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

SIOFA SC Workshop: Window of Opportunity - Research Vessels in SIOFA (WS2025-ORS)

Virtual, 4 November 2025

WS2025-ORS-ADM-03

Arrangements and Timetable for the SIOFA SC Workshop: Window of Opportunity- Research Vessels in SIOFA (WS2025-ORS)

Meeting time: 06.00 UTC to 11.00 UTC

Held by video conference using the ZOOM platform

Conveners: Dr Zhou Fang (SIOFA SC Vice-Chair), Dr Sebastián Rodríguez Alfaro (EU)

Introduction

During the 10th SIOFA Scientific Committee the SC noted (SC10 Report, paragraph 499) the potential value of holding a workshop to explore opportunities for collaboration with research cruises by CCPs and other organisations to enhance SIOFA's scientific knowledge, including joint design of sampling programs to ensure consistency across different vessels and maximum utility of sampling data. Considering climate-change information would also be useful when trying to identify windows of opportunity for research cruises.

The SC10 agreed to hold a half-day virtual workshop aimed at identifying research opportunities in support of SIOFA scientific activities when research vessels are planning research cruises in the SIOFA area. Such workshop was included in the SC Workplan (MoP12-08-Rev1) that was adopted by the MoP12 (MoP12 Report, paragraph 194).

The main objective of the WS2025-ORS Workshop is to progress on the identification of the research and scientific needs that could be met using research campaigns in SIOFA by:

1. Identifying knowledge gaps and research needs in SIOFA
2. Stocktaking of research cruises in the SIOFA Area
3. Future research cruises in the SIOFA Area
4. Exploring the administrative steps to include the SIOFA research needs into the research cruise plan
5. Identifying a realistic schedule in line with the research cruise plan
6. Considering the "SIOFA Framework on fisheries based and scientific research"

Workshop Arrangements

The proposed workshop arrangements are:

1. The Workshop will be open to all representatives of the SIOFA Scientific Committee, including Observers.
2. The Workshop will be convened by the SC Vice-Chairperson Dr Zhou Fang and Dr Sebastián Rodríguez Alfaro (EU).
3. The Workshop will meet online via video conference (Zoom) on **Tuesday 4th November 2025 from 06.00 UTC to 11.00 UTC.**
4. A Conveners' report of the Workshop will be compiled by the Workshop Conveners and be presented to the 11th annual meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC11[1]).

Timetable

1. **10 October 2025**
   In preparation for the Workshop, the SIOFA Secretariat will distribute a background document prepared by the Conveners describing the research and scientific needs identified by the SC along the years that could be met using research campaigns, for consideration by the Workshop.
2. **21 October 2025**
   Deadline for the submission of Workshop papers (via mail to the SIOFA Secretariat, Science Officer, marco.milardi@siofa.org)
3. **28 October 2025**
   Deadline for registration of participants to the Workshop (via mail to the SIOFA Secretariat, Science Officer, marco.milardi@siofa.org)
4. **Tuesday 4 November 2025 - 06.00–11.00 UTC**
   Meeting of the Workshop (WS2025-ORS) via videoconference (Zoom).
5. **17 November 2025**
   Distribution of draft Conveners' report for review and finalisation for submission to SC11.
6. **4 January 2026**
   Deadline for the submission of participant comments.
7. **23 February 2026**
   Submission of WS2025-ORS Conveners' report to SC11.

[1] SC 11 will be tentatively held in Australia from 23 to 31 March 2026