		No change	
Number hooks set		No change	
Bait Species FAO ASFIS code		Allow for multiple bait species and the relative proportion of each	Modify to allow for 3 species max (%)
Deck light during setting		No change	
Streamer Line ID		Improve	Improve label to **Mitigation Gear ID** and refer to the recorded in sheet Gear
Bait entry position		No change	
C&E Operation Identifier		Improve	Note in the instructions that this is required if the Set_ID provided in C&E data submission is different
Start Hauling	Date	No change	
	Time	No change	
	Latitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Longitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
End Hauling	Date	No change	
	Time	No change	
	Latitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Longitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
Number of hooks observed for catch		Improve	Clarify in the label for catch and bycatch
Comments		No change	

Fishing operations: Pelagic Longline template

Field		Comment	Proposed action
Set_ID		No change	
Gear ID		Improve	Refer to the line recorded in the fishing gear sheet
Start setting	Date	No change	
	Time	No change	
	Latitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Longitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
End Setting	Date	No change	
	Time	No change	
	Latitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Longitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
Target Species		No change	
Clip on Interval (seconds)		Add	Check with IOTC data collection requirement to determine consistency. Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change.
Vessel Speed		Improve	Improve label. Was vessel setting speed
Setting Speed (Line setter)		New Item	Check with IOTC data collection requirement to determine consistency. Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change.
Main line length (m)		No change	
Branchline Length (m)		Add (note: already provided in the gear description form)	Check with IOTC data collection requirement to determine consistency. Would be operation level information
Branchline weights (kg)		Add	Check with IOTC data collection requirement to determine consistency. Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change. Would be operation level information.
Branchline weight distance from hook (m)		Add	Check with IOTC data collection requirement to determine consistency. Add new field to forms and update CMM 02 to reflect the change. Would be operation level information
Bait species		No change	
Deck light during setting		No change	
Streamer Line ID		Improve (as is a Y/N field for indicating if streamer line has been used)	Improve label to link to the mitigation gear ID
Offal dumping during setting		Missing, and is required in CMM 02	Add to form

Field		Comment	Proposed action
Bait entry position (m)		Improve	Provide a list of options (port, starboard, stern)
Start Hauling	Date	Add	
	Time	Add	
	Latitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Longitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
End Hauling	Date	Add	
	Time	Add	
	Latitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Longitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
Number of hooks observed for catch		Improve	Clarify in the label for catch and bycatch
Offal dumping during hauling		Missing (required in CMM 02)	Add to form
Bird Exclusion ID		New Item, redundant with Streamer Line ID	Remove
Comments		No change	

Fishing operations: pot template

Field		Comment	Proposed action
Set ID		No change	
Gear ID		Improve	Refer to the gear recorded in the fishing gear sheet
Start setting	Date	No change	
	Time	No change	
	Latitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Longitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Bottom depth (m)	No change	
End Setting	Date	No change	
	Time	No change	
	Latitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Longitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Bottom depth (m)	No change	
Target Species		No change	
Bait Type		Improve	Provide provision for bait species (FAO ASFIS code) and multiple bait species (to be consistent with other bait fields)
Setting Observed?		Improve	Provide a Yes/No list
Length of line		No change	
Pot spacing		No change	
Number pots set		No change	
Start Hauling	Date	No change	
	Time	No change	
	Latitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields

Field		Comment	Proposed action
	Longitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
End Hauling	Date	No change	
	Time	No change	
	Latitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Longitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
No of Pots Hauled		No change	
Number of pots observed for catch		Improve	Clarify the label for catch and bycatch
Comments		No change	

Fishing operations: trawl template

Field		Comment	Proposed action
Tow_ID		No change	
Observed?		Missing (required in CMM 02)	This field is to allow the observer to record if this operation has been observed. To be used for all operations (even those they did not observe/monitor).
Net ID		No change	
Target Species		No change	
Set type		Missing (required in CMM 02)	Set type was used to define the purpose of the set (like Commercial or Research). Proposal is to maintain this field and have it defaulted to "C"
Start Net Shooting	Date	No change	
	Time	No change	
Start Fishing	Date	No change	
	Time	No change	
	Latitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Longitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Trawl Depth (m)	No change	
	Bottom Depth (m)	No change	
End Fishing	Date	No change	
	Time	No change	
	Latitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Longitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Trawl Depth (m)	No change	
	Bottom Depth (m)	No change	
End Net Hauling	Date	No change	
	Time	No change	
Offal discharged during shooting		No change	

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Offal discharged during hauling	No change	
Trawl tow speed (knots)	Add (required by CMM 02)	Add new field to forms.
Catch Sampled (Y/N)	May not be useful since sheet 'sampling' will tell if some catch has been sampled	Remove from forms
Sub Sample total weight	No change	
Haul observed for fish/invert bycatch	Missing (required by CMM 02)	May not be useful if the field 'Presence?' in bycatch sheets are added (for ETP and VME-Benthos).
Bird scaring streamer line used	Can streamer line be used on trawl operation?	SC10 to advise
Bird bafflers used	No change	
Trawl warp strike monitored (Y/N)	Improve. Details of trawl warp strikes are to be recorded in a specific form	Provide a Yes/No options list
Comments	No change	

Sheet: Warp Strikes (for trawl fisheries only)

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Tow_ID	No change	
Observer ID	No change	
Mitigation Device ID	Improve,	Link to mitigation devices provided in sheet Gear
Mitigation Device ID	Improve	Link to mitigation devices provided in sheet Gear
Start Warp Strikes observation Date	No change	
Start Warp Strikes observation Time	No change	
End Warp Strikes observation Date	No change	
End Warp Strikes observation Time	No change	
FAO ASFIS Species Code	Improve	Revise label. Add link to FAO ASFIS species code list
Air Strikes number	No change	SC10 to consider if severity should be recorded?
Water Strikes number	No change	SC10 to consider if severity should be recorded
Sinker Strikes number	No change	SC10 to consider if severity should be recorded

Sheet: Whale interactions (for demersal longline fisheries only)

This sheet was not proposed in the demersal longline template, but there were two sheets relevant to mammals' observation (Mammals and Cetaceans), it is proposed to have one sheet for the purpose of recording mammal interactions with gear for this fishery, it applies to killer whale and sperm whale only and make reference to Annex B and E of CMM 02(2023).

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Set_ID	No change	
Observer ID	No change	
Start Observation Date	No change	
Start Observation Time	No change	
End Observation Date	No change	

Field	Comment	Proposed action
End Observation Time	No change	
Presence?	Add (required by CMM 02 annex E).	Addition of Presence field (Yes/No/Not observed options)
FAO ASFIS Species Code	Improve	Revise label. Add link to FAO ASFIS species code list
Estimated number (minimum)	Annex E of CMM 02 proposed the minimum and maximum number, it is reinstated there	Maintain the 2 fields
Estimated number (maximum)		
Photos taken?	Add (required by CMM 02 annex E).	Add photo taken field (Yes/No)
Fish waste discharge	Add	
ETA (hours or minutes)	Add (required by CMM 02 annex E).	Add ETA field
Interacted with Gear	Improve	Provide a yes/no list
Comments	No change	

3.3. Logbook sections that are common to all fisheries.

Sheet: Observed Catch

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Set_ID or Tow_ID	No change	
Observer ID	No change	
FAO ASFIS Species code	Improve	Link to FAO ASFIS species code list
Total Number retained	Improve	Label clarification
Weight retained (kg)	OK (The workshop noted it is not possible to collect for LLS)	Provide different catch tables for different fisheries
Number discarded	No change	
Number fish lost	Add	
Number fish cut off	Add	
Number fish depredated	Add	
Weight discarded (kg)	No change	
Comments		

Sheet: Conversion Factor

CMM 02(2023) annex B, did not clearly required the observer to calculate conversion factors for all fisheries and for all retained species. It is also a catch and effort data requirement (as provided in Annex A). It is more consistent that this is also provided by the observers, for all fisheries.

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Set_ID or Tow_ ID	No change	
Observer ID	No change	
FAO ASFIS Species code	Improve	Link to FAO ASFIS species code list
Processing Code	No change	
Number of fish	No change	
Length Type	No change	
Min Length (cm)	No change	
Max Length (cm)	No change	
Total Green weight (kg)	No change	
Weighing method	No change	
Total Processed weight (kg)	No change	
Conversion Factor	No change	Calculated field, does not need direct input.

Sheet: Biological Sampling

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Set_ID or Tow ID	Improve.	Link to Set/Tow ID from the operation sheet
FAO ASFIS species code	Improve	Link to FAO ASFIS species code list
Fish Serial Number	No change	
Observer ID	No change	
Total Length (cm)		Retain the 5 fields Possible addition of many other measurements (carapace length, carapace width, mantle length, etc.)
Standard Length (cm)		
Fork Length (cm)		
Snout-Anus Length (cm)		
Pelvic Length (cm)		
Wingspan (cm)	No change	
Weight (kg)	No change	
Sex	No change	Add a dropdown list with: Female, Male, Immature and Undetermined
Maturity Stage	No change	integer input
Gonad Weight (kg)	Gonad weights were previously recorded in grams	SC10 to advise
Otolith/statolith collected?	Improve	Add a Y/N choice
Additional sample collected	Improve	Add a Y/N choice
Sample Storage	No change	
Comments	No change	

Sheet: Tagging

The tag specifications that may be common for a whole series of tags have been proposed to be entered in a specific table of the template (tag type, tag colour, tag wording). For easier data processing it is proposed that these parameters are inserted within each tag description. It would also help CCAMLR when applying the tag linking algorithm.

Tag releases

Field		Comment	Proposed action
Set_ID		Improve.	Linked to Set ID from the operation sheet
FAO ASFIS species code		Improve	Link to FAO ASFIS species code list
Observer ID		No change	
Tag Release Position	Latitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
	Longitude	Improve	Split into two fields to provide degree, minute fields
First Tag	Tag Type	Add	Add new fields to better record the tag information
	Tag colour	Add	
	Tag wording	Add	
	Tag ID	Would become obsolete if the 3 above field are provided	Remove
	Tag Number	No change	
Second Tag	Tag Type	Add	Add new fields to better record the tag information

Field		Comment	Proposed action
	Tag colour	Add	
	Tag wording	Add	
	Tag ID	Would become obsolete if the 3 above field are provided	Remove
	Tag Number	No change	
Third Tag	Tag Type	Add	Add new fields to better record the tag information
	Tag colour	Add	
	Tag wording	Add	
	Tag ID	Would become obsolete if the 3 above field are provided	Remove
	Tag Number	Add new fields to better record the tag information	
Person Tagging		Add. Relevant if the tagging is made by somebody else than the observer	
Total Length (cm)		No change	
Sex (for selected species, eg skates)		Missing, (required in CMM 02)	
Released Fate		Improve	Add list of 2 options: Injured/Uninjured
Comments		No change	

Tag recovery

Field		Comment	Proposed action
Set _ID		Improve Linked to Set ID from the operation sheet	Link to Set ID from the operation sheet
Tag Finder		Add	Add a drop-down list that indicate whether it is a crew member or an observer who find the tag
FAO ASFIS species code		Improve	Link to FAO ASFIS species code list
First Tag	Tag Type	No change	
	Tag Colour	No change	
	Tag Number	No change	
	Tag Wording	No change	
Second Tag	Tag Type	No change	
	Tag Colour	No change	
	Tag Number	No change	
	Tag Wording	No change	
Third Tag	Tag Type	No change	
	Tag Colour	No change	
	Tag Number	No change	
	Tag Wording	No change	
Total Length (cm)		No change	
Weight (kg)		No change	
Sex		No change	
Maturity Stage		Improve	Allow only integer values on the forms
Gonad Weight (kg)		Improve. Should be consisted with gonad weight collected in sampling sheet	SC10 to advise (kg/g)
Tag Site Condition		Add	
Samples retained		Add	
Tag photo (include in cruise report)		Add	Add a Yes/No list

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Comments	OK	

Sheet: Seabirds abundance

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Set _ID or Tow_ID	No change	
Observer ID	No change	
Presence?	Missing, this presence field is in CMM 02 for several gears, it allows to record if birds were present, or not, or if the birds were not observed at all.	Add Presence field with a list of options: Yes/No/Not observed.
Start Observation Date	No change	
Start Observation Time	No change	
End Observation Date	No change	
End Observation Time	No change	
FAO ASFIS species code	Improve	Clarify label
Estimated number (min)	Updated, For database processing purpose, split the abundance field into 2 fields rather than providing a range in one field.	Use 2 fields instead of one to provide the range of abundance (e.g. 1-10, 10-50, etc.)
Estimated number (max)		
Fishwaste discharge	No change	Provide a Yes/No control
Observed feeding	Add	Provide a Yes/No control
Comments	No change	

Split table into 2 sub tables (table 1 record the observation duration, table 2 the species details)
For longline and pots operations, this template may allow to provide birds abundance monitoring at setting and at hauling time by duplicating the Set_ID and add a new record.

Sheet: Marine Mammal

The observation of marine mammal has been extended to all fisheries.

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Set_ID/Tow_ID		
Presence?	Missing, this presence field was a recent addition in CMM02	Add Presence field with a list of options: Yes/No/Not observed.
Observation Start Time	No change	
Observation End Time	No change	
FAO ASFIS species code	No change	
Estimated number (min)	Improve. To be consistent with other provision of abundance, keep a minimum and a maximum information in 2 separated fields	Split the number field into a minimum and maximum field.
Estimated number (max)		
Fishwaste discharge	No change	
Interacted with Gear	No change	
Comments	No change	

Split table into 2 sub tables (table 1 record the observation duration, table 2 the species details)

For demersal longline, this form would be used to record mammals other than killer whale and sperm whale species. For the latter two, another form is designed for that fishery.

Sheet: VME (bottom fishing fisheries templates)

It is Proposed to rename 'VME' to 'VME and other benthos' to enlarge the scope of data collection to any sessile invertebrates. If this is agreeable, a new field may also be provided which would specifically record if the taxon is an actual VME taxon (i.e. included in the SIOFA VME taxa list).

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Set_ID / Tow_ID		
Presence/Absence	Missing. It clarifies whether benthos organisms are present or not in the set or in the tow.	Add Presence field with a list of options: Yes/ No/ Not observed.
FAO ASFIS species code	No change	
Scientific taxon name	Add. Allows input in cases where the FAO code for the taxon does not exist or is unknown	Add Scientific Name field
Is a VME indicator taxa?	Add. Record if at the time of the catch, that species was considered as a VME indicator taxa or not	Add a Yes/No field
Volume (litre)	No change	
Weight (kg)		Add
Live status	Add	Add Dead/Alive options
Photos taken?	Add	Add field: Yes/No
Sample taken for ID	No change	
Comments	No change	

Split table into 2 sub tables (table 1 record the absence/presence, table 2 the species details)

Sheet: ETP bycatch

Field	Comment	Proposed action
Set ID / Tow_ID	No change	
Presence?	Missing, this presence field was a recent addition in CMM02. It ensures that ETP bycatch information is provided for each haul.	Add Presence field with a list of options: Yes/ No/ Not observed.
FAO ASFIS species code	Improve	Link to a list of ETP species
Number caught	No change	
Number released	Duplicated information with *Nb Discarded dead* and *Nb Released alive* fields.	Remove
Nb Retained dead	No change	
Nb Released alive (not injured)	OK, note that in CMM 02 a life status was required (vigorous, alive, lethargic, injured)	
Nb released alive (injured)	Improve. In CMM 02 a life status is required (vigorous, alive, lethargic, injured)	Add life status information
Nb Discarded dead	No change	
Number sampled	No change	
Comments	No change	

Split table into 2 sub tables (table 1 record the absence/presence, table 2 the species details)

Annex C – Draft project description for project OBS-2025-03 Development of a SIOFA scientific observer data collection manual

Description: Develop a SIOFA Scientific Observer Manual for use by SIOFA Scientific Observers and CCPs

Objectives:

1. Development of detailed biological sampling requirements for primary and secondary species in all SIOFA fisheries.
2. Development of an Observer Manual that describes the detailed methods and processes that can be used by all Observers in SIOFA fisheries, including the following contents:
    a. Introduction
    b. SIOFA Scientific Observer roles and responsibilities
        i. Definition of terms
        ii. SIOFA regulations (CMMs)
        iii. Overview of roles and responsibilities
    c. General operational procedures
        i. Units and formats
        ii. Standard measurements
        iii. Weights
        iv. Sexing and maturity stages
        v. Otolith collection and storage
            1. Removing otoliths
            2. Otolith storage
        vi. Tagging and tag recaptures (toothfish and skates)
        vii. Conversion factor tests
    d. Target catch and by-catch species
        i. Primary species definitions and species identification
        ii. Secondary species definitions and species identification
        iii. Primary and secondary species sampling requirements
    e. Observations of marine mammals and seabirds
    f. Mitigation gear details
    g. Fishing gear
    h. Interactions with fishing gear
    i. Vulnerable marine ecosystems
    j. ETP species list
    k. Vessel requirements
    l. Observer data collection and data submission requirements
    m. Appendices
        i. Appendix 1 – Identification guides
        ii. Appendix 2 – Maps of the SIOFA Areas, Sub-areas, and relevant seamounts/seamount complexes
        iii. Appendix 3 – Functions and tasks of Scientific Observers
        iv. Appendix 4 – SIOFA Scientific Observer resources
        v. Appendix 5 – Recommended lists of Scientific Observer safety gear
        vi. Appendix 6 – Recommended lists of Scientific Observer sampling gear

Budget: 15,000 Euro

Funding source: MoP
Project outputs:

1. A summary report summarising the manual scope and objectives
2. A draft SIOFA scientific observer data collection manual

Lead: TBD