## Provisional Agenda

## 1st Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific Committee’s Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group

**23-24 October 2017, CSIRO Hobart**

**Meeting Room - XXX**

**Chair: Dr Simon Nicol**

The provisional agenda for the 1st meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee’s Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group has been developed to focus on the areas of work identified in SIOFA SC1 and SC2 meeting reports, the Scientific Committee Work Plan (MoP3 Annex G) and Research Plan (SC1 Annex G) and the ERAWG’s terms of reference (included at Attachment 1).

1. **Opening**
   1. Opening statement from the Chair
   2. Introduction of participants
2. **Administrative arrangements**
   1. Adoption of the agenda
   2. Confirmation of meeting documents
   3. Appointment of rapporteurs
   4. Review of functions and ERAWG terms of reference
3. **Overview of Ecological Risk Assessment for the Effects of Fishing (ERAEF) Framework**

*CSIRO will provide an overview of the ERAEF framework, detailing the hierarchical approach and PSA (including bSAFE/eSAFE) methods.*

1. **Overview of the deepwater sharks ecological risk assessment**

*ABARES will provide a brief overview of the context of the preliminary ecological risk assessment for the effects of demersal, midwater trawl, line and gillnet fishing on deepwater sharks in the southern Indian Ocean, and links to other processes (e.g. the concurrent assessment for the South Pacific Ocean) and broader ERA processes.*

1. **Development of the species list and productivity attributes**

*James Cook University will provide an overview of how the list of deepwater shark species that could interact with fisheries in the southern Indian Ocean was developed. JCU will then detail the process for the compilation of productivity attributes and the assumptions used.*

1. **Susceptibility attribute assumptions**

*ABARES will detail the susceptibility attribute assumptions used for the preliminary assessment.*

1. **PSA outputs**

*ABARES will provide a brief overview of the outputs from the level 2 Productivity Susceptibility Analysis*

1. **Review of spatial data holdings and sources**

*ABARES will provide a summary of spatial data (including species distribution data and fishing effort data) collected and received for use in the level 3 SAFE assessment*

1. **bSAFE/eSAFE outputs**

*CSIRO will provide an overview of the preliminary bSAFE/eSAFE outputs*

1. **Systematic review of species’ risk scores and identification of expert overrides**

*The ERAWG will systematically review species’ risk scores and identify possible false positives (or false negatives) and identify any potential expert overrides.*

1. **Next steps and advice to the Scientific Committee**

*The ERAWG will identify next steps and discuss potential advice to the Scientific Committee (see Attachment 1 for guidance)*

1. **Meeting summary and adoption of meeting report**
2. **Other business**
3. **Meeting close**

Attachment 1

SIOFA Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group

**Objectives and background**

Paragraph 6a of CMM 2016/01 actions the SIOFA Scientific Committee to provide advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on the status of stocks of principal deep-sea fishery resources targeted, and, to the extent possible, taken as bycatch and caught incidentally in these deep-sea fisheries, including straddling fishery resources by 2019.

The SIOFA Scientific Committee has proposed that ecological risk assessment is a practical approach for addressing the potential and current effects of fishing on target stocks and also those caught incidentally in SIOFA’s deep-sea fisheries. The SC recommended that a working group be established under the SIOFA Scientific Committee to progress work related to ecological risk assessments required to address this action.

Initially, the working group will focus on an ERA for deepwater sharks in the SIOFA Agreement Area. This ERA could be used as a model for future ERAs, or for example, as a basis for the expansion of the deepwater sharks ERA to all relevant species across the SIOFA area (where data are available).

Such a model will be useful in promoting engagement of scientists in the ERA process, which is fundamental to success.

Under these Terms of Reference, participants will commit to involvement in the process. All ‘rules’ of the ERA WG will be consistent with the SC Terms of Reference, and so are not included here. The ERA WG ToR will be focused on the practical aspects of progressing work related to ERAs in SIOFA.

**Terms of Reference**

1. The ERA-IWG will be tasked with developing a research and review plan for implementation of ERAs and related processes for progressing the objectives of the SIOFA SC and Meeting of the Parties. In the short-term, the ERA WG will:
2. Assist with the timely provision of data to support the implementation of the ERAs for deepwater chondrichthyans being undertaken by Australia and Japan.
3. Assist with review of methods and outputs used for the deepwater chondrichthyans ERAs and provide advice to the SC on the applicability of the methods to be used more broadly across SIOFA fisheries.

In the medium to long-term, the ERA-IWG will:

1. To facilitate timely development of ERA processes, participants agree to provide the necessary and available data within two months of a request, noting that appropriate data confidentiality protocols (as per CMM 2016/03 and domestic data and privacy policies) will apply
2. The requesting party will need to confer with the data custodian to ensure the appropriate data confidentiality agreements and other relevant processes are followed.
3. All other rules of the ERA-IWG will be consistent with the SC Terms of Reference.

**Current workplan**

Interim dates and other issues for deepwater sharks ERA:

* Within two months of the close of SIOFA SC2, participants agree to provide the following data:
  + Fishing effort footprint for demersal and midwater trawl, line gears and gillnet gears for the period 2011–2016, where available, at a 20 minute (or finer) resolution (as shapefiles)
  + If finer scale data can be provided, the mid-point of a polygon will be selected and a 20 minute cell used for the first run (i.e. the ‘worst case scenario’)
  + Shark catch data for the aforementioned gears, to be used for 1) verifying the species list and 2) understanding the potential susceptibility of various sharks to certain gears
* The ERA-IWG will prepare and submit a working paper on the deepwater chondrichthyans ERAs to SC3 for review and consideration. The paper will be co-authored by the ERA WG/SIOFA SC.
* Provide advice to the SIOFA secretariat on the design needs of SIOFA data bases for the purposes of ecological risk assessment.
* This working paper will form the first draft of a scientific paper on the deepwater chondrichthyans ERAs for intended publication in a scientific journal. The paper will be co-authored by all contributing scientists to the ERA WG/SIOFA SC. Intended publication date will be late 2018.