

La Réunion, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## SIOFA SC-CIRCULAR n° 2024-01

**SUBJECT: Invitation to the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee and meeting arrangements**

**Dear Heads of Delegation of the SIOFA Scientific Committee,**

**Dear Colleagues,**

I would like to invite you to the Ninth Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC9), to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2024. Annex A of this circular details the meeting arrangements for SC9.

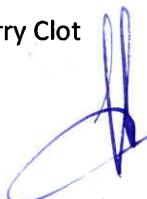
SC9 will be hosted by the Thailand Department of Fisheries, and that the meeting venue will be the Berkeley Hotel Pratunam, Bangkok, Thailand. For more information regarding the meeting venue please refer to the attached travel note (Annex B) and the meeting page on the SIOFA website at <https://siofa.org/meetings/sc9>

I would like to note that the meetings will be held in-person at the meeting venue. We will have a very limited Zoom facility available for project consultants to present their work, but otherwise virtual attendance may not be available. We are investigating providing an informal 'listen-in' option for Delegations at the plenary sessions, however, this would not be always available and would not permit those using the facility to participate in the meeting. I will update you if and when this is able to be arranged.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Thierry Clot



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

SIOFA Executive Secretary

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## ANNEX A: Arrangements for the 9th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

### 1 MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

#### 1.1 Meeting dates

The meeting dates for 9th Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC9) will be **18–27 March 2024** (MoP10 2023, paragraph 261).

#### 1.2 Meeting venue

The 9th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee will be hosted by the Department of Fisheries, Thailand and held at the Berkeley Hotel Pratunam, Bangkok, Thailand. Pratunam is one of Bangkok's renowned shopping districts.

#### 1.3 Meeting times

The meeting sessions will run from 09:00–17:30 local time, during weekdays.

Depending on the agenda and time permitting, breaks will be:

- Morning tea: 10:30–11:00
- Lunch: 12:30-14:00
- Afternoon tea: 15:30-16:00

In-person registration and the distribution of the meeting package for participants will commence at 08:00 on the first day of the meeting.

#### 1.4 Meeting registration

All delegates are requested to register their attendance to these meetings as soon as possible and no later than **Saturday 20 February 2024** by completing the form provided as SC-09-ADM-01 and emailing it to the SIOFA Secretariat (Science Officer, [marco.milardi@siofa.org](mailto:marco.milardi@siofa.org)).

### 2 CIRCULATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Provisional Agenda for the meeting will be circulated at least 60 days in advance of each meeting (i.e., by the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2024).

The deadline for comments on the SC9 Provisional Agenda to the SIOFA Secretariat (Science Officer, [marco.milardi@siofa.org](mailto:marco.milardi@siofa.org)), is on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2024**.

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## 3 SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

All meeting papers submitted to 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee must use the document template available at the following link: (<https://siofa.org/meetings/sc9>), document SC-09-ADM-02.

Members of the Scientific Committee may submit working papers and information papers to the Scientific Committee for consideration.

Meeting documents must be submitted via email to the SIOFA Secretariat (Science Officer, [marco.milardi@siofa.org](mailto:marco.milardi@siofa.org)), by these dates:

- **Monday 12 February 2024** Deadline for submission of SC9 working papers.
- **Monday 4 March 2024** Deadline for submission of SC9 information papers.

### 3.1 National Reports

In accordance with CMM 02-(2023) for Data Standards, SIOFA Parties shall provide to the Scientific Committee a National Report, at least 30 days prior of the commencement of the meeting. Please note that the Scientific Committee has requested that these reports be compiled in accordance with the guidelines developed by the SIOFA Secretariat.

A copy of these guidelines, revised by the Secretariat (MoP9 report, para 66) and updated by SC8 (SC8 report, para 44) is available on the SIOFA Website (<https://siofa.org/sites/default/files/documents/SIOFA-SC-Guidelines-for-submission-of-annual-national-reports-2023.docx>).

Note that, as agreed by MoP10 (MoP10 report, paragraph 95) that, for the primary SIOFA target species, CCPs should include in their national reports nominal CPUE data for these species, to enable the identification of potential trends in years when no assessment is being undertaken.

The National Reports will be classified as working papers for SC9 and will be made available on the public section of the SIOFA website. The guidelines for National Reports will also be submitted as an information paper to SC9 (SC-09-INFO-03).

***National Reports should be submitted to the Secretariat no later than Monday 12 February 2024.***

### 3.2 Working papers

Working papers are for proposals and papers where the Scientific Committee will be asked to make a recommendation to the Meeting of the Parties.

Working papers should be submitted with advice on the specific agenda item the paper has been prepared for, clear recommendations for the Scientific Committee's consideration, and a one paragraph abstract for inclusion in the meeting report. Delegates should be prepared to present their working papers to the meeting.

***Working papers should be submitted to the Secretariat no later than Monday 12 February 2024.***

### 3.3 Information papers

Information papers are of relevant general interest to an agenda item and may not require presentation in plenary. While every endeavour will be made, I note that depending on time available to complete the SC9 agenda, some of these papers may be taken as read and not discussed during the meetings.

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Observers may submit information papers to the SIOFA Secretariat (Science Officer marco.milardi@siofa.org) for consideration by the Scientific Committee.

Information papers should be submitted with advice on the specific agenda item the paper has been prepared for and a one paragraph abstract for inclusion in the meeting report. Delegates should indicate if they wish to present the information paper to the plenary.

***Information papers should be submitted to the Secretariat no later than Monday 04 March 2024.***

## 3.4 Confidentiality and transparency

Delegates are requested to identify any papers being submitted which contain data subject to rules of confidentiality that necessitate restricted access. By default, all documents submitted which have not been identified as restricted will be made available on the publicly accessible part of the SIOFA website. Please note that restricted papers should not be circulated to parties that are not participating in the meeting.

Also note that, following the recommendations of SC8 (SC8 report paragraph 106), the abstracts of all restricted papers will be made available on the public website for the meeting.

## 3.5 Access to meeting documents

Documents for the meeting will be provided on the SC9 meeting page on the SIOFA website at <https://siofa.org/meetings/sc9>

Individual usernames and passwords must be used to access restricted documents on the SIOFA website. Observers may request login details by contacting SIOFA Data Officer Pierre PERIES ([pierre.peries@siofa.org](mailto:pierre.peries@siofa.org)).

To access restricted documents, registered meeting participants and SIOFA official contacts, must first login with their credentials, then access the meeting page as normal. Restricted documents will then be visible to those who have access.

Observers will be given access to all meeting documents not subject to rules relating to the confidentiality of data and commercially sensitive information. To access meeting documents through the course of the meetings, observers will need to first login with their individual password and login details, then access the meeting page as normal.

## 3.6 Scientific Committee Terms of Reference

A copy of the Scientific Committee Terms of Reference can be found on the SIOFA website: <https://www.siofa.org/node/8> .

## 3.7 Meeting observers

A list of observers to be invited to the meetings will be provided at a later stage.

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## 4 CONTACTS

Please direct all questions and correspondence to [secretariat@siofa.org](mailto:secretariat@siofa.org) if you have any questions or require further information.

The contacts for the SIOFA Secretariat staff are:

- Marco Milardi, Science Officer ([marco.milardi@siofa.org](mailto:marco.milardi@siofa.org)). Phone number: +262 693 404010
- Pierre Peries, Data Officer ([pierre.peries@siofa.org](mailto:pierre.peries@siofa.org)). Phone number: +262 692 376395
- Thierry Clot, Executive Secretary ([thierry@siofa.org](mailto:thierry@siofa.org)). Phone number: + 262 693 444 495 (text messages are preferred)

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## ANNEX B: Travel note for the 9th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

For the convenience of the participants who will attend “The 9th Scientific Committee Meeting (SC9)”, the following information is provided by the Department of Fisheries, Thailand (DoF).

### 1 DATE AND VENUE

Hosted by the Department of Fisheries, Thailand (DoF), the 9th Scientific Committee Meeting (SC9) will be convened from 18-27 March 2024 at the Berkeley Hotel Pratunam, Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting will be held at the Lounge, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor. Participants are requested to register at the registration desk in front of the meeting room from 08.00 to 09.00 a.m. The meeting will start at 09.00 a.m.

Please note that we intend to hold an official dinner on the eve of Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of March and during the weekend there will be an excursion planned for one of the days. Further details will be provided later.

### 2 HOTEL INFORMATION



**THE BERKELEY HOTEL**  
PRATUNAM

**THE BERKELEY HOTEL PRATUNAM**  
559 Ratchaprarop Road, Makkasan, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400  
T: +66 2 309 9999 F: +66 2 309 9900 E: sales@berkeleyhotel.co.th  
W: www.berkeleypratunam.com

 @theberkeleybkk



HOTEL WEBSITE



PHOTO GALLERY

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## SHUTTLE VAN SERVICE

For your convenience, The Berkeley Hotel Pratunam has arranged a shuttle van to Central Chidlom, BTS Chidlom (Erawan Shrine), Siam Paragon (BTS Siam) and Central World. This is available free of charge.

ROUTE	
Drop off point No.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ BTS CHIDLOM</li> <li>▶ ERAWAN SHRINE</li> </ul>
Drop off point No.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ SIAM PARAGON</li> <li>▶ BTS SIAM</li> </ul>
Drop off point No.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ CENTRAL WORLD</li> </ul>

### SERVICE ROUTE MAP

**REMARK**

1. Due to limited seating capacity, please kindly reserve a seat in advance at the Concierge Counter or dial 8.
2. The shuttle van service is exclusively for in-house roomy guests only.
3. The shuttle van service offers a one way trip to the location of your choice.
4. Please kindly be standby at the assembly point on the ground floor before the leaving time. The shuttle van runs on time.
5. The schedule and routes are subject to change without prior notice and may vary depending on traffic.
6. The shuttle van service is not suitable for wheelchair users.
7. The luggage is not allowed in the shuttle van.
8. The hotel is not responsible for theft, loss or damage to any personal belonging.

**SERVICE TIME**

10:00 hrs. / 10:30 hrs. / 11:00 hrs. / 11:30 hrs. / 12:00 hrs. / 12:30 hrs. / 13:00 hrs. / 13:30 hrs. / 14:00 hrs.

THE BERKELEY HOTEL

## 3 AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

### 3.1 From Suvarnabhumi International Airport to the meeting venue:

#### - Taxi

Please proceed to the public taxi stand located on Level 1 (Ground Level) and get a ticket queue number. Afterward, make your way to the designated taxi lane following the number indicated on the ticket. The taxi fare is based on a metered taxi fare plus a 50 THB airport surcharge. The approximate cost from the airport to the meeting venue is around 400 - 500 THB (Cash Only), excluding any expressway charges. It takes around 45 minutes from the airport to the hotel.

#### - Airport Rail Link



Take the Airport Rail Link from Suvarnabhumi Airport station (A1), which is situated within the airport (B Level, two floors below the arrival hall) to Ratchaprarop Station (A7). The duration of this train ride is approximately 26 minutes. The ticket fare for this leg of the journey is 45 THB. The Airport Rail Link ticket machines are located just in front of the entrance gate of the Suvarnabhumi Airport station. It is 10 minutes walking distance from Ratchaprarop station to the hotel.

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## 3.2 From Don Mueang International Airport to the meeting venue:

### - Taxi

Please proceed to the public taxi stand located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and get a ticket queue number. Afterward, make your way to the designated taxi lane following the number indicated on the ticket. The taxi fare is based on a metered taxi fare plus a 50 THB airport surcharge. The approximate cost from the airport to the meeting venue around 300 – 400 THB (Cash Only), excluding any expressway charges. It takes around 30 - 40 minutes from the airport to the hotel.

### - Bus and BTS Sky Train

Step 1) Take airport bus No. A1 (1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the passenger Terminal 1, Gate 6 and 12) from the airport to BTS Mo Chit bus stop. (Bus fare: 30 THB)

Step 2) Take BTS Sky Train (Green Line) from Mo Chit Station to Chitlom Station. The duration of this train ride is approximately 30 minutes. The ticket fare for this leg of the journey is 49 THB. It is 10 minutes walking through Sky-walk distance from BTS Sky Train Chitlom Station.

## 4 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN THAILAND

The official language in Thailand is Thai. English is spoken in tourist attractions in the larger cities.

## 5 WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION

Weather in Bangkok is likely to be very hot and sunny, the average high temperature is between 35 and 38 degrees Celsius. It is between 27 and 30 degrees Celsius at its lowest.

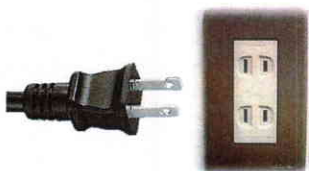
Current weather conditions in Bangkok can be found at:

<https://weather.com/weather/today>

The standard time zone is GMT/UTC +7 hours.

## 6 ELECTRICITY

The voltage in Thailand is 220 volts, 50 Hertz. In Thailand, the power plug and sockets are of type A and type B as shown below.





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## 7 INTERNET

WiFi will be available in the meeting area and the hotel rooms.

## 8 CURRENCY

Thai baht exchange rate table (as of 1 January 2024)

Currency	Exchange rate (THB)
1 US Dollar	33.9685
1 Euro	37.5637
1 British Pound	43.2818
1 Australian Dollar	22.9801
1 Japanese Yen (100 Japanese Yen)	0.2378 (23.7800)
1 South Korean Won (1,000 South Korean Won)	0.0263 (26.3000)
1 Chinese Yuan Renminbi	4.7058

There are several currency exchange counters at Suvarnabhumi Airport. The exchange counters are located at B Level next to the Airport Rail Link Suvarnabhumi station. They offer a fair exchange rate. The exchange rates might vary a bit between the exchange counters so shop around. Usually, you get slightly better rates for larger bank notes in Thailand.

### 9 TOURIST INFORMATION

#### 9.1 Popular places

1. **The Grand Palace** is a complex of buildings at the heart of Bangkok. The palace has been the official residence of the Kings of Thailand since 1782. The Grand Palace entrance fee for foreigners is 500 baht.



2. **Wat Arun** is a Buddhist temple in the Bangkok Yai district of Bangkok, on the Thonburi west bank of the Chao Phraya River. Wat Arun is among the best Thailand landmarks. Wat Arun entrance fee for foreigners is 100 baht.



3. **Wat Pho** is an old 17th century Bangkok temple on the banks of the Chao Phraya River. This wat in Bangkok is famous for its huge reclining Buddha that's a sightseeing favorite for visitors to the old city. Built since the Ayutthaya days, long before Bangkok was established as the capital, the temple must have caught the eye of King Rama I when he chose the site to the north for the Grand Palace. Wat Pho entrance fee for foreigners is 200 baht.



4. **Erawan Shrine** is a Hindu shrine located in front of Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel at the Ratchaprasong intersection on Ratchadamri Road in Lumpini Sub-district, Pathum Wan District, Bangkok. Both Thai people and foreigners like to visit this place and worship this famous holy object. A lot of group tours from many countries are arranged specifically to pay homage to Phra Phrom here.



### 9.2 Shopping Mall

5. **Central World** is a must-visit destination for local and foreign shoppers right in the middle of Bangkok's most prestigious address, Central World at Ratchaprasong intersection. The shopping center boasts more than 500 stores including local, high street as well as high-end brands along with world-class entertainment and services.



6. **Siam Paragon** is one of the most popular shopping malls in Bangkok which houses a host of international high-end fashion brands, Southeast Asia's largest aquarium. If you are Muslim there is Halal food on the G floor and a prayer room on the B1 floor.



7. **MBK Center** also known as Mah Boon Krong, is a large shopping mall in Bangkok. MBK has many foreign tourists, especially from the Middle East. There are a lot of Halal restaurants on 5<sup>th</sup> Floor and 6<sup>th</sup> Floor. The Prayer room is on the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor.

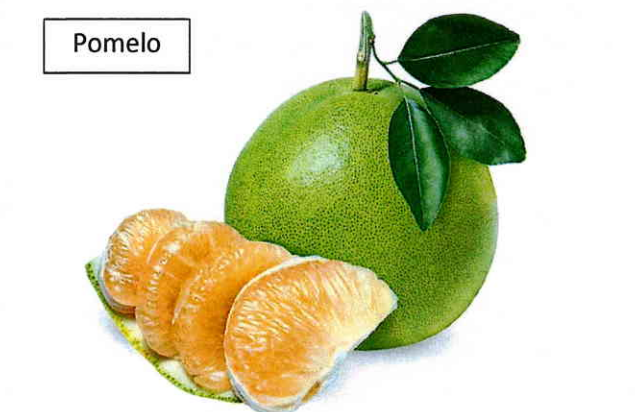
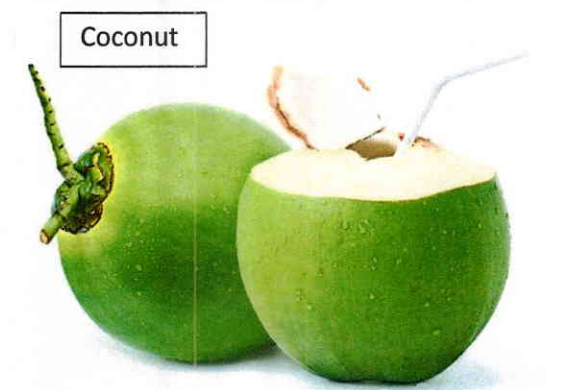
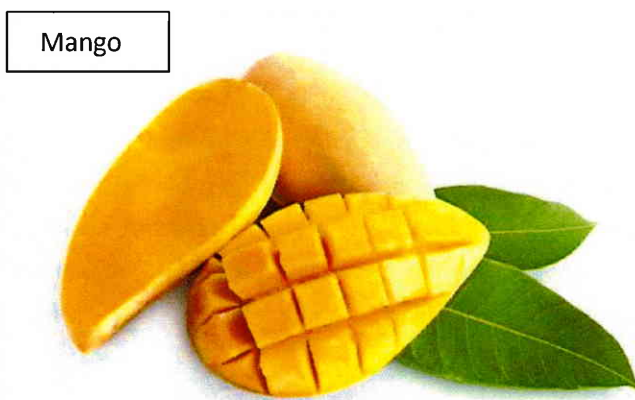
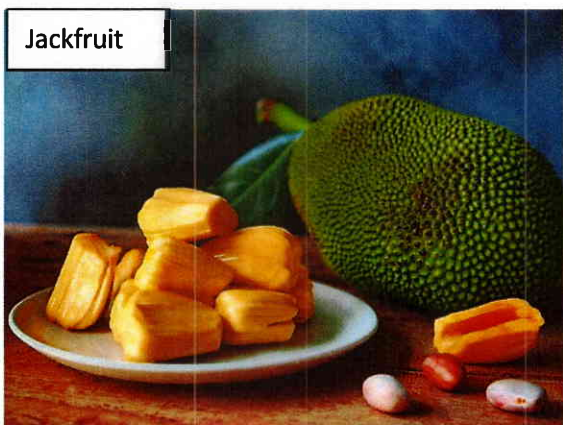


8. **ICONSIAM** is a mixed-use development on the banks of the Chao Phraya River in Bangkok. It includes one of the largest shopping malls in Asia. You can find luxury brands from all around the world. If you are Muslim, there is Halal food on the G floor and a prayer room on the B2 floor.



9.3 Recommended summer fruits

Jackfruit, Mango, Coconut, Pomelo, Pisang Awak banana, Cavendish banana



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### 9.4 Recommended Thai food

#### 1. Tom Yum Goong (Spicy Shrimp Soup)

The unique flavor of this soup, rightfully famous all over the world, is achieved by the combination of fragrant lemongrass, kaffir lime leaves, shallots, lime juice, fish sauce, fresh chilies (or chili paste), and fat juicy prawns.



#### 2. Tom Kha Kai (Thai Chicken Coconut Soup)

Tom kha kai is a related soup dish to Tom yum goong. Similar spices, such as galangal, shallots, lemongrass, and kaffir lime leaves set the basic flavor of the soup, except chilies are optional this time. Tender strips of chicken and aromatic Asian mushrooms form the mild body of the soup while creamy coconut milk is introduced and blends nicely with everything else.



#### 3. Pad Thai (Thai-Style Fried Noodles)

A signature dish in Thailand, Pad Thai is supposed to be on the menu of every restaurant in Thailand, from noisy street stalls to Michelin-starred restaurants in Bangkok. It comprises rice noodles (thin or wide) stir-fried with extravagant amounts of fresh prawns, crunchy bean sprouts, eggs, tasty tofu cubes, onion, and finely grated peanuts. A squirt of lime juice will complete the dish before it thrills every taste bud in your mouth.



#### 4. Pad Kra Pao Moo (Minced Pork Stir-Fried with Thai Basil)

This is a popular one-plate dish that is frequently ordered in Thai restaurants. Often, you will be asked whether you would like to have an egg with it or not. With a nice touch of fish sauce, oyster sauce, and a little sugar, the flavor of this wonderful dish will be nicely balanced between sweet and spicy.



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### **10 EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

Police: 191  
Fire: 199  
Ambulance: 1669

### **11 CONTACT PERSONS**

Position: Chief of Foreign Relations Group, Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division,  
Department of Fisheries, Thailand  
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Email: <mailto:foreign.dof@gmail.com>