

To: Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement and invited Observers

NOTICE OF MEETING

3rd Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Scientific Committee

The 3rd meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee will be hosted in **Saint-Denis, La Réunion** from 20-24 March 2018 (dates inclusive) at the Best Western Hotel, 2 rue Doret, 97461, Saint Denis, La Réunion. It is expected that the meeting will run from 9am to 5:30pm each day.

Registration will be open from 08:00 am 20th March.

A Heads of Delegation meeting will also be held on the 20th March 2018 in meeting room Bourbon 1 from 08:00 – 08:45 at the Best Western Hotel, 2 rue Doret, 97400 Saint-Denis.

NOTE: A Stock Assessment Working Group (SAWG) workshop will take place at same venue prior to this meeting 15-18 March 2018.

Getting to Saint-Denis

1. World ⇌ La Réunion (Roland Garros International Airport)
 - a) Taxi
It costs approximately 25 Euros (approximately 27 USD) from Roland Garros International Airport to St. Denis.
 - b) Bus
The bus "T" (Saint-Pierre <-> Sainte-Marie) of the "Car Jaune" network operates from Roland Garros Airport.
Get off at the first stop, Saint-Denis Bus Terminal (just 10 minutes walk to Central Hotel or Juliette Dodu Hotel).
See departure time on file attached (first 5:15am and last 8:00pm). Bus fare is 5 Euros (approximately 6 USD).
Other details : <http://www.cg974.fr/index.php/Horaires-des-Cars-jaunes.html>
And for city buses : <http://www.citalis.re/>

2. Flights to La Reunion

If there is no direct flight from your country, it would be convenient to transfer at major international airports in France, UAE, RSA or Mauritius.

Air France has frequent non-stop flights between Paris, France and St-Denis with most flights arriving during the morning hours. Air Austral and Corsair are other valid options for flights from France.

Air Mauritius provides numerous connecting flight possibilities to St-Denis, La Réunion.

Participants are required to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements and fund the expenses incurred.

Agenda

A provisional agenda for the Scientific Committee meeting is provided in paper SC-03-01 circulated with this notice. It is requested that Parties provide their comments and request for the inclusion of supplementary Items to the Secretariat by **29 January 2018**. A revised agenda will be circulated by **08 February 2108**.

Registration

All delegates, including observers, are asked to register their attendance by **08 February 2018** by completing the form provided in Attachment A and emailing it to the Secretariat.

Papers

It is requested that all meeting papers be prepared using the template provided in Attachment B

National Reports: In accordance with CMM 2017 for Data Standards, SIOFA Parties shall provide to the Scientific Committee a National Report. It is requested that this report be compiled in accordance with the guidelines provided at Annex F of SC2 Report and provided in Attachment C.

SIOFA Parties may submit working papers and information papers to the Scientific Committee for consideration.

Working papers should be used for matters 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, a clear recommendation 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.

Information papers should be used where they are of relevant general interest to an agenda item, not requiring presentation in the plenary but may be referred to in discussion. Information papers should be submitted with advice on the specific agenda item the paper relates to.

All National Reports and papers should be received by the Secretariat by **18 February 2018** and these will be made available to all registered participants by **23 February 2018**.

Consistent with the SIOFA Rules of Procedure, observers may submit relevant documents to the Scientific Committee as information papers.

Transparency. All documents not identified as containing confidential data and/or commercially sensitive information as defined by SIOFA rules relating to confidentiality, will be made publicly accessible via the SIOFA website.

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

Accommodation

Preferential rates have been negotiated for a small selection of hotels in Saint-Denis within a short walking distance to the meeting venue. A list of these hotels has been provided in Attachment D.

Participants are responsible for their own transport between their chosen hotel and the meeting venue, local transport to the venue will not be provided by the Secretariat.

Visas

Whereas France is a member of the [European Union](#) and the [Schengen Area](#), the [overseas departments and territories of France](#) are not part of the Schengen area and apply their own visa restrictions. Those policies are generally similar to those adopted according to the [Schengen acquis](#).

Foreign nationals who require a visa for a French overseas department or territory can obtain one by lodging an application at a French embassy or consulate in their country of residence (or, in the case of foreign nationals already in [metropolitan France](#), the local prefecture) for a fee of €9 to €60 (depending on the destination and length of stay).

Note that a Schengen short stay visa ('C visa') is not valid for the French overseas departments and territories, and vice versa.

For more information, please contact the local French consulate or embassy in your country or refer to the following website:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa_policy_of_the_French_overseas_departments_and_territories

General Information about La Réunion

This wildly beautiful and rugged volcanic island (with a very active volcano), was uninhabited when discovered by the Portuguese in the early 16th century. In 1643 it was claimed by the French. They named it Bourbon and established their first colony here in 1662. In the years that followed, slaves from Africa were imported to work the sugar plantations. The island was renamed Reunion in 1793, and it remained a French colony, except for a brief British occupation from 1810 to 1815. Over time, French immigration, supplemented by influxes of Africans, Chinese, Malays, and Malabar Indians, gave the island its ethnic mix. The island's economy is dominated by the sugarcane industry, and its main exports include sugar, seafood, rum, and vanilla. Tourism, especially from Europe, is a significant economic factor.

- Official Name Reunion, (an overseas department of France)
- Population 839,500
- Capital City Saint-Denis (147,800)
- Electricity 220V - 50Hz
- Currency Euro
- Languages French (official), Creole
- National Day 14 July; Bastille Day
- Religions Catholic, Hindu, Muslim
- Measuring System Metric
- Time Zone GMT/UTC +4

Information on tourism and information are available at <http://www.welcometoreunionisland.com>

SC -03 -01

Proposed Timeframes

Comments due on Agenda	29 January 2018
Circulation of Revised Agenda	08 February 2018
Registration deadline	08 February 2018
National Reports and meeting papers due to Secretariat	18 February 2018
Meeting papers circulated (25 days before the meeting)	23 February 2018

Attachments to this Meeting Notice

- SC-03-01 A. Registration form for all delegates
- SC-03-01 B. Template for submission of national reports and papers
- SC-03-01 C. Guidelines for the submission of National Reports
- SC-03-01 D. List of Hotels
- SC-03-02 Provisional Agenda

Please direct any questions to the Executive Secretary of SIOFA, Jon Lansley - jon@siofa.org