**9th Meeting of the Parties (MoP9)**

**Reunion Island, 4–8 July 2022**

**MOP-09-11-rev1**

Draft SIOFA Scientific Committee Workplan 2022-2023

SIOFA Scientific Committee Chairs / Secretariat

Submitted 02.06.2022

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Document type** | administrative paper  working paper  information paper |
| **Distribution** | Public  Restricted [[1]](#footnote-2)  Confidential [[2]](#footnote-3) |
| **Abstract** | |
| This paper aims to present the draft SC workplan for 2022-2023, along with the scorings by SC HoDs, to the MoP for their consideration and adoption. | |

|  |
| --- |
| **Recommendations** |
| * The SC recommends that the MoP **CONSIDERS** the draft SC workplan for 2022-2023 and **ADOPTS** a final SC workplan for 2022-2023 |

## Background

A detailed draft SC workplan for 2022-2023 (hereafter referred to simply as SC workplan), including components arising from the 4th meetings of the Protected Areas Working Group (PAEWG4) and the Stock and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group (SERAWG4), was presented at the 7th meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC7, document [SC-07-INFO-15 Rev1](http://apsoi.org/sites/default/files/documents/meetings/SC-07-INFO-15-SC-WorkPlan-2021-2023.xlsx)). The SC reviewed and revised the draft SC work plan and agreed to assign levels of priority to each of the proposed research activities (para. 248 of the [SC7 report](http://apsoi.org/sites/default/files/documents/meetings/SIOFA%20SC7%20Final%20Report.pdf)). Due to time constraints, the SC tasked the Secretariat to circulate the SC workplan to SC HoDs by email following the close of the SC meeting, and request that SC HoDs provide their score for each project using a scoring system adapted from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and reported in Table 1.

Table 1 – SC workplan project priority scoring table. Colours represent priority rankings (6,9 = High; 3,4 = Medium; 1,2 = Low).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Importance to SIOFA Management Outcomes or to the functioning of the SC | | |
|  | Rank | Low | Moderate | High |
| Feasibility: Likelihood of Success | Low | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Moderate | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| High | 3 | 6 | 9 |

**Importance criteria** evaluate the significance of the outcomes of the proposal in contributing to the successful management of the SIOFA stocks or the functioning of the SC (e.g., is the proposal aligned with the SIOFA research and/or management priorities; does the proposal contribute to the effective planning and functioning of the SC; are the intended outputs/benefits well-defined and relevant; what is the level of impact and likelihood that the proposal outputs will be adopted; is the proposal cost effective). High= Essential; Moderate=Important but not essential; Low=Not Important.

**Feasibility criteria** evaluate the proposal’s potential for success i.e., how likely is the proposal to achieve its stated objectives (e.g., are the objectives clearly stated, is the methodology sound, are the project objectives realistic and likely to be achieved, does the research team [if identified] have the ability, capacity and track record to deliver the outputs).

The Secretariat transmitted, on behalf of the SC Chair, a circular ([SC 2022-17](http://apsoi.org/node/863)) to the SC HoDs on the 5th of April 2022, requiring them to provide national priority scores by the 2nd of May 2022.

4 CCPs (AUS, CKI, EU, JPN), provided Feasibility and Importance prioritization scores for each SC workplan item to the SIOFA Science Officer by the deadline. According to the instructions of the SC, items in the workplan were then ranked according to their **average** score provided by CCPs.

## Aims

This paper aims to present the SC workplan, along with the scorings by SC HoDs, to the MoP for their consideration and adoption, as per SC tasking to the Secretariat.

SC workplan financial considerations associated with SC workplan items are covered in detail in other documents presented to MoP9. However, this document identifies where funding from MoP is needed and highlights the availability of EU funds to support SC workplan items, with the purpose to better inform the MoP consideration of the SC workplan.

Note that funding for the SIOFA-SEAs project application was confirmed after SC7, hence not all potential SIOFA SEAs projects are listed in in Annex A.

## SIOFA Scientific Committee Workplan 2021-2023

To simplify the consideration of MoP and with the rationale that they didn’t provide useful information for the purpose of the discussion at MoP, the columns of [SC-07-INFO-15 Rev1](http://apsoi.org/sites/default/files/documents/meetings/SC-07-INFO-15-SC-WorkPlan-2021-2023.xlsx) with administrative information and rows with workplan items that were already completed were removed from the table presented here. However, items that are currently ongoing but not completed have been retained in the table to provide a wider perspective on the expected activities. No priority score is provided for ongoing workplan items.

Final priority score cells have been coloured according to the colour coding provided in Table 1, to facilitate the identification of priorities. Final priority scores are calculated as the average of each CCPs priority score (also reported in Table 1, Annex A), which are calculated as a combination of Feasibility X Importance as per Table 1. Note some CCPs scored already ongoing projects, but these scores are not reported here, and that some scores were missing.

Cells with priority scores of 1–2 have been coloured in light grey, scores of 3–4 have been coloured in light yellow and scores of 6–9 were coloured in orange. Already ongoing workplan items have been distinguished from new items using cell colouring (light blue). A colour coding and abbreviation guide is provided in the table caption.

Whenever possible, the specific paragraphs in the SC and WG reports where support to these research/studies was given is identified in the workplan table. However, please note that several of these could not be traced to a specific reference. Similarly, project codes

Finally, the table tries to identify the responsible lead for each workplan item (e.g. CCPs or Consultants). These identifications should be considered as tentative, and the Secretariat suggests that a discussion between the CCPs to identify clear leads for the items at MoP9 would be useful to ensure that no items are left unassigned.

While this document was not intended to provide financial information, wherever possible the table identifies where funding from MoP is needed and where financial support for workplan items (by the EU grants) is available and confirmed. However, even in this case there are several items that could not be specifically assigned (or quantified) and would benefit from further discussion.

To focus the debate, the workplan items prioritization table was arranged in ascending order of time, and descending order of final priority scores (Table 1, Annex A).

Potential issues identified during the prioritization scoring process were:

* A potential duplication of the workplan item related to VME indicator species thresholds referring to a proposed intersessional workgroup meeting to develop a plan/advance on this topic. CCPs have scored the two items differently, only the highest score was retained.
* A CCP identified a potential duplication of the alfonsino age curve work. An alfonsino growth curve was presented in SERAWG-03-09-rev1 and further clarity on the next stage of the work might be useful to avoid confusion.

## Annex A

Table 1 – Table of SIOFA SC workplan 2021-2023 items, edited for MoP9 discussion and ordered by ascending year, and then by descending order of priority. Light blue cells highlight workplan items that are already ongoing. Light blue coloured text highlights recurring workplan items. Cells with final (average) priority scores are coloured according to the colour scheme given in Table 1 to highlight priority categories. Red text flags cells where a provider has not yet been clearly identified.

| **Year** | **Progressive ID** | **Lead** | **Summary Title** | **Provider** | **Final (average) priority score** | **WG/SC meeting** | **Funding (Euro)** | **Funding source** | **Project Status** | **Requirement reference** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2021/22 | 1 | SC/SEC | SC Chair position | Consultant | - | MoP9 | 40,000 € | MoP8 Item 9.2 | Ongoing | MoP8 para 122 |
| 2021/22 | 2 | PAEWG | VME indicator species thresholds | Intersessional WG/PAEWG4 | - | PAEWG4 | - | - | Postponed to PAEWG5 (see items 8 and 17) | MoP8 para 100; SC6 para 90 |
| 2021/22 | 3 | SC/SEC | Development of 3-5 yr. Scientific Committee budget | SC Chairs committee | - | SEAWG4; PAEWG4; SC7 | - | - | Ongoing | MoP8 para 194 |
| 2021/22 | 4 | SERAWG | Review progress under CMM 2019/12 (Sharks) | SC | 8 | SERAWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | SC6 para 131 |
| 2021/22 | 5 | SC/SEC | Monitoring of alfonsino, toothfish, orange roughy | Intersessional WG | 7.75 | SERAWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | SC7 report annex G |
| 2021/22 | 6 | SC/SEC | Ecosystem summaries and fisheries overview workshop | Intersessional WG | 6.5 | PAEWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | SC7 report annex G |
| 2021/22 | 7 | SC/SEC | Harvest strategies (roadmap) | Intersessional WG | 6.5 | SERAWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | SC7 report annex G |
| 2021/22 | 8 | PAEWG | VME indicator species threshold development plan | Intersessional WG/Consultant | 6.333333 | PAEWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | MoP8 para 100 |
| 2021/22 | 9 | PAEWG | Review of VME indicator taxa list | SC Delegations | 6.333333 | PAEWG4 | - | - | Postponed to PAEWG5 | MoP8 para 99; SC6 para 89 |
| 2021/22 | 10 | SC/SEC | Seabird mitigation options | Intersessional WG | 6 | PAEWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | SC7 report annex G |
| 2021/22 | 11 | SC/SEC | VME management | Intersessional WG | 5.75 | PAEWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | SC7 report annex G |
| 2021/22 | 12 | PAEWG | Review seabird bycatch mitigation (CMM2021/02, 2019/13, ACAP) | SC Delegations | 5.75 | PAEWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | SC7 report annex G |
| 2021/22 | 13 | SC/SEC | E-monitoring schemes | Intersessional WG (Led by EU and AUS) | 5 | SERAWG4; PAEWG4 | - | - | Postponed | SC6 para 66 |
| 2021/22 | 14 | PAEWG | Support work on benthic bioregionalization (underway) and (future) investigate possible habitat suitability modelling | Consultant | 5 | PAEWG5 (Final report) | - | - | Future work yet to be planned | SC6 Annex G |
| 2021/22 | 15 | SC/SEC | Biological data collection protocol | CKI paper + circulation to SC | 5 | PAEWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | SC7 report annex G |
| 2021/22 | 16 | SC/SEC | Acoustic data protocol | Intersessional WG | 5 | SERAWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | SC7 report annex G |
| 2021/22 | 17 | PAEWG | VME indicator species thresholds | Intersessional WG | 4.75 | PAEWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | MoP8 para 100; SC6 para 90 |
| 2021/22 | 18 | SERAWG | Update BYS maturity staging classification | CKI paper + circulation to SC | 4 | SERAWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | SC6 para 107 |
| 2022/23 | 19 | SC/SEC | Alfonsino acoustic surveys feasibility | Intersessional WG | 3.75 | SERAWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | SC7 report annex G |
| 2022/23 | 20 | SC Chairs/SEC | Scientific Support for SC activities | - | - | SC8 | 10,000 € | MoP9 | Ongoing |  |
| 2022/23 | 21 | PAEWG | Identification of representative protected areas within SIOFA (ToR2) | Consultant | - | PAEWG4 (Draft report); PAEWG5 (Final report) | 10,000 € | EU Grant (GO2) | Ongoing | SC6 Annex G |
| 2022/23 | 22 | PAEWG | Investigate and advise on the use of habitat suitability modelling in predicting benthic species diversity and distribution in SIOFA (ToR3) | Consultant | - | PAEWG4 (Draft report); PAEWG5 (Final report) | 10,000 € | EU Grant (GO2) | Ongoing | SC6 Annex G |
| 2022/23 | 23 | PAEWG | Holistic framework for assessing and preventing Significant Adverse Impacts (SAIs) on VMEs (ToR4) | Consultant | - | PAEWG4 (Draft report); PAEWG5 (Final report) | 10,000 € | EU Grant (2021-2023) (GO2) | Ongoing | SC6 Annex G |
| 2022/23 | 24 | PAEWG | Identify and update existing and potential SAIs within the SIOFA management area (ToR5) | Consultant | - | PAEWG5 (Final report) | 5,000 € | EU Grant (2021-2023) (GO2) | Ongoing | SC6 Annex G |
| 2022/23 | 25 | SC/SEC | Review of CMM [2021/02] Data standards | Secretariat | - | SC8 | - | - | Ongoing | MoP8 para 155 |
| 2022/23 | 26 | SC/SEC | Summary of SIOFA data | Secretariat | 8.25 | SC8 | - | - | Ongoing | CMM2020/01 para 13 |
| 2022/23 | 27 | SC/SEC | Fisheries overview | Secretariat | 8.25 | SC8 | - | - | Ongoing | CMM2020/01 para 13 |
| 2022/23 | 28 | SC/SEC | Ecosystem summary | Secretariat | 8.25 | SC8 | - | - | Ongoing | CMM2020/01 para 13 |
| 2022/23 | 29 | SC/SEC | Annual report of VME encounters | Secretariat | 8.25 | SC8 | - | - | Ongoing | CMM2020/01 para 13 |
| 2022/23 | 30 | SERAWG | Review toothfish data collection requirements | CCPs (led by AUS, EU, and FR-OT) | 7.75 | SERAWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | CMM2021/15 para 31 |
| 2022/23 | 31 | SERAWG | Harvest Strategies pre-assessment workshop (involving managers, industry, scientists) | Intersessional WG | 7.75 | SC8 | TBD | EU Grant SIOFA-SC8 | Funding confirmed | SC7 report agenda item 14 |
| 2022/23 | 32 | SERAWG | Deepwater sharks management workshop | Intersessional WG  (Led by EU) | 7.75 | SC8 | TBD | EU Grant SIOFA-SC8 | Funding confirmed | SC7 report agenda item 15 |
| 2022/23 | 33 | SERAWG | Development of stock structure ToRs (ORH, BYS, TOT) | Prepared by Secretariat (SO) and circulated to SC | 7.25 | SERAWG5 | - | - | TBD | SC6 Annex G; SC6 para 140 |
| 2022/23 | 34 | SERAWG | Toothfish growth curve (+ otolith collection) | Consultants/CCPs  (led by AUS, FROT and EU) | 7 | SERAWG5 | 2,500 € | EU Grant (2021-2023) (G01.3) | Ongoing | SC6 Annex G |
| 2022/23 | 35 | SC/SEC | Fisheries footprint (including coherence with CCPs footprints) | Secretariat | 7 | SC8 | - | - | Ongoing | CMM2020/01 para 13 |
| 2022/23 | 36 | SC/SEC | SIOFA data transformation strategy | Secretariat | 7 | SC8 | - | - | Ongoing |  |
| 2022/23 | 37 | SC/SEC | Develop Data Base system and analyses | Consultant | 7 | SC8 | 20,000 € | EU Grant (2021-2023) (GO4) | Ongoing | EUG 2020 GO4 |
| 2022/23 | 38 | SERAWG | Alfonsino stock assessment | Consultant | 6.25 | SERAWG5 | 25,000 € | EU Grant (2021-2023) (GO1.1) | Ongoing | SC6 Annex G |
| 2022/23 | 39 | PAEWG | Annual review of VME encounters | Secretariat (presented to SC) | 6.25 | PAEWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | CMM2020/01 para 16 |
| 2022/23 | 40 | SERAWG | Toothfish stock structure (molecular analysis) | Consultant | 5.75 | SERAWG5 | 8,333 € | EU Grant (2021-2023) (GO1.2) | Ongoing | SC6 Annex G |
| 2022/23 | 41 | SERAWG | Alfonsino growth curve (additional otolith ageing) | Consultant  (in collaboration with CKI and JPN for the data) | 5.5 | SERAWG5 | 10,000 € | MoP9 | Postponed | SERAWG4 Report Annex D |
| 2022/23 | 42 | SERAWG | Alfonsino stock structure | Consultant | 5 | SERAWG5 | 8,333 € | EU Grant (2021-2023) (GO1.2) | Ongoing | SC6 Annex G |
| 2022/23 | 43 | PAEWG | Review of VME indicator taxa list | CCPs | 5 | PAEWG5 | - | - | Ongoing | MoP8 para 99; SC6 para 89 |
| 2022/23 | 44 | PAEWG | Development of research and monitoring plans for protected areas | Consultants / CCPs | 4.5 | PAEWG5 | TBD | EU grant SIOFA-SEAs | Funding confirmed | CMM 2020/01 para 6e |
|  | 44b | SC Meeting | Observer Harmonisation |  |  |  |  | EU grant SIOFA-SEAs |  |  |
|  | 44c | SC Meeting | Toothfish distribution (etc) |  |  |  |  | EU grant SIOFA-SEAs |  |  |
| 2022/23 | 45 | PAEWG | Further ERA for benthic species on the Saya de Malha bank | TBD | 4 | SC9 | - | - | TBD | MoP8 para 145, PAEWG4 |
| 2023/24 | 46 | SERAWG | Alfonsino acoustic abundance index | Consultant  (if feasibility confirmed) | 4 | SERAWG5 | 15,000 € | MoP9 | Funding requested from MoP9 | SC6 Annex G |
| 2022/23 | 47 | SERAWG | Standardised data collection protocols for BYS | CCPs (CKI and JPN) | 4 | SERAWG6 | - | - | Postponed | SC6 para 106 |
| 2022/23 | 48 | SERAWG | Alfonsino age validation (bomb radiometry) | Consultant (after age and growth works) | 3.5 | SERAWG5 | 5,000 € | EU grant: GO1.3 | Funding requested from MoP9 | SERAWG4 Report Annex D |
| 2022/23 | 49 | SERAWG | Orange roughy stock structure | Consultant | 3 | SERAWG5 | 8,333 € | EU Grant (2021-2023) (GO1.2) | Ongoing | SC6 Annex G |
| 2025/26 | 50 | SERAWG | Teleosts ERA update | CCPs (AUS?) | 2.75 | SERAWG-\* | - | - | Ongoing |  |
| 2022/23 | 51 | SERAWG | Monaco Exploration of the Saya de Malha Bank | Monaco Exploration | 1.75 | SC8 | - | - | Planned | SC7 report agenda item 12.4 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions as per SIOFA RoP 20. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)