



SIOFA | APSOI

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

SIOFA Scientific Committee Terms of Reference

1. Pursuant to Article 7(1) of the Agreement, the Meeting of the Parties establishes a Scientific Committee which shall act as an advisory body to the Meeting of the Parties.

Representation

2. Each Contracting Party and participating fishing entity shall be entitled to appoint one representative with suitable scientific and/or technical qualifications to the Scientific Committee who may be accompanied by alternate representatives, experts and advisers.
3. The Scientific Committee shall elect its Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from representatives of Contracting Parties or cooperating non-Contracting Parties to the Scientific Committee.
Individuals who fulfil the role of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson should be able to demonstrate an understanding and proven ability to lead discussions on the technical matters dealt with by the Scientific Committee.
4. The Scientific Committee may request and consider the advice of external scientists or experts. Such scientists and experts may submit documents and participate in discussions on the matters for which they were invited, but will not participate in the taking of decisions.
5. The duties of the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee are to manage the business of the Scientific Committee and to act as the primary liaison between (a) the Scientific Committee and the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties (b) the Scientific Committee and the Executive Secretary and (c) the Scientific Committee and the Chairpersons of other subsidiary bodies established by the Meeting of the Parties.
6. The Chairperson shall present the Scientific Committee's reports to the Meeting of the Parties but may delegate this responsibility to the Vice-Chairperson or another representative to the Scientific Committee.

Meetings

7. Ordinary meetings of the Scientific Committee shall be held once a year prior to the ordinary Meeting of the Parties, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise. With the agreement of the Meeting of the Parties, the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee may convene extraordinary meetings between the Scientific Committee's ordinary meetings. The Chairperson of the Scientific Committee may initiate and direct some work to be carried out by the Scientific Committee electronically between meetings.
8. With the agreement of the Meeting of the Parties, the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee may also convene working groups for the purpose of stock assessment, preparation of management advice or any other matter within the functions of the Scientific Committee. Such working groups shall be constituted of experts or representatives to the Scientific Committee. These working groups may include experts or representatives from cooperating non-Contracting Parties or cooperating non-participating fishing entities and invited external experts.
9. In accordance with article 14 of the Agreement and Rules 20 and 21 of the Rules of Procedure, meetings of the Scientific Committee and its working groups shall be open to observers unless the Scientific Committee decides that exceptional circumstances require that meeting or part thereof be held in closed session.

10. Proposals to be discussed at the Scientific Committee shall be submitted to the Secretariat no less than 30 days before the date fixed for the opening of the Scientific Committee. The Secretariat shall make such proposals and amendments available to Official Contacts as soon as possible after receipt but no later than 25 days before the beginning of the meeting.
11. Any other document to be tabled at the Scientific Committee shall be submitted to the Secretariat no less than 14 days before the date fixed for the opening of the meeting. The Secretariat shall make such documents available to Official Contacts as soon as possible after receipt but no later than 10 days before the start of the meeting.

Functions

12. The functions of the Scientific Committee are set out in article 7(1)(a) of the Agreement.

Participation and Decision Making

13. Recommendations and advice to be provided by the Scientific Committee to the Meeting of the Parties pursuant to article 7(1) the Agreement shall be determined in accordance with the procedures set out in Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure.
14. If a representative or a group of representatives to the Scientific Committee so wish, additional or dissenting views of that representative or group of representatives on any particular questions may be submitted directly to the Executive Secretary for transmission to the Meeting of the Parties.
15. The Scientific Committee shall generally adopt the most efficient and cost-effective methods for provision of scientific advice, including as appropriate, the contracting of experts, organisations or individuals to provide scientific advice to the Scientific Committee. Matters necessitating any additional budgetary appropriation require the endorsement of the Meeting of the Parties before any commitment of funds.
16. The Scientific Committee shall review all assessments, analyses, recommendations and other work prepared by working groups or contracted bodies prior to providing recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties.
17. The Scientific Committee shall provide to the Meeting of the Parties periodically a Scientific Work Plan which prioritises and identifies key work of the Scientific Committee. Each Scientific Work Plan will be considered, amended as necessary and adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.
18. The Scientific Committee shall report to the Meeting of the Parties in each Scientific Committee meeting report on its progress against the Scientific Work Plan. The Scientific Work Plan shall be reviewed annually by the Scientific Committee at each ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee and by the Meeting of the Parties at each ordinary Meeting of the Parties and shall be amended as necessary.

Other

19. The Scientific Committee may make recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties to amend these Terms of Reference to facilitate its work.
20. In accordance with Rule 21(3) of the Rules of Procedure, except as otherwise provided in the Agreement, the Rules of Procedure apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the proceedings of the Scientific Committee.