

La Réunion, 26 September 2025

SC-CIRCULAR n° 2025-10

SUBJECT: SIOFA Scientific Committee Workshop on the impact of using alternative trace types on the bycatch rate of sharks and target species (WS2025-DWS)

Dear Heads of Delegation of the Scientific Committee,

Dear Colleagues,

During the 10th SIOFA Scientific Committee, the SC noted (para 361 of the [SC10 meeting report](#)) that the proposed trial (Project DWS-2024-02) on the impact of using alternative trace types on the bycatch rate of sharks and target species has just started but did not occur in time for SC10 to analyse its results. Therefore, the SC agreed (para 361 of the [SC10 meeting report](#)) to hold a virtual workshop in 2025 to discuss the outcomes of Project DWS-2024-02 and the results obtained from tagging deepwater sharks in the Indian Ocean. 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 SIOFA Scientific Committee Workshop on the impact of using alternative trace types on the bycatch rate of sharks and target species (WS2025-DWS), I am proposing an agenda and timetable. Outcomes from the workshop would be a Convener's 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-DWS, proposed to be held in a virtual format on **Thursday 6th of November 2025, from 06.00 UTC to 10.00 UTC**. The [WS2025-DWS 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) **by Friday 10 October 2025**. Following any responses, we will edit the arrangements on the WS2025-DWS webpage.

Submit workshop documents to the Science Officer using the [template](#) **by Thursday 23 October 2025** and [registration forms](#) **by Thursday 30 October 2025**.

Sincerely yours,



Alistair Dunn - SIOFA Scientific Committee Chair

Working arrangements for the SIOFA Scientific Committee Workshop on the impact of using alternative trace types on the bycatch rate of sharks and target species (WS2025-DWS)

1. OBJECTIVES

The two main objectives of the Workshop on the impact of using alternative trace types on the bycatch rate of sharks and target species (WS2025-DWS) are:

1. To assess the results of the project “[Development of protocols and guidelines for fishing gear to mitigate the ongoing impact of SIOFA fisheries on vulnerable deepwater sharks](#)” (DWS-2024-02) on alternative trace types.
2. To assess the results obtained from the project “Tagging deepwater sharks in the Indian Ocean”.

The workshop will also welcome other contributions from participants related to the latest developments on identifying ways to improve catch reporting of deepwater sharks and novel data gathering approaches in collaboration with the fishing industry.

2. 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 Sebastián Rodríguez Alfaro (EU).
3. The workshop will be online via video conference (Zoom) on Thursday 6th November 2025 from 06.00 UTC to 10.00 UTC.
4. A convener’s report of the workshop will be compiled by the Workshop Conveners and be presented to the 11th annual meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC11¹).

3. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE WS2025-DWS

1. Opening of the workshop (WS2025-DWS)
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. Project “[Development of protocols and guidelines for fishing gear to mitigate the ongoing impact of SIOFA fisheries on vulnerable deepwater sharks](#)” (DWS-2024-02) on alternative trace types.
 - a. Presentation of results
 - b. Discussion
 - c. Recommendations

¹ SC 11 will be held in Australia (tbd) from 23 to 31 March 2026

4. Results obtained from the project “Tagging deepwater sharks in the Indian Ocean”
 - a. Presentation of results
 - b. Discussion
 - c. Recommendations
5. Latest developments on identifying ways to improve catch reporting of deepwater sharks and novel data gathering approaches in collaboration with the fishing industry.
6. Recommendations for SC11 consideration

4. TIMETABLE

1. 6 October 2025

In preparation for the workshop, the SIOFA Secretariat will distribute document WS2025-DWS-01, an updated version of the Summary of the Scientific Committee, and the Meeting of Parties reports on deepwater sharks (DWSWS-2023-09) including paragraphs that have discussed and made recommendations on sharks by the Scientific Committee and the Meeting of Parties since 2023.

2. 23 October 2025

Deadline for the submission of Workshop papers.

3. 30 October 2025

Deadline for registration of participants to the workshop (via mail to the SIOFA Secretariat, Science Officer, marco.milardi@siofa.org)

4. Thursday 6 November 2025 - 06.00–10.00 UTC

Meeting of the workshop (WS2025-DWS) via videoconference (Zoom).

5. 17 November 2025

Distribution of draft convener’s report for review and finalisation for submission to SC11.

6. 6 January 2026

Deadline for the submission of participant comments.

7. 23 February 2026

Submission of WS2025-DWS Conveners report (deadline for the submission of SC11 Working Papers).