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Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
Accord relatif aux Pêches dans le Sud de l'Océan Indien

Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Compliance Committee of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Ravenala Attitude Hotel, Turtle Bay,
Balaclava, Mauritius / Hybrid Format

28 – 30 June 2023

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Agenda item 1 – Opening of the session

1.1. Opening statements

1. The Vice-Chair of the Compliance Committee, Mr Ichiro Nomura (Japan), served as the Acting Chair due to the resignation of Mr Johnny Louys (Seychelles) as the Chair of the Compliance Committee. He opened the meeting at 05:00 UTC, welcomed all delegates, and thanked the Government of Mauritius for hosting the meeting. The meeting was held in a hybrid format, with delegates attending in person in Turtle Bay, Balaclava, Mauritius, at the Ravenala Attitude Hotel, or via videoconference.
2. The Executive Secretary, Mr Thierry Clot, also expressed his welcome to the delegates and his thanks to the Government of Mauritius for hosting the meeting, as well as his hope for a productive meeting. He then outlined the meeting arrangements.
3. The Chair opened the floor for delegation introductions. The list of participants is available in Annex A.

1.2. Admission of observers

4. The Chair welcomed Comoros and India as Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) and Madagascar and the Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA) as Observers.

Agenda item 2 – Administrative arrangements

2.1. Adoption of the agenda

5. The Compliance Committee reviewed the revised provisional agenda. The Chair proposed the establishment of a new agenda item, 9.2, to discuss potential amendments to Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2022/02 (Data Standards) proposed by the SC. The Compliance Committee agreed to the proposal and amended the revised provisional agenda. The agenda was adopted by the Compliance Committee (Annex B).

2.2. Confirmation of meeting documents

6. The Chair advised that meeting documents are available on the website and that the list of meeting documents is presented in CC-07-ADM-06 rev4 (Annex C).
7. The European Union (EU) noted that a number of papers were submitted after the deadline for submission to the Compliance Committee.
8. The Chair explained that these papers were originally submitted to the Meeting of the Parties (MoP) in time for the deadline for submission to the MoP. He suggested that, in order to facilitate the discussions of the MoP, it would be beneficial for these papers to be first reviewed by the Compliance Committee and had requested them to be submitted to the Compliance Committee. Although this occurred after the deadline for the submission of papers to the Compliance Committee, the Chair suggested that the Compliance Committee accept the late submission of these documents and review them at this meeting on an exceptional basis.
9. The Compliance Committee agreed to the Chair's suggestion.
10. The EU noted that the draft SIOFA Compliance Report, the draft IUU Vessel List, the report of Chinese Taipei's transshipments and transfers, and the summary report of Thailand's at-sea transfers had been designated as restricted documents. The EU proposed that, in the interest of transparency, these papers be made publicly available.
11. The Compliance Committee agreed to make the draft SIOFA Compliance Report and the draft IUU Vessel List publicly available.

2.3. Appointment of rapporteurs

12. The Executive Secretary proposed Mr Alexander Meyer (Urban Connections, Tokyo) as rapporteur for this meeting.
13. The Compliance Committee agreed to appoint Mr Alexander Meyer as rapporteur.

Agenda item 3 – SIOFA Compliance Monitoring Scheme

3.1. Consideration of the Draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR) and adoption of the Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (pSCR)

14. The Compliance Officer, Mr Johnny Louys, presented the draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR) outlined in CC-07-02 rev1. The Compliance Committee reviewed the dSCR and assigned the compliance status and relevant follow-up actions in accordance with the provisions of CMM 2020/11 (Compliance Monitoring Scheme).
15. Mauritius explained that, for several compliance assessment items, it had not reported the required information to the Secretariat on time as it was claiming historical rights on the Saya de Malha Bank at that time and that once this matter had been resolved, it submitted said information as soon as possible. Mauritius accepted the status of critically non-compliant for these items and expressed its commitment to report the necessary information in a timely manner in future.
16. The Compliance Committee discussed the applicability of subparagraphs a, b and c of paragraph 18 of CMM 2022/02 (Data Standards). The Compliance Committee agreed that, in future, the following approach should be consistently applied:
 - a. The obligation stipulated in paragraph 18(a) is only applicable to a CCP if it has conducted any fishing activities in the SIOFA Area in the applicable assessment period.
 - b. The obligations stipulated in paragraphs 18(b) and 18(c) are applicable to a CCP if it has any vessels on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels in the applicable assessment period, regardless of whether it has conducted any fishing activities in the SIOFA Area in that period.
17. Regarding the status of Korea's compliance with the obligation stipulated in paragraph 18(c), the Compliance Committee noted that Korea had vessels on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels but did not submit an annual data verification report through its National Report. The Compliance Committee also noted, however, the previous lack of clarity on the applicability of this provision, that Korea had no fishing activity in the applicable year, that it had reported the verified data for all of its previous fishing activity and information about its data verification mechanism in 2021, and that it had submitted the requisite information during the compliance assessment process. The Compliance Committee therefore agreed to assess Korea's compliance status as 'not applicable'.
18. Regarding a self-assessment that had been left blank, the Seychelles pointed out that, even if a CCP has not provided a self-assessment for a particular obligation, that should not prevent the Secretariat from proposing a provisional compliance status in the dSCR.
19. The Compliance Committee discussed the applicability of paragraphs 4 and 5 of CMM 2019/10 (Monitoring) and agreed that these paragraphs apply only to vessels on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels based on the definitions of 'fishing vessel', 'fishing', and 'fishery resources' under the Agreement.
20. **The Compliance Committee adopted the provisional Compliance Report (pSCR) outlined in Annex D and agreed to forward it to the Meeting of the Parties (MoP) for its consideration.**

21. India provided late comments on the pSCR and the Compliance Committee was not able to consider those comments.

3.2. Discussion on the CCR template update process

22. The Compliance Officer explained that, based on feedback received from CCPs at CC06, the Secretariat had developed a first draft of a new CCPs' Compliance Report (CCR) template and circulated this to CCPs for comment. The comments received were generally positive. In response to the suggestion of one CCP to focus the compliance assessment process on the implementation of CMMs by CCPs, rather than how CCPs have implemented their SIOFA obligations in their domestic law, the Secretariat also drafted an alternative template. The two proposed templates are described in CC-07-03.
23. The Compliance Committee considered the two proposals. Some CCPs expressed their preference for the approach in the first proposed template, while others expressed their preference for the approach in the second proposed template.
24. The Compliance Committee agreed that, regardless of which template is ultimately decided on, it would be beneficial to ensure that all obligations stipulated in the SIOFA CMMs are covered in the CMS and to improve the clarity and efficiency of this process.
25. **The Compliance Committee agreed to continue to discuss and develop a new template with due regard to the two templates described in CC-07-03 intersessionally and requested the Secretariat to lead the intersessional discussions.**
26. **The Compliance Committee agreed to conduct the next compliance assessment using the existing template, while it continues to discuss and develop a new template.**

Agenda item 4 – New or Amended Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)

4.1. Proposals for amendments to Conservation and Management Measures

27. The EU presented CC-07-09, which proposed amending CMM 2019/10 (Monitoring) to align SIOFA's rules on transshipment with the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment agreed at the 35th session of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee on Fisheries in September 2022.
28. The Compliance Committee reviewed the proposed amendments as described in CC-07-09 rev1.
29. The Compliance Committee expressed general support for the revised proposal, while noting that a number of pending matters still need to be addressed.
30. The EU expressed its intention to make further revisions based on feedback from CCPs and to present a further revised proposal to the MoP.
31. **The Compliance Committee agreed to forward the proposal to the MoP for its consideration and further work, with a view to adopting a revised CMM at MoP10.**
32. Australia presented CC-07-13, which proposed amending CMM 2022/12 (Sharks) to align it with the recommendations by the SC (paragraphs 230–234, SC8 Report) and to update Annex 1 to reflect the results of the updated chondrichthyan environmental risk assessment (paragraph 250, SC8 Report), with the aim of improving the management of deepwater sharks and reducing catches in the SIOFA Area.
33. The Compliance Committee reviewed the proposed amendments and CCPs provided suggestions for further revisions.
34. Australia thanked CCPs for their feedback and expressed its intention to present a revised proposal at the upcoming Meeting of the Parties.
35. Australia presented CC-07-14, which proposed amending CMM 2021/15 (Management of Demersal Stocks) based on the recommendations from SC8 (paragraphs 141–155, SC8

Report), specifically to improve the management of toothfish stocks, including adding the area of toothfish fishing outside the Del Cano Rise management area and establishing observer and reporting requirements for it, articulating the area of each management zone and fixing the inconsistency in the coordinates specified for Williams Ridge as identified by the SC, and developing the use of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) trend analysis rules.

36. The Compliance Committee reviewed the proposed amendments and CCPs provided suggestions for further revisions.
37. **The Compliance Committee endorsed the recommendation of the SC (paragraph 155, SC8 Report) to extend the Del Cano Rise management area to the northeast.**
38. **The Compliance Committee noted that further work will be necessary to develop new management areas and catch limits for toothfish in the year ahead and recommended that the MoP amend CMM 2021/15 to establish observer and reporting requirements as follows:**
 - a. **Each vessel participating in the fishery shall have at least one scientific observer on board throughout all fishing activities within the fishing period. The observer shall have a target of observing 25% of hooks hauled per line over the duration of the fishing deployment.**
 - b. **CCPs shall require their flagged vessels to tag and release *Dissostichus* spp. specimens at a rate of at least 5 fish per tonne of green weight caught. A minimum overlap statistic of at least 60% shall apply for tag release, once 30 or more *Dissostichus* spp. are caught.**
39. **The Compliance Committee recommended that the MoP request the SC to provide advice on an appropriate toothfish catch limit for the Del Cano Rise area if it is extended.**
40. **The Compliance Committee recommended that the MoP request the SC to provide advice on an appropriate toothfish catch limit for the proposed Southern Indian Ridge management area as well as harmonisation of toothfish management measures across the Agreement Area. The Compliance Committee agreed to defer discussion of the establishment of this management area until it has received the SC's advice.**
41. Australia thanked CCPs for their feedback and expressed its intention to present a revised proposal that incorporates the recommendations in paragraphs 37 and 38 at the upcoming Meeting of the Parties.

4.2. Proposals for new Conservation and Management Measures

42. The EU presented its proposal, in CC-07-11, for a CMM for the establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). The EU explained that it presented a previous version of the proposal at MoP8 (MoP-08-16_rev1) and earlier MoPs and that the current proposal reflects MoP8's endorsement of a hybrid approach and comments received from other CCPs on the earlier versions of the proposal. Alongside the proposal for the establishment of a new CMM, the EU also presented, in the same paper, a proposal for the establishment of an intersessional working group to develop detailed Standards, Specifications and Procedures for data formats and transmission, data confidentiality and security requirements, etc., noting the agreement of MoP8 to hold an intersessional working process among interested CCPs for further discussions of the technical details of the proposed VMS.
43. The EU noted that it was willing to make available a substantial financial contribution to support the development of the SIOFA VMS, including technical support for developing Standards, Specifications and Procedures, the acquisition, installation and testing of the

system (hardware and software), as well as training for Secretariat staff. The EU explained that this funding was contingent on the adoption of the proposed CMM by MoP10 and that the funding would be lost if the CMM was not adopted this year.

44. The Compliance Committee reviewed the proposal as described in CC-07-11 rev1.
45. The Compliance Committee expressed general support for the revised proposal, while noting that a number of pending matters still need to be addressed.
46. The EU expressed its intention to make further revisions based on feedback from CCPs and to present a further revised proposal to the MoP.
47. **The Compliance Committee agreed to forward the proposal to the MoP for its consideration and further work, with a view to adopting a CMM for the establishment of a SIOFA VMS at MoP10.**
48. During the review of the EU's proposal, some CCPs suggested that all SIOFA CMMs should have a paragraph, similar to paragraph 3 of the proposed CMM, that stipulates that the CMM shall apply to fishing vessels flying the flag of a CCP that are entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels and operating in the Agreement Area as defined in Article 3 of the Agreement, as this would help to prevent ambiguity in the CMM's applicability.

4.3. Discussion on the application of current CMMs

4.3.1. High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme

4.3.1.1. Update on boarding questionnaire translations

49. The Compliance Officer presented CC-07-INFO-07, which provided an update on the translation of the High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) Questionnaire into CCPs' respective languages as requested by MoP8. To date, the Secretariat has received translations in six languages (Chinese, French, Japanese, official Thai language, Spanish, and traditional Chinese). These were all received within the stipulated deadline of 90 days after the conclusion of MoP8. They are also available on the SIOFA website.
50. **The Compliance Committee noted the translations of the HSBI Questionnaire.**

Agenda item 5 – Listing of IUU Vessels

5.1. Draft SIOFA IUU Vessel List

51. The Compliance Committee considered the draft SIOFA illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) vessel list, which included three vessels, the IMULA 1655 MTR (flag: Sri Lanka), the IMULA 1783 MTR (flag: Sri Lanka), and the IMULA 1844 MTR (flag: Sri Lanka) as outlined in CC-07-04 rev3.
52. In relation to the IMULA 1655 MTR and the IMULA 1783 MTR,
 - a. The Chair and the Data Officer reminded the Compliance Committee of the considerations of these two vessels at CC6. The two vessels were not on the SIOFA record of authorised vessels and were presumed to have engaged in fishing within the SIOFA Area. However, at CC6, some CCPs considered that the matter fell under IOTC jurisdiction and outside SIOFA responsibility. Therefore, the CC was not able reach consensus to include the IMULA 1655 MTR and the IMULA 1783 MTR on the provisional SIOFA IUU vessel list. The Compliance Committee therefore agreed to retain the vessels on the draft SIOFA IUU vessel list for consideration at CC7 and requested Sri Lanka to provide further information such as observer data, port inspection reports, landing/sale notes, and transshipment declarations in the meantime.
 - b. The Chair explained that, based on the information subsequently provided by Sri Lanka, it became clear that the IMULA 1655 MTR had landed mobulid rays,

which is interpreted to be a violation of IOTC regulations that were already in place at the time. Furthermore, mobulid rays are also a species under SIOFA's competence and as the vessel was not on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, the landing of mobulid rays is also a violation of SIOFA regulations.

- c. The EU pointed out that at the time when they were sighted in the SIOFA Area, the two vessels were not registered on the IOTC or SIOFA authorised vessel lists, that Sri Lanka, as the flag state, has the responsibility to prove that these two vessels did not fish for SIOFA species or otherwise breach any SIOFA CMMs, and that the Compliance Committee has only received some of the information that it requested from Sri Lanka at CC6. Although Sri Lanka has declared that the vessels did not catch or land SIOFA species and that it checked the logbooks of the vessels, it did not clarify whether the logbooks were certified by an authorisation officer. Furthermore, although Sri Lanka has said that it checked the catch landed upon arrival, it has not provided any inspection report to SIOFA, any sales note, or any cross-check against the vessels' logbooks. Without this information, it is not possible to ascertain whether Sri Lanka has fulfilled its responsibility as a flag state. Therefore, the two vessels should be included on the provisional IUU vessel list.
- d. Australia noted that CMM 2022/06 specifies that "a vessel shall be included in the provisional IUU vessel list only if one or more criteria in paragraph 5 have been satisfied".

53. **The Compliance Committee noted that the IMULA 1655 MTR and the IMULA 1783 MTR were not on the SIOFA record of authorised vessels and are presumed to have engaged in fishing within the SIOFA Area, noted that Sri Lanka has yet to provide adequate evidence to demonstrate that these vessels did not engage in fishing within the SIOFA Area, and agreed to include the two vessels on the provisional SIOFA IUU vessel list.**

54. In relation to the IMULA 1844 MTR,

- a. The Chair reminded the Compliance Committee that at CC6, the Compliance Committee noted that the vessel was not on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels and that it was suspected to have engaged in fishing in the SIOFA Area, and agreed to include it on the provisional IUU vessel list. At MoP9, the MoP could not reach consensus on including the vessel on the final IUU vessel and the vessel therefore remained on the draft IUU vessel list for consideration by the Compliance Committee at CC7. Subsequently, Sri Lanka notified the Secretariat that it has penalised and prosecuted the vessel.
- b. The EU noted that one of the criteria for the removal of a vessel from the draft IUU vessel list is that effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing in question, including the imposition of sanctions of adequate severity. The EU noted that Sri Lanka has stated that the vessel has paid the penalty imposed by Sri Lanka, but Sri Lanka has not presented proof of payment from the operator. The EU further noted that Sri Lanka has not provided information about the amount or value of catch by the vessel, and it is therefore not possible for the Compliance Committee to determine whether the penalty of 500,000 Sri Lankan rupees is of adequate severity. The EU suggested that the Secretariat seek the aforementioned information from Sri Lanka so that the Compliance Committee can determine, at CC8, whether or not sanctions of adequate severity have been imposed on the vessel and

consequently whether or not the vessel should be removed from the draft IUU vessel list.

55. **The Compliance Committee noted that the IMULA 1844 MTR, a Sri Lankan-flagged vessel, was not on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, engaged in fishing in the SIOFA Area, and has been prosecuted and penalised by the Sri Lankan authorities. The Compliance Committee requested the Secretariat to contact Sri Lanka and seek to obtain proof of the vessel operator's payment of the penalty imposed by Sri Lanka and information regarding the amount and value of the catch made by the vessel, so that the Compliance Committee can determine, at CC8, whether or not sanctions of adequate severity have been imposed on the vessel and consequently whether or not the vessel should be removed from the draft IUU vessel list in accordance with paragraph 14 of CMM 2022/06 (IUU Vessel List). The Compliance Committee agreed to retain the vessel on the draft IUU vessel list for its consideration at CC8.**

5.2. Current SIOFA IUU Vessel List and intersessional IUU vessels cross listing

56. The Executive Secretary introduced the topic and recalled that the IUU-vessel cross-listing update is a continuous process, and that it is triggered by the reception of other RFMO IUU vessel lists. There will be an update pending the end of the objection period to incorporate the changes to the IOTC IUU-vessel list.
57. The Compliance Committee considered the current SIOFA IUU vessel list and the list of cross-listed IUU vessels from other RFMOs (CC-07-05).
58. **The Compliance Committee did not make any recommendations to the MoP to remove any vessel from the current SIOFA IUU vessel list.**
59. **The Compliance Committee did not make any recommendations to the MoP to remove any vessel from list of cross-listed IUU vessels from other RFMOs. However, it noted that one vessel on the list had been listed twice under two names, ZHI MING and FREEDOM 7, and requested the Secretariat to list the vessel only under the name FREEDOM 7.**
60. **The Compliance Committee endorsed the provisional SIOFA IUU Vessel List as outlined in Annex E and recommended that the MoP adopt this list as the IUU Vessel List.**

Agenda item 6 – Sightings of vessels reported to the Secretariat

6.1. Sighting of Vessels without Nationality (CMM 2016/04 Vessels without Nationality)

61. **The Compliance Committee noted that there were no reports of sightings of vessels without nationality provided to the Secretariat since the 3rd Compliance Committee meeting (July 2019).**

6.2. Sighting of fishing by vessels flagged to Non-CCPs (CMM 2022/09 Control)

62. **The Compliance Committee noted that there were no reports of sightings of fishing by vessels flagged to non-CCPs provided to the Secretariat.**

Agenda item 7 – Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

7.1. Port inspection reports

63. The Compliance Officer presented CC-07-INFO-01 rev2, which outlines 24 port inspection reports from the EU, 3 port inspection reports from Mauritius, and 3 port inspection reports from South Africa, covering the year 2022.
64. **The Compliance Committee noted the port inspections report (CC-07-INFO-01 rev2).**

7.2. Entry/Exit reports

65. The Data Officer presented the entry/exit notifications summary report, CC-07-INFO-02

rev1, which outlines the entry/exit notifications received at the Secretariat from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. A total of 963 entry-exit notifications were received. 32 notifications were received more than 24 hours after the entry or exit event. There were 3 reporting anomalies whereby 2 or more consecutive entries or exits were reported.

66. **The Compliance Committee noted the entry/exit notifications summary report (CC-07-INFO-02 rev1).**

7.3. At sea Transfer and Transshipment reports

67. The Data Officer presented Chinese Taipei's at-sea transfers and transshipments report, CC-07-INFO-03, which outlined 105 transshipments and 151 transfers in 2022 and Thailand's at-sea transfers report, CC-07-INFO-06, which outlined 50 transfers in 2022.
68. **The Compliance Committee noted Chinese Taipei's at-sea transfers and transshipments report for 2022 (CC-07-INFO-03) and Thailand's at-sea transfers report (CC-07-INFO-06) for 2022.**

7.4. Vessel authorisation information

69. The Executive Secretary introduced CC-07-INFO-04 rev5, which summarised the status of the submission of vessel authorisation information.
70. Mauritius explained that it had been informed by the Secretariat that some of the vessel photos it had submitted were of low resolution and that it is currently working to provide photos of a higher resolution.
71. Australia explained that it is currently working to fill the information gaps for its vessels by the deadline. Australia explained that it has taken steps to prevent the recurrence of an issue whereby it missed the deadline for notifying the Secretariat to remove, from the Record of Authorised Vessels, one of its vessels that had been sold and de-flagged.
72. **The Compliance Committee noted the summary of the status of the submission of data required in paragraph 2 of CMM 2022/07 (Vessels Authorisation) for fishing vessels authorised to fish in the Agreement Area, as described in CC-07-INFO-04 rev5.**
73. The Data Officer informed the Compliance Committee that the Secretariat has further developed the Record of Authorised Vessels section of the SIOFA website and explained that some information about each vessel is available on the public part of the website, while photos and additional details about each vessel are available on the restricted part of the website.
74. Several CCPs considered it unusual for the photos of the vessels to only be available on the restricted part of the SIOFA website. They pointed out that these photos should be made available in the public domain as they are important for efforts to combat IUU fishing and do not contain commercially sensitive information.
75. The Data Officer referred to paragraph 5 of CMM 2022/07 (Vessels Authorisation) and paragraph 2a)i) of CMM 2016/03 (Data Confidentiality) when determining which vessel information could be made publicly available.
76. The Compliance Committee noted that paragraph 2a)i) of CMM 2016/03 does not expressly include photos as public domain data. However, the Compliance Committee also noted that the chapeau of paragraph 2a)i) reads "The policy for releasing catch-and-effort, length-frequency and observer data will be as follows:" and determined that this paragraph is not an appropriate cross-reference for paragraph 5 of CMM 2022/07.
77. **The Compliance Committee agreed that the photos of vessels on the Record of Authorised Vessels can be made publicly available.**
78. **The Compliance Committee also agreed to recommend that the MoP consider amending CMM 2022/07 at MoP11 to address this issue.**

Agenda item 8 – Outcome of the Performance Review on Matters Related to Compliance and the Compliance Committee

79. The Chairperson of the SIOFA Performance Review Panel, Ms Fuensanta Candela Castillo, introduced CC-07-01, the 1st SIOFA Performance Review Report, for review by the Compliance Committee.
80. The Compliance Committee expressed its appreciation to the Performance Review Panel for its hard work and comprehensive report, and to the Performance Review Panel Chairperson for attending the meeting and making herself available for questions and clarifications.
81. The Compliance Committee reviewed the recommendations from the 1st SIOFA Performance Review. The Compliance Committee considered that recommendations 9, 22–32, and 36 directly concerned the Compliance Committee and agreed to focus its review on these recommendations.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
9	The Panel recommends CCPs to launch an exercise of consolidation of the various CMMs into a corpus of SIOFA rules and regulations, with the aim of codifying the applicable rules to make them clearer, easier to interpret and easier to control in terms of compliance. This exercise should identify existing gaps and possible contradictions, issues of interpretation in need of resolving, and a future structure of the corpus that allows the different actors on whom the various obligations fall (from SIOFA's own bodies, to CCP authorities, to fishers) to have a clear and user-friendly access to their applicable rules and discipline.	M

82. **Regarding Recommendation Nr 9, the Compliance Committee endorsed the recommendation to identify existing gaps and possible contradictions, and issues of interpretation in need of resolving, while noting that this is part of the ongoing work of the Compliance Committee. The Compliance Committee did not endorse the recommendation to consolidate the various CMMs into a corpus of SIOFA rules and regulations.**

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
22	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider incorporating the principles of a flag State performance self-assessment into their compliance monitoring scheme, including by tasking the CC with reviewing the annual national reports submitted by CCPs and currently reviewed only by the SC.	H/M

83. Regarding Recommendation Nr 22, the Compliance Committee noted that flag State performance self-assessment is already part of the CMS, and that the Secretariat identifies any potential compliance issues from the annual national reports and replies to compliance questionnaire and presents these to the Compliance Committee for its consideration.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
23	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider the adoption of binding application of the Port Inspection Scheme to all ports of every CCPs, without the condition to apply to those having areas of national jurisdiction adjacent to the Agreement Area.	H/M

84. Regarding Recommendation Nr 23, the Compliance Committee expressed its general support for reviewing the scope of the Port Inspection Scheme.

85. One CCP supported expanding the scope of the Port Inspection Scheme but not to " all ports of every CCP" as stated in the Panel's recommendation, and cautioned that any potential amendment to the current scheme should be carefully considered to avoid adding unnecessary burden on ports not adjacent to the Agreement Area.

86. Australia expressed its intention to prepare a proposal to amend CMM 2020/08 (Port Inspection), based on Recommendation Nr 23 and the views expressed by CCPs, with the aim to present this proposal at CC8.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
24	The Panel recommends SIOFA adopts at least a minimum standard regarding inspection coverage of all fishing vessels carrying or landing resources of its competence which enter their ports.	H

87. Australia expressed its intention to consider Recommendation Nr 24 when preparing its aforementioned proposal to amend CMM 2020/08.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
25	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs investigate possible landings or transhipments of SIOFA species at ports placed under the jurisdiction of non-CCPs, and if this is found to happen, initiate demarches with the relevant port States to request they become CCPs or cooperate with SIOFA as appropriate.	H

88. The Compliance Committee expressed its general support for Recommendation Nr 25.

Some CCPs had different interpretations of the definition of "demarches" but agreed that, if possible landings or transhipments of SIOFA species are found to have occurred at ports placed under the jurisdiction of non-CCPs, the Secretariat should contact the relevant port States to request they become CCPs or cooperate with SIOFA as appropriate.

89. The Chairperson of the Review Panel clarified that the key element of the investigation is the need to investigate possible landings or transhipments of SIOFA species at ports placed under the jurisdiction of non-CCPs.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
26	The Panel recommends and encourages SIOFA CCPs to continue their efforts to agree on a SIOFA VMS in order to verify vessels activity in the Agreement Area. The Panel also recommends that CCPs adopt rules for the submission VMS data until such scheme is adopted.	H/M

90. **Regarding Recommendation Nr 26, the Compliance Committee endorsed the recommendation to continue efforts to agree on a SIOFA VMS and noted that this work is ongoing.**
91. One CCP suggested that Recommendation Nr 26 should be assigned a priority of 'H' rather than 'H/M'.
92. Another CCP suggested that the second recommendation, to adopt rules for the submission of VMS data, should only be considered if and when a SIOFA VMS is agreed upon.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
27	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs urgently seek to clarify the various issues of interpretation affecting the implementation of several MCS measures, in particular those related to CMM 06 on the IUU vessel list, CMM 07 on Vessel authorisation and CMM 14 on the HSBI procedures, including by seeking independent legal or technical advice if necessary.	H

93. The Compliance Committee did not express any views regarding Recommendation Nr 27.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
28	The Panel recommends including in the agenda of the Compliance Committee a specific standing item on follow-up actions in the framework of the CMS for the previous year or years.	H

94. **The Compliance Committee endorsed Recommendation Nr 28 and noted that the review of follow-up actions is already part of its CMS framework.**

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
29	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs agree on a review of CMM 11 on a Compliance Monitoring Scheme in order to facilitate its interpretation, taking into account the changes proposed by this Panel, including to the CCR template and the rules regarding follow up action on infringements identified in previous years.	H/M

95. **The Compliance Committee noted Recommendation Nr 29 and that the review of CMM 2020/11 (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) is part of its ongoing work. The Compliance Committee agreed to consider the Review Panel's views as part of its CMS review process.**

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
30	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs task the Secretariat with an assignment as high priority for the Compliance Officer the strengthening of the Secretariat's technical capacity to examine, analyse and verify the data collected for the purposes of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme.	H/M

96. **The Compliance Committee expressed agreement with Recommendation Nr 30.**

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
31	The Panel recommends that SIOFA CCPs task the Secretariat to assess the capacity building needed in order to improve implementation of their obligations by the CCPs, prioritizing the most urgent and providing options to ensure appropriate assistance is provided to CCPs which so require.	M

97. **The Compliance Committee endorsed Recommendation Nr 31 and noted that the identification of capacity gaps is an essential part of an effective CMS.**

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
32	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs discuss the possible adoption of a new measure on a Catch Documentation Scheme, focusing, in particular, on CCAMLR's DCD, and explore options for its implementation. The Panel recommends SIOFA strengthens its cooperation with CCAMLR in this regard, including by requesting capacity building support for the Secretariat so that it can contribute to future joint work by the two organisations.	H/M

98. **The Compliance Committee noted that Recommendation Nr 32 pertains to a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for toothfish, noted that all SIOFA CCPs fishing for toothfish are Members of CCAMLR, where there is already a CDS for toothfish, and are thus already required to document catches of toothfish in the SIOFA Area, and agreed that it is therefore not necessary to establish a SIOFA CDS for toothfish, rather, it is adequate to continue its ongoing cooperation with CCAMLR.**

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
36	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs agree to share data regarding the implementation of their fisheries control obligations and utilise such data in the framework of CMM 11's Compliance Monitoring Scheme in order to assess whether SIOFA's control-related measures are effectively implemented.	H/M

99. The Compliance Committee did not express any views regarding Recommendation Nr 36.

Agenda item 9 – Consideration of Matters discussed at the Scientific Committee

9.1. Definition of the temporal scope of paragraph 18 of CMM 2021/15

100. The Science Officer, Dr Marco Milardi, presented a request for clarification from the SC regarding the temporal scope of paragraph 18 of CMM 2021/15 (Management of Demersal Stocks) as outlined in CC-07-INFO-05. He explained that the SC had noted that paragraph 18 was originally intended to ensure spatial distribution of tagging and that it sets a maximum number of hooks and a minimum distance (3 nm) between lines, but does not specify the time period (e.g., set, trip or season) that should separate these lines sets, which may cause confusion in implementation.

101. The EU explained that, in its recollection, this provision had been inserted in CMM 15

when it was first adopted following a discussion on depredation and local depletion, rather than the spatial distribution of tagging.

102. **The Compliance Committee agreed that it did not have all the elements it needed to make the determination requested by the SC. The Compliance Committee recommended that the MoP request the SC to provide advice on whether depredation, local depletion, and the spatial distribution of tagging are issues that need to be addressed in the Del Cano Rise area.**

9.2. Amendment to CMM 2022/02 (Data Standards) proposed by the SC

103. The Data Officer presented CC-07-10, which proposed amending CMM 2022/02 (Data Standards) to improve VME taxa bycatch information and recording by the crew in Annex A and by the observers in Annex B.
104. The Compliance Committee reviewed and further revised the proposed amendments. **The Compliance Committee agreed to forward the proposal outlined in CC-07-10 rev1 (Annex F) and to recommend it to the MoP for adoption.**

Agenda item 10 – Review of the status of Cooperating Non Contracting Parties (CNCPS)

105. The Compliance Committee noted that Comoros submitted a request to renew its status as a cooperating non-Contracting Party. The request from Comoros is available in **Annex G**.
106. **The Compliance Committee recommended that the MoP determines that Comoros qualifies to retain its CNCP status.**
107. The Compliance Committee noted that India submitted a request to renew its status as a cooperating non-Contracting Party. The request from India is available in **Annex H**.
108. **The Compliance Committee recommended that the MoP determines that India qualifies to retain its CNCP status.**
109. The Compliance Committee noted that, at MoP9, India had expressed its intention to fish for SIOFA fishery resources in the future and requested India to provide any additional information it has about this intention at the upcoming Meeting of the Parties.
110. The Executive Secretary informed the Compliance Committee that India recently indicated to the Secretariat its intention to become a CP.

Agenda item 11 – Election of a future Chair and Vice Chair for the Compliance Committee

111. The Compliance Committee noted that the position of Chair of the Compliance Committee is vacant due to the resignation of Mr Johnny Louys.
112. **The Compliance Committee agreed to elect Mr Ichiro Nomura to serve as the Compliance Committee Chair for a two-year term.**
113. The Compliance Committee noted that, with the election of Mr Nomura to the position of Chair, the position of Vice Chair is currently vacant. No nominations for the Vice-Chair position were received during the meeting.

Agenda item 12 – Any other business

114. No other business was raised.

Agenda item 13 – Adoption of the Compliance Committee report

115. The Compliance Committee thanked the Acting Chair for his excellent work and his willingness to continue as the Chairperson of the Compliance Committee in the future.

116. The Chair thanked the Compliance Committee for its diligence and cooperation.
117. The report of the 7th meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee was adopted at 4:45 p.m. UTC, 30 June 2023 and the meeting was closed.