



SIOFA | APSOI

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

# Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC) of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Hotel President, Seoul, Republic of Korea

26 – 28 June 2024

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## **Agenda item 1 – Opening of the meeting**

### **1.1 Opening statements**

1. The Compliance Committee (CC) Chair, Mr Ichiro Nomura (Japan), opened the meeting at 09:00 and welcomed all delegates. The meeting was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, at Hotel President.
2. The Executive Secretary, Mr Thierry Clot, expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea for hosting the meeting, the CC Chair and Vice-Chair for their efforts to prepare for the meeting, France Territories for funding the interpreting arrangements, and the Korean delegation for its support in organising the meeting. The Executive Secretary also expressed his confidence that this would be a successful and 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.
4. The Chair welcomed Comoros as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) and Madagascar, Mozambique and the Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA) as Observers.

## **Agenda item 2 – Administrative arrangements**

### **2.1 Adoption of the agenda**

5. The CC reviewed the revised provisional agenda.
6. Australia asked to provide an update on the intersessional work on port inspection under agenda item 10 (Any other business). The CC agreed to the request.
7. The CC adopted the agenda (Annex B).

### **2.2 Confirmation of meeting documents**

8. The Executive Secretary informed the CC that working papers CC-08-15 and CC-08-16 and information paper CC-08-INFO-10 had been submitted to the meeting after the document submission deadline.
9. The Chair invited the CC to decide whether to exceptionally admit the aforementioned documents, in accordance with Rule 10, Paragraph 7. The CC agreed to admit the documents.
10. The list of meeting documents is presented in CC-08-ADM-06 rev2 (Annex C).

### **2.3 Appointment of rapporteur**

11. The CC agreed to appoint Mr Alexander Meyer (Urban Connections, Tokyo) 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)**

12. The Compliance Officer, Mr Johnny Louys, presented the draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR) outlined in CC-08-02. The CC reviewed the dSCR and assigned the compliance status and relevant follow-up actions in accordance with the provisions of Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme). During its review, the CC held detailed discussions on a number of matters as described below.
13. China agreed with the proposed provisional compliance status of “not assessed” for paragraph 4 of CMM 02(2023) and CMM 02(2022) (Data Standards), and paragraph 2 (b) of CMM 10(2019) (Monitoring) given that their ability to record and submit data required by Annex A(2) of the CMM does not accommodate for catches related to squid

jigging. China indicated that it intends to present a data collection template for squid jigging to SC10.

14. Mauritius agreed with the proposed provisional compliance status of “critically non-compliant” for paragraphs 12 and 14 of CMM 02(2023) and CMM 02(2022) (Data Standards), specifically in relation to Mauritius’ handline fishery. Mauritius reiterated the difficulty of deploying observers onboard small handline vessels. Mauritius also reiterated its intention, as expressed via a written statement to SC9, to implement a port sampling programme as an alternative to deploying observers onboard these vessels and stated that it will present a written proposal to SC10.
15. Regarding the status of Mauritius’ compliance with the obligation stipulated in paragraph 25 of CMM 08(2020) (Port Inspection), Mauritius agreed with the proposed provisional compliance status “critically non-compliant”. However, Mauritius emphasised that only one of its reports had been submitted late due to unforeseen circumstances and suggested that SIOFA should consider creating a more nuanced compliance status than “critically non-compliant” or “non-compliant” for the late submission of reports, such as “partially compliant”. The EU noted that other CCPs had been assigned a compliance status of “non-compliant” or “critically non-compliant” on past occasions for similar issues and emphasised the importance of applying a consistent approach when assessing compliance. However, the EU further noted that it may be worthwhile reviewing the compliance statuses available under CMM 11(2020) to address such instances of the late submission of reports, for example through the introduction of a status of “minor non-compliance”. A number of CCPs agreed with this suggestion.
16. The CC agreed that in future, when CCPs assign the status of “not applicable” for a provision in their compliance self-assessment, it would be informative if they also indicated the reasons that they believe the provision is not applicable.
17. Regarding the status of Mauritius’ compliance with the obligation stipulated in paragraph 14 of CMM 10(2019) (Monitoring), Mauritius agreed with the proposed provisional compliance status “critically non-compliant”. However, Mauritius pointed out that only one of its entry-exit reports had been submitted three hours late and reiterated its view that there is a need to add a less critical compliance status to the compliance assessment process for such instances.
18. Regarding the status of Chinese Taipei’s compliance with the obligation stipulated in paragraph 16 of CMM 10(2019) (Monitoring), Chinese Taipei accepted the proposed provisional compliance status “critically non-compliant”, but Chinese Taipei noted that among the 12 subparagraphs under paragraph 16, it was unable to comply with only one obligation, which concerned the completion of Transshipment Logsheets. Chinese Taipei reassured that at-sea transshipment activities are monitored by impartial observers. Chinese Taipei further informed the CC that it has started submitting Logsheets from this year. Chinese Taipei suggested that each subparagraph of para 16 be assessed separately.
19. The EU noted that a vessel flagged to Comoros, the RINASCENTE NO.9, has conducted fishing activities for spiny lobsters with traps/pots in the SIOFA Area. The EU noted that any CCP engaging in bottom fisheries must submit a bottom fishing impact assessment (BFIA) and that, while Comoros has submitted a BFIA, said BFIA does not cover trap/pot fisheries. The EU asked if Comoros plans to submit an updated BFIA to the SC and if the vessel will refrain from trap/pot fishing activities in the meantime. The EU further noted that the RINASCENTE NO.9 is suspected of engaging in illegal, unreported and

unregulated (IUU) fishing and asked Comoros to provide information about any investigations it has conducted and whether it would be appropriate for the vessel to discontinue its fishing activities while any investigations are ongoing.

20. Comoros explained that it has submitted its BFIA to the SC since 2018 because it has operated several small handline fishing vessels. Since 2021, however, no vessels have been engaging in such fishing activities. Comoros had not conducted a BFIA for trap/pot fisheries because no registered vessels were operating such fisheries, but it has since identified the RINASCENTE NO.9 as conducting trap/pot fishing targeting lobster and is therefore taking this into consideration to update its BFIA for 2025. Regarding the suspected IUU fishing activities, Comoros requested the Secretariat's support to investigate the IUU fishing history of this vessel and has also communicated with the Korean authorities about the vessel, as it previously entered Korean ports, but the Korean authorities found no indication of IUU fishing activities from the port inspections they conducted on the vessel. Comoros will continue to conduct investigations of the vessel.
21. The CC noted that the dSCR did not include an assessment of CCPs' compliance with the requirement to ensure that all information required under CMM 07 paragraph 2 is submitted for vessels that have historically been included in the Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV).
22. Mauritius confirmed that it would provide the missing information and committed to removing any vessels from the RAV for which missing information is outstanding by the end of this CC. During the meeting, Mauritius submitted the missing information for 7 of the 10 vessels in question to the Secretariat. Mauritius informed the CC that out of the 3 remaining vessels, 2 are currently at sea and are scheduled to return to port shortly and that the missing information for these vessels will be acquired and submitted to the Secretariat in due course. Mauritius further informed the CC that it intends to remove the remaining 1 vessel from the RAV for the time being.
23. Some CCPs suggested that in the current CMM 07, the obligation that CCPs provide updates for vessels that have historically been included in the RAV is not clearly phrased in paragraph 4, and that the wording of CMM 07 should be amended to provide greater clarity.
24. The CC held further discussions on potential amendments to CMM 07 under agenda item 4.1
25. **The CC adopted the provisional Compliance Report (pSCR) outlined in CC-08-17 (Annex D) and agreed to forward it to the Meeting of the Parties (MoP) for its consideration.**
26. The Secretariat reminded CCPs that they have the opportunity to comment on their respective sections of the dSCR in the compliance assessment process and encouraged CCPs to do so within the deadline specified in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme going forward.

### **3.2 Review any Recommendation made in the Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR) adopted by the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties.**

27. The Compliance Officer explained that pursuant to paragraph 5 of CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) the CC and the MoP are required to review any other recommendations made by the MoP in the previous years' Final Compliance Reports. The Compliance Officer presented CC-08-INFO-03, which provided a review of recommendations of MoP10 on the SIOFA Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR). He explained that MoP10 endorsed one recommendation from the fSCR, which is to improve clarity on the applicability of paragraphs 5 & 6 (4 & 5 in the previous version of

the CMM) of CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring), i.e., to clarify that these paragraphs are only applicable to vessels on the SIOFA RAV.

28. **The CC reaffirmed its understanding that paragraphs 5 & 6 of CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring) are only applicable to vessels on the SIOFA RAV.**
29. The CC did not see the need to amend this CMM but noted that CCPs could present relevant proposals to amend CMM 10(2023) to improve its clarity at a future meeting.

### **3.3 Discussion on the CCR template update process**

30. The Compliance Officer explained that CCPs held two intersessional meetings to discuss the draft CCP's Compliance Report (CCR) templates presented at CC7 and MoP10. Based on the discussions at the two intersessional meetings, the Secretariat developed a new proposed CCR template as described in CC-08-03.
31. The CC thanked the Secretariat for developing the new template, which streamlined the self-assessment process and improved its clarity, while still ensuring the robustness of the process.
32. The CC agreed that the template include a field for CCPs to include a reason when they select a status of "not applicable".
33. **The CC reviewed and endorsed the proposed amended template in CC-08-03 as the new template and agreed to forward the new template to the MoP for adoption.**
34. **The CC agreed to conduct the next compliance assessment using the new template if approved by the MoP.**
35. **The CC agreed to hold an informal workshop for CCPs, arranged by the Secretariat in consultation with the CC Chair, around one month before the deadline for the submission of CCPs' self-assessments so that CCPs can seek clarification and assistance in filling out the new template.**

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

### **4.1 Proposals for amendments to Conservation and Management Measures**

36. The Science Officer, Dr Marco Milardi, presented CC-08-01, which reflected technical edits to Annex 1 of CMM 12(2023) (Sharks) that were recommended by SC9. Specifically, the edits entailed a change in the name and species code for one species and the addition of species codes for two other species.
37. The CC did not have any objections to the substance of the paper but noted that it did not contain any matters relating to compliance. The CC noted that the paper is scheduled to be presented at MoP11 and agreed to defer consideration of the paper to the MoP.
38. The CC also noted that the creation of paper CC-08-01 itself raised a procedural issue. The CC agreed that it is not the role of the Secretariat to present proposals to amend CMMs, even if it is doing so on behalf of the SC. The CC also questioned the appropriateness of this recommendation from the SC being presented by the Secretariat as an independent paper, separate from the other recommendations of the SC.
39. The CC agreed that the appropriate future procedure would be for the Secretariat to prepare a working paper summarising all recommendations from the most recent SC meeting that are of relevance to the CC.
40. The EU presented CC-08-12, which proposed amendments to CMM 01(2023) (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing) to take into account the possible introduction of a new framework to govern the undertaking and management of new and exploratory fisheries in the SIOFA Area, which is the subject of a separate proposal (CC-08-11) submitted for

consideration to CC8 and MoP11, to reflect progress made by SIOFA in recent years concerning bottom fishing issues, and to address some inconsistencies in the CMM.

41. The CC reviewed the proposal (CC-08-12 rev1) and endorsed the proposed amendments for reflecting progress made by SIOFA in recent years concerning bottom fishing issues, and for addressing some inconsistencies in the CMM. The CC agreed to place square brackets around the proposed amendments that concern the possible introduction of a new framework for new and exploratory fisheries, as the framework is still under discussion.
42. **The CC agreed to forward the proposal to the MoP (Annex E). The CC recommended that the MoP adopt the proposed amendments, apart from those in square brackets. The CC recommended that the MoP hold further discussions on the sections in square brackets.**
43. The EU and France Territories presented CC-08-13 rev2, which proposed amendments to CMM 07(2022) (Vessels Authorisation) to:
  - a. delete reference to paragraph 2a)i) of CMM 03(2016) as endorsed by MoP10;
  - b. specify the information from the RAV that can be made public;
  - c. specify ALC details; and
  - d. provide the MoP with the possibility, until it adopts a framework for research surveys, to exceptionally decide to authorise a research vessel from a non-CCP without including it on the SIOFA RAV, for example in the case of the proposed research cruise by the R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen.
44. **The CC agreed to forward the proposal (Annex F) to the MoP for its consideration, with a view to adopting a revised CMM at MoP11.**

#### **4.2 Proposals for new Conservation and Management Measures**

45. The EU presented CC-08-11, which proposed a framework to govern the undertaking and management of new and exploratory fisheries in the SIOFA Area based on the precautionary approach. The proposed framework builds on previous work of the SC and the MoP and discussions among CCPs.
46. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex G) requires further discussion and agreed to forward it to the MoP for the MoP's consideration and further work.**
47. The Cook Islands presented CC-08-16 rev1, which proposed the development of additional Benthic Protected Areas (BPAs) by formalising the voluntary closures that are applied by the Cook Islands to its fishing vessels and making these closures applicable to all fishing vessels operating bottom fishing gears in the waters of the SIOFA Area, with the exception of the Southern Indian Ridge, where only bottom trawl fishing will be prohibited.
48. Several CCPs expressed support for the intention of the proposal to enhance protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and prevent severe adverse impact (SAI) on VMEs, but believed that many elements of the proposal should first be discussed and reviewed by the SC.
49. The Cook Islands explained that the SC has held extensive discussions on preventing SAI on VMEs and has recognised that the most effective way to protect VMEs is through benthic closures. The Cook Islands also pointed out that while CMM 01(2023) (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing) includes a number of BPAs, these are interim BPAs that have had an interim status for many years, and noted that it would be appropriate to formalise these BPAs. The Cook Islands further explained that the SC has struggled to make formal recommendations regarding BPAs because the related scientific work is expensive and beyond the budget and capacity of the SC, and that the Cook Islands has



therefore tried to propose an alternative path forward by applying the precautionary approach.

50. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex H) requires further discussion and agreed to forward it to the MoP for the MoP's consideration and further work.**

#### **4.3 Discussion on the application of current CMMs**

51. The Compliance Officer presented CC-08-INFO-05, which provided a review of the potential issues related to the interpretation and implementation of obligations under the Agreement and CMMs. The review highlighted the following:
- a. Paragraph 14 (General Provisions) of the CMM 15(2023) (Management of Demersal Stocks) provides that: "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. have been caught." This provision is repeated under paragraph 26, which applies specifically to the Del Cano Rise area. With the understanding that the general provisions are applicable within the entire Agreement Area, paragraph 26 may be redundant.
  - b. Paragraph 25 of CMM 06(2022) (IUU Vessel List) provides that vessels that have been added to or deleted from the Final IUU Vessel Lists of other organisations "shall be incorporated into or deleted, as appropriate, from the IUU Vessel List, unless any Contracting Party objects in writing within 30 days of the date of transmittal by the Secretariat." The right to object provided in this paragraph excludes Participating Fishing Entities (PFEs), which may not be consistent with Article 15 (Fishing Entities) of the Agreement and Rule 13 (Intersessional decision making) of the Rules of Procedures, which allow a PFE to partake in the decision-making process.
52. **Regarding the potential issue identified by the Secretariat in CMM 15(2023) (Management of Demersal Stocks), the CC agreed that paragraph 26 (tagging and release) is redundant and recommended that the MoP delete it. The CC also suggested that the word "specimens" be added after the second instance of "*Dissostichus* spp." in paragraph 14.**
53. The CC also noted that the CMM compendium contained obsolete versions of CMMs, including CMM 15, and instructed the Secretariat to make the necessary correction.
54. **Regarding the potential issue identified by the Secretariat in paragraph 25 of CMM 06(2022) (IUU Vessel List), the CC agreed to correct the typographical error in paragraph 25 by adding "and Participating Fishing Entities (PFEs)" and thereby stipulating that PFEs may partake in this decision-making process.**

### **Agenda item 5 – Listing of IUU Vessels**

#### **5.1 Draft IUU Vessel List**

55. The CC considered the draft SIOFA IUU vessel list, which included one vessel, the IMULA 1844 MTR (flag: Sri Lanka) as outlined in CC-08-04 rev1.
56. The Compliance Officer reminded the CC that CC7 noted that the IMULA 1844 MTR was not on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, that it engaged in fishing in the SIOFA Area, and that it has been prosecuted and penalised by the Sri Lankan authorities. Furthermore, CC7 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 CC 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 06(2022) (IUU Vessel List). The Compliance Officer explained that Sri Lanka has since provided the log sheet of the vessel, receipt of payment of the fine by the vessel operator, and receipt of sale of the seized catch, and he presented it to the CC for its consideration.

57. The EU noted that, in order for a fine to be effective and deterrent, it should be of adequate severity. The EU noted that the fine imposed on the vessel was 500,000 rupees, which was approximately double the auction price of 252,280 rupees, but far below the 2-million-rupee estimated value of the catches of the IMULA 1655 MTR, which were similar in composition and amount of the landing. The EU therefore questioned whether the fine could be considered of adequate severity, but stated that it would not oppose the removal of the vessel from the draft IUU vessel list.
58. Chinese Taipei noted that the newly received inspection report showed that the IMULA 1844 MTR caught skipjack and blue shark, which are a tuna-like species and a shark species, indicating that the vessel did not fish for SIOFA fisheries resources. Chinese Taipei asserted that in such a case, the consideration of this vessel as a suspected IUU fishing vessel should be conducted at the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), rather than SIOFA.
59. **The CC 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 sanctioned by the Sri Lankan authorities. The CC agreed to remove the vessel from the draft IUU vessel list (CC-08-04 rev1) and as such did not recommend any changes to the provisional IUU vessel list.**

#### **5.2 Current SIOFA IUU Vessel List**

60. The CC considered the current SIOFA IUU vessel list, which includes vessels listed by SIOFA (part 1) as well as vessels cross-listed from other RFMOs and CCAMLR (part 2) (CC-08-05).
61. **The CC did not make any recommendations to the MoP to remove any vessel from the current SIOFA IUU vessel list.**

### **Agenda item 6 – Monitoring, Control and Surveillance**

#### **6.1 Sighting of Vessels without Nationality (CMM 04(2016) Vessels without Nationality)**

62. The Secretariat presented CC-08-INFO-08 on reports of sightings of vessels without nationality. The report outlined that there were no reports of sightings of vessels without nationality provided to the Secretariat since the 3<sup>rd</sup> CC meeting (July 2019).
63. **The CC noted the report.**

#### **6.2 Port inspection reports**

64. The Compliance Officer presented CC-08-INFO-04 rev2, which outlined 25 port inspection reports from the EU, 4 port inspection reports from Mauritius, and 19 port inspection reports from South Africa, covering the year 2023. One report received from a CCP was submitted after the 30-day deadline, and the CCP did not notify the Secretariat of the delayed report prior to the end of the mandated deadline. None of the port inspection reports identified potential compliance issues, but one indicated potential fishing by a vessel flagged to a non-CCP within the Agreement Area. However, upon following up with the port State, it was confirmed that the vessel did not operate within the Agreement Area, but within an exclusive economic zone adjacent to the Agreement Area, with the requisite authorisation.

65. **The CC noted the port inspections report (CC-08-INFO-04 rev2).**

**6.3 Sighting of fishing by vessels flagged to Non-CCPs (CMM 09(2022) Control)**

66. The Secretariat presented CC-08-INFO-08 on reports of any presumed fishing as defined in the Agreement, including transshipment, by vessels flagged to non-CCPs in the Agreement Area. The report outlined that there were no sightings in 2023.

67. **The CC noted the report.**

**6.4 Entry/Exit reports (CMM 10(2019) Monitoring)**

68. The Data Officer, Mr Pierre Périès, presented the entry/exit notifications report, CC-08-INFO-01, which outlined the entry/exit notifications received at the Secretariat from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. A total of 1,556 entry-exit notifications were received. Most entry and exit notifications were received in a timely manner and no anomalies were identified.

69. **The CC noted the entry/exit notifications summary report (CC-08-INFO-01).**

**6.5 At sea Transfer and Transshipment reports (CMM 10(2019) Monitoring)**

70. The Data Officer presented Chinese Taipei's at-sea transfers and transshipments report, CC-08-INFO-02, which outlined 176 transshipments and 248 transfers in 2023 and Thailand's at-sea transfers report, CC-08-INFO-07 rev1, which outlined 11 transfers in 2023.

71. **The CC noted Chinese Taipei's at-sea transfers and transshipments report for 2023 (CC-08-INFO-02) and Thailand's at-sea transfers report (CC-08-INFO-07 rev1) for 2023.**

**6.6 Register of Authorised Vessels (CMM 07(2022) Vessel Authorisation)**

72. The Executive Secretary introduced CC-08-INFO-09, which summarised the status of the submission of vessel authorisation information.

73. **The CC noted the summary of the status of the submission of data required in paragraph 2 of CMM 07(2022) (Vessels Authorisation) for fishing vessels authorised to fish in the Agreement Area, as described in CC-08-INFO-09.**

## **Agenda item 7 – Operationalisation of the SIOFA VMS**

### **7.1 Outcome of the Intersessional work of the SIOFA VMSWG - Draft Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS**

74. The Chair of the Working Group to Support the Establishment of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement Vessel Monitoring System (VMS-WG), Ms. Fiona Harford (EU), explained that following the adoption of the CMM 16(2023) (Vessel Monitoring System), MoP10 established the VMS-WG to, *inter alia*, develop the SSPs for the SIOFA VMS, and that the VMS-WG met three times in 2024. The VMS-WG Chair presented the SSPs drafted by the VMS-WG (CC-08-06), noting that two issues remain unresolved: whether ALC details should be treated as confidential, and which data fields should be included in Annex 1 (North Atlantic Format (NAF)).

75. The CC noted that, under CMM 16(2023) (VMS), a CCP may request access to another CCP vessel's VMS position reports and that VMS position reports shall include the fishing vessel's unique vessel identifier (UVI). The CC further noted that under the proposed SSPs, the UVI could be the vessel's ALC unique identifier, but if ALC details were considered to be confidential, it would not be possible to release them as required under CMM 16(2023). Therefore, the CC agreed that ALC details shall not be public domain data, but shall be provided to CCPs' VMS points of contact upon request pursuant to paragraphs 23 to 28 of CMM 16(2023).

76. The CC agreed to retain Internal Reference (IR) Number in Annex 1 of the draft SSPs but

to make it an optional data field.

77. The CC agreed to remove latitude and longitude expressed in degrees and minutes (LA and LO) from Annex 1 as they do not meet the requirement in CMM 16(2023) (VMS) that position reporting be accurate to within 100 metres.
78. **The CC recommended that the MoP adopt the proposed SSPs (Annex I) for the SIOFA VMS.**

### **7.2 Overview of Roadmap towards the Operationalization of the SIOFA VMS**

79. The VMS-WG Chair presented CC-08-09, which set out the Roadmap towards the Operationalization of the SIOFA VMS proposed by the VMS-WG.
80. The CC reviewed and updated the Roadmap with some modifications, such as the insertion of the testing of the SIOFA VMS in the timeline, as described in CC-08-09 rev1 (Annex J).
81. **The CC recommended that the MoP adopt the proposed Roadmap towards the Operationalization of the SIOFA VMS (Annex J) and recommended that the MoP task the VMS-WG to continue its work.**

### **7.3 Implication of the SIOFA VMS for other SIOFA CMMs and Policies**

82. The VMS-WG Chair presented CC-08-08, which provided an overview of the potential implications of the SIOFA VMS for other SIOFA CMMs and SIOFA policies that were identified during the VMS-WG's discussions and that need to be addressed in the future.
83. **The CC noted the potential implications of adopting the proposed SSPs for other SIOFA CMMs and SIOFA policies as described in CC-08-08 (Annex K) and recommended that the MoP task the VMS-WG to continue its work.**
84. **The CC thanked Ms Fiona Harford for her efforts and leadership and requested that she continue to serve as the VMS-WG Chair, if she is available.**

## **Agenda item 8 – Review of the status of Cooperating Non Contracting Parties (CNCPS)**

85. The CC noted that India submitted a request to renew its status as a CNCP (CC-08-07).
86. The CC had a number of questions for India, including how it intends to address a number of outstanding compliance issues, what the status of its efforts to apply to become a SIOFA Contracting Party is, and whether it can provide any updates on its previously stated intention to fish for SIOFA fishery resources in the future. The CC also noted that India had been very late in submitting its feedback during the compliance assessment process. However, India was not present at the meeting and unable to respond to the CC's questions and concerns.
87. **The CC noted that, given the absence of India at CC8, it is unable to make a recommendation on the renewal of India's status as a CNCP, and agreed to defer this discussion to the MoP.**
88. The CC noted that Comoros submitted a request to renew its status as a CNCP (CC-08-10).
89. The EU reiterated its concerns regarding Comoros' operation of a trap/pot fishery without having conducted a BFIA for its trap/pot fishery and information provided to SIOFA indicating that the RINASCENTE NO.9 has a history of allegedly engaging in IUU fishing activities. The EU also noted that it has newly received an official letter from Comoros indicating that Comoros has revoked the authorisation of the RINASCENTE NO.9 in February 2024, but noted that the RINASCENTE NO.9 remains on the SIOFA RAV and that, according to Comoros, it has engaged in fishing activities from April to June 2024.

90. Comoros reiterated its intention to update its BFIA and requested that it be allowed to continue the fishery so that it can obtain the data it needs to update the BFIA. It also explained that, according to the observers onboard the RINASCENTE NO.9, the pots are attached to horizontal longlines and do not contact the sea bottom. Comoros further explained that it authorised the vessel in March 2024. In addition, Comoros explained that, to investigate the vessel's suspected IUU fishing history, it has been communicating openly with the Secretariat and CCPs, including Korea, which conducted port inspections of the RINASCENTE NO.9, and that Comoros has not found any evidence of such IUU fishing activities. Comoros also requested CCPs' understanding for the constraints it faces, as a Small Island Developing State, in implementing fisheries management.
91. Regarding Comoros' request to continue its trap/pot fishery to collect data for updating its BFIA, several CCPs pointed out that CMM 01(2023) (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing) clearly stipulates that, before engaging in any bottom fishing activities, CCPs must complete a BFIA that accounts for such activities.
92. Mauritius informed the CC that the RINASCENTE NO.9 previously sought authorisation from Mauritius and from the Seychelles but its application was rejected in each case based on information obtained by the two CCPs in their due diligence processes.
93. The Cook Islands stated that it has extensive experience operating fisheries with pots on longlines, that, in its experience, these pots contact the sea bottom, and that Comoros' fishery should therefore be considered a bottom fishery.
94. Korea confirmed that it has conducted port inspections of the RINASCENTE NO.9 and did not find any indication of IUU fishing activities, but emphasised that port inspections cannot guarantee that a vessel did not engage in IUU fishing activities at sea.
95. **The CC noted that until it receives further written information and clarification from Comoros regarding the concerns raised by some CCPs, it is unable to make a recommendation on the renewal of Comoros status as a CNCP, and agreed to defer this discussion to the MoP.**
96. The CC encouraged Comoros to provide the requested written information and clarification to the MoP to facilitate the MoP's consideration of Comoros' application.

## **Agenda item 9 – Election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the CC**

97. The CC Chair informed the CC that he would not be available to continue to serve as the CC Chair next year and expressed his wish to resign from the position following the conclusion of MoP11.
98. The CC thanked Mr Ichiro Nomura (Japan) for his efficient chairing and dedication as the CC Chairperson.
99. **The CC agreed to elect the current CC Vice-Chair, Mrs Meera Koonjul (Mauritius) to serve as the CC Chair for a two-year term.**
100. The CC noted that with the election of Mrs Koonjul to the CC Chair position, the CC Vice-Chair position has become vacant. No nominations were received for the CC Vice-Chair position.

## **Agenda item 10 – Any other business**

### **10.1 Implementation of SIOFA Performance Review Recommendations**

101. The Executive Secretary presented CC-08-14, which summarised the SIOFA Performance Review recommendations that have been retained in an implementation plan by MoP10, with a column showing the updated status of the implementation of each recommendation. He explained that the SC has provided some updates to the status of the implementation of the recommendations that concern the SC, and invited the CC to

do the same for recommendations that concern the CC.

102. The CC reviewed the implementation plan and added further comments. The updated implementation plan is attached as **Annex L**.
103. Regarding recommendation 31, the CC tasked the Secretariat to assess the capacity building needed in order to improve CCPs' implementation of their obligations, prioritizing the most urgent, and to present a paper to CC9 with options for ensuring appropriate assistance is provided to CCPs that require it.
104. **The CC recommended that the MoP note the CC's input on the notes and current status of the implementation of the recommendations of the SIOFA Performance Review Panel that were adopted at MoP10.**
105. Australia presented CC-08-15, which summarised the outcomes of the intersessional work on CMM 08(2020) (Port Inspection). Australia explained that the SIOFA Performance Review Panel had recommended that SIOFA's port inspection scheme apply to all ports of CCPs, not only those adjacent to the Agreement Area, and that a minimum standard for inspection coverage of fishing vessels be adopted. Australia noted that the MoP agreed to review the scope of SIOFA's port inspection scheme and consider a minimum standard for port inspection coverage. Australia further explained that it surveyed CCPs on their opinions of the SIOFA Performance Review recommendations and potential amendments to CMM 08(2020). Australia invited the CC to hold further discussions on how to move forward with the Performance Review Panel's recommendations.
106. The CC did not reach consensus on whether or not to expand the coverage of CMM 08(2020) (Port Inspection) to the ports of every CCP. Some CCPs supported doing so to enhance compliance, while others pointed out that expanding the coverage to the ports of CCPs that are not adjacent to the Agreement Area would disproportionately increase the burden on these CCPs for relatively little additional benefit. Some CCPs suggested that information on the percentage of SIOFA fisheries resources landed at ports adjacent to the Agreement Area and those landed at other ports would be useful for facilitating further discussions.
107. The CC expressed general support for setting a mandatory inspection rate for species other than toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp.) but did not reach consensus on specific species and rates.
108. The CC agreed to continue to hold intersessional discussions on how to move forward with the Performance Review Panel's recommendation. The CC welcomed Australia's offer to continue to lead these intersessional discussions.

### **Agenda item 11 – Adoption of the CC report**

109. The report of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SIOFA CC was adopted.

### **Agenda item 12 – Close of the meeting**

110. The Chair thanked the participants, the Secretariat, the interpreters, and the Rapporteur for their cooperation and support.
111. The CC thanked the Government of the Republic of Korea for its excellent hosting arrangements.
112. The Chair closed the meeting at 12:40 p.m., 28 June 2024.