



SIOFA | APSOI

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

Scientific Committee

La Réunion, Friday 1 December 2023

## SC- CIRCULAR n° 2023-18

**SUBJECT: Scientific Committee Workshop on the Harmonisation of Scientific Observers (WS2024-OBS)**

Dear Heads of Delegation of the Scientific Committee,

Dear Observers,

Dear Colleagues,

Following [project SEC2022-OBS1](#), which is working towards the establishment of a framework for scientific observation of SIOFA fisheries, I am proposing the Scientific Committee holds a Workshop on the Harmonisation of Scientific Observers (WS2024-OBS).

The purpose of the workshop will be to consider the project SEC2022-OBS1 preliminary draft report, and to develop potential projects on observer harmonisation for consideration by the Scientific Committee at its meeting in March 2024.

Please find attached the draft Terms of Reference and the Provisional Agenda for WS2024-OBS, proposed to be held in a virtual format on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, from 07.30 UTC to 11.30 UTC.

Please provide any responses on the proposed Terms of References, Provisional Agenda, the Timetable, and more in general on the Meeting Arrangements, by the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2024, to the Science Officer ([marco.milardi@siofa.org](mailto:marco.milardi@siofa.org)). Following any responses, I will circulate the final Terms of References, Agenda, and Meeting Arrangements.

Sincerely yours,

Alistair Dunn

SIOFA Scientific Committee Chair

# Working arrangements for the Workshop on the Harmonisation of Scientific Observers (WS2024-OBS)

## Introduction

At its 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, the SIOFA Scientific Committee proposed [project SEC2022-OBS1](#) “Establish a framework for scientific observation of SIOFA fisheries”, and noted that ad-hoc workshops could be held for the SC to review the progress of the project, as appropriate ([SC8 Report](#), paragraph 310).

This Workshop is intended to provide an introduction to the preliminary draft report of SEC2022-OBS1, and provide an opportunity for the Members of the Scientific Committee to develop potential projects on observer harmonization for consideration and development at the Scientific Committee meeting in March 2024.

This Circular outlines the proposal for a workshop, and the proposed Terms of Reference, the Provisional Agenda, and the Timetable for WS2024-OBS. The outcomes of the workshop will be presented to the 2024 meeting of the Scientific Committee, in the form of a convener’s report.

## Terms of Reference for the workshop

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 Dr Sebastian Rodriguez Alfaro (EU).
3. The workshop will meet online via video conference (Zoom) on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, from 07.30 UTC to 11.30 UTC.
4. A convener’s report of the workshop will be compiled by the Workshop Convener and be presented to the 9<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC9).

## Provisional Agenda

1. Introduction to meeting ([SC8 Report](#) and [SC-07-INFO-07](#))
2. Summary of the preliminary draft report from project SEC2022-OBS1
  - 2.1. Overview of the report (a summary of the structure and contents)
  - 2.2. Introduction to the data forms (reporting requirements 1-2 of the project SEC2022-OBS1)
  - 2.3. Introduction to a proposed Scientific Observer regulation/CMM (reporting requirements 3-7 of the project SEC2022-OBS1)
  - 2.4. Discussion of points arising from the presentation
  - 2.5. Identification of key points for the Scientific Committee to consider
3. Discussion of a potential future work program
  - 3.1. Summary of the work program identified by SEC2022-OBS1
  - 3.2. Summary of the work program identified by SC8
  - 3.3. Requirements for observer coverage
  - 3.4. Development of potential projects for the Scientific Committee to consider
4. Other related items
  - 4.1. Observer code of conduct ([SC-07-INFO-08](#))

## Timetable

### 29 January 2024

Deadline for submission of any information or working papers to the workshop.

The preliminary draft report from SEC2022-OBS1 will be submitted to the workshop on this date.

### 31 January 2024

Deadline for registration of participants to the workshop.

### 6-7 February 2024

Workshop meetings take place virtually between 0730 and 1130 UTC. A short break will be scheduled at about 0930.

### 9 February 2024

Distribution of draft convener's report for comment via email.

### 12 February 2024

Final Workshop report submitted to SC9.