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

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

Hennessy Park Hotel, Ebene, Mauritius

25–27 June 2025

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Agenda item 1 – Opening of the session

1.1 Opening statements

1. The Compliance Committee (CC) Chairperson, Mrs Meera Koonjul (Mauritius), opened the meeting at 09:00. The meeting was held at the Hennessy Park Hotel in Ebene, Mauritius.
2. The Chairperson welcomed all delegates and thanked them for their attendance, noting that this symbolized their shared commitment to the sustainable management and conservation of marine resources in the Southern Indian Ocean. She also thanked the Secretariat for their extensive efforts to prepare for the meeting. The Chairperson looked forward to constructive discussion and dialogue, and wished for a fruitful meeting.
3. The Chairperson opened the floor for delegation introductions. The list of participants is available in **Annex A**.
4. The Chairperson welcomed the Observers present at the meeting, which included Comoros as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP), Kenya, South Africa, the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), and the Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA).

Agenda item 2 – Administrative arrangements

2.1 Adoption of the agenda

5. The CC reviewed the revised provisional agenda (CC-09-ADM-04).
6. The Chairperson explained that two additional papers had been received from Japan and the European Union (EU) and suggested that these be added under agenda item 14 (Any Other Business) as “14.2 Proposal for the Designation of the Comoros’ lobster fishery as a New and Exploratory Fisheries” and “14.3 Working Paper to continue the discussion on Research Cruise and Scientific Research”. The CC agreed to the suggestion.
7. Thailand noted that many of the proposals under agenda items 4.1 and 4.2 were based on the recommendations from the Scientific Committee (SC), which would be presented under agenda item 4.3. Thailand suggested moving “Recommendations from the Scientific Committee” from agenda item 4.3 to 4.1 and to adjust the other agenda item numbering accordingly. The CC agreed to the suggestion.
8. The CC incorporated the above revisions and adopted the agenda (**Annex B**).

2.2 Confirmation of meeting documents

9. The Compliance Officer, Mr Johnny Louys, explained that one information paper, CC-09-INFO-01, had been submitted late. He further explained that the paper had been submitted by Pew for information purposes and that the paper was not intended to be taken up for discussion during the meeting.
10. Pew explained that the paper provided an overview of a new self-assessment tool that it had developed to help countries evaluate their capacity to engage in RFMO compliance review processes and offered to provide further explanations to CCPs individually on the sidelines of the meeting.
11. The list of meeting documents is presented in CC-09-ADM-05-Rev[2] (**Annex C**).

2.3 Appointment of rapporteur

12. 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)

13. The Compliance Officer presented the draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR) outlined in CC-09-01. He explained that the Cook Islands and India provided their CCP Compliance Reports (CCRs) after the deadline, which was 1 May 2025. Furthermore, two CCPs did not provide any feedback on their respective section of the dSCR, which, while non-binding, does provide the Secretariat with valuable information prior to completing the dSCR. The Compliance Officer also pointed out that this year's compliance assessment was done using the new compliance template for the first time, which should have streamlined CCPs' reporting process and the Secretariat's assessment process. It also provided CCPs with the opportunity to note potential adjustments to further improve reporting, which will be considered in next year's template.
14. 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) as described in CC-09-01-Rev1.
15. During its review, the CC held detailed discussions on a number of matters as described below.
16. Regarding the status of Comoros' compliance with the obligations stipulated in paragraph 22 of CMM 01 (2024) and CMM 01 (2023) (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing), the CC disagreed with the preliminary proposed compliance status of "Compliant". The CC agreed to apply a status of "non-compliant", noting that although Comoros had previously been compliant with the obligation to submit a bottom fishing impact assessment (BFIA) for its bottom fishing activities, Comoros was no longer compliant with this obligation once it began new fishing activities for lobster for which it had not submitted a relevant updated BFIA within the requested timeframe specified in CMM 01. The CC further noted that Comoros did subsequently submit the BFIA for its lobster fishery in August 2024, this which was assessed during the 2nd Extraordinary Meeting of the SC on November 7, 2024, and the fishery was eventually allowed to resume in December 2024.
17. Regarding the status of Seychelles' compliance with paragraphs 1 and 7 of CMM 07 (2024) and CMM 07 (2022) (Vessel Authorisation), several CCPs noted that this matter was related to a technically complex issue regarding how to handle tuna longline vessels that operate under the jurisdiction of another regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO), namely the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), in areas that overlap with the jurisdiction of SIOFA and catch SIOFA species as bycatch. These CCPs asserted that these vessels and their operations should be governed by IOTC rules and noted that catch data-sharing cooperative arrangements are under discussion between SIOFA and the IOTC. These CCPs suggested that the status should be kept as pending. One CCP acknowledged the complexity of the matter and that discussions are ongoing and agreed to keep the status as "pending" until further discussions by the MoP, while also pointing out that compliance assessments should be made based on the underlying CMM and that even if there are practical difficulties for CCPs to implement a provision, the CC still should assess compliance with the existing requirements. This CCP noted that the other option would be to amend the applicable obligation, which has not occurred.
18. Regarding the status of the Cook Islands' compliance with paragraph 21 of CMM 10 (2023) (Monitoring), one CCP questioned the applicability of the provision to the at sea transfer in question, as the donor vessel was an oil tanker and therefore not a fishing vessel. The Compliance Officer explained that the oil tanker did constitute a fishing

vessel as defined by the Agreement, as one of the definitions of fishing is “any operation at sea in support of, or in preparation for (fishing) except for any operation in emergencies involving the health or safety of crew members or the safety of a vessel”. Furthermore, the CC agreed with the provisionally proposed compliance status of “compliant” as the report of the at sea transfer only needs to be made by either the donor vessel or the receiving vessel and that the receiving vessel, which is flagged to the Cook Islands, did make such a report according to the requirements of the CMM provisions.

19. The CC agreed with the provisionally proposed compliance status of “non-compliant” for the Cook Islands’ implementation of paragraph 33 of CMM 10 (2023) (Monitoring), while acknowledging the potential confusion regarding the applicable period being assessed. The CC recognised that the Cook Islands had submitted a report for each transshipment and at sea transfer conducted by vessels flying its flag in 2024, but that this submission would be subject to assessment in the 2026 compliance assessment process, whereas the current 2025 compliance assessment process concerns the transshipment and at sea transfer activities conducted in 2023, which the Cook Islands had not reported while submitting its CCP Compliance Report in 2024. The CC suggested that as a follow-up action, the Cook Islands could submit the report of these activities when it submits its CCR next year.
20. The CC agreed with the provisionally proposed compliance status of “non-compliant” for Comoros’ implementation of paragraphs 21, 23, 27, 28, 30, and 32 of CMM 10 (2023) (Monitoring), while recognising that Comoros had intended to provide information on its relevant domestic measures but had misunderstood the distinctions that SIOFA makes regarding at sea transshipments, at sea transfers, and at port transshipments, and welcoming Comoros’ intention to submit information on these measures next year.
21. Regarding the Cook Islands’ compliance with paragraph 12 of CMM 11 (2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme), the CC noted that although the Cook Islands’ initial CCR was missing some of the required information, the Cook Islands had subsequently submitted an updated CCR with the necessary information. The CC therefore agreed to change the provisional compliance status from “non-compliant” to “compliant”.
22. The Cook Islands noted that the SC had recommended that the MoP note that the SC had difficulties interpreting the current provisions of CMM 17(2024) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) that define established fisheries and new and exploratory fisheries, in the case of Mauritius’ planned bottom trawling activities (para 154, SC10 Report). The Cook Islands noted that the interpretation of these provisions would impact Mauritius’ compliance status with respect to obligations under CMM 17(2024).
23. The CC noted that the SC has requested MoP advice on the interpretation of the current provisions of CMM 17(2024) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) and the definition of established fisheries and new and exploratory fisheries. The CC noted that the MoP’s advice will inform CCPs’ final compliance status against these provisions.
24. Australia raised questions to the EU and the Secretariat regarding the EU’s compliance with paragraph 2 of CMM 12(2024) (Sharks), which states that “CCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag do not target any deep-sea shark species listed in Annex 1 within the Agreement Area”. Australia asked the EU what information it used to determine that the EU vessel was not targeting deep-sea sharks and the Secretariat what it considered when assigning a status of “compliant”.
25. The EU acknowledged that the vessel had substantial bycatch of deep-sea shark species, including those listed in Annex 1 of CMM 12(2024) (Sharks). However, the EU stated that

it did not consider this to be a targeted fishery and that it is taking voluntary measures to reduce such incidental bycatch, including a voluntary move-on rule of 5 nm, and pilot projects to test different gear configurations to reduce shark bycatch. The EU stated that it is currently complying with all provisions of CMM 12 (2024) and that it has also tabled a proposal to amend CMM 12 to incorporate recommendations from the SC. The EU also pointed out that SIOFA has not determined any definitions regarding target or bycatch fisheries.

26. The Compliance Officer explained that when the Secretariat conducts its assessments, it relies on the information submitted by CCPs and is unable to consider catch and effort data, as these have yet to be reported by CCPs at the time of the compilation of the dSCR. He also explained that it is difficult for the Secretariat to assess compliance with this provision as SIOFA has no definition of bycatch or target fisheries.
27. Australia expressed concern that less than 90 tons of the purported targeted species of ribaldo and wreckfish were caught in 2024, while 1,245 tons of deep-sea sharks were retained in this fishery. Australia suggested that it would be difficult to treat a species that accounted for over 90% of the catch as bycatch. At the same time, Australia welcomed the actions being taken by the EU and the EU's proposal to amend CMM 12 with additional measures. Australia pointed out that it has also prepared a proposal to strengthen the measures in CMM 12(2024) and looked forward to working with the EU and other CCPs to implement the relevant recommendations from the SC. Australia also expressed understanding for the challenges encountered by the Secretariat given the lack of a SIOFA definition of target and bycatch fisheries. Australia noted that there was a request from the SC to the CC to help clarify the definition of targeting and hoped that the CC would be able to establish a clear definition that the Secretariat could apply for compliance assessment purposes going forward.
28. **The CC adopted the provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (pSCR) outlined in Annex D and agreed to forward it to the Meeting of the Parties (MoP) for its consideration, noting the pending status of the provisional compliance status of Seychelles for implementation of paragraph 1 & 7 of CMM 07 (2024) on Vessel Authorisation.**

3.2 Review of Recommendations from the Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR) adopted by the 11th Meeting of the Parties

29. 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-09-02, which provided a review of recommendations of MoP11 on the SIOFA Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR).
30. The CC reviewed and updated the status of the implementation of the recommendations from MoP11, as described in CC-09-02-Rev1.
31. **The CC recommended that the MoP note the status of the implementation of the recommendations from MoP11 outlined in CC-09-02-Rev1.**
32. The CC expressed disappointment that India had not provided further information on the implementation of its obligations in relation to paragraph 1 of CMM 05(2016) (Pelagic Driftnets and Deepwater Gillnets), paragraph 19 of CMM 06(2022) (IUU Vessel List), and paragraph 26 of CMM 08(2020) (Port Inspection) and that it was absent from the CC meeting and unable to address the CC's questions and concerns.

3.3 Informal Workshop on the SIOFA CCPs Compliance Report Template

33. The Compliance Officer presented CC-09-03, which reported on the Informal Workshop

on the SIOFA CCPs CCR Template held virtually on 4 March 2025. As recommended by CC8 and MoP11, the workshop was organised to facilitate the transition to the new CCR template. At the workshop, the Compliance Officer presented the new template structure and guidelines for completion and the Secretariat offered ongoing one-on-one consultations to assist CCPs until the submission deadline of 1 May 2025.

34. **The CC noted the outcomes of the Informal Workshop on the SIOFA CCPs Compliance Report Template.**

35. The CC thanked the Secretariat for organising and conducting the workshop. The CC encouraged the Secretariat to continue to provide one-on-one consultations to assist CCPs in completing and submitting their CCRs.

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

4.1 Recommendations from the Scientific Committee

36. The SC Vice Chairperson, Dr Zhou Fang (China), presented a summary of the SC10 report and the recommendations from SC10 that were relevant to the CC (CC-09-17).

37. The CC discussed paragraph 154 of the SC10 Report regarding the SC's difficulties in interpreting the current provisions of CMM 17(2024) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) that define established fisheries and new and exploratory fisheries, in the case of Mauritius' planned bottom trawling activities, while recognising that this matter would be discussed further at the MoP.

38. The CC sought further clarification regarding the discussions at the SC and the impact of the suspension of fishing for an extended period of time. The Science Officer, Dr Marco Milardi, explained that the suspension of fishing for an extended period of time could reduce the effects of fishing on the target stock and the ecosystem, thus allowing for recovery, although the extent of this recovery would differ by status at the time of suspension, species, area, and gear. As for the SC's discussions, he explained that while the SC was of the view that established fisheries and new and exploratory fisheries were defined by a combination of area, fishing gear and CCP, together, some CCPs had expressed less restrictive views during the discussion.

39. **The CC noted that CCPs continued to hold different views on the interpretation of the definition of established fisheries and new and exploratory fisheries and that it would be more appropriate to discuss this matter further at the MoP.**

40. Australia noted that the definition of established fisheries and new and exploratory fisheries related not only to CMM 17(2024) but also to CMM 01(2024) (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing) and noted the need to consider the two CMMs together when discussing this matter.

41. The CC considered the SC's request in paragraph 362 of the SC10 Report that the CC help clarify/assess the definition of targeting in Article 2 of CMM 12(2024) (Sharks), in respect to paragraph 358 of the SC10 report, in line with the adopted (MoP10, para 130) definition for SIOFA use for SC planning and prioritisation.

42. Australia noted that the SC had developed a definition of targeted species to guide its work during SC8 (para 207, SC8 Report) and that both the Australian and EU proposals for amending CMM 12(2024) applied a catch composition threshold of 50% deepwater shark species for triggering a move-on rule. Australia suggested that, to give greater clarity in relation to CMM requirements around targeting, the following definition could be adopted to assist with determining compliance with these provisions: Any species that makes up over 50% of the retained catch in any one fishing operation is considered

to be a target species for that operation. Australia suggested that this definition be applied from the 2027 compliance review process.

43. The EU agreed that having a definition for a targeted fishery specific to bycatch of deep-sea sharks would be useful for compliance purposes but pointed out that applying a 50% threshold for setting a move-on rule was a different issue to setting such a threshold for defining a targeted fishery. The EU pointed out that the definition developed by the SC was for SC planning and prioritisation and that the SC did not attempt to develop a definition for use for compliance assessment or management of species. The EU cautioned against adopting definitions developed by the SC for scientific purposes and applying them for CC or MoP purposes, noting that this risked politicising the SC.
44. Australia noted the definition proposed by Australia is not the SC definition of targeting and is instead a definition designed to be used for compliance assessment purposes.
45. The Cook Islands disagreed, stating that although the SC did develop its definition for SC planning and prioritisation, the SC also considered the need to prioritise for management purposes. The Cook Islands also pointed out that the SC has given this issue much consideration at SC8 and had advised that a retained catch composition of 50% or more would be appropriate for most fisheries except for certain highly diverse fisheries, such as shallow-water trawl fisheries. The Cook Islands also pointed out that the SC has established a list of target species in Annex 1 of the SC8 report. The Cook Islands suggested that a threshold of 50% would be appropriate for longline and trawl fisheries where few other species are retained. Furthermore, the Cook Islands was of the view that if a fishery is catching more than 50% deep-sea sharks and is using gear that is typically used to target sharks, and if the sharks are retained and have economic value, it should be considered a targeted fishery.
46. The EU reiterated its position that its fishery is not targeting deep-sea sharks and stated that it acknowledges that the high level of bycatch is an issue and is therefore taking mitigation measures to reduce it. The EU also considered it unfair to single out one particular fishery, pointing out that the EU has been transparent and cooperative in sharing data from its fishery, even though it involves only one vessel, and noting that some CCPs have not been as transparent in sharing their data. The EU expressed discomfort with adopting Australia's proposed definition without knowing the implications for the CC and the MoP, as well as with excluding shallow-water trawls from the scope of application. The EU pointed out that there needs to be more comprehensive discussion of the definitions of target and bycatch species and that the SC should also consider more data from other CCPs and other fisheries when providing advice on such definitions. Furthermore, the EU noted that few other RFMOs have adopted definitions of bycatch and that in its experience, attempting to do so would require several rounds of discussions and the consideration of more formal written proposals. As a way forward, the EU suggested that the Secretariat could be tasked to review the consequences of the adoption of Australia's proposed definition on each CCP fishery, including whether it would change the declared target for any fisheries.
47. The Cook Islands reiterated its view that the SC has deliberated this issue extensively and that the SC would stand by its previous advice, which was to apply a retained catch composition threshold of 50% or more for all fisheries except those that have diverse catch species, such as shallow-water trawl fisheries.
48. Australia disagreed with the EU suggestion of tasking the Secretariat to review the application of a 50% threshold on each CCP fishery at this time and noted this discussion can continue during MoP12.

49. **The CC noted that CCPs could not reach consensus on defining targeting for compliance purposes and recommended that the MoP discuss this matter further at MoP12.**
50. Australia expressed disappointment that the CC could not agree on a definition of targeting for assessing compliance with the SIOFA CMMs, particularly paragraph 2 of CMM 12(2024) (Sharks), which continues to impact on the integrity of SIOFA's compliance assessment process.
51. In response to a question regarding why the SC had proposed more restrictive measures for Subarea 5 than Subarea 4 when a deep-sea shark stock assessment had not been conducted in either area, the Science Officer explained that while stock assessments had not been conducted specifically in these areas, risk assessments had been conducted in the SIOFA Area and trend analyses presented for these areas. Some of the factors considered in the SC recommendation were the level of fishing activity and preliminary information available on catch trends, and the SC had recommended more precautionary measures in Subarea 5 based on these.
52. One CCP sought further clarification regarding the SC's recommendation in paragraph 374 of the SC10 Report for the adoption of a skate tagging rate that is based on a level of observer coverage as high as opportunity allows, asking what further action the SC envisioned and if CCPs should specify a particular tagging rate. The Science Officer explained that the SC had been unable to agree on a specific tagging rate and had therefore recommended that CCPs tag skates at as high a rate as they are able to without having to increase their observer coverage further.
53. Regarding the recommendation in paragraph 419 of the SC10 Report that the MoP update CMM 13(2022) (Mitigation of Seabirds Bycatch) to include specifications or guidance for the mitigation of seabird bycatch from trawl vessels, Japan expressed its intention to provide further comments when discussing the proposal for amending CMM 13(2022) under agenda item 4.2.
54. China sought clarification regarding the SC's recommendation in paragraph 443–467 of the SC10 Report regarding protected area designation, aiming to clarify whether SIOFA has a clear conceptual definition of Benthic Protected Areas (BPAs) or specific designation criteria for BPAs, given that the term "BPAs" has no precedents in other RFMOs. Additionally, China sought clarification on whether BPAs are equivalent to the term "bottom fishing closures" like in other RFMOs.
55. The Cook Islands explained that the SC started developing criteria for designating BPAs in SC3, had updated them recently in the SC workshop to progress future protected area designation (WS2024-PAD), and had applied them to assess and designate the proposed BPAs. The Cook Islands also explained that fishing activities using gears that could contact the bottom would be prohibited in most of the BPAs.
56. Some CCPs expressed support for the recommendation in paragraph 542 of the SC10 Report that the MoP task the SC to develop e-monitoring standards for gear types other than pelagic longlines, using the IOTC e-monitoring standards as a basis, while recognising the need to tailor the standards to the SIOFA context.

4.2 Proposals for amendments to Conservation and Management Measures

57. France Territories presented CC-09-19, which proposed amendments to CMM 03(2016) (Data Confidentiality) to implement modifications related to the VMS implementation process and to address longer-term considerations on data confidentiality within SIOFA bodies. The proposed amendments aimed to:
 - a. add catch-and-effort and length-frequency data grouped by sub-area by year as

- public domain data;
 - b. modify the qualification “confidential” to “restricted” in article 2(d);
 - c. add a confidentiality categorisation for “economic information”; and
 - d. introduce necessary modifications related to VMS implementation.
58. Based on comments from CCPs, France Territories updated the proposal (CC-09-19-Rev2), including:
- a. adding a paragraph concerning the handling of VMS data, as endorsed by the VMS WG;
 - b. adding editorial corrections to 3c bis) to align the language with that endorsed by the VMS WG;
 - c. specifying economic data, which was added based on the discussions at MoP9 (MoP9 Report, para 127) and SC8 (SC8 Report, para 101); and
 - d. adding reference to the SIOFA standard operating procedure for data use and data requests.
59. **The CC noted that there was general support for the proposal (Annex E) but that CCPs needed time for further consideration, particularly regarding the treatment of economic data. The CC recommended that the MoP discuss the proposal further at MoP12.**
60. The Cook Islands presented CC-09-20-Rev1, a joint proposal by the Cook Islands and France Territories to amend CMM 13(2022) (Mitigation of Seabirds Bycatch). The proposal was aimed at implementing recommendations made by the SC (SC10 Report, para 419) for more effective seabird bycatch mitigation in SIOFA fisheries in light of global concerns about seabird population declines and the latest scientific advice, including the addition of mitigation requirements for trawl vessels. It also sought to remove redundant text from the current measure.
61. Japan and Thailand recognised the importance of seabird mitigation measures but did not think there was sufficient reason for the proposal to apply such measures to trawl vessels as the incidental seabird mortalities from trawl fisheries in the SIOFA Area are rare.
62. Thailand also pointed out that paragraph 1 of the CMM already addressed the geographical scope of application of this measure as south of 25°S, so it may not be necessary to repeatedly address this point in each paragraph for each fishing gear. However, if the intention is to emphasise the measure applies to gears in this specific area, Thailand suggested that the area of application, south of the 25°S, be specified in the paragraph regarding trawlers (paragraph 8) as well.
63. The Cook Islands pointed out that the SC noted the impact of trawl fisheries on seabird mortalities and the convincing evidence presented to the SC by the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) and France Territories. The Cook Islands further noted that all its vessels, including trawl vessels, are required to implement seabird bycatch mitigation measures, and that in its experience, these measures have significantly reduced vessel interactions with seabirds.
64. The Cook Islands presented an updated proposal (CC-09-20-Rev2), explaining that it was able to incorporate some comments from CCPs, but needed more time to consider others.
65. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex F) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP12.**
66. Australia presented CC-09-23, which proposed amendments to CMM 15(2024) (Management of Demersal Stocks) to implement recommendations from SC10 and to

reduce the operational burden on vessel operators and the Secretariat in relation to notification requirements in Williams Ridge. The proposed amendments aim to:

- a. establish the South Indian Ridge (SIR) management area and the SC recommended catch limit;
 - b. include an interim catch sharing arrangement similar to current practice in Del Cano;
 - c. recognise the ability to transfer catch limits as is currently practiced for Del Cano;
 - d. update the catch limit for Del Cano;
 - e. update the requirement to report catch from Del Cano and SIR to weekly instead of monthly;
 - f. move the VMS requirement in Del Cano to the “general provisions” for toothfish;
 - g. make minor changes to the toothfish reporting forms in the relevant Annexes; and
 - h. trigger daily notifications only when two or more vessels have notified their intent to fish in Williams Ridge.
67. The Cook Islands noted that the EU had proposed amendments to the same CMM and that some of the amendments in the EU’s proposal also concerned toothfish. The Cook Islands expressed its preference for Australia’s proposal as a starting point and encouraged Australia and the EU to work together to combine the toothfish-related elements of their two proposals.
68. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex G) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP12.**
69. Australia presented CC-09-25, which proposed amendments to CMM 12(2024) (Sharks) to implement recommendations made by the SC (SC10 Report, paras 347, 358 and 360). The proposed amendments aimed to:
- a. update the list of “high risk” and “of concern” deep sea shark species in Annex 1;
 - b. limit the catch of deepwater sharks associated with the bottom longline fishery in Subareas 2, 4 and 5 by introducing precautionary measures in Subareas 4 and 5 and retaining the bycatch limit in Subarea 2; and
 - c. prohibit wire trace on bottom longlines until results from the proposed wire trace trial are analysed by the SC.
70. The Cook Islands noted that the EU had proposed amendments to the same CMM and indicated its preference for Australia’s proposal as a starting point, which it considered a closer reflection of the SC’s recommendations.
71. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex H) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP12.**
72. Seychelles presented CC-09-26, which proposed amendments to CMM 07(2024) (Vessel Authorisation) to address incidental catches of SIOFA fishery resources in line with SC advice (SC8 Report, para 207) and enhance administrative consistency. The proposed amendments aimed to:
- a. allow fishing vessels operating under a different RFMO’s authorisation to catch, retain, tranship or land SIOFA fishery resources provided such resources constitute less than 50% of total catch and the capture is incidental and fully documented; and
 - b. require CCPs to notify the Executive Secretary within 15 days of any changes to vessel data to ensure uniform interpretation of the reporting process.
73. Several CCPs acknowledged that Seychelles and other CCPs face the technically complex issue of how to address incidental catches of SIOFA fishery resources by vessels operating under the jurisdiction of the IOTC in waters that overlap with the SIOFA Area,

and that the proposal from Seychelles seeks to remedy this issue. However, these CCPs disagreed with the proposed mechanism, expressing concern about the impacts of allowing vessels operating under the jurisdiction of other RFMOs to catch and retain SIOFA species.

74. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex I) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP12.**
75. The EU presented CC-09-27, which proposed amendments to CMM 07(2024) (Vessel Authorisation) based on discussions by the Working Group to Support the Establishment of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement Vessel Monitoring System (VMS WG; (VMSWG06 Report, para 19). The proposed amendment aimed to establish procedures for handling vessels with incomplete Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) details.
76. The CC reviewed and endorsed the proposed amendment.
77. **The CC agreed to forward the proposal (Annex J) to the MoP for its consideration, with a view to adopting a revised CMM at MoP12.**
78. The EU presented CC-09-28, which proposed amendments to CMM 12(2024) (Sharks) to incorporate recommendations from SC10 (SC10 Report, paras 347 and 358). The proposed amendments aimed to:
 - a. update the list of “high risk” and “of concern” deep sea shark species in Annex 1; and
 - b. introduce additional mitigation measures to reduce shark mortality.
79. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex K) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP12.**
80. Australia and the EU expressed their willingness to work together and with other interested CCPs to further develop their proposed amendments to CMM 12(2024) (Sharks).
81. Japan expressed concern about the proposed measure to prohibit the bottom longline operations in Subarea 5 in the case where no stock assessment of deep-sea sharks has been conducted.
82. The EU presented CC-09-29, which proposed amendments to CMM 16(2023) (Vessel Monitoring System) based on discussions by the VMS WG (VMSWG06 Report, para 24). The proposed amendments aimed to refine technical specifications and operational procedures for the SIOFA VMS.
83. The CC reviewed and endorsed the proposed amendments.
84. **The CC agreed to forward the proposal (Annex L) to the MoP for its consideration, with a view to adopting a revised CMM at MoP12.**
85. The EU presented CC-09-30, which proposed amendments to CMM 15(2024) (Management of Demersal Stocks) to incorporate recommendations from SC10 regarding the management of toothfish, orange roughy, and alfonsino. The proposed amendments aimed to:
 - a. establish the South Indian Ridge management area with a total allowable catch (TAC) for toothfish and a mechanism for allocating said TAC (SC10 Report, paras 264 and 270);
 - b. increase the TAC for Del Cano Rise (SC10 Report, para 267);
 - c. amend the management system for Williams Ridge by retaining the catch limit while removing effort-based management (SC10 Report, para 248);
 - d. establish a catch limit for orange roughy (SC10 Report, para 224); and
 - e. establish a catch limit for alfonsino (MoP10 Report, para 79).
86. Australia expressed concern about the proposed toothfish catch-sharing arrangements

in the South Indian Ridge as well as the proposed removal of the grid cell-based management measures without first seeking the SC's advice on an appropriate catch limit for Williams Ridge.

87. The Cook Islands and Mauritius expressed concern regarding the proposed establishment of catch limits for orange roughy and alfonsino without first establishing an allocation, which would result in an Olympic fishery.
88. The EU explained that as CMM 15(2024) covers all demersal stocks, not only toothfish, and that the SC has previously also provided advice on precautionary limits for orange roughy and alfonsino, the EU considered it more appropriate to establish limits for all three species. The EU further explained that as it does not operate orange roughy and alfonsino fisheries, it had hoped that those CCPs with such fisheries would be able to develop the relevant allocation mechanisms.
89. France Territories expressed general support for the proposal, particularly the establishment of a TAC for toothfish. However, it did not support the proposal to amend the allocation mechanism based on proportionality in Del Cano Rise. France Territories also expressed its preference to have a share of the catch in South Indian Ridge.
90. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex M) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP12.**
91. The EU presented CC-09-31, which proposed amendments to CMM 17(2024) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) to specify the area of China's established squid jigging fishery in the Agreement Area based on information submitted by China on its historic squid fishery (SC10 Report, paras 311-313).
92. China expressed general support for the proposal but wished to seek further amendments that would reflect the SC advice that "squid are mobile and ... should not be considered to be restricted to a specific area" (SC10 Report, para 309).
93. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex N) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP12.**

4.3 Proposals for new Conservation and Management Measures

94. The Cook Islands presented CC-09-21-Rev1, a joint proposal by Australia, the Cook Islands, and Japan, which proposed a new CMM for Benthic Protection in the Agreement Area. The proposal aimed to enact the recommendations from the workshop to progress future protected area designation (WS2024-PAD) and SC10 (SC10 Report, paras 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463 and 465) to establish 12 BPAs within the Agreement Area, comprising nine areas closed to all bottom fishing and three areas closed to bottom fishing but with allowances for bottom longlining.
95. China expressed concerns regarding the form and procedure of the proposal. From the perspective of preventing bottom fishing from adversely impacting vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), China held that the proposed new CMM on BPAs demonstrated no substantive difference from the existing Interim Bottom Fishing CMM, as both aim to achieve the protection of relevant areas by prohibiting bottom fisheries. Therefore, China preferred to incorporate the seven newly added areas into the existing CMM 01(2024) (Interim Bottom Fishing).
96. The Cook Islands explained that the SC felt that it would be more prudent to have a standalone bottom protection measure and to remove the duplicative elements from CMM 01(2024) if the new CMM is adopted.
97. The CC suggested some additional editorial amendments, including changing the name of the CMM to "CMM for Benthic Protected Areas in the Agreement Area".
98. Mauritius expressed its reservation and disagreement on one of the nine proposed

BPA, which is within the Mid-Indian Ridge, which overlaps with the maritime zone that is the subject of a formal submission by Mauritius to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) in accordance with Article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) by the Prime Minister's Office.

99. Taking into consideration Mauritius' reservation, the Cook Islands proposed two potential ways forward, either amending the boundary of the Mid-Indian Ridge BPA to avoid it overlapping with the concerned Mauritian extended maritime zone or adding a footnote to the proposal clarifying that the establishment of the Mid-Indian Ridge BPA under the CMM shall not prejudice any CCP's rights in respect to territorial claims submitted in accordance with international law.
100. The Cook Islands presented an updated proposal based on CCPs' comments (CC-09-21-Rev2).
101. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex O) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP12.**
102. The Cook Islands presented CC-09-22, which proposed a new CMM for a SIOFA allocation framework based on the direction of the MoP and the discussions of the SC. The proposed interim allocation framework would establish allocation criteria and include stipulations related to catch management measures such as allocation transfers and the management of overages, underages and carryovers. The framework would apply to all established SIOFA fisheries on an interim basis until harvest strategies with allocation mechanisms are adopted.
103. The EU noted that several other criteria could be incorporated in a TAC allocation framework, such as a CCP's contribution to research and science. France Territories supported the inclusion of a CCP's contribution to research and science as a criterion.
104. The EU expressed concern about having a framework that would be reviewed and revised on a frequent basis and preferred one that would provide fishing operators with more stability.
105. China sought clarification on three points: first, whether the 5% allocation ratio has a scientific rationale, and second, since the proposed CMM is supposed to apply to all fisheries, how to ensure that it is applied scientifically to fisheries that have not undergone resource assessments. Lastly, as each species has its own characteristics, China suggested that the allocation framework should consider and treat each species with separate allocation arrangements.
106. The Cook Islands explained that it proposed the 5% figure with the aim of making participation by new entrants economically viable and noted that a similar approach has been taken by other RFMOs.
107. Several CCPs noted that the framework would not apply to fisheries for which an allocation is already adopted.
108. Based on CCPs' comments, the Cook Islands updated its proposal (CC-09-22-Rev1), including:
 - a. removing "interim" from the title;
 - b. adding a reference to allocation agreement within the functions of RFMOs;
 - c. clarifying that the MoP shall apply the allocation framework to SIOFA fisheries on a stock or species basis;
 - d. deleting a paragraph that some CCPs felt made the CMM's application unclear;
 - e. clarifying that historical catch under the SIOFA framework may differ between species based on when SIOFA adopted CMMs;
 - f. including reference to coastal States;

- g. including reference to contributions to science; and
 - h. deleting the review clause.
109. Some CCPs questioned the rationale for setting the reference period for defining historical catch as 2013 onwards, pointing out that CCPs' historical fishing footprints include catch from prior years.
 110. The Cook Islands explained it proposed 2013 as the start date as this marked the entry into force of the Agreement and that this was the date from which SIOFA has verified data.
 111. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex P) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP12.**

4.4 Discussion on the application of current CMMs

112. No papers were submitted under this agenda item.

Agenda item 5 – Listing of IUU Vessels

113. The Compliance Officer presented CC-09-04, which provided information relevant to the listing of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing vessels, including the draft IUU vessel list, a request for the removal of a vessel from the SIOFA IUU Vessel List and relevant supporting documents, proposed modifications to the current SIOFA IUU vessel list, and vessels proposed for cross-listing from the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) IUU Vessel List.

5.1 Draft IUU Vessel List

114. **The CC noted that no vessels had been proposed for inclusion on the draft SIOFA IUU vessel list.**

5.2 Current SIOFA IUU Vessel List

115. The CC considered the current SIOFA IUU vessels list, which includes vessels listed by SIOFA (part 1 of the SIOFA IUU Vessel List), as well as vessels cross-listed from other RFMOs and CCAMLR (part 2 of the SIOFA IUU Vessel List).
116. South Africa explained its request for the removal of the vessel El Shaddai from the current SIOFA IUU vessels list. South Africa explained that its Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (Department) conducted a comprehensive investigation of the alleged transgressions and presented the findings to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). The DPP decided not to prosecute the vessel owner, Braxton Security Services (Braxton), because the permit conditions attached to Braxton's Patagonian toothfish permit did not clearly delineate where on the high seas Braxton was permitted to fish. South Africa has taken follow-up actions including a comprehensive set of permit conditions as part of the high seas fishing licences, reviewing Patagonian toothfish permit conditions to clearly stipulating applicable international measures such as those under CCAMLR and SIOFA, updating the Department's VMS to include RFMO boundaries, and engaging with parties associated with the El Shaddai to clearly explain the nature of the contraventions and the seriousness of the conduct, and committing to amending South Africa's Marine Living Resources Act. South Africa also informed the CC that, based on these follow-up actions, CCAMLR removed the El Shaddai from its IUU vessel list by consensus and the IOTC removed the El Shaddai from its IUU vessel list, but the IOTC is keeping the matter on the IOTC CoC agenda for next year's meeting (pending the SIOFA outcome). South Africa requested that SIOFA consider removing El Shaddai from its IUU Vessel List given that South Africa has adopted measures that will ensure that the vessel complies with all

relevant and applicable SIOFA CMMs, will continue to assume effectively its responsibilities as regards the monitoring and control of the vessel's movements in the SIOFA Area, has taken effective action in that although the prosecution did not result in a successful conviction, Braxton's Patagonian toothfish right was effectively suspended for around four years by the Department's refusal to issue a permit to Braxton, resulting in a substantial loss of income that is far more significant than any fine that could have been imposed from a criminal prosecution.

117. In response to a request for further clarification, South Africa confirmed that for the foreseeable future, it has no intention to allow the El Shaddai or other vessels to conduct fishing in the SIOFA and that this is stipulated in the high seas fishing conditions in the fishing licenses it issues.
118. The EU was not convinced that all the necessary conditions for delisting the El Shaddai, as stipulated in CMM 06(2024) (IUU Vessel List), had been met, specifically paragraphs 28c and 28d, which require the flag State to take effective action in response to the IUU fishing, including prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity, or alternatively a change in vessel ownership. The EU recognised that South Africa has made some improvements, such as adding certain conditions to fishing licenses, but emphasised the importance of satisfying the conditions stipulated in CMM 06(2024) and encouraged South Africa to engage in effective enforcement of its legislation and impose sanctions of adequate severity for the serious IUU infringements by the vessel. Given that SIOFA CMM 6(2024) paragraphs 28c and d cover clear conditions for the de-listing, taking a decision to de-list a vessel when those conditions have not been met would amount to not respecting SIOFA CMMs. That should be a matter for the MoP and not for the CC.
119. South Africa explained that it had exhausted all available options under its legal framework and could not take further punitive measures. South Africa explained that it has instead updated its legal framework to close any loopholes going forward.
120. Japan agreed with the EU that South Africa had not imposed sanctions on the vessel, but recognised that under South Africa's framework prosecution action is outside the control of the fisheries authority and that the fisheries authority has exerted its utmost efforts to take appropriate follow-up actions. Japan also noted that, while the ownership of the vessel has not changed, under the FAO Compliance Agreement, if the fishing authority of the flag State has given firm affirmation that the vessel will not engage in any further IUU fishing activities, it can be authorised to fish. In addition, Japan noted that while the SIOFA decision to list or delist the vessel should be independent of any CCAMLR decision, it should be acknowledged that the original decision to include the vessel on the SIOFA IUU Vessel List was influenced by the decision by CCAMLR to do the same and that CCAMLR has now agreed to remove the vessel from its IUU vessel list. For the reason stated above, Japan has no objection to deleting the vessel from the current SIOFA IUU vessels list.
121. The CC considered the request for the removal of the vessel El Shaddai from the current SIOFA IUU vessels list but could not reach a consensus.
122. **The CC noted that CCPs could not reach a consensus decision on the request for the removal of the vessel El Shaddai from the current SIOFA IUU vessels list and recommended that the MoP discuss this matter further at MoP12.**
123. **The CC noted the proposed modifications to the current SIOFA IUU vessels list to reflect the most recent changes from other RFMOs and to correct typographical errors, as shown in CC-09-04, so that the most recent changes from other RFMOs are reflected**

therein, and recommended that the MoP adopt these modifications.

124. Japan noted that one of the vessels on the current SIOFA IUU vessels list, WANG TONG (now renamed to AN TON), was flagged to Comoros and asked for more details about the background to how the vessel was allowed to fly the Comoros flag.
125. Comoros responded that it did not have the information immediately at hand and would follow up in due course.
126. The EU expressed concern that Comoros was not ready to answer a question about potentially allowing an IUU vessel to fly its flag and questioned Comoros' ability to exercise its authority as a flag State.
127. The CC discussed this matter further when considering Comoros' application for renewal of its CNCP status under agenda item 9.
128. Regarding the addition of vessels from the IOTC IUU Vessel List for cross-listing on the SIOFA IUU Vessel List, the Compliance Officer explained that the normal procedure would be for the Secretariat to circulate the final IUU Vessel List adopted by other RFMOs for the purpose of amending the SIOFA IUU Vessel List during the intersessional period in accordance with Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure. However, given the timing of the adoption of IOTC's final IUU Vessel List, which was immediately prior to CC9, the Secretariat wished to present this information during CC9 and thanked the CC for its indulgence. Going forward, the Secretariat will in principle continue to follow the normal procedure.
129. **The CC noted the addition of three new vessels on the IOTC IUU Vessel List, and recommended that the MoP include these vessels on the SIOFA IUU Vessel List as cross-listed vessels.**
130. **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 Port inspection reports (CMM 08 (2020) Port Inspection)

131. The Compliance Officer presented a summary of port inspection reports received by the Secretariat pursuant to CMM 08(2020) (Port Inspection) as described in CC-09-05-Rev2. A total of 64 inspection reports were submitted to the Secretariat in 2024, with 2 from Australia, 22 from the EU, 12 from Mauritius, and 28 from South Africa. 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. For one other report, the Secretariat could not confirm whether it had been submitted to the competent authority, as required under paragraph 24 of CMM 11 (2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme). None of the port inspection reports identified potential compliance issues.
132. The Compliance Officer also explained that, as requested by CC8, the Secretariat sought to broaden the range of data sources used in the analysis of potential landings or transshipments of SIOFA species at ports under the jurisdiction of non-Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (non-CCPs), including data held by external organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Secretariat undertook consultations with the FAO as well as several relevant non-governmental organisations (NGOs) but was not able to obtain suitable or verifiable port landing data during the reporting period and was therefore not able to complete the requested analysis. However, the Compliance Officer has been able to engage in informal consultations with some non-CCPs, notably Mozambique, during recent missions and

encouraged them to provide such information to the SIOFA Secretariat on a voluntary basis.

133. **The CC noted the summary of port inspection reports provided in CC-09-05-Rev2.**

6.2 Sighting of Vessels without Nationality (CMM 04(2016) Vessels without Nationality) and vessels flagged to Non-CCPs (CMM 09 (2022) Control)

134. The Compliance Officer presented a summary of reports of sightings of vessels without nationality (CMM 04(2016) (Vessels without Nationality)) and vessels flagged to non-CCPs (CMM 09(2022) (Control)) as described in CC-09-05-Rev2. No reports of sightings of vessels without nationality or vessels flagged to non-CCPs in the Agreement Area were provided to the Secretariat in the 2024.

135. **The CC noted the summary of reports of sightings of vessels without nationality and vessels flagged to non-CCPs provided in CC-09-05-Rev2.**

6.3 Review of Catches of Portuguese dogfish in Subarea 2 (CMM 12(2024) Sharks)

136. The Compliance Officer presented a review of catches of Portuguese dogfish in Subarea 2 as described in CC-09-05-Rev2. For 2024, the Secretariat received 12 monthly reports of catches of Portuguese dogfish from one CCP, which indicated catches of Portuguese dogfish for the months of January and February only. The total recorded catch for 2024 was 319.502 t, which amounts to 41.62% of the established catch limit of 767.6 t. Of this amount, 151.244 t was reported for January and 168.258 t for February. All reports but one were submitted within the provided deadline. The Secretariat was of the view that there were no compliance issues with the monthly report submitted after the deadline, as the concerned report reported null catches, and the CMM imposes reporting requirements only in instances where there were actual catches of Portuguese dogfish.

137. **The CC noted the review of catches of Portuguese dogfish in Subarea 2 provided in CC-09-05-Rev2.**

6.4 Register of Authorised Vessels (CMM 07(2022) Vessel Authorisation)

138. The Data Officer, Mr Pierre Périès, presented an update on the status of the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels (RAV). As of the end of 2024, 106 vessels were registered on the SIOFA RAV, as described in CC-09-05-Rev2.

139. **The CC noted the summary of the status of the SIOFA RAV provided in CC-09-05-Rev2.**

6.5 Entry/Exit reports (CMM 10(2019) Monitoring)

140. The Data Officer presented the entry/exit notifications summary report, as described in CC-09-05-Rev2. A total of 2404 entry-exit notifications were received at the Secretariat from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025. 68 notifications were provided late, after the 24-hour period of delay.

141. **The CC noted the entry/exit notifications summary report provided in CC-09-05-Rev2.**

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

142. The Data Officer presented a report of CCPs' at sea transfers and transshipments, as described in CC-09-05-Rev2. For 2024, the Secretariat received notifications for 388 at sea transfers from the Cook Islands, 12 at sea transshipments from Seychelles, 446 at sea transshipments and 209 at sea transfers from Chinese Taipei, and 6 at sea transshipments from Thailand.

143. **The CC noted the report of CCPs' at sea transfers and transshipments provided in CC-09-05-Rev2.**

Agenda item 7 – Operationalisation of the SIOFA VMS

7.1 Update of Workplan & Progress Toward Operationalization of SIOFA VMS

144. The Compliance Officer presented CC-09-06, which provided an update on the progress made by the VMS WG since MoP11. The VMS WG held three intersessional meetings, during which it produced an options paper for hosting the SIOFA VMS, drafted terms of reference for procurement, and suggested potential amendments to CMMs and SIOFA SSPs to support the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS. The VMS WG also prepared an updated work plan with the implementation status of planned activities and necessary new activities. The Compliance Officer invited the CC to review the updated work plan and provide guidance as appropriate.
145. The CC noted that reviewing paragraph 15 of CMM 10(2023) ([Monitoring](#)) is one of the future works of the VMS WG. Therefore, the timeline for potential amendment of CMMs should be extended to July 2026, after MoP13.
146. The CC reviewed the updated work plan and made some further modifications to the timelines, as described in CC-09-06-Rev1 (**Annex Q**).
147. **The CC noted the progress made by the VMS WG towards the operationalization of the SIOFA VMS.**
148. **The CC recommended that the MoP adopt the updated VMS WG Work Plan (Annex Q) and recommended that the MoP task the VMS WG to continue its work.**

7.2. Review of the Hosting Options for the SIOFA VMS

149. The Compliance Officer presented CC-09-07, which provided the outcomes of the VMS WG's assessment of potential hosting options for the SIOFA VMS and an Options Paper for the Hosting of the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System prepared based on the VMS WG's discussions. The VMS WG considered two possible hosting options: Software as a Product (SaaS) and Software as a Service (SaaS), along with their operational and technical considerations, indicative costs and resource implications, and practices by other RFMOs. The key difference between the options is that SaaS requires the Secretariat to host the necessary infrastructure to operate the VMS, while SaaS involves the VMS being hosted online by the service provider. The VMS WG noted that a SaaS system may have substantially higher operational costs and resource requirements compared to a SaaS system while offering minimum additional benefit. The VMS WG expressed general support for a SaaS option over a SaaS option.
150. **The CC recommended that the MoP opt for a SaaS-deployed SIOFA VMS.**

7.3. Review of the Draft Terms of Reference for the Provision of a Vessel Monitoring System for the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

151. The Compliance Officer presented CC-09-08, which provided draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for procuring a SaaS-based VMS. The draft ToR was prepared by the Secretariat and VMS WG Chairperson, based on several rounds of review by the VMS WG. This version includes some additional comments and additions that were proposed by CCPs following the conclusion of the 6th VMS WG meeting and have not yet been reviewed by the VMS WG.
152. The CC reviewed the draft ToR for procuring a SaaS-based VMS and added some technical and editorial amendments (CC-09-08-Rev1).
153. **The CC recommended that the MoP adopt the draft ToR for procuring a SaaS-based VMS (Annex R) and that the MoP task the Secretariat to launch the procurement process of the SIOFA VMS on the basis of the approved ToR.**

7.4 Proposed Amendments to SIOFA CMMs and the Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS

154. The Compliance Officer presented CC-09-10, which provided potential amendments to CMMs and the SIOFA SSPs to support the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS as discussed by the VMS WG. The potential amendments are as follows:
 - a. CMM 03(2016) (Data Confidentiality) – Annex 1
 - i. Addition of a paragraph that classifies VMS data as “Confidential Data”
 - ii. Additional provisions that would require CCPs and the Secretariat to take necessary data protection measures
 - b. CMM 07(2024) (Vessel Registration) – Annex 2
 - i. Inclusion of a footnote to paragraph 2 r. to align with proposed changes in the SIOFA VMS SSPs
 - c. CMM 16(2023) (Vessel Monitoring System) – Annex 3
 - i. Additional provision in paragraph 1 f) to classify “VMS Provision Reports” as “Confidential Data”
 - ii. Inclusion of some core provisions from the SIOFA VMS SSPs including annexes
 - iii. Inclusion of new provisions to require the treatment of data in accordance with CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards) and CMM 03(2016) (Data Confidentiality)
 - iv. Additional provisions to require annual reporting and monitoring of the Service Provider’s performance
 - v. Minor editorial changes
 - d. SIOFA VMS SSPs – Annex 4
 - i. Sets a deadline for CCPs to submit ALC details to the Secretariat to allow the commencement of the testing phase of the SIOFA VMS
 - ii. Classification of ALC Details as “Confidential Data”
 - iii. Added clarity to paragraph 20
 - iv. Minor editorial changes to the SSPs and Annex 2 thereof
155. **The CC noted the potential amendments to CMM 03(2016) (Data Confidentiality), CMM 07(2024) (Vessel Registration), CMM 16(2023) (Vessel Monitoring System) to support the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS as discussed by the VMS WG, and noted that these amendments have been taken up in CCP proposals that are discussed under agenda item 4.2.**
156. **The CC endorsed the potential amendments to the SIOFA SSPs to support the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS as discussed by the VMS WG (Annex S).**
157. The CC thanked Ms Fiona Harford for her hard work and leadership as the VMS WG Chairperson and the Secretariat for its diligent efforts to support the work to establish and enter the SIOFA VMS into operation.

Agenda item 8 – Data access and dissemination

8.1. Review of Data Required to be collected by CCPs and reported by the Secretariat

158. The Data Officer presented CC-09-09, which described the data required to be collected by CCPs, the data required to be reported to the Secretariat, and the differences between the two types of data, as tasked by MoP11. The Data Officer explained that these two types of data are mostly the same. Regarding Catch and Effort and Observer data, he noted that separating the data collection and the data submission requirements in CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards) would improve flexibility and efficiency when the SC provides recommendations on data to be collected and how the collection should be undertaken. Furthermore, if the data collection requirements were set outside the CMM, there would not be a need to amend and adopt a new CMM every time the data collection needs change. In addition, a few data items are requested to be collected and

submitted by two different CMMs but on a different periodicity. Regarding MCS data, the requirements are well defined and the implementation of a SIOFA VMS would support the Agreement Area entry-exit and MCS report data submission.

- 159. **The CC recommended that the MoP note that the data to be collected and the data to be reported are usually the same.**
- 160. **The CC recommended that the MoP continue to keep the data collection requirements and the data submission requirements that are set in CMM 02 (2023) in said CMM, rather than setting the data collection requirements outside the CMM.**

8.2. Review of draft Terms of Reference for a consultancy for the development of the SIOFA Information System Security Policy (ISSP)

- 161. The Data Officer presented CC-09-11, which provided a draft ToR for a consultancy to develop the SIOFA Information System Security Policy (ISSP).
- 162. Some CCPs expressed concern about the potential budgetary implications of the proposed consultancy. One CCP believed that the funding for the consultancy had already been included in the draft SIOFA budget, but this issue still needed to be reviewed and confirmed at MoP12.
- 163. **The CC reviewed the draft ToR for a consultancy to develop the SIOFA ISSP (Annex T) and recommended it for adoption by the MoP, subject to further discussion by the MoP about the allocation of funding for this work.**

Agenda item 9 – Review of the status of Cooperating Non Contracting Parties (CNCPs)

- 164. The CC acknowledged that Comoros had written to the Secretariat on 25 April 2025 to apply to retain its CNCP status (CC-09-12).
- 165. The CC requested the Comoros to provide further follow-up on the earlier question from Japan regarding Comoros allowing the vessel WANG TONG (now renamed AN TON) to fly the Comoros flag. Comoros explained that the vessel is a refrigerated cargo vessel and had undergone two changes of ownership before coming under the ownership of Aries Navigation Ltd in July 2024. At that time the vessel did not have any registration as the previous registration under the flag of Cameroon was cancelled on July 26, 2023. Under Aries Navigation Ltd, the vessel applied for a Comorian provisional registration to bring the vessel from Taizhou, China to Chittagong Breakyard in Bangladesh to be scrapped. Comoros issued such a provisional registration to the vessel, valid for only a single journey with no cargo or passengers, from July 5, 2024 to October 1, 2024. The vessel departed from Taizhou, China on July 15, 2024 and arrived at Chittagong, Bangladesh on August 5, 2024, where it was scrapped. Comoros circulated the supporting documentation, namely the provisional registration and record of the scrapping of the vessel, to the CC participants.
- 166. In response to a query from the EU, Comoros confirmed that it has lowered the VME bycatch threshold applied by its vessel operating in the SIOFA Area to one that is more in line with the thresholds applied by other CCPs, as had been recommended by the EU, and that the vessel and the onboard observers are applying said threshold.
- 167. **The Compliance Committee recommended that the MoP determines that Comoros qualifies to retain its CNCP status.**
- 168. In response to a question from the CC, Comoros confirmed its intention to eventually apply to become a Contracting Party of SIOFA.
- 169. The CC acknowledged that India had written to the Secretariat on 25 April 2025 to apply to retain its CNCP status (CC-09-13).

170. The CC reiterated its disappointment that India had not provided follow-up information regarding its implementation of the SIOFA CMMs, despite previously expressing its commitment to doing so. The CC also noted with concern that India was once again not present at the meeting, nor had it responded to feedback from the Secretariat in the compliance assessment process, and that India had yet to demonstrate its full engagement with the CC and the SIOFA compliance assessment process.
171. **The CC noted that, given the absence of India at CC9, 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.**

Agenda item 10 – Implementation of Article 13 of the Agreement

172. On behalf of the Executive Secretary, who was unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances, the Compliance Officer presented CC-09-14-Rev1, which provided an overview of the existing mechanisms to provide support to developing States under article 13 of the Agreement, focusing on the needs of the developing States bordering SIOFA, the cooperation between the parties, and the provision of financial assistance to eligible countries. SIOFA appears to be compliant with the Agreement. However, the Agreement has no clear definition of “developing States”. The Secretariat used the World Bank's classification on some CCPs, but this could disadvantage small island States that might soon achieve high-income status while remaining dependent on the level of the previous supports that it would no longer be eligible to receive. To avoid this, it could be appropriate to introduce vulnerability indices that make it possible to identify the needs of any CCP more precisely and to draw up an action plan with each of them progressively.
173. **The CC noted the work done by the Secretariat to develop a paper that outlines the existing mechanisms to provide support to developing States and other relevant information relating to Article 13, as tasked by MoP11.**
174. **The CC noted the need to establish a clear definition of “developing States” in one of SIOFA's official documents as a reference for future capacity building improvements and enlargement of SIOFA membership.**
175. The EU pointed out that, while it may have been a pragmatic choice to use the World Bank's classification of a developing State, the particular context of this RFMO and fisheries management in the Southern Indian Ocean require further reflection. For these reasons, it would be important to distinguish between long-distance developing States and developing States that are adjacent to the SIOFA Area.
176. The Cook Islands pointed out the need for broader references to developing States, and specifically recognition for Small Island Developing States and developing States in transition.
177. **The CC recommended that the MoP establish an intersessional working group to progress work to develop a definition of “developing States”, with the outcomes to be presented at MoP13.**

Agenda item 11 – Capacity Building

178. The Compliance Officer presented CC-09-15, a paper that was developed by the Secretariat following the request from the MoP to identify capacity building needs of developing States and provide options for addressing these needs. The paper was prepared through consultation with CCPs, who identified a range of needs spanning science, data, general capacity, compliance, and needs straddling data/compliance and data/science. The paper presented potential options for addressing these needs and the

Compliance Officer invited the CC to comment on capacity building needs/mechanisms related to compliance and straddling themes.

179. The CC reviewed the potential options for addressing capacity needs and provided further comments (CC-09-15-Rev1).
180. **The CC noted the work done by the Secretariat in preparing the paper (CC-09-15-Rev1) on options for facilitating and addressing the capacity building needs of CCP developing States as requested by the MoP.**
181. **The CC recommended that the MoP consider the CC's input on potential options for addressing capacity needs related to compliance and straddling themes (Annex U).**
182. **The CC recommended that as the next step, the MoP should consider the implications on the SIOFA budget of the various capacity building options and conduct a prioritisation of the potential capacity building options.**
183. **The CC recommended that, when conducting the prioritisation, the MoP should take into consideration:**
 - a. **the views of all CCPs, not only those that are developing States;**
 - b. **distinguishing between capacity building activities that would be specific to one CCP and those that would benefit multiple CCPs or SIOFA as a whole;**
 - c. **which activities could be conducted virtually; and**
 - d. **any overlaps between CCPs' capacity building needs and existing capacity building programmes.**

Agenda item 12 – The SIOFA Performance Review

184. The Compliance Officer presented CC-09-16-Rev1, which provided a summary of the status of the implementation of the recommendations proposed by the SIOFA Performance Review Panel in 2023 and adopted by MoP10. The summary was updated at MoP11, with input from the SC and the CC. Further updates have been proposed by SC10. The Compliance Officer highlighted the recommendations relevant to the CC and invited the CC to provide further comments as appropriate.
185. The CC reviewed the implementation plan and added further comments. The updated implementation plan is attached as CC-09-16-Rev2 (**Annex V**).
186. **The CC recommended that the MoP note the CC's input and the current status of the plan adopted at MoP11 for the implementation of the SIOFA Performance Review Panel recommendations as detailed in Annex V.**

Agenda item 13 – Election of a Chair and Vice Chair for the Compliance Committee

187. The CC noted that the Chairperson, Mrs Meera Koonjul (Mauritius), and the Vice Chairperson, Mr Patrick Sachs (Australia), will have completed the first year of their two-year terms at the end of the CC9 meeting and that both intend to continue to serve in their positions in the coming year.

Agenda item 14 – Any other business

14.1 EU SWIOP Project

188. The Compliance Officer presented CC-09-18, which proposed EU support for SIOFA under the new Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Programme (SWIOP) and sought agreement for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Expertise France, the implementing partner for the "Support to RFMOs (IOTC & SIOFA)" component of SWIOP. The project would include activities contributing to the general strengthening of SIOFA and designing capacity-building activities that would benefit the

entire membership of SIOFA and would support specific CCPs, namely Mauritius, Seychelles and the Comoros. Due to the project timing, the MoU would need to be signed intersessionally by the end of 2025.

189. The EU provided some additional background information regarding SWIOP, emphasising that it would not significantly add to the Secretariat's workload, nor require any additional allocation to the SIOFA budget.
190. In response to a question for clarification, the EU explained that in the case of direct in-country activities, SWIOP could only support ones conducted in Mauritius, Seychelles, or Comoros, but that SWIOP could also support other activities that support SIOFA as a whole, provided they are not in-country activities in other CCPs' countries.
191. **The CC noted the proposed EU Support.**
192. **The CC recommended that the MoP agree to the participation of SIOFA in the SWIOP Project and task the Secretariat to sign the proposed MoU between SIOFA and Expertise France on its behalf.**

14.2 Proposal for the Designation of the Comoros' lobster fishery as a New and Exploratory Fisheries

193. The CC recognised that it did not consider FOPs submitted under CMM 17(2024) as it is required to do under paragraph 10 of CMM 17(2024). The CC requested the MoP to consider Comoros' FOP and any implications in accordance with CMM 17(2024) ([New and Exploratory Fisheries](#)) paragraph 10.
194. Japan presented CC-09-24, which proposed a process through which the authorisation of the Comoros lobster fishery could be considered. Japan noted that the Comoros lobster fishery has been examined through MoP11, an extraordinary SC meeting (SC-EXTRA2) and the Intersessional decision 2024-II but that the status of the fishery has not yet been designated. Japan recommended designating the fishery as a new and exploratory fishery, establishing interim monitoring measures until, in accordance with CMM 17(2024) (New and Exploratory Fisheries), the formal approval thereon as a new and exploratory fishery has been made, in order for the Comoros to properly implement the requirements stipulated in SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2024-40.
195. The Cook Islands noted the importance of the proposal and suggested further improvements including specification of the TAC and the total allowable effort (TAE), specification of data monitoring and reporting requirements, and some editorial refinements.
196. Comoros expressed general support for the proposal, pointing out potential technical difficulties in conducting daily effort reporting.
197. The EU indicated that if the Comoros lobster fishery is to be designated as a new and exploratory fishery and receive interim authorisation, Comoros would need to update its BFIA and ensure that the current voluntary VME bycatch threshold becomes a mandatory one.
198. Japan welcomed the feedback and expressed its intention to develop the proposal further.
199. **The CC noted that there was general support for the proposal (Annex W) but that further refinement of the details was required. The CC recommended that the MoP further develop the proposal at MoP12.**

14.3 Working Paper to continue the discussion on Research Cruise and Scientific Research

200. The EU presented CC-09-32, a paper to facilitate continued discussions on developing a framework for research cruises and scientific research in the SIOFA Area. The paper built on a previous EU proposal from MoP6 (2019) and considered SC discussions and

recommendations from SC6 to SC10. The EU recognised that further development of the working paper is required, invited initial comments from CCPs, and welcomed further engagement from CCPs at the meetings of the MoP and its subsidiary bodies, as well as intersessionally, towards the adoption of a new CMM at MoP13.

201. The Cook Islands noted the need for SIOFA to develop a framework for research cruises and scientific research in the SIOFA Area and considered the proposal to be a good basis for working towards the adoption of a CMM at MoP13.
202. China noted the potential need for CCPs to be able to submit a research cruise plan directly to the MoP, rather than the SC, pointing out that if it were to conduct a research cruise in the second half of the calendar year, having to wait until the SC meeting could result in significant delays. China also noted the potential need for research quotas for certain species. In addition, China reminded the CC that the SC plans to hold a workshop on research cruises later this year.
203. Thailand wished to seek more clarity on whether raw or analysed data are to be submitted from research cruises, noting the lengthiness of the 9-month period allowed for submission.
204. Chinese Taipei suggested that further consideration should be given to whether a fishing vessel could be used as a research vessel, whether research catch could be landed and sold, and whether research vessels commissioned by a CCP needed to be registered on the SIOFA RAV and comply with the provisions of all SIOFA CMMs.
205. The EU thanked CCPs for their feedback and expressed its intention to continue to work with them to develop the working paper further.

Agenda item 15 – Adoption of the CC report

206. The report of the 9th meeting of the SIOFA CC was adopted.

Agenda item 16 – Close of the meeting

207. The CC thanked the Chairperson for her excellent leadership.
208. The CC also thanked the rapporteur, the Secretariat and the interpreters for organising and conducting the CC meeting.
209. The Chairperson thanked the meeting participants and all support staff for their cooperation.
210. The Chairperson closed the meeting at 3:30 p.m., 27 June 2025.

List of Registered Participants (CC9)

Delegation	Title	Full name	Role	Mode
Chairperson				
	Mrs	Meera Koonjul	CC Chairperson	in-person
Contracting Parties, Participating Fishing Entities and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties (CCPs)				
Australia	Mr	Patrick Sachs	Head of Delegation	in-person
Australia	Mr	Adam Camilleri	Alternate	in-person
Australia	Dr	Lyn Goldsworthy	Adviser	in-person
Australia	Ms	Stacey Antunovich	Adviser	remote
Australia	Mr	David Power	Adviser	remote
Australia	Ms	Fraser McEachan	Adviser	remote
Australia	Mr	Andrew Field	Adviser	remote
Australia	Ms	Selina Stoute	Adviser	remote
Australia	Ms	Elissa Mastroianni	Adviser	remote
Australia	Mr	Trent Timmis	Adviser	remote
Australia	Mr	Rhys Arangio	Adviser	remote
Australia	Mr	Brad Millic	Adviser	remote
Australia	Mr	Malcolm McNeill	Adviser	remote
Australia	Ms	Addy Sekhon	Adviser	remote
China	Mr	Ming Zhao	Head of Delegation	in-person
China	Mr	Yujian Zhao	Alternate	in-person
China	Mr	Chenyang Wang	Advisor	in-person
China	Ms	Liling Zhao	Alternate	in-person
China	Dr	Zhou Fang	Advisor	in-person
China	Dr	Jun Yu	Advisor	in-person
China	Dr	Jiaqi Wang	Advisor	in-person
China	Mr	Junhao He	Advisor	in-person
China	Mr	Chong Sun	Advisor	remote
China	Dr	Tinglin Li	Advisor	in-person
China	Dr	Qiang Wu	Advisor	in-person
China	Dr	Heng Zhang	Advisor	in-person
Comoros	Dr	Chamoine Soidri	Head of Delegation	in-person
Comoros	Mr	Mohamed Ali Mohamed	Alternate	in-person
Comoros	Mr	Vladislav Prudchenko	Consulting	in-person
Comoros	Mr	Andrei Afanasev	Consulting	in-person
Comoros	Mr	Aboubacar Issa	Assistant	in-person

Delegation	Title	Full name	Role	Mode
Cook Islands	Mr	Luahua Tua-Trood	Head of Delegation	in-person
Cook Islands	Dr	Steve Brouwer	Alternate	in-person
Cook Islands	Mr	Viv Fernandes	Alternate	in-person
European Union	Ms	Laura Marot	Head of Delegation	in-person
European Union	Ms	Agata Malczewska	Alternate	in-person
European Union	Ms	Denisa Pintilie	Intern	remote
European Union	Mr	Ismael Yagüe Sabido	Advisor	remote
European Union	Mrs	Margarita Mancebo Robledo	Advisor	remote
European Union	Mr	Luis Belmonte González	Advisor	in-person
European Union	Mr	Jonathan Vila Graña	Advisor	remote
European Union	Ms	Teresa Molina Schmid	Advisor	remote
European Union	Mrs	Elodie Seznec	Advisor	in-person
France OT	Ms	Adèle Moisan	Head of Delegation	in-person
France OT	Mr	Mafal THIAM	Alternate	remote
France OT	Mrs	Anaïd Panossian	Delegate	remote
India	Dr	Sreenath K. Ramanathan	Head of Delegation	in-person
Japan	Mr	Ichiro Nomura	Head of Delegation	in-person
Japan	Mr	Kazuki Tsuda	Alternate	in-person
Japan	Mr	Taisuke Iwano	Alternate	remote
Japan	Mr	Joji Morishita	Advisor	remote
Japan	Mr	Hideki Moronuki	Advisor	remote
Japan	Dr	Takehiro Okuda	Advisor	remote
Japan	Mr	Hyoue Suzuki	Advisor	remote
Japan	Mr	Koji Batori	Advisor	remote
Japan	Ms	Yasuko Kyo	Advisor	remote
Japan	Mr	Takeshi Shibata	Advisor	remote
Japan	Mr	Naohisa Miyagawa	Advisor	remote
Japan	Mr	Sachio Hagiya	Advisor	remote
Japan	Mr	Tomohori Kondo	Advisor	remote
Japan	Mr	Hidefumi Yatomi	Advisor	remote
Japan	Ms	Shiho Morimoto	Advisor	remote
Korea	Mr	Ro Yun Kim	Head of Delegation	remote
Korea	Ms	Ji-young Oh	Alternate	remote
Korea	Ms	Soomin Kim	Alternate	remote
Mauritius	Mr	Vikash Munbodhe	Head of Delegation	in-person
Mauritius	Mr	Doorvanand Kawol	Alternate	in-person
Mauritius	Ms	Luvna Caussy	Member	in-person
Seychelles	Mrs	Julie Bibi	Head of Delegation	in-person
Seychelles	Ms	Elisa Socrate	Alternate	in-person

Delegation	Title	Full name	Role	Mode
Seychelles	Ms	Stephanie Radegonde	Expert	in-person
Seychelles	Mr	Vincent Lucas	Expert	remote
Seychelles	Mr	Roddy Allisop	Expert	remote
Seychelles	Ms	Karyss Auguste	Expert	remote
Seychelles	Mr	Daniel Bristol	Expert	remote
Seychelles	Ms	Danielle Jupiter	Expert	remote
Seychelles	Mr	Philippe Michaud	Expert	remote
Seychelles	Mr	Howard Tan	Advisor	in-person
Seychelles	Mr	Lin Yu Hsien	Advisor	in-person
Chinese Taipei	Mr	Tsu-Kang (Albert) Wen	Head of Delegation	in-person
Chinese Taipei	Mr	Chia-chun (Jason) Wu	Alternate	in-person
Chinese Taipei	Dr	Wen-Ning Chang	Adviser	in-person
Chinese Taipei	Mr	Po-hsiang Liao	Adviser	in-person
Chinese Taipei	Ms	Chia-Ti Li	Adviser	in-person
Chinese Taipei	Ms	Chia-Jung Wang	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Sampan Panjarat	Head of Delegation	In-person
Thailand	Mr	Teerapong Apaipakdee	Alternate	remote
Thailand	Mr	Aekkarat Wongkeaw	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mr	Prasit Luesrithawornsin	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Tirabhorn Yothakong	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Chonlada Meeanan	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mr	Titipat Tongdonkruang	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mr	Woramate Chatinakrob	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mr	Weerapol Thitipongtrakul	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mr	Bunyarit Permnak	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Supranee Chatthong	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Jidapa Setthatham	Adviser	remote
Observers				
IOC	Mr	Tiana Randriambola	Head of Delegation	in-person
PEW	Ms	Laura Eeles	Head of Delegation	in-person
SIODFA	Mr	Charles Heaphy	Head of Delegation	in-person
SIODFA	Dr	Ross Shotton	Alternate	remote
Somalia	Mr	Abdifitah Ahmed Ali	Head of Delegation	in-person
South Africa	Mr	Johannes de Goede	Head of Delegation	in-person
South Africa	Adv	Nicolette Vink	Alternate	remote
South Africa	Mr	Thabiso Maratsane	Alternate	in-person

Delegation	Title	Full name	Role	Mode
South Africa	Mr	Saasa Pheeha	Support	remote
South Africa	Mr	Bernard Liedemann	Support	remote
South Africa	Mr	Mandisile Mqoqi	Support	remote
South Africa	Mr	Sobahle Somhlaba	Support	remote
Secretariat and Support				
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Thierry Clot	Executive Secretary	in-person
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Pierre Périès	Data Officer	in-person
SIOFA Secretariat	Dr	Marco Milardi	Science Officer	in-person
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Johnny Louys	Compliance Officer	in-person
SIOFA Secretariat	Ms	Salomé Boulenger	Intern	in-person
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Alex Meyer	Rapporteur	in-person
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	James Christie	Interpreter	in-person
SIOFA Secretariat	Mrs	Pauline Chardin	Interpreter	in-person

Agenda of the 9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC09)

1. Opening of the session

- 1.1. Opening statements

2. Administrative arrangements

- 2.1. Adoption of the agenda
- 2.2. Confirmation of meeting documents
- 2.3. Appointment of rapporteur

3. SIOFA Compliance Monitoring Scheme

Standing agenda Item. In accordance with CMM 11 (2020) Compliance Monitoring Scheme, the CC09 shall consider the Draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR) and adopt a Provisional Compliance Report (pSCR), which shall be forwarded to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration.

- 3.1. Consideration of the Draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR) and adoption of the Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (pSCR)
- 3.2. Review of Recommendations from the Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR) adopted by the 11th Meeting of the Parties
- 3.3. Informal Workshop on the SIOFA CCPs Compliance Report Template

4. New or Amended Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)

Standing agenda item to allow the development of recommendations to the MoP on new or amended CMMs

- 4.1. Recommendations from the Scientific Committee
- 4.2. Proposals for Amendments to Conservation and Management Measures
- 4.3. Proposals for new Conservation and Management Measures
- 4.4. Discussion on the application of current CMMs

5. Listing of IUU Vessels

- 5.1. Draft IUU Vessel List

Standing agenda item. In accordance with paras 12 (a), 13 and 14 of CMM 06 (2024), the CC09 shall

- *consider the draft IUU Vessel List and include relevant vessels on a Provisional IUU vessel List, and submit it to the MoP 12 for approval*
- *Remove vessels on the Draft IUU vessel list pursuant to para 14 of CMM 06 (2024).*

- 5.2. Current SIOFA IUU Vessel List

Standing agenda item. In accordance with paras 12 (b) of CMM 06 (2024), the CC09 shall consider the current SIOFA IUU Vessel List and recommend to the MoP which vessels, if any, should be removed from it.

6. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

- 6.1. Port inspection reports (CMM 08 (2020) Port Inspection)
- 6.2. Sighting of Vessels without Nationality (CMM 04 (2016) Vessels without Nationality) and vessels flagged to Non-CCPs (CMM 09 (2022) Control)
- 6.3. Review of Catches of Portuguese dogfish in Subarea 2. (CMM 12(2024) Sharks)
- 6.4. Register of Authorised Vessels (CMM 07 (2024) Vessel Authorisation)
- 6.5. Entry/Exit reports (CMM 10(2023) Monitoring)
- 6.6. At sea Transfer and Transhipment reports (CMM 10(2023) Monitoring)

7. Operationalisation of the SIOFA VMS

- 7.1. Update of Workplan & Progress Toward Operationalization of SIOFA VMS
- 7.2. Review of the Hosting Options for the SIOFA VMS
- 7.3. Review of the Draft Terms of Reference for the Provision of a Vessel Monitoring System for the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
- 7.4. Proposed Amendments to SIOFA CMMs and the Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS

8. Data access and dissemination

- 8.1. Review of Data Required to be collected by CCPs and reported by the Secretariat
- 8.2. Review of draft Terms of Reference for a consultancy for the development of the SIOFA Information System Security Policy (ISSP)

9. Review of the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs)

Standing agenda item. The Compliance Committee will provide technical/compliance advice to inform the MoP decision on renewing/granting CNCP status (in accordance with Rule 17.8 of the Rules of Procedure)

10. Implementation of Article 13 of the Agreement

11. Capacity Building

The Secretariat will report on options for facilitating and addressing the capacity-building needs of developing states' CCPs

12. The SIOFA Performance Review

Update on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the SIOFA Performance Review

13. Election of a Chair and Vice Chair for the Compliance Committee

14. Any other business

- 14.1. EU SWIOP Project
- 14.2. Proposal for the Designation of the Comoros' lobster fishery as a New and Exploratory Fisheries
- 14.3. Working Paper to continue the discussion on Research Cruise and Scientific Research

15. Adoption of the Compliance Committee report

16. Close of the meeting

CC-09-ADM -05: List of Meeting Documents (CC09)

Rev2

Code	Document Title	Agenda Item	Note
Administration and Meeting organisation			
CC-09-ADM-01	Provisional Agenda	2	None
CC-09-ADM-02	Registration Form	N/A	None
CC-09-ADM-03	Template for CC09/MoP12 documents	N/A	None
CC-09-ADM-04	Revised Provisional Agenda	2.1	None
CC-09-ADM-05	List of Meeting Documents (This)		Rev2
CC-09-ADM-06	Tentative Meeting Schedule		
CC-09-ADM-07	List of Registered Participants		

Working Papers			
CC-09-01	Draft SIOFA Compliance Report	3.1	Restricted
CC-09-02	Review of Recommendation from the Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR) adopted by the 11th Meeting of the Parties.	3.2	Rev1
CC-09-03	Informal Workshop on the SIOFA CCPs Compliance Report Template	3.3	
CC-09-04	SIOFA IUU Vessels List	5.1 & 5.2	Restricted
CC-09-05	Monitoring Control and Surveillance	6	Restricted / Rev2
CC-09-06	Update of Workplan & Progress Toward Operationalization of SIOFA VMS	7.1	Rev1
CC-09-07	Options Paper for the Hosting of the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System	7.2	
CC-09-08	Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the provision of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	7.3	Rev1
CC-09-09	Data Required to be collected by CCPs vs Data Required to be submitted by CCPs	8.1	
CC-09-10	Potential amendments to CMMS and the SIOFA SSPs to support the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS	7.4	
CC-09-11	Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for a consultancy to develop the SIOFA Information System Security Policy (ISSP)	8.2	
CC-09-12	Application from Comoros to renew its status as Cooperating Non-Contracting Party	9	
CC-09-13	Application from India to renew its status as Cooperating Non-Contracting Party	9	
CC-09-14	Existing mechanisms to provide support to Developing States under Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement	10	Rev 1
CC-09-15	Options for facilitating and addressing the capacity-building needs of CCP developing states	11	Rev1
CC-09-16	SIOFA Performance Review Recommendations	12	Rev2
CC-09-17	Report and Recommendations of the 10th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee	4.3	

ANNEX C

Code	Document Title	Agenda Item	Note
CC-09-18	EU Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Program (SWIOP)	14.1	
CC-09-19	Proposal Amendment to CMM 03(2016) Data confidentiality	4.1	Rev 2
CC-09-20	Proposal Amendment to CMM 13(2022) Mitigation of Seabirds Bycatch	4.1	Rev 2
CC-09-21	Proposal New CMM for Benthic Protection	4.2	Rev 2
CC-09-22	Proposal for a new CMM for an interim SIOFA allocation framework	4.2	Rev 1
CC-09-23	Proposal to amend CMM 15 (2024) Management of Demersal Stocks	4.1	
CC-09-24	Proposal for the Designation of the Comoros' lobster fishery as a New and Exploratory Fisheries	14	
CC-09-25	Proposal to amend CMM 12 (2024) Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks	4.1	
CC-09-26	Proposal to amend CMM 07 (2024) Vessel Authorisation	4.1	
CC-09-27	Proposal to amend CMM 07(2024) Conservation and Management Measure for Vessel Authorisation and Notification to Fish (Vessel Authorisation)	4.1	
CC-09-28	Proposal to amend CMM12 (2024) Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks (Sharks)	4.1	
CC-09-29	Proposal to amend CMM 16(2023) Conservation and Management Measure for the establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System (Vessel Monitoring System)	4.1	
CC-09-30	Proposal to amend CMM15 (2024) Conservation and Management Measure for the Management of Demersal Stocks in the Agreement Area (Management of Demersal Stocks)	4.1	
CC-09-31	Proposal to amend CMM17 (2024) Conservation and Management Measure for New and Exploratory Fisheries in the Agreement Area (New and Exploratory Fisheries)	4.1	
CC-09-32	Working Paper to continue the discussion on Research Cruise and Scientific Research	14	

Information papers

CC-09-INFO-01	Compliance Capacity Self-Assessment-Tool		Late Submission
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Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (SCR)/ Summary

Assessment Period 1 Jan 2024 - 31 Dec 2024 (inclusive)

Table 1 Implementation of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
No Potential Compliance Issue Identified								

Table 2 Implementation of CMM 01 (2024) and CMM 01 (2023) (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing)

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Comoros	22. (CMM01(2023)) Any CCP that has not submitted a BFIA pursuant to paragraph 21 may, at least 30 days prior to the commencement of any subsequent ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee and before the Meeting of the Parties has authorised the SIOFA bottom fishing footprint and the SIOFA BFIA developed by the Scientific Committee in accordance with paragraph 7, submit to the Secretariat a BFIA	Not assessed in 2024	Compliant	Sec: Comoros submitted a BFIA to the MoP06 (https://siofa.org/sites/default/files/documents/meetings/MoP6-Doc11%20Comoros%20BFIA.pdf). However, the BFIA was not updated prior to the Comoros undertaking its current lobster fishery. CC to advise on applicability and compliance status		Compliant	Non-Compliant	No follow-up action required

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Comoros	22. (CMM01(2024))Any CCP that authorises or is seeking to authorise any vessel flying its flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area shall submit to the Secretariat a Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment for its individual bottom fishing activities in the Agreement Area that meets the requirements of paragraph 26 [of CMM 01(2024)]	New Obligation	Compliant	Sec: Comoros submitted a BFIA to the MoP06 (https://siofa.org/sites/default/files/documents/meetings/MoP6-Doc11%20Comoros%20BFIA.pdf). However, the BFIA was not updated prior to the Comoros undertaking its current lobster fishery. CC to advise on applicability and compliance status		Compliant	Non-Compliant	No follow-up action required
Comoros	25. Any CCP that has not submitted a BFIA in accordance with paragraph 22 shall not authorise any vessels flying its flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area until: a. that CCP has prepared and submitted a BFIA, and the Scientific Committee has reviewed that BFIA and determined it meets the requirements of paragraph 26; or b. it has otherwise been decided by the Meeting of the Parties.	Not assessed in 2024	Compliant	Potential Compliance Issue: Comoros Authorized one vessel to undertake bottom fishing in the Agreement Area with an outdated BFIA.	The Union of Comoros has submitted a BFIA in September 2024 which was assessed by the Scientific committee in November 2024 and approved in December 2024 by the Mop	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	No follow-up action required
Comoros	27. (a) (CMM01(2023))/28 a. (CMM01(2024)) prior to authorising any vessels flying its flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area, each of these new CCPs which has fished more or less than 40 days in a single calendar year as referred to in paragraph 10(1) a. or b. shall advise the Meeting of the Parties of the measures it intends to take	Not Applicable	Compliant	Potential Compliance Issue: The Secretariat has no record of measures submitted pursuant to this obligation. Comoros to confirm submission of measures pursuant to this paragraph	The record of measures has been submitted to the secretary on May 19, 2025	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	No follow-up action required

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
	pursuant to paragraph 10(1) a. i., ii., iii. and iv.							
Comoros	27. (b) (CMM01(2023))/ 28 b. (CMM01(2024)) prior to authorising any vessels flying its flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area, each of these new CCPs which has fished more or less than 40 days in a single calendar year as referred to in paragraph 10(1) a. or b. shall 30 days prior to an ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee after it becomes a CCP, submit the data referred to in paragraph 20 and a BFIA as outlined in paragraph 21 to the Scientific Committee for its consideration in accordance with paragraph 23.	Compliant	Compliant	Potential Compliance Issue: The Secretariat has no record of measures submitted pursuant to this obligation. Comoros to confirm submission of measures pursuant to this paragraph	The record of measures has been submitted to the secretary on May 19, 2025	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	No follow-up action required

Table 3 **Implementation of CMM 02 (2023) (Data Standards)**

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
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CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
China	4. CCPs shall ensure that data on fishing activities, including for target, non-target and associated and dependent species such as marine mammals, marine reptiles, seabirds or 'other species of concern', are collected from vessels flying their flag that are fishing in the Agreement Area in accordance with the relevant sections of Annex A.	Not Assessed	Not Applicable	China indicate that this obligation is not applicable. Last assessment was "not Assessed" due to the technical impediments related to this obligation, as the matter is yet to be addressed by the CMM	In 2024, all data required for squid jigging vessels operating in the SIOFA area can be found in the 2024 national report. Due to the specific nature of squid jigging gear, there are no bycatch or incidental catch issues. Additionally, the current ANNEX B does not included the requirements for squid jigging and China is scheduled to submit a proposal to include the requirement for squid jigging in the ANNEX	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	China to propose amendments to CMM 02 to include the requirement for squid jigging in the ANNEX
China	15. CCPs shall, for all observed trips, collect observer data in accordance with the relevant sections of Annex B. All observer data collected by CCPs shall be reported to the Secretariat by 31 May each year for the previous calendar year.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	China reports that "The current ANNEX B does not include the requirements for squid jigging and China is scheduled to submit a proposal to include the requirement for squid jigging in the ANNEX. " Therefore, in view that this is a technical impediment to implement the obligation, the assessment may be deemed as "Not Assessed"	China agree with the Secretariat Comments	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	China to propose amendments to CMM 02 to include the requirement for squid jigging in the ANNEX
Seychelles	12. All CCPs shall implement national scientific observer programs to collect from activities undertaken by vessels flying their flag:	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant			Critically Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	Seychelles to implement an EM Program for its longline fleet as its observer program.
Seychelles	15. CCPs shall, for all observed trips, collect observer data in accordance with the relevant sections of Annex B. All observer data collected by CCPs shall be reported to the Secretariat	Non-Compliant		No preliminary self-assessment submitted.	Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	Seychelles to implement an EM Program for its longline fleet as its observer program.

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
	by 31 May each year for the previous calendar year.							
Seychelles	19 & 20. CCPs shall report all data required to be reported by this measure to the Secretariat in accordance with the formats described in this CMM, including its annexes and as specified by para 20	Not Applicable	Non-Compliant	Secretariat record indicates that set details are not fully provided (e.g. no end setting or hauling information provided). Only OIL catch has been reported.	Partial data submitted. Final data to be submitted in June 2025. Sec: Assessment relates to 2024 submission.	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	Seychelles to improve logbook to ensure capture of data in accordance with this CMM

Table 4 Implementation of CMM 04 (2016) (Vessels Without Nationality)

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
No Potential Compliance Issue Identified								

Table 5 Implementation of CMM 05 (2016) (Pelagic Driftnets and Deepwater Gillnets)

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
India	1. The use of all large-scale pelagic driftnets in the Agreement Area is prohibited for any vessel flying the flag of a Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party (CNCP) or	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	[No Feedback]	Critically Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	India to provide updates on submission of missing measures at the MoP12

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
	participating fishing entity (PFE).							

Table 6 Implementation of CMM 06 (2024) and CMM 06 (2022) (IUU Vessel List)

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
India	19. a Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to take all the necessary measures to eliminate the IUU activities, including if necessary, the withdrawal of the fishing licences, authorisations or permits granted to vessels included in the IUU Vessel List, and the refusal of the fishing licences, authorisations or permits to such vessels;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	[No Feedback]	Critically Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	India to provide updates on submission of missing measures at the MoP12
India	19. b Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to ensure that its vessels do not participate in any transshipment or other operations such as joint-	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	[No Feedback]	Critically Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	India to provide updates on submission of missing measures at the MoP12

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
	fishing, transfers at sea of fuel, crew, gear or any other supplies either as an unloading or receiving vessel, with vessels included in the IUU Vessel List;							
India	19.c Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to ensure that vessels on the IUU Vessel List are denied access to ports unless for the purpose of inspecting them and taking other appropriate actions in conformity with international law which are at least as effective as denial of port entry in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	India to indicate how this measure is made binding domestically (legislation, administrative procedures etc)	[No Feedback]	Critically Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	India to provide updates on submission of missing measures at the MoP12
India	19. d Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to give priority to the inspection of vessels on the IUU Vessel List, if such vessels are found in their ports;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	[No Feedback]	Critically Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	India to provide updates on submission of missing measures at the MoP12
India	19. e Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to prohibit the	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	[No Feedback]	Critically Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	India to provide updates on submission of missing measures at the MoP12

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
	chartering of vessels on the IUU Vessel List;							
India	19. f Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to refuse to grant their flag to vessels on the IUU Vessel List;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	[No Feedback]	Critically Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	India to provide updates on submission of missing measures at the MoP12
India	19. g Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to prohibit commercial transactions, such as imports, exports or re-exports, landings and transshipments of fisheries resources covered by the Agreement, as well as other operations involving such fisheries resources, from vessels on the IUU Vessel List;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	[No Feedback]	Critically Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	India to provide updates on submission of missing measures at the MoP12
India	19. h Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to prohibit change of crew on board of vessels on the IUU Vessel List;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	[No Feedback]	Critically Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	India to provide updates on submission of missing measures at the MoP12
India	19. i Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	[No Feedback]	Critically Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	India to provide updates on submission of

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
	legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to encourage traders, importers and transporters to refrain from transactions in, and transshipment of, fishery resources covered by the Agreement caught by vessels on the IUU Vessel List;							missing measures at the MoP12
India	19. j Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to collect and promptly exchange with other Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs, any appropriate relevant information on vessels included in the IUU Vessel List;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	[No Feedback]	Critically Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	India to provide updates on submission of missing measures at the MoP12

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
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Table 7 Implementation of CMM 07 (2024) and CMM 07 (2022) (Vessel Authorization)

Seychelles	1. ...[F]ishing vessels that are not entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are deemed not to be authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship or land fishery resources in the Agreement Area.	Not Assessed in 2024	Compliant	Potential Compliance Issue: Seychelles reports that there have been 329,399.93 KG retained onboard, transhiped and/or landed by 19 vessels not on the SIOFA RAV between October 2023 and December 2024.	Given that the SIOFA area overlaps with IOTC area of competence, this requirement is ambiguous and not in line with recommendation of SIOFA SC regarding targeted and non-targeted species.	Non-Compliant	[Status Pending]	To be discussed at the MoP, noting the technical complexity of implementing this paragraph in fisheries overlapping with the IOTC.
Seychelles	7. CMM 07(2022)/ 6. CMM 07(2024):Each CCP shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing and fishing related activities on fishery resources covered by the Agreement by vessels	Not Assessed in 2024	Non Compliant		Vessels not on SIOFA RAV are not authorized to target SIOFA Species in SIOFA are of competence. However they are allowed to retain SIOFA species accidentally captured t	Non Compliant	[Status Pending]	To be discussed at the MoP, noting the technical complexity of implementing this paragraph in fisheries overlapping with the IOTC.

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
	which are not registered in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels.				within the IOTC area. The Framework Agreement for Seychelles Flagged Industrial Longliners: Article 4 Principles and objectives underlying the implementation of this Agreement / 1. The Parties hereby undertake to promote and implement sustainable fishing in the Seychelles fishing zone and outside Seychelles EEZ in areas under the management of IOTC and SIOFA. 4. COMPANY fishing vessels under this Agreement shall engage in fishing activities in: (a) IOTC area of competence for species under the mandate of IOTC as follows: ii. any other species listed in Annex 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) other than the target species mentioned in paragraph 4(a)(i) shall be considered as bycatch. In addition, oilfish, escolar and any other species not prohibited that might be incidentally caught in the normal surface longline operation shall be considered as bycatch. iii. sharks belonging to the families Alopiidae			

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
					and Sphyrnidae; shark species Cetorhinus maximus, Rhincodon typus, Carcharodon carcharias and Carcharhinus longimarus; and any other species protected or prohibited under the laws of Seychelles, the framework of the IOTC or other relevant international agreements shall be prohibited from catching and retaining on board. (b) SIOFA agreement area for fishery resources as defined by its Agreement.			
India	7. CMM 07(2022)/ 6. CMM 07(2024):Each CCP shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing and fishing related activities on fishery resources covered by the Agreement by vessels which are not registered in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels.	Not Assessed in 2024	Compliant	India to provide national binding measures to implement this obligation	[No Feedback]	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	India to provide updates on submission of missing measures at the MoP12

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
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Table 8 **Implementation of CMM 08 (2020) (Port Inspection)**

Mauritius	25. The inspection report shall be forwarded to the competent authority of the inspected vessel and to the Secretariat within 30 days following the date of completion of the inspection or as soon as possible where potential compliance issues have arisen or if there are issues which warrant the attention of the competent authority of the inspected vessel. If the inspection report cannot be transmitted within that time period, the port State shall notify the Secretariat within that same time period of the reasons for the delay and when the report will be submitted.	Critically Non-Compliant	Compliant	Potential Compliance Issue: Secretariats records indicates that one (1) inspection report was submitted 34 days after completion of inspection.	Mauritius will ensure that inspection reports will be submitted in a timely manner.	Critically Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	Mauritius to ensure reports are submitted on time.
Seychelles	11. Without prejudice to other requirements in specific CMMs, each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure that the scientific observers carried by vessels flying its flag operating in the Agreement Area are qualified and authorised to perform their tasks and record any requested data.	Non Compliant		No preliminary self-assessment provided		Non Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	Seychelles to implement an EM Program for its longline fleet as its observer program.

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Chinese Taipei	28. Where, following port State inspection, a Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE receives an inspection report indicating that there are clear grounds to believe that a vessel flying its flag has engaged in IUU fishing, it shall immediately and fully investigate the matter and shall, upon sufficient evidence, take enforcement action without delay in accordance with its laws and regulations.	Not Applicable		No information provided related to this obligation. Chinese Taipei to provide relevant information, including preliminary self-assessment if required. Sec: Chinese Taipei To confirm if there were no clear grounds to believe that a vessel flying its flag has engaged in IUU fishing.	This obligation is for the competent authority, so it would not be transformed into domestic regulations because of our legislation practice. This Agency will immediately initiate a full investigation once this Agency receives inspection report from the port State and takes further enforcement action. Since there was no inspection report received in 2024, there was no need to take further action. Therefore, either "compliant" or "not applicable" would be acceptable for our preliminary assessment.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	No follow-up action required.
Chinese Taipei	29. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall report to the Secretariat on any actions it has taken in respect of vessels flying its flag that, as a result of port State measures taken pursuant to this CMM, have been determined to have engaged in IUU fishing.	Not Applicable		No information provided related to this obligation. Chinese Taipei to provide relevant information, including preliminary self-assessment if required. Sec: Chinese Taipei To confirm if there were no clear grounds to believe that a vessel flying its flag has engaged in IUU fishing.	This obligation is for the competent authority, so it would not be transformed into domestic regulations because of our legislation practice. Since there was no fishing vessel that had been determined to have engaged in IUU fishing in 2024, there was no need to report to the Secretariat. Therefore, either "compliant" or "not applicable" would be acceptable for our preliminary assessment.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	No follow-up action required.

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Chinese Taipei	30. Each Contracting Party, CNCP, PFE and CNPFE shall provide a report to each ordinary meeting of the Compliance Committee of action that they have taken pursuant to paragraph 27.	Not Applicable		No information provided related to this obligation. Chinese Taipei to provide relevant information, including preliminary self-assessment if required. Sec: Chinese Taipei To confirm if there were no clear grounds to believe that a vessel flying its flag has engaged in IUU fishing.	This obligation is for the competent authority, so it would not be transformed into domestic regulations because of our legislation practice. Since there was no fishing vessel that had engaged in IUU fishing and was seeking entry to or in the port of another CCP, there was no need to take further action. Therefore, either "compliant" or "not applicable" would be acceptable for our preliminary assessment.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	No follow-up action required.
India	26. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall require its vessels to cooperate with the port State in inspections carried out pursuant to this CMM.	Critically Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	[No Feedback]	Critically Non-Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	India to provide updates on submission of missing measures at the MoP12

Table 9 Implementation of CMM 09 (2022) (Control)

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Seychelles	11. Without prejudice to other requirements in specific CMMs, each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure that the scientific observers carried by vessels flying its flag operating in the	Non Compliant		No preliminary self-assessment provided		Non Compliant	Critically Non-Compliant	Seychelles to implement an EM Program for its longline fleet as its observer program.

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
	Agreement Area are qualified and authorised to perform their tasks and record any requested data.							
Comoros	6. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall without delay notify the Secretariat of the information regarding the marking of fixed gear used by vessels flying its flag. This notification does not need to be repeated unless there are changes to be reported.	Not Applicable	Compliant	The Secretariat holds no record of this information. Comoros to confirm if this has been submitted to the Secretariat, and if not, to provide these information here. Sec: Confirming this was received, albeit in 2025.	Pictures of fishing gears were taken during the inspection of the vessel in 2024 before applying for the authorisation in SIOFA together with pictures of the vessel. The data should have been submitted when the fishing vessel Rinascente 9 has applied to be listed in the reccord of authorised vessels in early 2024. However we will send these pictures to the secretariat again.	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	No follow-up action required.

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
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Table 10 Implementation of CMM 10 (2023) (Monitoring)

Cook Islands	21. Each CCP shall ensure, for each vessel flying its flag undertaking an at sea transfer operation of fuel, crew, gear or any other supplies, either as an unloading or receiving vessel, where one or both vessels has been involved or intends to undertake fishing for fishery resources in the Agreement Area during that trip, that: a. the vessel notifies its competent authority at least 24 hours in advance of the planned transfer. b. the notifications include the relevant information available regarding the transfer in accordance with Transfer Notification Annex V. c. the competent authority transmits the notification to the Secretariat without delay. d. the vessel notifies all of the operational details to its competent authority, as specified in Transfer Declaration Annex VI, within 24 hours following the transfer.	Not Applicable	Compliant	No reports were received by the Secretariat during the calendar year. Report provided by the Cook Islands indicates that the donor vessel is not on RAV and not a fishing vessel, and in cases where receiving vessels were registered on SIOFA RAV, the flag state of the receiving vessel submitted those reports. CC to advise on applicability and compliance status		Compliant	Compliant	
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CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Cook Islands	33. As part of its CCP Compliance Report under paragraph 12 of CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme), each CCP shall provide annually [information required by paragraph 33], as applicable, to the Secretariat for consideration by the Compliance Committee in relation to each transshipment and at sea transfer by vessels flying its flag that took place during the previous calendar year in accordance with paragraphs 16 to 32.	New Obligation	Compliant	Submission made for 2025. Assessment Period relates to submissions made in 2024	Cook Islands Submitted transfers at sea for the calendar year 2024. If the requirement is to submit transfers at sea for the calendar year 2023, Cook Islands can submit his information, but it will take some time to collate the data.	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	Cook Islands to submit missing data after conclusion of MoP12.
Mauritius	10. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the ALC fitted on board a vessel: a. the device shall be repaired or replaced within a month. After this period, the vessel shall not be authorised to begin a new trip with a defective ALC. If the trip is lasting more than one month, the repair or the replacement shall take place as soon as practicable after the vessel enters a port. If the ALC has not been repaired or replaced within 90 days, the CCP shall order the vessel to cease fishing, stow all fishing gear and return immediately to port in order to undertake repairs. The vessel shall not be authorised to begin a new	Compliant	Compliant	New requirement under 10.c entered into force 1 Jan 2024 (prohibition to authorize transshipment while vessel has a faulty ALC). As per Fisheries (Vessel Monitoring System) Regulations 2024: Section 6: Obligations of the operator of every fishing vessel The operator of every fishing vessel shall (g) the owner or agent is notified immediately where the Mobile Transceiver Unit, or a personal computer or data terminal connected to the Mobile Transceiver Unit, ceases to operate; (h) that the Fisheries Monitoring Centre and the Mauritius National Coast Guard Operations Room are informed of any cessation or malfunction of the Mobile Transceiver Unit immediately upon becoming aware of same; and (i) the Fisheries Monitoring Centre is promptly informed of the name of the person on board nominated to [Sec]: Measures may not be sufficient to implement para 10 in its entirety		Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	Mauritius in the process of amending its regulation to include this provision

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
	tripwithout a ALC having been repaired or replaced; b. the master of the fishing vessel shall manually communicate to its Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC), at least every four hours, reports by other means of communication (such as email, facsimile, telex, telephone message or radio). Such reports must include, inter alia, information required in paragraph 8 b; and c. no transshipments at sea shall be authorized and initiated unless and until the reporting requirements and procedures established in sub-paragraph b are complied with.							
Seychelles	10. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the ALC fitted on board a vessel: a. the device shall be repaired or replaced within a month. After this period, the vessel shall not be authorised to begin a new trip with a defective ALC. If the trip is lasting more than one month, the repair or the replacement shall take place as soon as practicable after the vessel enters a port. If the ALC has not been repaired or replaced within 90 days, the CCP shall order the vessel to cease fishing, stow all fishing gear and return immediately to port in order	Compliant	Compliant	New requirement under 10.c entered into force 1 Jan 2024 (prohibition to authorize transshipment while vessel has a faulty ALC). Seychelles to provide measures that implements this new requirement Sec: Measures may be deemed insufficient as there are no measures to implement para 10 c.	The Framework Agreement for Seychelles Flagged Industrial Longliners / Appendix 6 - Transmission by the COMPANY vessel in the event of breakdown of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) 1. The master of a COMPANY vessel shall ensure at all times that the VMS of that vessel is fully operational and that the position messages are correctly transmitted to the Seychelles FMC. 2. In the event of breakdown, the VMS of the COMPANY vessel shall be repaired or	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	To be transposed in new regulations under new Fisheries act (2025)

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
	to undertake repairs. The vessel shall not be authorised to begin a new trip without a ALC having been repaired or replaced; b. the master of the fishing vessel shall manually communicate to its Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC), at least every four hours, reports by other means of communication (such as email, facsimile, telex, telephone message or radio). Such reports must include, inter alia, information required in paragraph 8 b; and c. no transshipments at sea shall be authorized and initiated unless and until the reporting requirements and procedures established in sub-paragraph b are complied with.				replaced within thirty (30) days. If the VMS has not been repaired or replaced within thirty (30) days, the COMPANY vessel shall no longer be authorised to continue and/ or commence a fishing trip. 3. COMPANY vessels with a defective VMS shall communicate their position messages by email to the FMC at least every four hours, providing all the mandatory information. a) the vessel identification; (b) the most recent geographical position of the vessel (longitude, latitude), with a margin of error of less than 100 metres and with a confidence interval of 99%; (c) the date and time the position is recorded; (d) the vessel's speed and course.			

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Seychelles	18. Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag only undertake transshipments at sea of fishery resources, with other vessels included on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels.	Not Applicable	Compliant	Obligation being assessed for the first time as obligation was not applicable to Seychelles last year, Seychelles to provide measures implementing this obligation domestically Sec:Measures provided does not relate to obligation	1.Implemented as part of the Terms and Conditions of Authorisation to fish within the SIOFA competence zones. 2.Fisheries Act 2014 - PART II - MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES Sub-Part 1- Management plans and management measures - Article 7 7.(1) The Authority shall collect and analyse statistical data and other information on fisheries, fishing related activities and aquaculture, including fishermen engaged in fishing activities. (5) The Minister may enter into arrangements or agreements with other States or territories, either directly or through an international organisation, providing for the exchange, in a standardised format, and in a manner consistent with applicable confidentiality requirements, of fisheries information, including evidentiary information relating to breaches of national fisheries legislations and international fisheries conservation and management measures.	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	To be transposed in new regulations under new Fisheries act (2025)

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Seychelles	19. Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag do not undertake transshipments at sea of fishery resources with vessels included in the IUU vessel lists established by CCAMLR or any regional fisheries management organization.	New Obligation	Compliant	Obligation being assessed for the first time, Seychelles to provide measures implementing this obligation domestically Sec:Measures provided does not relate to obligation	1.Implemented as part of the Terms and Conditions of Authorisation to fish within the SIOFA competence zones. 2.Fisheries Act 2014 - PART II - MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES Sub-Part 1- Management plans and management measures - Article 7 7.(1) The Authority shall collect and analyse statistical data and other information on fisheries, fishing related activities and aquaculture, including fishermen engaged in fishing activities. (5) The Minister may enter into arrangements or agreements with other States or territories, either directly or through an international organisation, providing for the exchange, in a standardised format, and in a manner consistent with applicable confidentiality requirements, of fisheries information, including evidentiary information relating to breaches of national fisheries legislations and international fisheries conservation and management measures.	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	To be transposed in new regulations under new Fisheries act (2025)

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Chinese Taipei	24 a. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag that receives fishery resources at sea from more than one unloading vessel shall ensure that such receiving vessel...stores the fishery resources and related documentation from each unloading vessel separately, allowing to distinguish from which unloading vessel each part of the fishery resources on board comes, including through the use of canvas or nets to separate fishery resources on board and/or appropriate labelling for boxes;	New Obligation	Non-Compliant	Obligation not assessed in previous compliance assessment. Chinese Taipei to provide relevant measures related to the implementation of this obligation	The Fisheries Agency had amended article 49-1 of "Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Indian Ocean for Fishing Operation" so as to transform this obligation into our domestic regulation. However, due to administrative procedures, the process of amendment is still on-going. Therefore, our preliminary self assessment is non-compliant.	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	CC noted the ongoing process to domesticate this provision by the Chinese Taipei
Chinese Taipei	24 b. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag that receives fishery resources at sea from more than one unloading vessel shall ensure that such receiving vessel...maintains an up-to-date stowage plan and other documents showing the location and quantities of species received from each unloading vessel and retains these on board until the vessel has been unloaded completely;	New Obligation	Non-Compliant	Obligation not assessed in previous compliance assessment. Chinese Taipei to provide relevant measures related to the implementation of this obligation	The Fisheries Agency had amended article 49-1 of "Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Indian Ocean for Fishing Operation" so as to transform this obligation into our domestic regulation. But due to administrative procedures, the process of amendment is still on-going. Therefore, our preliminary self assessment is non-compliant.	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	CC noted the ongoing process to domesticate this provision by the Chinese Taipei

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Chinese Taipei	24 c. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag that receives fishery resources at sea from more than one unloading vessel shall ensure that such receiving vessel...makes available the information referred to in sub-paragraph b. to its competent authority and to the relevant port State when required.	New Obligation	Non-Compliant	Obligation not assessed in previous compliance assessment. Chinese Taipei to provide relevant measures related to the implementation of this obligation	The Fisheries Agency had amended article 49-1 of "Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Indian Ocean for Fishing Operation" so as to transform this obligation into our domestic regulation. But due to administrative procedures, the process of amendment is still on-going. Therefore, our preliminary self assessment is non-compliant.	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	CC noted the ongoing process to domesticate this provision by the Chinese Taipei
Comoros	21. Each CCP shall ensure, for each vessel flying its flag undertaking an at sea transfer operation of fuel, crew, gear or any other supplies, either as an unloading or receiving vessel, where one or both vessels has been involved or intends to undertake fishing for fishery resources in the Agreement Area during that trip, that: a. the vessel notifies its competent authority at least 24 hours in advance of the planned transfer. b. the notifications include the relevant information available regarding the transfer in accordance with Transfer Notification Annex V. c. the competent authority transmits the notification to the Secretariat without	Not Applicable	Compliant	Comoros to elaborate on national binding measures in the "fisheries code" related to this obligation Sec: Measure provided related to transshipments at sea, Obligation relates to transfers at sea.	The Fisheries code of the Union of Comoros prohibits transshipments at sea	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	Comoros to provide further information on binding measures for future assessment

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
	delay. d. the vessel notifies all of the operational details to its competent authority, as specified in Transfer Declaration Annex VI, within 24 hours following the transfer.							
Comoros	23. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag involved in a transshipment or transfer at sea shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received in accordance with paragraphs 20 and 21.	Not Applicable	Compliant	Comoros to elaborate on national binding measures in the "fisheries code" related to this obligation Sec: Measure provided related to transshipments at sea, Obligation relates to transfers at sea.	The Fisheries code of the Union of Comoros prohibits transshipments at sea	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	Comoros to provide further information on binding measures for future assessment
Comoros	27. Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag do not undertake transshipments in port of fishery resources with vessels included in the IUU vessel lists established by CCAMLR or any regional fisheries management organization.	New Obligation	Compliant	Comoros to elaborate on national binding measures in the "fisheries code" related to this obligation Sec: Measure provided related to transshipments at sea, Obligation relates to transshipments in port	The Fisheries code of the Union of Comoros prohibits transshipments at sea	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	Comoros to provide further information on binding measures for future assessment
Comoros	28. For each transshipment of fishery resources in port, the competent authority of the CCP of the unloading vessel shall notify, at least 24 hours in advance, the [information contained in paragraph 28 of this CMM] to the competent authority of the port State and to the competent authority of the receiving vessel.	New Obligation	Compliant	Comoros to elaborate on national binding measures in the "fisheries code" related to this obligation Sec: Measure provided related to transshipments at sea, Obligation relates to transshipments in port	The Fisheries code of the Union of Comoros prohibits transshipments at sea	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	Comoros to provide further information on binding measures for future assessment

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Comoros	30. The CCP of the unloading vessel shall require that the vessel submits a Transshipment Declaration in accordance with the format set out in Annex IV to its competent authority, and that of the port State within 24 hours of the transshipment, and also provides a copy to the receiving vessel.	Not Applicable	Compliant	Comoros to elaborate on national binding measures in the "fisheries code" related to this obligation Sec: Measure provided related to transshipments at sea, Obligation relates to transshipments in port	The Fisheries code of the Union of Comoros prohibits transshipments at sea	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	Comoros to provide further information on binding measures for future assessment
Comoros	32. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag involved in the transshipment in port shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received in accordance with paragraphs 28 to 31 and take appropriate follow-up action in the event of discrepancies in the data reported by the masters of the unloading or receiving vessels or in the event of possible noncompliance with SIOFA CMMs.	New Obligation	Compliant	Comoros to elaborate on national binding measures in the "fisheries code" related to this obligation Sec: Measure provided related to transshipments at sea, Obligation relates to transshipments in port	The Fisheries code of the Union of Comoros prohibits transshipments at sea	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant	Comoros to provide further information on binding measures for future assessment

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
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Table 11 Implementation of CMM 11 (2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme)

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Cook Islands	12. Each CCP shall prepare a CCP Compliance Report on the basis of the template referred to in paragraph 10 which shall include a preliminary self-assessment of its compliance status for each assessed obligation, using Annex I as a reference, and return it to the Secretariat no later than 60 days before the commencement of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties. Each CCP shall ensure their CCR includes information relevant to the implementation of each obligation assessed for compliance.	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Submission made for CCR submitted in 2025. The Assessment Period relates to submissions made in 2024. The CCR submitted in 2024 did not include information (or a summary) on how some obligations are being implemented. The Cook Islands resubmitted an updated CCR on the 8th May 2024. No Further action required.	If the updated re-submission of the CCR on 8th May 2024 required no further action, The cooks request a compliant assessment.	Non-Compliant	Compliant	No follow up actions required

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
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Table 12 Implementation of CMM 12 (2024) and CMM 12 (2023) (Sharks)

No Potential Compliance Issue Identified
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Table 13 Implementation of CMM 13 (2022) (Mitigation of Seabirds Bycatch)

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
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No Potential Compliance Issue Identified
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Table 14 Implementation of CMM 14 (2021) (High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures)

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
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No Potential Compliance Issue Identified
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Table 15 Implementation of CMM 15 (2024) and CMM 15 (2023) (Management of Demersal Stocks)

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
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No Potential Compliance Issue Identified
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CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
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Table 16 Implementation of CMM 17 (2024) (New and Exploratory Fisheries)

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Proposed Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Provisional Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Mauritius	15. CCPs shall not permit fishing vessels flying their flag to participate in new and exploratory fisheries without prior approval from the Meeting of the Parties.	New CMM	Compliant			Compliant	Compliant	SC requested advice on interpretation of this CMM to the MoP



SIOFA | APSOI

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

ANNEX E

9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)

Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025

CC-09-19 Rev2

Proposal Amendement to CMM03(2016) Data confidentiality

Proposed by the delegation of France Overseas territories

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	working paper ✓ information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	
<p>These proposed amendments aim at implement modifications related to the VMS implementation process and to the longer-term thinking on data confidentiality within the various SIOFA bodies.</p> <p>The proposed amendments :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Add, as public domain data, the catch-and-effort and length-frequency data grouped by sub-area by year in order to ensure proper reporting as part of annual data collection at international level ;- Modify the qualification “confidential” to “restricted” in article 2 d), in coherence to the work made by the Scientific Committee and presented in the document SC-08-INFO-16 ;- Add a confidentiality categorisation for economic information ;- Introduce necessary modifications related to VMS.	

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¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Rev 1 adds :

Para. 2.bis) on VMS data adopted by the VMS WG6 that was missing;

- corrections to 3.c.bis) accordingly to the VMS WG6 report;

- specifications on economic data which paragraph was added according to MoP09 (MoP09 report, para. 127) and SC08 (SC08 report, para. 101) discussions;

- reference to the SIOFA standard operating procedure for data use and data request, in order to improve accessibility to the data request process.

Rev 2 :

deletion of the aggregation to the country level for economic information considered public domain data

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ANNEX E

Recommendations

- For CC9 to review the proposal and propose it for adoption to MoP12
- For MoP12 to review and adopt the proposal

CMM 03(~~2016~~2025)³**Conservation and Management Measure for Data Confidentiality and Procedures for access and use of data (Data Confidentiality)****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;**

RECOGNISING that Article 4(a) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (SIOFA or the Agreement) calls on the Contracting Parties, in giving effect to the duty to cooperate, to adopt measures on the basis of the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation of fishery resources, taking into account the sustainable use of such resources and implementing an ecosystem approach to their management;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Article 11(3)(d) of the Agreement which provides that Contracting Parties shall collect and share in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities by vessels flying its flag operating in the area, in particular on vessel position, retained catch, discarded catch and fishing effort, where appropriate maintaining confidentiality of data as it relates to the application of relevant national legislation; and

RECALLING Article 14 of the Agreement which calls on Contracting Parties to promote transparency in decision making processes and other activities carried out under the Agreement;

ADOPTS the following Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:

1. This CMM establishes the policy and procedures on confidentiality of data that will apply to data collected from Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) and Participating Fishing Entities (PFEs) in accordance with the Agreement and relevant SIOFA CMMs.

Data Submitted to the Secretariat

2. The policy for releasing catch-and-effort, length-frequency and observer data will be as follows:

Public domain data

a) The following data shall be considered to be “public domain data”:

i) Data for vessels including current flag, name, registration number, international radio call sign, IHS-Fairplay (IMO) number, previous names, port of registry, previous flag, type of vessel, types of fishing methods, length, length type, gross tonnage (and/or gross registered tonnage), power of main engine(s), hold capacity, vessel authorisation start and end dates; and

ii) Observer data grouped by 5° longitude by 5° latitude, stratified by month and by flag State, provided that:

- A. the catch of no individual vessel can be identified within a time/area stratum; and
- B. the flag State that submitted the data provides its written authorisation that such data be considered to be “public domain data”.

b) The following data shall be considered to be “public domain catch and effort data”:

1) Catch-and-effort and length-frequency data grouped by 5° longitude by 5° latitude by

³ Obsolete references have been updated by 2023 technical edits.

month stratified by fishing method associated with catch and flag State, provided that the catch of no individual vessel can be identified within a time/area stratum. In cases when an individual vessel can be identified, the data will be aggregated to preclude such identification, and will then be “public domain catch and effort data”.

ii) Catch-and-effort and length-frequency data grouped by sub-area by year, stratified by fishing method associated with catch and flag State, in the strict frame of annual international cooperation on fishing data.

e) The Secretariat shall keep “public domain catch and effort data” confidential until the Meeting of the Parties has acted on the advice of the Scientific Committee in relation to a SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment and SIOFA bottom fishing footprint as provided for under the Conservation and Management Measure for the Interim Management of Bottom Fishing in the SIOFA Agreement Area (CMM 01(2023)). This will not prevent observer data or finer scale catch and effort data being made available by the Secretariat to the Scientific Committee on a confidential basis where required.

d) The Secretariat shall compile and disseminate “public domain data”, and “public domain catch and effort data” provided the conditions in paragraph 2(c) are satisfied, through appropriate mechanisms, including the SIOFA website, once developed.

Finer level stratification

ed) Finer-scale data including catch and effort, length-frequency and observer data will be made available to the Scientific Committee and any of its working groups, on a confidential restricted basis, to undertake its work.

fe) Catch and effort and length-frequency data grouped at a finer level of time-area stratification will only be released with written authorisation from the flag State that submitted the data. Each such data release will also require the specific permission of the Secretariat.

gf) Individuals requesting the data are required to provide a description of the research project, including the objectives, methodology and intentions for publication. Prior to publication, the manuscript should be cleared by the Secretariat. The data are released only for use in the specified research project and the data must be destroyed upon completion of the project. However, with written authorisation from the flag State that submitted the data, catch-and-effort and length-frequency data may be released for long-term usage for research purposes, and in such cases the data need not be destroyed. Those individuals requesting data can refer to the SIOFA standard operating procedure for data use and data requests (Annex L of MoP9 Report) available on the website.

hg) The identity of individual vessels will be hidden in finer-level data unless the individual requesting this information can justify its necessity and the flag State that submitted the data provides its written authorisation.

ih) Individuals requesting data shall provide a report of the results of the research project to the SIOFA Secretariat for subsequent forwarding to the sources of the data.

2 bis) VMS data shall be considered confidential data and shall be processed in accordance with the specific requirements of CMM 16([2025])(Vessel Monitoring System) whereby ‘processed’ refers to the collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, deletion, dissemination or otherwise making available of VMS data.

2 ter) Economic information such as catch landing value, vessel company turnover and crew wages will be considered :

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a) "Public domain data" when it corresponds, at minimum, to the data of ~~three vessels or aggregated at the country level.~~

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b) Confidential when it doesn't meet the sufficient level of aggregation to be considered as public domain data.

Procedures for the safeguarding and securing of records

3. Procedures for safeguarding records and databases will be as follows:

a) Access to logbook-level information, VMS data or detailed observer data will be restricted to SIOFA staff members who require these records for their official duties. Each staff member having access to these records will be required to sign an attestation recognising the restrictions on the use and disclosure of the information.

b) Logbook and observer records will be kept locked, under the specific responsibility of the Data ~~Officer Manager~~. These sheets will only be released to authorised SIOFA staff members for the purpose of data input, editing or verification. Copies of these records will be authorised only for legitimate purposes and will be subjected to the same restrictions on access and storage as the originals.

c) Databases will be encrypted to preclude access by unauthorised persons. Full access to the database will be restricted to the Data ~~Officer Manager~~ and to senior SIOFA staff members requiring access to these data for official purposes, under the authority of the SIOFA Executive Secretary. Staff entrusted with data input, editing and verification will be provided with access to those functions and data sets required for their work.

c bis) CCPs and the Secretariat shall take appropriate measures to protect all data against accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorized disclosure or access, and against all ~~unauthorized~~ forms of processing.

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Data submitted to the Scientific Committee

4. Data submitted to the Scientific Committee and any of its working groups will be retained by the Secretariat or made available for other analyses only with the permission of the flag State that submitted the data.

5. The above rules of confidentiality will apply to all members of the Scientific Committee and any of its working groups.

5 bis. The Secretariat shall inform the MoP of measures taken to implement these confidentiality and security provisions.



SIOFA | APSOI

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

ANNEX F

9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)

Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025

MoP-12-37 rev1 / CC-09-20 rev24

Proposal Amendment to CMM 13(2022) Mitigation of Seabirds Bycatch

Proposed by the delegations of Cook Islands, and France Overseas Territories ~~and SIOFA~~

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	working paper ✓ information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract <p>Given the global concerns about seabird population declines and our requirements to mitigate any seabird mortality effectively, the SC10 made recommendations (paragraph 419) to improve CMM 13 to achieve more effective seabird bycatch mitigation in SIOFA fisheries. This requires an amendment to the current Seabird Bycatch CMM.</p> <p>This proposal is to enact these recommendations and to update CMM 13(2022) in alignment with the recent science advice. The amendment includes the addition of mitigation requirements for trawl vessels and removes redundant text from the CMM.</p> <p><u>Rev1: removal of SIOFA in the proposing delegations</u> <u>Changes in this revision and editorial changes, these are highlighted in the text due to multiple track changes in the document.</u></p>	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

CMM 13(2022)³

Conservation and Management Measure on mitigation of seabirds bycatch in demersal and pelagic longlines and other demersal fishing gear fisheries within the SIOFA Agreement Area (Mitigation of Seabirds Bycatch)

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement:

RECALLING the relevant provisions of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, in particular Article 4 and 6;

CONSIDERING that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for Seabirds calls on States to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations to mitigate incidental by-catch of seabirds;

RECOGNISING the need to strengthen mechanisms to protect seabirds in the Southern Indian Ocean;

FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries concerning best practices to reduce incidental catch of seabirds in capture fisheries;

NOTING the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) has established best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures for trawl and demersal and pelagic longline fisheries;

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Article 4 and 6 of the Agreement:

Application and geographic scope

1. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels of Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities to the Agreement (collectively CCPs), engaged in fishing operations in the SIOFA Area of Application (Agreement Area) for fishery resources as defined in article 1(f) of the Agreement, south of 25°S.

General provisions for ~~demersal and pelagic longliners and Other demersal~~ fishing gears

2. ~~Until such time that the SIOFA Scientific Committee has developed advice for the Meeting of Parties on the most appropriate response to mitigate and minimise incidental bycatch of seabirds by demersal and pelagic fishing gears deployed in the Agreement Area,~~ CCPs shall require any vessel flying their flag ~~using demersal or pelagic longlines or other demersal fishing gears and~~ operating in the area south of 25°S to apply the following mitigation measures:
 - a. ~~With the exception of squid jigging vessels that use lights as part of their normal fishing practice,~~ the location and level of lighting shall be arranged so as to minimise illumination directed out from the vessel, consistent with the safe operation of the vessel and the safety of the crew;

³ CMM 13(2022~~52~~) (Mitigation of seabirds bycatch) supersedes CMM ~~2019/13~~13(2022) (Mitigation of seabirds bycatch).

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- b. information about birds colliding with the vessel, or caught by its gears will be recorded in accordance with CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards); and
- c. every effort should be made to ensure that seabirds captured alive during fishing operations are released alive and, ~~for longlining,~~ that ~~any~~ hooks are removed without jeopardising the life of the bird concerned wherever possible.

Provisions applying to demersal longliners

3. CCPs shall require any demersal longliner flying their flag and operating in the area south of 25°S to apply the following mitigation measures:

- a. any vessel catching a total of three (3) seabirds in a single season shall immediately change to night setting only (i.e. setting only during the hours of darkness between the times of nautical twilight);
- b. vessels are encouraged to use white colour lines, to increase visibility which decreases the bycatches of birds;
- c. there shall be no discharging of offal or discards immediately prior to and during the deployment or retrieval of fishing gear.

3. For demersal longliners of 25 metres or more, CCPs shall require any demersal longliner flying their flag and operating in the area south of 25°S to apply the following mitigation measures: Until such time that the SIOFA Scientific Committee has developed advice for the Meeting of the Parties on the most appropriate response to mitigate and minimise incidental bycatch of seabirds by demersal fishing gears deployed in the Agreement Area, CCPs shall require any demersal longliners flying their flag and operating in the area south of 25°S to apply the following mitigation measures:

- ~~a. any vessel catching a total of three (3) seabirds in a single season shall immediately change to night setting only (i.e. setting only during the hours of darkness between the times of nautical twilight);~~
- ~~b. vessels are encouraged to use white colour lines, to increase visibility which decreases the bycatches of birds;~~
- a. at least one bird scaring line (in accordance with Annex 1) shall be deployed when setting longlines and at least one bird exclusion device (BED, in accordance with Annex 2) shall be used to prevent birds entering the hauling area, to the extent allowed by prevailing weather;
- ~~c. there shall be no discharging of offal or discards immediately prior to and during the deployment or retrieval of fishing gear;~~
- b. fishing vessels using autoline systems shall add weights to the hookline or use integrated weight (IW) hooklines while deploying longlines. IW longlines of a minimum of 50 g/m or attachment to non-IW longlines of 5 kg weights at 50 to 60 m intervals are recommended;

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- c. fishing vessels using the Spanish method of longline fishing shall release weights before line tension occurs; traditional weights (made of rocks or concrete) of at least 8.5 kg mass shall be used, spaced at intervals of no more than 40 m, or traditional weights of at least 6 kg mass shall be used, spaced at intervals of no more than 20 m, or solid steel weights of at least 5 kg mass shall be used, spaced at intervals of no more than 40 m;
- d. fishing vessels using the trotline system exclusively (not a mix of trotlines and the Spanish system within the same longline) shall deploy weights only at the distal end of the droppers in the trotline. Weights shall be traditional weights of at least 6 kg or solid steel weights of at least 5 kg; and
- e. fishing vessels alternating between the use of the Spanish system and trotline method shall use:

i. ~~(i)~~ for the Spanish system: line weighting shall conform to the provisions in paragraph 3 f;

~~d.ii~~ ~~(ii)~~ for the trotline method: line weighting shall be either 8.5 kg traditional weights or 5 kg steel weights attached on the hook-end of all droppers in the trotline at no more than 80 m intervals.

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- 4. For demersal longliners of less than 25 m CCPs shall require any demersal longliners flying their flag and operating in the area south of 25°S to apply at least one of the following mitigation measures; at least one of the following measures shall apply:

- a. at least one bird scaring line (in accordance with Annex 1) shall be deployed when setting lines, and at least one bird exclusion device (BED, see specifications in Annex 2), shall be used to prevent birds entering the hauling area, to the extent allowed by prevailing weather;
- b. fishing vessels using autoline systems shall add weights to the hookline or use integrated weight (IW) hooklines while deploying longlines. IW longlines shall have a minimum of 50 g/m or a weight of a minimum of 5 kg attached to non-IW longlines at 50 to 60 m intervals; and
- c. lines shall be set only at night (i.e. during the hours of darkness between the times of nautical twilight). The exact times of nautical twilight are set forth in the Nautical almanac tables for the relevant latitude, local time and date.

Provisions applying to other demersal fishing gears

- 6. In addition to the provisions in paragraph 2, CCPs shall require any fishing vessel flying their flag and operating in the Agreement Area south of 25°S using demersal pots or traps to ensure the cleanliness of the traps and pots not to attract birds, and ensure that buoy lines shall not be left floating at the surface.

Provisions applying to pelagic longliners

- 7. Until such time that the SIOFA Scientific Committee has developed advice for the Meeting of the Parties on the most appropriate response to mitigate and minimise incidental bycatch of seabirds by pelagic fishing gears deployed in the Agreement

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Area. In addition to the provisions in paragraph 2, CCPs shall require any pelagic longliners flying their flag and engaged in fishing operations under this Agreement for fishery resources as defined in article 1(f) of the Agreement in the area south of 25°S to use at least two of the three mitigation measures outlined in Annex 3.

Provisions applying to demersal trawlers

8. In addition to the provisions in paragraph 2, CCPs shall require any fishing trawler flying their flag and operating in the SIOFA area south of 25°S to apply the following mitigation measures:

- a. Vessels shall adopt shooting and hauling procedures that minimise the time that the net is lying on the surface of the water with the meshes slack. Net maintenance should, to the extent possible, not be carried out with the net in the water;
- b. Nets shall be cleaned prior to shooting to remove residue of fish or other items that may attract seabirds;
- c. Offal or discards should not be discharged immediately prior to or during deployment or retrieval of fishing gear. The period of deployment is defined as the period from shooting the net until the doors are released, retrieval is the time between attachment of the doors at the stern till the net is on deck;
- d. Bird Bafflers/Seabird mitigation, shall be deployed during fishing operations to prevent seabird from flying around the stern of the vessel or where they might prevent seabirds from interacting with the fishing gear (see example specifications in Annex 4);
 - i. If 'Bird Bafflers', are used they shall be deployed for the duration of the fishing voyage (see example specifications in Annex 4 Figure A41);
 - ii. If bird scaring lines are used (see example specifications in Annex 4 Figure A42) they shall be deployed immediately after shooting and retrieved before hauling
- e. Vessels shall carry materials for construction, replacement, and repair of bird scaring lines in the event of changes to seabird abundance or behaviour (par 8. b).†

9. In the event that a vessel causes [3 or more] seabird mortalities in the same calendar year. In addition to provisions in paragraphs 2, 3 and 8, these additional seabird mitigation measures shall be added for this vessel. Additional measures shall remain in place for [three months] [six months] [until the incidences have been reviewed by the CCP and appropriate mitigation actions have been implemented]:

- a. There shall be no discharging of offal or discards immediately prior to and during the deployment or retrieval of fishing. The period of deployment is

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ANNEX F

defined as the period from shooting the net until the doors are released, retrieval is the time between attachment of the doors at the stern till the net is on deck;

b. In the event that the seabird mortalities are from warp strikes, bird scaring streamer lines shall be deployed immediately after shooting and retrieved before hauling, unless their deployment is in conflict with vessel safety priorities in poor sea conditions (see example specifications in Annex 4 Figure A42):

c. Net monitor cables⁴ shall not be used. Where this is impracticable:-

- i. a snatch block shall be installed at the stern of a vessel to draw the net monitoring cable close to the water and thus reduce its aerial extent; and
- ii. bird scaring lines shall be deployed and specifically positioned to deter birds away from net monitoring cables while fishing.

After this [time period] [review process] has been completed the provisions of paragraph 8 shall apply.

Reporting provisions

10. CCPs shall record all seabird bycatch as specified in CMM-02(2023⁵) and shall report these data annually, to the SC in the CCP's country report. In addition, CCP's shall report to the Secretariat any applications of Paragraph 9, and the secretariat shall provide a summary of reporting under Paragraph 9 to the Scientific Committee.

Final provisions

10.11. The Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee will review this CMM every four years, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise.

⁴ A net monitoring cable (i.e. net-sonde cable or third wire) is defined as "a wire commonly suspended from the trawl gantry running to net monitoring equipment attached directly to the net" (CCAMLR).
⁵ Or any subsequent replacements.

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ANNEX 1: Specification of bird scaring line for longliners

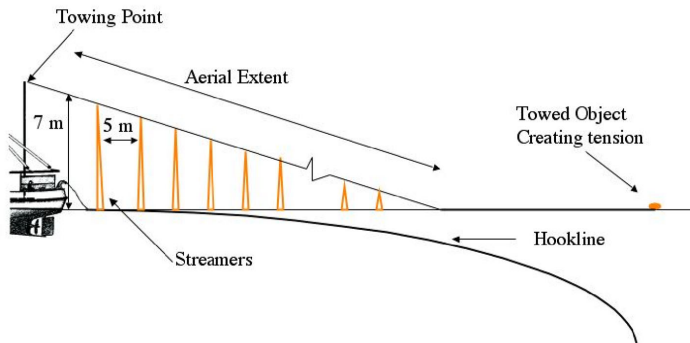


Figure A1-1: Specifications of the longline bird scaring lines.

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1. The aerial extent of the bird scaring line, being that part of the line supporting the streamers, is the effective seabird deterrent component of a bird scaring line. Vessels are encouraged to optimise the aerial extent of the bird scaring line and ensure that it protects the hookline as far astern of the vessel as possible, even in crosswinds.
2. The bird scaring line shall be attached to either the port or starboard sides of the vessel.
3. The bird scaring line shall be a minimum of 150 m in length and include an object towed at the seaward end to create tension to maximise aerial coverage. The object towed should be maintained directly behind the attachment point to the vessel such that in crosswinds the aerial extent of the bird scaring line is over the hookline.
4. Branched streamers, each comprising two strands of a minimum of 3 mm diameter brightly coloured plastic tubing (or cord, shall be attached no more than 5 m apart commencing 5 m from the point of attachment of the bird scaring line to the vessel and thereafter along the aerial extent of the bird scaring line. Where tubing is used for the branched streamers, the tubing should be of a type that is manufactured to be protected from ultraviolet radiation.
5. Streamer length shall range between minimums of 6.5 m from the stern to 1 m for the seaward end. When a bird scaring line is fully deployed, the branched streamers shall be of sufficient length to reach the sea surface in the absence of wind and swell. Swivels or a similar device should be placed in the bird scaring line in such a way as to prevent streamers being twisted around the bird scaring line. Each branched streamer may also have a swivel or other device at its attachment point to the bird scaring line to prevent fouling of individual streamers.
6. A spare bird scaring line shall be carried and deployed in the event of loss or damage of a bird scaring line.

Longline Vessels ≥ 25 m in length

7. Each bird scaring line shall be suspended from a point a minimum of 7 m above the water at the stern of the point where the hookline enters the water.

ANNEX F

Longline Vessels < 25 m in length

8. The bird scaring line shall be suspended from a point a minimum of 6 m above the water at the stern of the point where the hookline enters the water.
9. Streamers may be modified over the first 15 m to prevent tangling.
10. The bird scaring line should achieve an aerial extent of at least 75 m when setting at ≥ 4 knots or 50 m is setting at speeds < 4 knots.

ANNEX 2: Specification of Bird Exclusion Devices (BEDs) for demersal longliners

BEDs shall have the following operational characteristics:

1. deterrence of birds from flying directly into the area where the line is being hauled;
and
2. prevention of birds that are sitting on the surface from swimming into the hauling bay area.

ANNEX 3 : Mitigation measures for pelagic longliners

Mitigation	Description	Specification
Night setting with minimum deck lighting	No setting between nautical dawn and before nautical dusk. Deck lighting to be kept to a minimum.	Nautical dusk and nautical dawn are defined as set out in the Nautical Almanac tables for relevant latitude, local time and date. Minimum deck lighting should not breach minimum standards for safety and navigation.
Bird-scaring lines (Tori lines), in accordance with the specifications provided in Annex 1	Bird-scaring lines shall be deployed during the entire longline setting to deter birds from approaching the branch line.	For vessels greater than or equal to 35 m: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploy at least 1 bird-scaring line. Where practical, vessels are encouraged to use a second tori pole and bird scaring line at times of high bird abundance or activity; both tori lines should be deployed simultaneously, one on each side of the line being set. • Aerial extent of bird-scaring lines must be greater than or equal to 100 m. • Long streamers of sufficient length to reach the sea surface in calm conditions must be used. • Long streamers must be at intervals of no more than 5m. For vessels less than 35 m: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploy at least 1 bird-scaring line. • Aerial extent must be greater than or equal to 75m. • Long and/or short (but greater than 1 m in length) streamers must be used and placed at intervals as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Short: intervals of no more than 2 m. o Long: intervals of no more than 5 m for the first 55 m of bird scaring line. Additional design and deployment guidelines for bird-scaring lines are provided in Annex I of this CMM.
Line weighting	Line weights to be deployed on the snood prior to setting.	Greater than a total of 45 g attached within 1 m of the hook or; Greater than a total of 60 g attached within 3.5 m of the hook or; Greater than a total of 98 g weight attached within 4 m of the hook.

Annex 4: Specifications of seabird mitigation devices for demersal trawlers

Specification of Bird Bafflers

1. Exact design and placement will be contingent on vessel shape.
2. Each boom shall extend outwards not less than four metres from the side or stern of the vessel (Figure A4-1).
3. Dropper lines shall be attached to the booms and be no more than 2 metres apart.
4. Plastic cones, rods or other brightly coloured and durable material shall be attached to the ends of the dropper lines, so that the bottom of the cone, rod or material is not more than 50 centimetres above the water, in the absence of wind and swell.
5. Lines or webbing should be attached between the dropper lines to prevent tangling.



Figure A4-1: Bird baffler deployed. Seabirds are impeded from flying round the stern of the vessel.

Specification of Bird Scaring Lines for Demersal and Mid-water Trawlers

6. The main line shall be at least 50 metres in length.
7. Streamers shall be attached no more than 5 metres apart and must be long enough to extend beyond the point at which warp and net monitoring cables reach the water's surface. It is recommended that for every metre of block height 5 metres of bird scaring line be deployed.

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8. It is essential that streamers are made from semi-flexible tubing of high visibility. The recommended material is UV-protected fluorescent red polythene tubing. Alternative streamer materials, such as fire hose; old waterproofs and dark coloured tubing are not acceptable.
9. To avoid deflection of bird scaring lines away from cables in strong cross winds, the bird scaring lines must tow an object attached to the seaward end of line to create tension and keep the line straight. It is recommended that for every metre of block height, 1.2 kg of terminal object drag weight be used. The towed object can be linked to the warp with a vertical line using a shackle (Figure A4-2) for better coverage of the warp area.
10. The lines shall be mounted outboard of the trawl blocks on both the port and starboard sides.
11. Streamer lines shall be deployed once the trawl doors are submerged during setting and shall be retrieved as net hauling commences. It is important to retrieve the streamer lines before hauling as vessels often go astern during this process. This can suck the buoys underwater and lead to entanglement problems.
12. A spare streamer line shall be carried and deployed in the event of loss or damage of a line.

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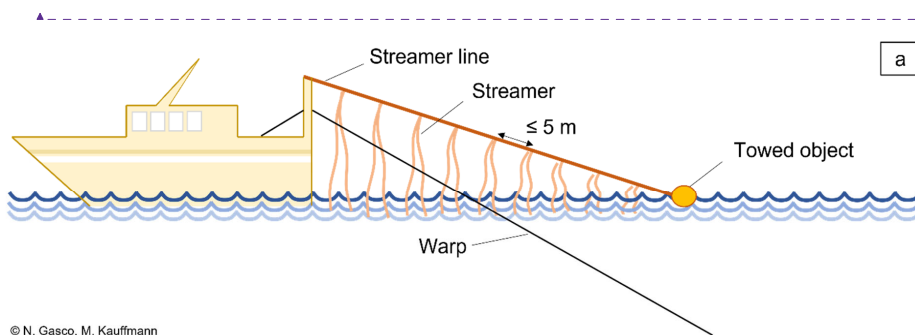
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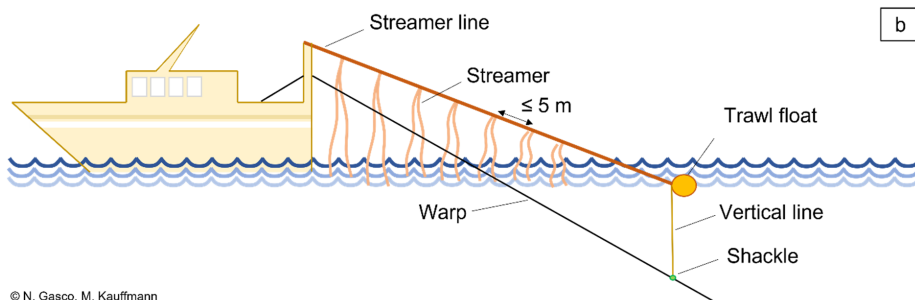
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Figure A4-2: Examples of bird scaring lines either free from the warp (a) or linked to the warp with a shackle (b).

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**9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)***Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025***CC-09-23 / MoP-12-36**

Proposal to amend CMM 15 (2024), Management of Demersal Stocks

Proposed by the delegation of Australia

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
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Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	
<p>Australia's proposed amendments aim to implement the recommendations from the 10th Annual Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC).</p> <p>The proposed amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Establishes the South Indian Ridge (SIR) management area and the SC recommended catch limit- Includes an interim catch sharing arrangement similar to current practice in Del Cano- Includes a new paragraph to recognise the ability to transfer catch limits as is currently practiced for Del Cano- Updates the catch limit for Del Cano- Updates the requirement to report catch from Del Cano and SIR to weekly instead of monthly,- Moves the VMS requirement in Del Cano to the 'general provisions' for toothfish, and- Makes minor changes to the toothfish reporting forms in the relevant Annexes.	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

We have also tried to reduce the operational burden in Williams Ridge on the vessel operators and Secretariat in providing notifications and to trigger daily notifications only when two or more vessels have notified their intent to fishing in Williams Ridge.

Recommendations

- For CC9 to review the proposal and propose it for adoption to MoP12.
- For MoP12 to review and adopt the proposal.

CMM 15(20242025)³

Conservation and Management Measure for the Management of Demersal Stocks in the Agreement Area (Management of Demersal Stocks)

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;

RECOGNISING that Article 4(a) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) calls on the Contracting Parties, in giving effect to the duty to cooperate, to adopt measures on the basis of the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation of fishery resources, taking into account the sustainable use of such resources and implementing an ecosystem approach to their management;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 4(c), (e) and (f) of the Agreement which call on the Contracting Parties to apply the precautionary approach and the principles that fishing practices and management measures shall take due account of the need to minimise the harmful impact that fishing activities may have on the marine environment and that biodiversity in the marine environment shall be protected;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 6(1)(d) and (e) of the Agreement which provide that the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt conservation and management measures (CMMs) necessary for ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishery resources, taking into account the need to protect marine biodiversity, based on the best scientific evidence available and adopt generally recommended international minimum standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations;

MINDFUL of Article 16 of the Agreement that calls on Contracting Parties, acting jointly under the Agreement, to cooperate closely with other international fisheries and related organisations in matters of mutual interest;

COMMITTED to ensuring that bottom fishing undertaken in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) is consistent with the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and the protection of the marine environment;

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:

Objective

1. The objective of this CMM is to promote the sustainable management of deep-sea fisheries resources in the Agreement Area, including target fish stocks and non-target species.

General provisions

2. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party, participating fishing entity or cooperating non-participating fishing entity (collectively CCPs) to the Agreement engaging or intending to engage in bottom fishing in the Agreement Area.

³ CMM 15(2024) (Management of Demersal Stocks) supersedes CMM 15(2023) (Management of Demersal Stocks).

Status of Stocks

3. The Scientific Committee shall provide annual reports, based on the best available science, on the status of the demersal fisheries resources targeted in the Agreement Area, relative to available and/or relevant reference points. The reports shall include, where possible, projections of stock status over a period no less than 20 years, with 5 years steps, relative to a range of fishing mortality. In addition to the annual report on stock status, the Scientific Committee will provide management advice relative to available and/or relevant reference points.

Orange Roughy:

Fishing season

4. For the purposes of this CMM, the fishing season for *Hoplostethus atlanticus* in the Agreement area shall be defined as the period from 1st January to 31 December both dates inclusive.

Stock assessment

5. The orange roughy stocks shall be the subject of a full stock assessment to be assessed every three to five years. In the interim period available information on ORY stocks shall be presented annually.
6. The SC shall provide a summary of future data needs to improve assessment accuracy, as well as provide a summary to MoP-7 on progress against the ORY workplan.

Toothfish:

7. For the purpose of this fishery, the target species are *Dissostichus mawsoni* and *Dissostichus eleginoides*, defined as *Dissostichus* spp. The Toothfish management areas are defined in Annex VIII.

The objectives of this section are to:

- a. ensure collaborative and complementary arrangements are in place for *Dissostichus* spp. between SIOFA and the Commission for the Conservation of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR); and
 - b. ensure that fishing mortality of *Dissostichus* spp. on William's Ridge in the Agreement Area⁴, ~~and~~ Del Cano Rise [and South Indian Ridge](#) do not cause biologically sustainable catch levels to be exceeded, taking into account population links.
8. The catch limit for *Dissostichus* spp. on Del Cano Rise [and South Indian Ridge](#), and [the](#) research catch limit for *Dissostichus* spp. on William's Ridge as specified in paragraphs 16, [16bis](#) and 33 shall apply until:
 - a. the Meeting of the Parties has adopted a biologically appropriate catch limit for the populations of *Dissostichus* spp. occurring in the SIOFA portion of Williams Ridge, [South Indian Ridge](#) and Del Cano Rise and other appropriate management measures which are comparable in effectiveness to those in force in CCAMLR taking into account the advice and recommendations of the SIOFA Scientific Committee and

⁴ The portion of Williams Ridge in the Agreement Area is bounded by the area 80E to 85E and 52S to 55S.

- b. the Meeting of the Parties has adopted appropriate bycatch mitigation measures, including measures to minimize the incidental catch of seabirds which are comparable in effectiveness to those in force in CCAMLR consistent with the advice provided by the Scientific Committee.
9. The Scientific Committee shall ~~by no later than the close of its 7th ordinary meeting in 2022, continue~~ provide~~ing~~ advice and recommendations on:
- a. ~~a~~biologically appropriate catch limits for the populations of *Dissostichus* spp. occurring in the SIOFA Portion of Williams Ridge, South Indian Ridge and Del Cano Rise.
 - b. appropriate bycatch mitigation measures, including for benthic bycatch and seabirds; and
 - c. any other matter that the Scientific Committee determines as relevant or necessary for the substantial management of the *Dissostichus* spp. populations.
10. In formulating its advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties in respect of this CMM, the SIOFA Scientific Committee shall take full account of relevant CCAMLR Scientific Committee material.
11. CCPs with an interest in this stock shall cooperate to ensure scientific collaboration between CCAMLR and SIOFA to ensure long-term sustainable management for *Dissostichus* spp. stocks which takes due account of relevant rights and responsibilities under international law, and which does not undermine the conservation status of the stock.

General Provisions

12. Fishing with demersal longlines shall be prohibited in depths shallower than 500m. in order to protect benthic communities and juvenile *Dissostichus* spp.
13. 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.
14. 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. specimens have been caught.

14bis. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. to report VMS data automatically to their FMC at least every hour.

15. For toothfish fisheries, the season is defined as the period from 1 December to 30 November (both dates inclusive).

Management measures for toothfish in the Del Cano Area and the South Indian Ridge Area

Effort/catch and operational limits

16. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in the Del Cano Rise area do not exceed 52.8 44 tonnes. Without prejudice to any future sharing arrangement of the catch opportunities, this catch shall be equally shared between those CCPs which have historical catches declared to SIOFA up to 2016 in the Del Cano Rise area. Any overcatch~~excess~~ by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.

16bis. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in the South Indian Ridge area do not exceed 83.4 tonnes. Without prejudice to any future sharing arrangement of the catch opportunities, this catch shall be equally shared between CCPs which have reported catch from this area prior to June 2025. Any overcatch by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.

16ter. A CCP may transfer to another CCP all or part of its annual catch limit established under paragraphs 16 and 16bis, provided that the total catch of the two CCPs concerned does not exceed their combined limits. All such transfers shall be notified to the Secretariat within one week and communicated by the Secretariat to all CCPs.

17. CCPs shall send ~~monthly~~ weekly reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat, using the template at Annex I. As soon as 90% of the catch limit is reached, the Secretariat shall notify the CCPs of the closure of the fishery.
18. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat daily on start and end points of set longlines, using the template at Annex II.
19. Longlines shall not exceed 3000 hooks per line and shall be set at minimum 3 nautical miles from each other⁵.

By-catch limits

20. Toothfish caught by vessels not targeting *Dissostichus* spp. may not exceed 0.5 t per season of *Dissostichus* spp.
21. Should a vessel fishing for species other than *Dissostichus* spp. reach the *Dissostichus* spp. limit of 0.5 tonnes, the ~~Del Cano~~ area concerned shall be closed for this vessel for that season.

Mitigation of depredation

22. To reduce likelihood of depredation, vessels are encouraged to not haul longlines in the presence of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) and are discouraged from hauling longlines in presence of any odontocete (toothed) whales.
23. Should killer whales arrive during hauling operations, the vessels are encouraged to cease hauling, tie off the longline with a buoy, and move on. The vessel may only retrieve the tiedoff line once the killer whales are no longer near the line.
24. To further reduce potential for depredation, vessels are encouraged to set lines at depths exceeding 1000 m.

VMS polling

25. ~~CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. in this area to report VMS data automatically to their FMC at least every hour when they are present in the Del Cano and South Indian Ridge areas.~~

Scientific committee

26. In 2020 the SC shall make recommendations in order to build an area wide habitat model, a spatial and temporal CPUE analysis, an estimate and map of local abundancies and a local

⁵ For the purpose of this measure lines by the same vessel on the same trip must be 3nm from each other.

population assessment. It shall further advise on any necessary improvements to data collection in order to reduce future assessment uncertainty.

27. The SC shall also address the issues related to depredation.
28. At its ordinary meeting in 2024 the Scientific Committee will recommend an appropriate catch limit for the extended Del Cano Rise area.

Review

29. The provisions above shall be reviewed annually until a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCAMLR is established. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking collaboratively the stock assessments and agreeing in coherent, fair and scientifically sound conservation and management measures for the *Dissostichus* spp. that are shared by the two organisations.

Management & research measures for toothfish in Williams Ridge [FAO Subarea 57.4]

Area and purpose

30. For the purpose of this fishery, Williams Ridge is defined as the area set out in Annex VIII, and divided into a 15'x15' grid for spatial management. This grid is in place to address the risk of localised depletion and ensure representative data collection throughout the SIOFA part of Williams Ridge.

Data collection for fisheries research

31. Representative data and samples of length, weight, sex, maturity stage, gonad weight and otoliths shall be collected to contribute to the work of the 5th meeting of the Scientific Committee, and in particular to contribute to assessing the risk to localised depletion.

Effort/catch and operational limits

32. Total annual research catches in this area shall not exceed 140 tonnes. Any excess in a given year shall be deducted from that CCP from the following year.
33. CCPs shall ensure their vessels send daily reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat using the template at Annex III and inform the Secretariat daily on start and end points of set longlines, using the template at Annex IV. As soon as 90% of the catch limit is reached, the Secretariat shall notify all CCPs and CCPs shall ensure there is no further fishing effort by their fishing vessels for the remainder of the season.
34. Only one fishing vessel at a time can fish for *Dissostichus* spp. in a given grid cell. A grid cell shall be closed to fishing by other vessels while a line is being set or hauled by a vessel, and while a line has been set by a vessel and has not been hauled⁶

34bis. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat at least 72hrs prior to entering the Williams Ridge area with information on the intended grid cells the vessel intends to fish using the entry notification at Annex V. The Secretariat will inform the vessel

⁶ For the avoidance of doubt, a vessel that ceases hauling a line in a grid cell in order to mitigate depredation in accordance with paragraphs 45 and 46 is still fishing in that grid cell until it hauls the line.

within 60 hours of the notification whether the nominated grid cells have already been fished.

34ter. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels shall not fish in a grid cell before having received confirmation from the Secretariat that two lines have not already been set in that grid cell during that season.

34quart. Where two or more fishing vessels notify that they are entering Williams Ridge, the Secretariat shall immediately notify these fishing vessels that daily reporting requirements in paragraphs 35 and 36 apply.

35. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat as soon as they enter a grid cell to fish for *Dissostichus* spp., using the entry notification template at Annex V. Outside Secretariat business hours, an advance notification process will apply. The Secretariat shall inform the vessel as soon as possible⁷ of the number of lines that have been set in that grid cell during that season and whether it is currently being fished by another vessel, using the template at Annex VI. Where the Secretariat receives notifications from multiple fishing vessels for a given grid cell, the Secretariat will respond to the notifications in the order that they were received.
36. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels shall not fish in a grid cell before having received confirmation from the Secretariat that two lines have not already been set in that grid cell during that season and that it is not currently being fished by another fishing vessel, however a fishing vessel entering a grid cell to haul a line and to set a second line may haul the first line (but not set the second line) before receiving the confirmation.
37. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat as soon as they exit the grid cell specified in paragraph 34bis or 36 and that they inform the Secretariat of the number of lines they have set and/or hauled in that grid cell, if any, using the exit notification template at Annex VII.
38. Longlines shall not exceed 6250 hooks per line and shall not be set across grid cells.
39. CCPs shall ensure that no more than two lines in total are set per grid for the duration of the fishing season of *Dissostichus* spp.
40. Once two lines have been set in a given grid cell, it shall be closed to fishing for the remainder of that fishing season.
41. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. in Williams Ridge to apply a break of a minimum of 30 days between consecutive fishing trips to Williams Ridge.

By-catch limits

42. Toothfish caught by vessels not targeting *Dissostichus* spp. may not exceed 0.5 tonnes per season.
43. Should a vessel fishing for species other than *Dissostichus* spp. reach the *Dissostichus* spp. limit of 0.5 tonnes, the Williams Ridge area shall be closed for this vessel for that season.

⁷ In accordance with any arrangements agreed ahead of each fishing season between the CCPs with fishing vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. in Williams Ridge and the Chair of the MoP in consultation with the Secretariat. The arrangements could include procedures and expected timeframes for the Secretariat's response to prevent unreasonable operational disruption to fishing outside Secretariat business hours. Once agreed, the Secretariat should circulate the arrangements to all CCPs before the beginning of the season.

Mitigation of depredation

44. To reduce likelihood of depredation, vessels are encouraged not to haul longlines in the presence of sperm whales (*Physetes catodon*) and are discouraged from hauling longlines in presence of any odontocete (toothed) whales.
45. Should sperm whales arrive during hauling operations, the vessels are encouraged to cease hauling, tie off the longline with a buoy, and move on. The vessel may only retrieve the tiedoff line once the sperm whales are no longer near the line.

Review

46. The level of fishing on Williams Ridge shall be reviewed annually. This CMM may be reviewed annually until a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCAMLR is established. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking collaboratively the stock assessments and agreeing in coherent, fair and scientifically sound conservation and management measures for the *Dissostichus* spp. that are shared by the two organisations.

Management plan for Alfonsino:

Season

47. For the purpose of fishery for *Beryx splendens* in SIOFA area the season is defined as the period from 1 January to 31 December both dates inclusive.

Stock assessment

48. The MoP requests that the SC assess the *Beryx splendens* stocks in 2022 at the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee (if the SC, in 2021, determines that suitable data exist to undertake that assessment). In addition, the SC is requested to provide advice on a regular assessment schedule for future years.
49. The Scientific Committee shall provide clear advice and guidance on any necessary changes to data collection in order to reduce future assessment uncertainty.

Application

50. The catch limit provided for in paragraph 16 [and 16bis](#) of this CMM shall apply from 1 December 2024.

Annex I - Template for CCPs to use for monthly-weekly catch reports to the Secretariat when fishing on the Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge areas (paragraph 17).

CCPs shall send monthly-weekly reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat. This report shall be sent to SIOFA Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org).

Vessel name

Vessel flag

Area
(circle or underline correct area)

DEL CANO RISE

WILLIAMS RIDGE

SOUTH
INDIAN
RIDGE
~~OTHER~~

Year

Month/Week

Catch live weight (Kg)

Catch Pieces

Annex II - Template for CCPs to use for daily longline reporting to the Secretariat when fishing on the Del Cano Rise [and South Indian Ridge](#) areas (paragraph 18).

CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org) daily on start and end point of set longlines, and shall use the following template:

Vessel name

Vessel flag

Set Start Date

Set Start Time

Set Start Longitude

Set Start Latitude

Set Start Depth

Set End Date

Set End Time

Set End Longitude

Set End Latitude

Set End Depth

Number of hooks set

Annex III - Template for CCPs to use for daily catch reports to the Secretariat when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 33).

CCPs shall send daily catch reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org).

Vessel name

Vessel flag

Area
(circle or underline correct area)

DEL CANO RISE

WILLIAMS RIDGE

OTHERSOUTH
INDIAN
RIDGE

Month

Day

Catch live weight (Kg)

Catch Pieces

Annex IV - Template for CCPs to use for daily longline reporting to the Secretariat when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 33).

CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org) daily on start and end point of set longlines, and shall use the following template:

Vessel name		Vessel flag	
Set Start Date		Set Start Time	
Set Start Longitude		Set Start Latitude	
Set Start Depth			
Set End Date		Set End Time	
Set End Longitude		Set End Latitude	
Set End Depth			
Grid Cell* (e.g. C8)			
Number of hooks set			

*Williams Ridge Area grid cells:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	lat.
1																					
2																					
3																					53 S
4																					
5																					
6																					
7																					54 S
8																					
9																					
10																					
																					55 S
81 E																					80 E
84 E																					82 E
85 E																					83 E

Annex V – Template for vessel entry notification when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 35).

[Vessel name] hereby notifies its entry into grid cell [Number] at [Date: Time (UTC)] to fish for toothfish.

I [Name of Captain] confirm that the [vessel name] will not commence fishing until receipt of confirmation from the Secretariat that two lines have not already been set in this cell during this fishing season and that the cell is not currently being fished by another vessel.

Annex VI – Template for Secretariat confirmation in response to vessel entry notifications when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 35).

The Secretariat acknowledges receipt of your notification of entry into [grid cell number] to fish for toothfish and advises that:

1. [number of lines] have been set in this cell during this fishing season, and
2. this cell [is/is not] currently being fished by another vessel.

Annex VII – Template for vessel exit notification when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 37).

[Vessel name] hereby notifies its exit from grid cell [Number] at [Date:Time (UTC)]. I [Name of Captain] inform you that the [vessel name] has (choose 1 option from the list below):

1. set 1 line
2. set 2 lines
3. hauled 1 line
4. hauled 2 lines
5. hauled 1 line and set 1 line

Annex VIII – Toothfish Management Areas

The Management areas for Toothfish are defined as follow;

Del Cano Rise

The Del Cano area is;

- (i) north of 45°00' S, and
- (ii) south of 44°00' S when west of 44°09' E, and
- (iii) south of 43°30' S when east of 44°09' E, and
- (iv) between the adjacent EEZs to the east and west

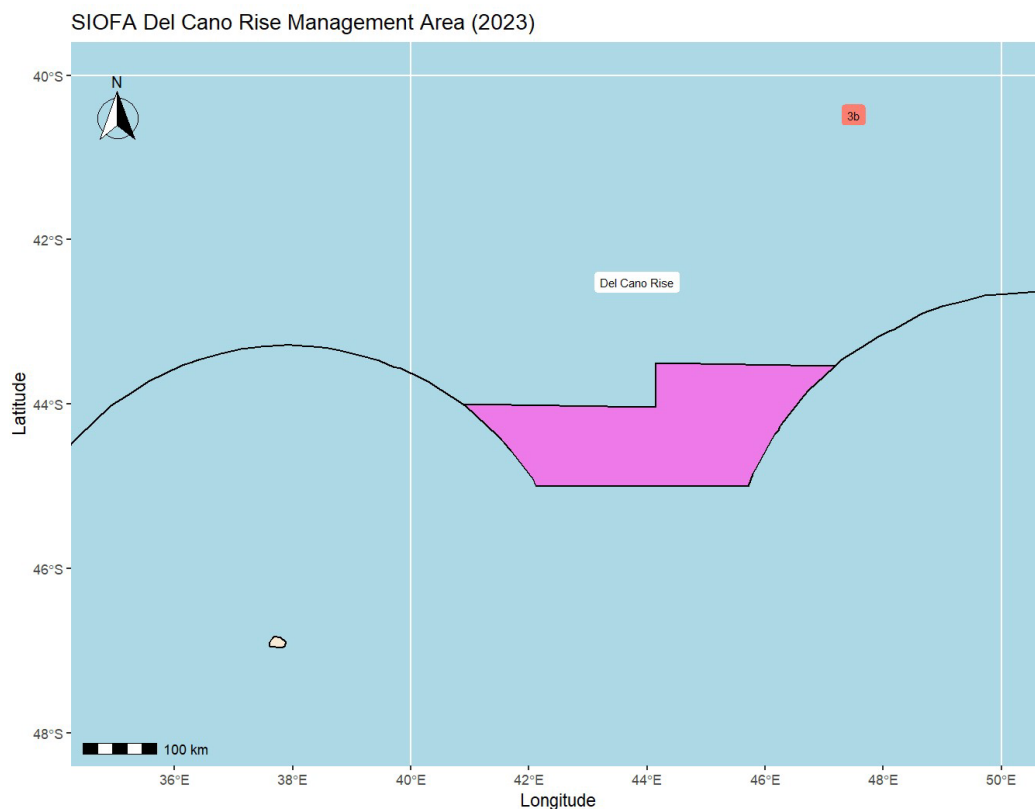


Figure A: Boundaries of the extended Del Cano Rise management area .

South Indian Ridge

The South Indian Ridge is defined as within the box bounded by the following points:

Latitude	Longitude
40°00' S	43°30' E
44°00' S	43°30' E
44°00' S	40°55' E
43°47.2' S	40°30' E
40°00' S	40°30' E

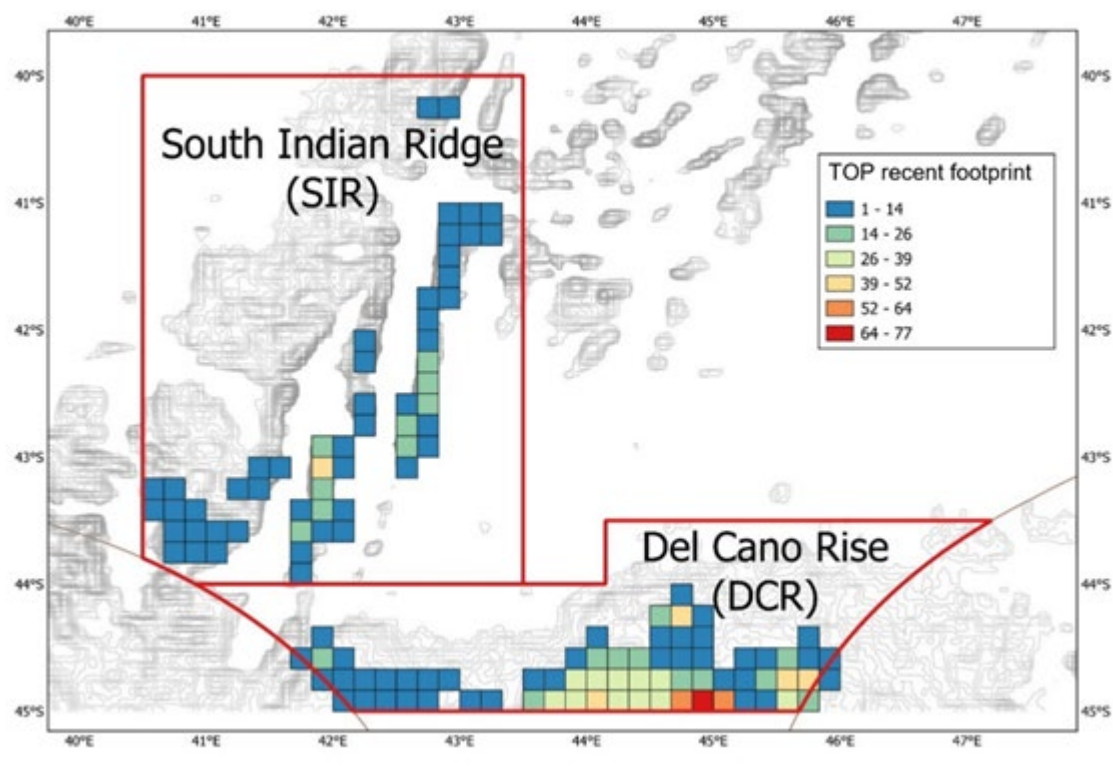


Figure A: Boundaries of the Del Cano Rise and the South Indian Ridge -areas (2024).

Williams Ridge

The Williams Ridge is defined as within the box bounded by the following points:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	-52.5	80.0
2	-55	80.0
3	-55	85.0
4	-52.5	85.0

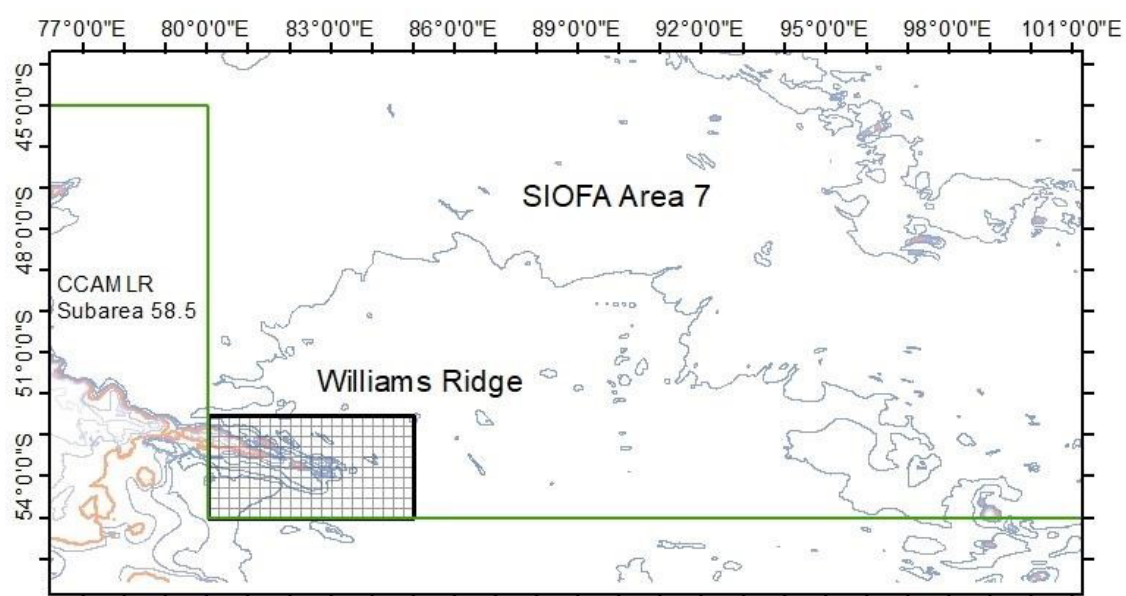


Figure B The boundary of Williams ridge and the 15' cells.

9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)

Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025

CC-09-25 / MoP-12-41

Proposal to amend CMM 12 (2024), Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	working paper ✓ information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	
<p>Australia has proposed amendments to CMM 12-2024 (Sharks) to implement the recommendations from the 10th Annual Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC). Specifically, paragraphs 347, 358 and 360 of the SC10 Report.</p> <p>The SC recommended that the Meeting of the Parties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add <i>Bythaelurus naylori</i> to Annex 1 of CMM 12(2024) (Sharks) and that smooth lanternshark (<i>Etmopterus pusillus</i>) should be considered a species at “high risk” (SC10:347). 2. Consistent with previous advice from SC8 and SC9, the SC recommended that the MoP take urgent action to limit the catch of deepwater sharks associated with the bottom longline fishery in Subareas 2, 4 and 5 (SC10:358): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Subarea 4: The SC recommended as a precautionary measure that bottom longline fishing in subarea 4 be managed on a set-by-set basis. Consistent with the SC definition of targeted species, in each set where the catch composition is over 50% of deepwater sharks, the vessel will apply the 5 nm move on rule. 	

- b. Subarea 5: The SC also recommended as a precautionary measure that bottom longline fishing in Subarea 5 be temporarily prohibited until a Portuguese dogfish stock assessment in the whole SIOFA Area is presented.
- c. Subarea 2: The SC recommended the retention of the existing catch limit in Subarea 2 on Portuguese dogfish.
3. Due to the increased catch of deepwater sharks and the unavailability of the results of the wire trace trial, SC10 re-iterated the SC8 (para 230) advice, which recommended restricting bottom longlines to nylon trace, until such time the results of the proposed trial on trace type is analysed by SC (**SC10:360**).

Recommendations

- For CC9 to review the proposal and propose it for adoption to MoP12.
- For MoP12 to review and adopt the proposal.

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FAO code	English common name	French common name	Scientific name
APD	Smallbelly catshark	Holbiche artouca	<i>Apristurus indicus</i>
BZL	Narrowhead catshark		<i>Bythaelurus tenuicephalus</i>
BZO	Bach's catshark		<i>Bythaelurus bachi</i>
CYO	Portuguese dogfish	Pailona commun	<i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i>
CYP	Longnose velvet dogfish	Pailona à long nez	<i>Centroselachus crepidater</i>
DCA	Birdbeak dogfish	Squale savate	<i>Deania calceus</i>
DWG	Cristina's skate		<i>Bathyraja tunae</i>
ETP	Smooth lanternshark	Sagre nain	<i>Etmopterus pusillus</i>
EZT	Blue-eye lanternshark		<i>Etmopterus viator</i>
EZU	Whitecheek lanternshark		<i>Etmopterus alphas</i>
ETB	Blurred smooth lantern shark		<i>Etmopterus bigelowi</i>
GUP	Gulper shark	Squale-chagrin commun	<i>Centrophorus granulosus</i>
GUQ	Leafscale gulper shark	Squale-chagrin de l'Atlantique	<i>Centrophorus squamosus</i>
CPU	Little gulper shark	Petit squale-chagrin	<i>Centrophorus uyato</i>
HCR	Pacific longnose chimaera	Chimère à nez rigide	<i>Harriotta raleighana</i>
HXC	Frilled shark	Requin lézard	<i>Chlamydoselachus anguineus</i>
HXN	Bigeyed sixgill shark	Requin-vache	<i>Hexanchus nakamurai</i>
JBY	Dusky Snout catshark		Bythaelurus naylori
LMO	Goblin shark	Requin lutin	<i>Mitsukurina owstoni</i>
QUK	Shortspine spurdog	Aiguillat épinette	<i>Squalus mitsukurii</i>
RFI	Paddlenose chimaera		<i>Rhinochimaera africana</i>
SDQ	Longsnout dogfish	Squale-savate à long nez	<i>Deania quadrispinosa</i>
SDU	Arrowhead dogfish	Squale-savate lutin	<i>Deania profundorum</i>
SCK	Kitefin shark	Squale liche	<i>Dalatias licha</i>
SSQ	Velvet dogfish		<i>Zameus squamulosus</i>
RZZ	Southern sleeper shark		<i>Somniosus antarcticus</i>
YSM	Largespine velvet dogfish	Pailona austral	<i>Scymnodon macracanthus</i>
ZZC	Dark-mouth chimaera		<i>Chimaera buccanigella</i>
ZZD	Falkor chimaera		<i>Chimaera diderae</i>
ZZE	Seafarer's ghost shark		<i>Chimaera willwatchi</i>



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

ANNEX I

9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)

Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025

CC-09-26 / MoP-12-42

Proposal to amend CMM 07 (2024) Vessel Authorisation

SEYCHELLES

Meeting	Compliance Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting of the Parties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Document type	working paper <input type="checkbox"/> information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract: Proposing an Amendment to Paragraph 1 of the CMM7(2024), to allow fishing vessels that are not on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, but operate within the Agreement Area, to catch, retain on board, tranship or land fishery resources in the Agreement Area ³ , provided that such resources constitute less than 50% of the total catch and that the capture is incidental and are fully documented in accordance with relevant reporting requirements. This amendment is in line with the recommendations from the Scientific Committee (SC8 Report, para 207), endorse by the 10th Meeting of the Parties (MoP).	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

³ Until such time as the Meeting of the Parties adopts a framework governing research cruises in the Agreement Area, the Meeting of the Parties may authorise research vessels from a non-CCP to conduct a research cruise which may include limited fishing for fishery resources without being included on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels. The MoP may request any information it needs for considering the authorization of such research activities, and may apply any terms and conditions to authorized research activities it deems necessary.

Proposing and Amendment to Paragraph 3 of the CMM7(2024), to enhances administrative consistency, and ensures that all CCPs interpret the reporting process in a uniform manner. In doing so, it supports the integrity of the RAV and strengthens oversight of authorised fishing activities within the SIOFA Agreement Area.

Recommendations

R1: That the CC09 and MoP12 reviews and adopt the proposal.

CMM 07(2024)⁴**Conservation and Management Measure for Vessel Authorisation and Notification to Fish (Vessel Authorisation)****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;**

RECOGNISING that Article 6(1)(h) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (SIOFA or the Agreement) calls on the Meeting of the Parties to develop, *inter alia*, a system of verification to incorporate vessel monitoring and observation;

NOTING that Article 1(i) of the Agreement defines 'fishing vessel' as any vessel used or intended for fishing, including a mothership, any other vessel directly engaged in fishing operations, and any vessel engaged in transshipment;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the provisions of Article 11(2) of the Agreement which provides that no Contracting Party shall allow any fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag to be used for fishing in the SIOFA Area of Application (Agreement Area) unless it has been authorised to do so by the appropriate authority or authorities of that Contracting Party;

ADOPTS the following Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:

1. The Meeting of the Parties shall establish a SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels for fishing vessels authorised to fish in the Agreement Area. For the purpose of this CMM, fishing vessels that are not entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are deemed not Authorised to engage in targeted fishing activities for SIOFA resources within the Agreement Area. Notwithstanding the above, fishing vessels that are not on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, but operate within the Agreement Area under Authorisation from a different RFMO, to be are authorised to fish for catch, retain on board, tranship or land fishery resources in the Agreement Area⁵, provided that such resources constitute less than 50% of the total catch and that the capture is incidental and are fully documented in accordance with relevant reporting requirements.
2. Each Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party and Participating Fishing Entity (CCP) shall submit electronically to the Executive Secretary the following data for each of the vessels flying their flag that are authorised to operate in the Agreement Area. The vessels shall be entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels only if the following information has been submitted⁶:
 - a. name of vessel, registration number, previous names (if known), and port of registry;
 - b. previous flag (if any), using codes;

⁴ CMM 07(2024) Vessel Authorisation supersedes CMM 07(2022) Vessel Authorisation

⁵ Until such time as the Meeting of the Parties adopts a framework governing research cruises in the Agreement Area, the Meeting of the Parties may authorise research vessels from a non-CCP to conduct a research cruise which may include limited fishing for fishery resources without being included on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels. The MoP may request any information it needs for considering the authorization of such research activities, and may apply any terms and conditions to authorized research activities it deems necessary.

⁶ The Secretariat shall provide advice to the relevant CCP within two business day after initially receiving information from the CCP, if the minimum information requirements have not been met. The relevant CCP shall promptly provide requested information or explanation to the Secretariat.

- c. International Radio Call Sign (if any);
 - d. IMO Number (if required by IMO);
 - e. name and address of owner or owners;
 - f. type of vessel (using appropriate ISSCFV codes);
 - g. length and length type (e.g. LOA, LBP);
 - h. name and address of operator (manager) or operators (managers) (if any);
 - i. type of fishing method or methods (using appropriate ISSCFG codes);
 - j. gross tonnage (GT);
 - k. power of main engine or engines (kw);
 - l. Fish hold capacity (cubic metres);
 - m. Freezer type (if applicable);
 - n. Number of freezing units (if applicable);
 - o. Freezing capacity (if applicable);
 - p. Vessel communication types and numbers (e.g. INMARSAT A, B and C, VSAT numbers);
 - q. certified drawings or description of all fish holds;
 - r. the following Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) details:
 - i. Model and brand;
 - ii. ALC unique identifier;
 - iii. Service provider (e.g. INMARSAT/IRIDIUM/ARGOS); and
 - s. Good quality, high resolution digital images of the vessel of appropriate brightness and contrast, no older than 5 years old:
 - one digital image showing the starboard side of the vessel displaying its full overall length and complete structural features;
 - one digital image showing the port side of the vessel displaying its full overall length and complete structural features; and
 - one digital image of the stern taken directly from astern.
3. Each CCPs shall ensure that the data referred to in Paragraph 2 on the vessels flying their flag authorised to fish in the Agreement Area is kept up to date. Each CCPs shall inform the Executive Secretary, after the establishment in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, of any addition to, deletion from or modification of the Record at any time such changes occur. This includes any changes in regarding the vessel data, including authorisation status of current fishing vessels and any new vessels. Such notification shall be made, within 15 days of the change taking effect, after such modification.
 4. The Executive Secretary shall maintain the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels. A summary of the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, except the information in paragraph 2. e, h, and p-r (inclusive), shall be made publicly available on the SIOFA website.
 5. Each CCP shall:

- a. authorise the vessels flying their flag to operate in the Agreement Area only if they are able to fulfil in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the Agreement, and all relevant SIOFA CMMs;
 - b. take necessary measures to ensure that the vessels flying their flag comply with all relevant SIOFA CMMs;
 - c. take necessary measures to ensure that the vessels flying their flag that are on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorisation to fish and/or to undertake fishing related activities;
 - d. ensure that the vessels flying their flag on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels have no history of IUU fishing, or, if those vessels have such history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels, or that having taken into account all relevant facts, its vessels are not engaged in or associated with IUU fishing;
 - e. ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of its registered vessels on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are not engaged in or associated with fishing activities conducted in the Agreement Area by vessels not registered in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels; and
 - f. take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and/or operators of the vessels on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are citizens, residents or legal entities within its jurisdiction so that any enforcement or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.
6. Each CCP shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing and fishing related activities on fishery resources covered by the Agreement by vessels which are not registered in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels.
7. Each CCP shall, as soon as practicable, notify the Secretariat of any evidence showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting vessels not registered on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are operating in the Agreement Area.

**9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)***Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025***CC-09-27 / MoP-12-43**

Proposal to amend CMM 07(2024) Conservation and Management Measure for Vessel Authorisation and Notification to Fish (Vessel Authorisation)

European Union

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	working paper ✓ information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	<p>In accordance with paragraph 19 of report of the 6th meeting of the vessel monitoring system (VMS) working group, the EU is submitting amendment to CMM07(2024), incorporating the potential amendments discussed by the VMS WG, and to present the proposal to CC9 and MoP12.</p>

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt the amendments presented

CMM 07(2024)³

Conservation and Management Measure for Vessel Authorisation and Notification to Fish (Vessel Authorisation)

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;

RECOGNISING that Article 6(1)(h) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (SIOFA or the Agreement) calls on the Meeting of the Parties to develop, *inter alia*, a system of verification to incorporate vessel monitoring and observation;

NOTING that Article 1(i) of the Agreement defines 'fishing vessel' as any vessel used or intended for fishing, including a mothership, any other vessel directly engaged in fishing operations, and any vessel engaged in transshipment;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the provisions of Article 11(2) of the Agreement which provides that no Contracting Party shall allow any fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag to be used for fishing in the SIOFA Area of Application (Agreement Area) unless it has been authorised to do so by the appropriate authority or authorities of that Contracting Party;

ADOPTS the following Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:

1. The Meeting of the Parties shall establish a SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels for fishing vessels authorised to fish in the Agreement Area. For the purpose of this CMM, fishing vessels that are not entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are deemed not to be authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship or land fishery resources in the Agreement Area⁴.
2. Each Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party and Participating Fishing Entity (CCP) shall submit electronically to the Executive Secretary the following data for each of the vessels flying their flag that are authorised to operate in the Agreement Area. The vessels shall be entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels only if the following information has been submitted⁵:
 - a. name of vessel, registration number, previous names (if known), and port of registry;
 - b. previous flag (if any), using codes;
 - c. International Radio Call Sign (if any);
 - d. IMO Number (if required by IMO);
 - e. name and address of owner or owners;
 - f. type of vessel (using appropriate ISSCFV codes);

³ CMM 07(2024) Vessel Authorisation supersedes CMM 07(2022) Vessel Authorisation

⁴ Until such time as the Meeting of the Parties adopts a framework governing research cruises in the Agreement Area, the Meeting of the Parties may authorise research vessels from a non-CCP to conduct a research cruise which may include limited fishing for fishery resources without being included on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels. The MoP may request any information it needs for considering the authorization of such research activities, and may apply any terms and conditions to authorized research activities it deems necessary.

⁵ The Secretariat shall provide advice to the relevant CCP within two business day after initially receiving information from the CCP, if the minimum information requirements have not been met. The relevant CCP shall promptly provide requested information or explanation to the Secretariat.

- g. length and length type (e.g. LOA, LBP);
 - h. name and address of operator (manager) or operators (managers) (if any);
 - i. type of fishing method or methods (using appropriate ISSCFG codes);
 - j. gross tonnage (GT);
 - k. power of main engine or engines (kw);
 - l. Fish hold capacity (cubic metres);
 - m. Freezer type (if applicable);
 - n. Number of freezing units (if applicable);
 - o. Freezing capacity (if applicable);
 - p. Vessel communication types and numbers (e.g. INMARSAT A, B and C, VSAT numbers);
 - q. certified drawings or description of all fish holds;
 - r. the following Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) details⁶:
 - i. Model and brand;
 - ii. ALC unique identifier;
 - iii. Service provider (e.g. INMARSAT/IRIDIUM/ARGOS); and
 - s. Good quality, high resolution digital images of the vessel of appropriate brightness and contrast, no older than 5 years old:
 - one digital image showing the starboard side of the vessel displaying its full overall length and complete structural features;
 - one digital image showing the port side of the vessel displaying its full overall length and complete structural features; and
 - one digital image of the stern taken directly from astern.
3. CCPs shall ensure that the data referred to in Paragraph 2 on the vessels flying their flag authorised to fish in the Agreement Area is kept up to date. CCPs shall inform the Executive Secretary of any modification regarding the vessel data, including authorisation status of current fishing vessels and any new vessels, within 15 days after such modification.
 4. The Executive Secretary shall maintain the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels. A summary of the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, except the information in paragraph 2. e, h, and p-r (inclusive), shall be made publicly available on the SIOFA website.
 5. Each CCP shall:
 - a. authorise the vessels flying their flag to operate in the Agreement Area only if they are able to fulfil in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the Agreement, and all relevant SIOFA CMMs;

⁶ Following the conclusion of the 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12), the Executive Secretary shall identify vessels, if any, on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels for which CCPs have not submitted all ALC details. Such vessels shall be marked as 'incomplete' in the Record until all required details have been submitted. By 31 July 2025, the Executive Secretary shall write to CCPs whose vessels have incomplete ALC details and request that these CCPs either provide the outstanding information or request the removal of such vessels from the Record by 31 December 2025 at the latest.

- b. take necessary measures to ensure that the vessels flying their flag comply with all relevant SIOFA CMMs;
 - c. take necessary measures to ensure that the vessels flying their flag that are on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorisation to fish and/or to undertake fishing related activities;
 - d. ensure that the vessels flying their flag on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels have no history of IUU fishing, or, if those vessels have such history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels, or that having taken into account all relevant facts, its vessels are not engaged in or associated with IUU fishing;
 - e. ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of its registered vessels on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are not engaged in or associated with fishing activities conducted in the Agreement Area by vessels not registered in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels; and
 - f. take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and/or operators of the vessels on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are citizens, residents or legal entities within its jurisdiction so that any enforcement or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.
6. Each CCP shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing and fishing related activities on fishery resources covered by the Agreement by vessels which are not registered in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels.
7. Each CCP shall, as soon as practicable, notify the Secretariat of any evidence showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting vessels not registered on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are operating in the Agreement Area.

**9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)***Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025***CC-09-28 / MoP-12-44**

Proposal to amend CMM12 (2024) Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks (Sharks)

European Union

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	working paper ✓ information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	<p>The EU is proposing to amend CMM12 (2025) to take into account the recommendations from the 10th session of the Scientific Committee, in particular paragraph 347 of the SC10 report regarding the list of species and paragraph 358 on mitigation measures to reduce mortality of sharks.</p>

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt the amendments presented

CMM 12(2024)³**Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks⁴ (Sharks)****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement:**

RECALLING the relevant provisions of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, in particular Article 4 which, amongst others, calls on the Contracting Parties to apply the precautionary approach and the principles that measures shall be taken to ensure that the level of fishing activity is commensurate with the sustainable use of the fishery resources, that fishing practices and management measures shall take due account of the need to minimise the harmful impact that fishing activities may have on the marine environment, and that biodiversity in the marine environment shall be protected;

CONSIDERING that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations to ensure the sustainability of shark stocks;

RECOGNIZING the need to improve the collection of species-specific data on catch, effort, discards, and trade as a basis for improving the conservation and management of shark stocks;

RECALLING that the FAO International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States to encourage full use of dead sharks, to facilitate improved species-specific catch and landings data and monitoring of shark catches and the identification and reporting of species-specific biological and trade data;

FURTHER RECALLING that United Nations General Assembly, adopted consensus Resolutions every year since 2007 (62/177, 63/112, 64/72, 65/38, 66/68, 67/79, 68/71, 69/109, 70/75 and 71/123), calling upon States to take immediate and concerted action to improve the implementation of and compliance with existing regional fisheries management organization or arrangement measures that regulate shark fisheries and incidental catch of sharks, in particular those measures which prohibit or restrict fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins, and, where necessary, to consider taking other measures, as appropriate, such as requiring that all sharks be landed with each fin naturally attached;

ADOPTS the following Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) in accordance with Article 4 and 6 of the Agreement:

1. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels of Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) and participating fishing entities (PFEs) to the Agreement (collectively CCPs), engaged in fishing operations in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area).
2. CCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag do not target any deep-sea shark species listed in Annex 1 within the Agreement Area, until the Scientific Committee defines and the Meeting of the Parties agrees on possible appropriate fishing mortality and harvest levels for any of these species.
3. Fishing in subarea 2 shall be subjected to a catch limit for Portuguese dogfish (*Centroscymnus coelolepis*) of 767.6t, starting from 1st January 2024. The fishing season for this catch limit is the calendar year.
4. Subarea 2 is defined as the area which
 - South border is 36° South,

³ CMM 12(2024) (Sharks) supersedes CMM 12(2023) (Sharks).

⁴ The term "sharks" refers to Chondrichthyes for the purposes of this CMM, as defined by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

- East border is 49° East,
 - West border is 40° East,
 - North border are EEZs.
5. To facilitate the implementation of the catch limit in paragraph 3, CCPs that have caught Portuguese dogfish in subarea 2 shall provide monthly reports of Portuguese dogfish catches to the Secretariat by the twentieth day of the following month. Once 80% of the catch limit (614t) has been taken, the Secretariat shall notify all CCPs that weekly reporting is required. Upon receiving such a notification from the Secretariat, CCPs who have vessels fishing in subarea 2 shall provide weekly reports to the Secretariat by close of business Wednesday for the preceding seven days.
6. The Secretariat shall notify all CCPs once this catch limit is reached. On receiving a notification from the Secretariat that the catch limit has been reached, CCPs shall ensure that their flagged vessels fishing in subarea 2 do not retain any Portuguese dogfish for the remainder of the year⁵.
7. Fishing vessels fishing in subarea 4, whenever their catch composition is over 50% deepwater sharks, shall apply the 5 nautical miles move on rule.
8. Subarea 4 is defined as the area which
- South border is 36° South
 - East border is 90° East
 - West border is 80° East
 - North border is 20° South
- The southwest corner is cut at the edge by the Martin-de-Viviès/Saint-Paul EEZ
9. Bottom longline fishing shall be prohibited in subarea 5 until a stock assessment for Portuguese dogfish in the whole SIOFA area is presented by the Scientific Committee to the Meeting of the Parties.
10. Subarea 5 is defined as the area which
- South border is 36° South
 - East border is 105° East
 - West border is 90° East
 - North border is 25° South
- ~~6.—~~
- ~~7.11.~~ CCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag record and submit all reporting requirements as per CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards) for all deep-sea sharks to the lowest taxonomical level possible when engaged in fishing for fishery resources.
- ~~8.12.~~ By ~~2020-2026~~ the Scientific Committee shall advise the Meeting of the Parties on the need to adopt any appropriate by-catch limits for relevant SIOFA deep sea shark species and fleets, including on scientific and data needs for underpinning the elaboration of such advice.
- ~~9.13.~~ CCPs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make all relevant fishing gears more selective to minimise deep sea shark by-catch and shall provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee.

⁵ The retention prohibition shall apply to any gears in the water following notification of the catch limit being reached. Vessels with gears in the water at the time that the notification is received may retain Portuguese dogfish that are dead at time of haul and shall release all live Portuguese dogfish.

ANNEX K

~~10.14.~~ CCPs shall, where possible, conduct research to identify shark nursery areas in the Agreement Area and provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee.

~~11.15.~~ This CMM shall be reviewed every second year by the Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise.

ANNEX 1: List of “**high risk**” and “of concern” deep sea shark species for the purpose of this CMM⁶

FAO code	English common name	French common name	Scientific name
APD	Smallbelly catshark	Holbiche artouca	<i>Apristurus indicus</i>
BZL	Narrowhead catshark		<i>Bythaelurus tenuicephalus</i>
BZO	Bach’s catshark		<i>Bythaelurus bachi</i>
JBY	Dusky snout catshark		Bythaelurus naylori
CYO	Portuguese dogfish	Pailona commun	<i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i>
CYP	Longnose velvet dogfish	Pailona à long nez	<i>Centroselachus crepidater</i>
DCA	Birdbeak dogfish	Squale savate	<i>Deania calceus</i>
DWG	Cristina’s skate		<i>Bathyraja tunae</i>
ETP	Smooth lanternshark	Sagre nain	<i>Etmopterus pusillus</i>
EZT	Blue-eye lanternshark		<i>Etmopterus viator</i>
EZU	Whitecheek lanternshark		<i>Etmopterus alphas</i>
ETB	Blurred smooth lantern shark		<i>Etmopterus bigelowi</i>
GUP	Gulper shark	Squale-chagrin commun	<i>Centrophorus granulosus</i>
GUQ	Leafscale gulper shark	Squale-chagrin de l'Atlantique	<i>Centrophorus squamosus</i>
CPU	Little gulper shark	Petit squale-chagrin	<i>Centrophorus uyato</i>
HCR	Pacific longnose chimaera	Chimère à nez rigide	<i>Harriotta raleighana</i>
HXC	Frilled shark	Requin lézard	<i>Chlamydoselachus anguineus</i>
HXN	Bigeyed sixgill shark	Requin-vache	<i>Hexanchus nakamurai</i>
LMO	Goblin shark	Requin lutin	<i>Mitsukurina owstoni</i>
QUK	Shortspine spurdog	Aiguillat épinette	<i>Squalus mitsukurii</i>
RFI	Paddlenose chimaera		<i>Rhinochimaera africana</i>
SDQ	Longsnout dogfish	Squale-savate à long nez	<i>Deania quadrispinosa</i>
SDU	Arrowhead dogfish	Squale-savate lutin	<i>Deania profundorum</i>
SCK	Kitefin shark	Squale liche	<i>Dalatias licha</i>
SSQ	Velvet dogfish		<i>Zameus squamulosus</i>
RZZ	Southern sleeper shark		<i>Somniosus antarcticus</i>
YSM	Largespine velvet dogfish	Pailona austral	<i>Scymnodon macracanthus</i>
ZZC	Dark-mouth chimaera		<i>Chimaera buccanigella</i>
ZZD	Falkor chimaera		<i>Chimaera didierae</i>
ZZE	Seafarer’s ghost shark		<i>Chimaera willwatchi</i>

⁶ As modified by the SIOFA SC in Annex [D.24](#) of the SC109 report.

**9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)***Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025***CC-09-29 / MoP-12-45**

Proposal to amend CMM 16(2023) Conservation and Management Measure for the establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System (Vessel Monitoring System)

European Union

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	working paper ✓ information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	<p>In accordance with paragraph 24 of report of the 6th meeting of the vessel monitoring system (VMS) working group, the EU is submitting amendment to CMM16(2023), incorporating the potential amendments discussed by the VMS WG, and to present the proposal to CC9 and MoP12.</p>

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² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt the amendments presented

CMM 16(2023)³

Conservation and Management Measure for the establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System (Vessel Monitoring System)

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement:

RECALLING Article 6(1)(h) of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) which requires the Meeting of the Parties to develop rules and procedures for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities in order to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the Meeting of the Parties including, where appropriate, a system of verification incorporating vessel monitoring and observation of vessels operating in the Agreement Area;

MINDFUL of Article 18(3) of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) which outlines the duties of the flag State, including to take measures to ensure recording and timely reporting of vessel position, catch of target and non-target species, fishing effort and other relevant fisheries data, and to ensure the monitoring, control and surveillance of vessels, their fishing operations and related activities by, inter alia, the development and implementation of vessel monitoring systems;

FURTHER MINDFUL of the importance of international cooperation in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, in particular through the exchange of information and effective monitoring, control and surveillance;

RECALLING paragraph 14 of the SIOFA Conservation and management measure for the Monitoring of Fisheries in the Agreement Area (CMM 10(2023)) to develop specifications and propose rules and procedures for the establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System;

MINDFUL of the key principles upon which the vessel monitoring system should be based, including the confidentiality and security of information handled by the system, and its efficiency, cost-effectiveness and flexibility;

ADOPTS the following Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) in accordance with Articles 4 and 6 of the Agreement:

Definitions

1. The following definitions shall apply to this CMM:
 - a) "Automatic location communicator" (ALC) means a satellite-based on-board device that is capable of continuously, automatically and independently of any intervention of the vessel, transmitting VMS position reports;
 - b) "Fisheries monitoring centre" (FMC) means the authority or agency of a Flag CCP responsible for managing the VMS for its flagged fishing vessels;
 - c) "Vessel Monitoring System" (VMS) means a satellite-based monitoring system which, at regular intervals, provides VMS position reports;
 - d) "SIOFA VMS" means the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System established under this CMM;
 - e) "Manual reporting" means the transmission via alternative means of the position reporting of a fishing vessel when an ALC fails to transmit VMS position reports;
 - f) VMS position reports shall include at least the following data, which shall be considered confidential (i.e. non-public domain data):

- i. the fishing vessel's unique vessel identifier⁴;
- ii. the current geographical position (latitude and longitude) of the vessel;
- iii. the date and time (UTC) of the fixing of the position of the vessel;
- iv. the vessel's speed; and
- v. the vessel's course.

Objective

- 2. The main objective of the SIOFA VMS is to monitor in an automatic, continuous and cost-effective manner the movements and activity of fishing vessels operating in the Agreement Area to ensure compliance with SIOFA CMMs.

Application

- 3. The SIOFA VMS shall apply to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party or participating fishing entity (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.

Nature and specifications of the SIOFA VMS

- 4. The SIOFA VMS shall be administered by the SIOFA Secretariat under the guidance of the Meeting of the Parties.
- 5. Each CCP shall ensure that all fishing vessels flying their flag entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels and operating in the Agreement Area are fitted with an operational ALC that complies with the minimum standards for ALCs described in Annex 1.
- 6. Each CCP shall ensure that all fishing vessels flying their flag referred to in paragraph 3 report VMS position reports automatically while they are operating in the Agreement Area either:
 - a) to the [Secretariat-SIOFA VMS](#) via their FMC; or
 - b) simultaneously to both the [Secretariat-SIOFA VMS](#) and their FMC.
- 7. CCPs that choose to report under option (a) of paragraph 6 shall automatically forward VMS position reports to the [Secretariat-SIOFA VMS](#) without delay but not later than one hour after receipt.
- 8. CCPs⁵ shall ensure that VMS position reports are reported automatically⁵ by each of their vessels while operating in the Agreement Area:
 - a) at least once every hour as provided for in paragraph 25 of CMM 15(2024) (Management of Demersal Stocks), and;

⁴ [The unique vessel identifier shall be the ALC Unique Identifier or, for vessels reporting pursuant to paragraph 6 a\) of this Measure, the vessel's International Radio Call Sign \(IRCS\) or International Maritime Organisation \(IMO\) number.](#)

⁵ In the event that the connection between the ALC and the satellite is temporarily unavailable, the data referred to in paragraph 1(f) of this Measure shall still be collected but shall instead be transmitted as soon as the satellite connection becomes available again.

- b) at least once every two hours in other circumstances.
9. ~~VMS position reports, sent pursuant to paragraph 6. a. shall be transmitted to the SIOFA VMS using one of the data formats in Annex 2. The Meeting of the Parties shall establish VMS position report format and transmission standards, specifications and procedures prior to the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS.~~
 10. Each CCP shall ensure that their FMC can automatically receive and, for those CCPs whose vessels transmit VMS position reports in accordance with paragraph 6 a), transmit VMS position reports from ALCs. Each CCP shall provide backup and recovery procedures in case of system failures.
 11. Each CCP shall provide the Secretariat with the name, address, email, and telephone number(s) of ~~the relevant authorities of~~ its FMC and shall designate a VMS Point of Contact for the purposes of any communication regarding the SIOFA VMS ("VMS Point of Contact"). Each CCP shall notify the Secretariat of any changes to these details within 30 days after such changes take effect and the Secretariat shall promptly notify this information to the other CCPs and make it available on the non-public area of the SIOFA website.
 12. Each CCP shall ensure that in vessels flying their flag:
 - a) the ALC is not tampered with in any way;
 - b) VMS position reports are not altered in any way;
 - c) the antenna or antennae are connected to the ALC and not obstructed in any way;
 - d) the power supply of the ALC is not interrupted in any way;
 - e) the ALC is not removed from the vessel except for the purpose set out in paragraph 15; and
 - f) ~~The~~ the satellite navigation decoder and transmitter ~~shall be~~are fully integrated and housed in the same tamper-proof physical enclosure.

Procedure for manual reporting

13. In the event of non-reception of four consecutive, expected programmed VMS position ~~reports by the SIOFA VMS~~, the Secretariat shall notify the CCP whose flag the vessel is flying. The Flag CCP shall immediately notify the vessel Master and direct the Master to provide it with manual reports every four hours of the vessel's position in accordance with the reporting frequency under paragraph 8. The Flag CCP shall ensure that this manual reporting is transmitted to the Secretariat, either by the flag CCP or by the fishing vessel, with a clear distinction between reports that are manual and those that are automatic.
14. The Flag CCP shall ensure that the manual reports include at least the information referred to in paragraph 1(f)(i), (ii) and (iii). If automatic reporting to the SIOFA VMS has not been re-established within 60 days of the commencement of manual reporting, the Flag CCP shall order the vessel to cease fishing, stow all fishing gear and return immediately to port in order to undertake repairs or replacement.

15. Following a technical failure or non-functioning of the ALC, the Flag CCP shall ensure that the fishing vessel only leaves port once the ALC fitted on board is fully functioning to the satisfaction of the competent authorities of the Flag CCP. By derogation, the Flag CCP may authorise the fishing vessel to leave port with a non-functioning satellite-tracking device for its repair or replacement.
16. The Flag CCP shall ensure that the vessel recommences fishing in the Agreement Area only when the ALC has been confirmed as operational by its FMC. Four consecutive, programmed VMS position [reports](#) must have been received by the FMC to confirm that the ALC is fully operational.
17. Notwithstanding paragraphs 13 to 16, where the Flag CCP confirms that the ALC on board the vessel is functioning normally, but the [Secretariat-SIOFA VMS](#) is not receiving the vessel's VMS position reports, the Secretariat shall immediately take steps to resolve any technical or other issue that is preventing [the SIOFA VMS](#) from receiving the VMS position reports. If the VMS position reports cannot be retrieved by the [Secretariat SIOFA VMS](#) after the issue has been resolved, the Flag CCP shall send these VMS position reports to the Secretariat via manual reporting and provide the Secretariat with any assistance as may be necessary.

Measures to prevent tampering with ALCs

18. Each CCP shall ensure that the ALCs fitted on board vessels flying their flag are tamper resistant, that is, are of a type of and configuration that prevent the input or output of false positions, and that they are not capable of being over-ridden, whether manually, electronically or otherwise, in accordance with the minimum standards for ALCs set out in Annex 1.
19. Each CCP shall prohibit vessels flying their flag to destroy, damage, switch off, render inoperative or otherwise interfere with the ALC.
20. In the event that a CCP or the Secretariat obtains information that indicates an ALC on board a fishing vessel operating in the Agreement Area does not meet the requirements of Annex 1 or there is evidence that the ALC has been tampered with, it shall immediately notify the Secretariat, and the fishing vessel's Flag CCP which shall:
 - a) investigate the suspected breach of this measure as soon as possible; and
 - b) depending on the outcome of the investigation, if necessary suspend the vessel from fishing until an ALC that meets the specifications outlined in Annex 1 is operational on board the vessel; and
 - c) communicate actions taken to the Meeting of the Parties, including the outcome of the investigation within 30 days of its completion.
21. Nothing in this measure shall prevent a CCP from applying additional or more stringent measures to prevent tampering of ALCs on board vessels flying its flag.

Use and [Release-release](#) of VMS position reports

22. All requests for access to VMS position reports must be made to the Secretariat by a VMS Point of Contact by electronic means using the appropriate template⁶ at least 5 working days in advance of the intended use, except for the purposes of paragraph 23 c), and in accordance with the procedures set out in paragraphs 24 to 29.
23. Upon request of a CCP, the Secretariat shall only provide VMS position reports without the permission of the Flag CCP for the exclusive purposes of:
- a) planning for active surveillance operations and/or boarding and inspection at sea within 72 hours of the expected start of the operations in the Agreement Area;
 - b) active surveillance operations and/or boarding and inspection at sea in the Agreement Area;
 - c) supporting search and rescue activities undertaken by a competent Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) subject to the terms of an Arrangement between the Secretariat and the competent MRCC. Such Arrangement shall be reported to the Meeting of the Parties.
24. For the purpose of implementing paragraph 23 a) and b):
- a) Boarding and inspection at sea shall be undertaken in accordance with CMM 14(2021) (High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures), including its paragraph 7;
 - b) each CCP shall only make available VMS position reports relevant to the planned or active surveillance operations and/or boarding and inspection at sea in the Agreement Area to the requesting CCP's inspectors and any other government officials for whom it is deemed necessary to access the reports;
 - c) CCPs shall ensure that such inspectors and government officials keep the VMS position reports confidential and only use the reports for the purposes described in paragraph 23 a) and b);
 - d) CCPs shall be allowed to retain VMS position reports provided by the Secretariat for the purposes described in paragraph 23 a) and b) until 72 hours after the time that the active operation has concluded. Except in the circumstances outlined in paragraph 24 e), CCPs shall submit a written confirmation to the Secretariat of the deletion of the VMS position reports immediately after the 72 hours' period;
 - e) CCPs' inspectors and government officials authorities shall be allowed to retain VMS position reports provided by the Secretariat for the purposes described in paragraph 23 a) and b) for longer than the periods specified in paragraph 24 d) only if it is part of an investigation, judicial or administrative proceeding of an alleged violation of the provisions of the Agreement, any CMMs or decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties. CCPs shall inform the Secretariat of the purposes and expected timing of the additional period of retention before the expiration of the initial period and the Secretariat shall promptly notify the concerned Flag CCP of the additional period. CCPs shall submit a written confirmation to the Secretariat of the deletion of the VMS position reports as soon

⁶ The template shall be developed by the Secretariat and submitted to the Compliance Committee and the Meeting of the Parties for consideration.

as the purposes have been achieved or immediately after the additional period of retention has expired, whichever is earlier.

25. For the purpose of paragraph 23 a), CCPs requesting VMS position reports shall provide the Secretariat the geographic area of the planned surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity. In this case, the Secretariat shall provide the most recent available VMS position reports for the notified geographic area at a specified point in time no more than 72 hours prior to the commencement of each surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity. In the event that the planned surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity does not proceed, the CCP shall notify the Secretariat, ~~destroy delete~~ the VMS position reports, and confirm their deletion to the Secretariat in writing, without delay. Regardless of whether the planned surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity were conducted or not, the Secretariat shall notify the Flag CCP that the VMS position reports were provided to the CCP no later than 7 days after the VMS position report provision, and, if applicable, that they have received confirmation that the reports have been deleted.
26. For the purpose of paragraph 23 b), the Secretariat shall provide VMS position reports from the previous 10 days, for vessels detected during the active surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity by a CCP, and VMS position reports for all vessels within 300 n miles of the surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity location. The Secretariat shall provide regular updates of VMS position reports to the CCP for the duration of the active surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity. CCPs conducting the active surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity shall provide the Secretariat and the VMS Point of Contact of the Flag CCP with a report including the name of the vessel or aircraft on active surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity. This information shall be made available without undue delay after the surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activities are complete. The Secretariat shall notify the Flag CCP that the VMS position reports were provided to the CCP no later than 7 days after the active surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity has ended, and, if applicable, that they have received confirmation that the reports have been deleted.
27. For the purpose of paragraph 23 c), upon the request of a CCP, the Secretariat shall provide VMS position reports without the permission of the Flag CCP for the purposes of supporting search and rescue activities undertaken by a competent MRCC subject to the arrangement between the Secretariat and the competent MRCC, including in relation to the provision of VMS position reports to the requesting CCP, and the protection and deletion of those reports.
28. Other than the purposes set out in paragraph 23, the Secretariat shall only provide VMS position reports to a requesting CCP or to the SIOFA Scientific Committee and its ~~subsidiary bodies~~ Working Groups where the VMS position reports relates to vessels flagged to CCPs that have provided prior written consent through their VMS Point of Contact for the reports to be shared. Such VMS position reports shall be deleted as soon as they have served their intended purpose, and the deletion of the reports shall be confirmed to the Secretariat in writing without delay.
29. CCPs may request VMS position reports for their own flagged vessels from the Secretariat.

Closed areas and interim protected areas

30. If VMS position reports received by the Secretariat indicate the presence of a fishing vessel in [a closed area](#), or of a fishing vessel excluding those using line and trap methods in an interim protected area, as defined in paragraph 42 and Annex 3 of CMM 01(2024) (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing), the Secretariat shall notify the Flag CCP. The Flag CCP shall investigate the matter and provide an explanation within 5 working days to the Secretariat. The explanation shall be provided by the Secretariat to the Compliance Committee for consideration at its next annual meeting.

Data security and confidentiality

31. All CCPs, the Secretariat, the SIOFA Scientific Committee and its [subsidiary bodies](#) [Working Groups](#), and any SIOFA VMS [service](#) provider shall ensure the secure and confidential treatment of VMS data in their respective electronic data processing facilities [in accordance with the requirements of CMM 02\(2023\) \(Data Standards\), CMM 03\(2016\) \(Data Confidentiality\) and Annex 3](#), in particular where the processing involves transmission over a network, [including by using secure internet protocols to ensure secure communications and taking all necessary measures to protect VMS data against accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure or access, and against all unauthorised forms of processing](#).
32. ~~The Meeting of the Parties shall adopt detailed data security and confidentiality provisions prior to the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS and shall review the applicability and appropriateness of CMM 03(2016) (Data Confidentiality) to VMS position report security, confidentiality, management and use.~~

Entry into operation

33. The SIOFA VMS shall enter into operation at a date to be determined by the Meeting of the Parties.
34. Upon entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS, paragraphs 5 to 14 of CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring) shall be superseded and replaced by this CMM.

Review

35. Following the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS, the Secretariat shall report annually to the Meeting of the Parties on the implementation of, and compliance with, this CMM, [including on the performance of the SIOFA VMS service provider](#).
36. After two years of implementation [of the SIOFA VMS](#), the Meeting of the Parties shall conduct a review of this CMM and consider improving it as appropriate.

Annex 1***Minimum standards for Automatic Location Communicators (ALCs) used in the SIOFA VMS***

1. The Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) shall continuously, automatically and independently of any intervention by the fishing vessel, communicate VMS position reports referred to in paragraph 1(f) of this ~~conservation measure~~[CMM](#).
2. The position reports referred to in paragraph 1(f) shall be obtained from a satellite-based positioning system.
3. ALCs fitted to fishing vessels must be capable of transmitting the position reports referred to in paragraph 1(f) recorded at least every fifteen minutes.
4. ALCs fitted to fishing vessels must be tamper-proof so as to preserve the security and integrity of the position reports referred to in paragraph 1(f).
5. Storage of information within the ALC must be safe, secure and integrated within a single unit under normal operating conditions.
6. It must not be reasonably possible for unauthorised persons to alter any of the VMS position reports stored in the ALC, including the frequency of position reporting to the FMC.
7. Any features built into the ALC or terminal software to assist with servicing shall not allow unauthorised access to any areas of the ALC that could potentially compromise the operation of the VMS.
8. ALCs shall be installed on fishing vessels in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and applicable standards.
9. Under normal satellite navigation operating conditions, positions derived from the data forwarded must be accurate to within 100 metres ($2 \times$ Distance Root Mean Squared; 2DRMS) i.e., 99 per cent of the positions must be within this range.
10. The satellite navigation decoder and transmitter shall be fully integrated and housed in the same tamper-proof physical enclosure.

Annex 2
Data formats for transmission of VMS position reports

A. North Atlantic Format (NAF)

1. VMS position reports sent in NAF format shall be transmitted using one of the following application layers (secured connection):
 - (i) Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS);
 - (ii) File Transfer Protocol (FTP) with Transport Layer Security (TLS) (FTPS);
 - (iii) Email.
2. VMS position reports sent in NAF format shall contain, at minimum, the data elements in Table 1.

Table 1: NAF message data elements

<u>Data Element</u>	<u>Field Code</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Contents</u>
<u>Start Record</u>	<u>SR</u>	<u>Defines the start of the message structure.</u>	<u>No Data</u>
<u>Address</u>	<u>AD</u>	<u>Indicates the destination. Provider and Secretariat to define code for SIOFA VMS</u>	<u>3-Alpha code</u>
<u>From</u>	<u>FR</u>	<u>3-alpha code describing the country which FMC is submitting the report.</u>	<u>3-Alpha code</u>
<u>Sequence Number</u>	<u>SQ</u>	<u>Message Sequence Number</u>	<u>0-999999</u>
<u>Internal Reference Number*</u>	<u>IR</u>	<u>Unique Number attributed by the flag state</u>	<u>3-Alpha code. 0-999999999</u>
<u>Type of Message</u>	<u>TM</u>	<u>Letter code of the type of message</u>	<u>POS = position report, MAN = manual report, ENT = entry report, EXI = exit report</u>
<u>Radio Call Sign (IRCS)</u>	<u>RC</u>	<u>Vessel detail: international radio call sign of the vessel</u>	<u>IRCS</u>
<u>Latitude (decimal)</u>	<u>LT</u>	<u>Latitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)</u>	<u>+(-)DD.ddd</u>
<u>Longitude (decimal)</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>Longitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)</u>	<u>+(-)DD.ddd</u>
<u>Vessel Speed</u>	<u>SP</u>	<u>Speed of the vessel</u>	<u>Knots * 10</u>
<u>Vessel Course</u>	<u>CO</u>	<u>Heading of the vessel in degrees</u>	<u>1-360</u>
<u>Flag State</u>	<u>FS</u>	<u>State of registration of the vessel</u>	<u>3-Alpha code</u>
<u>Date</u>	<u>DA</u>	<u>Date of reported event</u>	<u>YYYYMMDD</u>
<u>Time</u>	<u>TI</u>	<u>Time of reported event</u>	<u>HHMM</u>
<u>End of Record</u>	<u>ER</u>	<u>Indicates the end of the message/report</u>	<u>No Data</u>

3. VMS position reports sent in NAF format shall be structured as follows:

- (i) double slash (//) and the characters 'SR' indicate the start of a message;
- (ii) a double slash (//) and field code indicate the start of a data element;
- (iii) a single slash (/) separates the field code and the data;
- (iv) pairs of data are separated by a space;
- (v) the characters 'ER' and a double slash (//) indicate the end of a record.

B. Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX)

1. VMS position reports sent in UN/FLUX format shall contain, at minimum, the mandatory data elements in Table 2.

Table 2: UN/FLUX data elements

<u>Data Element</u>	<u>Mandatory/ optional</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<u>Addressee</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Message detail — Addressee Alpha-3 country code</u> <u>Note: Part of the FLUX TL envelope</u>
<u>From</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Message detail — Sender Alpha-3 country code</u>
<u>Unique message identifier</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>UUID according to RFC 4122 defined by IETF</u>
<u>Date and time of transmission</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Date and time when the message was created in UTC,</u> <u>using the format YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss[.000000]Z⁷</u>
<u>Flag State</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Message detail – Flag of flag State, Alpha-3 country code</u>
<u>Type of message</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Message detail – Type of message</u> <u>The following codes are to be used:</u> <u>ENTRY: first position recorded after entering the fishing</u> <u>zone]</u> <u>EXIT: first message recorded after leaving the fishing zone</u> <u>POS: positions transmitted while being in the fishing zone</u> <u>MANUAL: position transmitted manually</u>
<u>Radio call sign</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Vessel detail – Vessel international radio call sign (IRCS)</u>
<u>CCP internal reference number</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>Vessel detail – Unique CCP vessel identifier</u>
<u>Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI)</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>Vessel detail – IMO number</u>
<u>External registration number</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>Vessel detail – Number on side of vessel</u>
<u>Latitude</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Vessel position detail – Position in degrees and decimal</u> <u>degrees DD.ddd (WGS-84)</u> <u>Positive coordinates for positions north of the Equator;</u> <u>Negative coordinates for positions south of the Equator.</u>

⁷ YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less than 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less than 10; T= the letter T to indicate the part of the time section; H24= hours of the day expressed with 2 digits using the 24-hour notation; M=minutes expressed as 2 digits; SS=seconds expressed as 2 digits; [.000000]= optionally fractions of seconds may be included, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (i.e. UTC).

Longitude	M	Vessel position detail – Position in degrees and decimals DD.ddd (WGS-84) Positive coordinates east of the Greenwich meridian; Negative coordinates west of the Greenwich meridian.
Course	M	Vessel course 360° scale
Speed	M	Vessel speed in knots
Date and time	M	Vessel position detail – date and time of recording of the position in UTC, using the format YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss[.000000]Z⁸

⁸ YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less than 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less than 10; T= the letter T to indicate the part of the time section; H24= hours of the day expressed with 2 digits using the 24-hour notation; Ml=minutes expressed as 2 digits; SS=seconds expressed as 2 digits; [.000000]= optionally fractions of seconds may be included, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (ie. UTC)

Annex 3

Data Confidentiality and Security Provisions

1. The following security measures shall be mandatory for the SIOFA VMS:
 - a. System Access Control: The Secretariat shall ensure that the system can withstand break-in attempts from unauthorised persons.
 - b. Authenticity and data access control: The Secretariat shall limit access of Secretariat staff to the data necessary for them to carry out their tasks via a flexible user identification and password mechanism.
 - c. Communication Security: VMS position reports shall be securely communicated.
 - d. Data Security: All VMS data received by the Secretariat shall be securely stored for a predetermined time and shall not be tampered with.
 - e. Security Procedures: The Secretariat shall implement an Information System Security Policy adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to ensure proper access to the system (hardware and software), system administration and maintenance, backup and general usage of the system.
2. The SIOFA VMS shall have the following mandatory access control features:
 - a. Stringent password and authentication system, attributed to each designated user. The user shall only have access to functions and data that they are designated to have access to.
 - b. All access to physical computer systems shall be controlled by the Secretariat.
 - c. The system shall automatically record all events for analysis and detection of potential security breaches.
 - d. Time-based access control: Access to the system can be specified in terms of times-of-day and days of the week that each user is allowed to log into the system.
 - e. Terminal access control: the system shall specify for each workstation which user(s) is/are allowed to access it.
3. Communication between CCPs, the SIOFA VMS Service Provider, and the Secretariat shall use secure internet protocols. The exchange of VMS position reports may also require the use of digital certificates that correctly identify and validate the party submitting the VMS position reports.
4. The Secretariat shall only provide VMS position reports to the email address specified by the requesting entity at the time the data is requested.
5. The Secretariat shall periodically review access to and the logs of the SIOFA VMS software and ensure the proper maintenance of system security.

**9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)***Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025***CC-09-30 / MoP-12-46**

Proposal to amend CMM15 (2024) Conservation and Management Measure for the Management of Demersal Stocks in the Agreement Area (Management of Demersal Stocks)

European Union

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	working paper ✓ information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	
The EU is proposing to amend CMM15 (2025) to take into account the recommendation of the 10 th Scientific Committee as regard the management of toothfish, orange Roughy	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

On toothfish, in particular, the EU is proposing the creation of South Indian Ridge management area and the establishment of a TAC, as per paragraphs 264 and 270 of the SC10 report. Considering that creating a TAC without allocating catch limit to CCP does not allow to respect a TAC, the EU is also proposing an allocation mechanism of this TAC.

In addition, the EU is also proposing to increase the TAC in Del Cano as recommended, as per paragraph 267 of the SC10 report.

Finally, the EU is also proposing to amend the management system in William's Ridge, to retain the catch limit while removing the "effort" management system, which has been posing disproportionate limitation for some fleets. This would be the first step to implement paragraph 248 of the SC10 report.

On orange roughy, the EU is proposing to set up a catch limit as per paragraph 224 of the SC10 report.

On alfonsino, the EU is proposing to set up a catch limit as per paragraph 241 of the SC10 report.

Recommendations

- Adopt the amendments presented

CMM 15(20254)³**Conservation and Management Measure for the Management of Demersal Stocks in the Agreement Area (Management of Demersal Stocks)****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;**

RECOGNISING that Article 4(a) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) calls on the Contracting Parties, in giving effect to the duty to cooperate, to adopt measures on the basis of the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation of fishery resources, taking into account the sustainable use of such resources and implementing an ecosystem approach to their management;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 4(c), (e) and (f) of the Agreement which call on the Contracting Parties to apply the precautionary approach and the principles that fishing practices and management measures shall take due account of the need to minimise the harmful impact that fishing activities may have on the marine environment and that biodiversity in the marine environment shall be protected;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 6(1)(d) and (e) of the Agreement which provide that the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt conservation and management measures (CMMs) necessary for ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishery resources, taking into account the need to protect marine biodiversity, based on the best scientific evidence available and adopt generally recommended international minimum standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations;

MINDFUL of Article 16 of the Agreement that calls on Contracting Parties, acting jointly under the Agreement, to cooperate closely with other international fisheries and related organisations in matters of mutual interest;

COMMITTED to ensuring that bottom fishing undertaken in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) is consistent with the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and the protection of the marine environment;

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:**Objective**

1. The objective of this CMM is to promote the sustainable management of deep-sea fisheries resources in the Agreement Area, including target fish stocks and non-target species.

General provisions

2. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party, participating fishing entity or cooperating non-participating fishing entity (collectively CCPs) to the Agreement engaging or intending to engage in bottom fishing in the Agreement Area.

Status of Stocks

3. The Scientific Committee shall provide annual reports, based on the best available science, on the status of the demersal fisheries resources targeted in the Agreement Area, relative to available and/or relevant reference points. The reports shall include, where possible, projections of stock status over a period no less than 20 years, with 5 years steps, relative to a

³ CMM 15(20254) (Management of Demersal Stocks) supersedes CMM 15(20243) (Management of Demersal Stocks).

range of fishing mortality. In addition to the annual report on stock status, the Scientific Committee will provide management advice relative to available and/or relevant reference points.

Orange Roughy:

Fishing season

4. For the purposes of this CMM, the fishing season for *Hoplostethus atlanticus* in the Agreement area shall be defined as the period from 1st January to 31 December both dates inclusive.

Stock assessment

5. The orange roughy stocks shall be the subject of a full stock assessment to be assessed every three to five years. In the interim period available information on ORY stocks shall be presented annually.
6. The SC shall provide a summary of future data needs to improve assessment accuracy, as well as provide a summary to MoP-7 on progress against the ORY workplan.

Catch and operational limits

- 6.7. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Hoplostethus atlanticus* in the SIOFA area do not exceed 1010.75 tonnes consistent with the average catch from 2015-2020 for the SIOFA Area (which includes catch outside the assessment areas).

Toothfish:

- 7.8. For the purpose of this fishery, the target species are *Dissostichus mawsoni* and *Dissostichus eleginoides*, defined as *Dissostichus* spp. The Toothfish management areas are defined in Annex VIII.

The objectives of this section are to:

- a. ensure collaborative and complementary arrangements are in place for *Dissostichus* spp. between SIOFA and the Commission for the Conservation of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR); and
 - b. ensure that fishing mortality of *Dissostichus* spp. on William's Ridge in the Agreement Area⁴, ~~and~~ Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge do not cause biologically sustainable catch levels to be exceeded, taking into account population links.
- 8.9. The catch limit for *Dissostichus* spp. on Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge, and research catch limit for *Dissostichus* spp. on William's Ridge as specified in paragraphs 16 and 33 shall apply until:
 - a. the Meeting of the Parties has adopted a biologically appropriate catch limit for the populations of *Dissostichus* spp. occurring in the SIOFA portion of Williams Ridge and Del Cano Rise and other appropriate management measures which are comparable in effectiveness to those in force in CCAMLR taking into account the advice and recommendations of the SIOFA Scientific Committee and
 - b. the Meeting of the Parties has adopted appropriate bycatch mitigation measures, including measures to minimize the incidental catch of seabirds which are

⁴ The portion of Williams Ridge in the Agreement Area is bounded by the area 80E to 85E and 52S to 55S.

comparable in effectiveness to those in force in CCAMLR consistent with the advice provided by the Scientific Committee.

~~9.10.~~ The Scientific Committee shall, by no later than the close of its 7th ordinary meeting in 2022, provide advice and recommendations on:

- a. a biologically appropriate catch limit for the populations of *Dissostichus* spp. occurring in the SIOFA portion of Williams Ridge, ~~and~~ Del Cano Rise ~~and South Indian Ridge~~;
- b. appropriate bycatch mitigation measures, including for benthic bycatch and seabirds; and
- c. any other matter that the Scientific Committee determines as relevant or necessary for the sustainable management of the *Dissostichus* spp. populations.

~~10.11.~~ In formulating its advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties in respect of this CMM, the SIOFA Scientific Committee shall take full account of relevant CCAMLR Scientific Committee material.

~~11.12.~~ CCPs with an interest in this stock shall cooperate to ensure scientific collaboration between CCAMLR and SIOFA to ensure long-term sustainable management for *Dissostichus* spp. stocks which takes due account of relevant rights and responsibilities under international law, and which does not undermine the conservation status of the stock.

General Provisions

~~12.13.~~ Fishing with demersal longlines shall be prohibited in depths shallower than 500m. in order to protect benthic communities and juvenile *Dissostichus* spp.

~~13.14.~~ In derogation of paragraph 37b, e Each vessel participating in the toothfish 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 at least~~ be at least 25% of hooks hauled per line over the duration of the fishing deployment.

~~14.15.~~ 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. specimens have been caught.

~~15.16.~~ For toothfish fisheries, the season is defined as the period from 1 December to 30 November (both dates inclusive).

Management measures for toothfish in the Del Cano Area ~~and the South Indian Ridge Area~~

Effort/catch and operational limits

~~17.~~ CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in the Del Cano Rise area do not exceed 52.844 tonnes. Without prejudice to any future sharing arrangement of the catch opportunities, this catch shall be ~~equally~~ shared proportionally between those CCPs which have historical catches declared to SIOFA for the period 2019-2023 ~~up to 2016~~ in the Del Cano Rise area. Any excess by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.

~~16.18.~~ CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in the South Indian Ridge area do not exceed 83.4 tonnes. Without prejudice to any future sharing arrangement of the catch opportunities, in particular any future framework for deciding allocations based on catch history, among other factors, this catch shall be shared proportionally between those

CCPs which have catches declared to SIOFA for the period 2019-2023 in the South Indian Ridge area. Any excess by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.

~~17.~~19. CCPs shall send monthly reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat, using the template at Annex I. As soon as 90% of the catch limit is reached, the Secretariat shall notify the CCPs of the closure of the fishery.

~~18.~~20. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat daily on start and end points of set longlines, using the template at Annex II.

21. Longlines shall not exceed 3000 hooks per line and shall be set at minimum 3 nautical miles from each other.

~~19.~~22.

By-catch limits

~~20.~~23. Toothfish caught by vessels not targeting *Dissostichus* spp. may not exceed 0.5 t per season of *Dissostichus* spp.

~~21.~~24. Should a vessel fishing for species other than *Dissostichus* spp. reach the *Dissostichus* spp. limit of 0.5 tonnes, the ~~Del Cano~~-area concerned shall be closed for this vessel for that season.

Mitigation of depredation

~~22.~~25. To reduce likelihood of depredation, vessels are encouraged to not haul longlines in the presence of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) and are discouraged from hauling longlines in presence of any odontocete (toothed) whales.

~~23.~~26. Should killer whales arrive during hauling operations, the vessels are encouraged to cease hauling, tie off the longline with a buoy, and move on. The vessel may only retrieve the tied-off line once the killer whales are no longer near the line.

~~24.~~27. To further reduce potential for depredation, vessels are encouraged to set lines at depths exceeding 1000 m.

VMS polling

~~25.~~28. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. in this area to report VMS data automatically to their FMC at least every hour when they are present in the Del Cano and South Indian Ridge areas.

Scientific committee

~~26.~~29. In 2020 the SC shall make recommendations in order to build an area wide habitat model, a spatial and temporal CPUE analysis, an estimate and map of local abundancies and a local population assessment. It shall further advise on any necessary improvements to data collection in order to reduce future assessment uncertainty.

~~27.~~30. The SC shall also address the issues related to depredation and line spacing.

~~28.~~ At its ordinary meeting in 2024 the Scientific Committee will recommend an appropriate catch limit for the extended Del Cano Rise area.

Review

~~29.~~31. The provisions above shall be reviewed annually until a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCAMLR is established. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking collaboratively the stock assessments and agreeing in coherent, fair and scientifically sound

conservation and management measures for the *Dissostichus* spp. that are shared by the two organisations.

Management & research measures for toothfish in Williams Ridge [FAO Subarea 57.4]

Area and purpose

~~30.32.~~ For the purpose of this fishery, Williams Ridge is defined as the area set out in Annex VIII, ~~and divided into a 15'x15' grid for spatial management. This grid is in place to address the risk of localised depletion and ensure representative data collection throughout the SIOFA part of Williams Ridge.~~

Data collection for fisheries research

~~31.33.~~ Representative data and samples of length, weight, sex, maturity stage, gonad weight and otoliths shall be collected to contribute to the work of the 5th meeting of the Scientific Committee, and in particular to contribute to assessing the risk to localised depletion.

Effort/catch and operational limits

~~32.34.~~ Total annual research catches in this area shall not exceed 140 tonnes. Any excess in a given year shall be deducted from that CCP from the following year.

~~33.35.~~ CCPs shall ensure their vessels send daily reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat using the template at Annex III and inform the Secretariat daily on start and end points of set longlines, using the template at Annex IV. As soon as 90% of the catch limit is reached, the Secretariat shall notify all CCPs and CCPs shall ensure there is no further fishing effort by their fishing vessels for the remainder of the season.

~~36.~~ ~~Only one fishing vessel at a time can fish for *Dissostichus* spp. in a given grid cell. A grid cell shall be closed to fishing by other vessels while a line is being set or hauled by a vessel, and while a line has been set by a vessel and has not been hauled.⁵~~

~~34.~~ CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat as soon as they enter a grid cell to fish for *Dissostichus* spp., using the entry notification template at Annex V. Outside Secretariat business hours, an advance notification process will apply. The Secretariat shall inform the vessel as soon as possible⁶ of the number of lines that have been set in that grid cell during that season and whether it is currently being fished by another vessel, using the template at Annex VI. Where the Secretariat receives notifications from multiple fishing vessels for a given grid cell, the Secretariat will respond to the notifications in the order that they were received.

~~35.~~ CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels shall not fish in a grid cell before having received confirmation from the Secretariat that two lines have not already been set in that grid cell during that season and that it is not currently being fished by another fishing vessel, however

⁵ For the avoidance of doubt, a vessel that ceases hauling a line in a grid cell in order to mitigate depredation in accordance with paragraphs 45 and 46 is still fishing in that grid cell until it hauls the line.

⁶ In accordance with any arrangements agreed ahead of each fishing season between the CCPs with fishing vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. in Williams Ridge and the Chair of the MoP in consultation with the Secretariat. The arrangements could include procedures and expected timeframes for the Secretariat's response to prevent unreasonable operational disruption to fishing outside Secretariat business hours. Once agreed, the Secretariat should circulate the arrangements to all CCPs before the beginning of the season.

~~a fishing vessel entering a grid cell to haul a line and to set a second line may haul the first line (but not set the second line) before receiving the confirmation.~~

~~36. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat as soon as they exit the grid cell specified in paragraph 36 and that they inform the Secretariat of the number of lines they have set and/or hauled in that grid cell, if any, using the exit notification template at Annex VII.~~

37. Longlines shall not exceed 6250 hooks per line ~~and shall not be set across grid cells.~~

~~38. CCPs shall ensure that no more than two lines in total are set per grid for the duration of the fishing season of *Dissostichus* spp.~~

~~39. Once two lines have been set in a given grid cell, it shall be closed to fishing for the remainder of that fishing season.~~

38. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. in Williams Ridge to apply a break of a minimum of 30 days between consecutive fishing trips to Williams Ridge.

By-catch limits

~~40.~~39. Toothfish caught by vessels not targeting *Dissostichus* spp. may not exceed 0.5 tonnes per season.

~~41.~~40. Should a vessel fishing for species other than *Dissostichus* spp. reach the *Dissostichus* spp. limit of 0.5 tonnes, the Williams Ridge area shall be closed for this vessel for that season.

Mitigation of depredation

~~42.~~41. To reduce likelihood of depredation, vessels are encouraged not to haul longlines in the presence of sperm whales (*Physetes catodon*) and are discouraged from hauling longlines in presence of any odontocete (toothed) whales.

~~43.~~42. Should sperm whales arrive during hauling operations, the vessels are encouraged to cease hauling, tie off the longline with a buoy, and move on. The vessel may only retrieve the tied-off line once the sperm whales are no longer near the line.

Review

~~44.~~43. The level of fishing on Williams Ridge shall be reviewed annually. This CMM may be reviewed annually until a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCAMLR is established. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking collaboratively the stock assessments and agreeing in coherent, fair and scientifically sound conservation and management measures for the *Dissostichus* spp. that are shared by the two organisations.

Management plan for Alfonsino:

Season

~~45.~~44. For the purpose of fishery for *Beryx splendens* in SIOFA area the season is defined as the period from 1 January to 31 December both dates inclusive.

Stock assessment

~~46.~~45. The MoP requests that the SC assess the *Beryx splendens* stocks in 2027~~2~~ at the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee (if the SC, in 2026~~1~~, determines that suitable data exist to undertake that assessment). In addition, the SC is requested to provide advice on a regular assessment schedule for future years.

~~47.46.~~ The Scientific Committee shall provide clear advice and guidance on any necessary changes to data collection in order to reduce future assessment uncertainty.

Catch and operational limits

47. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Beryx splendens* in the SIOFA area do not exceed 3698.2 tonnes consistent with the average (mean) catch of the 5 year period 2018-2022.

Application

48. The catch limit provided for in paragraph ~~176~~ and 18 of this CMM shall apply from 1 December 202~~5~~4.

Annex I - Template for CCPs to use for monthly catch reports to the Secretariat when fishing on the Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge areas (paragraph 187).

CCPs shall send monthly reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat. This report shall be sent to SIOFA Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org).

Vessel name

Vessel flag

Area
(circle or underline correct area)

DEL CANO RISE	WILLIAMS RIDGE	<u>SOUTH INDIAN RIDGE</u>	OTHER
---------------	----------------	-------------------------------	------------------

Year

Month

Catch live weight (Kg)

Catch Pieces

Annex II - Template for CCPs to use for daily longline reporting to the Secretariat when fishing on the Del Cano Rise [and South Indian Ridge](#) areas (paragraph 198).

CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org) daily on start and end point of set longlines, and shall use the following template:

Vessel name	<input type="text"/>	Vessel flag	<input type="text"/>
Set Start Date	<input type="text"/>	Set Start Time	<input type="text"/>
Set Start Longitude	<input type="text"/>	Set Start Latitude	<input type="text"/>
Set Start Depth	<input type="text"/>		
Set End Date	<input type="text"/>	Set End Time	<input type="text"/>
Set End Longitude	<input type="text"/>	Set End Latitude	<input type="text"/>
Set End Depth	<input type="text"/>		
Number of hooks set	<input type="text"/>		

Annex III - Template for CCPs to use for daily catch reports to the Secretariat when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 33).

CCPs shall send daily catch reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org).

Vessel name

Vessel flag

Area
(circle or underline correct area)

DEL CANO RISE

WILLIAMS RIDGE

SOUTH INDIAN
RIDGE~~OTHER~~

Month

Day

Catch live weight (Kg)

Catch Pieces

Annex IV - Template for CCPs to use for daily longline reporting to the Secretariat when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 33).

CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org) daily on start and end point of set longlines, and shall use the following template:

Vessel name

Vessel flag

Set Start Date

Set Start Time

Set Start Longitude

Set Start Latitude

Set Start Depth

Set End Date

Set End Time

Set End Longitude

Set End Latitude

Set End Depth

Grid Cell* (e.g. C8)

Number of hooks set

*Williams Ridge Area grid cells:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	lat.
1																					
2																					
3																					53°S
4																					
5																					
6																					
7																					54°S
8																					
9																					
10																					55°S
long.	80°E				81°E				82°E				83°E				84°E				85°E

~~Annex V – Template for vessel entry notification when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 35).~~

~~[Vessel name] hereby notifies its entry into grid cell [Number] at [Date: Time (UTC)] to fish for toothfish.~~

~~I [Name of Captain] confirm that the [vessel name] will not commence fishing until receipt of confirmation from the Secretariat that two lines have not already been set in this cell during this fishing season and that the cell is not currently being fished by another vessel.~~

~~Annex VI – Template for Secretariat confirmation in response to vessel entry notifications when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 35).~~

~~The Secretariat acknowledges receipt of your notification of entry into [grid cell number] to fish for toothfish and advises that:~~

- ~~1. _____ [number of lines] have been set in this cell during this fishing season, and~~
- ~~2. _____ this cell [is/is not] currently being fished by another vessel.~~

Annex VII – Template for vessel exit notification when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 37).

[Vessel name] hereby notifies its exit from grid cell [Number] at [Date:Time (UTC)]. I [Name of Captain] inform you that the [vessel name] has (choose 1 option from the list below):

1. _____ set 1 line
2. _____ set 2 lines
3. _____ hauled 1 line
4. _____ hauled 2 lines
5. _____ hauled 1 line and set 1 line

Annex VIII – Toothfish Management Areas

The Management areas for Toothfish are defined as follow;

Del Cano Rise

The Del Cano area is;

- (i) north of 45°00' S, and
- (ii) south of 44°00' S when west of 44°09' E, and
- (iii) south of 43°30' S when east of 44°09' E, and
- (iv) between the adjacent EEZs to the east and west

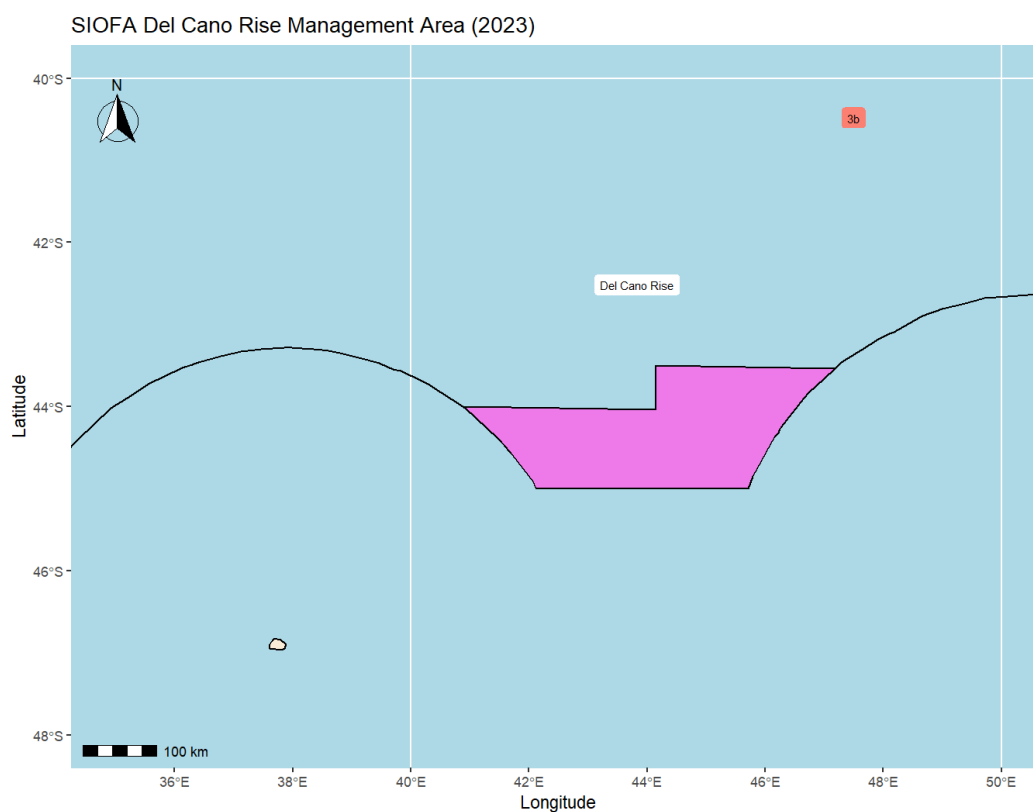


Figure A: Boundaries of the extended Del Cano Rise management area..

South Indian Ridge

The South Indian Ridge is defined as within the box bounded by the following points:

Latitude	Longitude
40°00' S	43°30' E
44°00' S	43°30' E
44°00' S	40°55' E
43°47.2' S	40°30' E
40°00' S	40°30' E

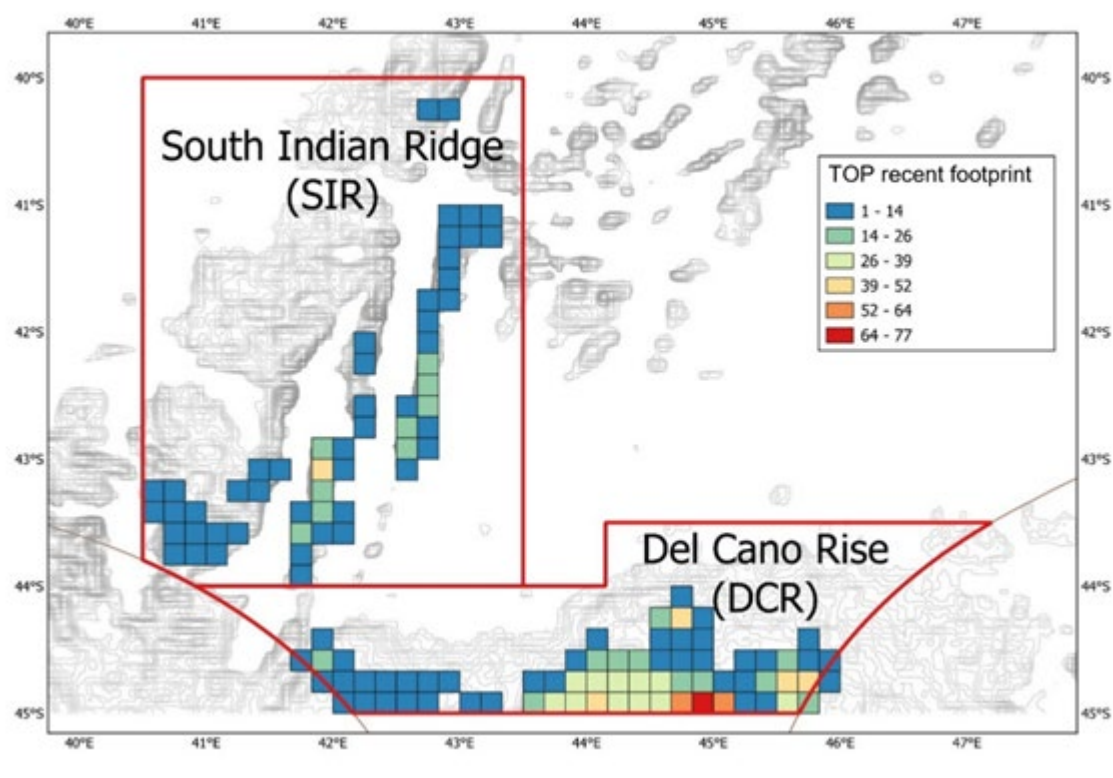


Figure A: Boundaries of the Del Cano Rise and the South Indian Ridge areas (2024).

Williams Ridge

The Williams Ridge is defined as within the box bounded by the following points:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	-52.5	80.0
2	-55	80.0
3	-55	85.0
4	-52.5	85.0

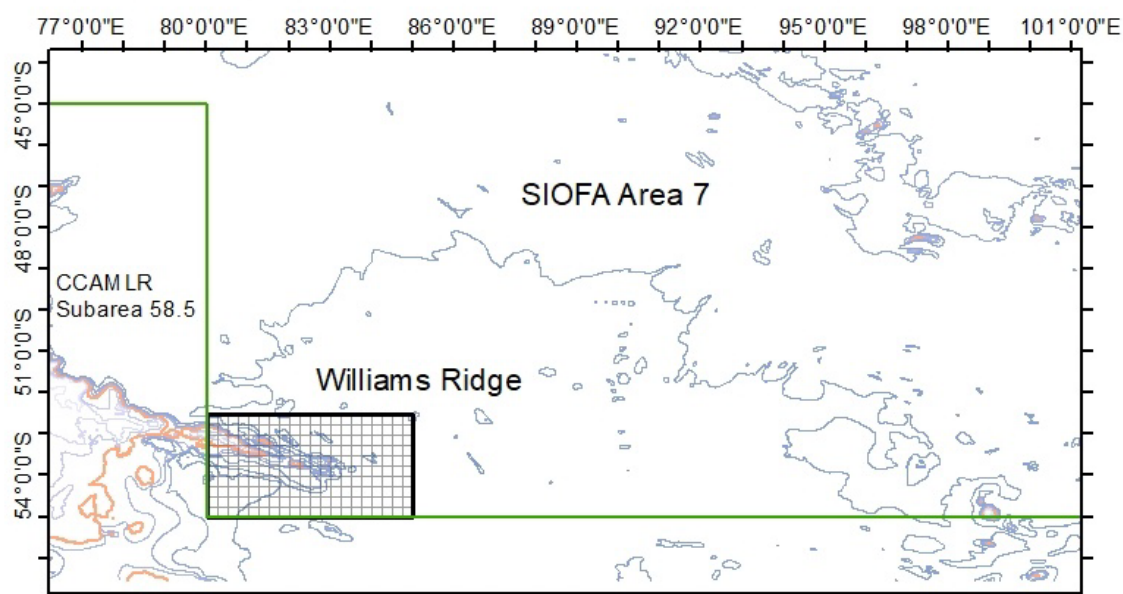


Figure B The boundary of Williams ridge and the 15' cells.

**9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)***Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025***CC-09-31 / MoP-12-47**

Proposal to amend CMM17 (2024) Conservation and Management Measure for New and Exploratory Fisheries in the Agreement Area (New and Exploratory Fisheries)

European Union

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	working paper ✓ information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	<p>The EU is proposing to amend CMM17 (2025) to take into account the submission of information by China on their historic squid fishery. Therefore, it is appropriate to amend annex 1 of CMM17(2024) on established fisheries in the SIOFA Area to take account paragraphs 311-313 of SC10 report.</p>

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt the amendments presented

CMM 17(2024)**Conservation and Management Measure for New and Exploratory Fisheries in the Agreement Area
(New and Exploratory Fisheries)****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;**

RECALLING Article 4(a) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) which calls on the Contracting Parties, in giving effect to the duty to cooperate, to adopt measures on the basis of the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation of fishery resources, taking into account the sustainable use of such resources and implementing an ecosystem approach to their management;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 4(c), (d), (e) and (f) of the Agreement which call on the Contracting Parties to apply the precautionary approach and the principles that measures shall be taken to ensure that the level of fishing activity is commensurate with the sustainable use of the fishery resources, that fishing practices and management measures shall take due account of the need to minimise the harmful impact that fishing activities may have on the marine environment, and that biodiversity in the marine environment shall be protected;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 6(1)(d) and (e) of the Agreement which provide that the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt conservation and management measures (CMMs) necessary for ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishery resources, taking into account the need to protect marine biodiversity, based on the best scientific evidence available and adopt generally recommended international minimum standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations;

MINDFUL of Article 16 of the Agreement that calls on Contracting Parties, acting jointly under the Agreement, to cooperate closely with other international fisheries and related organisations in matters of mutual interest;

COMMITTED to ensuring that bottom fishing undertaken in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) is consistent with the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and the protection of the marine environment;

NOTING the requirements in CMM 01(2024) on the Management of Bottom Fishing in the Agreement Area which place a number of obligations on Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities who intend to authorise their flagged vessels to engage in any bottom fishing in the Agreement Area;

AGREEING that new and exploratory fisheries should not be permitted to expand faster than the acquisition of information necessary to ensure that the fishery can and will be developed in accordance with the principles set out in Article 4 of the Agreement;

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Articles 4 and 6 of the Agreement:**Objective**

1. The objective of this CMM is to govern the undertaking and management of new and exploratory fisheries in the Agreement Area based on the precautionary approach. In particular, this CMM is intended to ensure that sufficient information is available to evaluate the long term potential of new and exploratory fisheries, to assist the formulation of management advice, to evaluate and minimize the possible impacts on target stocks, non-target, and associated and dependent species, to ensure new and exploratory fishery resources are developed on a precautionary and gradual basis, and to promote the sustainable management of new and exploratory fisheries.

General provisions and definitions

2. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party, participating fishing entity or cooperating non-participating fishing entity (collectively CCPs) to the Agreement engaging or intending to engage in any fishing activity that falls within the scope of new and exploratory fisheries, as defined in this CMM, in the Agreement Area³.
3. For the purpose of this CMM, a fishery is a 'new and exploratory fisheries' if
 - a. it is a bottom fishing activity, as defined in paragraph 3.b. of CMM 01(2024), conducted outside the SIOFA bottom fishing footprint, as defined in paragraph [3.c.] of CMM 01(2024); or
 - b. it is a bottom fishing activity, as defined in paragraph 3.c. of CMM 01(2024), conducted within the SIOFA bottom fishing footprint, as defined in paragraph 3.c. of CMM 01(2024), with a particular gear type or technique not used before in that fishery in that area as set out in Annex 1; or
 - c. it uses a gear type to target fishery resources in the Area that is not listed in [Annex 1]; or
 - d. fishing in that fishery has not been undertaken in the Area in the previous ten years pursuant to this CMM; or
 - e. fishing in that fishery has been undertaken in the Area in the previous nine years pursuant to this CMM and the Meeting of the Parties has not decided to either close or manage the fishery as an established fishery.
4. New and exploratory fisheries shall not be approved for a target species in areas and with gear used in an existing new and exploratory fishery, unless coordinated with the CCP undertaking an existing new and exploratory fishery.

Requirements for new and exploratory fisheries

5. Any CCP seeking to authorize any vessel flying its flag to fish in new and exploratory fisheries shall prepare and submit, at least 35 days prior to the commencement of the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee, a Fishery Operations Plan (FOP) for the fishing season(s) concerned for review and endorsement by the Scientific Committee. The FOP shall be developed using the template in Annex 2 and shall include the following information, to the extent it is available:
 - a. a description of the proposed new and exploratory fishery, including the vessel to be used, area, target species, proposed methods of fishing, proposed maximum catch/effort limits and any distribution of that catch limit among areas or species;
 - b. explicit target and limit and/or threshold reference points and a mechanism to adjust any proposed catch limit;
 - c. specification and full description of the types of fishing gear to be used, including any modifications to gear intended to mitigate the effects of the proposed fishing on non-target and associated or dependent species or the marine ecosystem in which the fishery occurs;
 - d. the intended time period covered by the FOP, up to a maximum period of three years;
 - e. any biological information on the target species from accepted research such as distribution, abundance, demographic data including genetics, longevity and maturity, and information on stock identity;
 - f. details of non-target and associated or dependent species and the marine ecosystem in which the fishery occurs, the extent to which these would be likely to be affected by the proposed fishing activity and any measures that will be taken to mitigate these effects;

³ This CMM shall not apply to research cruises.

- g. the anticipated cumulative impacts of all fishing activity in the area of the proposed new and exploratory fishery if applicable;
 - h. information from other fisheries in the region or similar fisheries elsewhere that may assist in the evaluation of the proposed fishery's potential yield, to the extent that the CCP is able to provide this information;
 - i. if the proposed fishing activity is bottom fishing, as defined in paragraph [3.b.] of CMM 01(2024), the assessment of the impact of the proposed fishing activity, prepared pursuant to the SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standard (BFIAS), as defined in paragraph [3.e.] of CMM 01(2024); and
 - j. where the target species is also managed by an adjacent Regional Fisheries Management Organisation or similar organisation, a description of that neighbouring fishery sufficient to allow the Scientific Committee to formulate its advice and recommendations in accordance with paragraph 8.
6. The FOP submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 shall be accompanied by a Data Collection and Analysis Plan (DCAP) for the proposed fishery identifying the data needed and any operational research actions needed to obtain data from the proposed fishery to enable an assessment of the stock, the feasibility of establishing a fishery and the impact of the proposed fishing activities on non-target, associated or dependent species and the marine ecosystem in which the fishery occurs. The DCAP shall require, as appropriate:
- a. a description of the catch, effort and related biological, ecological and environmental data required to undertake the evaluations described in paragraph 20;
 - b. the date(s) by which the data must be provided to the Secretariat;
 - c. a plan for directing fishing effort to allow for the acquisition of relevant data to evaluate the fishery potential and the ecological relationships among harvested, non-target, and associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impacts;
 - d. a plan for the acquisition of any other research data obtained by fishing vessels, including activities that may require the cooperative activities of scientific observers and the vessel, as may be required by the Scientific Committee to evaluate the fishery potential and the ecological relationships among harvested, non-target, and associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impacts;
 - e. an evaluation of the time scales involved in determining the responses of harvested, dependent and related populations to fishing activities; and
 - f. details on the analyses that will be used to evaluate population trends, key biological parameters, and to assess sustainability and the fishery impacts.

Assessment of proposed new and exploratory fisheries by the Scientific Committee

- 7. At its ordinary meeting, the Scientific Committee shall consider any FOPs and their associated DCAPs submitted pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 respectively and any other relevant information.
- 8. The Scientific Committee shall review the FOP and its associated DCAP, and the data and reports from relevant ongoing or completed new and exploratory fisheries, and provide advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on the following, as appropriate:
 - a. Management strategies or plans for fishery resources;
 - b. Reference points, including precautionary reference points as described in Annex II of the 1995 Agreement;
 - c. An appropriate precautionary catch limit and appropriate time period for operation;
 - d. the cumulative impacts of all fishing activities in the area of the proposed fishery;
 - e. the impact of the proposed fishing on the marine ecosystem;
 - f. the sufficiency of information available to inform the level of precaution required and the degree of certainty with which the Scientific Committee's advice is provided;

- g. the degree to which the approach outlined in the FOP is likely to ensure the proposed fishery is developed consistently with its nature as a new and exploratory fishery, and consistently with the objectives of Article 2 and the general principles of Article 4 of the Agreement; and
 - h. in respect of a FOP that proposes any bottom fishing activity, advice and recommendations in accordance with the requirements of the SIOFA BFIAS.
9. The Scientific Committee shall review annually as appropriate the FOPs and their associated DCAPs for each new and exploratory fishery approved by the Meeting of the Parties.

Assessment of proposed new and exploratory fisheries by the Compliance Committee

10. At its ordinary meeting, the Compliance Committee shall consider any FOPs submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 and any advice of the Scientific Committee thereon as well as an associated draft CMM prepared by the proposing CCP in respect of the new and exploratory fishery and provide advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on appropriate management arrangements, including in the light of CMM 01(2024) and CMM 15(2024), if applicable.

Assessment of proposed new and exploratory fisheries by the Meeting of the Parties

11. At its ordinary meeting, the Meeting of the Parties shall consider any FOPs submitted pursuant to paragraph 5, any advice or recommendations provided by the Scientific Committee and Compliance Committee pursuant to paragraphs 7-9 and paragraph 10 respectively, any applicable obligations under CMM 01(2024) and CMM 15(2024) in respect of the proposed fishing activity, and any specific draft CMM proposed in respect of the fishery.
12. The Meeting of the Parties shall take a decision as to whether to approve the proposed new and exploratory fishery in accordance with the FOP and DCAP, and shall designate a time period for operation, up to a maximum period of three years. If the Meeting of the Parties approves the proposed new and exploratory fishery, it shall adopt a CMM in respect of the fishery which shall include objectives, reference points, a precautionary catch limit and any other management measures the Meeting of the Parties deems appropriate.
13. The Meeting of the Parties may amend a FOP, as necessary, prior to approving the new and exploratory fishery.
14. Once a FOP and its associated CMM expires, a CCP may prepare and submit a new FOP in accordance with paragraph 5.

Conduct of new and exploratory fisheries

15. CCPs shall not permit fishing vessels flying their flag to participate in new and exploratory fisheries without prior approval from the Meeting of the Parties.
16. CCPs shall ensure that any fishing vessel flying their flag only participates in a new and exploratory fishery in accordance with the FOP reviewed by the Scientific Committee and approved by the Meeting of the Parties.
17. CCPs shall ensure that vessels flying their flag that engage in new and exploratory fisheries that have been authorised by the Meeting of the Parties carry on board one or more scientific observers for the duration of the activity to collect data in accordance with the DCAP, and to assist in collecting biological and other relevant data, as appropriate.
18. CCPs shall ensure that where their flagged vessels participate in a new and exploratory fishery, the data required by the DCAP is provided to the Scientific Committee. CCPs whose vessels participate in a new and exploratory fishery shall be prohibited from participating in that fishery if the data specified in the DCAP has not been submitted to the Scientific Committee for the most recent season in which the fishing occurred, until the relevant data has been submitted to the Scientific Committee and it has had the opportunity to review that data.

19. Notwithstanding paragraph 5.a., CCPs shall be entitled to authorize participation in a new and exploratory fishery by a vessel flying their flag not identified in the FOP if the vessel specified in the FOP is prevented from fishing on account of legitimate operational or *force majeure* reasons and a replacement vessel of similar capability and capacity is proposed pursuant to this paragraph. In such circumstances, the CCP concerned shall immediately inform the Secretariat thereof and provide:
- full details of the intended replacement vessel(s);
 - a comprehensive account of the reasons for the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence; and
 - specifications and a full description of the types of fishing gear to be used by the replacement vessel.

The Secretariat shall immediately circulate this information to all CCPs.

Reclassification of new and exploratory fisheries

20. The Meeting of the Parties may take a decision to manage the fishery as an established fishery if it is satisfied that sufficient information is available concerning a new and exploratory fishery:
- to evaluate the distribution, abundance and demography of the target and primary species to inform an estimate of the fishery's potential yield; and
 - to review the fishery's potential impacts on non-target and associated or dependent species, including endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species and bycatch, and on the marine ecosystem in which the fishery occurs, including vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs); and
 - to allow the Scientific Committee to formulate and provide advice to the Meeting of the Parties on appropriate management arrangements including harvest catch levels, effort levels, and fishing gear, where appropriate.

Review

21. This CMM shall be reviewed no later than at the ordinary Meeting of the Parties in 2028. The review shall take into account, *inter alia*, international best practices and the most recent advice of the Scientific Committee on new and exploratory fisheries.

Annex 1 – Established fisheries in the SIOFA Area⁴

Targeted ⁵ species/fisheries	Fishing gear	Participants	Area
Patagonian toothfish	Set longlines, traps	Australia, EU (Spain), France (Overseas Territories), Japan, Korea	Designated fishing footprints of Australia, EU (Spain), Japan, and France (Overseas Territories). SIOFA sub-areas 3b and 7
Orange roughy	Bottom trawl	Australia, Cook Islands, Japan, China, Mauritius	Designated fishing footprints of Australia, Cook Islands, Japan. Underwater topographic features in SIOFA sub-areas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6.
Alfonsino	Midwater trawl	Australia, Cook Islands, Japan, Korea,	Designated fishing footprints of Australia, Cook Islands and Japan. Underwater topographic features in SIOFA sub-areas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6.
Brushtooth lizardfish and scads	Trawl (nei), single boat otter board trawl	Thailand	Designated fishing footprint of Thailand.
Shallow-water (<200m), Carangoides spp., snappers, emperors and groupers	Set longline, hook and line (handlines), bottom trawl, traps	EU (France), Mauritius, Thailand, Comoros	Designated fishing footprint of Thailand. SIOFA sub-area 8 (mainly Saya de Malha Bank)
Deep water (>200m) snappers, lutjanids, hapuka	Set longline, dropline	Australia, China, EU (Spain)	Designated fishing footprints of the EU (Spain) and Australia. SIOFA Subareas 2, 3a, 3b and 4.
Oilfish	Pelagic longline, dropline	Chinese Taipei, Seychelles	Southwest Indian Ocean
Squid	Light Seining, Squid Jigging	China	To be confirmed as per footnote 4 Designated fishing footprint of China. SIOFA Subareas 1, 4, 7 and 8.

⁴ Annex 1 may be updated by the Meeting of the Parties upon the advice of the Scientific Committee concerning historical catch data and/or other information submitted by CCPs regarding their targeted fisheries.

⁵ As per the endorsed definition adopted by MoP10 (MoP10 Report Para 130).

Annex 2 – SIOFA Fishery Operations Plan Template

Paragraph 5 of CMM 17(2024) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) requires any CCP seeking to permit a vessel flying its flag to engage in new and exploratory fisheries to prepare and submit, using this template, at least 35 days prior to the commencement of the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee, a Fishery Operations Plan (FOP) for the fishing season(s) concerned for review by the Scientific Committee.

Complete the following table:

CCP	
Area	
Target Species	
Proposed Methods of Fishing	
Proposed Maximum Catch / Effort Limit	
Expected Period of Operation (max. 3 years)	
Submission date	

1. Introduction

Provide an overarching description of the purpose of the new and exploratory fishery, including area, target species, proposed methods of fishing, proposed maximum catch limits and any apportionment of that catch limit among areas or species.

2. Operator details, proposed activities in the management areas and target species**2.1 Authorized vessel(s)**

Specify which vessel(s) will carry out the new and exploratory fishery.

2.2 Scientific personnel

Describe the personnel that will be involved in data analysis and provide a brief summary of their experience and abilities. Provide information on the independent observers and observer providers.

2.3 Official flag CCP contact

Provide official contacts for the management, science, observer and data aspects of the new and exploratory fishery.

2.4 Vessel authorisation and licensing

Provide details on the flag CCP's legal requirements for authorising new and exploratory fisheries, information about the fishing authorisation or licence issued to the vessel(s) that will conduct the fishery.

2.5 Areas of interest

Describe the area of operation, including the area boundaries, map(s) and depth of gear.

2.6 Target species

Specify the primary target species' scientific name and common name and provide information on what is known about the biology and distribution of the species.

2.7 Non-target, associated and dependent species

Specify anticipated bycatch species and details of the intended fate of this bycatch (e.g., retained, discarded). Provide details of any flag CCP rules for retention or handling practices and how these are enforced (e.g., code of practice or legal requirements).

3. Methods

3.1 The marine environment

Describe the environment that the fishery will occur in such as coral reefs, seagrass beds, shallow flats, seamounts, pelagic waters etc. Provide bathymetry and information on broad scale oceanography if known for that area.

3.2 Operational details

Specify where, when and how will the operation occur. Specify the areas of interest and how many trips per year are intended.

3.3 New and exploratory fishing gear used

Provide details of the gear. This should be as detailed as possible and include images of the gear and gear setup in the water.

4. Landing

Specify how, where and how often the fishery product(s) will be unloaded from the vessel. Specify where any processing of the fishery product will occur and what are the intended markets.

5. Management reference points and biomass calculations and catch/effort limits

Provide details on the target species, catch/effort limits and/or threshold reference points, why these were chosen and how the stock will be assessed against them. Describe and provide details on the total allowable catch and/or effort, specifying how this was chosen and how it will be split between areas.

6. Planned trips in the management area(s)

Specify how many trips are planned in each year and in each management area. Provide details of the number of fishing events per trip. If this FOP is a revision of a previous FOP, explain how and why it has changed from the previous one.

7. Monitoring of vessel and fishing activities

7.1 Vessel monitoring and control

Describe how the vessel will be monitored, which authorities it will report to and how often, including the frequency of VMS position reports. Specify any entry / exit notification requirements for the SIOFA Area and/or bordering EEZs/RFMOs that the vessel will need to comply with.

7.2 Observer coverage

Describe the required level of observer coverage? Explain what the observers will be expected to monitor and sample and how they will monitor catch, bycatch, SSI interactions and VME encounters.

8. Data collection and analysis plan (DCAP)

Provide details of the data sheets/e-logs proposed, submission of data to SIOFA, and descriptions of the sampling methodology proposed. Include vessel activity, set and haul logs, biological data collection and storage, SSI (catch and sightings) and VME data collections. Include details on any tagging or planned genetic analyses.

Describe the proposed analyses and intended outcomes and detail the ordinary meetings of the Scientific Committee at which annual updates (meta data of what was observed and quantity of data collected) and detailed reporting will be presented.

9. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem indicators (if applicable)

Provide details of the flag CCP's requirements concerning the collection and handling of VME material. Describe the protocols for handling VMEs encounters and any other information of how VMEs interactions will be monitored.

10. Risk assessment⁶

10.1 Teleost/cephalopod/crustacean bycatch

Specify which species are likely to be caught on the gear, and which species are likely to be retained and discarded. Describe the likely nature of any interactions, and the potential condition of these species on landing.

CCP-X Exploratory Fishery for ZZ Risk Summary Table – Teleost/cephalopod/crustacean bycatch

Species	Spatial overlap	Catchability	Risk of mortality
Pelagic teleosts e.g., sp1, sp2	High	High	Low if not retained
Benthic teleosts e.g., sp3	High	Medium	Species dependant low to high
Squid	Medium	High	Low
Mitigation			
Describe any mitigation or codes of practice or binding rules			
Risk if released after mitigation			
Pelagic teleosts - low			
Suprabenthic teleosts - low			
Squid - low			

10.2 Elasmobranch bycatch

Specify what species are likely to be caught on the gear, and which species are likely to be retained and discarded. Describe the likely nature of any interactions.

CCP-X Exploratory Fishery for ZZ Risk Summary Table – Elasmobranch bycatch

Species	Spatial overlap	Catchability	Risk of mortality
Pelagic sharks e.g., sp1, sp2	High	High	Low if not retained
Benthic sharks e.g., sp3	High	Medium	Species dependant low to high
Species z	Medium	High	Low
Mitigation			
Describe any mitigation or codes of practice or binding rules			

⁶ The tables in this section should be completed using coloured cells with the following coding: High (red), Medium (Yellow), Low (Green), unknown (purple). Add and remove rows as applicable.

Risk if released after mitigation
Pelagic sharks - low
Benthic sharks - low
Species Z - low

10.3 Seabirds

Specify what species are likely to be caught on the gear and which species are likely to be seen around the vessel(s). Describe the likely nature of any interactions.

CCP-X Exploratory Fishery for ZZ Risk Summary Table – Seabird bycatch

Species	Spatial overlap	Catchability	Risk of mortality
Albatross sp x	Medium	Low	Low
Cormorant sp y	Low	Low	Low
Penguins sp z	Low	Low	Low
Petrels, prions and shearwaters	Medium-high	Low	Medium-Low
Mitigation			
Describe any mitigation or codes of practice or binding rules			
Risk after mitigation			
Albatross sp x - low			
Cormorants sp y - low			
Penguins sp z - low			
Petrels, prions and shearwaters - low			

10.4 Marine mammals and turtles

Specify what species are likely to be caught on the gear and which species are likely to be seen around the vessel(s). Describe the likely nature of any interactions.

CCP-X Exploratory Fishery for ZZ Risk Summary Table – Marine mammals and turtle bycatch

Species	Spatial overlap	Catchability	Risk of mortality
Whales	High	Low	Low
Dolphins	High	Low	Low
Seals, sealions and elephant seals	Medium	Low	Low
Turtles	Medium	Low	Low
Mitigation			
Describe any mitigation or codes of practice or binding rules			
Risk after mitigation			
Whales - Low			
Dolphins - Low			
Seals, sealions and elephant seals - Low			
Turtles - Low			

10.5 VME impacts

Specify what species are likely to be caught damaged by the gear. Describe the likely nature of any impacts.

CCP-X Exploratory Fishery for ZZ Risk Summary Table – VME interactions

Species	Spatial overlap	Catchability	Risk of mortality
VME indicator taxa spx	Unknown	Low but damage under bottom contact high	Medium
Mitigation			
Describe any mitigation or codes of practice or binding rules			
Risk after mitigation			
VME indicator species - Low			

11. References

Appendix A - Vessel details

Appendix B - Observer tasks and sampling instructions



9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)

Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025

MoP-12-38-Rev2

Proposal New CMM for Benthic Protection

Proposed by the delegations of Australia, Cook Islands, and Japan ~~and SIOFA~~

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	working paper ✓ information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	
<p>Given the global concerns about sensitive marine benthic species and habitats, and the complexities around their management, benthic closures represent a practical and effective means for their protection. Following on from the workshop to progress future protected area designation (WS2024-PAD), which evaluated a number of areas for benthic protection. The workshop and the subsequent recommendations from the SC10 in paragraphs 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463 and 465 of the SC10 Report recommended that nine areas be designated as Benthic Protected Areas (BPAs) and closed to bottom fishing. In addition, three areas were recommended for BPA designation and closure to bottom fishing but with allowances for bottom longlining.</p> <p>This proposal is to enact these recommendations and formulate a Conservation and Management Measure for the establishment, management and maintenance of 12 BPAs within the SIOFA Area.</p> <p>Please note if MoP12 adopts this CMM for benthic protection, paragraphs 42, 43 and 44 of CMM-01(2024) would be redundant, and therefore MoP12 will need to agree that the Secretariat be tasked with revising CMM-01(2024) deleting these paragraphs, and revising Annex 3 by replacing it with Tables 1 and 2 from this benthic protection CMM.</p>	

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² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

##-##-## - Document title

Included in this revision:

- A number of editorial amendments;
- Clarifications of demersal and bottom fishing; and
- Two alternative proposals to reflect the continental shelf claim by Mauritius. These include either a clarifying footnote on table 1 (footnote 4) or a revision of the South-Indian Ridge BPA boundaries which requires an amendment to the coordinates in Table 1 and a replacement Figure 1 (Figure 1 alt).

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CMM XX (2025)

Conservation and Management Measure for **[Benthic] Protected Areas** in the Agreement Area**The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;**

RECALLING Article 4(a) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) which calls on the Contracting Parties, in giving effect to the duty to cooperate, to adopt measures on the basis of the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation of fishery resources, taking into account the sustainable use of such resources and implementing an ecosystem approach to their management;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 4(c), (d), (e) and (f) of the Agreement which call on the Contracting Parties to apply the precautionary approach and the principles that measures shall be taken to ensure that the level of fishing activity is commensurate with the sustainable use of the fishery resources, that fishing practices and management measures shall take due account of the need to minimise the harmful impact that fishing activities may have on the marine environment, and that biodiversity in the marine environment shall be protected;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 6(1)(d) and (e) of the Agreement which provide that the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt conservation and management measures (CMMs) necessary for ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishery resources, taking into account the need to protect marine biodiversity, based on the best scientific evidence available and adopt generally recommended international minimum standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations;

MINDFUL of Article 16 of the Agreement that calls on Contracting Parties, acting jointly under the Agreement, to cooperate closely with other international fisheries and related organisations in matters of mutual interest;

COMMITTED to ensuring that bottom fishing undertaken in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) is consistent with the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and the protection of the marine environment;

NOTING that the SC10 recommended the establishment of benthic protected areas in areas with sensitive physical and/or biological properties, and the SC has agreed on a set of criteria to evaluate protected area designation;

NOTING that since 2006, SIOFA members have voluntarily refrained from engaging in bottom fishing within the areas outlined in this CMM and now agree to formally designate these areas as Benthic Protected Areas (BPAs) under SIOFA CMMs;

NOTING the requirements in CMM 01(2024⁹) on the Management of Bottom Fishing in the Agreement Area which place a number of obligations on Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities who intend to authorise their flagged vessels to engage in any bottom fishing in the Agreement Area.

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Articles 4 and 6 of the Agreement:

Objective

1. The objective of this CMM is to provide benthic protection to sensitive areas through the implementation of Benthic Protected Areas (BPAs) in the Agreement Area.

General provisions

2. This CMM applies to all bottom fishing vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties, participating fishing entities or cooperating non-participating fishing entities (collectively CCPs) to the Agreement currently engaging in, or intending to engage in, any existing, new or exploratory bottom fishing activities in the Agreement Area.
3. CCPs shall ensure that their flagged vessels do not engage in bottom fishing within the BPAs outlined in Table 1.
4. CCPs shall ensure that their flagged vessels do not engage in bottom fishing within the BPAs outlined in Table 2 unless the CCP has existing bottom longline fisheries footprint within those areas.

Definitions

5. For the purpose of this CMM,
 - a. 'bottom fishing' means fishing using any gear type likely to come in contact with the seafloor or benthic organisms during the normal course of operations. This includes trawling; ~~demersal~~bottom longlining; drop lining and trap fishing or any method listed as bottom gear in CMM 01 or CMM 17 or bottom fisheries listed in any future amendments, or replacements, to these CMMs.
 - b. 'BPA' means Benthic Protected Area where bottom fishing is not permitted, unless specifically provided for in Table 2. The latitude and longitude coordinates of the BPAs are specified in Tables 1 and 2 and a map of the BPAs are included at Figure 1.

Reporting requirements

6. For any vessel allowed to fish, and engaging in fishing within the BPAs listed in Tables 1 and 2, CCPs shall record all catch and effort occurring within these BPAs and shall report these data annually, for each BPA separately, to the SC in the CCP's country report.
7. The secretariat shall annually undertake an assessment of the VMS data for all vessels entering these BPAs noting the time spent and potential activity (fishing and transiting) by vessel type and flag in each BPA. In addition, the secretariat shall provide a summary of VMS reporting under paragraph 30 of CMM 16(2023)³.

³ Or its replacement.

8. Until such time that CCPs' flagged vessels automatically report VMS position reports in accordance with CMM 16, the Master of any CCP's flagged vessel transiting through a BPA shall report to the Secretariat and its flag CCP 4 hours prior to entering and exiting a BPA.
9. All reports under paragraph 8 shall contain the following information:
 - (i) Report type (ZENT for entry and ZEXT for exit)
 - (ii) Vessel name
 - (iii) Flag CCP
 - (iv) IMO Number
 - (v) Trip start date i.e. date of departure from port
 - (vi) Date and time on entry or exit (GMT)
 - (vii) International Radio Call Sign (IRCS)
 - (viii) Position of entry to, or exit from, the BPA by latitude/longitude (to one tenth of a minute of arc)
 - (ix) Intended or completed activity while inside the BPA
 - (x) On exit from a BPA, catch on board by weight (kilograms) and species for all catch caught within the BPA.

Research and Monitoring

10. By 2028, the SC shall develop a research and monitoring plan for the BPAs listed in Tables 1 and 2 and provide advice to the Meeting of the Parties on the maintenance, modification or termination of these BPAs. The research and monitoring plan may include fisheries independent surveys, benthic monitoring data, remote sensing analyses or other relevant research.

Review

11. This CMM shall be reviewed no later than at the 17th ordinary Meeting of the Parties in 2030 and periodically thereafter (e.g. every 5 years). The review shall take into account, *inter alia*, the most recent advice from the Scientific Committee including the results of the research and monitoring plan, international best practices and analyses of fisheries impacts on benthic areas.

Table 1: SIOFA Benthic Protected Areas closed to all bottom fishing with the coordinates and closure type. Note these can be downloaded as shapefiles from the SIOFA website at <https://siofa.org/science>.

Area Name	Coordinates				Closure type
	Position 1	Position 2	Position 3	Position 4	
<i>Gulden Draak</i>	28° 00'S 98° 00'E	29° 00'S 98° 00'E	28° 00'S 99° 00'E	29° 00'S 99° 00'E	Closed to all bottom fishing activities
<i>Rusky</i>	31° 20'S 94° 55'E	31° 30'S 94° 55'E	31° 20'S 95° 00'E	31° 30'S 95° 00'E	
<i>Fools-Flat</i>	31° 30'S 94° 40'E	31° 40'S 94° 40'E	31° 30'S 95° 00'E	31° 40'S 95° 00'E	
<i>East Broken Ridge</i>	32° 50'S 100° 50'E	33° 25'S 100° 50'E	32° 50'S 101° 40'E	33° 25'S 101° 40'E	
<i>Mid-Indian Ridge⁴</i>	13° 00'S 64° 00'E	15° 50'S 64° 00'E	15° 50'S 66° 48'E	15° 02'S 68° 00'E	
			13° 00'S 68° 00'E		
<i>Atlantis Bank</i>	32° 00'S 57° 00'E	32° 50'S 57° 00'E	32° 00'S 58° 00'E	32° 50'S 58° 00'E	
<i>Bridle</i>	38° 03'S 49° 00'E	38° 45'S 49° 00'E	38° 03'S 50° 00'E	38° 45'S 50° 00'E	
<i>Banana</i>	30° 20'S 45° 40'E	30° 30'S 45° 40'E	30° 20'S 46° 00'E	30° 30'S 46° 00'E	
<i>Middle of What</i>	37° 54'S 50° 23'E	37° 56'S 50° 23'E	37° 54'S 50° 27'E	37° 56'S 50° 27'E	

Table 2: SIOFA Benthic Protected Areas closed to all bottom fishing, but where bottom longlining is permitted, with the coordinates and closure type. Note these can be downloaded as shapefiles from the SIOFA website at <https://siofa.org/science>.

Area Name	Coordinates				Closure type
	Position 1	Position 2	Position 3	Position 4	
<i>Walters Shoal</i>	33° 00'S 43° 10'E	33° 20'S 43° 10'E	33° 00'S 44° 10'E	33° 20'S 44° 10'E	Closed to bottom fishing, with bottom longlining permitted
<i>Coral</i>	41° 00'S 42° 00'E	41° 40'S 42° 00'E	41° 00'S 44° 00'E	41° 40'S 44° 00'E	
<i>Magneto (formally South Indian Ridge)</i>	44° 00'S 40° 52'40.8E	45° 00'S 42° 07'26.4E	44° 00'S 46° 32'38.4E	45° 00'S 45° 42'39.6E	

⁴ [The Mid-Indian Ridge BPA established under this CMM shall not prejudice any CCP's rights in respect to territorial claims submitted in accordance with international law.]

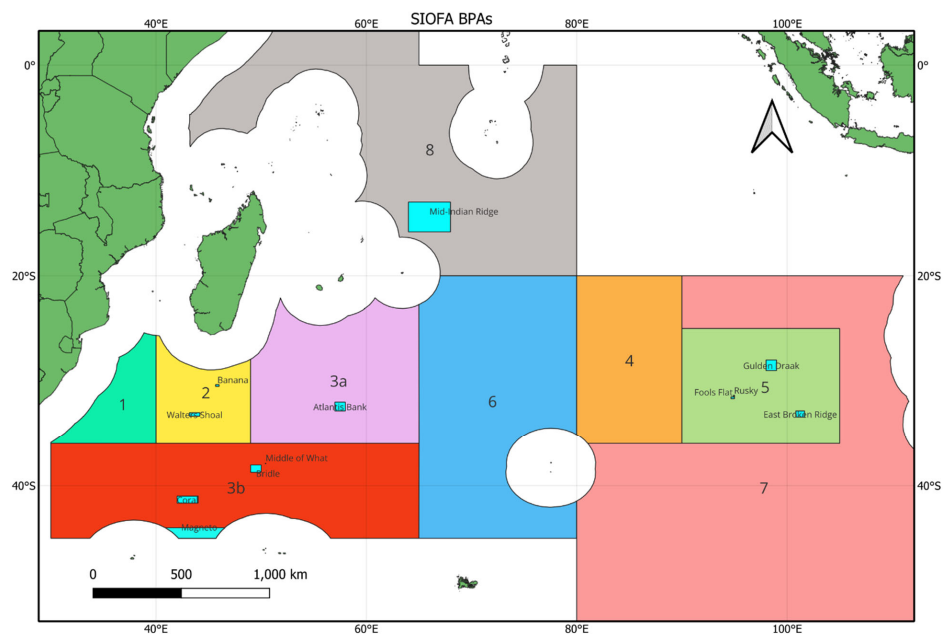
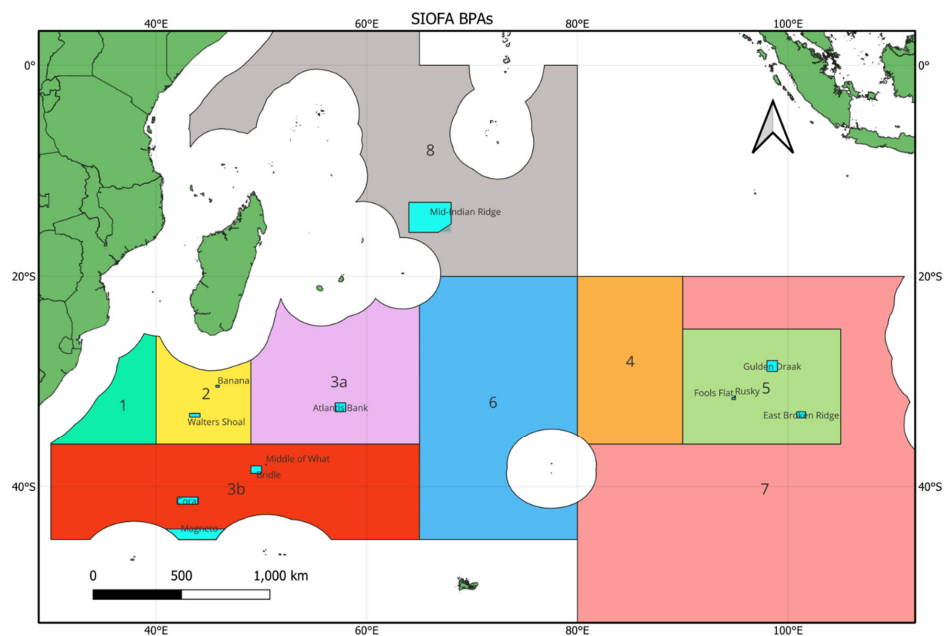


Figure 1: Map showing the location of all the SIOFA BPAs.



[Figure 1 alt: Map showing the location of all the SIOFA BPAs.]



9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)

Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025

MoP-12-39

Proposal for a new CMM for an ~~interim~~ SIOFA allocation framework

Delegation of the Cook Islands

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	working paper ✓ information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	
<p>MOP11 endorsed the development of a SIOFA allocation framework and welcomed the offer from the Cook Islands to develop a paper to advance this work. Accordingly, this proposal outlines an interim allocation framework for SIOFA fisheries. It provides allocation criteria for the Meeting of the Parties to use when distributing participatory rights to CCPs.</p> <p>The proposal responds to the various directions and discussions from the Meeting of the Parties and the Scientific Committee calling for the establishment of an allocation framework for SIOFA fisheries. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SC9 recognising the need for allocation of catch and effort limits; 	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

MoP-12-39 Proposal for a new CMM for an interim SIOFA allocation framework

- SC10 noting the value in considering potential flexibility in the setting of total allowable catches, including potential approaches to overage, underage, carryovers, multi-year limits and transferability;
- MOP10 endorsing the 2nd SIOFA Performance Review recommendation 14 that 'SIOFA CCPs engage in discussions towards a future regime for the allocation of fishing rights'.
- MOP11 endorsing the 2nd Workshop on Harvest Strategy Development recommendation that the MOP 'develop a framework for deciding allocations based on catch history, among other factors, and to advance this work in parallel with the development of harvest strategies'.

The allocation framework outlined in this proposal is 'interim' in the sense that it shall only apply until the MOP has adopted a harvest strategy for a particular SIOFA fishery that includes mechanisms for quota allocation (paragraph 4). It provides fair and transparent criteria for the MOP to apply, consistent with the SIOFA Agreement.

This proposal responds to the specific direction of the MOP. It also seeks to ensure that the MOP applies effective, sustainable and fair criteria for participation in SIOFA fisheries within areas of beyond national jurisdiction.

The Cook Islands welcomes open and constructive engagement from CCPs during CC9 and MOP12.

Rev1 amendments reflect CCPs' input during CC9, including:

- Amending title to remove 'interim' noting that this is a high-level framework to guide MOP allocation distribution;
- Addition of a new preambular paragraph referencing allocation agreement within the functions of RFMOs;
- Amendment to paragraph 1 to clarify that the MOP shall apply the allocation framework to SIOFA fisheries on a stock or species basis (i.e. that may differ for different species or stock).
- Deletion of paragraph 3 noting CCPs comments that this paragraph makes the CMM's application unclear.
- Addition of footnote in paragraph 6(a) to clarify that historical catch under the SIOFA framework may differ between species based on when SIOFA adopted CMMs.
- Amendment to paragraph 6(c) to include reference to coastal States based on input received from CCPs.
- Amendment to paragraph 6(d) to include reference to contributions to science.
- Deletion of review clause (paragraph 11) to reflect comments made by various CCPs indicating a preference for stability of the measure.

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MoP-12-39 Proposal for a new CMM for an interim SIOFA allocation framework

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CC9 to recommend that MOP12 adopt the proposed CMM.• MOP12 adopt the proposed CMM.

CMM XX (2025)**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE (CMM) FOR AN ~~INTERIM~~ SIOFA ALLOCATION FRAMEWORK****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;**

RECOGNISING that Article 6(1)(k) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) requires the Meeting of the Parties to establish the criteria for, and rules governing, participation in fishing.

FURTHER RECOGNISING that Article 6(2) of the Agreement provides that the Meeting of the Parties, 'in determining criteria for participation in fishing, including allocation of total allowable catch or total level of fishing effort, the Contracting Parties shall take into account, inter alia, international principles such as those contained in the 1995 Agreement'.

ACKNOWLEDGING that Article 10(b) of the 1995 Agreement provides that one of the functions of regional fisheries management organisations is for States to 'agree, as appropriate, on participatory rights such as allocations of allowable catch or levels of fishing effort'.

NOTING that Article 6(3) of the Agreement provides that Contracting Parties, in determining criteria for participation in fishing, including associated catch or effort allocations, may designate annual quota allocations or fishing effort limitations for Contracting Parties, allocate catch quantities for exploration and scientific research, and set aside fishing opportunities for non-Contracting Parties to this Agreement, if necessary.

NOTING that the 9th Scientific Committee recognised the need for allocation of catch and effort limits and the 10th Scientific Committee discussed the value in considering potential flexibility in the setting of total allowable catches, including potential approaches to overage, underage, carryovers, multi-year limits and transferability between CCPs.

RECALLING that the 11th Meeting of the Parties endorsed the recommendation of the 2nd Workshop on Harvest Strategy Development to 'develop a framework for deciding allocations based on catch history, among other factors, and to advance this work in parallel with the development of harvest strategies'.

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Articles 4 and 6 of the Agreement:**Objective**

1. The objective of this CMM is to establish an ~~interim~~-allocation framework for SIOFA fisheries through specifying criteria for distributing participatory rights to Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties and Participating Fishing Entities (CCPs).

Application

2. The MOP shall apply to the allocation criteria outlined in this CMM when distributing participatory rights to CCPs for shall apply to all established SIOFA fisheries with an adopted TAC on a species or stock basis.

MoP-12-39 Proposal for a new CMM for an interim SIOFA allocation framework

3. ~~This CMM shall not apply to SIOFA fisheries with adopted harvest strategies that include mechanisms for quota allocation.~~
4. This CMM shall not impact in any way the total allowable catch for any SIOFA fishery set by the Meeting of the Parties.
5. This CMM shall not prejudice the rights of any new SIOFA Party³ entrant to a SIOFA fishery.

Allocation criteria

6. When allocating rights for SIOFA Parties for any SIOFA fishery, the Meeting of the Parties shall use the following criteria:
 - a. Historical catch⁴ in the Agreement Area reported to the SIOFA Secretariat and caught in accordance with the SIOFA Agreement and any SIOFA CMMs, including all data reporting requirements;
 - b. Compliance with the SIOFA Agreement and any SIOFA CMMs;
 - c. ~~The fisheries development aspirations and/or interests of:~~
 - i. ~~-coastal~~ developing States, ~~in particular the least developed among them~~ and
 - ii. ~~coastal States adjacent to the Agreement Area; and~~
 - iii. ~~small island developing States;~~
 - d. Contributions to science, the conservation and management of fishery resources, including the provision of accurate data and effective monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement.
7. Following consideration of the criteria outlined in paragraph 6, the Meeting of the Parties shall determine allocation rights for SIOFA Parties for any SIOFA fishery as follows:
 - a. Allocations may be set for an annual or multi-year period;
 - b. Allocation for each SIOFA Party shall be based on a proportional historical catch in accordance with paragraph 6(a) with due consideration to the other criteria in paragraph 6;
 - c. Regarding new entrants:
 - i. Subject to paragraph 6(c), reserve 5% of the total catch allocation collectively for SIOFA Party or Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCP) seeking to be new entrants to that fishery. However, no new entrant shall receive a higher percentage than an existing participant.
 - ii. When the MOP is determining allocation rights for SIOFA Parties, if the MOP has not approved any new entrants, the 5% reserved allocation shall be reallocated to existing participants in the same proportion as the remaining allocation. ~~and~~

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³ SIOFA Party refers to a SIOFA Contracting Party or Participating Fishing Entity.

⁴ Historical catch refers to catch within the Agreement Area from 2013 and recognises that CMMs regulating SIOFA species may have different dates of entry into force.

MoP-12-39 Proposal for a new CMM for an interim SIOFA allocation framework

- d. For any new and exploratory fisheries (as specified in CMM-17⁵ (2024)) that are subsequently recognised as established fisheries, the Meeting of the Parties shall consider reserving a proportion greater than 5% of the total catch allocation for new SIOFA Party entrants into that fishery.
- 8. When considering the annual participatory rights, including any allocation rights, for CNCs, the Meeting of Parties shall use the criteria in paragraphs 6 and 7 and any other considerations it deems appropriate.

Catch Management

- 9. Once the Meeting of the Parties has allocated rights for a SIOFA fishery, CCPs may transfer all or part of their allocation in any specified year to another CCP by mutual agreement. Any transfer of allocation shall at a minimum, require notification to the Secretariat who shall notify CCPs and be without prejudice to future agreements on the allocation of fishing rights.
- 10. For each SIOFA fishery with allocated rights, the Meeting of the Parties should establish additional rules for:
 - a. the management of overages, underages and carryovers of a CCP's allocation; and
 - b. data collection and reporting for catch arrangements falling under paragraphs 9 and 10(a).

Review

- 11. ~~The Scientific Committee and the Meeting of the Parties shall review this CMM every 3 years.~~

⁵ Or its replacement measure.

**9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)***Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025***CC-09-06 / MoP-12-31**[Rev1](#)

Update of Workplan & Progress Toward Operationalization of SIOFA VMS

VMS WG Chairperson

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	working paper ✓ information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	
<p>This paper provides an update to the CC09 and MoP12 on the progress made by the SIOFA VMS Working Group (VMS WG) since the conclusion of MoP11. The paper also updates the work plan of the VMS WG, based on discussions held intersessionally by the WG to include, <i>inter alia</i>, the procurement of the SIOFA VMS and a proposed pilot phase prior to the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS.</p> <p>Rev1 of the document incorporates input from the CC09 on the work plan</p>	

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• That CC09 and MoP12 note the progress made by the VMS WG towards the operationalization of the SIOFA VMS• That CC09 recommends the adoption of the updated work plan and that MoP12 adopt it.

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Update of Workplan & Progress Toward Operationalization of SIOFA VMS

Introduction

The 11th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP11) endorsed a project roadmap towards the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS ([MoP-11-21 Rev1](#)), as foreseen by CMM 16 (2023) on a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System³. The key activities and outcomes of the project roadmap are:

- 1. Definition of standards, specifications and procedures (SSPs) for, among others, data formats and transmission, data confidentiality and security requirements.**

Indicator: SSPs adopted by the Meeting of the Parties

- 2. Building up SIOFA's capacity to implement the SIOFA VMS**

Indicators: Cost-effective hosting option identified

Key Secretariat staff trained in the use of the SIOFA VMS.

Secretariat Headquarters adapted to host SIOFA VMS.

- 3. Establishment of the SIOFA VMS (acquisition, testing and entry into operation)**

Indicators: SIOFA VMS operational

Entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS

Progress since MoP11

To achieve the aforementioned milestones, the SIOFA VMS WG undertook the following tasks in the intersessional period between MoP11 and MoP12:⁴

- Determining a cost-effective and efficient hosting model for the SIOFA VMS and other operational and infrastructure considerations; and
- Drafting terms of reference (ToR) for the procurement of the VMS system.

In addition, the VMS WG recognised the need to align the provisions of CMM 03 (2016) on Data Confidentiality and CMM 07(2024) on Vessel Authorization, with those of CMM 16 (2023) (Vessel Monitoring System) and the SIOFA VMS SSPs to ensure compatibility between those instruments and ensuring a smooth implementation of the SIOFA VMS once it enters into operation.

Three meetings of the Working Group were held during the intersessional period with participation from the majority of Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities which enabled the make substantial progress on the work plan, and the additional matters outlined above, notably:

- Options Paper for the Hosting of the SIOFA VMS;
- Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the procurement of the SIOFA VMS, based on the recommendation from the VMS WG that the SaaS will be chosen as the hosting option;
- Potential amendments to CMMs and the SIOFA SSPs to support the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS.

³ CMM 16 (2023) for the Establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System ([Vessel Monitoring System](#))

⁴ See adopted VMS Workplan

Updated work plan

Annex 1 presents an updated VMS WG work plan that outlines the implementation status of planned activities and proposes new activities and tasks necessary to achieve entry into the operation of the SIOFA VMS.

Based on discussions in the VMS WG, future work – outlined in Work Package 3 (WP3) would include:





- providing support to the Secretariat and CCPs for the procurement process of the SIOFA VMS, in accordance with the directives of the MoP;
- providing support to the Secretariat and CCPs for the testing phase, as appropriate;
- reviewing paragraph 15 of CMM 10 (2023) (Monitoring) as regards automated entry/exit notifications via the SIOFA VMS;
- recommending adjustments to other SIOFA CMMs, the SSPs, and SIOFA policies as may be necessary following the testing phase.

Recommendations / Note

- CC09 is requested to review the updated work plan, provide guidance as appropriate, and recommend its adoption by MoP12.
- MoP12 is invited to consider the updated work plan and adopt it.

Annex 1 - Timeline for the main tasks and activities

SIOFA VMS**WP 2 - Assessments / Analysis**

Name	Timeline	Priority	Progress
Establish Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSP)	2023-11-01 - 2024-05-16	Critical 	Completed
Data confidentiality and security for SIOFA VMS	2024-01-15 - 2024-07-05	Critical 	Completed
Definition of Term UVI	2024-01-15 - 2024-07-05	High	Completed
Determining cost-effective and efficient hosting model for the SIOFA VMS and other operational and infrastructure considerations	2024-11-01 - 2025-07-04	Critical 	Completed
Potential amendments to CMMs and the SIOFA SSPs	2025-03-16 - 2025-07-04	Critical 	Ongoing (Amendments to be considered by CC09/ MoP12 & MoP13)
Scoping Missions	2024-07-08 - 2025-12-18	Low	Ongoing

Legend:









Completed = Green

Ongoing = Orange

Not yet started = Grey

Delayed =Red

WP 3 - Setup and Entry into Operation of SIOFA VMS

Name	Timeline (Indicative)	Priority	Progress
Procurement of SIOFA VMS ⁵	2025-08-01 - 2025-12-31	Critical 	ToR Drafted (to be considered by CC09 / MoP12)
Call for bids issued	01-Aug-25	Critical 	Not Started
Deadline for submission of bids and proposals	31-Oct-25	Critical 	Not Started
Examination and evaluation of proposal	2025-11-01 - 2025-11-30	Critical 	Not Started
Notification to successful bidder	2025-12-01 - 2025-12-01	Critical 	Not Started
Contract signing	2025-12-31 - 2025-12-31	Critical 	Not Started
Start of Services	2026-01-01 - 2026-01-01	Critical 	Not Started
Testing phase of SIOFA VMS	2026-01-01 - 2026-06-24	High	Not Started
Entry into operation of SIOFA	2026-07-10 or end of MoP13	Critical 	Not Started

Legend:

Completed = Green

Ongoing = Orange

Not yet started = Grey

Delayed =Red

⁵ The Procurement of the SIOFA VMS will be followed by the setting up of the SIOFA VMS, including the Secretariat's Infrastructure and training f SIOF Staffs to deploy the SIOFA VMS.

**9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)***Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025***CC-09-08/MoP-12-33****Rev1**

Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the provision of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

VMS WG Chairperson

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	working paper ✓ information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.



At its fourth meeting, the SIOFA VMS Working Group (VMSWG04) tasked the Secretariat with drafting Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Software as a Service (SaaS)-based hosting solution, reflecting the working group's recommendation that SIOFA implement a SaaS approach to the deployment of the SIOFA VMS. This paper presents a draft of the ToR for procuring a SaaS-based VMS.

The draft ToR specify that the SIOFA VMS should feature automated monitoring, a Geographic Information System (GIS) for vessel visualization, integration with standardized data formats (NAF and FLUX), and customizable user access controls. The ToR also defines key contractual requirements, including system uptime guarantees, security and data confidentiality provisions, and compliance with SIOFA policies, namely the SIOFA VMS SSPs and CMMs that relates to Data Standards and Data Confidentiality. The ToR requires phased implementation, including testing, training, and a six-month pilot phase, as well as ongoing maintenance and technical support for an initial 36-month period, with possible extensions.

The draft ToR was considered by the 5th (VMSWG05) and the 6th (VMSWG06) meetings of the SIOFA VMS Working Group, and includes comments and proposed additions provided by CCPs after the conclusion of VMSWG06 (highlighted in track changes). These additions are as follows:

- requirement that the system should support machine-to-machine API for automatic transfer of data;
- configuration option for display of GPS coordinates (degree minute or decimal degree), bearing and bearing marks demarking vessel path and trails;
- option to generate reports, track maps summarising the status and activities of vessels with printing and screen capture options; and
- automatic entry and exit reports generated by the system are to be mandatory technical specifications, with minor amendments to this technical specification.

Rev1 of this paper incorporates comments from the CC09 on the Draft ToR.

Recommendations (for proposals and working papers only)

- That CC09 and MoP12 **review** the draft ToR for the procurement of the SIOFA VMS resulting from VMSWG06 and **provide guidance** on the additions to the ToR proposed by CCPs after the conclusion of the SIOFA VMSWG06;
- That CC09 **recommend** and the MoP12 **adopt** the final version of the ToR; and
- That MoP12 **agrees** for the Secretariat to launch the procurement process of the SIOFA VMS on the basis of the approved ToR.



Terms of Reference (ToR) for the provision of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Project title: Establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System

Project Code: SIOFA-VMS

1) Invitation to Bid

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) is inviting qualified international companies to submit bids for the provision of a Software as a Service (SaaS) based Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to the SIOFA Secretariat. The bids should include proposals for a SaaS-based VMS that complies with all the mandatory requirements of these terms of reference.

Bids are to be submitted to the SIOFA Executive Secretary, Mr Thierry Clot, at thierry.clot@siofa.org by 31 October 2025.

Key dates of the invitation to bid:

Activity	Date
Call for bids issued:	1 August 2025
Deadline for any request for clarifications from potential bidders:	15 October 2025
Deadline for submission of bids and proposals:	31 October 2025
Examination and evaluation of bids	1-30 November 2025
Notification to successful bidder:	1 December 2025
Contract signing:	December 2025
Start of Services:	1 January 2026

2) Background

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement ([SIOFA](#)) is a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) established following the adoption of its Agreement in 2006 and its entry into force in 2012. Its mandate is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Agreement Area through cooperation among the Contracting Parties, cooperating Non-Contracting Parties and Participating Fishing Entities (collectively CCPs) and to promote the sustainable development of fisheries in the Agreement Area, taking into account the needs of developing States bordering the Agreement Area that are Contracting Parties to the Agreement, and in particular the least-developed among them and small island developing States. To date, the SIOFA is composed of 13 CCPs.¹

There are currently 103 vessels on the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels (RAV) flagged to the 13 SIOFA CCPs, of which approximately 74 vessels are actively fishing in the Agreement Area. These active vessels spend around 10,000 days (between 232,000-239,000 hours) per year in the Agreement Area. Article 6(1)(h) of the Agreement requires SIOFA to develop rules and procedures for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities in order to ensure compliance with SIOFA

¹ 10 Contracting Parties, 2 Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, and 1 Participating Fishing Entity.



conservation and management measures (CMM), including a system of verification incorporating vessel monitoring and observation of vessels operating in the SIOFA Agreement Area. While flag States are required to track and monitor their vessels' activities in the Agreement Area using a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), SIOFA currently does not itself operate a VMS.

To address this, in 2023 SIOFA adopted CMM 16 (2023) on the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System² setting out the framework of the SIOFA VMS covering all key aspects, including the scope of application, definitions, nature and specifications of the VMS, prevention of tampering and actions in case of suspected breach, use and release of VMS data [and VMS Position Reports, as applicable](#) requiring / not requiring the consent of CCPs, closed and interim protected areas, as well as data security and confidentiality. This framework was further complemented in 2024 by the adoption of Standards, Specifications, and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS which are available in Appendix 2.

[In July 2025, SIOFA decided that the SIOFA Secretariat should subscribe to a SaaS VMS to provide SIOFA with an operational VMS.]

3) Summary of Services

The SIOFA Secretariat is required to subscribe to an end-to-end SaaS VMS service to enable it and the CCPs to fulfil their obligations established under the Agreement, CMM 16 (2023) and other relevant conservation and management measures, also taking into consideration the requirements established by the SIOFA VMS SSPs. The service will include a test phase between the Secretariat and the CCPs before the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS and the building of the Secretariat's capacity to operate and maintain the SIOFA VMS.

Procured services are expected to run for **36 months**, with the possibility of extension as determined by SIOFA. It will also include system maintenance and after-sales technical services required for the system's proper functioning, as determined by these terms of reference, including the technical specifications, and as agreed in a Service Contract.

4) General Description of Services

The desired system must provide a SaaS-deployed VMS to the SIOFA Secretariat on a subscription basis while respecting the technical specifications set out in these terms of reference, CMM 16 (2023), and the SIOFA VMS SSPs. The system must be capable of providing the following services, as laid down in more detail in the technical specifications in Appendix 1 and in accordance with SIOFA VMS SSPs in Appendix 2:

- Enable the SIOFA Secretariat to monitor in an automatic, continuous and cost-effective manner the movements and activity of fishing vessels operating in the Agreement Area to ensure compliance with SIOFA CMM. The deployment shall include the installation of the VMS solution, training of Secretariat staff, and provision of documents and user manuals in the working language of SIOFA (English).
- Include a GIS (Geographic Information System) component to visually display VMS data [and VMS Position Reports](#) immediately after being received. The VMS must be able to determine a vessel's course (direction) and speed automatically and independently.

² Conservation and Management Measure 16 (2023) for the establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System ([Vessel Monitoring System](#)).



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Accord relatif aux Pêches dans le Sud de l'Océan Indien

- Storing and processing of VMS Data, and dissemination of VMS data VMS Position Reports consistent with the provisions and data format of CMM 02(2023)³ on Data Standards and CMM 03(2016) on Data Confidentiality⁴, and the SIOFA Information System Security Policy (ISSP) once adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.
- Ability for the VMS solution to receive, store, process, and disseminate VMS Position Reports in North Atlantic Format (NAF) messages, described in Annex 1 of Appendix 2, using one of the following application layers (secured connection):
 - Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS)
 - File Transfer Protocol (FTP) with Transport Layer Security (TLS) (FTPS)
 - Email.
- Availability, as part of the service, of a Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (FLUX) node and ability to receive, store and process VMS Data, and disseminate VMS Position Reports over FLUX, described in Annex 2 of Appendix 2.
- Ability to receive, store, and process VMS Data, and disseminate VMS data VMS position reports received directly from fishing vessels' Automatic Locator Communicator (ALC)⁵.
- A web interface for multiple users with customisable profiles and access privileges affecting both features and data made available, fully compliant with the Data Confidentiality and Security Provisions of the SIOFA VMS SSPs.
- A standard reporting system that allows user-defined queries of vessel movements and fishing activities, e.g. transhipments, entering a managed area. The queries should be possible for (but not limited to) a single vessel or groups of vessels (groups definable by users) and be definable by area, dates, trip length, flag state, fishing gear and alerts.
- Participation in and provision of necessary technical support during a testing phase with CCPs for a period of six (6) months.
- Ability to track user activities subject to security and confidentiality concerns, thus allowing the SIOFA Secretariat to run audit reports, as required by the SIOFA VMS SSPs.
- Features to import, manage and apply modifications to closed areas, fully compliant with the technical specifications provided in Appendix 1.
- Provision of necessary aftersales support services for the duration of the contract, including but not limited to system maintenance, fault finding and rectifications in Appendix 1.
- The option to manually input reports and messages. Such data should be stored and displayed in a manner that distinguishes them from VMS data and VMS Position Reports received through

Commented [u1]: In order to ease transfer of data the system must support machine to machine API for automatic transfer of data. Such interfaces can be used for forwarding of positional messages

³ Conservation and Management Measure 02 (2023) for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data relating to fishing activities in the Agreement Area ([Data Standards](#))

⁴ Conservation and Management Measure 03 (2016) for Data Confidentiality and Procedures for access and use of data ([Data Confidentiality](#))

⁵ SIOFA may in the future adopt a list of approved ALCs to be used by vessels entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels (RAV), taking into account lists approved by existing regional and subregional VMS programs and by CCPs.



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automatic transmission, and it should be possible to add a reference to the archived source of the manually added information.

- Features to allow conditional alerts against incoming position reports.
- [\[configuration option for display of GPS coordinates, bearing and bearing marks demarking vessel path and trails.\]](#)
- [option to generate reports, track maps summarising the status and activities of vessels with printing and screen capture options.\]](#)
- Inbuilt fleet register data covering any vessel whose VMS data [and VMS Position Reports](#) is received by the system, with the possibility to integrate with existing and future SIOFA databases.
- Training of SIOFA Secretariat staff in the use of the VMS and relevant technical support to CCPs to enable the exchange of data with the SIOFA VMS (use and technical repairs).

Close cooperation with the SIOFA Secretariat during all phases of the VMS solution development, deployment and operations is expected.

5) Required service availability

The SIOFA VMS must be operational 24/7 with 99% uptime minus any planned downtime, e.g. scheduled maintenance or deployment of new features. SIOFA must be informed of any planned downtime no less than five (5) days prior.

Support services are expected to be available within the working hours of the SIOFA Secretariat⁶, with the following contractual responses and resolution times:

- Critical severity issues (Total Service outage or with severe performance impact) <= 4 hours resolution;
- Medium severity issues (Degraded performance, incidents yet affecting pivotal activities for the work plan of the SIOFA Secretariat and the CCPs: <= 20 hours resolution;
- Low severity issues (Minor bug fix/patch to intermittent issues, Questions, Info, How-to): <= 3 business days.

These resolution times are subject to negotiation with the chosen service provider.

6) Duration

Procured services are expected to run for **36 months**, with the possibility of extension as determined by SIOFA.

7) Schedule of Contract performance and deliverables

The bidder shall propose, with its submission, a schedule of contract performance in accordance with the services determined in these terms of reference. The schedule shall include, at a minimum, the following deliverables/outputs;

- Signing of Contract

⁶ 04:00hrs GMT-13:00hrs GMT, Monday to Friday, [excluding applicable statutory holidays](#).



- Training of Secretariat Staff
- Completion of Fabric Acceptance Test (FAT)
- Deployment of VMS System at SIOFA Secretariat
- Client Acceptance Test (CAT)
- Test phase of SIOFA VMS (about 6 months)
- Entry into Operation of the SIOFA VMS (to be determined by SIOFA)

8) Submission of Bids

Bids submitted should demonstrate compliance of their proposed solution with these terms of reference, including the mandatory technical specifications in Appendix 1 and the SIOFA VMS SSPs. Bidders should also demonstrate experience deploying VMS solutions in other RFMOs or similar settings.

Bids are to be submitted to the Executive Secretary, Mr Thierry Clot (thierry.clot@siofa.org) containing the following items:

- i. Description of the proposed system, with clear indications of its compliance with these terms of reference and all technical specifications appended thereto;
- ii. Description of the development phase of the SIOFA VMS as applicable and its subsequent deployment at the SIOFA premises, with detailed timeframes for the completion of each phase;
- iii. Provision for acceptance tests to be performed off-premises before deployment and on-premises after deployment at the SIOFA Secretariat;
- iv. Provisions for user and maintenance manuals in the working language of the organization (English)
- v. Detailed training proposal for SIOFA staff in the use and essential maintenance and technical support of the SIOFA VMS;
- vi. **A financial offer for the services required, including itemised pricing for the services required, including all core and after-sales support specified in Appendix 1, in Euros and exclusive of taxes.** The itemised pricing should include third-party licenses (if any), e.g. database licenses, map layers, data extraction software etc. The financial offer should also include any other unforeseen expenses associated with the deployment and operation of the system, including maintenance and technical support of the system;

The deadline for submission of bids is 31 October 2025.

9) Evaluation Criteria for the Selection of Bidders

The bids received will be evaluated against these terms of reference. Failure to comply with any of the mandatory requirements may result in disqualification of the bid. The SIOFA Secretariat further reserves the right to consider and disqualify firms based on documented prior poor performance, including but not limited to poor quality of goods or services provided, late delivery and unsatisfactory performance. The contract will be awarded to the [most competitive] bid that complies with the technical specifications laid out in these terms of reference. Bids will only be considered if they contain adequate documentation to allow the Secretariat to assess them against the mandatory requirements of these terms of reference.



10) Contacts

Bidders may direct any questions and clarifications to the SIOFA Compliance Officer (Mr Johnny Louys, johnny.louys@siofa.org).

The deadline for any request for clarifications is 15 October 2025

11) Additional information to bidders

1. All bids must be received in English and in a format compatible with Microsoft Office (e.g. Microsoft word, excel) and/or Adobe Reader (e.g. .pdf files).
2. All bids must identify a designated Contact Point (including a name, phone number and email address).
3. SIOFA is not obliged to accept any bids that do not meet these submission requirements.
4. Bidders should identify in their bid any information which should be protected as confidential information under any contract between the bidder and SIOFA, including the reason for its confidentiality. If the bidder fails to identify any information in the bid, SIOFA will consider that the respondent has no information which should be protected as confidential under the contract. SIOFA reserves the right, at its discretion, to refuse the request to treat information as confidential. In this case, SIOFA will notify the respondent in writing.
5. Bidders must disclose in their bid any potential or actual conflict of interest in the course of delivering this service and must specify how the bidder proposes to address this conflict of interest. This will not automatically exclude the bidder from consideration; however, SIOFA reserves the right to consider the potential or actual conflict in relation to the bid before the final decision is made.
6. Bids received by email after the deadline of 31 October 2025 will be neither considered nor acknowledged by SIOFA.
7. If a bidder wishes to revise or modify any aspect of its submitted bid, revisions must be in writing from the Contact Point, clearly identified and accompanied by a clear statement from the respondent about the action that the bidder wishes SIOFA to take with the original submission. All revisions must be submitted before the deadline for the submission of bids. If a revision is received after the deadline, the revision will be disregarded.
8. The successful bidder can expect to be notified by 1 December 2025.

12) Disclaimer

1. Bidders are responsible for ensuring that:
 - a. They have examined these terms of reference, and the requirements specified within.
 - b. They have examined any information made available to bidders for the purpose of their bid, including the relevant conservation and management measures referred to by these terms of reference.
 - c. The bid submitted is complete, accurate and realistic in terms of its delivery and cost.
2. Bidders are responsible for all costs incurred in the preparation and lodgement of any bids; and in respect of any discussions, negotiations, enquiries or any work undertaken by them after the bid has been submitted. SIOFA is not liable for any costs or compensation in relation to these matters, regardless of whether SIOFA terminates, varies or suspends the invitation to bid process; or takes any other option under this invitation to bid.
3. SIOFA will not accept responsibility for any misunderstanding arising from the failure of a respondent to comply with the requirements set out in these terms of reference or arising from any ambiguity, discrepancy, inconsistency, error or omission contained in a bid.
4. Nothing in these terms of reference or any bid submitted by a bidder gives rise to contractual obligations between SIOFA and the bidder.



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5. Any bid submitted becomes the property of SIOFA for the purpose of the bidding process and will be made available for use by SIOFA and its CCPs for any purpose connected with the bidding process.
6. SIOFA reserves the right to enter into negotiations or discussions with one or more bidders.

43) Appendix 1 - Detailed Technical Specifications

General Specifications		
1.	The system shall be web-based, hosted, configured and maintained by the service provider with remote secured access and consulted by multiple users through an Internet connection and various login (user/password) combinations. The system shall allow users to access VMS data and VMS Position Reports , including VMS position reports and vessel details. No on-site hardware, except computers connected to the Internet, or network configuration, shall be required to access it. Similarly, no specific software shall be required to access and consult the system except for modern web browsers.	Mandatory
2.	The system shall be deployed as a “software-as-a-service” (SaaS). The provider shall undertake the deployment, configuration, and maintenance of the system and all its components, including databases and data storage.	Mandatory
3.	The system must provide for procedures for services failure and technical issue resolution including timeframes and escalation processes.	Mandatory
4.	The system shall allow for scalability, thus enabling the allocation of additional resources as required by SIOFA, based on the potential future needs of the organisation. The bid shall include reasonably detailed specifications describing the kind of hosting setup supporting the software-as-a-service.	Mandatory
5.	The system in its entirety shall comply with all relevant CMMs governing the use and treatment of VMS Data and VMS Position Reports including CMM 02 (2023) on Data Standards, CMM 03 (2016) on Data Confidentiality, and CMM 16 (2023) on VMS.	Mandatory
6.	The system must be highly fault tolerant and be supported by back-up and redundancy systems and processes.	Mandatory
7.	The system must be supported by a comprehensive backup and disaster recovery plan that ensure no VMS data and VMS Position Reports is lost in the event of a system failure, or where services are no longer required.	Mandatory
8.	<p>The system must receive and store VMS data and VMS Position Reports from at least 200 vessels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in data formats specified in NAF and UN/Flux, as described in Annex 1 and Annex 2 of the SIOFA VMS SSPs, respectively. • Using the application layers specified in the SIOFA SSPs (i.e. HTTPS, FTPS, and Email). • Directly from ALCs transmitted in their respective proprietary formats. • [From FMC of CCPs transmitted in their respective proprietary formats] <p>The service must be flexible to support modification to these standards on the potential future needs of SIOFA.</p>	Mandatory
9.	<p>The system must process and store for each VMS position report, at minimum, the following data</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the fishing vessel’s unique vessel identifier (UVI); ii. the current geographical position (latitude and longitude) of the vessel; iii. the date and time (UTC) of the fixing of the position of the vessel; iv. the vessel’s speed; and 	Mandatory



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General Specifications

	v. the vessel's course.	
10.	The system shall support the manual import of VMS Position Reports data and record the manual import in the metadata. It shall identify data imported manually, distinguishing them from data received automatically.	Mandatory
11.	The system shall include the due features to import (either routinely or on-demand on a case-by-case-basis) additional datasets relevant to its role including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Mandatory information of vessels entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV); ii. Shape Files relating to the Agreement Area, SIOFA sub-areas, Areas with specific management measures and Interim Protected Areas (IPAs). Data formats envisaged for this purpose may vary according to the type of dataset.	Mandatory
12.	In addition to the data formats enlisted so far, the system shall be ready to handle emerging needs through additional means for receiving and sending data, as may be determined by SIOFA.	Highly desirable
13.	The system shall grant eligible user profiles the ability to export all database information pertaining VMS data and VMS Position Reports , and relevant ancillary information in CSV, TXT, or Excel format. Such operation shall accept parameters to narrow-down the export for specific time frames, vessel groups, flag States or defined regions.	Mandatory
14.	The system must support the establishment of vessel groups or vessel lists by defining criteria relating to vessels.	Mandatory

Data Confidentiality and Security Provisions

15.	The system shall have the following access control features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Stringent password and authentication system (three-factor authentication preferred), attributed to each designated user. The user shall only have access to functions and data that they are designated to have access to; ii. The system shall automatically record all events for analysis and detection of potential security breaches; iii. Time-based access control: Access to the system can be specified in terms of times-of-day and days of the week that each user is allowed to log into the system; iv. Terminal access control: the system shall specify for each workstation which user(s) are allowed to access it [through selected IPps]. 	Mandatory
16.	The system shall have the following security measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. System Access Control: the system shall be able to withstand break-in attempts from unauthorised persons. ii. Authenticity and data access control: the system shall be able to limit access of users only to the data necessary for them to carry out their tasks via a flexible user identification and password authentication mechanism. 	Mandatory



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Data Confidentiality and Security Provisions

	<p>iii. Communication Security: VMS position reports shall be securely communicated.</p> <p>iv. Data Security: All VMS data and VMS Position Reports received by the Secretariat shall be securely stored for a predetermined time and shall not be tampered with. The system must prohibit the modification of VMS data and VMS Position Reports that are received automatically from FMCs or directly from vessels or received manually.</p>	
17.	<p>The data centre used to host the services must have effective controls for VMS data and VMS Position Report receipt, storage and dissemination including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical security; • personnel security; • communications security; • product security; • access control; and • network security. 	Mandatory
18.	<p>The service provider shall retain all VMS data and VMS Position Reports for the duration of the service contract period, including any extensions thereof.</p>	Mandatory
19.	<p>In case the service contract is terminated for any reason, the provider shall provide SIOFA with a copy of the full historical datasets and ancillary information collected through the system in accordance with the formats and standards specified by SIOFA at the time of the termination of the contract.</p>	Mandatory
20.	<p>The Service provider shall not retain any data collected through the system [XX] beyond three (3) months after the termination of the contract. The deletion of data shall be confirmed in writing by the service provider [XX] months after the termination of the contract [no later than 3 months after the termination of the contract], and the satisfactory hand over of data referred to in points 19 and 20.</p>	Mandatory

Monitoring, control and surveillance specifications

21.	<p>Mapping tools and data display</p> <p>The system shall have a module intended to show the location of vessels on a geographical map while providing features commonly required by operators of Fishing Monitoring Centres. An indicative list is provided as follows:</p> <p>i. Map-specific features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • zoom and drag-to-scale; • pan map to a location; • pan map with cursor; • automatic zoom and pan to a specific vessel; • display or select all vessels within a specific area; • map layer selector; • visual elements, such as text and graphics, grids, boundaries etc. shall be organized in separate layers so to allow the end user to show or hide them as appropriate; • geographically display track lines of vessels and groups of vessels superimposed on the background features by accurately marking each position 	Highly Desirable
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Monitoring, control and surveillance specifications

	<p>report for a vessel and joining each subsequent position report for that vessel with a line;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> upon click on a given vessel position, show a popup window including at least summary information such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vessel identification data (vessel name /UVI/⁷ flag) last location along with related timestamp; speed and heading; type of transmission device (VMS model), data source (NAF/FLUX) or manual input of position reports). Controls such as menus, dialog windows, checklists and other relevant user controls in order to allow the end user to filter or query available information as necessary. This shall also apply to available details of position reports such as the source of VMS data and VMS Position Reports (FMC/ALC/Manual Input). Load and display charts providing geographic coverage for the Agreement Area. Display vector layers for themes and objects such as EEZ zone boundaries, closed areas, and IPAs.⁸ Base maps relying on OpenStreetMap or equivalent while also supporting the use of third-party vector charts (preferably C-MAP) including information relevant to the work of SIOFA, such as bathymetries. Allow the creation of user-defined zones by either using visual tools on the map or performing data entry for relevant dimensions. Allow mobile units or vessels to be selected by name, ID, type, or user-defined group(s). select and display a vessel group or vessel list both for graphical and tabular consultation. Display vessel tracks differently (e.g. colour/line style) according to speed thresholds selected by the end-user. Display vessel tracks differently (e.g. colour/line style) according to the source of VMS Position Reports data or other information, such as the transmission means. Allow current and historical position reports to be available for graphical and tabular consultation to authorized users, along with the possibility to replay vessel tracks on the map in chronological sequence. Ability to define a geographical area as a circle by providing center and radius. Possibility to measure the distance between two selected points. Printing/exporting a selected portion of the map to a graphic file should be supported. 	
22.	A section of the user interface shall allow the user to consult fleet data covering any vessel whose position data is received by the system. For this purpose it is required that, for each vessel, overlapping register information originated from different sources are automatically merged into a single record, thus providing end users with complete and coherent information. To this end, the system shall consider any of the vessels' potential UVIs.	Highly Desirable
23.	The system should allow eligible users to set up and customize alerts against incoming position reports in accordance with a set of conditions. Resulting alert events:	Highly Desirable

⁷ International Radio Call Sign (IRCS), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Number or the ALC Unique Identifier.

⁸ To be made available by the SIOFA Secretariat during the configuration phase of the SIOFA VMS.



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Monitoring, control and surveillance specifications

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Should be shown as items of a dynamic list, along with detailed information on the vessels involved in each alert, the conditions met, and a comprehensive history of previous alerts generated for a given vessel. ii. Shall be processed and shown in real-time. iii. Shall be graphically reflected on the VMS map interface by appropriately changing display attributes for the implied position report(s), such as using a different icon or colour to depict the concerned position report(s). iv. Shall include among available parameters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial and temporal conditions (e.g. crossing closed areas at specific fishing season end and within a speed range compatible with fishing activity); • Specific vessel identifiers (e.g. Authorized vessel or vessel with expired authorization); • Transmission anomalies such as unexpected delays in transmission reports; v. Shall allow the automated submission of notifications via email to relevant recipients. 	
<u>24.</u>	<u>The system shall automatically identify and transmit notifications when a vessel is entering/exiting the Agreement Area, a closed area, a managed area,⁹ or Interim Protected Area designated under CMM 01(2024) on Interim Management of Bottom Fishing, including any such future areas designated by the Meeting of the Parties.</u>	<u>Mandatory</u>
<u>24-2</u>	The system shall provide a section including functions to generate thematic reports based on query parameters chosen by the end user (e.g. time frame, vessel or group of vessels, flag state). Factory settings applied to the reporting engine must include a set of predefined reports aimed at providing diagnostic, control and statistical reports for scientific purposes. Report outputs must be shown on the screen and made available for download as an Excel or CSV document.	Mandatory

Commented [汪佳蓉2]: Suggest separate this item as a mandatory requirement and add "exiting" to complete the process.

Core and Aftersale Services

<u>25-26</u>	The system shall be deployed, configured, and customized according to the terms of reference, these technical specifications and the SIOFA SSPs, and available to the SIOFA for the entire duration of the service contract.	Mandatory
<u>26-27</u>	The system must be subject to a Fabric Acceptance Test (FAT) undertaken by the service provider.	Mandatory
<u>27-28</u>	The system must be subject to a Client Acceptance Test (CAT) undertaken by the service provider at the SIOFA Secretariat premises.	Mandatory
<u>28-29</u>	The system setup shall entail that the provider undertakes the necessary tasks to import all relevant datasets required to deliver the features outlined by the terms of reference and these technical specifications.	Mandatory
<u>29-30</u>	The provider shall establish technical contacts with the relevant VMS Points of Contact to establish UN/FLUX and NAF-based data exchange based on the specifications of the SIOFA SSPs. The work shall be undertaken to ensure the functioning of this feature for the whole duration of the contract.	Mandatory

⁹ Subarea 2 (CMM 12 on Sharks), Del Cano Rise Area and Williams Ridge (CMM 15 on Management of Demersal Stocks), and any such future areas designated by the Meeting of the Parties.



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30-31	The service provider shall configure the system to receive direct transmissions from ALCs installed on fishing vessels on the SIOFA RAV.	Mandatory
31-32	The service provider shall provide complete technical material, including manuals and guides, to SIOFA in English, including any updates as needed.	Mandatory
32-33	The provider is expected to deliver technical support services during the SIOFA Secretariat's office hours for the entire duration of the contract, including via phone and email or a dedicated online helpdesk.	Mandatory

14) APPENDIX 2 – SIOFA VMS SSPs

Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS

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Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)
13 Rue de Marseille
97420 Le Port
La Réunion
secretariat@siofa.org
<http://www.siofa.org>

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Background

Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) are satellite-based monitoring systems that enable flag States and regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) to track and monitor the activities of fishing vessels in a defined geographical area through the transmission of position data by fishing vessels at regular intervals. They are a cornerstone of monitoring control and surveillance (MCS) programmes at national and international levels and a key instrument in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Article 6(1)(h) of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) requires SIOFA to develop rules and procedures for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities to ensure compliance with SIOFA conservation and management measures (CMM), including a system of verification incorporating vessel monitoring and observation of vessels operating in the SIOFA Area. [CMM 10 \(2023\) \(Monitoring\)](#) also requires SIOFA to develop specifications and propose rules and procedures for establishing a SIOFA VMS. While flag Contracting Parties, Participating Fishing Entities and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (collectively: CCPs) are required to track and monitor their vessels' activities using VMS, SIOFA does not currently operate a VMS system. In this respect, it is behind other RFMOs that have installed and operate a VMS.

To close this gap, the 10th Meeting of the Parties to the SIOFA (MoP10) adopted [CMM 16 \(2023\) \(Vessel Monitoring System\)](#) setting out the framework of the SIOFA VMS covering all critical aspects, including the scope of application, definitions, nature and specifications of the VMS, prevention of tampering and actions in case of suspected breach, use and release of VMS data requiring / not requiring the consent of CCPs, closed and interim protected areas, as well as data security and confidentiality. However, this framework needs to be further completed through the development of Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) as required by paragraph 9 of CMM 16 (2023) prior to the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS.

Following intersessional work by the VMS-WG, the 11th Meeting of the Parties adopted these SSPs and the 12th Meeting of the Parties revised them.

The SSPs assume that Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) will be treated similarly as CPs and PFEs, recalling that CNCs do not currently contribute to the budget, which may be impacted by the implementation of the SIOFA VMS.

For the purpose of this document, all terms used shall have the same meaning as those in CMM 16 (2023) unless otherwise specified.

1. Purpose

1. The purpose of these Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) is to complement measures established under CMM 16 (2023) so as to achieve the objectives of the CMM, which are to monitor in an automatic, continuous and cost-effective manner the movements and activity of fishing vessels operating in the Agreement Area to ensure compliance with SIOFA Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

2. Application

2. These SSPs shall apply to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party, Participating Fishing Entity or Cooperating non-Contracting Party (collectively CCPs), that are entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV) and operating within the Agreement Area (Area), as defined in Article 3 of the Agreement.
3. These SSPs do not prejudice the right of CCPs to apply additional or more stringent measures to vessels flying their flag.

3. General Provisions

4. For the purposes of these SSPs, the term “VMS data” shall refer to all data associated with the SIOFA VMS, including VMS position reports and Automatic location communicator (ALC) details.
5. CCPs shall:
 - a. For vessels entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels (RAV) prior to the entry into force of CMM 16 (2023), provide ALC details specified in paragraph 6 for each vessel registered on the SIOFA RAV by 31 December 2025 at the latest.
 - b. For vessels to be entered onto the SIOFA RAV after the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS, provide ALC details specified in paragraph 6 at the time of the submission of information required by [CMM 07 \(2024\) \(Vessel Authorization\)](#).¹
6. CCPs shall provide the following ALC details:
 - a. Model and Brand
 - b. ALC Unique Identifier
 - c. Service Provider (Inmarsat/Iridium/ARGOS etc.)
7. For the purposes of CMM 16 (2023), the term Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI) shall have the following meaning:
 - a) For CCPs transmitting VMS position reports pursuant to paragraph 6 a), of CMM 16 (2023) the UVI shall be the International Radio Call Sign (IRCS), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Number or the ALC Unique Identifier.
 - b) For CCPs transmitting VMS position reports pursuant to paragraph 6 b) of CMM 16 (2023) the UVI shall be the ALC Unique Identifier.

¹ Conservation and Management Measure for Vessel Authorisation and Notification to Fish.

4. Methods to ensure ALCs comply with SIOFA Standards

Explanatory Notes

Paragraph 12 of CMM 16 (2023) sets out the general standards by which ALCs are expected to be installed and operated. Paragraphs 18 and 19 expand on the requirements to have tamper-proof ALCs while also prohibiting the tampering of ALCs. The minimum standards for ALCs are further described in Annex 1 of CMM 16 (2023).

This section of the SSPs provides for the possibility of the MoP adopting a list of approved ALCs and clarifies that it is the responsibility of flag CCPs to ensure that ALCs installed on their vessels comply with SIOFA specifications and standards.

8. The MoP may adopt a list of approved ALCs to be used by vessels entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels (RAV), taking into account lists approved by existing regional and subregional VMS programs and by CCPs.
9. CCPs shall be responsible for ensuring that the ALCs on board vessels flying their flag and entered onto the SIOFA RAV meet the specifications and standards set out in paragraph 12 and Annex 1 of CMM 16 (2023). To this end, CCPs are encouraged to conduct periodic audits of a representative sample of ALCs. Any findings shall be reported as part of CCPs' annual compliance assessment reporting under paragraph 12 of CMM 11 (2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme).

5. Rules for Polling and Programming for Vessels Reporting to the Secretariat in accordance with Paragraph 6 b)

Explanatory Notes

Paragraph 6 b) of CMM 16 (2023) allows for simultaneously reporting VMS position reports automatically to the Secretariat. In this regard, there may be a need to interact with the ALCs to program its automatic reporting and to change its reporting frequency based on location (programming) and also to "query" an unscheduled position report (polling). It should be noted that while CMM 16 (2023) does not provide for polling of ALCs, it may be required during diagnosis when the good reception of position reports cannot be achieved. Other cases may be to stop the reporting temporarily or indefinitely based on scenarios, such as the deletion of the vessels from the SIOFA RAV, repairs, flagging and decommissioning of fishing vessels.

As such, these SSPs suggest procedures for the same.

10. CCPs shall ensure that the ALCs on board of vessels flying their flag are configured to comply with paragraph 8 of CMM 16 (2023) and, where applicable, shall send programming commands.

11. CCPs which opt for simultaneous reporting under paragraph 6. b) of CMM 16 (2023) shall ensure that their ALC service provider is capable of providing simultaneous reporting to multiple destinations (receivers) and shall bear the cost for reporting to their FMC and to the Secretariat as well as for programming command sending. The Secretariat (SIOFA VMS) shall receive the "simultaneously reporting" in accordance with the protocol provided by the CCP's service provider.

6. Responsibilities of the Secretariat

Explanatory Notes

These SSPs set out the responsibilities of the Secretariat in administering the SIOFA VMS.

12. The Secretariat shall:

- a. ensure that data, once received by the SIOFA VMS, are not altered, manipulated, copied or interfered with in any way, and that the data is only used in accordance with CMM 03 (2016), and with any such additional data security and confidentiality rules adopted by the Meeting of Parties for the purposes of the SIOFA VMS.
- b. provide a stable, reliable, fully maintained and supported SIOFA VMS that is in compliance with CMM 03 (2016), and any additional data security and confidentiality rules adopted by the Meeting of Parties.
- c. utilise the SIOFA VMS in a manner consistent with the Agreement, CMMs and these SSPs.
- d. compile and report annually to the MoP, through the Compliance Committee, an overview of potential issues identified by vessel and flag with regard to their compliance with CMM 2016 (2023) and these SSPs.
- e. monitor and report annually to the Compliance Committee on the implementation and performance of the SIOFA VMS and its application and, as necessary, make recommendations for improvements or modifications to the system and these SSPs established to support it.

7. Data format for data transmission

Explanatory Notes

Paragraph 6 a) of CMM 16 (2023) allows CCPs to choose to report VMS positions automatically to the Secretariat via their FMC. However, these provisions do not provide for the data format and standards that will allow these transfers to take place.

There are at least two globally accepted data formats for data exchange of fisheries information. These are the North Atlantic Format (NAF) and the Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX). NAF is recognised as an older format with some limitations, therefore there are ongoing efforts to improve NAF or develop new standards for the exchange of fisheries information altogether.

UN/FLUX is one such proposed standard that has already gained recognition by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), with more states and regional organisations adopting its use for VMS data exchange, among others. The most significant advantage of UN/FLUX over NAF is its ability to cater to other data types, such as inspection reports, catch and effort reporting, etc. However, the uptake of UN/FLUX is still relatively low, and implementation may present challenges to the Secretariat and CCPs.

Noting the above, the SSPs recognise the two data formats and provide standards to enable CCPs to exchange data using those formats.

13. VMS position reports sent to the SIOFA VMS in accordance with paragraph 6 a) of CMM 16 (2023) shall be transferred using the following data formats;
 - a. The North Atlantic Format (NAF) (Annex 1)
 - or
 - b. Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX) (Annex 2)
14. VMS position reports sent using NAF shall follow the structure of NAF messages provided in Annex 1, and shall be transferred using one of the following application layers (secured connection):
 - a. Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS)
 - b. File Transfer Protocol (FTP) with Transport Layer Security (TLS) (FTPS)
 - c. Email
15. VMS position reports sent using FLUX shall adhere to the specifications of the Flux P1000-1 (General Principles) and Flux P1000-7 (Vessel Position Domain), as described in Annex 2.²

² <https://unece.org/trade/uncefact/unflux>

8. Data Confidentiality and Security Provisions

Explanatory Notes

These SSPs covers the Confidentiality and Security procedures required to ensure the secure and confidential treatment of VMS data being exchanged between CCPs and the Secretariat.

16. CCPs and the Secretariat shall only use VMS data for the purposes specified in CMM 16 (2023).
17. The Secretariat shall maintain a database of the ALC details attributed to all vessels entered onto the SIOFA RAV. ALC details shall be confidential data (i.e. non 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).
18. The Secretariat shall only provide VMS position reports to the contact point designated pursuant to Paragraph 11 of CMM 16 (2023).
19. CCPs shall immediately delete VMS position reports received for the purposes set out in paragraph 28 of CMM 16 (2023) once the VMS position reports have served their intended purpose, and confirm their deletion to the Secretariat in writing without delay.
20. CCPs, the Secretariat, the SIOFA Scientific Committee and its Working Groups, and any SIOFA VMS service provider shall take all necessary measures to protect VMS data against accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure or access, and against all unauthorised forms of processing.
21. The following security measures shall be mandatory for the SIOFA VMS:
 - a. System Access Control: The Secretariat shall ensure that the system can withstand break-in attempts from unauthorised persons.
 - b. Authenticity and data access control: The Secretariat shall ensure that the system is able to limit access of Secretariat staff only to the data necessary for them to carry out their tasks via a flexible user identification and password mechanism.
 - c. Communication Security: VMS position reports shall be securely communicated.
 - d. Data Security: All VMS data received by the Secretariat shall be securely stored for a predetermined time and shall not be tampered with.
 - e. Security Procedures: The Secretariat shall implement an Information System Security Policy adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to ensure proper access to the system (hardware and software), system administration and maintenance, backup and general usage of the system.
22. The system shall have the following mandatory access control features:
 - a. Stringent password and authentication system, attributed to each designated user. The user shall only have access to functions and data that they are designated to have access to;
 - b. All access to physical computer systems shall be controlled by the Secretariat;

- c. The system shall automatically record all events for analysis and detection of potential security breaches;
 - d. Time-based access control: Access to the system can be specified in terms of times-of-day and days of the week that each user is allowed to log into the system;
 - e. Terminal access control: the system shall specify for each workstation which user(s) are allowed to access it.
23. Communication between CCPs, the SIOFA VMS Service Provider, and the Secretariat shall use secure internet protocols. The exchange of VMS position reports may also require the use of digital certificates that correctly identify and validate the party submitting the VMS position reports.
24. The Secretariat shall periodically review access to and the logs of the VMS software and ensure the proper maintenance of system security.

Annex 1: Description of the North Atlantic Format (NAF)³

Data Elements of NAF Messages

All NAF Messages sent to the SIOFA VMS shall contain, at minimum, the information required in paragraph 1. f) of CMM 16 (2023). The general structure and data elements are as below

Data Element	Field Code	Definition	Contents
Start Record	SR	Defines the start of the message structure.	No Data
Address	AD	Indicates the destination. Provider and Secretariat to define code for SIOFA VMS	3-Alpha code
From	FR	3-alpha code describing the country which FMC is submitting the report.	3-Alpha code
Sequence Number	SQ	Message Sequence Number	0-999999
Internal Reference Number*	IR	Unique Number attributed by the flag state	3-Alpha code. 0-999999999
Type of Message	TM	Letter code of the type of message	POS = position report, MAN = manual report, ENT = entry report, EXI = exit report
Radio Call Sign (IRCS)	RC	Vessel detail: international radio call sign of the vessel	IRCS
Latitude (decimal)	LT	Latitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	+(-)DD.ddd
Longitude (decimal)	LG	Longitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	+(-)DD.ddd
Vessel Speed	SP	Speed of the vessel	Knots * 10
Vessel Course	CO	Heading of the vessel in degrees	1-360
Flag State	FS	State of registration of the vessel.	3-Alpha code
Date	DA	Date of reported event	YYYYMMDD
Time	TI	Time of reported event	HHMM
End of Record	ER	Indicates the end of the message/report	No Data

Structure of the position report

Each data transmission shall be structured as follows:

- double slash (//) and the characters 'SR' indicate the start of a message,
- a double slash (//) and field code indicate the start of a data element,
- a single slash (/) separates the field code and the data,

³ <https://www.naf-format.org/index.htm>

* Submission of IR is optional

- pairs of data are separated by space,
- the characters 'ER' and a double slash (//) indicate the end of a record.

Annex 2: Description of the Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX)

2 I: UN/FLUX format : mandatory data to be transmitted in position reports

Data	Mandatory/optional	Comments
Addressee	M	Message detail — Addressee Alpha-3 country code Note: Part of the FLUX TL envelope
From	M	Message detail — Sender Alpha-3 country code
Unique message identifier	M	UUID according to RFC 4122 defined by IETF
Date and time of transmission	M	Date and time when the message was created in UTC, using the format YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss[.000000]Z ⁴
Flag State	M	Message detail – Flag of flag State, Alpha-3 country code
Type of message	M	Message detail – Type of message The following codes are to be used: ENTRY: first position recorded after entering the fishing zone) EXIT: first message recorded after leaving the fishing zone POS: positions transmitted while being in the fishing zone) MANUAL: position transmitted manually
Radio call sign	M	Vessel detail – Vessel international radio call sign (IRCS)
CCP internal reference number	O	Vessel detail – Unique CCP vessel identifier
Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI)	O	Vessel detail – IMO number

⁴ YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less than 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less than 10; T= the letter T to indicate the part of the time section; H24= hours of the day expressed with 2 digits using the 24-hour notation; M=minutes expressed as 2 digits; S=seconds expressed as 2 digits; [.000000]= optionally fractions of seconds may be included, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (i.e. UTC)

ANNEX S

External registration number	O	Vessel detail – Number on side of vessel
Latitude	M	Vessel position detail – Position in degrees and decimal degrees DD.ddd (WGS-84) Positive coordinates for positions north of the Equator; Negative coordinates for positions south of the Equator.
Longitude	M	Vessel position detail – Position in degrees and decimals DD.ddd (WGS-84) Positive coordinates east of the Greenwich meridian; Negative coordinates west of the Greenwich meridian.
Course	M	Vessel course 360° scale
Speed	M	Vessel speed in knots
Date and time	M	Vessel position detail – date and time of recording of the position in UTC, using the format YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss[.000000]Z ⁵

⁵ YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less than 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less than 10; T= the letter T to indicate the part of the time section; H24= hours of the day expressed with 2 digits using the 24-hour notation; M=minutes expressed as 2 digits; S=seconds expressed as 2 digits; [.000000]= optionally fractions of seconds may be included, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (ie. UTC)

2.II FLUX Vessel Position Implementation Document

1. INTRODUCTION

This document aims to describe the implementation of Vessel Position in the context of the SIOFA VMS. Submissions of reports will be done through the FLUX Transportation Layer.

2. REFERENCES

UN/CEFACT P1000 FLUX Standard v1.0 ²:

- FLUX BRS: P1000 – 1; General principles (version 2.1).
- FLUX BRS: P1000 – 7; Vessel Position domain (version 2.0).

UN/CEFACT FLUXVesselPositionMessage_4p0.xsd

3. SCOPE

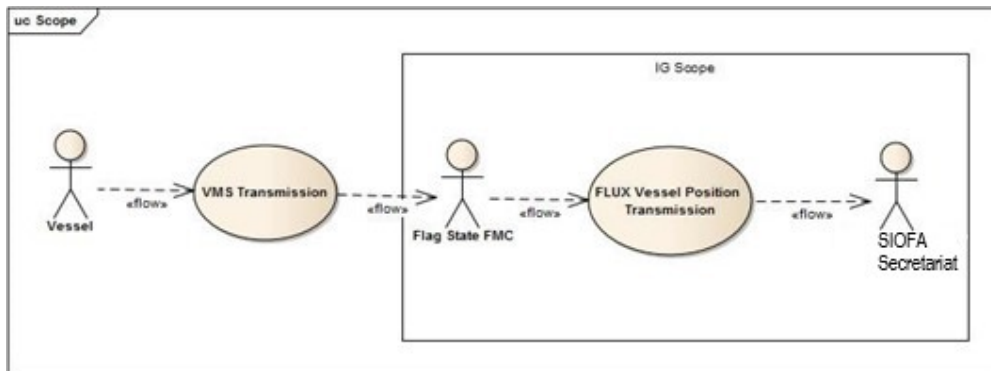


Figure 1: Implementing Guide Scope diagram

As shown on Figure 1, even if the message is provided by a Vessel, the scope of this document is limited to the transmission from a Flag CCP FMC, which has received the Vessel Position message, coming in most cases from aa ALC to the SIOFA Secretariat.

4. PROCEDURES

4.1. General principles

The following activity diagram describes the normal procedure defined for the submission of every Vessel Position Messages sent between the FMC of a Flag CCP to the SIOFA Secretariat:

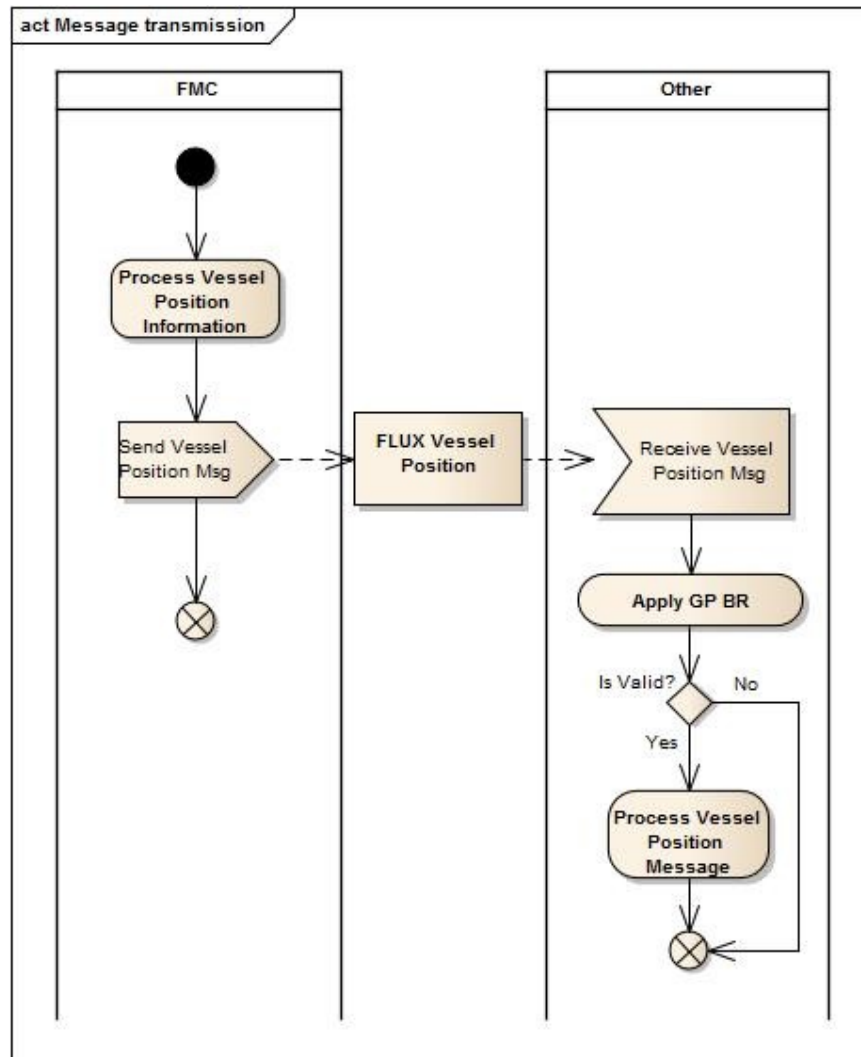


Figure 2: Message Transmission activity diagram

As shown in the diagram, Apply General Principles (GP) Business Rules (BR) is a validation process which does:

1. XML Validation level: Based on the definition in the XSD, the parser validates the structure and cardinality as well as compliance for mandatory elements of the XML provided.⁶

⁶ In general, only XSD element are defined as mandatory. Element attributes and facets remain optional.

Note: Comparing XML vs. XSD defined by the namespace can make the parser generating error having technical information when the basic information requested by General Principles is not correct.

2. Business Rules Validation level: a Business Rules Engine validates the content of XML according to the General Principles Business Rules definition.⁷

⁷ Some specific business rules of this domain can withdraw or overwrite the definition of FLUX General Principles

5. DATA MODEL (XSD) IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the Vessel Position Data Model applies the following general constraints at the level of XSD Element attributes:

- (1) For Code & Identifier DataType: *listID* or *schemeID* attribute must be provided if it is not specifically defined in the definition of the element;
- (2) For DateTime DataType: only *udt:DateTime* (of type *xsd:dateTime*) choice is used. The date and time must be expressed in UTC, unless explicitly mentioned otherwise. The format shall be *YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss[.000000]Z*,⁸

The following diagram describes the Vessel Position Data Model used for the implementation of transmission of *VesselPositionMessage*:

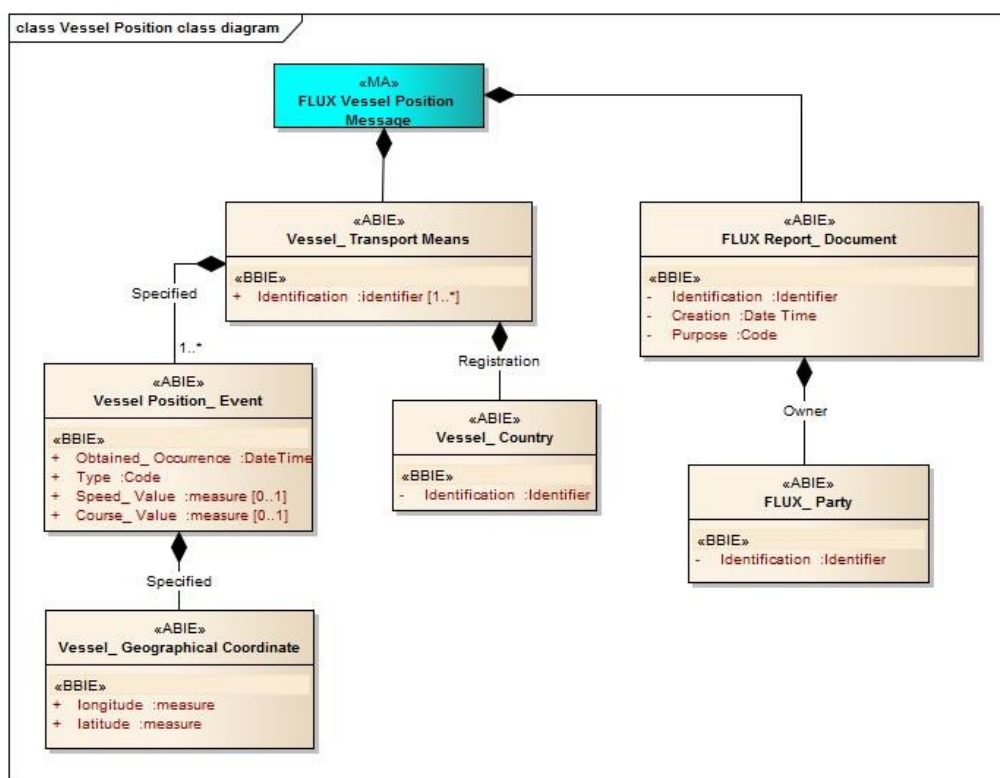


Figure 3: Vessel Position Message Data Model

⁸ YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less than 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less than 10; T= the letter T to indicate the part of the time section; H24= hours of the day expressed with 2 digits using the 24-hour notation; MI=minutes expressed as 2 digits; SS=seconds expressed as 2 digits; [.000000]= optionally fractions of seconds may be included up to 6 digits, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (ie. UTC)

The table below describes for each fields defined in the Data Model (XSD) the values that can be used:

Entity/Field Name	DataType	Cardinality		Description	Remarks
		Min	Max		
FLUX Report_Document		1	1	The document details for this FLUX vessel position message.	FLUX General Principles Entity
Identification	Identifier	1	1	The unique identification of the FLUX vessel position message	A UUID as defined in the RFC 4122
Creation	DateTime	1	1	The date, time, date time of the creation of the FLUX vessel position message.	A UTC date time. Must be according to the definition provided in 6(2)
Purpose	Code	1	1	The code specifying the purpose of this FLUX report document, such as original, cancellation or replace.	Attribute <i>listID</i> = FLUX_GP_PURPOSE Reference: EDIFACT Code List 1225 (qDT UN02000125 - Message Function_Code). <u>Restriction:</u> only value 9 is used in this context.
Owner. FLUX_Party	Assoc.	1	1	Entity used to provide information on an individual, a group, or a body having a role in a Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange (FLUX) business function. Party has a legal connotation in a business transaction.	FLUX General Principles Entity
Identification	Identifier	1	1	An identifier of this FLUX party.	Attribute <i>listID</i> = TERRITORY alpha-3 code of the country owning this report. e.g.: SWE

Entity/Field Name	DataType	Cardinality		Description	Remarks
		Min	Max		
Vessel_ Transport Means		1	1	Entity used to provide the identification and characteristic information of a ship or boat.	
Identification	Identifier	1	*	An identifier for this transport means vessel UVI, as defined by the SIOFA VMS SSPs,	Attribute <i>schemeID</i> must be provided with a value from list = FLUX_VESSEL_ID_TY PE
Registration. Vessel_ Country	Assoc.	1	1	The country of registration of this transport means vessel.	
Identification	Identifier	1	1	The identifier for this vessel country.	Use Code Countries code list in MDR. <i>listID</i> = TERRITORY alpha-3 code of the country where the vessel is registered (flag state).
Specified. Vessel	Assoc.	1	*	The general information of the VMS message.	More than one position can be provided.

Entity/Field Name	DataType	Cardinality		Description	Remarks
		Min	Max		
Position_ Event					
Obtained_ Occurrence	DateTime	1	1	The date and time when the position of the vessel was taken by the vessel's navigation equipment.	The UTC date time when the position was obtained by the vessel navigation equipment, transmitted by the VMS system on-board of the vessel. Must be according to the definition provided in 6(2)
Type	Code	1	1	The code specifying the type of vessel position event.	Attribute <i>listID</i> must be provided with a value from <i>list</i> = FLUX_VESSEL_POSITION_TYPE Example of values are: "ENTRY","EXIT","POS","MANUAL".
Speed_ Value	Measure	0	1	The measure of speed of the vessel for this vessel position event.	Mandatory. In knots. Maximum 2 significant decimals. Optional in case the following conditions are all met: - TypeCode= EXIT - Message addressed to Third party or RFMO - The element is defined as optional in the agreement with the Third Party or RFMO
Course_ Value	Measure	0	1	The measure of course of the vessel for this vessel position event.	Mandatory. In degrees and decimal degrees. Maximum 2 significant decimals.

					Optional in case the following conditions are all met: - TypeCode= EXIT - Message addressed to
--	--	--	--	--	--

Entity/Field Name	DataType	Cardinality		Description	Remarks
		Min	Max		
					Third party or RFMO - The element is defined as optional in the agreement with the Third Party or RFMO
Specified. Vessel_Geographical Coordinate	Assoc.	1	1	The latitude and longitude of a specified place, by which a vessel's relative situation on the globe is known. The height above the sea level constitutes a third coordinate.	Geographical Coordinates Position of the vessel transmitted by the VMS system at Obtained DateTime. Altitude and System information are not used in context of this implementation.
Latitude	Measure	1	1	The measure of the latitude as an angular distance north or south from the Equator meridian to the meridian of a specific place for this vessel geographical coordinate.	Coordinate expressed in WGS84, decimal degree notation, using a precision of at least 3 and maximum 6 decimal positions. Positive coordinate refers to North of equator. Negative coordinate refers to South.
Longitude	Measure	1	1	The measure of the longitude as an angular distance east or west from the Greenwich meridian to the meridian of a specific place for this vessel geographical coordinate.	Coordinate expressed in WGS84, decimal degree notation, using a precision of at least 3 and maximum 6 decimal positions. Positive coordinate refers to East of Greenwich meridian. Negative coordinate refers to West.

6. XML EXAMPLES

```

<rsm:FLUXVesselPositionMessage
  xsi:schemaLocation="urn:un:unece:unfact:data:standard:FLUXVesselPositionMessage:4
  FLUXVesselPositionMessage_4p0.xsd" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
  xmlns:rsm="urn:un:unece:unfact:data:standard:FLUXVesselPositionMessage:4"
  xmlns:ram="urn:un:unece:unfact:data:standard:ReusableAggregateBusinessInformationEntity:18"
  xmlns:udt="urn:un:unece:unfact:data:standard:UnqualifiedDataType:18">
  <rsm:FLUXReportDocument>
    <ram:ID> c133b211-0b0e-4358-893c-7afb5437bd61</ram:ID>
    <ram:CreationDateTime>
      <udt:DateTime>2001-12-17T09:30:47.0Z</udt:DateTime>
    </ram:CreationDateTime>
    <ram:PurposeCode>9</ram:PurposeCode>
    <ram:OwnerFLUXParty>
      <ram:ID>SWE</ram:ID>
    </ram:OwnerFLUXParty>
  </rsm:FLUXReportDocument>

  <rsm:VesselTransportMeans>
    <ram:ID schemeID="CFR">SWE000007880</ram:ID>
    <ram:ID schemeID="EXT_MARKING">S-381</ram:ID>
    <ram:ID schemeID="IRCS">EI6207</ram:ID>
    <ram:RegistrationVesselCountry>
      <ram:ID>SWE</ram:ID>
    </ram:RegistrationVesselCountry>

    <ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>
      <ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
        <udt:DateTime>2001-12-17T09:30:47.0Z</udt:DateTime>
      </ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
      <ram:TypeCode>POS</ram:TypeCode>
      <ram:SpeedValueMeasure>8.3</ram:SpeedValueMeasure>
      <ram:CourseValueMeasure>50</ram:CourseValueMeasure>
      <ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
        <ram:LatitudeMeasure>50.563</ram:LatitudeMeasure>
        <ram:LongitudeMeasure>009.252</ram:LongitudeMeasure>
      </ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
    </ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>
  </rsm:VesselTransportMeans>
</rsm:FLUXVesselPositionMessage>

```

```

<rsm:FLUXVesselPositionMessage
xsi:schemaLocation="urn:un:unece:unefact:data:standard:FLUXVesselPositionMessage:4
FLUXVesselPositionMessage_4p0.xsd" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
xmlns:rsm="urn:un:unece:unefact:data:standard:FLUXVesselPositionMessage:4"
xmlns:ram="urn:un:unece:unefact:data:standard:ReusableAggregateBusinessInformationEntity:18"
xmlns:udt="urn:un:unece:unefact:data:standard:UnqualifiedDataType:18">
<rsm:FLUXReportDocument>
<ram:ID> c133b211-0b0e-4358-893c-7afb5437bd61</ram:ID>
<ram:CreationDateTime>
<udt:DateTime>2018-12-17T11:31:47.0Z</udt:DateTime>
</ram:CreationDateTime>
<ram:PurposeCode>9</ram:PurposeCode>
<ram:OwnerFLUXParty>
<ram:ID>SWE</ram:ID>
</ram:OwnerFLUXParty>
</rsm:FLUXReportDocument>

<rsm:VesselTransportMeans>
<ram:ID schemeID=" CFR ">SWE000007880</ram:ID>
<ram:ID schemeID=" EXT_MARKING">S-381</ram:ID>
<ram:ID schemeID=" IRCS ">EI6207</ram:ID>
<ram:RegistrationVesselCountry>
<ram:ID>SWE</ram:ID>
</ram:RegistrationVesselCountry>

<ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>
<ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
<udt:DateTime>2018-12-17T09:30:47.0Z </udt:DateTime>
</ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
<ram:TypeCode>POS</ram:TypeCode>
<ram:SpeedValueMeasure>8.3</ram:SpeedValueMeasure>
<ram:CourseValueMeasure>50</ram:CourseValueMeasure>
<ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
<ram:LatitudeMeasure>50.563</ram:LatitudeMeasure>
<ram:LongitudeMeasure>009.252</ram:LongitudeMeasure>
</ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
</ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>

<ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>
<ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
<udt:DateTime>2018-12-17T11:30:47.0Z </udt:DateTime>
</ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
<ram:TypeCode>POS</ram:TypeCode>
<ram:SpeedValueMeasure>8.3</ram:SpeedValueMeasure>
<ram:CourseValueMeasure>50</ram:CourseValueMeasure>
<ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
<ram:LatitudeMeasure>50.123456</ram:LatitudeMeasure>
<ram:LongitudeMeasure>009.132</ram:LongitudeMeasure>
</ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
</ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>

```

```
</rsm:VesselTransportMeans>  
</rsm:FLUXVesselPositionMessage>
```

7. CODE LISTS

Vessel Transport Means²

Description: the entity containing the details of the identification and characteristic information of a ship or boat.

Mult.	Business term	Rel.	Type	Description
0..n	Identification	Att	Identifier	An identifier for this transport means vessel, such as an identifier defined by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the radio call sign, or an external marking.
0..1	Registration	Ass	Vessel_ Country Entity	The country of registration of this transport means vessel.
0..n	Specified	Ass	Vessel Position_ Event Entity	A position event specified for this vessel transport means.

Vessel Country⁹

Description: the entity containing the details of a country associated to a vessel.

Mult.	Business term	Rel.	Type	Description
1	Identification	Att	Identifier	The identifier for this vessel country.

Vessel Position_ Event

Description: The entity containing information obtained related to the position of a vessel.

Mult.	Business term	Rel.	Type	Description
1	Obtained_ Occurrence	Att	DateTime	The date and time when the position of the vessel was taken by the vessel's navigation equipment.
1	Type	Att	Code	The code specifying the type of vessel position event.

⁹ For sake of clarity, the description of Vessel_ Transport Means; Vessel Country entities contains only the part that is necessary for this domain. The complete definition of such entities can be found in the Vessel domain document of the UN/FLUX standard.

0..1	Speed	Att	Measure	The measure of speed of the vessel for this vessel position event.
0..1	Activity_ Type	Att	Code	The code specifying the type of activity, such as of the vessel or the crew, at this vessel position event.
1	Specified	Ass	Vessel_ Geographical Coordinates Entity	The set of geographical coordinates specified for this vessel position event.

Vessel Geographical Coordinates

Description: The latitude and longitude of a specified place, by which its relative situation on the globe is known. The height above the sea level constitutes a third coordinate.

Mult.	Business term	Rel.	Type	Description
1	Latitude	Att	Measure	The measure of the latitude as an angular distance north or south from the Equator meridian to the meridian of a specific place for this vessel geographical coordinate.
1	Longitude	Att	Measure	The measure of the longitude as an angular distance east or west from the Greenwich meridian to the meridian of a specific place for this vessel geographical coordinate.
0..1	Altitude	Att	Measure	The measure of the altitude that reflects the vertical elevation of an object above a surface for this vessel geographical coordinate.
0..1	System	Att	Identifier	The identifier of the system used for measuring this specified geographical coordinate.

8. FLUX TL ENVELOPE PARAMETERS

The following FLUX TL parameters must be used for transmission of Vessel Position Messages.

Common name	FLUX TL Envelope Tag name	Value	Remark
Dataflow name	DF	urn:un:unece:uncefact:data:standard:FLUXVesselPositionMessage:4	

Timeout DateTim e	TODT	DateTime (in UTC) of creation of the envelope + 60 minutes.	Value expressed as XSD DateTime in UTC. Must be according to the definition provided in 6(2).
Acknowledg e Receipt	AR	False	Note: a non-delivery message is always sent when the recipient cannot be reached and timeout (TODT) time has expired.

**9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)***Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025***MoP-12-22 / CC-09-11**

Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for a consultancy to develop the SIOFA Information System Security Policy (ISSP)

SIOFA Secretariat

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	working paper ✓ information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	
This working paper presents a draft ToR for a consultant to develop the SIOFA ISSP. It includes the main objectives, tasks and deliverables requirements.	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The MoP to review the draft ToR and amend it as required.• The MoP to allow a budget in 2026 for the ISSP work.• The MoP to agree to launch the call for applicant in 2026.

Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for a consultancy to develop the SIOFA Information System Security Policy (ISSP)

Consultancy for the Development of the SIOFA Information System Security Policy (ISSP)

Project code: SEC 2025-01

1. Background

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) is an international organization established to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources in the Southern Indian Ocean.

The SIOFA Secretariat is a small structure based in Reunion Island, and its staff consists of 4 people, one Executive Secretary and 3 Officers. Since there is no staff specialized in information technologies or cyber security, all IT-related tasks are assured by the Data Officer.

The Secretariat is in contact with many people from the SIOFA contracting parties, cooperating non-contracting parties and participating fishing entities (CCPs) and rely a lot on email for information exchanges. SIOFA usually hold 3 meetings each year which take place outside of the Secretariat, usually hosted in one CCP country. The SIOFA website is the main tool for providing information and managing meeting documents.

For achieving its objective SIOFA and the Secretariat relies on information systems to store, manage, and exchange sensitive operational, scientific, and administrative data. With growing reliance on digital platforms, cyber threats and lacks of policies may increase risks to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of sensitive data.

To address this, SIOFA requires a comprehensive Information System Security Policy (ISSP) to provide a structured framework for information security management across all its information systems and devices.

2. Objectives

The objective of this consultancy is to:

- Develop a comprehensive and context-specific Information System Security Policy (ISSP) for SIOFA.
- Ensure that the policy aligns with international best practices and is tailored to the operational environment and mandate of SIOFA. Attention must be paid to the small size of SIOFA and its Secretariat, where there is very limited possibility to increase its budget or staffing.

- Provide recommendations for implementation, including controls, roles and responsibilities, and monitoring mechanisms.

3. Scope of Work

The consultant will undertake the following tasks:

a. Situational Analysis

Review SIOFA's current information systems, infrastructure, workflows, and existing policies.

Assess security risks and vulnerabilities in existing systems and processes, with an emphasis on sensitive information and confidential data.

Identify key stakeholders and data custodians.

b. Policy Development

Develop a ISSP including (but not limited to) the following components:

Policy objectives and scope

Governance and roles/responsibilities

Information classification and handling

Access control policies

Network and system security

Data backup and recovery

Incident response and reporting, including cyber incident and hacking

Physical and environmental security

Training and awareness

Compliance and audit

c. Consultant Engagement

Conduct consultations with SIOFA Secretariat staff and CCP to validate findings and gather input.

Present the draft policy for feedback.

d. Finalization and Handover

Incorporate feedback and submit the final version of the ISSP.

Provide an executive summary and implementation roadmap.

Deliver a short training/implementation session and a presentation for key SIOFA staff.

4. Provision by the Secretariat

The Secretariat will provide the Consultant with the following materials:

- Reports of the Data and Security audits performed in 2021-2022 (ref project SEC 2021-06).
- Current policies and procedures in place
- Current Software and IT service subscriptions

5. Deliverables

- Inception Report – outlining methodology, timeline, and consultation plan (within 2 weeks of contract signing).
- Draft Information System Security Policy.
- Secretariat and CCPs consultation report.
- Final ISSP incorporating feedback.
- Implementation roadmap and training materials.

6. Duration and Location

Duration: Up to 2 months from the signing of the contract.

Location: Remote, with potential virtual meetings with SIOFA Secretariat and other parties.

Starting Date: January 2026

7. Qualifications and Experience

The consultant (individual or company) should possess the following qualifications:

- Advanced degree in Information Security, Computer Science, or related field.
- Minimum of 5 years' experience in developing IT security policies or cybersecurity frameworks
- Demonstrated knowledge of international standards (e.g., ISO/IEC 27001, NIST). Experience working with international or intergovernmental organizations is an advantage.
- Strong analytical, communication, and writing skills.

8. Reporting and Management

The consultant will report to the Executive Secretary of SIOFA.

The consultant will also liaise with the Data Officer and the Compliance Officer for technical aspects.

9. Confidentiality

The consultant shall not release non-public data, restricted or confidential information for conducting this study to any person or any organisation, other than SIOFA Secretariat. Such information will remain the property of the SIOFA Secretariat.

The consultant shall delete all the confidential or restricted information obtained as a part of the contract immediately after the conclusion of the contract.

10. Application Requirements

The applicant(s) should submit a proposal that contains the following items:

- A current CV that summarises the applicant(s) relevant educational background and professional experience.
- A brief proposal outlining the proposed methods and analyses, including a description of how the objectives of the ToR will be achieved.
- A competitive financial proposal, SIOFA budget limit for this work is €10,000.
- Any proposed exclusions to the intellectual property clause.
- Identification of any project risks and associated mitigation and management required to successfully complete the project.
- A statement that identifies any perceived, potential, or actual conflicts of interest of the applicant(s), including those described in paragraph 4 of the SIOFA recruitment procedure (see <https://siofa.org/science/sc-guidelines>);

The applications must be submitted to Thierry Clot, Executive Secretary, thierry.clot@siofa.org by [30 November 2025].



9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)

Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025

CC-09-15 / MoP-12-25

Rev1

Options for facilitating and addressing the capacity-building needs of CCP developing states

The SIOFA Secretariat

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	working paper ✓ information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	
<p>This paper addresses the request from the 11th Meeting of the Parties to “develop a paper for CC9 to identify the capacity building needs of developing states, including where technical assistance or otherwise is needed in the implementation of obligations arising from the Agreement. This should include the identification of mechanisms to provide such assistance. The Secretariat should consult CCPs for the development of this paper.” (Para 36 - MoP11 report). The MoP further tasked the Secretariat with “developing a paper on options for facilitating and addressing the capacity building needs of CCP developing states to be considered by the next SC, CC, and MoP meetings. The scope of the paper should encompass a broad range of areas as commented by the SC in relation to recommendation 6 of the SIOFA Performance Review.” (Para 246 - MoP11 report).</p> <p>Of the 7 CCPs consulted, five CCPs responded to the Secretariat, and two CCPs (India and the Cook Islands) failed to provide a response, nor did they indicate why they did not provide a response.</p>	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

CC-09-15 / MoP-12-25 - Options for facilitating and addressing the capacity-building needs of CCP developing states

A total of 24 expressions of capacity building needs could be identified from the responses that the Executive Secretary received from SIOFA CCPs.

Out of these needs, 9 were related to Science, 6 were related to General capacity, 6 were related to Compliance and one was related to Data. Additionally, two needs were identified as straddling across Data/Compliance and Data/Science.

This paper builds on discussions held at the 10th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

Rev1 of this paper incorporates comments on CC09 on this Options paper

Recommendations

The SIOFA Secretariat recommends that :

- That the CC09 and the MoP 12 **notes** the work done by the Secretariat in preparing the *Options for facilitating and addressing the capacity building needs of CCP developing states* as requested by the MoP.
- That the CC09 **considers and revises** the options of capacity building related to Compliance (and straddling themes) listed by the Secretariat, and **recommends** its preferences to the MoP

Background

The 1st Performance Review of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), concluded in 2023, was carried out to review SIOFA's performance against the objectives provided in the Agreement. Out of the many outcomes of the performance review, a number of gaps were identified that stemmed from the lack of capacity among CCPs to effectively implement their obligations under the Agreement, and the Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted thereunder. This resulted in several recommendations endorsed by the Meeting of the Parties (MoP) on how to address those gaps to ensure that the measures adopted are effectively implemented, allowing SIOFA to attain its objectives set under the agreement. It further recommended that the SIOFA CCPs, through the Meeting of the Parties, task the Secretariat to assess the capacity building needed to improve the implementation of obligations by the CCPs, prioritizing the most urgent and providing options to ensure appropriate assistance is provided to CCPs which so require. The gaps and shortcomings identified by the 1st Performance Review Panel relate to Science, Data and Compliance obligations.

The need to support developing States bordering the area is also enshrined in Article 13 of the Agreement, calling on the Contracting Parties to cooperate under the provisions of the Agreement for the purpose of, *inter alia*, enhancing the ability of developing States bordering the Area, in particular the least-developed among them and small island developing States, to conserve and manage fishery resources and to develop their own fisheries for such resources. It further requires that such cooperation should include the provision of financial assistance, assistance relating to human resources development, technical assistance, transfer of technology, and activities directed specifically towards:

- improved conservation and management of the fishery resources and of straddling stocks occurring in waters under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Area, which can include the collection, reporting, verification, exchange and analysis of fisheries data and related information;
- improved information collection and management of the impact of fishing activities on the marine environment;
- stock assessment and scientific research;
- monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement, including training and capacity-building at the local level, development and funding of national and regional observer programmes and access to technology; and
- participation in the Meeting of the Parties and meetings of its subsidiary bodies as well as in the settlement of disputes.

To this end, the 11th Meeting of the Parties endorsed recommendations from the 8th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC08) to “develop a paper for CC9 to identify the capacity building needs of developing states, including where technical assistance or otherwise is needed in the implementation of obligations arising from the Agreement. This should include the identification of mechanisms to provide such assistance. The Secretariat should consult CCPs for the development of this paper.” (Para 36 - MoP11 report). The MoP further tasked the Secretariat with “developing a paper on options for facilitating and addressing the capacity building needs of CCP developing states to be considered by the next SC, CC, and MoP meetings. The scope of the paper should encompass a broad range of areas as commented by the SC in relation to recommendation 6 of the SIOFA Performance Review.” (Para 246 - MoP11 report).

Methodology

The process undertaken by the Secretariat to complete this task was:

- Identification of CCPs as developing states
- Consultation with the identified developing state CCPs
- Collation of responses from identified developing state CCPs
- Analysis of responses and identification of options

Identification of CCPs as developing states

As required by the MoP, the scope of the paper is to focus on developing states CCPs. One of the challenges with identifying these CCPs is that, while the Agreement mentions and makes provisions for developing states, SIOFA did not define which CCPs are considered developing states. As such, for this exercise, developing states were identified/defined as any CCP with an economic status of “Low” or “Middle (Lower-middle & Upper-middle)” income as defined by the World Bank classification (<https://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/the-world-by-income-and-region.html>), or, in the specific case of participating fishing entity.

Following these criteria, the following SIOFA CCPs were identified as developing states:

- China
- Mauritius
- Thailand
- Comoros
- India

Moreover, the consultation was expanded to include the Cook Islands and the Seychelles, which are classified as small island developing states by the UN (<https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/list-sids>).

Consultation with the identified developing state CCPs

To collect the necessary information required to complete this task, the Executive Secretary engaged with the identified States to collect information required to identify their current challenges and needs and also to provide CCPs with the opportunity to suggest any intervention they deem appropriate to address the identified shortcomings and gaps.

A feedback request (Annex 1) was sent as an email to all identified developing state CCPs in September 2024, and a response was kindly requested by October 31st, 2024. Some responses were sought after until January 2025, when it was decided to proceed with the responses received thus far.

Collation of responses from identified developing state CCPs

Of the 7 CCPs consulted, five CCPs responded to the Secretariat, and two CCPs (India and the Cook Islands) failed to provide a response, nor did they indicate why they did not provide a response.

The responses received were collated and are reported in Annex 2. A summary of responses and their analysis is provided in the following sections of this paper.

Analysis of responses and identification of options

Collated responses were summarized and the capacity building needs categorized into three main themes: Science, Data and Compliance. This categorization was performed at the Secretariat with the

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sole aim of identifying the topic most relevant to the different subsidiary bodies of SIOFA, and to assign the corresponding task of analysis to the Staff Officer responsible for each theme at the Secretariat.

An additional category of “General capacity”, was also created for all those needs that did not fall within the three main categories, and these were addressed by the Executive Secretary.

Some needs straddled across more than one theme, and, in that case, these were addressed by the Staff member leading the drafting of the main theme.

Options to address the needs identified by SIOFA CCPs in Science (and straddling themes) were selected based on the personal experience and judgement of the Science Officer, with a similar approach by the Compliance Officer for Compliance-related matters and straddling themes. As such they should be used solely as a framework for the Compliance Committee and the Meeting of the Parties to start their discussion.

These options are organized in a schematic manner, with categories of engagement that clearly underline different approaches to the same problem, leading to different costs of implementation. However, please note that it was not within the tasks of the Secretariat to assess these costs or to identify means of financing these options.

Results

Summary of responses received

A total of 24 expressions of capacity building needs could be identified from the responses that the Executive Secretary received from SIOFA CCPs.

Out of these needs, 9 were related to Science, 6 were related to General capacity, 6 were related to Compliance and one was related to Data (Table 1). Additionally, two needs were identified as straddling across Data/Compliance and Data/Science (Table 1).

Note that two CCPs (Mauritius and Thailand) expressed the same capacity building need (identification of VMEs).

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Table 1 – Categorization of the capacity needs expressed by SIOFA CCPs during the consultation with the Executive Secretary.

ID #	Need	CCP	Theme/s	CCP proposed activity
1	Strengthen exchanges between CCPs	China	General capacity	
2	Strengthen relevant cooperation between CCPs and developing countries	China	General capacity	
3	Strengthen monitoring and evaluation technology in fishery area	China	Compliance	
4	Strengthen resource conservation	China	General capacity	
5	Help to identify real and effective needs and propose sustainable solutions	Union of Comoros	General capacity	
6	English language capacity	Union of Comoros	General capacity	practical training in an English-speaking country abroad allowing its representatives at SIOFA to improve English
7	Identification of deep-water sharks	Mauritius	Science	
8	Identification of VMEs	Mauritius	Science	
9	Undertaking stock assessment studies for deepwater demersal species	Mauritius	Science	Training can be dispensed by experts working in collaboration with SIOFA
10	Preparation of a BFIA report	Mauritius	Science	
11	Collection and analysis of biological samples, such as gonads and otoliths, of deep-water demersal species	Mauritius	Science	
12	Strengthening of port state measures in connection with the implementation of SIOFA CMMs	Mauritius	Compliance	
13	Capacity-building programs for advanced surveillance operations, data collection, and analysis	Seychelles	Compliance/Data	
14	Specialized training for enforcement officers on inspections, regulation enforcement, and species identification	Seychelles	Compliance	
15	Support for acquiring and maintaining satellite monitoring systems, electronic monitoring systems (EMS), and automated reporting systems	Seychelles	Compliance	
16	Strengthening regional cooperation for information sharing and joint surveillance efforts.	Seychelles	Compliance	
17	Developing and participating in regional MCS networks to enhance coordination and prevent IUU fishing.	Seychelles	Compliance	
18	Training on CPUE standardization processes	Seychelles	Science	
19	Development and implementation of Harvest Control Rules (HCR) and Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE)	Seychelles	Science	
20	Capacity building to address mandatory requirements under SIOFA	Seychelles	General capacity	
21	Data management and processing to meet SIOFA's reporting obligations	Seychelles	Data	

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ID #	Need	CCP	Theme/s	CCP proposed activity
22	Capacity building on VME identification	Thailand	Science	Trainings for identification methodologies, updating identification guides, translation of the SIOFA VMEs identification guide to local languages
23	Capacity building on impact and risk assessment methods to incorporate in BFIA	Thailand	Science	
24	Capacity building to improve onboard data collection in trawl fishery	Thailand	Data/Science	Sharing experience among CCPs to enhance trawl data collection which may include data collection technology, data management and data analysis

Options for capacity building in the Science theme (and straddling themes)

Table 2 summarizes the options proposed by the Secretariat (Science Officer) for the capacity building needs expressed by SIOFA CCPs during the consultation with the Executive Secretary, within the Science theme (and straddling themes). Some options were recommended by SC10 and are flagged as such in the table.

SC10 noted that a key area for capacity building should be the development of common data collection protocols, such as common measurement units, gonad staging techniques, otolith collection principles, etc., and training in the implementation of these protocols when collecting data. The SC noted that the ongoing observer harmonisation work, the proposed development of standardised observer manuals and identification guides, and the improvements to the website for species identification and observer resources would contribute to meeting this need, while recognising that additional training and resources may be required.

SC10 also noted the importance of providing training to CCPs on completing SC-related scientific/administrative processes, such as conducting a BFIA in accordance with the BFIA standard and preparing a Fisheries Operation Plan.

Regarding the identification of deep-water sharks, SC10 agreed that onboard species identification would be a more pressing priority than DNA barcoding training for capacity building.

Regarding stock assessment studies for deepwater demersal species, SC10 noted the need for more specificity about the areas in which capacity building is needed. The SC also noted that the Pacific Community (SPC) conducts stock assessment workshops and requested the Secretariat to communicate with the SPC Secretariat regarding potential participation in these workshops by SIOFA CCPs. The SC also noted additional stock assessment capacity building opportunities, including stock assessment training courses provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), and a stock assessment workshop that Spain, Japan and South Africa will provide for CCAMLR members.

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Table 2 – Options for capacity building in the Science theme (and straddling themes) for the capacity needs expressed by SIOFA CCPs during the consultation with the Executive Secretary. Most options were developed by the Secretariat (Science Officer), while some were developed by SC10.

ID #	Need	CCP	Theme	CCP proposed activity	Secretariat proposed option 1	Secretariat proposed option 2	Secretariat proposed option 3
24	Capacity building to improve onboard data collection in trawl fishery	Thailand	Data/Science	Sharing experience among CCPs to enhance trawl data collection which may include data collection technology, data management and data analysis	Online Training for Observers Organize online workshops to train observers on proper data collection methods (catch composition, bycatch, species identification, length, and weight). Include hands-on training on using data collection tools, such as electronic logbooks or tablets	Practical Onboard Training for Observers Organize onboard workshops to train observers on proper data collection methods (catch composition, bycatch, species identification, length, and weight). Include hands-on training on using data collection tools, such as electronic logbooks or tablets	Data Quality Control and Analysis Workshops Conduct workshops focused on quality control procedures for onboard data, including strategies for minimizing errors in data entry and how to flag outliers or anomalies during data collection.
7	Identification of deep-water sharks	Mauritius	Science		DNA Barcoding Training Provide training on DNA barcoding techniques and their use in species identification, enabling fisheries personnel to identify deep-water sharks using genetic markers	Field Identification Apps Train on and promote the use of the FAO mobile app that assists with the real-time identification of deep-water sharks, incorporating features like photo recognition and a species database	Species Identification Workshops Organize workshops focusing on the morphological characteristics and identification of deep-water sharks using field guides and expert-led sessions

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ID #	Need	CCP	Theme	CCP proposed activity	Secretariat proposed option 1	Secretariat proposed option 2	Secretariat proposed option 3
8, 22	Identification of VMEs [indicator taxa]	Mauritius, Thailand	Science	Trainings for identification methodologies, updating identification guides, translation of the SIOFA VMEs identification guide to local languages (Thailand)	VME Indicator Taxa Identification Workshops Offer targeted training on recognizing VME indicator species, such as certain corals, sponges, and other benthic organisms. Provide visual aids and interactive sessions with specimen samples, photos, and video footage of these taxa in situ.	Taxonomic Identification Training with Field Guides Develop and distribute comprehensive field guides for identifying key VME indicator taxa in the region and provide hands-on training sessions in the field.	Collaboration with Marine Taxonomists Organize training with marine taxonomists and biodiversity experts to provide deeper insights into VME indicator taxa in a laboratory setting. This could include practical sessions in which trainees can learn to identify these taxa and understand their ecological roles.
11	Collection and analysis of biological samples, such as gonads and otoliths, of deep-water demersal species	Mauritius	Science		Laboratory Techniques for Biological Sample Processing Organize laboratory training sessions on the extraction and analysis of gonads and otoliths from deep-water species, including aging techniques and reproductive analysis	Genetic sampling techniques SC10 noted the value of providing training in genetic sampling using sterile techniques, especially using tools such as biopsy punches.	

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ID #	Need	CCP	Theme	CCP proposed activity	Secretariat proposed option 1	Secretariat proposed option 2	Secretariat proposed option 3
9	Undertaking stock assessment studies for deepwater demersal species	Mauritius	Science	Training can be dispensed by experts working in collaboration with SIOFA	Stock Assessment Methodology Training Provide training on stock assessment methodologies, focusing on deep-water demersal species, including surplus production models, biomass estimation, and age-based assessments. SC10 noted that other institutions (e.g. SPC, ICES) are providing stock assessment training that SIOFA developing CCPs might be able to participate in.	Use of Modeling Software for Stock Assessments Organize workshops on the use of stock assessment software (e.g., Stock Synthesis, VPA, CASAL, JABBA, or biomass models) tailored to deep-water species.	Collaborative Research Programs Implement field-based stock assessment programs where scientists from multiple countries and organizations collaborate on deep-water stock surveys, data collection, and analysis
10, 23	Preparation of a BFIA report, Capacity building on impact and risk assessment methods to incorporate in BFIA	Mauritius, Thailand	Science		Risk Assessment Frameworks and Tools Offer training on various risk assessment frameworks (e.g., qualitative and quantitative risk models) and tools, with a focus on identifying the potential risks associated with bottom fishing on benthic habitats.	BFIA Methodology and Case Study Training Conduct workshops on the preparation of BFIA reports, with a focus on data collection, impact pathways, and the relationship between fishing practices and ecosystem health	Expert-led Writing and Peer Review Sessions Organize writing workshops where experienced practitioners guide participants through the BFIA process. Involve peer review sessions where participants critique and improve draft BFIA reports.

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ID #	Need	CCP	Theme	CCP proposed activity	Secretariat proposed option 1	Secretariat proposed option 2	Secretariat proposed option 3
18	Training on CPUE standardization processes	Seychelles	Science		CPUE Calculation Methodology Workshops Provide training on different CPUE calculation methods and how to standardize them across regions and fleets, including addressing biases and ensuring consistency in data.	Training on Statistical Software for CPUE Analysis Offer hands-on workshops on using statistical software (e.g., R, SAS) to standardize CPUE data and analyze catch trends across different fleet types and fishing locations.	Peer-to-Peer Data Review Sessions Establish peer review mechanisms where fishery scientists review each other's CPUE standardization processes and outcomes to ensure consistent and reliable data.
19	Development and implementation of Harvest Control Rules (HCR) and Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE)	Seychelles	Science		HCR and MSE Design Workshops Offer workshops focused on the theory and application of HCRs and MSE, emphasizing their role in ensuring sustainable fishery management and adapting to uncertainty.	Simulation Exercises for HCR and MSE Facilitate hands-on simulation exercises where participants develop HCRs and evaluate them through MSE models, helping them understand trade-offs and best management practices.	Mentorship Program for MSE Application Pair fisheries managers and researchers with mentors who have experience in applying MSE to fisheries, providing guidance on how to incorporate these tools into real-world fisheries management.

Options for capacity building in the Compliance and straddling themes

Table 3 summarizes the options proposed by the Secretariat for the capacity building needs expressed by SIOFA CCPs during the consultation with the Executive Secretary, within the Compliance theme (and straddling themes). It should be noted that the capacity building needs of similar sub-themes have been grouped together, and some interventions may be applicable to more than one capacity building needs.

Table 3 – Options for capacity building in the Compliance and straddling themes for the capacity needs expressed by SIOFA CCPs.

ID #	Need	CCP	Theme	CCP proposed activity	Secretariat proposed option 1	Secretariat proposed option 2	Secretariat proposed option 3
3	Strengthen monitoring and evaluation technology in fishery area	China	Compliance	None	Facilitate workshops by a key expert in the various satellite technologies used to monitor fisheries activities, including data analysis techniques for fisheries monitoring.		
13	Capacity-building programs for advanced surveillance operations, data collection, and analysis	Seychelles	Compliance/Data	None	Facilitate workshops by a key expert in the various satellite technologies used to monitor fisheries activities, including data analysis techniques for fisheries monitoring.	Facilitate workshops by a key expert on advanced surveillance operations, data collection, and analysis, including risk assessment in fisheries surveillance. (preferred option)	
15	Support for acquiring and maintaining satellite monitoring systems, electronic monitoring systems (EMS), and automated reporting systems	Seychelles	Compliance	None	Facilitate workshops by a key expert in the various satellite technologies used to monitor fisheries activities, including data analysis techniques for fisheries monitoring.	Facilitate engagement with potential service providers of such systems.	
16	Strengthening regional cooperation for information sharing and joint surveillance efforts.	Seychelles	Compliance	None	Proactively support ongoing regional initiatives aimed at sharing information regionally and undertaking joint surveillance (HSBI) in our capacity as an RFMO.	Prioritization of improving capacity of the implementation the HSBI Scheme	

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ID #	Need	CCP	Theme	CCP proposed activity	Secretariat proposed option 1	Secretariat proposed option 2	Secretariat proposed option 3
17	Developing and participating in regional MCS networks to enhance coordination and prevent IUU fishing.	Seychelles	Compliance	None	Proactively support ongoing regional initiatives aimed at sharing information regionally and undertaking joint surveillance (HSBI) in our capacity as an RFMO.	Make available Include best practices by such a organisations to SIOFA CCPs through media such as website etc. in a comprehensive guideline to implement SIOFA CMMs	
12	Strengthening of port state measures in connection with the implementation of SIOFA CMMs	Mauritius	Compliance	None	Undertake in-country missions to conduct training in the SIOFA Port Inspection Scheme.	Develop an implementation manual for implementing the SIOFA Port Inspection Scheme.	Support integration of SIOFA Port Inspection Scheme into domestic port inspection procedures (High Priority)
14	Specialized training for enforcement officers on inspections, regulation enforcement, and species identification	Seychelles	Compliance	None		Facilitate workshops by a key expert on species identification of key SIOFA Species	Develop a species identification guidebook to be used by inspectors

Options for capacity building in the Data theme

Table 4 summarizes the options proposed by the Secretariat for the capacity building needs expressed by SIOFA CCPs during the consultation with the Executive Secretary, within the Data theme.

Table 4 – Options for capacity building in the Data theme for the capacity needs expressed by SIOFA CCPs.

ID #	Need	CCP	Theme	CCP proposed activity	Secretariat proposed option 1	Secretariat proposed option 2	Secretariat proposed option 3
21	Data management and processing to meet SIOFA's reporting obligations	Seychelles	Data		Gap analysis and in-country support workshop in the CCP Fisheries data collection and management centre. Identification of CMM requirements and relevant data available in CCP systems.	Provision of a sub sample fisheries logbooks as provided by the fishing industry for each fishing flag to the Secretariat, for identifying any missing data item to be collected and provided	Support to establish or enhance CCP fisheries information database, and assistance in building standardized queries or reports that would generate appropriate datasets ready for submission according to SIOFA CMM and templates.

Options for capacity building in the General Capacity theme

Table 5 summarizes the options proposed by the Secretariat for the capacity building needs expressed by SIOFA CCPs during the consultation with the Executive Secretary, within the General Capacity theme.

Table 5 – Options for capacity building in the General Capacity theme for the capacity needs expressed by SIOFA CCPs.

ID #	Need	CCP	Theme	CCP proposed activity	Secretariat proposed option 1	Secretariat proposed option 2	Secretariat proposed option 3
1	Strengthen exchanges between CCPs	China	General capacity				
2	Strengthen relevant cooperation between CCPs and developing countries	China	General capacity				
4	Strengthen resource conservation	China	General capacity				
5	Help to identify real and effective needs and propose sustainable solutions	Union of Comoros	General capacity				
6	English language capacity	Union of Comoros	General capacity				
20	Capacity building to address mandatory requirements under SIOFA	Seychelles	General capacity				

Discussion

The assessment of capacity-building needs among SIOFA developing states highlights significant perceived gaps in scientific, compliance, and data-related capabilities. These gaps, identified through consultations with Contracting Parties (CCPs), directly impact the ability of developing states to meet their obligations under the Agreement. The responses indicate a strong demand for technical assistance in stock assessments, species identification, fisheries impact analyses, and compliance measures, notably in the implementation of the Port Inspection Scheme and the use of technology to strengthen fisheries monitoring. The diversity of needs reflects varying levels of institutional and technical capacity across the region, emphasizing the necessity for tailored and flexible capacity-building initiatives.

A key challenge in addressing these needs is the absence of some responses, which limits the ability of SIOFA to develop fully representative strategies and suggests potential barriers to participation, such as administrative constraints or limited awareness of available support mechanisms. Ensuring more comprehensive participation in future consultations will be crucial for designing effective capacity-building programs.

The options proposed by the Secretariat in this paper provide a structured framework for addressing the identified needs across all themes. Training programs on species identification, stock assessments, and fisheries impact evaluations represent a critical step toward strengthening the scientific foundation of fisheries management. This is also relevant for the other interventions proposed for the other themes. However, to ensure the long-term sustainability of these efforts, the development of mentorship programs and regional cooperation mechanisms should be prioritized. Additionally, a systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of implemented capacity-building initiatives will be necessary to refine approaches and maximize their impact.

Please note that the Secretariat was not tasked with estimating the resource needs for these options and/or of the potential sources of funding that could support any action undertaken, so these considerations were not within the scope of this paper. When considering the options proposed by the Secretariat, the SC, the CC and the MoP should recall that SIOFA has recently embarked in a capacity building project financed by the EU under the SWIO Programme, where some of the developing states included in this paper (Mauritius, Seychelles) have also expressed similar needs for their capacity building. Therefore, it is recommended to exercise some care when discussing the financing of selected options to ensure that there are no overlaps between the SWIO Programme and any other actions that SIOFA might undertake.

Ultimately, enhancing the technical and institutional capacity of developing states is essential for the equitable and effective implementation of SIOFA's Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs). By fostering stronger scientific collaboration and compliance capabilities, these initiatives will contribute to the sustainable management of fisheries resources in the Southern Indian Ocean.

Annex 1 – Executive Secretary’s request to provide feedback

Subject: Consultation for input on capacity-building needs for developing states

Dear [SIOFA CCP],

During the Eleventh Meeting of the Parties (MoP11), it was emphasized that additional measures are required to address the specific needs of developing states, with particular attention to the least developed countries and small island developing states. This decision is in accordance with Article 13 of the Agreement, which underscores the importance of supporting these States that borders the Area.

A Contracting Party is classified as a developing country if it falls under the "Low" or "Middle" income categories of the World Bank's latest classification, in accordance with the sources outlined in the Rules of Procedure. As India falls within this classification, it is directly impacted by this consultation, which seeks input on capacity-building needs for developing states.

In alignment with this commitment, and as detailed in paragraph 246 of the MoP11 final report, the Secretariat has been tasked with developing a comprehensive document outlining strategic options for facilitating and addressing the capacity-building needs of Contracting Parties that are developing States.

This document will serve as a reference for discussions at the upcoming meetings of the Scientific Committee (SC10), the Compliance Committee (CC9), and the Meeting of the Parties (MoP12).

To guarantee that this framework addresses the unique challenges encountered by developing States, the Secretariat is hereby seeking your input on the above. Your insights will be important in developing a document that properly captures your unique challenges and ensures the proposed options adequately addresses them. As such the Secretariat kindly request a detailed outline of your requirements.

We kindly request that you submit your needs and wishes by October 31st, to ensure they are included in our review process. If you already have views on how best to achieve such needs, you can also suggest it.

Should you need more information or want to discuss any part of this initiative further, please do not hesitate to contact us (secretariat@siofa.org). We are also available to schedule an online meeting if you prefer a more direct discussion with the Secretariat.

Sincerely,

Thierry CLOT

SIOFA Executive Secretary

Annex 2 – Responses received to the Executive Secretary inquiry on capacity building needs of developing states

SUMMARY OF THE RESPONSES RECEIVED CONCERNING THE CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS OF DEVELOPING STATES

CHINA

Fri, 18 Oct 2024 17:56:05 +0800 (CST)

渔业局远洋渔业处

China greatly appreciates the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the need to promote capacity building of developing states and seek China's opinions. As the world's largest developing country, China has always been committed to the scientific conservation and sustainable utilization of marine fisheries. China also promotes the sustainable development of fisheries in the world, and works with members to assume corresponding responsibilities and obligations in RFMOs. China actively promotes "A Marine Community with A Shared Future" and supports the development of fisheries in other developing countries.

As a CCP and one of the developing countries in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, China hopes to strengthen exchanges between CCPs, cooperates developing countries in fishing, resource conservation, investigation, monitoring and evaluation technology in fishery area. In addition, China is willing to strengthen relevant cooperation between CCPs and developing countries, actively plays an important role, jointly safeguard the sustainable development and utilization of fisheries in the SIOFA Area in order to promote its development.

COOK ISLANDS

[No response received]

UNION OF COMOROS

Thu, 28 Nov 2024 16:26:19 +0400

Rachad Mohamed Ali Mohamed

In response to circular 2024-09-27/SIOFA/ES, the Union of the Comoros requests two things :

- 1- The support of secretariat for very in-depth exchange in order to help the Union of the Comoros to identify real and effective needs and propose sustainable solutions
- 2- The Union of the Comoros is exposed to the problem of the English language barrier and expresses its wish to benefit from practical training in an English-speaking country abroad allowing its representatives at APSOI to improve English.

INDIA

[No response received]

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MAURITIUS

Fri, 29 Nov 2024 11:03:43 +0400

Doorvanand Kawol

In line with the recommendations of the Performance Review Panel to consider capacity building activities for developing states, Mauritius proposes the following:

1. Identification of deep-water sharks. The catch of deep-water sharks as bycatch in trawl fishery is usually observed and as Mauritius will shortly embark in bottom fishing, a training on the identification of sharks is important.
2. Identification of VMEs is also a great challenge and appropriate training will be very helpful for better management of endangered ecosystems.
3. It is also understood that undertaking stock assessment studies for deepwater demersal species like alfonsino, orange roughy and toothfish are great challenges for developing states. In this context, to better understand the stock assessment process, Mauritius proposes that in this field, some training can be dispensed by experts working in collaboration with SIOFA.
4. Mauritius also considers that the preparation of a BFIA report requires better understanding of the BFIA Standards as the conditions and requirements need an efficient interpretation of this document. Therefore, Mauritius wishes to develop its capacity in this field.
5. Training on the collection and analysis of biological samples such as gonads and otolith of deep-water demersal species.
6. A training programme on strengthening of port state measures in connection with the implementation of SIOFA CMMs in order to achieve maximum compliance level.

SEYCHELLES

Thu, 19 Dec 2024 05:47:44 +0000

Vincent Lucas

Thank you for your letter dated November 29, 2024, regarding the consultation for capacity-building needs of developing states under the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). We appreciate the Secretariat's efforts to address the unique challenges faced by Contracting Parties, particularly the least developed countries and small island developing states.

In response, please find below the key capacity-building priorities for Seychelles:

1. Enhancing Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) Techniques:
 - a. Capacity-building programs for advanced surveillance operations, data collection, and analysis.
 - b. Specialized training for enforcement officers on inspections, regulation enforcement, and species identification.
2. Advanced MCS Technologies:
 - a. Support for acquiring and maintaining satellite monitoring systems, electronic monitoring systems (EMS), and automated reporting systems.
3. Regional Cooperation and Networks:
 - a. Strengthening regional cooperation for information sharing and joint surveillance efforts.

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- b. Support for developing and participating in regional MCS networks to enhance coordination and prevent IUU fishing.
- 4. Management and Scientific Development:
 - a. Training on CPUE standardization processes.
 - b. Capacity building for the development and implementation of Harvest Control Rules (HCR) and Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE).
- 5. Compliance with SIOFA Requirements:
 - a. Capacity building to address mandatory requirements under SIOFA.
 - b. Training on data management and processing to meet SIOFA's reporting obligations.

We believe these measures will significantly enhance Seychelles' ability to sustainably manage its fisheries resources and meet the obligations under the Agreement. Should you require further details on any of these points, we are happy to provide additional information or discuss further.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the development of the capacity-building framework.

THAILAND

Wed, 30 Oct 2024 12:15:02 +0400

Kanyarat Woraprayoth

Thailand proposal on capacity building needs for developing states in SIOFA

Recommendation #6 of the Performance panel

The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider capacity building activities for developing States to undertake BFIA as per the SIOFA standards.

As requested by the secretariat on input on capacity building needs for developing states, Thailand would like to propose the capacity building needs as follows

1. Capacity building on VME identification. This is due to difficulty on identification of VMEs caused by morphological complexity, limited identification resources, as well as limited knowledge and inexperience in VME identification of data collectors. Therefore, trainings for identification methodologies, updating identification guides are crucial for fishery resource management in SIOFA. Also, translation of the SIOFA VMEs identification guide to local languages will help facilitate using the guideline by local observers.
2. Capacity building on impact and risk assessment methods to incorporate in BFIA. As one of the key elements of BFIA is the impact analysis on fishing activities on habitats, fishing grounds and targeting fishery resources. We saw that several impact assessment methods were used in BFIA provided by SIOFA CCPs. Some methods are simple but some are complicated, and different methods gave different aspects. It is crucial that the impact assessment methods should be well understood and can be undertaken efficiently by every CCPs, to ensure the BFIA standards are met.
3. Capacity building to improve onboard data collection in trawl fishery. Due to characteristic of trawls which usually catch multiple species in an operation, that cause many challenges in trawl data collection e.g., inaccurate species identification, underreport catch of some species, aggregated catch report, time consuming for collecting data manually, etc. Also, this gear is currently used by many SIOFA CCP vessels nowadays. Addressing these challenges, it is needed for capacity building or sharing experience among CCPs to enhance trawl data collection which may include data collection technology, data management and data analysis.



9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)

Ebène, Mauritius, 25-27 June and 30 June - 4 July 2025

CC-09-16

Rev2

SIOFA Performance Review Recommendations

The SIOFA Secretariat

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Distribution	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	
<p>This working paper contains all the recommendations provided by the SIOFA Performance Review Panel, revised during the last meeting of the SIOFA MoP (MoP-11-02-Rev3 Report of the SIOFA performance review panel). This document was provided to the SC10, the CC9 and the MoP12 for updates and revisions. This document contains the evolutions considered by the SC10. A revision of the document shall be provided after consideration of CC9 recommendations for the MoP to consider all the actions taken since MoP11.</p> <p>Rev2 of the update includes input from the CC09 on recommendations related to the Compliance Committee's work.</p>	

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² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

The MoP and the CC to:
Review and revise, as needed, the proposed timelines and confirm the current status of the Performance Review Recommendations.

SIOFA Performance Review Recommendations

Introduction

This paper attempts to provide a simple and schematic summary of the Performance Review Panel Recommendations considered by the MoP¹⁰.

The paper uses tables, links and a “traffic light” colour system to rapidly visualize the status of the tasks assigned to the MoP, with the aim to identify tasks that warrant further attention from the MoP and the Secretariat. The following table provides an explanation of the colour coding system.

Recommendation ongoing	
Recommendation waiting for MoP’s action	
Recommendation completed by the Secretariat waiting for MoP’s action	
Recommendation not endorsed by MoP	

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1	The Panel recommends that the SIOFA SC is tasked with conferring high priority to the improvement of stock assessments in order to reduce uncertainty as a necessary basis for the adoption of harvest strategies. This task should be subject to a target timeline and include a process for an independent peer review of assessment methods and results.	H	<p>11. Regarding Recommendation Nr 1, the SC noted that it has made recommendations to the MoP on the development of harvest strategies and related data collection and stock assessment work at the Joint MoP-SC Harvest Strategies Workshop and at the SC8 meeting including the necessary steps and timelines for the stock assessments of the key SIOFA stocks.</p> <p>12. The SC recommended that the MoP consider Recommendation Nr 1 in conjunction with paragraphs 166–197 and Annex F (Medium-Term SC8 Workplan) of the SC8 Report.</p> <p>13. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 1 but recommended that the MoP note that it may be difficult to improve some stock assessments and reduce their uncertainty, because even though the catch and effort data collected are accurate, there may only be a limited amount of data available because of the small size of those fisheries. However, it is still possible to develop useful harvest strategies based on stock assessments with a higher level of uncertainty, provided adequate management procedures</p>		MoP endorses recommendation 1 as commented by the SC in particular difficulties of improving SA and reducing uncertainty	H	SC	Ongoing, ref timeline recommended	See ORY, TOT, ALF projects in the SC workplan. Note the new (2024-2025) assessment of ORY (SC-10-40). Note new assessment of toothfish biomass (SC-10-23).

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			are used to mitigate the risk and uncertainty. 14. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.						
2	The Panel recommends that SIOFA CCPs task the Scientific Committee with assessing the status of key shark stocks in the Area and that their status be kept under constant review over the coming years.	H	15. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 2 and noted that it has conducted discussions on assessing the status of key shark stocks in the SIOFA Area. 16. The SC recommended that the MoP consider Recommendation Nr 2 in conjunction with: a. the outcomes of the Intersessional Workshop on Deepwater Sharks in SIOFA Area, particularly the updated ecological risk assessment for deepwater chondrichthyan species (paper SC-08-29 Update on the ecological risk assessment of deepwater chondrichthyan species); b. paragraphs 224–257 of the SC8 Report, noting in particular the limited ability to conduct a stock assessment on shark species in the short-term, especially since the planned measures to reduce shark bycatch will result in less data being available; c. the shark-related scientific work in the Medium-Term SC8 Workplan (Annex F, SC8 Report). 17. The SC endorsed the		MoP supports this recommendation, work is already ongoing. Key shark stocks for assessment to be defined by SC.	H	SC	Ongoing	Task considered, ref SC9 report. Future SC meeting will need to define “key shark” species. Note the update in the shark ERA (SC-10-49).

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			high priority assigned to this recommendation.						
3	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs ensure that the fisheries summaries developed by the Scientific Committee contain clear information on the stock status of species caught in the SIOFA Area, and that this information is promptly made available to the general public.	M/L	18. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 3. The SC noted that stock status will be included in the fisheries summaries and will be reported to the MoP. The SC also noted that the fisheries summaries should be made available to the public (paragraph 129, SC8 Report) and that the continued development of the fisheries summaries is a priority in the Medium-Term SC Workplan (Annex F, SC8 Report). 19. The SC endorsed the medium/low priority assigned to the recommendation.		MoP endorses this recommendation, work is ongoing	M/L	SC / Secretariat	3 - 5 Years	See the fisheries summaries updated in 2025 (SC10 Report)
4	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs assess the use of the VME Guide by observers and take action to ensure its use as required, and also implement awareness programmes targeting observers.	M	20. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 4 and noted that work is ongoing to make this information available on the SIOFA website and that the SC has discussed developing the VME Guide further with additional species. 21. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses this recommendation	M	SC Secretariat for publication CCPs for implementation	3 - 5 Years	Note work on the SIOFA VME Classification Guide (SC-10-26). Publication has been made by the Secretariat on the website. https://siofa.org/sites/default/files/documents/cmm/SIOFA-VME-taxa-guide-2025.pdf

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5	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs finalise the protocol on VME and protected area designation and speed up the process of progressing the agreed protected areas from their interim nature and identify any further areas in need for protection.	H/M	22. Regarding Recommendation Nr 5, the SC endorsed the recommendation and noted that related work is underway as part of the "PAE2022-MPA1 Protocols to designate and evaluate MPAs" EU funded project, which focuses on the designation and assessment of marine protected areas, and whose outcomes are expected to be delivered at the end of 2023. 23. The SC endorsed the high/medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses this recommendation	H/M	SC MoP	1 - 3 Years	Completed, see SC10 Report on revised protocol and proposed BPAs
6	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider capacity building activities for developing States to undertake BFIA as per the SIOFA standards.	M	24. The SC noted that Recommendation Nr 6 should be considered in conjunction with Recommendation Nr 31. 25. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 6 but recommended to the MoP that broader capacity building, particularly data capture, data quality, and data reporting, rather than specifically to BFIA, would be of greater use to developing States. 26. Regarding the priority assigned to this recommendation, the SC considered it to be of a low priority if it only pertained to BFIA, but a high/medium priority if it pertained to broader capacity building that included data capture,		MoP endorses this recommendation	H/M H on data capacity building	SC / Secretariat	1 - 3 years	The Observers' harmonisation framework partially addresses the data capture and quality improvement (SEC2022-OBS1) The MoP tasked the Secretariat for developing a paper on options for facilitating and addressing Capacity Building needs of CCP development states for consideration at its next CC and MoP. The scope of the paper should encompass the broad range of areas as commented by the SC in relation to recommendation 6. See paper SC-10-24.

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			data quality, and data reporting.						
7	The Panel recommends either the deadlines for data submission under relevant CMMs or the schedule of the annual meeting of the Scientific Committee be revised to ensure the SC has the most recent data available ahead of its annual meeting.	H	<p>27. Regarding Recommendation Nr 7, the SC noted that it had discussed this issue and reached the conclusion that:</p> <p>a. the current data submission deadline is the only feasible deadline for CCPs, as it comes after the end of the fishing season and that obtaining, entering and checking the data before submission to SIOFA would not be possible at an earlier date. The SIOFA Secretariat noted that, once received, these data are entered into the SIOFA databases, checked and validated, and that final versions of these data are only available for analysis around September, which would be after the MoP.</p> <p>b. rescheduling of the SC to a later date would therefore also not be a feasible option, as there would not likely be enough time to hold the MoP meeting within the same year.</p> <p>28. The SC noted that it had previously discussed and requested the MoP to consider mechanisms to enable CCPs to submit data on a more frequent basis (e.g., monthly or quarterly reporting) where CCPs were</p>		<p>MoP agrees with the concerns expressed by SC.</p> <p>MoP does not endorse this recommendation</p> <p>The MoP would however consider mechanisms to enable CCPs to provide data on a more frequent basis.</p>				N/A

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			able to (paragraph 64, SC7 Report). 29. The SC noted that the annual national reports provide a mechanism for the SC to have a summary of the most recent data and “could be used to support more informed discussions at the SC meeting” (SC8 para 52). The SC further noted that when conducting stock assessments on long-lived fish, the long-term trend is more important than the terminal year, and not being able to use the most recent data in a stock assessment is therefore not a major issue. 30. The SC recommended that the MoP note that it disagreed with Recommendation Nr 7.						
--	Recommendation Nr 34 on the implementation of reporting requirements, specifically on the development of an IT-platform for the management of data and information submissions also apply to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							See recommendation 34

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8	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs task the Scientific Committee to develop a long-term strategic plan with identified priorities for its work and options for the use of independent consultants, academic institutions, private/public organisations and/or CCP expertise resources as feasible, taking into account funding requirements.	M	31. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 8. 32. The SC recommended that the MoP note that the SC is prepared to develop a long-term strategic plan with guidance from the MoP, and that a medium term plan had been prepared at SC8 for consideration by the MoP. 33. The SC recommended that the MoP hold a broader discussion on options for the use of independent consultants, academic institutions, private/public organisations and/or CCP expertise resources as feasible. 34. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP encourages SC to develop a long-term strategic plan. Topic will also be addressed at MoP10 under agenda item XX	M	SC	3 years	Completed. Note the SC workplan with priorities developed for up to 5 years
--	Recommendations nr 7, 10 and 46 concerning, respectively, the scheduling of SC meetings, the development of a framework for Scientific Advice and the management of human and funding resources for its work apply also to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							

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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	<p>35. Regarding Recommendation Nr 9, the SC endorsed the need to identify existing gaps and possible contradictions, and issues of interpretation in need of resolving, but did not consider there to be a strong need to consolidate the various CMMs.</p> <p>36. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.</p> <p>37. The SC recommended that the MoP consider changing the naming convention for the CMMs so that the CMM number precedes the year the CMM was updated, e.g., CMM 2020-01 would become CMM 01-2020.</p>	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.	<p>MoP does not endorse the recommendation to consolidate the various CMM into a corpus of SIOFA measures. The MoP noted that the CC is continuously revising the CMM.</p> <p>MoP adopts the renaming convention of the CMM.</p>	M	CC / Secretariat	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Oct 2023 for CMMs renaming</p>	<p>A change to the CMM naming convention was adopted at MoP10, and this was implemented by the Secretariat in October 2023</p> <p>MoP11 notes that the recommendation has been implemented.</p>

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10	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs undertake the development of a framework for the provision of Scientific Advice that takes into account best international practices, whether or not combined with a framework for decision-making at managerial level in accordance with the Precautionary Approach. This could accompany or complement the already decided work line dedicated to the development of harvest strategies but would provide the basis for an urgent consideration of precautionary measures in the short term.	M	<p>38. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 10 and noted that, with the adoption of harvest strategies and defined management targets and risk thresholds, the SC would be able to develop more formal decision-making tools that would be useful for the MoP.</p> <p>39. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.</p> <p>40. The SC noted that the FAO DSF project is compiling information on how advice is requested and provided at different RFMOs as a way to share ideas and methods among RFMOs.</p> <p>41. The SC noted that it would also be useful to develop a template or agreed language for framing stock assessment or ecological advice to the MoP.</p>		MoP endorsed recommendation 10.	M	SC	1 - 3 years	Ongoing. See the SC workplan for proposed projects relating to the precautionary approach framework and harvest strategies (SIOFA-PAM)

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11	The Panel recommends SIOFA discusses with CCAMLR concrete options to co-manage toothfish stocks shared between the 2 organisations, and establishes either a prohibition of fishing for this resource outside established toothfish management units or revised the units as required so no activities escape the conservation measures established for this resource.	H	42. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 11 and noted that it is consistent with its discussions at SC8 (paragraphs 143–155, SC8 Report). 43. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorsed recommendation 11.	H	MoP	ongoing	SC has recommended the establishment of a new South Indian Ridge (SIR) management area with an associated catch limit (para 211 of the SC9 report) MoP11 noted that CMM15 was amended in 2023, to extend the scope of the application of provisions concerning observer coverage and toothfish tagging to the whole SIOFA area.
12	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs to urgently agree on precautionary measures regarding alfonso in light of the significant level of catches, second in the Area by weight, and of the fact that the stocks' biological complexity makes it challenging to adopt measures other than precautionary, at least in the short-to-medium term.	H	44. The SC disagreed with Recommendation Nr 12 and recommended that the MoP note that this recommendation was inconsistent with the previous alfonso stock assessment advice (SC-05-29 Age-Structured Production Model assessments of the Alfonso, and summarised in paragraphs 116–119 of the SC5 Report) and with the CPUE analyses conducted at SC8 (paragraph 130 and Figure 1, SC8 Report), which indicated that "the stock is fluctuating without trend in recent years".		MoP does not endorse Recommendation 12. MoP noted the lack of management measures for Alfonso, and requests SC9 to propose potential management measures for Alfonso				N/A

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	Effort and catches should be constrained to the lowest possible levels.		45. The SC noted that it discussed planned and ongoing alfonsino-related scientific work at SC8 (paragraphs 131–140, SC8 Report).						
13	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs adopt precautionary measures for target stocks other than the three key stocks of toothfish, orange roughy and alfonsino.	H/M	46. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 13 and noted that it had discussed and recommended interim Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) for the key SIOFA stocks (paragraph 178, SC8 Report). 47. The SC endorsed the high/medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorsed recommendation 13	H/M	SC / MoP	ongoing	Note the development of harvest strategies for key stocks, and note the ERA and proposed updates for future meetings (SC workplan). Note the work on CPUE for oilfish and escolar. Note the catch limits on species not otherwise assessed based on the average catch of a reference period already adopted by the MoP.
14	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs engage in discussions towards a future regime for the allocation of fishing rights.	L			MoP endorsed recommendation 14	L	MoP	5 years	MoP11 had discussion on this topic under the SC agenda items. CKI proposed a paper on allocation framework for MoP12.
15	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs agree on a definition of new fisheries and discuss a regulatory framework for new and exploratory fisheries incorporating the highest standards derived from international best practices. The framework should	H/M	48. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 15 and noted that there had been previous work on this matter, although not in recent years. The SC noted that it had recommended an updated bottom fishing footprint to the MoP and recommended that the MoP consider the implications of the bottom fishing footprint once it is agreed, including how new fishing should be considered (paragraphs 95		MoP endorses recommendation 15 Work in ongoing	H/M	SC and MoP	1 - 3 years	Completed. A new CMM has been adopted MoP11 (CMM 17 (2024)).

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	make proper use of tools already developed by SIOFA such as the fishing footprint, BFIA's and VME mapping.		and 277, SC8 Report). 49. The SC endorsed the high/medium priority assigned to this recommendation.						
--	Recommendations nr 10, 12 and 13, above on the implementation of the Precautionary approach apply also for the purposes of the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							
16	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs to make every effort to progress from the current interim arrangements for bottom fishing to permanent rules, retaking discussions on this issue from the proposal tabled in 2019 or an updated version of it. Recommendation nr 9 above, on a corpus of SIOFA rules, applies also for the purposes of the issues at stake here.	H	50. The SC noted that, with the provision of BFIA's in the past years and of an updated footprint presented this year, the MoP could decide to move towards a more permanent management of bottom fishing. 51. The SC also noted its recommendation to the MoP noting that new fishing would need to be considered when the bottom fishing footprint is agreed (paragraph 95, SC8 Report).		MoP endorses recommendation 16 Work in ongoing	H	SC and MoP	1 - 3 years	MoP11 notes that SC9 provided some details on how to address new and exploratory fisheries. By adopting the bottom fishing footprint many provisions in the CMM 01 should not be interim anymore. A new CMM has been adopted by MoP11 (CMM 17 (2024)).

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17	The Panel recommends the MoP requests from the SC an evaluation of the frequency of VME encounters and of the compliance of fishing vessels with the reporting and move-on rule requirements.	H	52. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 17. 53. The SC recommended that the MoP consider this recommendation in conjunction with the outcomes of the VME workshop (paper SC-08-25), the analysis of available VME indicator taxa accidental captures data from the Observer and CatchEffort databases and their usability for setting VME encounter thresholds (paper SC-08-26) presented by the Secretariat at SC8, and the related discussions at SC8 (paragraphs 290-292, SC8 Report). 54. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses recommendation 17	H	CC and SC	1 - 3 years	See the SC workplan and the SC VME focused session at SC in 2025. CC08 noted that this work is ongoing. Note the revised guidelines for annual national reports 2025 recommending higher resolution of VME incidental captures reporting.
18	The Panel recommends that SIOFA CCPs expand their consideration of actions aiming at the conservation of biodiversity to fishing activities other than those using bottom gears, extending the concept of Impact Assessment to such activities as well.	M	55. Regarding Recommendation Nr 18, the SC agreed that fishing activities other than those using bottom gears may affect biodiversity and noted that it could include such considerations in its workplan if requested by the MoP.		MoP endorses recommendation 18	M	SC	3 - 5 years	Note the proposal of new observer logbooks for squid fishing from SC10.
19	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs to agree urgently on measures to reduce shark by-catches, in	H	56. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 19 and noted that it held extensive discussions on measures to reduce shark by-catch measures at SC8, including		MoP endorses recommendation 19	H	SC and MoP	1 - 3 years (work ongoing)	Note the projects in the SC workplan and discussions in the SC10 report

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	particular by implementing any mitigation measures that identified as effective by the 2023 specific workshop on sharks to take place under the aegis of the Scientific Committee, including precautionary catch limits for Portuguese dogfish. Recommendation nr 2 on the assessment of the status of shark stocks is also relevant for the issues discussed under this criterion.		the outcomes of the Interseasonal Workshop on Deepwater Sharks in SIOFA Area and the SC recommendations to the MoP (paragraphs 225–257, SC8 Report). 57. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.						
20	The Panel recommends the SC effectively use the focused agenda item on seabird by-catch, decided by SC 8 in 2023 for future sessions, to identify necessary by-catch mitigation measures, including in trawl fisheries, as originally proposed at the time CMM 13 was adopted. SIOFA's cooperation arrangements with ACAP, but also with	M/L	58. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 20 and noted that it plans to hold a focused agenda item on seabird data collection and bycatch mitigation measures at SC9 (paragraphs 265 and 268, SC8 Report). 59. The SC endorsed the medium/low priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses recommendation 20	M	SC and MoP	3 - 5 years	This is now a standing item of the SC agenda. Work has substantially progressed during SC10.

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	CCAMLR, should be strengthened including for the purposes of this work.								
21	The Panel recommends SIOFA carries out a review of the effect of effort limits applicable to relevant fleets to determine whether such limits constrain the fishing activity or not, and that a clear determination is made on the potential use of capacity or effort limits as a fishery management tool, especially with regard to fisheries conducted with gears other than bottom gears.	M	60. The SC noted Recommendation Nr 21 and that it could conduct the relevant analyses if requested by the MoP.		MoP endorses recommendation 21	M	SC and MoP	3 - 5 years	[The implementation of this recommendation has not started yet]
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	H/M	61. Regarding Recommendation Nr 22, the SC noted that it reviews CCPs' annual national reports to obtain the most recent information fisheries data and to identify any potential new trends or scientifically relevant issues.	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	MoP endorses the recommendation and notes the comments of the CC and the SC that such assessments are already performed.	M	SC CC MoP	1 - 5 years (and ongoing)	Annual reports are reviewed annually at SC. The SIOFA CMS captures this recommendation

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	annual national reports submitted by CCPs and currently reviewed only by the SC.			reports and replies to compliance questionnaire and presents these to the Compliance Committee for its consideration.					
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,	MoP agrees to review the scope of the PI scheme, and noted the recommendation by the CC	M	CC and MoP	1 - 3 years	CC notes the ongoing work led by Australia on the port inspection scope [MoP notes the ongoing work being led by Australia on the port inspection scope] [Australia to provide update on this work during CC09/MoP12 did not conduct any further work in the intersession in relation this work]

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				with the aim to present this proposal at CC8.					
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.	MoP agrees to consider minimum standards for PI coverage and noted the recommendations from the CC	M	CC and MoP	1 - 3 years	CC notes the ongoing work led by Australia on the port inspection scope [MoP notes the ongoing work being led by Australia on the port inspection scope] [Australia did not conduct any further work in the intersession in relation this work to provide update on this work during CC09/MoP12]
25	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs investigate possible landings or transshipments 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 transshipments 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	MoP endorses the recommendation, noting the comments of the CC	M/L	Secretariat CC MoP	3 - 5 years	The Secretariat sends annual invitations to coastal states to join the Agreement as CP or CNCP. The Secretariat reviews the inspections reports that are provided by other parties CC recommends that the Secretariat widens the scope of information it collects to conduct this analysis, including information already available from other organisations (e.g. FAO statistics) [The 8th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC08) requested the Secretariat to broaden the range of data sources used in the analysis of potential landings or transshipments of SIOFA species at ports under the jurisdiction of non-Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (non-CCPs)—including data held by external organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)—To this end, the Secretariat undertook consultations with the FAO as well as several relevant non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Despite these efforts, no suitable or verifiable port landing data were made available to the Secretariat during the reporting period. As a result, it was not possible to complete the analysis as requested by CC08.]

No	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
				clarified that the key element of the investigation is the need to investigate possible landings or transshipments of SIOFA species at ports placed under the jurisdiction of non-CCPs.					
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	62. Regarding Recommendation Nr 26, the SC noted that the sharing of VMS data with the SC could be useful for enabling the verification fishing location data for its data checking procedures.	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.	MoP endorses the recommendation, noting the statements of some CCPs that the rule of submission of VMS data, should only be considered if and when a SIOFA VMS is agreed upon	H	CC and MoP	1 - 3 years (ongoing)	MoP10 established the VMS WGs. The WGs met several times in the intersessional period. CC8 and MoP11 are reviewing the SSPs [SIOFA agreed on a VMS measure in 2023. Work is ongoing to operationalise the SIOFA VMS. To date, there have been six (6) VMS Working Groups that has addressed a number of issues such as: - Development of a SIOFA VMS SSPs - Hosting Options for the SIOFA VMS - Consideration of policy implications and CMM reviews required to support the operationalisation of the VMS - Drafting a terms of reference for the procurement of the SIOFA VMS
27	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs urgently seek to clarify the various issues of interpretation affecting the implementation of	H		93. The Compliance Committee did not express any views regarding Recommendation Nr 27.	MoP endorses the recommendation, and notes that there may not be a need to seek independent legal or tech advice	M	SC CC MoP	ongoing (3 - 5 years)	CMMs are reviewed by the MoP and its subsidiary bodies.

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	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.								
--	With regard to SIOFA's observer programme, and in general with regard to possible technical improvements for the standing measures, Recommendation nr 9 on a corpus of SIOFA CMMs applies also for the purposes of the issues assessed under this criterion	--							
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	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.	MoP endorsed the recommendation, and noted the comments made by the CC.	H	CC	ongoing	The CC included a dedicated item on its annual agenda. A standing agenda item of the Compliance Committee

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	CMS for the previous year or years.								
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.	MoP endorsed the recommendation, and notes that work is ongoing.	H/M	CC MoP	1-3 years	A new template has been agreed by CC8. CC8 recognized the need for capacity building within CCPs' delegations on the usage of the new CCR template. This is envisaged to be undertaken within one month of the 2025 submission deadline. [An Informal Workshop on the SIOFA CCR Template (CCRTW)] was successfully completed in March 2025. Furthermore, the Secretariat developed the "Guidelines for Completing the New SIOFA CCPs Compliance Report Template" which complemented the workshop and is available to CCPs when completing their CCR]
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.	MoP endorses this recommendation.	H	Secretariat (ES and CO)	ongoing work (continuous)	CC8 is following this recommendation. A Compliance Officer has been recruited in 2023. CC8 noted that additional activities to enhance the Secretariat capacity in relation to the Compliance Monitoring Scheme would evolve over time. [Ongoing]

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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	63. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 31 and noted that it should be considered in conjunction with Recommendation Nr 6. 64. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.	97. The Compliance Committee endorsed Recommendation Nr 31 and noted that the identification of capacity gaps is an essential part of an effective CMS.	MoP endorses this recommendation. And notes that capacity building was already discussed	H	Secretariat CC SC MoP	1 - 3 years	CC8 recognized the need for capacity building within CCPs' delegations, which in part could be addressed by the workshop on the usage of the new CCR template. See paper SC-10-24. [Capacity building options presented to CC09 through paper CC-09-15] Capacity building options presented to MoP12 through paper MoP-12-25
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	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	MoP agrees with the recommendation made by the CC, and noted that it is therefore not necessary to establish a SIOFA CDS for toothfish, rather, it is adequate to continue its ongoing cooperation with CCAMLR	H	SC, CC and MoP	ongoing	Collaboration with CCAMLR is ongoing under the SIOFA-CCAMLR Arrangement.

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	joint work by the two organisations.			its ongoing cooperation with CCAMLR.					
33	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider the option of developing a SIOFA Reporting Manual to replace the present table of reporting requirements provided for in the organisation's website. Suggestions as to the structure and contents have been provided in our assessment under this criterion.	M	65. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 33 and supported improving communication around data collection, noting that the currently ongoing project on Harmonisation of Scientific Observer Programmes (Annex F, SC8 Report) would address some aspects of this recommendation. 66. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses the recommendation	M	Secretariat, CC, SC	3 years	Project SEC2022-OBS1 and the observer harmonisation workshops (WS2024-OBS and OBS2) have made recommendations for the consideration by SC10 on observer manuals and data reporting systems.
34	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider the option of establishing an IT-based data management platform taking into account the experience gained in the design and use of such platforms in other organisations, including in-built protocols for data verification, quality checks and the protection of	H	67. Regarding Recommendation Nr 34, the SC noted that it would welcome any systems and processes that would improve the quality of data and allow the SC to conduct verification and quality checks. 68. The SC further noted that it has discussed the protection of confidentiality of data in past SC meetings and that processes that would protect confidentiality would be in line with recommendations that the SC has made previously.		MoP endorses the recommendation. And request the Secretariat to prepare a paper describing implementation possibilities (to SC and MoP)	H	Secretariat, SC, CC	1 - 3 years	The Secretariat has an in-house IT-based platform for managing data, datasets (metadata), and the fisheries (C&E, observer, vessels) databases. This was not designed to have an interface from outside of the Secretariat. The Secretariat currently applies a range of data related procedures: data submission, data checks, data release and data backup

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	confidential data. A decision to explore this option should only be taken if CCPs accept and assume the need for investment on capacity building as required.								
35	The Panel recommends, in case SIOFA CCPs are not prepared to implement an IT data platform as per Recommendation nr 34, urgent action is taken to ensure appropriate data verification protocols and quality checks are established.	H	69. Regarding Recommendation Nr 35, the SC noted that data verification protocols and quality checks are already in place, but acknowledged that they could be enhanced.		The MoP notes the comments of the SC, and that the work is on-going	-		ongoing	The Secretariat notes that it currently has data check procedures for data submissions. Completed. The procedures have been presented to SC10 (paper SC-10-30) and are available on the SIOFA website (data section: https://siofa.org/Data/data-files).
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.	The MoP endorses the recommendation. The MoP noted that further work was necessary on the CMS process.	H/M	CC Secretariat	1 - 3 years	Partially implemented by the Compliance Assessment Process. It will further be reinforced with the new CCR template. [New CCR template to improve data collection in use]

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37	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider strengthening the use of intersessional decision procedures or inter-sessional working groups to facilitate the work of SIOFA as appropriate, in order to focus MoP discussions and make better use of the time available.	M/L	70. Regarding Recommendation Nr 37, the SC noted that it has trialled and recommended the continuation of a new combined SC meeting format, supplemented by workshops and focused agenda items (paragraph 337, SC8 Report).		MoP endorses the recommendation, and notes that Inter-Sessional decision process should be used only when exceptional	M / L	MoP	1-5 years	Ref MoP10 decision which address the recommendation.
38	The Panel encourages SIOFA CCPs to continue and if needed intensify dialogue on matters of concern to different CCPs, where consensus has not been achieved in order to find a common view which can be satisfactory to all CCPs. In particular, the Panel recommends to address bottom fishing activities in the Saya de Malha	M			MoP endorses the recommendation	M	MoP	ongoing	MoP11 notes that the issue of bottom fishing on Saya De Malha has been discussed at several MoPs without an agreed way forward. SIOFA and IOTC have been working on establishing a formal cooperation framework but are already cooperating on several matters (data, IUU fishing)

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	Bank, the scope of boarding and inspection procedures under CMM 14 and the issue of managing overlapping obligations for vessels arising from both SIOFA and neighbouring RFMOs, in particular the IOTC.								
39	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs continue to review, clarify and amend as appropriate the relevant data rules or provisions so that all CCPs as well as observers and the general public have better access to data and information for the purpose of discussion and decision-making.	M	71. The SC noted that it has held discussions on rules of data access and dissemination at SC8 (paragraphs 96–108 and 114–119 and Annex E, SC8 Report) and that the development of standardised reports such as fisheries summaries and ecosystem reports should also facilitate better access to data and information.		MoP endorses this recommendation, and notes that this work is ongoing	M	SC, CC and MoP	ongoing	Public data access is governed by CMM 03. CMM 03 is planned to be revised at CC9 and MoP12 (ref paper CC-09-19 and MoP-12-35) Work has been done to improve the access to the RAV information, with the addition of vessels details pages
40	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs task the Secretariat to review the documents and materials on the SIOFA website and make necessary tunings in accordance with	M			MoP supports the recommendation	M	Secretariat	ongoing	The Secretariat notes that the titles and abstracts of all SC restricted access documents have been made public on its website. In addition, versions of SC project reports (where appropriate) have also been made available publicly on the SIOFA website.

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	any new data rules on dissemination and any relevant decisions of the MoP.								
41	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs engage in discussion on the rules, standards and procedures regarding the granting of CNCP status, including the clarification of the requirements for admission or CNCPs status renewal, in order to ensure a consistent reviewing approach. The adoption of clear rules as well as an application template is also recommended, providing CNCP with general instructions on the required information, actions, and any other criterion.	M			MoP notes that the procedure for becoming CNCP is in the SIOFA RoP, and notes that further discussion would continue if necessary.	L	Secretariat MoP	ongoing	<p>To date, the MoP assesses the CNCP status at its annual meetings. The SIOFA RoP are currently used for this task.</p> <p>MoP recommends that CNCPs attend to the Compliance Committee meetings.</p>

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--	Recommendations nr 11, 20 and 32 on the strengthening of cooperation between SIOFA and CCAMLR also apply to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							
42	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider strengthening cooperation with the IOTC, SWIOFC, SEAFO, SPRFMO, and CCSBT, as appropriate.	H	72. Regarding Recommendation Nr 42, the SC noted that for some stocks in some areas, the scientific information and methods applied by these regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) may be relevant to SIOFA and cooperation with them would be beneficial.		MoP endorses this recommendation, the MoP notes that cooperation with CCAMLR and other bodies (eg FAO) is also necessary.	H	SC, CC, MoP Secretariat	ongoing	Secretariat has been working intersessionally to conclude the formalisation of cooperation between SIOFA and IOTC. The Secretariat has been working to formalize cooperation with IOC, however its endeavour has not been successful. The Secretariat participates in meetings remotely or in-person of neighbouring RFMOs and CCAMLR to the extent possible.
43	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs include a prerequisite in their consideration of CMM new or amended proposals the review of relevant measures adopted by neighbouring international organizations in order to promote a coherent approach and compatibility of fisheries management across RFMO boundaries.	M			MoP does not endorse the recommendation, and notes that SIOFA should develop its measures independently, especially if they are more effective than those of other RFMOs.				N/A

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44	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider setting up a section on the SIOFA website dedicated to SIOFA's implementation of Article 13 of the Agreement, presenting the assistance that may be provided individually or collectively by CCPs to meet the special requirement of CCP developing States including, in particular, the least developed among them, and small island developing States.	M	73. Regarding Recommendation Nr 44, the SC noted that it could be tasked with capacity building in scientific areas. The SC noted that the FAO DSF Project may also share objectives that are aligned with this recommendation.		MoP endorsed this recommendation, and notes the comments provided by the SC	M	SC, CC, MoP Secretariat	3 years	<p>The Secretariat notes that the SIOFA website is capable of supporting a dedicated section for the implementation of article 13 of the Agreement, and can be implemented once the content is advised by the MoP.</p> <p>CC8 recommends that the Secretariat develop a paper for CC9 to identify areas where developing states require technical assistance or otherwise in the implementation of obligations arising from the Agreement. This should include the identification of mechanisms to provide such assistance. The Secretariat should consult CCPs for the development of this paper.</p> <p>[Capacity building options presented to CC09 through paper CC-09-15]</p> <p>Capacity building options presented to MoP12 through paper MoP-12-25</p>
45	The Panel Recommends that SIOFA CCPs agree on a periodical review by the MoP of the organisation's implementation of Article 13 of the Agreement and encourage CCP developing States to proactively express their needs, challenges and special requirements affecting their	M/L			MoP endorses this recommendation, and notes that CCPs should report issues in regard to the implementation of article 13	L	MoP	ongoing	<p>Some financial support is provided to developing CCPs under article 13 of the Agreement for attendance to SIOFA meetings.</p> <p>No specific support from SIOFA is provided to developing States bordering the Area that are not CCPs unless they express the intention to join SIOFA in the coming year.</p> <p>The MoP will establish a standing agenda item relevant to Article 13 and tasked the Secretariat to provide a paper on this topic at its ordinary meetings.</p> <p>A paper on the implementation of Article 13 and the existing mechanisms is presented to the CC9 and the MoP12 through the documents CC-09-14 and MoP-12-24, respectively.</p>

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	contribution to SIOFA's work. The MoP may thereafter consider establishing a fund dedicated to these purposes or expanding the scope of the current one.								
--	Recommendations nr 6, 31 and 34 on various areas where capacity building assistance could be provided by SIOFA also apply to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							
46	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs urgently agree on a strategic financial planning for the medium term taking into account the costs incurred over recent years for the funding of the Scientific Committee work, and commit to a fairer sharing of these costs, including by contributing in kind CCP scientific resources.	H/M	74. Regarding Recommendation Nr 46, the SC noted that strategic financial planning for the medium-term would allow the SC to plan and prioritize its work and that the Medium-Term SC Workplan (Annex F, SC8 Report) contributes to the achievement of this recommendation.		MoP endorses this recommendation	H	CCPs MoP	1 - 3 years	At its annual meeting, the MoP adopts the budget for the coming year and considers the forecast budget for at least one additional year. The SC has extended its workplan and associated budget to cover a 3-year timeframe.

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47	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs discuss in depth the strategic plan presented by the Executive Secretary in 2022 but extend their discussions not just to the funding aspects of it, but also to its role. For this purpose, an analysis should be carried out of the Secretariat's degree of autonomy to identify areas where it could be allowed to operate in a more agile way.	M	75. Regarding Recommendation Nr 47, the SC noted that the creation of the Science Officer position and the appointment of Dr Marco Milardi has greatly enhanced the ability of the SC to advance its work programme.		MoP endorses this recommendation, MoP notes that it is part of an ongoing process, and notes that the addition of one SO and one CO enhanced the capacity of the Secretariat	M	SC, CC, MoP Secretariat	ongoing	Note the SC workplan CC8 notes that this recommendation is more relevant to the MoP. The role of the Secretariat is determined by the MoP, and the SIOFA RoP. The RoP relevant to the Secretariat have not changed.
48	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs work towards a clear agreement on the use of consultants – or not – for the offices of subsidiary body chairpersons. Were the decision taken to continue using the current contractual arrangements a robust evaluation of the workload and appropriate funding should be agreed, in order to ensure these	H	76. Regarding Recommendation Nr 48, the SC noted the decisions by the MoP to appoint Mr Alistair Dunn as an independent SC Chair and to extend his term, as well as SC8's recommendation that his term be further extended for two years (paragraphs 361– 363, SC8 Report). 77. The SC had no advice regarding Recommendations Nrs 14, 23–25, 27–30, 32, 36, 38, 40–41, 43, 45, and 49.		MoP has so far agreed to this arrangement, and also notes that further discussion on the workload and appropriate funding is necessary.	H	SC, CC, MoP	ongoing	CC8 notes that this recommendation is more relevant to the MoP. The SIOFA budget provides defined funding for the use of external consultants.

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	offices can be effectively and efficiently discharged.								
49	The Panel recommends that the term of office of the MoP Chairperson be extended to 2 years at least, to ensure continuity in proceedings.	M/L			The MoP notes this recommendation, and notes that further discussions are planned during the MoP10.				There is no record about this recommendation in MoP10 report To be potentially discussed by MoP11 (RoP)
0	As a general procedural consideration, the Panel recommends that SIOFA CCPs agree on a clear process for the follow-up of this Performance Review Including the following elements: 1. A formal decision on which Recommendations are accepted; 2. a plan for implementation with time targets; 3. a regular, periodical review of implementation of such accepted Recommendations; 4. a renewal of the Performance Review process within an				MoP will review the implementation of the 1st SIOFA performance review at MoP12.				N/A

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	appropriate time frame, which we would recommend could be 5 years from now, given the fact this Review is the first such process carried out by the organisation.								

**9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)***Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025***CC-09-24 / MoP-12-40**

Proposal for the Designation of the Comoros' lobster fishery as a New and Exploratory Fisheries

Proposed by Japan

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	working paper ✓ information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	
<p>This document briefly describes the proposed process through which could materialize the authorisation of the Comoros' lobster fishery which has been examined through MoP11, the extraordinary meeting (SC-EXTRA2) and the Interessional decision 2024-II(see SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2024-40). As its status of fishery has not yet been designated , in this paper, we recommend to provide the status of “new and exploratory fishery” to the Comoros' lobster fishery. Also, it is recommended to establish an interim monitoring measures until, in accordance with CMM17, the formal approval thereon as a new and exploratory fishery has been made in order for the Comoros to properly implement the requirements stipulated in SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2024-40.</p>	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● To designate the Comoros' lobster fishery as a New and Exploratory Fishery.● To provide an interim authorization of the Comoros' lobster fishery under the proposed designation process.● To establish an interim monitoring measures until MoP has formally approved the Comoros to conduct lobster fishery as a New and Exploratory Fishery in accordance with CMM17.

Proposal for the Designation of the Comoros' lobster fishery as a New and Exploratory Fisheries

Background

At MoP11 in June 2024, some CCPs expressed their concerns and stated that the Comoros was required to submit Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment (BFIA) on its lobster fishery before conducting it. In response, the MoP agreed that the SC will assess the BFIA regarding the Comoros' lobster fishery in an extraordinary SC meeting and provide recommendations and advice to the MoP.

At the 2nd SC Extraordinary Meeting (SC-EXTRA2) on 7th November 2024, the SC assessed the BFIA and advised to the MoP that the BFIA proposed by Comoros met the requirements of the SIOFA BFIA (Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standard).

Based on the recommendation by SC-EXTRA2, on 18th November 2024, Executive Secretary circulated SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2024-36 that MoP Chairperson proposed the conditions for authorization of the Comoros' lobster fishery and requested the response from Official contacts. On 18th December 2024, Executive Secretary circulated SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2024-40 that eight CCPs responded and all of these responded positively to this proposal. As a result, Comoros' lobster fishery approved to be authorized from 18th December 2024 to the timing when MoP12 reviews. In the same circular, MoP Chairperson requested CCPs to consider these comments at SC10 and intersessionally in order for the MoP12 to come up with appropriate recommendations.

At SC10 in March 2025, the SC noted that there were not enough time for Comoros to prepare and submit the logbook data as its fishing trip had only been completed recently, and therefore the SC agreed to review the data and the fishery after such data have become available. The status of the fishery, as was commented by some CCPs listed in SIOFA CIRCULAR n° 2024-40, is an issue to be considered in MoP12, but this was not discussed in SC10 thus there is no progress so far.

Proposals

1. The status of fishery and interim authorization for Comoros lobster fishery

The status of Comoros lobster fishery shall be a New and Exploratory Fishery with reference to the paragraph 3 of CMM 17. In order to conduct the lobster fishery as a New and Exploratory fishery, the Comoros shall complete the necessary procedures and get approval to conduct it in accordance with CMM17, and at the same time, the MoP should examine how this fishery could tentatively be authorised before providing such approval.

Therefore, it is firstly recommended that MoP applies New and Exploratory Fisheries to the Comoro's lobster fishery, as stipulated in CMM 17. Secondary, it is recommended that the MoP provides an interim authorization to the Comoros lobster fishery under the following transition process, so that the formal procedures to get approval to conduct this fishery will be completed in accordance with CMM 17 in a timely fashion.

- From MoP12 to the end of SC11 :
The Comoros' lobster fishery to be tentatively authorised under the current conditions (TAC, TAE).
- From the end of SC11 to MoP13 :
The Comoros' lobster fishery to be continuously authorised under the current conditions (TAC, TAE) until the reviews by MoP13, if SC11 reviews and adopts all documents and data, including "annual vessel catch and effort data", "observer data", reports required under the provisional monitoring measures (described in the following section, 2. Provisional Monitoring Measures), and other relevant documents required by CMM17. The Comoros also follow revised or new conditions if SC11 recommends any.
- After MoP13 :
The Comoros' lobster fishery to be authorised if MoP13 review the recommendations from SC11 and adopts them and formally approve to conduct this fishery as a New and Exploratory Fishery. The Comoros also follow revised or new conditions if MoP recommends any.

2 Provisional monitoring measures

It is recommended that the MoP should establish the following provisional monitoring measures with a view to properly monitoring and encouraging the compliance by the Comoro's lobster fishery to the current conditions (TAC, TAE) required by the intersessional decision, before its approval for the Comoros to conduct this proposed fishery as a new and exploratory fishery in accordance with CMM 17.

- In order to monitor the use of the TAC in a transparent manner, the Comoros shall send monthly catch reports of its lobster fishery to the Secretariat using the template in Annex I. The Secretariat will circulate this report to CCPs without delay.
- In order to monitor the use of the TAE in a transparent manner, the Comoros shall ensure the FV Rinascente to daily inform the Secretariat of the state of trap settings, including the position of traps (30' resolution), using the template in Annex II. The Secretariat will circulate this report to CCPs without delay.

Recommendations

- **To designate the Comoros' lobster fishery as a New and Exploratory Fishery.**
- **To provide an interim authorization of the Comoros' lobster fishery under the proposed designation process.**
- **To establish an interim monitoring measures until MoP has formally approved the Comoros to conduct lobster fishery as a New and Exploratory Fishery in accordance with CMM17.**

Annex I - Template for monthly catch reports of lobster fisheries.

Vessel name	
Vessel flag	
Month	
Catch live weight (Kg) (All crustacean species combined)	

Annex II - Template for daily lobster fisheries reporting to the Secretariat.

Reporting number	
Reporting date	
Vessel name	
Vessel flag	

Trap ID	Set start date	Set end date	Set position (30' resolution)
1			
2			
3			
4			