

La Réunion, 26 September 2025

## SC-CIRCULAR n° 2025-09

**SUBJECT: SIOFA Scientific Committee Workshop:  
Window of Opportunity - Research Vessels in SIOFA (WS2025-ORS)**

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

**Dear Colleagues,**

During the 10<sup>th</sup> SIOFA Scientific Committee the SC noted ([SC10 Report](#), paragraph 499) the potential value of holding a workshop to explore opportunities for collaboration with research cruises by CCPs and other organisations to enhance SIOFA's scientific knowledge, including joint design of sampling programs to ensure consistency across different vessels and maximum utility of sampling data. Considering climate-change information would also be useful when trying to identify windows of opportunity for research cruises.

The SC10 agreed to hold a half-day virtual workshop aimed at identifying research opportunities in support of SIOFA scientific activities when research vessels are planning research cruises in the SIOFA area. Such workshop was included in the SC Workplan ([MoP12-08-Rev1](#)) that was adopted by the MoP12 ([MoP12 Report](#), paragraph 194). On this matter, note that meeting dates in [SC Circular 2025-05](#) have been corrected.

To progress the arrangements for the SC Workshop on Window of Opportunity - Research Vessels in SIOFA (WS2025-ORS), the vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee and the EU have proposed an agenda and timetable. The main outcome of the workshop would be a Conveners' report, to be considered by the Scientific Committee at SC11 in March 2026.

Please find attached the draft Terms of Reference and the Provisional Agenda for WS2025-ORS, proposed to be held in a virtual format on **Tuesday 4 November 2025, from 06.00 UTC to 11.00 UTC**. The [WS2025-ORS Workshop webpage on the SIOFA website](#) contains all this information, 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 the proposed Terms of References, Provisional Agenda, the Timetable, and more in general on the Meeting Arrangements to the Science Officer ([marco.milardi@siofa.org](mailto:marco.milardi@siofa.org)) **by Friday 10 October 2025**. Following any responses, we will edit the arrangements on the WS2025-ORS webpage.

Submit workshop documents to the Science Officer using the [template](#) **by Tuesday 21 October 2025** and [registration forms](#) **by Tuesday 28 October 2025**.

Sincerely yours,



Alistair Dunn - SIOFA Scientific Committee Chair

## Working arrangements for the SIOFA SC Workshop: Window of Opportunity - Research Vessels in SIOFA (WS2025-ORS)

### **1. OBJECTIVES OF THE WS2025-ORS WORKSHOP**

The main objective of the WS2025-ORS Workshop is to progress on the identification of the research and scientific needs that could be met using research campaigns in SIOFA by:

1. Identifying knowledge gaps and research needs in SIOFA
2. Stocktaking of research cruises in the SIOFA Area
3. Future research cruises in the SIOFA Area
4. Exploring the administrative steps to include the SIOFA research needs into the research cruise plan
5. Identifying a realistic schedule in line with the research cruise plan
6. Considering the “SIOFA Framework on fisheries based and scientific research”

### **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WS2025-ORS 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 the SC Vice-Chairperson Dr Zhou Fang and Dr Sebastián Rodríguez Alfaro (EU).
3. The Workshop will meet online via video conference (Zoom) on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 from 06.00 UTC to 11.00 UTC.
4. A Conveners’ report of the Workshop will be compiled by the Workshop Conveners and be presented to the 11<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC11<sup>1</sup>).

### **3. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE WS2025-ORS WORKSHOP**

1. Opening of the Workshop
2. Administrative arrangements
  - a. Adoption of the meeting objectives and agenda
  - b. Appointment of rapporteurs
  - c. Introduction of the existing documents in support of the specific meeting objectives
3. Research cruises in SIOFA
  - a. Previous (until 2024)
  - b. Current (2025-2026)
  - c. Planned (2027 and beyond)

---

<sup>1</sup> SC 11 will be tentatively held in Australia from 23 to 31 March 2026

4. Research needs
  - a. Knowledge gaps and research needs in SIOFA previously identified by the SC
  - b. Identification of current research needs in the SIOFA Area
5. Exploring the administrative steps to include the research needs in SIOFA into the research cruise plan.
6. Identification of realistic schedules in line with potential research cruise plans
7. Consideration of the draft “SIOFA Framework on fisheries based and scientific research” ([MoP-12-48-Rev1](#))
8. Recommendations for SC11 consideration

#### 4. TIMETABLE

1. **10 October 2025**

In preparation for the Workshop, the SIOFA Secretariat will distribute a background document prepared by the Conveners describing the research and scientific needs identified by the SC along the years that could be met using research campaigns, for consideration by the Workshop.
2. **21 October 2025**

Deadline for the submission of Workshop papers (via mail to the SIOFA Secretariat, Science Officer, [marco.milardi@siofa.org](mailto:marco.milardi@siofa.org))
3. **28 October 2025**

Deadline for registration of participants to the Workshop (via mail to the SIOFA Secretariat, Science Officer, [marco.milardi@siofa.org](mailto:marco.milardi@siofa.org))
4. **Tuesday 4 November 2025 - 06.00–11.00 UTC**

Meeting of the Workshop (WS2025-ORS) via videoconference (Zoom).
5. **17 November 2025**

Distribution of draft Conveners’ report for review and finalisation for submission to SC11.
6. **4 January 2026**

Deadline for the submission of participant comments.
7. **23 February 2026**

Submission of WS2025-ORS Conveners’ report to SC11.