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

Report of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Third Joint MoP-SC Workshop on the Development of Harvest Strategies (WS2025-HSS)

Virtual

17 December 2025



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Agenda item 1 – Opening

1a. Welcome from the MoP and SC Chairs

1. The Workshop was co-convened by Ms Anaïd Panossian, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP), and Mr Alistair Dunn, Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC). The MoP Chair introduced herself and noted she was pleased to join SIOFA, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.
2. The SC Chair also welcomed the participants and noted that he looked forward to productive discussions during the meeting.
3. The Science Officer, Dr Marco Milardi, explained the practical arrangements for the meeting (WS2025-HSS-ADM-03).
4. The Conveners thanked the Secretariat for its support in organising the meeting.

1b. Introduction of meeting participants

5. The list of registered participants is included in Annex A.

Agenda item 2 – Administrative arrangements

2a. Adoption of agenda

6. The preliminary agenda was adopted (WS2025-HSS-ADM-04).

2b. Confirmation of meeting documents

7. The Conveners outlined the meeting documents and advised that they are available on the SIOFA website.

2c. Appointment of rapporteurs

8. Mr Jacques Chaumont (Urban Connections, Tokyo) was appointed as rapporteur and supported the Conveners in preparing the Workshop report.

2d. Report arrangements

9. The Conveners explained the arrangements and timeline for drafting and adopting the Workshop report.

Agenda item 3 – Overview of the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management (PAM) projects

10. The SC Chair delivered a presentation that provided an overview of the EU-funded SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management (PAM) projects, and the progress made by the SC to date.
11. The Workshop noted that the development of harvest strategies has become best management practice across many RFMOs and domestic fisheries.
12. The Workshop also noted that both the SC and the MoP have recognised that a step change was needed to move from reactive management to a more systematic and science-based proactive approach.
13. The Conveners recalled that the PAM programme arose from recommendations in the SIOFA Performance Review and from discussions at previous MoP and SC meetings, recognising the need for a structured, precautionary approach to management. The programme consists of three main projects (PAM-2024-01, PAM-2024-02, and PAM-2024-03) reviewed by an expert panel (PAM-2024-04).
14. The Workshop noted that the draft project reports will be presented to SC11 in 2026, with recommendations arising from those reports to be presented to MoP13 in 2026. The Workshop thanked the European Union (EU) for providing financial support for the SIOFA-PAM projects.

15. The SC Chair outlined the three main PAM projects. Project PAM-2024-01 developed the Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF) to ensure all stocks face similar conservation risk through risk equivalency. The PAF consists of three components: an Information Classification System (High/Medium/Low/Zero information stocks), a Three-Zone Stock Status System (Healthy/Cautious/Critical zones), and Management Procedures with three methodological tiers aligned to information availability. Project PAM-2024-02 determined biological reference points for key SIOFA stocks. Project PAM-2024-03 developed simulation-tested management procedures and harvest control rules.
16. The Workshop noted that the PAM projects are designed to build capacity, ensure scientific rigor, consider stakeholder interests, and deliver practical advice for SIOFA to make informed management decisions.

Agenda item 4 – Provide advice for the SC and MoP on any aspects of a future work plan for the development of a precautionary approach and the management of SIOFA stocks

17. The Workshop discussed the operationalisation of the PAF and noted that while substantial conceptual work had been completed, further work would be required to make the framework operational and applicable to SIOFA's specific circumstances.
18. The Workshop requested that the SC develop a structured approach to operationalise the PAF, including mechanisms for categorising stocks by information level and providing appropriate assessment methods for each category.
19. The Workshop discussed the challenges of applying harvest strategies to SIOFA's data-limited fisheries, noting that SIOFA fisheries yield high-quality data but overall information is limited due to few vessels operating in the Agreement Area. The Workshop noted that SC advice would need to be framed in terms of risk and uncertainty, particularly given that traditional quantitative measures may not be available for many SIOFA stocks.
20. The Workshop requested that the SC develop specific approaches to identify and measure risk for low-information stocks, noting that traditional quantitative measures may not be available for SIOFA's fisheries which information is limited.
21. The Workshop discussed the importance of manager-oriented advice to facilitate MoP decision-making.
22. The Workshop recommended that the MoP provide guidance to the SC on acceptable risk levels for different stock status zones (Healthy/Cautious/Critical) and management objectives.
23. The Workshop requested that the SC prepare manager-oriented advice documents for the MoP that outline decision points and present management options with scientific advice.
24. The Workshop discussed the range of management measures necessary to implement harvest strategies effectively, including the importance of ensuring that appropriate control and compliance structures are in place to support the effective implementation of harvest strategies.
25. The Workshop recommended that the MoP consider the full range of management measures necessary to implement harvest strategies, including compliance structures, vessel/catch/effort limits, and allocation processes.
26. The Workshop discussed the need for a structured SC work plan (Document MoP-12-08-Rev1) with clear timelines and resource requirements.
27. The Workshop requested that the SC revise the SC Work Plan to include specific projects, timelines, and resource requirements, noting this would help identify where financial support may be required.
28. The Workshop requested that the SC include periodic review and revision of management

strategies in its Work Plan.

29. The Workshop discussed species with low catch levels and noted the importance of considering these species in management frameworks, as well as the role of the SC in identifying which species are most relevant.
30. The Workshop recommended that the MoP note that low-catch species should not be disregarded, and requested the SC consider developing trigger levels to indicate when management measures should be considered for these species.
31. The Workshop expressed appreciation to the EU for providing financial support for the PAM projects and noted that substantive progress has been made through the projects and the series of workshops.

Agenda item 5 – Summary of advice

32. Paragraphs with recommendations and advice to the MoP and SC are highlighted in grey above.

Agenda item 6 – Review of key report recommendations in plenary

33. The Conveners thanked the participants for their active participation and cooperation, and noted that the final Workshop report would be submitted to SC11 and MoP13 in 2026.
34. The meeting was closed at 10:03 a.m., UTC, 17 December 2025.
35. The report was circulated via email following the close of the workshop and the Conveners invited participants to provide comments by 23 January 2026.

Annex A – List of registered participants

Delegation	Title	First name	Last name	Position	Organisation
Australia	Mr	Trent	Timmiss	SC HoD	DAFF
Australia	Mr	Patrick	Sachs	Alternate	DAFF
Australia	Mr	Adam	Camilleri	Alternate	DAFF
Australia	Ms	Stacey	Antunovich	Alternate	DAFF
Australia	Dr	Lynda	Goldsworthy	Advisor	University of Tasmania
China	Mr	Jun	Yu	Advisor	Shanghai Ocean University
China	Dr	Yue	Jin	Advisor	Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Fishery Science
Cook Islands	Dr	Stephen	Brouwer	SC HoD	Ministry of Marine resources
European Union	Ms	Laura	Marot	MoP HoD	EU
European Union	Ms	Olivia	Van Havre	Alternate	EU
European Union	Dr	Sebastián	Rodríguez Alfaro	SC HoD	Marine Sciences/EU
European Union	Mr	Elodie	Seznec	Advisor	Ministry of overseas territories, France
European Union	Ms	Luis	Belmonte	Advisor	S.G. Acuerdos y ORPs, Secretaría General de Pesca, Spain
European Union	Ms	Margarita	Mancebo	Advisor	S.G. Acuerdos y ORPs, Secretaría General de Pesca, Spain
European Union	Ms	Angela	Cortina	Advisor	OPNAPA – Longliners National Producers Organisation
France OT	Dr	Alexis	Martin	SC HoD	MNHN
France OT	Ms	Charlotte	Chazeau	Alternate	MNHN
France OT	Dr	Clara	Peron	Expert	MNHN
France OT	Dr	Félix	Massiot-Granier	Expert	MNHN
France OT	Ms	Adèle	Moisan	MoP HoD	DGAMPA
Japan	Dr	Takehiro	Okuda	SC HoD	Fisheries Resources Institute, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency
Japan	Dr	Midori	Hashimoto	SC Alternate	Fisheries Resources Institute, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency
Japan	Mr	Taisuke	Iwano	Alternate	Fisheries Agency Government of Japan
Japan	Mr	Kazuki	Tsuda	Advisor	Fisheries Agency Government of Japan
Mauritius	Dr	Luvna	Caussey	Scientific Officer	Ministry of Agro-industry, Food- security, Blue Economy &

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Delegation	Title	First name	Last name	Position	Organisation
					Fisheries
Mauritius	Mr	Kawol	Doorvanand	Senior Technical Officer	Ministry of Agro-industry, Food-security, Blue Economy & Fisheries
Seychelles	Ms	Sabrena	Lawrence	HoD	Seychelles Fisheries Authority
Thailand	Dr	Pavarot	Noranarttragoon	HoD	Department of Fisheries
Thailand	Mr	Weerapol	Thitipongtrakul	Alternate	Department of Fisheries
Thailand	Ms	Tirabhorn	Yothakong	Alternate	Department of Fisheries
Observers - DSCC	Mr	Barry	Weeber	HoD	DSCC
Observers - SIODFA	Mr	Charles	Heaphy	HoD	SIODFA
Observers - SIODFA	Dr	Ross	Shotton	Exec. Sec	SIODFA
SIOFA MoP Chair	Ms	Anaïd	Panossian	MoP Chair	DGAMPA
SIOFA SC Chair	Mr	Alistair	Dunn	SC Chair	Ocean Environmental
SIOFA SC Vice Chair	Dr	Zhou	Fang	Alternate	Shanghai Ocean University
Rapporteur	Mr	Jacques	Chaumont	Rapporteur	Urban Connections
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Thierry	Clot	Executive Secretary	SIOFA Secretariat
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Pierre	Peries	Data Officer	SIOFA Secretariat
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Johnny	Louys	Compliance Officer	SIOFA Secretariat
SIOFA Secretariat	Dr	Marco	Milardi	Science Officer	SIOFA Secretariat