



La Réunion, Monday 8th January 2024

SIOFA SC-CIRCULAR n° 2024-02

SUBJECT: Provisional Agenda of the 9th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

Dear Heads of Delegation of the SIOFA Scientific Committee,

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to transmit to you the Provisional Agenda for the Ninth Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC9), to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from the 18th to the 27th of March 2024.

The Provisional Agenda of SC9 is included as Annex A of this Circular and is being circulated in advance of the scheduled deadline (i.e., 60 days in advance of the meeting, in this case the 18th of January 2024), for your convenience.

The deadline for comments on the SC9 Provisional Agenda to the SIOFA Secretariat (Science Officer, marco.milardi@siofa.org), remains on **Sunday 28th of January 2024**, as originally scheduled.

I take this chance to remind you that SC9 will be hosted by the Thailand Department of Fisheries, and the meeting venue will be the Berkeley Hotel Pratunam, Bangkok, Thailand. For more information regarding the meeting arrangements and venue please refer to SIOFA SC Circular 2024-01 and the meeting page on the SIOFA website at <https://siofa.org/meetings/sc9>

In particular, I would like to remind you that meeting documents must be submitted via email to the SIOFA Secretariat (Science Officer, 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.

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

Sincerely yours,

Thierry Clot

SIOFA Executive Secretary

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ANNEX A: Provisional Agenda for the 9th Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

Chair: Mr Alistair Dunn

Vice-chair: Mr Pavarot Noranartragoon

1. Opening

1.1 Welcome from the *Scientific Committee* Chair

1.2 Introduction of participants

1.3 Introduction to the meeting facilities and meeting arrangements

The Chair of the Scientific Committee will open the meeting and welcome delegations of the SIOFA Committee, observers, and invited experts. The organisation of the meeting, chairing and local arrangements will be discussed. The Secretariat will introduce the meeting facilities and the other meeting arrangements.

2. Administrative arrangements

2.1 Adoption of the agenda

2.1.1 Confirmation of meeting documents

2.1.2 Appointment of rapporteurs

The Provisional Agenda for the Ninth Meeting of the Scientific Committee was prepared and distributed in accordance with Rules of Procedure.

The Scientific Committee Chair will request the meeting adopt the agenda for the meeting, confirm the list of meeting documents, and appoint rapporteurs. Note that the Secretariat will supply a meeting rapporteur for all plenary sessions of SC9. The Scientific Committee Chair may also appoint a lead rapporteur from the SC delegations to assist the SIOFA rapporteur in developing the report text. Once an agenda item has been closed, the draft report text will be made available to the meeting participants for comment. The lead rapporteur will consult and incorporate the comments into report text for final circulation, and then be checked and signed off by the Scientific Committee Chair. The final report text will then be made available to participants for report adoption.

2.2 Scientific Committee Chairs report

The Scientific Committee Chair will report on intersessional activities undertaken since the Eighth Meeting of the Scientific Committee.

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3. Fisheries Reports

3.1 Annual National Reports 2024

3.1.1 CCP annual National Fisheries Reports

Presentation of National Reports by each CCP, followed by questions and discussion. CCPs should prepare a short presentation on their National Report for distribution and presentation during the meeting.

3.1.2 CPUE for primary species

Presentation of the work on nominal and standardized CPUE by CCPs

3.1.3 Guidelines for the submission of National Reports (SC8 report, paragraph 46)

Discussion of the SIOFA Guidelines for submitting National Reports.

3.2 Summary of SIOFA fisheries

3.2.1 Overview of SIOFA fisheries 2024

3.2.2 CCP fishery characterisations

3.3 Ecosystem and Fisheries Summaries 2024

*Presentation and discussion of the Ecosystem and Fisheries Summaries for the selected species, i.e., toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp. TOT, *Dissostichus eleginoides*, TOP, *Dissostichus mawsoni*, TOA), alfonsino (*Beryx* spp. ALF, *Beryx splendens*, BYS, *Beryx decadactylus*, BXD), orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*, ORY), oilfish (*Ruvettus pretiosus*, OIL, and *Lepidocybium flavobrunneum*, LEC), hapuka (*Polyprion* spp., HAU, wreckfish (*Polyprion americanus*, WRF) and hapuku wreckfish (*Polyprion oxygeneios*, WHA)), and common mora (*Mora moro*, RIB).*

3.4 Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

4. Bottom fishing footprint

4.1 Updates to the bottom fishing footprint

The Secretariat will provide an update on the bottom fishing footprint.

4.2 Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

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5. Data Access and Dissemination

5.1 Exchange of scientific toothfish data with CCAMLR

5.2 Developments to the data section of the SIOFA website

5.3 The SIOFA standard operating procedure for data use and data requests

The Secretariat will report on the outcomes of exchange of scientific toothfish data with CCAMLR, developments to the data section of the SIOFA website, and the SIOFA standard operating procedure for data use and data requests.

5.4 Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

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6. Harvest strategies

6.1 Presentation of the Report of the Joint MoP and SC Intersessional Workshop to Define Harvest Strategy Management Objectives (WS2023-HSMO)

6.2 Development of harvest strategies for Orange Roughy

6.2.1 Consideration of potential management objectives (WS2023-HSMO, paragraph 23)

6.2.2 Consideration of potential performance indicators (WS2023-HSMO, paragraph 23)

6.2.3 Development of the Orange Roughy fisheries monitoring regime and assessment approaches (MoP10 report, paragraphs 83 and 85)

6.2.4 Management Strategy Evaluations

6.2.5 Breakout rules (WS2023-HSMO, paragraph 30-31)

6.3 Development of harvest strategies for Toothfish

6.3.1 Consideration of potential management objectives (WS2023-HSMO, paragraph 28)

6.3.2 Consideration of potential performance indicators (WS2023-HSMO, paragraph 28)

6.3.3 Development of the Toothfish fisheries monitoring regime and assessment approaches (MoP10 report, paragraphs 83 and 85)

6.3.4 Management Strategy Evaluations

6.3.5 Breakout rules (WS2023-HSMO, paragraph 30-31)

6.4 Other matters

6.4.1 Additional species that would be amenable to the development of monitoring programmes and harvest strategies

6.4.2 Definitions of the quantitative terms that used for describing probabilities

6.4.3 Development of generalised approaches for stock maintenance and rebuilding approaches (SC8 report, paragraph 179)

6.4.4 Updates to the timeline for the development of harvest strategies

6.4.5 Development of the agenda for the 2nd Joint MoP-SC Harvest Strategies Workshop

6.5 Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

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7. Stock assessments and advice

7.1 Orange roughy

- 7.1.1 Descriptive characterisation
- 7.1.2 Stock monitoring and data collection (including acoustics)
- 7.1.3 Stock assessment
- 7.1.4 Updates to the fisheries summary

The Scientific Committee will consider any new information on stock status, stock monitoring, and assessments for orange roughy in the SIOFA Area and update the fisheries summary report for this species.

7.2 Alfonsino

- 7.2.1 Descriptive characterisation
- 7.2.2 Stock monitoring and data collection (including acoustics)
- 7.2.3 Stock assessment
- 7.2.4 Updates to the fisheries summary

The Scientific Committee will consider any new information on stock status, stock monitoring, and assessments for alfonsino in the SIOFA Area and update the fisheries summary report for this species.

7.3 Toothfish

- 7.3.1 Descriptive characterisation
- 7.3.2 Stock monitoring and data collection
- 7.3.3 Stock assessment
- 7.3.4 Updates to the fisheries summary

The Scientific Committee will consider any new information on stock status, stock monitoring, and assessments for toothfish in the SIOFA Area, including management arrangements for toothfish and update the fisheries summary report for this species.

7.4 Oilfish

- 7.4.1 Descriptive characterisation
- 7.4.2 Stock monitoring and data collection
- 7.4.3 Stock assessment
- 7.4.4 Updates to the fisheries summary

The Scientific Committee will consider any new information on stock status, stock monitoring, and assessments for oilfish in the SIOFA Area and update the fisheries summary reports for these species.

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7.5 Other species

- 7.5.1 Preliminary quantitative assessment of Portuguese Dogfish (MoP10, paragraph 105)
- 7.5.2 Other species
- 7.5.3 Updates to the fisheries summaries

The Scientific Committee will consider any new information on stock status, stock monitoring, and assessments for other species in the SIOFA Area and update the relevant fisheries summary reports for these species.

7.6 Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

8. Bycatch and incidental captures

8.1 Deepwater chondrichthyans

- 8.1.1 Review of progress against CMM 12(2023) (Sharks), including development of precautionary bycatch limits

The Scientific Committee will review progress against CMM 12(2023) (Sharks) including the outputs of projects DWS2023-01 and DWS2023-02.

8.2 Development of a SIOFA skate tagging programme

8.3 IOTC bycatch

8.4 Seabirds, mammals, and bycatch of other species of concern

- 8.4.1 Report on observations of marine mammals interacting with fishing gear
- 8.4.2 Seabird mitigation measures

The Scientific Committee will review the report on the observations of marine mammals interacting with fishing gear and fishing in IMMA areas, and consider how seabird mitigation measures may be progressed further.

8.5 Advice to MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

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9. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)

9.1 Annual report of VME encounters

9.2 VME data and the setting VME of encounter thresholds

9.3 VME mapping project (PAE2021-02)

9.4 Management options for preventing SAIs on VMEs (MoP10 report, paragraph 137)

9.5 Options for recording of VME taxa by line or line segment (MoP10 report, paragraph 142)

9.6 Revisions of the list of VME taxa

The Scientific Committee will consider proposals on VME indicator taxa.

9.7 Advice to MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

10. Marine protected areas

10.1 Project report: Protocols to designate and evaluate MPAs (PAE2022-MPA1)

10.2 Advice to MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

11. Data standards

11.1 Annual catch and effort data submission

The Secretariat will provide an update on information submitted by CCPs on catch and effort data.

11.2 Observer Harmonisation

11.2.1 Presentation of the report of the Workshop on Harmonisation of Scientific Observers (WS2024-OBS)

11.2.2 Project report: Harmonisation of Scientific Observer programmes (SEC2022-OBS1)

The Scientific Committee will review the workshop report on the harmonisation of observer programmes and consider how the projects may be progressed further.

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11.3 E-monitoring

11.4 Lost gear reported under CMM 02(2023) Annex A

The Secretariat will provide an update on information submitted on lost gear against CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards) Annex A.

11.5 Proposals for revisions to CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards)

Discussion of any proposals for revisions to CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards).

11.6 Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

12. Cooperation with external bodies

Updates and discussions on SIOFA's cooperation with external bodies.

12.1 FIRMS coordination and work

12.2 FAO ABNJ DSF activities

12.3 CCAMLR

12.4 Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

13. Future work

13.1 Progress of EU funded science projects

The Secretariat will provide an update on information on SIOFA science projects.

13.2 Management and coordination of SIOFA science projects

The Secretariat will provide an update on information on SIOFA science projects.

13.3 Scientific Committee workplan and budget

The Scientific Committee will develop the Scientific Committee workplan and budget.

13.4 The 2025 meeting of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee will propose the dates for the 10th annual meeting of the Scientific Committee.

13.5 Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

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14. Other business

14.1 Election of the Second vice-Chair of Scientific Committee

14.2 SIOFA Rules of Procedure and the Scientific Committee

14.3 Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.