

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 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.

¹ CMM 15(2026) (Management of Demersal Stocks) supersedes CMM 15(2025) (Management of Demersal Stocks).

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 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

7. The TAC shall be set for three years, on the basis of a Management Procedure to be established.
8. As long as no Management Procedure is established, as an interim measure, CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches for 2027, 2028 and 2029 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).
9. The TAC for 2027 to 2029 shall be distributed in accordance with the table in Annex I.
10. A reserve is established for CCPs not listed in Annex I, in particular SIDS bordering the SIOFA Area.
11. Once the CCP has fulfilled its obligations under all applicable SIOFA CMMs, including approval from the MoP, CCPs not listed in Annex I shall inform the Secretariat of their intention to enter the fishery before the start of the calendar year in which the activity is scheduled to take place. Those CCPs shall inform the Secretariat of the start of the fishing activity one month before they commence.
12. Should no CCP not listed in Annex I, have started fishing activity by 1 July of that calendar year, the reserve will be redistributed proportionately to the CCPs in the table.
13. CCPs shall send monthly reports of their *Hoplostethus atlanticus* catches to the Secretariat by the 15th of the following month, using the template in Annex II. The Secretariat will notify CCPs once 80% of the catch limit has been reached, and at 5% increments thereafter.
14. The TAC for 2030 and thereafter shall be established at the 2029 Annual Meeting, either on the basis of and in accordance with a Management Procedure, or – in the absence of a Management Procedure – based on the latest stock assessment.

Overcatch, Undercatch and transfers

15. Any overcatch by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.
16. Undercatch by a given CCP in a given year may be added to its following year catch share if the CCP informs the Secretariat of its intention to carry forward fishing opportunities and the amount of catch limit to be carried forward by 20 January of the year to which the unused catch limit will be carried forward. The Secretariat shall compile such information and provide a report to the Compliance Committee each year. Undercatch carry forward cannot be accumulated over more than one year.

17. For 2027, the fishing opportunities to be carried forward in case of undercatch shall be limited to 30% of a CCP's catch limit as set out in Annex I. In 2027, the MoP shall establish an appropriate level for carry forward based on the advice of the SC12.
18. A CCP may transfer to another CCP all or part of its annual catch limit, provided that the total catch of the two CCPs concerned does not exceed their combined limits. Transfers shall be notified to the Secretariat within one week and communicated by the Secretariat to all CCPs.

Toothfish:

19. 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 III.

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 Area², Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge do not cause biologically sustainable catch levels to be exceeded, taking into account population links.
20. The catch limits for *Dissostichus* spp. on Del Cano Rise, South Indian Ridge, and William's Ridge as specified in paragraphs 29, 30 and 31 shall apply until:
 - a. the Meeting of the Parties has adopted a management procedure for the populations of *Dissostichus* spp. occurring in the SIOFA portion of Williams Ridge, Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge 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 comparable in effectiveness to those in force in CCAMLR consistent with the advice provided by the Scientific Committee.
 21. The Scientific Committee shall continue providing advice and recommendations on:
 - a. a biologically appropriate catch limit for the populations of *Dissostichus* spp. occurring in the SIOFA portion of Williams Ridge, Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge;
 - b. appropriate bycatch mitigation measures, including for benthic bycatch and seabirds;
 - c. a review of technical measures, including but not limited to the number of hooks per line and line spacing requirements for the different areas where *Dissostichus* spp. is harvested; and
 - d. any other matter that the Scientific Committee determines as relevant or necessary for the sustainable management of the *Dissostichus* spp. populations.
 22. 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.
 23. 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

² The portion of Williams Ridge in the Agreement Area is bounded by the area 80E to 85E and 52S to 55S.

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

24. Fishing with demersal longlines shall be prohibited in depths shallower than 500m. in order to protect benthic communities and juvenile *Dissostichus* spp.
25. 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.
26. 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. CCPs are encouraged to achieve an overlap statistic of 80%. CCPs with vessels achieving an overlap statistic between 60 and 80% shall report to the SC for review, in order to better understand the factors causing the lower tag overlap statistic.
27. For toothfish fisheries, the season is defined as the period from 1 December to 30 November (both dates inclusive).
28. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. to report VMS data automatically to their FMC at least every hour.

Effort/catch and operational limits

29. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in the Del Cano Rise area do not exceed 52.8 tonnes. Without prejudice to any future catch sharing arrangement, this catch shall be shared as per the table in Annex IV for the fishing season 2026/27 to 2028/29. Any overcatch by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.
30. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in the South Indian Ridge Management Area do not exceed 66.7 tonnes. Without prejudice to any future catch sharing arrangements, this catch shall be shared as per the table in Annex IV for the fishing season 2026/27 to 2028/29. Any overcatch by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.
31. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in the Williams Ridge Management Area do not exceed 71.7 tonnes per year for the fishing seasons 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29. Without prejudice to any future catch sharing arrangements, this catch shall be shared as per the table in Annex IV for the fishing season 2026/27 to 2028/29. Any overcatch by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.
32. A CCP may transfer to another CCP all or part of its annual catch limit established under paragraphs 29, 30 and 31, provided that the total catch of the CCPs concerned does not exceed their combined limits in each area. All such transfers shall be notified to the Secretariat within one week and communicated by the Secretariat to all CCPs.
33. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat daily on start and end points of set longlines, using the template at Annex V.
34. Longlines shall not exceed 6250 hooks per line. Each vessel shall ensure that longlines are set at a minimum distance of 3 nautical miles, as measured from the midpoint, from any other longlines previously set by the same vessel during the ongoing fishing trip.³

By-catch limits

³ The line spacing requirement will not apply for the 2026/27 fishing season in South Indian Ridge, noting SC12 will provide advice on the technical measures to the Meeting of Parties in 2027.

35. Toothfish caught by vessels not targeting *Dissostichus* spp. shall not exceed 0.5 t per season of *Dissostichus* spp.
36. Should a vessel fishing for species other than *Dissostichus* spp. reach the *Dissostichus* spp. limit of 0.5 tonnes in a management area, that management area shall be closed for this vessel for that season.

Mitigation of depredation

37. 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.
38. 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.
39. To further reduce potential for depredation, vessels are encouraged to set lines at depths exceeding 1000 m.

Review

40. 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 to coherent, fair and scientifically sound conservation and management measures for the *Dissostichus* spp. that are shared by the two organisations.
41. Catch sharing arrangements in Annex IV shall be reviewed at the Meeting of the Parties in 2029, taking into account recent developments in SIOFA toothfish fisheries to inform any potential amendments to the catch sharing arrangement.

Management plan for Alfonsino:

Season

42. 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

43. The MoP requests that the SC assess the *Beryx splendens* stocks in 2027 at the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee (if the SC, in 2026, 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.
44. The Scientific Committee shall provide clear advice and guidance on any necessary changes to data collection in order to reduce future assessment uncertainty.

Application

45. The catch limits provided for in paragraphs 29, 30 and 31 shall apply from 1 December 2026.

Annex I – Distribution of fishing opportunities for 2027 to 2029 for Orange Roughy.

1010.75t shall be allocated in 2027 to 2029 in accordance with the following scheme:

CPC	Annual quota for 2027-2029 (t)
Cook Islands	909.68
Reserve	101.07

This table is without prejudice to any future sharing arrangement of the catch opportunities,.

Annex II - Template for CCPs to use for monthly catch reports of Orange Roughy (paragraph 13).

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

Vessel name

Vessel flag

Year

Month

Catch live weight (Kg)

Annex III - Toothfish Management Areas

The Management areas for Toothfish are defined as follow;

Del Cano Rise

The Del Cano Rise area is;

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

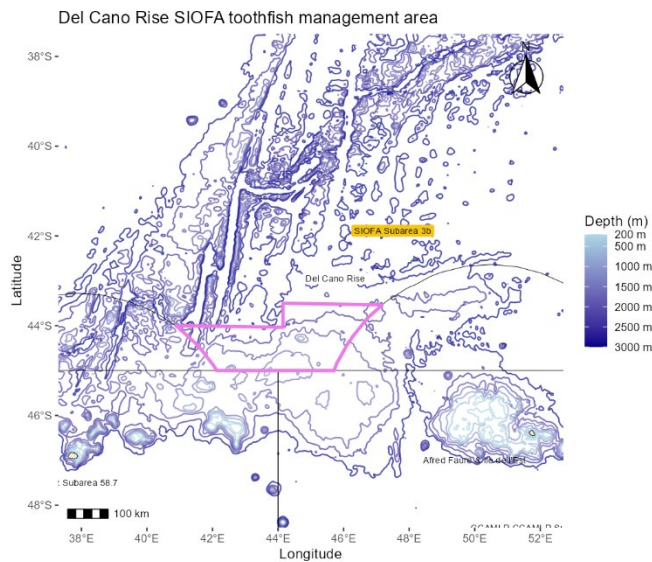


Figure A: Boundaries of the extended Del Cano Rise management area.

South Indian Ridge

The South Indian Ridge is defined as the area 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

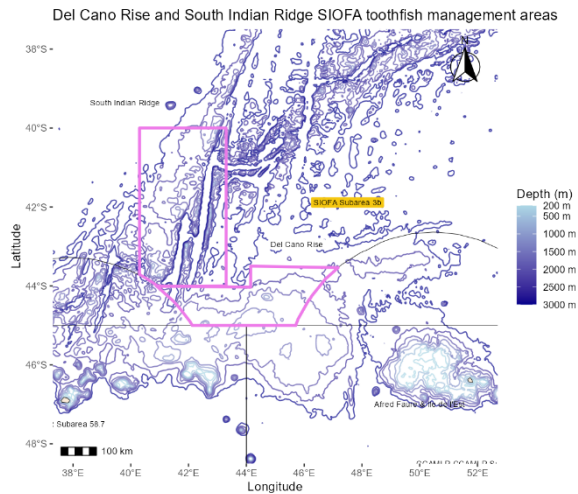


Figure B: Boundaries of the Del Cano Rise and the South Indian Ridge management areas (2024).

Williams Ridge

The Williams Ridge area 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

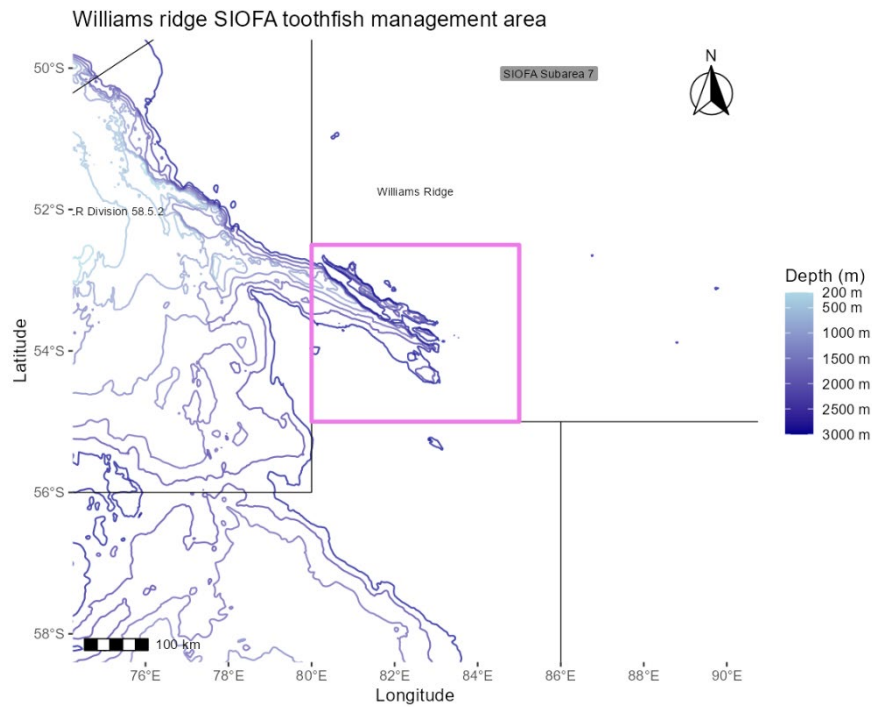


Figure C: The boundary of the Williams Ridge management area.

Annex IV – Catch sharing arrangement for Del Cano, South Indian Ridge and Williams Ridge for fishing seasons 2026/27 to 2028/29 for toothfish

	South Indian Ridge	Del Cano Rise	Williams Ridge
Australia	9%	0%	90%
EU	89%	35.3%	10%
France OT	1%	32.3%	0%
Japan	1%	32.3%	0%

Annex V – Template for CCPs to use for daily longline reporting to the Secretariat when fishing on the Del Cano Rise, South Indian Ridge and Williams Ridge areas (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

Number of hooks
set