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

**Report of the 3rd Meeting of
the Working Group to
Support the Establishment of the
Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
Vessel Monitoring System
(VMSWG-03)**

Virtual

8 April 2024

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Agenda item 1 – Opening of Session

1. The Chair, Ms Fiona Harford (European Union (EU)), opened the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group (WG) to Support the Establishment of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement Vessel Monitoring System (SIOFA VMS; VMSWG-03) and welcomed the participants.
2. The list of meeting participants is included in Annex A.

Agenda item 2 – Administrative arrangements

a. Adoption of Agenda

3. The agenda was adopted (Annex B).

b. Meeting Documents

4. The Compliance Officer outlined the list of meeting documents as presented in VMSWG-03-ADM-02 (Annex C).

c. Appointment of rapporteurs

5. The VMS WG agreed to appoint Mr Alexander Meyer (Urban Connections, Tokyo) as rapporteur.

Agenda item 3 – Adoption of the Report of the 2nd Working Group Meeting (VMSWG-02)

6. The VMS adopted the VMSWG-02 Report (VMSWG-03-01 Rev 1).

Agenda item 4 – Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS

a. Review of the third draft of the SSPs

7. The Compliance Officer presented the third draft of the Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS (VMSWG-03-02). The third draft was prepared by the Chair and the Secretariat and included revisions to the second draft based on feedback provided by CCPs at VMSWG-02 and following that meeting.
8. The VMS WG reviewed the draft, made technical and editorial revisions, and provided substantive feedback that the Secretariat should consider when preparing the fourth draft.
9. The VMS WG agreed to amend the wording in paragraph 5a of section 3 (general provisions) to make it clearer that the deadline is no later than 30 days before the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS.
10. The VMS WG considered and reaffirmed the definition in paragraph 4 of section 3 that “VMS data” refers to all data associated with the SIOFA VMS, including VMS position reports and ALC details. The VMS WG noted that the Secretariat had reviewed the use of the terms “VMS data”, “VMS position reports” and “ALC details” when preparing the latest draft of the SSPs but noted that further amendments may be needed. The VMS WG requested the Secretariat and CCPs to review the use of these terms when revising the draft SSPs further.
11. The VMS WG agreed that footnote 3 regarding Inmarsat Serial Number (ISN) in section 3 can be removed as the VMS WG has previously recommended that the Secretariat should not send polling commands.
12. Regarding paragraph 7 of section 3, the Data Officer suggested that, from a technical standpoint, eventually, only one type of unique vessel identifier should be used.
13. Regarding paragraph 12 of section 5 (rules for polling and programming for vessels reporting to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 6 b)) the VMS WG agreed to remove the reference to “paragraph 3 of Annex 1 of the CMM” as it is not relevant to this

- provision.
14. The VMS WG reaffirmed that the matter of entry/exit notification, which was deleted in a previous revision of the SSPs, should be revisited in the future as part of broader discussions related to CMM 16 (2023) (Vessel Monitoring System) and CMM 10 (2023) (Monitoring).
 15. Most CCPs agreed with the language in Annex 2 (Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange, (UN/FLUX)). One CCP expressed general agreement, while requesting more time to review the text and reserving the right to provide further comment after the meeting.

b. Review of the proposed Data Confidentiality and Security Provisions (cont.)

16. The VMS WG reviewed the proposed Data Confidentiality and Security Provisions.
17. The VMS WG had divergent views on whether ALC details should be treated as confidential. One CCP suggested that ALC details should be publicly available, as it would support at-sea inspections and port State measures. Other CCPs did not think there were clear reasons to make ALC details publicly available. The VMS WG considered an alternative option of including the ALC details on the full SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, which is only accessible when logged into the restricted part of the SIOFA website. One CCP expressed concern that there may be a possibility that unauthorized personnel may have the access to the database if that unauthorized personnel have the account and password to the restricted part of the SIOFA website, which may lead to the leaking of confidential ALC details. Hence, the CCP reserved its right to provide further comment after the meeting.
18. The VMS WG noted that CMM 03 (2016) (Data Confidentiality) has definitions for “confidential” or “public” data, but does not provide for data that do not meet the definition of “confidential data” but are only accessible when logged into the restricted part of the SIOFA website. The VMS WG noted that it would be necessary to assess whether CMM 03 allows such a treatment of data.

Agenda item 5 – Matters pending from SIOFA VMSWG02

a. Potential amendments to Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) to align with SIOFA VMS

i. Potential amendments to CMM 07 (2022) (Vessel Authorisation)

19. The Compliance Officer presented potential amendments to CMM 07 (2022) to align paragraph 2 r of the CMM with the more technical terms proposed in the draft SSPs (VMSWG-02-04).
20. The VMS WG reviewed the proposal and updated it based on the latest revisions to the draft SSPs.
21. The VMS WG agreed that it is the name of the Service Provider, rather than a Service Provider ID, that should be submitted, and amended the language in the proposed amendments to CMM 07 (2022) and the draft SSPs to reflect this.
22. The VMS WG confirmed that the ALC unique identifier is a globally unique identifier.
23. The VMS WG noted that further discussions are needed on the timing by which the data stipulated in paragraph 2, including subparagraph r, of the CMM, should be submitted.

ii. Potential amendments to CMM 03 (2016) (Data Confidentiality)

24. The Compliance Officer presented potential amendments to CMM 03 (2016) to align this CMM with paragraph 32 of CMM 16 (2023) (Vessel Monitoring System).
25. The VMS WG noted that CMM 03 (2016) has been developed to address the confidentiality of catch and effort data, and observer data, and not other types of data, and that adding provisions to the CMM may not be the best option for managing the confidentiality of VMS

position reports.

26. The VMS WG requested the Secretariat to propose options for managing the confidentiality of VMS position reports, including adding specific provisions to CMM 16 (2023).

b. Revised work plan for the SIOFA VMSWG

27. The VMS WG agreed that CCPs could provide written comments on the open issues in the third draft of the SSPs, that the Secretariat will prepare a revised draft based on the discussions at the meeting and CCPs' written comments, and that the revised draft SSPs will be submitted to the Compliance Committee for further discussion, including how to treat ALC details and how to manage the confidentiality of VMS position reports.
28. The VMS WG agreed to circulate the draft meeting report to CCPs for their review and comment, and to adopt the report via correspondence.

Agenda item 6 – Other Business

29. There was no other business.

Agenda item 7 – Close of Meeting

30. The meeting was closed at 09:55 a.m. UTC, 8 April 2024.
31. The report was adopted via correspondence on 31 May 2024.

Annex A – List of meeting participants



List of Registered Participants (VMSWG-03)

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Annex B – Agenda of the 3rd Meeting of the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System Working Group - SIOFA VMSWG03

1. Opening of Session
2. Administrative Arrangements
 - i. Adoption of Agenda
 - ii. Meeting Documents
 - iii. Appointment of rapporteurs
3. Adoption of the Report of the 2nd Working Group Meeting (VMSWG-02)
4. Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS
 - i. Review of the third draft of the SSPs
 - ii. Review of the proposed Data Confidentiality and Security Provisions (cont.)
5. Matters pending from SIOFA VMSWG02
 - i. Potential amendments to Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) to align with SIOFA VMS
 - i. Potential amendments to CMM 07(2022) (Vessel Authorisation)
 - ii. Potential amendments to CMM 03 (2016) (Data Confidentiality)
 - ii. Revised work plan for the SIOFA VMSWG
6. Other Business
7. Close of Meeting

Annex C – List of meeting documents

Code	Document Title	Agenda Item
<i>Administration and Meeting organisation</i>		
VMSWG-03-ADM-01	Provisional Agenda	2. i.
VMSWG-03-ADM-02	List of Meeting Documents (This)	2. ii.
VMSWG-03-ADM-03	Registration Template - VMSWG-03	N/A
VMSWG-03-ADM-04	List of Registered Participants - VMSWG-03	N/A
<i>Working Papers</i>		
VMSWG-03-01	Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group to Support the Establishment of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement Vessel Monitoring System (VMSWG-02)	3
VMSWG-03-02	Proposed Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS Draft 3	4. a) & b)
VMSWG-02-04	Proposed Amendments to CMM 07 (2022) (Vessel Authorization)	5. a) i.
VMSWG-02-05	Alignment of CMM 03 with VMS CMM	5. a) ii.
VMSWG-02-06	Revised Proposed Working Arrangements for the SIOFA VMSWG	5 b)