

La Réunion, 18 September 2025

SC-CIRCULAR n° 2025-08

SUBJECT: Third Scientific Committee Workshop to progress the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management Projects (WS2025-PAM3)

Dear Heads of Delegation of the Scientific Committee,

Dear Colleagues,

As part of the SIOFA-PAM workplan, I would like to announce the third Scientific Committee Workshop to progress the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management Projects (WS2025-PAM3).

The purpose of the third workshop is to present the preliminary outcomes of PAM-2025-02 (Determination of Biological Reference Points (BRPs) for key SIOFA fish stocks), for the Scientific Committee and PAM reviewers to provide feedback on the development of this project.

The project is the second in a list of four interlinked projects:

1. [PAM-2024-01: Development of the SIOFA Precautionary Approach Framework](#)
2. [PAM-2024-02: Determination of Biological Reference Points \(BRPs\) for key SIOFA fish stocks](#)
3. [PAM-2024-03: Development of Harvest Strategies for key SIOFA fish stocks](#)
4. [PAM2024-04: Expert Review Panel for the Development of the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management Projects](#)

The expert reviewers will attend the workshop to offer their insights.

A summary of all SIOFA Scientific projects, the consultants, and the Terms of Reference are available at <https://siofa.org/science/sc-works>.

The SIOFA SC has held a first workshop in January 2025 ([WS2025-PAM](#)) and a second workshop in August 2025 ([WS2025-PAM2](#)). In particular, the second workshop identified the need to hold a third workshop (Paragraph 52 of the [WS2025-PAM2 Convener's Report](#)).

Please find below the Arrangements, Provisional Agenda and Timetable for WS2025-PAM3, scheduled to be held in virtual format on **Tuesday 7 October from 08.00 UTC to 11.00 UTC**. The [WS2025-PAM3 Workshop webpage on the SIOFA website](#) contains all this information and the document template and the registration form.

This workshop is open to all representatives of the Scientific Committee and SIOFA Scientific Committee Observers. Please provide any comments on these arrangements, and submit [documents](#) and/or [registration forms](#) to the Science Officer (marco.milardi@siofa.org) **by Wednesday 1 October 2025**.

Sincerely yours,



Alistair Dunn - SIOFA Scientific Committee Chair

Working arrangements for the third Scientific Committee Workshop to progress the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management Projects (WS2025-PAM3)

INTRODUCTION

The SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management (SIOFA-PAM) program will further enhance the scientific advice of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC) for the SIOFA Meeting of the Parties (MoP), in particular, towards ensuring the sustainable management of fish stocks and the environmental impacts associated with fishing.

The SIOFA-PAM program has three main projects that focus on the development of a framework to ensure sustainable management of fish stocks and managing the environmental impacts associated with fishing activities within the SIOFA Area. The projects aim to guide, inform, and enhance resource protection and to improve sustainable resource management measures, especially in the context of information-limited fisheries. A fourth project provides for expert review and advice across the three main projects.

These projects are due to complete their work and present their findings to the 2026 meeting of the Scientific Committee. The Terms of Reference for the projects (available at <https://siofa.org/science/sc-works>).

The SIOFA-PAM projects are:

PAM-2024-01: Develop the SIOFA Precautionary Approach Framework. This project involves establishing a framework for high, medium, and lower information stocks to apply the precautionary approach within the SIOFA Area. This framework will provide guidelines and principles to help ensure that fisheries management decisions are made in a precautionary manner using the best scientific evidence available, consistent with the Objectives (Article 2) and General Principles (Article 4) of the SIOFA Agreement (SIOFA, 2006).

PAM-2024-02: Determine Biological Reference Points (BRPs) for key SIOFA fish stocks. This project focuses on developing and scientifically evaluating BRPs for the key fish stocks within the SIOFA Area, based on the best available scientific data and methods.

PAM-2024-03: Develop harvest strategies for key SIOFA fish stocks. Building upon previous workshops and ongoing efforts by the SC and MoP, this project aims to develop formal harvest strategies for key fish stocks.

PAM-2024-04: Expert Review Panel for the Development of the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management. Provide external expert review and advice to the project teams and SIOFA for the work and outcomes of the three main projects.

WORKSHOP ARRANGEMENTS

The workshop arrangements are:

1. The workshop is open to all representatives of the Scientific Committee and SIOFA Scientific Committee Observers.
2. The workshop will be convened by Mr Alistair Dunn – SIOFA SC Chair.
3. The workshop will meet online via video conference (Zoom) **Tuesday 7 October from 08.00 UTC to 11.00 UTC.**

4. A Convener's report of the workshop will be compiled by the Workshop Convener, circulated for comment to the Workshop participants, and then presented to the 2026 meeting of the Scientific Committee.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening
 - a. Welcome from Convenor
 - b. Introduction of meeting participants
 - c. Introduction of the SIOFA-PAM project consultants
2. Administrative arrangements
 - a. Adoption of agenda
 - b. Confirmation of meeting documents
 - c. Workshop report arrangements
3. Background to the SIOFA-PAM projects
4. SIOFA-PAM project methods and project plans
 - a. PAM2024-02: Determination of Biological Reference Points (BRPs) for key SIOFA fish stocks
 - b. Expert reviewer commentary
5. Discussion of the SIOFA-PAM projects
 - a. Implications and development of PAM-2024-03: Develop harvest strategies for key SIOFA fish stocks
 - b. Recommendations for the proposed PAM2024-03 methods
6. Other business related to the development of the SIOFA precautionary approach and management
7. Development of the Conveners report and summary recommendations
8. Meeting close

TIMETABLE

Wednesday 1 October 2025

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

Wednesday 1 October 2025

Deadline for registration of participants to the workshop.

Tuesday 7 October 2025

Workshop meetings take place virtually between 0800 and 1100 UTC. A short break will be scheduled at about 0930 UTC.

Friday 17 October 2025

Distribution of draft Workshop Conveners Report for comments by participants.

Friday 31 October 2025

Deadline for comments on the draft Workshop Conveners Report

Saturday 21 February 2026

Final Workshop Conveners Report submitted to SC11.