Active Conservation and Management Measures of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

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Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

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CMM 01(2025)[1]

Conservation and Management Measure for the Interim Management of Bottom Fishing in the Agreement Area
(Interim Management of Bottom Fishing)

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, 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 noting that biodiversity in the marine environment shall be protected;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 6(1)(d) and (e) of the Agreement which provides that the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt conservation and management measures (CMMs) for ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishery resources, taking into account the need to protect marine biodiversity, based on the best scientific evidence 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;

NOTING United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 61/105 and subsequent resolutions of UNGA that call upon RFMOs to assess, on the basis of the best available scientific information, whether individual bottom fishing activities would have significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), and to ensure that if it is assessed that these activities would have significant adverse impacts, they are managed to prevent such impacts, or not authorised to proceed;

FURTHER NOTING UNGA Resolution 64/72 which calls upon RFMOs to establish and implement appropriate protocols for the implementation of UNGA Resolution 61/105, including definitions of what constitutes evidence of an encounter with a VME, in particular threshold levels and indicator species; and to implement the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas (FAO, 2009; FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Guidelines) in order to sustainably manage fish stocks and protect VMEs;

FURTHER NOTING UNGA Resolution 66/68 which encourages RFMOs to consider the results available from marine scientific research, including those obtained from seabed mapping programs concerning the identification of areas containing VMEs, and to adopt conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts from bottom fishing on

[1] CMM 01(2025) (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing) supersedes CMM 01(2024) (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing).

such ecosystems, consistent with the FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Guidelines, or to close such areas to bottom fishing until such conservation and management measures are adopted, as well as to continue to undertake further marine scientific research, in accordance with international law as reflected in Part XIII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

AWARE of the steps being taken by the Meeting of the Parties to address the impacts of large-scale pelagic drift nets and deepwater gillnets in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) through the adoption of CMM 05(2016) (Pelagic Driftnets and Deepwater Gillnets);

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

NOTING the SIOFA bottom fishing impact assessment standard and the updated SIOFA bottom fishing footprint adopted by the Meeting of the Parties in 2017 and 2023, respectively;

***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, and to protect the marine ecosystem, including, *inter alia*, the prevention of significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems.

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 bottom fishing in the Agreement Area. A reference in this CMM to fishing and related activities *of* a CCP (such as *its* fishing, *its* catch or *its* effort) is taken to refer to fishing and related activities undertaken by vessels flying its flag.
3. The following definitions apply to this CMM:
    a. 'vulnerable marine ecosystem' (VME) means a marine ecosystem identified using the criteria outlined in paragraph 42 of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas (FAO, 2009; FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Guidelines).
    b. '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.
    c. 'SIOFA bottom fishing footprint' means the map of the spatial extent of historical bottom fishing in the Agreement Area, for all vessels flagged to all CCPs, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties in 2023.
    d. 'electronic observer program' means a program that uses electronic monitoring equipment in place of, or in conjunction with, a human observer or human observers on board a vessel that is capable of generating, storing and transmitting data to competent authorities;

e. 'SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standard' (SIOFA BFIAS) means the minimum standard for assessing the potential impacts of proposed bottom fishing activities on VMEs and deep sea fish stocks in the Agreement Area, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties in 2017;

f. 'SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment' (SIOFA BFIA) means the assessment of the cumulative potential impacts of all actual and proposed bottom fishing activities on VMEs and deep-sea fish stocks in the Agreement Area, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties in 2023.

4. The provisions of this CMM are not necessarily to be considered precedents for future allocation or other decisions in accordance with Articles 6(2), (3) and (4) of the Agreement relating to participation in bottom fisheries in the Agreement Area and adjacent areas of national jurisdiction, as appropriate.

Scientific Committee work on bottom fishing and subsequent consideration by the Meeting of the Parties

5. The Scientific Committee shall, whenever a substantial change to the fishery has occurred or new data has otherwise been provided to the Scientific Committee warranting changes, develop, provide and update advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on:

   a. guidelines for evaluating and approving electronic observer programs for scientific data collection;

   b. the status of stocks of principal deep-sea fishery resources targeted, and, to the extent possible, taken as bycatch and caught incidentally in these deep-sea fisheries, including straddling fishery resources;

   c. criteria for what constitutes evidence of an encounter with a VME, in particular threshold levels and indicator species for all gears;

   d. the most appropriate response to a VME encounter, including *inter alia* closing particular areas to a particular gear type or types;

   e. the interim SIOFA Standard Protocol for Future Protected Areas Designation adopted by the Meeting of the Parties in 2018;

   f. research and management plans for each of the benthic fishery closures listed in CMM 18(2025). Such plans shall include, *inter alia*, conservation and management objectives taking socio-economic considerations into account where possible, appropriate measures to implement these objectives and timeframes for evaluation and review;

   g. the SIOFA BFIAS, taking account of the latest scientific information available;

   h. the SIOFA BFIA;

   i. any maps of where VMEs are known to occur, or likely to occur, in the Agreement Area; and

   j. the SIOFA bottom fishing footprint.

6. The Scientific Committee shall also periodically review all benthic taxa bycatch data to inform its consideration of the location of potential VMEs and potential impacts thereon.

7. Upon receipt of advice and recommendations from the Scientific Committee on the matters listed in paragraph 5, the Meeting of the Parties shall act on the Scientific Committee's advice and recommendations at its next ordinary meeting. This may include, when the Meeting of the Parties considers it appropriate, to authorise any document or other output arising from the advice or recommendations, and amendments thereto.

Duties of Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs undertaking bottom fishing activity in the Agreement Area

Interim bottom fishing measures

8. CCPs shall ensure that vessels flying their flag engage in bottom fishing activities in the Agreement Area only in accordance with the terms of this CMM together with CMM 15(2026) (Management of Demersal Stocks).

9. CCPs shall ensure that vessels flying their flag do not engage in bottom fishing activities in the Agreement Area outside the SIOFA bottom fishing footprint or within the SIOFA bottom fishing footprint with a particular gear type or technique not used before in that fishery in that area, except if such activities have been authorised by the Meeting of the Parties pursuant to CMM 17(2026) (New and Exploratory Fisheries).

Effort limitation and general measures

10. (1) Each CCP shall, unless otherwise approved by the Meeting of the Parties, establish and apply specific measures to limit the level and spatial extent of the bottom fishing effort of vessels flying their flag. In particular, such measures shall include:

    a. for CCPs that have fished more than 40 days in a single year, in the Agreement Area, at the close of the Meeting of the Parties in 2016:

        i. limits on its bottom fishing effort and/or catch, over a 12 month period to its average annual level in active years over a representative period for which reliable data exists;
        ii. constraints on the spatial distribution of its bottom fishing effort, excluding line and trap methods, to recently fished areas to prevent any expansion of such fishing activities;
        iii. provisions to ensure its bottom fishing will not have significant adverse impacts on VMEs and take into account its BFIA submitted pursuant to paragraph 22 or 27 and reviewed by the Scientific Committee, and any areas identified under paragraph 19 where VMEs are known to occur, or are likely to occur; and
        iv. provisions ensuring that any vessel flying its flag is not authorised to fish in any areas that the Meeting of the Parties has decided to close to fishing.

    b. for CCPs that have not fished more than 40 days in a single year, in the Agreement Area, at the close of the Meeting of the Parties in 2016:

        i. limits on its bottom fishing effort and/or catch, and spatial distribution, as disclosed to the Meeting of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 10(2) and (3); and
        ii. provisions as referred to in subparagraphs 10(1) a. iii. and iv.

(2) The measures established by CCPs pursuant to this paragraph shall be disclosed to the ordinary Meeting of the Parties and shall be made publicly available on the SIOFA website by the Secretariat.

(3) CCPs may revise the measures they establish pursuant to this paragraph provided that any amendments made are consistent with the requirements of paragraph 10(1). Revised measures shall be notified to the Secretariat within 30 days of the amendment, and shall be disclosed at the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

(4) The provisions of this paragraph are not necessarily to be considered a precedent for future decisions taken by the Meeting of the Parties pursuant to paragraph 9.

11. Any CCP that has not submitted the measures required pursuant to paragraph 10(1), shall not authorise any vessels flying its flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area until:

    a. that CCP has submitted the measures required in paragraph 10(1); or

    b. it has otherwise been decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems

12. CCPs shall apply to vessels flying their flag the following threshold levels for encounters with VMEs:

    a. the threshold that triggers the encounter protocol for longline gears shall be the catch/recovery of 10 or more VME-indicator units[2] of species listed in Annex 1 in a single line segment[3].

    b. the threshold that triggers the encounter protocol for the trawls shall be more than 60 kg of live corals and/or 300 Kg of sponges in any tow.

    The threshold that triggers the encounter protocol for the trawl as defined is paragraph 12b shall be reviewed by the Scientific Committee in 2020.

13. Where evidence of a VME is encountered above threshold levels established under paragraph 12 in the course of fishing operations, CCPs shall require any vessel flying their flag to immediately cease bottom fishing activities within:

    a. For bottom or mid water trawling, or fishing with any other net - two (2) nautical miles either side of a trawl track extended by two (2) nautical miles at each end;

    b. For longline and trap activities - a radius of one (1) nautical mile from the midpoint of the line segment[4];

    c. For all other bottom fishing gear types - a radius of one (1) nautical mile from the

[2] 'VME indicator unit' means either one liter of those VME indicator organisms that can be placed in a 10-litre container, or one kilogram of those VME indicator organisms that do not fit into a 10-litre container

[3] Line segment' means a 1000-hooks section of line or a 1 200 m section of line, whichever is the shorter.

[4] Line segment means a 1000 hooks section of line or a 1200 meters section of line, whichever is the shorter, and for pot lines a 1200 meters section

midpoint of the operation.

14. CCPs shall immediately report any VME encounter to the Secretariat and in their National Reports to the Scientific Committee in accordance with the guidelines at Annex 2. In the event of an encounter, CCPs shall cooperate to the extent possible with the Secretariat and other CCPs engaged in bottom fishing to exchange such data and information as may be relevant to the Scientific Committee's consideration of the encounter area.

15. On receipt of a notification under paragraph 14, the Secretariat shall:
    a. record the location of the encounter area;
    b. within three working days of receipt, notify all CCPs that bottom fishing is suspended in the encounter area; and
    c. publicise the encounter area on the non-public area of the SIOFA website for the duration of the suspension.
16. Upon receipt of a notification from the Secretariat under paragraph 15b., CCPs shall ensure that vessels flying their flags do not undertake bottom fishing in the notified encounter area unless and until the Meeting of the Parties determines management action under paragraph 18 that would permit the resumption of bottom fishing in the encounter area.
17. As an encounter may be considered evidence of a potential presence of a VME, the Scientific Committee shall, at each ordinary meeting, review any encounter reported pursuant to paragraph 14 and any other benthic bycatch data it considers relevant and provide advice to the Meeting of the Parties thereon.
18. On the basis of the advice of the Scientific Committee, the Meeting of the Parties shall decide to confirm whether the encounter area should remain closed to all or some gears. Where the Meeting of the Parties decides that an encounter area should remain closed to all or some gears, the Secretariat shall make the information publicly available on the SIOFA website.
19. The Meeting of the Parties shall identify, on the basis of the best available scientific information including advice and recommendations provided by the Scientific Committee pursuant to paragraph 5i, areas where VMEs are known or likely to occur in the Agreement Area and map these sites, and the Secretariat shall circulate such data and information to all CCPs.
20. The Secretariat shall make available the maps in paragraph 19 on a dedicated webpage and update them in a timely manner.

Provision of data by CCPs

21. CCPs shall submit to the Secretariat:
    a. relevant data on the spatial extent of their historical bottom fishing effort in the Agreement Area expressed as grid blocks of at least 20 minutes resolution or, if available, a finer scale; and
    b. any other data the Scientific Committee may consider to be useful in updating the SIOFA BFIA, including data relating to recorded encounters with VMEs or indicators

of VMEs.

22. 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.

23. The Scientific Committee shall consider all BFIAs received under paragraph 22 and 28b. at its next ordinary meeting, and provide advice in its meeting report as to:

    a. the likely cumulative impacts of bottom fishing impact activity from vessels flying the flag of a CCP in the Agreement Area; and

    b. whether each BFIA meets the requirements of paragraph 26.

24. If the Scientific Committee's advice is that a BFIA does not meet the requirements of paragraph 26, the Meeting of the Parties may request that CCP who submitted the BFIA to revise and resubmit its BFIA to the next ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee, and to decide to either:

    a. suspend any vessel flying its flag from bottom fishing in the Agreement Area until the Scientific Committee provides advice that the BFIA meets the requirements of paragraph 26; or

    b. undertake any other course of action, as the Meeting of the Parties may decide, taking into account Scientific Committee advice and the objectives of this CMM.

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.

26. All BFIAs, including the SIOFA BFIA, shall:

    a. be prepared, to the extent possible, in accordance with the FAO International guidelines for the management of deep-sea fisheries resources in the high seas;

    b. meet the standards of the SIOFA BFIAS;

    c. take into account areas identified where VMEs are known or are likely to occur in the area to be fished pursuant to paragraph 19;

    d. take into account all relevant information provided pursuant to paragraph 21, and in addition, for the SIOFA BFIA, paragraph 22;

    e. be updated when a substantial change in the fishery has occurred, such that it is likely that the risk or impacts of the fishery may have changed;

    f. assess, to the extent possible, the historical and anticipated cumulative impact of all bottom fishing activity in the Agreement Area, if applicable; and

    g. address whether the proposed activities achieve the objectives described in paragraph 1 of this CMM and Article 2 of the Agreement.

27. All BFIAs, including the SIOFA BFIA, shall be made publicly available on the SIOFA website once the Scientific Committee has determined that they meet the requirements of paragraph 26.

Provision of data by, and interim bottom fishing measures for, new CCPs

28. Paragraphs 10 to 12 shall not apply to any State or fishing entity that becomes a CCP after the Meeting of the Parties in 2017. However, 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:

    a. advise the Meeting of the Parties of the measures it intends to take pursuant to paragraph 10(1) a. i., ii., iii. and iv.;

    b. 30 days prior to an ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee after it becomes a CCP, submit the data referred to in paragraph 21 and a BFIA as outlined in paragraph 22 to the Scientific Committee for its consideration in accordance with paragraph 24.

29. Subject to agreement of the Meeting of the Parties, based on the advice from the Scientific Committee and the measures submitted in accordance with paragraph 28, a new CCP referred to in paragraph 28 may then authorise vessels flying its flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area, in accordance with paragraphs 10-12.

30. A CCP seeking to authorise any vessel flying its flag to undertake bottom fishing in the Agreement Area in a manner at variance with the requirements of paragraph 10 to limit the bottom fishing effort of vessels flying its flag shall submit to the Scientific Committee, at least 30 days prior to an ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee, a proposal to undertake that activity or activities. This proposal shall include an assessment of the impact of the proposed fishing activity in accordance with the requirements for BFIAs outlined in paragraph 26, any proposed measures to mitigate that impact, and any other information as required by the Scientific Committee to undertake the assessment in paragraph 23.

31. On receipt of any proposal developed pursuant to paragraph 30, the Scientific Committee shall, at its next ordinary meeting:

    a. assess, on the basis of the best available scientific information, whether the proposed bottom fishing would have significant adverse impacts on VMEs;

    b. if it is assessed that these activities would have significant adverse impacts, consider what measures should be taken to prevent such impacts, or, if those impacts cannot be appropriately mitigated, whether the proposed bottom fishing should proceed or not;

    c. assess, taking into account, *inter alia*: the cumulative impacts of other fishing occurring in that area, where such information is available; whether the proposed activities are compatible with the sustainable management of bottom fisheries, including target fish stocks and non-target species; and the protection of the marine environment, including *inter alia,* the prevention of significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems; and

d. provide recommendations and advice to the Meeting of the Parties in its meeting report on each of these matters, as applicable.

32. The Meeting of the Parties shall, taking into account the recommendations and advice of the Scientific Committee, decide whether or not to authorise bottom fishing in accordance with a proposal made pursuant to paragraph 30 including, if applicable, the extent to which such bottom fishing shall be authorised.

33. If applicable, the Meeting of the Parties shall also decide which measures or conditions shall be applied to any activity authorised pursuant to paragraph 32 to ensure that fishing activity is consistent with the objectives of Article 2 of the Agreement and paragraph 1 of this CMM.

General management and conditions for bottom fishing in the Agreement Area

34. Consistently with Article 11(1)(a) of the Agreement, CCPs shall only authorise vessels flying their flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement, this CMM and all other applicable CMMs, and shall ensure that such vessels do not engage in any activity which undermines the effectiveness of these measures.

35. Nothing in this CMM shall affect the rights of a CCP to apply additional or more stringent compatible measures to vessels flying their flag that are conducting bottom fishing.

36. Nothing in this CMM exempts a CCP from complying with any other obligations in the Agreement or any CMMs adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

Scientific observer coverage

37. Each CCP shall ensure that any vessel flying its flag and undertaking bottom fishing in the Agreement Area:

    a. using trawl gear has 100 percent scientific observer coverage for the duration of the trip; and

    b. using any other bottom fishing gear type has 20 percent scientific observer coverage in any fishing year[5].

38. Consistent with paragraphs 12 and 15 of CMM 02(2026) (Data Standards), the Scientific Committee shall regularly review the observer coverage levels prescribed in paragraph 37 at its ordinary meeting and provide advice to the Meeting of the Parties thereon.

39. The scientific observer coverage levels outlined in paragraph 37 shall be fulfilled through the use of human observers, except to the extent authorised by the Meeting of

[5] For line fishing this should be expressed as the percentage of the total number of observed hooks or days.

the Parties pursuant to paragraph 41c.

40. Once the Meeting of the Parties has adopted Guidelines for evaluating and approving electronic observer programs developed pursuant to paragraph 5a, a CCP may submit a proposal to the Scientific Committee seeking to use an electronic observer program which uses, entirely or in part, electronic monitoring equipment, human observers and/or a port sampling program. As part of this proposal, that CCP shall submit evidence of, and data relating to, a statistically robust trial of the program that demonstrates it meets the data requirements prescribed in the SIOFA data standards CMM, once adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

41. Following the submission of the proposal by the CCP to the Scientific Committee:

    a. The Scientific Committee shall review the proposal and provide recommendations and advice thereon to the Meeting of the Parties, taking into account the Guidelines and whether the program will reliably collect all data required by CMM 02(2026) (Data Standards).

    b. The Compliance Committee shall also review the proposal and provide advice and recommendations thereon to the Meeting of the Parties.

    c. On receipt of the advice by the Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee on the proposal, the Meeting of the Parties shall, at its next meeting, consider whether to authorise the use of that program by that CCP in place of the exclusive use of human observers.

Cooperation with other States

42. Contracting Parties resolve, individually or jointly, to request those States and fishing entities that are undertaking bottom fishing in the Agreement Area but are not currently CCPs to cooperate fully in the implementation of this measure and to consider participating in the work of SIOFA as a matter of priority.

Review

43. This CMM shall be reviewed no later than at the ordinary Meeting of the Parties in 2025. This review shall take into account, *inter alia*, the latest advice of the Scientific Committee, including advice on those matters listed in paragraphs 5 and appropriate catch levels for principal target species, in accordance with the objective described in paragraph 1.

Annex 1 - SIOFA VME indicator taxa (in bold)

Taxonomic level	Taxon name	FAO Code
Domain	Bacteria	
	Chemosynthetic organisms	CXV
Phylum	**Bryozoa**	BZN
Phylum	**Xenophyophorea**	XEF
Phylum	**Brachiopoda**	BRQ
Phylum	**Porifera**	PFR
Class	**Hexactinellida**	HXY
Class	**Demospongiae**	DMO
Phylum	**Cnidaria**	CNI
Order	**Actiniaria**	ATX
Order	**Alcyonacea**	AJZ
Order	**Anthoathecata**	AZN
Order	**Antipatharia**	AQZ
Order	**Gorgonacea**	GGW
Order	**Scleractinia**	CSS
Order	**Pennatulacea**	NTW
Order	**Zoantharia**	ZOT
Family	**Stylasteridae**	AXT
Phylum	Echinodermata	
Class	**Crinoidea**	CWD
Order	**Euryalida**	OEQ
Order	**Cidaroida**	CVD
Phylum	Anellida	
Family	**Serpulidae**	SZS
Phylum	Arthropoda	
Family	**Bathylasmatidae**	BWY
Phylum	Tunicata	
Class	**Ascidiacea**	SSX
Phylum	Hemichordata	
Class	**Pterobranchia**	HET

Annex 2 - Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of Notifications of Encounters with VMEs

1. General Information

Include contact information, nationality, vessel name(s) and dates of data collection.

2. VME location

Start and end positions of all gear deployments and/or observations.

Maps of fishing locations, underlying bathymetry or habitat and spatial scale of fishing. Depth(s) fished.

3. Fishing gear

Indicate fishing gears used at each location.

4. Additional data collected

Indicate additional data collected at or near the locations fished, if possible.

Data such as multibeam bathymetry, oceanographic data such as CTD profiles, current profiles, water chemistry, substrate types recorded at or near those locations, other fauna observed, video recordings, acoustic profiles etc.

5. VME taxa

For each station fished, provide details of VME taxa observed, including but not limited to their relative density, absolute density, or weight and/or number of taxa.

CMM 02(2026)[1]

Conservation and Management Measure for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data relating to fishing activities in the Agreement Area (Data Standards)

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

RECALLING that Article 6(1) (f) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) calls on the Meeting of the Parties to develop rules for the collection and verification of scientific and statistical data, as well as for the submission, publication, dissemination and use of such data;

FURTHER RECALLING that Articles 10(1)(c) and 11(3) set out the duties relevant to the collection and provision of data and related processes for Contracting Parties and flag CCPs respectively;

RECOGNISING the importance of developing comprehensive arrangements for data collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data to assist the Scientific Committee in performing its functions as outlined in Article 7 of the Agreement;

NOTING the relevance of Articles 10(e) and 14 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 call on States to cooperate through regional fisheries management organisations to agree on the standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data on fisheries for the stocks, and the specifications and format for the data to be provided and to cooperate in their scientific research;

CONSIDERING the provisions set forth in the *Resolution on data collection concerning the high seas in the Southern Indian Ocean,* adopted by the Conference on the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* in the Seychelles from 13-16 July 2004;

NOTING the importance of data collection and catch reporting for the purposes of ensuring scientific stock assessment and implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management;

NOTING the recommendation by the Third meeting of the Scientific Committee to improve the collection of sharks catch information and the submission of scientific observer data; and

FURTHER NOTING that the Meeting of Parties has adopted policies and procedures for the maintenance of data confidentiality (CMM 03(2025));

ADOPTS **the following conservation and management measure (CMM) in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement**:

Application

1. This CMM applies to all Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities (CCPs).
2. This CMM prescribes the standards for the collection, reporting, verification, and exchange of data related to fishing activities by vessels fishing in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) that are flying the flag of a CCP. These data standards shall assist the Meeting of the Parties to fulfil its objectives under the Agreement insofar as it relates to assessing the state of the fisheries within SIOFA's competence, including the status of target and non-target species and the impact of fishing on the marine environment.

[1] CMM 02(2026) (Data Standards) supersedes CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards).

Terminology

3. The following definitions apply to this CMM including its annexes:

   'other species of concern' means those species as may be defined by the Scientific Committee from time to time.

   'National Report' means the report defined in paragraph 9 of this CMM.

Vessel Catch and Effort Data

Collection of data

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.

5. CCPs shall collect vessel catch and effort data on a haul-by-haul basis, with the exception of handline fishing, where CCPs shall collect vessel catch and effort data on an operation [2] basis.

Data collection and submission

6. CCPs shall report to the Secretariat, by 31 May each year, the data collected under paragraphs 4 and 5 for the previous calendar year, in accordance with the format prescribed in the corresponding annexes.

7. CCPs shall provide to the Secretariat, by 31 May each year, annual catch summaries for all species/groups caught in the Agreement Area during the previous calendar year. The catch summaries shall include the following information:

   a. Calendar year (e.g. 2015)
   b. FAO statistical area (e.g. FAO87)
   c. Species/group name (common name and scientific name)
   d. Species/group code (FAO3-alpha code 19, EG ORY) (if available)
   e. Annual catch total - tonnes raised to 'live' weight.

8. To assist in data collection CCPs engaged in, or intending to engage in, fishing pursuant to CMM 01(2025) shall implement on-board all fishing vessels flying their flag the FAO Identification guide to the deep–sea cartilaginous fishes of the Indian Ocean[3]. Where available the use of Smartforms may be considered.

National report

9. Following the entry into force of this CMM, CCPs shall provide to the Scientific Committee, at least 30 days prior to the commencement of each ordinary meeting, an annual National Report of their fishing, research and management activities in accordance with the following:

   a. For the first report: the National Report shall include details of activities of the previous five calendar years;
   b. For all reports thereafter: the National Report shall include details of activities of the previous calendar year; and
   c. In either case, the National Report shall take into account the guidelines prepared by the

[2] An operation is the daily activity of a main vessel (including its dories), where catch is the daily catch and effort is the number of active fishers per day and the number of lines fished per day.
[3] Ebert, D.A. and Mostarda, E. 2013. Identification guide to the deep–sea cartilaginous fishes of the Indian Ocean, FishFinder Programme, FAO, Rome. 76 p

Scientific Committee for the preparation of such reports.

Historical Data

10. To assist with the development of a bottom fishing footprint and stock assessments, each CCP shall provide the Secretariat with all historical catch and effort, and if available observer data for vessels flying their flag and fishing in the Agreement Area at any time during period 2000-2015 and any previous years where available in accordance with annex A and annex B to the extent applicable. Any State or fishing entity that becomes a Party to the Agreement, a CNCP or PFE after the date this CMM is adopted shall provide their historical data to the Secretariat within 12 months of becoming Party to the Agreement, or becoming a CNCP or PFE.

11. Where possible, CCPs are encouraged to provide relevant, reliable historical data for species caught in waters under their national jurisdiction where such information would assist in understanding the status of the stocks and the impacts of fishing on all target species, non-target and associated and dependent species and the marine environment within the Agreement Area.

Scientific Observer Data

12. All CCPs shall implement national scientific observer programs to collect from activities undertaken by vessels flying their flag:

    a. Vessel information, effort and catch data for its fishing activities in the Agreement Area, including target, non-target and associated and dependent species including marine mammals, marine reptiles, seabirds or 'other species of concern';

    b. Biological or other data and information relevant to the management of fishery resources in the Agreement Area, as specified in this CMM, or as identified from time to time by the Scientific Committee or through processes identified by the Meeting of the Parties; and

    c. Relevant scientific information related to the implementation of the provisions of the CMMs adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

13. The function and tasks of the scientific observer are described in Annex D.

14. CCPs shall, through their National Report, provide to the Scientific Committee an annual observer programme implementation report which should include summary sections covering: observer training, program design and coverage, type of data collected, and any problems encountered during the previous calendar year.

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.

16. By 2023, the Scientific Committee shall develop and adopt a template for the observer reports, and a template for an observer data collection form that may be used by observers in subsequent years.

17. By 2023, the Meeting of the Parties, based on recommendations from the Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee shall adopt a SIOFA framework for scientific observation clarifying all the aspects related to the role.

Data Verification

18. CCPs shall:

    a. ensure that fishery data are verified through an appropriate system of data verification mechanisms;

b. develop, implement, and improve data verification mechanisms, which may include:
   i. Position verification through vessel monitoring systems;
   ii. Independent monitoring, including scientific observer programs and approved electronic observer programs,[4] to verify industry data on catch, effort, catch composition (target and non-target), discards and other details of fishing operations;
   iii. Vessel trip, landing and transhipment reports; and
   iv. Port sampling.

c. provide to the Scientific Committee, through their National Report, an annual data verification report which should provide information regarding their development and implementation of data verification mechanisms.

Format for data submission

19. 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.

20. Specifications for the submission of data:

    a. times, latitudinal /longitudinal/ information and units of measure are to be reported in accordance with the format described in Annex C;

    b. Species are to be described using the FAO 3 letter Species Codes;[5]

    c. Fishing methods are to be described using the International Standard Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG - 29 July 1980) codes;[6] and

    d. Types of fishing vessels are to be described using the International Standard Classification of Fishery Vessels (ISSCFV) codes.[7]

Review

21. This CMM should be reviewed periodically by the Scientific Committee and the Meeting of the Parties, taking into account new information or data requirements as may be decided.

[4] Approved electronic observer programs refers to those programs that meet the SIOFA agreed standard and have been reviewed by the Scientific Committee and approved by the Meeting of the Parties as being capable of meeting the data requirements in this CMM.

[5] https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/collection/asfis/en

[6] https://www.fao.org/cwp-on-fishery-statistics/handbook/capture-fisheries-statistics/en/

[7] https://www.fao.org/cwp-on-fishery-statistics/handbook/capture-fisheries-statistics/en/

Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data
Annexes

List of Annexes:

Annex A - Vessel Catch and Effort Data

Annex B - Observer Data

Annex C - Specifications for the Exchange of Data

Annex D – Function and tasks of the scientific observer

Annex E - Protocol for documenting whale interaction in deep-sea demersal longline fisheries

Annex A

Vessel Catch and Effort Data

1. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall ensure that the following data on fishing activities are collected in the Agreement Area:

For all demersal fishing vessels flying their flag:

Data Set - Fishing activities General (Trip) Vessel flag CCP (ISO 3-apha) Name of vessel International radio call sign (if any) Vessel Registration number (flag CCP) Lloyd's / IMO /IHS Fairplay Number (if allocated) Vessel size: Gross Tonnage (Gross register tonnage may be used if GT is not available, or both) Name of person filling in the data
Weight Conversion Factor Species Processing type Conversion factor = live weight/processed weight
Haul Information Intended Target species (FAO code) Type of fishing (C)ommercial; (R)esearch; (S)urvey data Haul ID number
Set Start date and Time (Based on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)) Recorded at start and end of fishing For longline vessels - record at start and end of setting, in addition to start and end of haul Date format (YYYY.MON.DD) Time format (hh.mm)
Position at start and end of fishing Latitude Longitude For longline vessels: position is recorded at the start and end of setting For bottom trawl fishing: "start" is defined as when the groundrope first touch the bottom, and "end" is when the groundrope leaves the bottom at the beginning of hauling. For midwater trawl: "start" is defined as when the fishing gear is at target fishing depth, "end" is when the tow haul begins. For handline fishing: record the position of the vessels at the start and at the end of the fishing operation
Bottom Depth (m) As recorded at the start and end of fishing.
Fishing / gear depth (m) As recorded at the start and end of fishing. For trapping/potting, Actual Fishing / gear depth (m) as recorded at start is required.
Species retained Estimated catch retained on board by taxa (FAO species/group code/scientific name) in green weight (kg). Total number retained by taxa (for longline toothfish target fishing only)

Species Discarded An estimation of the amount of living marine resources discarded by taxa, if possible, in green weight (kg). In addition, if possible, total number discarded by taxa (for longline toothfish target fishing only)
Incidental bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and 'other species of concern' Presence: Yes / No For each species caught • Taxa name • Number alive • Number dead or injured
Incidental bycatch of VME indicator taxa Presence: Yes / No For each species caught • Taxa name

For all pelagic fishing vessels targeting SIOFA species flying their flag:

Data Set - Fishing activities General (Trip) Vessel flag **CCP** (ISO 3-apha) Name of vessel International radio call sign (if any) Vessel Registration number (flag CCP) Lloyd's / IMO /IHS Fairplay Number (if allocated) Vessel size: Gross Tonnage (Gross register tonnage may be used if GT is not available, or both) Name of person filling in the data
Weight Conversion Factor Species Processing type Conversion factor = live weight/processed weight
Haul Information Intended Target species (FAO code) Type of fishing (C)ommercial; (R)esearch; (S)urvey data Haul ID number
Set Start date and Time (Based on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)) Recorded at start of fishing Date format (YYYY.MON.DD) Time format (hh.mm)
Position at start of fishing Latitude Longitude
Species retained Estimated catch retained on board by taxa (FAO species/group code/scientific name) in live weight (kg) Total number retained by taxa (for longline toothfish target fishing only)
Species Discarded An estimation of the amount of living marine resources discarded by taxa, if possible, in live weight (kg). In addition, if possible, total number discarded by taxa (for longline toothfish target fishing only)
Incidental bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and 'other species of concern' Presence: Yes / No For each species caught • Taxa name

• Number alive • Number dead or injured

2. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall ensure that the following gear-specific data on fishing activities, as applicable, are collected from all fishing vessels flying their flag in the Agreement Area.

Data Set – Gear
Trawl Cod end mesh Size (mm) Trawl technique: Type of trawl: (S)ingle, (D)ouble or (T)ripple
Demersal Longline Type of longline (Spanish, Trotline, Autoline) Total length (m) Type of bait Hook size (mm) Hook spacing (m) Hook code or make Length of line (m) Number of hooks set Number hooks per cluster (if Trotline) Number of hooks lost (attached to lost sections of line)
Pelagic Longline Total length (m) Total number of hooks in the set Number of hooks between floats Number of light-stick used in the set Type of bait used in the set Sea surface temperature at noon (Length of floating line) (Length of branch line) (Distance between branch lines)
Trap/Pot Pot type Type of line: Dropline or longline Length of line (m) Pot spacing (m) Number of pots set Number of pots lost Type of bait
Dahn/Drop Line/ Total number of hooks in the set Total number of line lifts in the set Number of hooks lost Hook code or make Type of leader used Type of bait used

Data Set – Gear
Handline Number of fishers involved Number of lines per fisher Number of hooks per line
Squid Jigging Use of the fish finder (Y/N) Number of fishers Number of line machines Fishing duration by hand (h) Fishing duration by machines (h) Number of hooks on per line *Lighting* Lighting used (Y/N) Total Power of fish lamp (kW) Lamp Type (e.g. Metal Halide Lamp or LED) Total power of underwater lamps (kW) Total power of above sea level lamps (kW) Lighting duration (hours) on underwater lamps and above sea level lamps, respectively
Light seining Type of seining gear FAO Gear code: SV-boat seine (02.2), LNB-boat-operated-lift-net (05.2) and FCN cast net (06.1) *Net details* Length on mouth net (m) Width on mouth net (m) Cod end mesh Size (mm) *Lighting* Lighting used (Y/N) Total Power of fish lamp (kW) Lamp Type (e.g. Metal Halide Lamp or LED) Total power of underwater lamps (kW) Total power of above sea level lamps (kW) Lighting duration (hours) on underwater lamps and above sea level lamps, respectively

Annex B

Observer Data

1. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall, for all observed trips, collect and provide to the Secretariat the data contained in this Annex in accordance with the format set out below.

2. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall, where appropriate, ensure that observers are briefed and provided with documented length-frequency and biological sampling protocols and the specific priorities for the trip for the sampling activities documented below.

3. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall endeavour to collect tissue, otolith and/or stomach samples in accordance with any research programs developed by the Scientific Committee.

Hierarchies for Observer Data collection

Fishing Operation Information
All vessel and tow / set / effort information.

Reporting of Catches
Record time, weight of catch sampled versus total catch or effort (e.g. number of hooks), and total numbers of each species caught
Identification and counts of endangered, threatened or protected species (ETP), seabirds, mammals, reptiles (e.g., turtles), sensitive benthic species and vulnerable species
Record numbers or weights of each species retained or discarded Record instances of depredation, where appropriate

Biological Sampling
Check for presence of tags
Length-frequency data for Target species (FAO species code)
Basic biological data (sex, maturity) for Target species (FAO species code)
Length-frequency data for main bycatch species
Otoliths (and stomach samples, if being collected) for Target species (FAO species code)
Basic biological data for bycatch species
Biological samples of bycatch species (if being collected)
Take photos

Observer Data Sections Common to all fisheries

Data Set - Observer data
Trip Details Trip Number Cruise details (start and end dates - YYYY.MON.DD) Date report is generated (UTC) Current vessel flag CCP (ISO 3-apha) Name of vessel

Observer Details

Observer name and ID
Nationality (ISO 3-apha)
Employing organisation
Contact name in organisation (Address/email/fax)
Boarding location (UNLOCODE, if applicable or Latitude/Longitude) Boarding Date (UTC:YYYY.MON.DD)
Disembarkation location (UNLOCODE, if applicable or Latitude/Longitude)
Disembarkation date (UTC:YYYY.MON.DD)
Time Zone (UTC +-)

Length Frequency Data

Representative and randomly sampled length-frequency data shall be collected for the target species (FAO species code)

Length data shall be collected and recorded at the most precise level appropriate for the species (cm or mm and whether to the nearest unit or unit below) and the type of measurement used (total length, fork length, or standard length) shall also be recorded.

Where possible, total weight of length-frequency samples should be recorded, or estimated and the method of estimation recorded

Where possible, Observers should determine and record sex of measured fish to generate length-frequency data stratified by sex

Where possible, representative and randomly sampled length-frequency data should be collected for other main bycatch species

Biological Sampling

Species
Length (mm or cm) and the type of length measurement used.
Skates and rays:

- Maximum disk width shall be measured

Sharks

- Appropriate length measurement to be used should be selected for each species. As a default, total length should be measured.

Weight (kg)
Sex (male, female, immature (optional), unsexed (optional))
Maturity stage (optional) and criteria/schedule used (optional)
Gonad weight (g) (optional)
Otoliths

Seabird & Marine Mammals abundance observation (to be recorded for each operation and for all gears/fisheries):

Operation ID (Set ID, tow ID)
At Setting or At Hauling (At setting/At hauling/Not applicable)

Seabirds present in observation area? (Yes/No/Not Observed)
Species
Estimated numbers of abundance (by species)

Operation ID (Set ID, tow ID)
Marine Mammals present in observation area? (Yes/No/Not Observed)
Species
Estimated numbers of abundance (by species)

Observed catch (to be recorded for each operation and for all gears/fisheries, record weight or number according to the fishery)

Operation ID (Set_ID, Tow_ID)
Observer ID

FAO ASFIS Species code

Species retained
Total Number retained
Weight retained (kg)

Species discarded
Total Number discarded
Weight discarded (kg)
Number discarded alive
Number discarded dead

Number or weight of fish lost (if applicable)
Number or weight of fish cut off (if applicable)
Number of fish depredated (if applicable)
Comments

Incidental bycatch of ETP species (seabirds, mammals, turtles or 'other species of concern')
The following data shall be collected for all seabirds, mammals, turtles, and other species of concern caught in fishing operations as much as possible:

- Species (identified taxonomically as far as possible, or accompanied by photographs if identification is difficult) and size
- Estimated species abundance around fishing vessel
- Species interactions with fishing gear
- Count of the number of each species caught per tow or set
- Fate of bycatch animal(s) (retained or released/discarded)
- If released, life status (vigorous, alive, lethargic, injured, dead) upon release
- If injured, what was the cause of injury?
- If dead, then collect information or samples for onshore identification in accordance with pre-determined sampling protocols. Where this is not possible, observers may be required to collect sub-samples of identifying parts, as specified in biological sampling protocols
    - **o** Record the type of interaction (hook/line entanglement/warp strike/net capture/other) if other, describe
- Sex of each individual for taxa where this is feasible from external observation, e.g. pinnipeds, small cetaceans or *Elasmobranchii* species
- identify any circumstances or actions that may have contributed to the bycatch

event? (E.g. tori line tangle, high levels of bait loss)

Tag releases
The following data shall be reported for all tagged fish, seabird, mammal, or reptile

- Tag type
- Tag, wording
- Tag colour
- Tag number
- Date and time of tagging
- Species
- Animal length
- Type of length
- Animal sex (F=female, M=male, I=indeterminate, D=not examined)
-
- Position (Lat/Lon) of release

Animal status at release (injured/uninjured)

Tag Recoveries
The following data shall be collected for all recovered fish, seabird, mammal or reptile tags if the organism is dead, to be retained, or alive:

- Name of observer
- Name of vessel
- International radio call sign (if any)
- Vessel flag CCP (ISO 3-apha)
- Collect, label (with all details below) and store the actual tags for later return to the tagging agency
- Species from which tag recovered
- Tag colour
- Tag wording and type of tag (spaghetti, archival)
- Tag numbers
- Date and time of capture (UTC)
- Location of capture (Lat/Lon, to the nearest 1 minute)
- Animal length / size (cm or mm) with description of what measurement was taken (such as total length, fork length, etc.)
- Sex (F=female, M=male, I=indeterminate, D=not examined)
- Maturity stage
- Gonad weight (g)
- Tag Site Condition
- Samples retained
- Tag photo (include in cruise report)
- Whether the tags were found during a period of fishing that was being observed (Y/N)

Bird Bands
The following data shall be reported for all seabird bands retrieved or spotted

- Species

- Band identifier
- Date and time of observation (UTC)
- Location of observation (Lat/Lon, to the nearest 1 minute) or Operation ID
- Type of interaction (with gear, with vessel, no interaction with gear or vessel)
- Photo taken? (Yes/No)
- State (likely to survive, injured, dead)

Bird interaction with vessel and collisions (excluding fishing gear)

- Species
- Number of birds
- Date and time of observation (UTC)
- Location of observation (Lat/Lon, to the nearest 1 minute)
- Photo taken? (Yes/No)
- State (likely to survive, injured, dead)
- Vessel activity (steaming, fishing, other)
- Type of interaction (collision, entanglement, bird found landed)
- Description of the interaction (including location of the bird on the vessel)
- Presence of fog (yes/no)
- Wind speed (kts) and bearing (°)
- Sea state (Beaufort)
- Description of vessel lighting at the moment of the observation

Bycatch mitigation gears details

Streamer line

General Streamer Line Description
Number of streamer lines regularly set
Streamer line position (port, starboard, stern)
Streamer line length (m)
Streamer length min/max (m)
Attached height above water (m)
Distance between streamers (m)
Number of streamers
Streamer design (single or paired)
Aerial extent of line (m)
Method used to assess aerial extent
Streamer material
Streamer line diameter (mm)
Streamer colours
Streamer line over bait entry position? (y/n/u)
Distance from stern to bait entry point (m)
Towed object (Y/N)
Horizontal distance from bait entry point to streamer line (m)

Bird baffler

Other bycatch mitigation device
Trotline cetacean exclusion device

Photo taken of the mitigation gear?

Interactions with Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)

General information
Name of observer
Name of vessel
Date
Trip number
Set number

VME location
Start and end positions of all gear deployments and/or observations.
(Latitude/longitude)
Depth(s) fished (m)

Fishing Gear
Indicate fishing gears used at each location

VME Taxa

Presence: Yes/No
a) Species (identified taxonomically as far as possible or accompanied by a photograph where identification is difficult).
b) An estimate of the quantity (weight (kg) or volume (m3)) of each listed benthic species caught in the tow (and the unit of measurement).
c) An overall estimate of the total quantity (weight (kg) or volume (m3)) of all invertebrate benthic species caught in the tow(and the unit of measurement).
d) Where possible, provide the live or dead status for corals
e) Where possible, and particularly for new or scarce benthic species which do not appear in ID guides, whole samples should be collected and suitably preserved for identification on shore.
e) Collect representative biological samples from the entire VME catch. (Biological samples shall be collected and frozen when requested by the scientific authority in a Contracting Party). For some coral species that are under the CITES list photographs should be taken.

Other sessile benthos taxa

Presence: Yes/No
For each catch of taxa
Scientific names (identified to the finest taxon level possible)
FAO code (if available)
Estimation of the amount caught

Processing Details and Conversion Factors (CF)

Operation ID (setID, towID)
Name of observer
Species Code (FAO species code)
Processing Code
Length Type
Minimum Length (cm)
Maximum Length (cm)
Number of individuals
Total Green Weight (kg)
Weighting Method
Processed Weight (kg)
Size Grade
Quality Grade
Conversion Factor

Observer data sections that are gear and fishery specific

For trawl fishing activities ONLY

Gear details
Net ID
Gear type (ISSFCV)
Headrope length (m)
Ground rope length (m)
Ground rope bobbins present?
Ground rope bobbins material (steel or rubber)
Ground rope bobbins weight (combined)
Bobbin diameter (cm)
Otter board to wing length (m)
Horizontal Opening, i.e. wingspread (m)
Vertical Opening (m)
Codend mesh
Mesh size (cm),
codend circumference (cm),
Orientation
Mesh type (diamond, square, etc)

Otter board
Type, weight (kg)

Net design
Net design description including make, model etc
Selectivity device present? (Y/N)
Selectivity device description
Net monitoring cables present? (Y/N)

Trawl details
Trawl Number
Bycatch Mitigation Gear used (Y/N)
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 1 ID
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 2 ID
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 3 ID

Trawl type: Research or Commercial (R/C)
Observed (Yes/No)
Target Species (FAO species code)
Date Start (YYYY.MON.DD)
Date Finish (YYYY.MON.DD)
Time net deployed (hh:mm)
Time net retrieved (hh:mm)

Start and End Fishing

For bottom trawl "start" is defined as when the groundrope is on the bottom, "end" is when the hauling starts.
For midwater trawl "start" is defined as when the fishing gear is at target fishing depth, "end" is when the hauling starts.

Time (hh:mm)
Latitude
Longitude
Trawl Depth (m)
Bottom Depth (m)

Other
Offal discharged during shooting (Y/N)
Offal discharged during hauling (Y/N)
Trawl speed (knots)
Total catch (kg)

Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch (Y/N):
Record the total weight of all sub-samples for this shot (kg):

Trawl gear strike (to be monitored for 15 minutes immediately after the net has been deployed) (optional):
Start observation time (hh:mm) (optional)
End observation time (hh:mm) (optional)
Species
Nb of light strikes
Light strikes contact place:
  Number on windward ward
  Number on leeward ward
  Number on monitoring cable
  Number on net

Nb of heavy strikes
Heavy strikes contact place:
  Number on windward ward
  Number on leeward ward
  Number on monitoring cable
  Number on net

Heavy strike fate:
  Number aerial
  Number sea surface
  Number submerged
State of the bird(s) after strike
  Number Likely to survive
  Number Injured
  Number Dead
  Number Unknown

For Longline fishing activities ONLY

Longline Description:
Longline Type (ISSCFG codes)
Period in which the gear was used (YYYY.MON.DD)
Start and end date (YYYY.MON.DD)
Target Species (FAO species code)

Main Line:
Material

Diameter (mm)

For Integrated Weight Lines (IWL):
Integrated weight (g/m)

For non-IWL:
Weight spacing (m)
Number of measured weights
Weight type
Average weight (kg)
Standard deviation (kg)

Branch Lines:
Material
Length (m)
Spacing (m)
Branchline weights (kg)
Branchline weight distance from hook (m)

Hooks
Type (e.g.: J shaped, Circular, etc.)
Manufacturer
Marking (vessel mark, leave blank for none)
Model name
Size (mm)
Shank (mm)
Gape (mm)
Usual setting position
Line off bottom (m) (optional for pelagic longline)
Hooks off bottom (m) (optional for pelagic longline)
Method of baiting (manual/automatic)
Automatic baiting equipment (make and model)

Hook sinkers
Size (g)
Position from hook (mm)

Offal dumping position (port, starboard, stern)
Longline setting position (port, starboard, stern)
Offal dumping during hauling (never, occasionally, always)
Propeller rotation direction (clockwise/anti-clockwise)
Detail the weight and distance between the line weights for the longline system used
Single (Auto) Line (kg:m)
Double (Spanish) Line (kg:m)
Trotline (vertical droppers/trots attached to a mainline) (kg:m)

Daily setting observations
Set Number (as referenced in catch and effort log)
Set Type: Research or Commercial (R/C)
Bycatch Mitigation Gear used (Y/N)
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 1 ID
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 2 ID
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 3 ID
Longline Type Code (FSSCV)

Date of observation (YYYY.MON.DD)

Setting information
Vessel setting speed (knots)
Number sets unobserved since last set

Start and End setting for each haul
Date (YYYY.MON.DD)
Time (hh:mm)
Latitude
Longitude
Bottom Depth (m)

Total length of longline set (km)
Total number of hooks for the set

For each Observation
Start date (YYYY.MON.DD)
Start time (hh:mm)
End date (YYYY.MON.DD)
End time (hh:mm)

Details of Longline Setting

Number of Baskets/Magazines Set
Number of hooks per Basket/Magazine
Percentage hooks baited
Distance between branches (m)
Distance of hooks off bottom (m) (optional for pelagic longline)
Bait species (FAO species code)
Deck lights during setting (On, Off)
Streamer lines used (Yes, No)
Number of streamer lines used
Offal dumping during setting (Yes, No)
Bait entry position (Port, Starboard, Stern)
Clip on Interval (seconds)
Setting Speed (Line setter)

Daily hauling observations
Set number
Date of observation (YYYY.MON.DD)

Hauling Information
Number of hooks observed for seabird and fish bycatch (tally period)
Offal dumped during hauling (Yes / No)

Interactions with marine mammals
Data is to be collected in accordance with the protocol set out in annex E. For each haul and each species of depredating whales (killer whales *Orcinus orca* and sperm whales *Physeter macrocephalus)*:

- Priority 1 data to be collected include:

1. Presence/absence data: Presence / Absence / Not observed;
2. When presence, photo-identification data: photographs of specific body parts (for killer whales:

dorsal fin, saddle patch and eye patches; for sperm whales: tail flukes) visible when whales come to the surface.

- Priority 2 data to be collected include:

1. Estimates of the number of individuals present around the vessel in the vicinity of the fishing gear.

- Priority 3 data to be collected include:

1. Information about whether or not whales interact with the gear;
2. Estimate of the time of arrival of whales in the vicinity of the gear.

Gear lost

Number of sections lost
Number of hooks lost that were attached to lost sections of the longline
Number of other hooks lost (excluding hooks attached to lost sections)

Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch (Y/N):
Estimate percentage of the haul observed for bycatch (%)

For Trapping/Potting Fishing Activities ONLY

Trap/Pot *type* **(with drawing)**

Mesh size (mm)
Material

Funnel position

Orientation
Aperture (cm)

Number of chambers
Escape port present (y/n)
Dimensions (cm) of escape port
Weights attached?
Min Weight (kg)
Max Weight (kg)

Set and haul details

Set Number
Bycatch Mitigation Gear used (Y/N)
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 1 ID
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 2 ID
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 3 ID

Date of observation (YYYY.MON.DD)
Set Type: Research or Commercial (R/C)
Target species (FAO species code)
Offal dumped during setting (Yes / No)
Offal dumped during hauling (Yes / No)

Start and End setting. Repeat for hauling

Date (YYYY.MON.DD)

Time (:mm)
Latitude
Longitude
Bottom depth (m)

Gear Details
Length of line (m)
Type of line
Trap/Pot spacing (m)
Bait type

Setting
Number of pots/traps set
Number of pots/traps observed

Hauling
number of pots/traps hauled
number of pots/traps observed

Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch (Y/N):
Estimate percentage of the haul observed for bycatch (%):

For Dahn/Drop lining activity ONLY

Dahn/Dropline Description
Line Type
Period in which the gear was used () Start and end date
Target species (FAO species code)

Main Line
Material
Diameter (mm)
Integrated weight (g/m)

Hooks
Type (e.g.: J shaped, Circular, etc.)
Manufacturer
Marking (leave blank for none)
Model name
Size (mm)
Shank (mm)
Gape (mm)
Usual setting position
Line off bottom (m)
Hooks off bottom (m)
Method of baiting (manual/automatic)
Automatic baiting equipment (make and model)

Offal
Offal dumping position (port, starboard, stern)
Offal dumping during hauling (never, occasionally, always)

Propeller rotation direction (clockwise/anti-clockwise)

Details of Dahn/Dropline Setting
Bycatch Mitigation Gear used (Y/N)
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 1 ID
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 2 ID
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 3 ID

Main line length (m)
Number of hooks set
Percentage hooks baited
Distance between branches/snoods (m)
Distance of hooks off bottom (m)
Bait species
Bait size
Bait proportion
Deck lights during setting (On, Off)
Streamer lines used (Yes, No)
Number of streamer lines used Offal dumping during setting (Yes, No)
Daylight period
Moonlight
Bait entry position (Port, Starboard, Stern)
Vessel setting speed (knots)

Start and End setting. Repeat for Start and End of hauling
Date (YYYY.MON.DD)
Time (hh:mm)
Latitude
Longitude
Bottom Depth (m)

Gear lost
Number of sections lost
Number of hooks lost that were attached to lost sections of the dahn/dropline
Number of other hooks lost (excluding hooks attached to lost sections)

Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch (Y/N):
Estimate percentage of the haul observed for bycatch (%)

Handline fishing activity

Handline Description

Main Line
Material
Diameter (mm)

Hooks
Type (e.g.: J shaped, Circular, etc.)
Manufacturer
Marking (leave blank for none)
Model name
Size (mm)Shank (mm)
Gape (mm)Usual setting position
Line off bottom (m)

Hooks off bottom (m)

Offal
Offal dumping position (port, starboard, stern)
Offal dumping during hauling (never, occasionally, always)
Propeller rotation direction (clockwise/anti-clockwise)

Details of Handline Operation
Target species (FAO species code)
Operation type: Research or Commercial (R/C)
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 1 ID
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 2 ID
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 3 ID

Number of fishers operating handlines
Number of line lifts per fisherman (average)
Number of hooks per line
Percentage hooks baited
Bait species
Bait size
Bait proportion
Deck lights during setting (On, Off)

Start and End time of operation.
(An operation is a defined period of fishing between start and end date)
Date (YYYY.MON.DD)
Time (hh:mm)

Time Start (YYYY.MON.DD hh:mm)
Time Finish (YYYY.MON.DD hh:mm)Operation Latitude
Operation Longitude
Bottom Depth (m)

Gear lost
Number of hooks lost
Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch (Y/N):
Estimate percentage of the haul observed for bycatch (%)

Squid Jigging operation details:

Squid Jigging (operation) Number
Observed (Yes/No)
Target Species (FAO species code)
Time Start (YYYY.MON.DD hh:mm)
Time Finish (YYYY.MON.DD hh:mm)
Latitude of operation
Longitude of operation
Number of fishers
Number of jigging machines
Fishing duration by hand (h)
Fishing duration by machine (h)

Lighting
Fish lamp used during fishing (Y/N)
Total Power of fish lamp (kW)
Lamp Type (e.g. Metal Halide Lamp or LED)
Total power of underwater lamps (kW)

Total power of above sea level lamps (kW) Lighting duration (hours) on underwater lamps and above sea level lamps, respectively Sea Surface Temperature (°C) (where possible) Was fishing observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch (Y/N): Estimated percentage of the operation observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch (%)
For Light seining activity ONLY Type of seining gear FAO Gear code: SV-boat seine (02.2), LNB-boat-operated-liftnet (05.2) and FCN cast net (06.1) Target species (FAO species code) Observed (Yes/No) *Lighting* Lighting used during fishing (Y/N) Total Power of fish lamp (kW) Lamp Type (e.g. Metal Halide Lamp or LED) Total power of underwater lamps (kW) Total power of above sea level lamps (kW) Lighting duration (hours) on underwater lamps and above sea level lamps, respectively Time Start fishing (YYYY.MON.DD hh:mm) Time End fishing (YYYY.MON.DD hh:mm) Latitude Start fishing Longitude Start fishing Maximum submergence depth of the net (m) Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch (Y/N) Estimated percentage of the operation observed for fish/inverts bycatch (%)

Annex C

Specifications for the Exchange of Data

1. Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) shall be used to describe times, using the following submission format: YYYY-MON-DDThh:mm:ss where:

a. YYYY - represents a 4-digit year e.g. "2007"

b. MON - represents a 3-character month abbreviation e.g. "APR"

c. DD - represents a 2-digit day e.g. "05"

d. T - is a space separator

e. hh - represents hours based on the 24hr clock (length = 2 digits) e.g. "16"

f. mm - represents minutes (length = 2 digits) e.g. "05"

g. ss - represent seconds (length = 2 digits) e.g. "00"

Example: 2003-JUL-17T13:10:00 = 1.10pm (1310h), 17 July 2003

2. Coordinates are to be used to describe precise locations and the following standards shall be used:
Degrees minutes seconds (DD°MM'SS'') or Degrees minute decimal (DD°MM.XX) or Decimal degrees (DD.XXXX)
Add N or S to indicated North or South for latitudes. Add E to indicate the Eastern longitude (the SIOFA Area is always in the Eastern longitudes), for decimal degrees, add minus for southern latitudes.
Examples:
Latitude= 42°37'06'' S Longitude= 48°03'58'' E
Latitude= 35°09.70'' S Longitude= 51°12.94''
Latitude= -10.0386 Longitude= 61.7088

3. Metric units of measure be used, specifically:

a. kilograms are to be used to describe catch weight

b. Metres are to be used to describe height, width, depth, beam, or length

c. Cubic metres are to be used to describe volume

d. Kilowatts are to be used to describe engine power

Annex D

Role and tasks of the scientific observer

1. The function of scientific observers on board vessels engaged in harvesting of marine living resources is to independently observe and report on the operation of fishing activities in the SIOFA Area.

2. In fulfilling this function, scientific observers will undertake the following tasks:

   a. Record details of vessel operations, including inter alia, times of, searching, fishing, transit etc., and details of hauls;

   b. Take biological samples of catches;

   c. Record biological data of species caught;

   d. Record bycatch information, such as species, quantity, and other biological data [as specified in Annex B]

   e. Record interactions with seabirds, marine mammals, and marine reptiles

   f. Record information on catch including data relating to processed conversion factors;

   g. prepare reports of their observations for their respective national authorities;

   h. collect and report data on sightings fishing vessels, unmarked fishing gear, and recovery of fishing gear in the SIOFA Area, including vessel type identification, vessel position and activity and gear type;

   i. collect information on fishing gear loss and waste disposal by the fishing vessels at sea.

Annex E

Protocol for documenting whale interaction in deep-sea demersal longline fisheries

Priority 1 Data to be collected

Presence

For every haul and for each species:

Haul	Fish Waste discharge	Presence ?	Comment
1	Yes/No	Absent	
2	Yes/No	Present	
3	Yes/No	Present	Night-time, but clearly see them in projectors
4	Yes/No	Not observed	Night-time, can't see them but can't say they are not present around.

Requirement: data mandatory and must be collected for every haul.

"Presence": Favourable conditions (visibility is at least several hundred meters with sufficient light) and observation by the observer (observer can be alerted by the crew when whales are sighted). The presence of whales is confirmed by direct observation of at least one individual at the surface in the vicinity of the vessel at least once during 1 haul. Note that presence can also be observed at night when killer whales come very close to the boat.

"Absence": Favourable conditions and no odontocete spotted at any time during the entire haul.

"Not observed" is used either if the observer did not have time to gather information (e.g. if line broke), or if conditions are too bad to observe (either weather conditions, or hauling at night).

Photos

For every haul and for each species:

Haul	Presence?	Photos?	Comment
1	Absent	No	
2	Present	Yes	
3	Present	No	Night-time: too dark for pictures
4	Not observed	No	Night-time: too dark for pictures

Requirement: data mandatory and must be collected for every haul.

With this additional field, observers indicate whether they took pictures of whales for photo-identification purposes or not during the haul of the set.

Priority 2 Data to be collected

Number of individuals

For every haul and for each species:

Haul	Presence?	minimum	maximum	comment
1	Absent	0	0	
2	Present	15	22	
3	Present	1		At least one but too dark for accurate estimate
4	Not observed			

Requirement: data should be collected for every haul to the extent possible.

Providing exact counts of individuals from the surface may be difficult for observers as whales can dive for long periods of time. To account for uncertainty around counts, observers may fill in two fields:

- Minimum estimate of the number of individuals,
- Maximum estimate of the number of individuals.

Priority 3 Data to be collected

Interaction with fishing gear

For every haul and for each species:

Haul	Presence?	Interaction with fishing gear?	Comment
1	Absent	No	
2	Present	Yes	Saw them diving close to the line
3	Present	Yes	Head of fish were observed
4	Not observed		

Requirement: data should be collected for every haul to the extent possible.

When Presence, interaction with fishing gear is taken into account if whales are diving close to the lines or directly observed with fish in their mouths.

Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA)

For every haul and for each species:

Haul	Presence?	ETA	Comment
1	Absent	NA	Not applicable
2	Present	0:30	We were able to haul 30 minutes before they arrive
3	Present	0:00	Saw them in projectors even before first hook came on board
4	Not observed	NA	Not applicable

Requirement: data should be collected for every haul to the extent possible.

The Estimated Time of Arrival here corresponds to the time between the first hook of the line hauled on board and the arrival of sperm whales / killer whales. If whales are already present when hauling starts, then ETA is zero.

CMM 03(2025)[1]

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 (CNCPs) and Participating Fishing Entities (PFEs), collectively CCPs, 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:

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

[1] CMM 03(2025) (Data Confidentiality) supersedes CMM 03(2016) (Data Confidentiality).

b. The following data shall be considered to be "public domain catch and effort data":

i. Catch-and-effort and length-frequency data grouped by 5° longitude by 5° latitude by 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.

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

Finer level stratification

d. 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, to undertake its work:

i. on a restricted basis for catch-and-effort and length-frequency data grouped by 1° longitude by 1° latitude, provided that it does not identify a single fishing event;

ii. on a confidential basis for other finer-scale data.

e. 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.

f. 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 shall adhere to the SIOFA standard operating procedure for data use and data requests (Annex L of MoP9 Report) available on the website.

g. 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.

h. 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.

3. VMS data shall be considered confidential data and shall be processed in accordance with the specific requirements of CMM 16(2026) (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.

Economic information[2]

4. Economic information such as catch landing value, vessel company turnover and crew wages will be considered:

a) "Public domain data" when it corresponds, at minimum, to the data of three vessels;

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

5. 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. 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 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.

d. 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.

Data submitted to the Scientific Committee

6. 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.

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

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

[2] Applicable in situations where economic information is voluntarily provided by CCPs.

CMM 04(2016)

Conservation and Management Measure on Vessels without Nationality (Vessels without Nationality)

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

RECOGNISING that vessels without nationality operate without governance and oversight;

CONCERNED that fishing in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) by vessels without nationality undermines the objective of the Agreement and the work of the Meeting of the Parties;

NOTING Articles 92 and 94 of the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS) relating to the status of ships and the duties of flag States; and

RECALLING that the FAO Council has adopted an International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU fishing) and has recommended that States adopt measures consistent with international law in relation to fishing vessels without nationality involved in IUU fishing on the high seas;

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

1. A vessel without nationality is a vessel that, under international law, is not entitled to fly the flag of any State or, as referred to in Article 92 of UNCLOS, sails under the flag of two or more States, using them according to convenience.

2. Vessels determined under international law to be vessels without nationality that are fishing in the Agreement Area undermine the Agreement and the efforts of the Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) and Participating Fishing Entities (PFEs) to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fishery resources, and are engaged in IUU fishing.

3. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs are encouraged to take effective action in accordance with international law, including, where appropriate, enforcement action, against vessels without nationality that are engaging, or have engaged, in fishing or fishing related activities in the Agreement Area, and to prohibit the landing and transhipment of fish and fish products, and access to port services, by such vessels, except where such access is essential to the safety or health of the crew or the safety of the vessel/s.

4. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs are encouraged to adopt necessary measures, including, where relevant, domestic legislation, to allow them to take the effective action referred to in paragraph 3 to prevent and deter vessels without nationality from engaging in fishing or fishing related activities in the Agreement Area.

5. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs are encouraged to share information about vessels suspected to be without nationality to assist in clarifying the status of such vessels, and about the activities of vessels without nationality to inform decisions about action to prevent and deter such vessels from engaging in fishing or fishing related activities in the Agreement Area. Any sightings of fishing vessels that are suspected of, or confirmed as being, without nationality that may be fishing in the high seas of the Agreement Area

shall be reported to the Secretariat as soon as possible by the appropriate authorities of the Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE whose vessel or aircraft made the sighting. The Secretariat will circulate such information to all Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs as soon as practicable, and will provide a report to the next ordinary meeting of the Compliance Committee of all such information provided.

6. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs are encouraged to cooperate with all flag States to strengthen their legal, operational and institutional capacity to take action against their flagged vessels that have engaged in IUU fishing or fishing related activities in the Agreement Area, including the imposition of adequate sanctions, as an alternative to de-flagging such vessels, thereby rendering such vessels without nationality.

CMM 05(2016)[1]

Conservation and Management Measure regarding the use of large-scale pelagic driftnets and deepwater gillnets in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement Area (Pelagic Driftnets and Deepwater Gillnets)

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

CONCERNED by the impact of large-scale pelagic driftnets and deepwater gillnets on fishery resources, bycatch species and deep sea habitats and ecosystems, including the impact of lost and abandoned nets;

NOTING the relevance of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 46/215 on *Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas,* which calls for the implementation of UNGA resolutions 44/225 and 45/197 and for a global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas of the world's oceans;

FURTHER NOTING Resolution 61/105, adopted by the UNGA at the 61st Plenary Meeting on 8 December 2006 and subsequent UNGA resolutions that call on States and regional fisheries management organisations to regulate bottom fisheries and implement measures in accordance with the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management;

RECALLING that Article 6(1)(c) and (d) of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (the Agreement) call on Contracting Parties, in giving effect to the objectives of the Agreement, to evaluate the impact of fishing on the fishery resources and on the marine environment, taking into account the environmental and oceanographic characteristics of the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) and to adopt conservation and management measures (CMMs) necessary for ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Agreement Area; and

RECOGNISING Article 4(e) of the Agreement which requires Contracting Parties to apply the principle 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;

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

1. The use of all large-scale pelagic driftnets[2] in the Agreement Area is prohibited for any vessel flying the flag of a Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party (CNCP) or participating fishing entity (PFE).

2. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs recommend that deepwater gillnets[3] not be used in the Agreement Area by any vessel flying the flag of a Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE until such time as the Meeting of the Parties has received a recommendation from the Scientific Committee.

[1] Obsolete paragraph has been removed by 2023 technical edits.

[2] 'Large-scale pelagic driftnets' (drift gillnets) are defined as a gillnet or other net or a combination of nets which is more than 2.5 kilometres in length the purpose of which is to enmesh, entrap or entangle fish by drifting on the surface or in the water.

[3] 'Deepwater gillnets' (trammel net, set nets, anchored nets, sink nets) are defined as strings of single, double or triple netting walls, held vertically, usually on or near the seafloor, in which fish will gill, entangle or enmesh. Several types of nets may be combined in one gear. These nets can be used either alone or, as is more usual, in large numbers placed in line ('fleets' of nets). The gear can be set, anchored to the bottom or left drifting, free or connected with the vessel.

3. Nothing in this measure shall prevent Contracting Parties, CNCPs or PFEs from applying more stringent measures to large-scale pelagic driftnets not covered by this CMM, or to deepwater gillnets.

CMM 06(2024)[1]

Conservation and Management Measure on the Listing of IUU Vessels (IUU Vessel List)

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

RECALLING that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June 2001 an International Plan of Action to prevent, to deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IPOA-IUU). This plan stipulates that the identification of the vessels carrying out illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) activities should follow agreed procedures and be applied in an equitable, transparent and non-discriminatory way;

CONCERNED by the fact that IUU fishing activities in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) diminish the effectiveness of the Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted by the Meeting of the Parties;

DETERMINED to address the challenge of an increase in IUU fishing activities by way of counter-measures to be applied in respect to the vessels, without prejudice to further measures adopted in respect of flag States under the relevant SIOFA instruments;

NOTING that efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing must be addressed in the light of all relevant international fisheries instruments and in accordance with other relevant international obligations, including the rights and obligations established under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement;

RECALLING that Article 1(f) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) requires the Meeting of the Parties to develop and monitor measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

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

1. At each ordinary Meeting of the Parties, the Meeting of the Parties shall identify those vessels which have engaged in fishing in the Agreement Area in contravention of SIOFA CMMs and shall establish a list of such vessels (the SIOFA IUU Vessel List, hereafter IUU Vessel List), in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out below.

Transmission of information to establish the Draft IUU Vessel List

2. Each Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party (CNCP) and participating fishing entity (PFE) shall every year, and at least 90 days before each ordinary Meeting of the Parties, transmit to the Secretariat, using the Reporting Form in Annex I, information on vessels presumed to have engaged in IUU fishing activities in the Agreement Area, accompanied by all available supporting evidence concerning the presumption of the IUU fishing activities.

3. Prior to, or at the same time as, transmitting the information referred to in paragraph 2 to the Secretariat, the notifying Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE shall provide, either directly or through the Executive Secretary, to the relevant flag State a copy of the pertinent suitably documented information and notification of its relevance to the Draft SIOFA IUU Vessel List. The notifying Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE shall request that the flag State promptly acknowledge receipt of this notification.

[1] CMM 06(2024) (IUU Vessel List) supersedes CMM 06(2022) (IUU Vessel List).

4. The information on vessels presumed to have engaged in IUU fishing activities in the Agreement Area transmitted to the Secretariat of paragraph 2 shall be based, *inter alia,* on reports from Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs relating to SIOFA CMMs, trade information obtained on the basis of relevant trade statistics such as Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) data, statistical documents and other national or international verifiable statistics, as well as any other information which is suitably documented.

5. Vessels engaged in fishing in the Agreement Area are presumed to have carried out IUU fishing in the Agreement Area when a Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE presents evidence that such vessels, have *inter alia*:

(a) engaged in fishing for fishery resources in the Agreement Area and are not on the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels;

(b) engaged in fishing for fishery resources in the Agreement Area, in contravention of the vessel's fishing licences, authorisations or permits, or after its flag State has exhausted its quota/s, catch limit or effort allocation established by SIOFA CMMs;

(c) not recorded or reported their catches made in the Agreement Area as required by adopted reporting procedures, or made false reports;

(d) retained on board, transshipped or landed undersized fish in a way that undermines SIOFA CMMs;

(e) fished for, retained on board, transshipped or landed fisheries resources subject to a SIOFA moratorium or the retention of which is prohibited by SIOFA;

(f) engaged in fishing during a closed fishing period or in closed areas in contravention of SIOFA CMMs;

(g) used prohibited fishing gear or fishing method in contravention of SIOFA CMMs;

(h) transshipped or participated in other operations, such as joint-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;

(i) engaged in fishing for fishery resources, transshipment or other operations such as joint-fishing, and transfers at sea of fuel, crew, gear or any other supplies either as an unloading or receiving vessel, in the Agreement Area as a vessel without nationality;

(j) engaged in fishing for fishery resources, transshipment or other operations such as joint-fishing, resupplying and refueling operations in the Agreement Area having intentionally falsified or concealed their markings, identity or registration;

(k) engaged in fishing activities in contravention of any SIOFA CMMs; or

(l) been under the control of the owner of any vessel on the IUU Vessel List.

Draft IUU Vessel List

6. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraphs 2 or 26, and any other information at its disposal, the Secretariat shall draw up a Draft SIOFA IUU Vessel List and shall transmit it, together with the current IUU Vessel List, with all the supporting evidence provided, to all Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs, as well as to non-Contracting Parties with vessels on the List, at least 60 days before the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

7. Any comments related to the Draft IUU list shall be transmitted to the Secretariat, at least 40 days before the ordinary Meeting of the Parties, as appropriate, including verifiable evidence

and other supporting information, showing that the vessels included on the Draft IUU vessel list have neither operated in contravention of SIOFA CMMs nor had the possibility of engaging in fishing for fishery resources in the Agreement Area.

8. The Secretariat shall request each flag State with vessels on the Draft IUU Vessel List notify the owner of the vessels of their inclusion in that List, and of the consequences of their inclusion being confirmed in the IUU Vessel List.

9. Upon receipt of the Draft IUU Vessel List, Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall closely monitor the vessels included in that List in order to determine their activities and possible changes of name, flag or registered owner.

Draft and current IUU Vessel Lists

10. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraphs 6 and 7, the Secretariat shall update and re-circulate the Draft IUU Vessel List and transmit it, together with the current IUU Vessel List, three weeks in advance of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties, to Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs and any non-Contracting Parties concerned, together with all the evidence provided.

11. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs may at any time submit to the Secretariat any additional information which might be relevant for the Compliance Committee to discuss the Draft IUU Vessel List and the current IUU List. The Secretariat shall promptly circulate the information, together with all the evidence provided, to the Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs and to the non-Contracting Parties concerned.

Provisional IUU Vessel List

12. At each ordinary meeting, the Compliance Committee shall:

(a) following consideration of the Draft IUU Vessel List and information and evidence circulated under paragraphs 6, 7, 10 and 11, pursuant to paragraph 14 include relevant vessels on a Provisional IUU Vessel List and submit it to the Meeting of the Parties for approval; and

(b) following consideration of the current IUU Vessel List and the information and evidence circulated under paragraph 11, pursuant to the relevant requirements of paragraph 28 recommend to the Meeting of the Parties which, if any, vessels should be removed from the current IUU Vessel List.

13. A vessel shall be included in the Provisional IUU Vessel List only if one or more of the criteria in paragraph 5 have been satisfied.

14. The Compliance Committee shall remove a vessel from the Draft IUU Vessel List if is demonstrated, notably by the flag State, that:

(a) the vessel did not engage in any of the IUU fishing described in paragraph 5; or

(b) effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing in question, including, *inter alia,* prosecution, and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity; and

(c) the vessel is able to comply with all relevant and adopted SIOFA CMMs.

IUU Vessel List

15. Paragraph 14 applies *mutatis mutandis* to the Meeting of the Parties in its consideration of

the Provisional IUU Vessel List.

16. At each ordinary Meeting of the Parties the Meeting of the Parties shall review the Provisional IUU Vessel List, taking into account any new suitably documented information related to vessels on the Provisional IUU Vessel List, and any recommendations to amend the current IUU Vessel List made by Compliance Committee pursuant to paragraph 12 above, and adopt a new IUU Vessel List.

17. The Draft IUU Vessel List, Provisional IUU Vessel List and the IUU Vessel List shall contain the following details for each vessel:

(a) name and previous names, if any;

(b) flag and previous flags, if any;

(c) owner and previous owners, including beneficial owners, if any;

(d) operator and previous operators, if any;

(e) call sign and previous call signs, if any;

(f) IMO number, if any;

(g) photographs, where available;

(h) date first included on the IUU Vessel List; and

(i) summary of activities which justify inclusion of the vessel on the IUU Vessel List, together with references to all relevant documents informing of and evidencing those activities.

18. Once the Meeting of the Parties adopts the IUU Vessel List, it shall request through the Secretariat that Contracting CNCPs and PFEs and non-Contracting Parties with vessels on the IUU Vessel List:

(a) notify the owner of the vessels of its inclusion on the IUU Vessel List and the consequences which result from being included in the IUU Vessel List; and

(b) take all the necessary measures to eliminate these IUU fishing activities and to inform the Meeting of the Parties of the measures taken in this respect.

19. 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:

(a) 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;

(b) ensure that its vessels do not participate in any transshipment or other operations such as joint-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;

(c) 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;

(d) give priority to the inspection of vessels on the IUU Vessel List, if such vessels are found in their ports;

(e) prohibit the chartering of vessels on the IUU Vessel List;

(f) refuse to grant their flag to vessels on the IUU Vessel List;

(g) 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;

(h) prohibit change of crew on board of vessels on the IUU Vessel List;

(i) 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; and

(j) collect and promptly exchange with other Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs, any appropriate relevant information on vessels included in the IUU Vessel List.

20. Consistent with paragraph 12 of CMM 08(2020), where a vessel included on the IUU Vessel List is in port for any reason, Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall deny such vessel the use of its ports for landing, transshipping, packaging, and processing of fish and for other port services including, *inter alia*, refuelling and resupplying, maintenance and drydocking.

21. Notwithstanding paragraph 20, and in accordance with paragraph 13 of CMM 08(2020), Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall not deny a vessel referred to in that paragraph the use of port services essential to the safety or health of the crew or the safety of the vessel, provided these needs are duly proven or, where appropriate, for the scrapping of the vessel.

22. Nothing in this Conservation and Management Measure affects the entry of vessels to port in accordance with international law for reasons of force majeure or distress, or prevents a port State from permitting entry into port to a vessel exclusively for the purpose of rendering assistance to persons, ships or aircraft in danger or distress.

23. The Secretariat shall take any measure necessary to ensure publicity of the IUU Vessel List, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, including placing it on the SIOFA website.

Special procedure for cross-listing IUU vessels from other organisations

24. In addition to any relevant organisation that has expressed an interest to receive the IUU Vessel List, the Secretariat shall transmit said List and any relevant information regarding the IUU Vessel List to the FAO and to the secretariats of the following organisations for the purposes of enhancing co-operation between SIOFA and these organizations aimed at preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing: the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) and, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

25. Notwithstanding paragraphs 6 to 11 of this CMM, upon receipt of the Final IUU Vessel Lists established by CCAMLR, CCSBT, ICCAT, IOTC, IATTC, GFCM, NAFO, NEAFC, NPFC, SEAFO, SPRFMO and WCPFC, and any information regarding the Lists, the Secretariat shall circulate this information to Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs for the purpose of amending the SIOFA IUU Vessel List during the intersessional period in accordance with Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedures of the Meeting of the Parties. Vessels that have been added to or deleted from the

respective organisations' Final IUU Vessel Lists shall be incorporated into or deleted, as appropriate, from the IUU Vessel List, unless any Contracting Party or PFE objects in writing within 30 days of the date of transmittal by the Secretariat.

26. In the event of an objection to a vessel listed by CCAMLR, CCSBT, ICCAT, IOTC, IATTC, GFCM, NAFO, NEAFC, NPFC, SEAFO, SPRFMO or WCPFC, being incorporated into or deleted from the IUU Vessel List, such vessel shall be placed on the Draft IUU Vessel List.

27. Without prejudice to the rights of Contracting Parties, CNCPs, PFEs and coastal States to take proper action, consistent with international law, the Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall not take any unilateral trade measures or other sanctions against vessels on the Draft or Provisional IUU Vessel Lists, pursuant to paragraph 5, or that have been removed from the IUU Vessel List, pursuant to paragraph 14, on the grounds that such vessels are involved in IUU fishing activities.

Modification of the IUU Vessel List

28. A Contracting Party, CNCP, PFE and a non-Contracting Party with a vessel on the IUU Vessel List may request the removal of the vessel from the IUU Vessel List, including during the intersessional period, provided that the conditions stipulated in paragraph 14 are met and more specifically by submitting suitably documented information that:

(a) it has adopted measures that will ensure that the vessel complies with all relevant and adopted CMMs; and

(b) it is and will continue to assume effectively its responsibilities as regards the monitoring and control of the vessel's fishing activities in the Area; and either

(c) it has taken effective action in response to the IUU fishing that resulted in the vessel's inclusion in the IUU Vessel List, including prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity; or

(d) the vessel has changed ownership and that the new owner can establish that the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interests in the vessel or exercises control over it, and that the new owner has not participated in IUU fishing.

29. The Meeting of the Parties may take a decision to remove a vessel from the IUU Vessel List providing it is satisfied that the requirements of paragraph 28 have been met. In order to remove a vessel from the IUU Vessel List in the intercessional period, Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedures of the Meeting of the Parties shall apply.

Involvement of Nationals in IUU fishing activities

30. Without prejudice to the primacy of the responsibility of the flag State, each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall take appropriate measures, subject to, and in accordance with, their applicable laws and regulations:

(a) to verify if any of their nationals or any natural or legal persons subject to their jurisdiction are engaged in the activities described in paragraph 5;

(b) to verify if any of their nationals or any natural or legal persons subject to their jurisdiction are responsible for, benefiting from, supporting or engaging in the activities described in paragraph 5 (e.g. as operators, effective beneficiaries, owners, logistics and service providers, including insurance providers and other financial service providers);

(c) to take appropriate action in response to any verified activities referred to in sub-paragraphs 30 (a) and (b). Such action may include measures to effectively deprive

any of the participants in such activities of the benefits obtained and effectively dissuade the actors of further illegal activities.

31. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall cooperate, including by seeking reciprocal and cooperative arrangements for exchange of information, for the purpose of implementing this CMM. To this end, relevant agencies of Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall designate a contact point through which information on reported activities described in sub-paragraphs 30 (a) and (b), including information regarding vessel identification, ownership including beneficial ownership, crew and catch, as well as information regarding relevant domestic legislation and the results of actions taken with regard to the implementation of this CMM can be exchanged.

32. To assist with the implementation of this CMM, Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall include in their annual implementation reports of the actions and measures taken in accordance with this CMM.

ANNEX I
SIOFA Reporting form for Vessels Presumed to be Carrying Out IUU Activities

A. Details of Vessel

Please provide the following details for each vessel presumed to have carried out IUU fishing in the Agreement Area:

Item	Description	Details
(a)	Name and previous names, if any	
(b)	Flag and previous flags, if any	
(c)	Owner and previous owners, including beneficial owners, if any	
(d)	Operator and previous operators, if any	
(e)	Call sign and previous call signs, if any	
(f)	IMO number, if any	
(g)	Photographs, where available	
(h)	Date first included on the IUU Vessel List, if applicable	
(i)	Summary of activities which justify inclusion of the vessel on the IUU Vessel List, together with references to all relevant documents informing of and evidencing those activities Please also complete Section B below	

B. IUU fishing activities

Please indicate which IUU activities, as listed in paragraph 5 of CMM 06(2024), the vessel identified in Section A is presumed to have carried out in the Agreement Area:

Item	Description	Indicate
(a)	engaged in fishing for fishery resources in the Agreement Area and are not on the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels;	☐
(b)	engaged in fishing for fishery resources in the Agreement Area, in contravention of the vessel's fishing licences, authorisations or permits, or after its flag State has exhausted its quota/s, catch limit or effort allocation established by SIOFA CMMs	☐
(c)	not recorded or reported their catches made in the Agreement Area as required by adopted reporting procedures, or made false reports	☐
(d)	retained on board, transshipped or landed undersized fish in a way that undermines SIOFA CMMs	☐
(d bis)	fished for, retained on board, transshipped or landed fisheries resources subject to a moratorium or the retention of which is prohibited by SIOFA	☐
(e)	engaged in fishing fish during a closed fishing period or in closed areas in contravention of SIOFA CMMs	☐
(f)	used prohibited fishing gear or fishing methods in contravention of SIOFA CMMs	☐
(g)	transshipped or participated in other operations, such as joint-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	☐
(h)	engaged in fishing for fishery resources, transshipment or other operations such as joint-fishing, resupplying and refueling operations in the Agreement Area having intentionally falsified or concealed their markings, identity or registration	☐
(i)	engaged in fishing activities contrary to any other SIOFA CMMS	☐
(j)	been under the control of the owner of any vessel on the SIOFA IUU Vessel List	☐

C. Supporting Evidence

List here the associated documents that are appended.

D. Recommended Actions

Recommended Actions		Indicate
a	Notification to SIOFA Secretariat only. No further action is recommended.	☐
b	Notification of IUU activity to SIOFA Secretariat. Recommend notification of activity to flag State.	☐
c	Recommended for inclusion on SIOFA IUU list	☐

CMM 07(2025)[1]

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 transhipment;

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 Area[2].
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 submitted[3]:
    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);

[1] CMM 07(2025) Vessel Authorisation supersedes CMM 07(2024) Vessel Authorisation
[2] 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.
[3] 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) details[4]:

    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;

   b. take necessary measures to ensure that the vessels flying their flag comply with all relevant SIOFA CMMs;

[4] 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.

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.

CMM 08(2020)[1]

Conservation and Management Measure establishing a Port Inspection Scheme (Port Inspection)

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

DEEPLY CONCERNED about illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) and its detrimental effect upon fish stocks, marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of legitimate fishers in particular in developing States;

CONSCIOUS of the role of the port State in the adoption of effective measures to promote the sustainable use and the long-term conservation of living marine resources;

RECOGNISING that measures to combat IUU fishing should build on the primary responsibility of flag States and use all available jurisdiction in accordance with international law, including port State measures, coastal State measures, market related measures and measures to ensure that nationals do not support or engage in IUU fishing;

RECOGNISING that port State measures provide a powerful and cost-effective means of preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing;

AWARE of the need for increasing coordination at the regional and interregional levels to combat IUU fishing through port State measures;

BEARING IN MIND that, in the exercise of their sovereignty over ports located in their territory, Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities may adopt more stringent measures, in accordance with international law;

RECALLING the relevant provisions of the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982;*

RECALLING 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 of 4 December 1995, the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas of 24 November 1993, the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing of 22 November 2009 (Port State Measures Agreement), and the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

RECALLING Article 6(1)(i) of the Agreement which calls on the Meeting of the Parties to develop and monitor measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing;

BEARING IN MIND Article 12 of the *Port States Measures Agreement* and the need to take into account the specifics of the fleets operating in the Agreement Area, the number of catches, the frequency and mode of port landings, and the status of the stocks, amongst others, in order to determine the level of port inspections sufficient to achieve the objective of preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishin*g*

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

[1] CMM 08(2020) (Port Inspections) supersedes CMM 2017/08 (Port Inspections)

Scope

1. Each Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party (CNCP) and participating fishing entity (PFE) shall, in fulfilling its duties under Article 12 of the Agreement, maintain an effective system of port State control for all vessels that have been engaged in fishing in the Agreement Area, except container vessels that are not carrying fishery resources or, if carrying fishery resources, only fishery resources that have been previously landed, provided that there are no clear grounds for suspecting that such a vessel has engaged in fishing related activities in support of IUU fishing.

Designation of ports

2. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall designate, publicise and notify the Secretariat about the ports to which foreign vessels may request entry. The notification to the Secretariat shall include accompanying information, such as associated conditions of entry and the period of notice required. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall provide this information to the Secretariat within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this CMM. Any subsequent changes to this information shall be notified to the Secretariat at least 30 days before the change takes effect.

3. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall, to the greatest extent possible, ensure that every port designated and publicised in accordance with paragraph 2 has sufficient capacity to conduct inspections consistent with the requirements in the Agreement and this CMM.

4. The Secretariat shall establish and maintain a register of all ports designated and accompanying information pursuant to paragraph 2. The register and accompanying information shall be published, and updated as required, on the SIOFA website.

Advance request for port entry of foreign vessels

5. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall, before granting entry to a foreign vessel to its port, as a minimum standard, require the information set out in Annex I to be provided at least 48 hours before the estimated time of arrival. A Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE may prescribe for another notification period, taking into account, *inter alia*, the distance between the fishing grounds and its ports. In such a case the Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE concerned shall without delay inform the Secretariat, who shall put this information on the SIOFA website. Any other subsequent changes to the requirements shall be notified to the Secretariat at least 30 days before the changes becomes effective.

Port entry, authorisation or denial of foreign vessels

6. After receiving the information required pursuant to paragraph 5, as well as such other information as it may require to determine whether the vessel requesting entry into its port has engaged in IUU fishing, each Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE shall decide whether to authorise or deny the entry of the vessel into its port and shall communicate this decision to the master of the vessel or to the vessel's representative.

7. In the case of authorisation of entry, the Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE shall require the master of the veRssel or the vessel's representative to present the authorisation for entry to the competent authorities of the CP, CNCP or PFE upon the vessel's arrival at port.

8. In the case of denial of entry, the Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE shall communicate its decision taken pursuant to paragraph 6 to the flag State of the vessel and to the Secretariat, who shall put this information on the SIOFA website.

9. Without prejudice to paragraph 6, when a Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE has sufficient proof that a vessel seeking entry into its port has engaged in IUU fishing, in particular the inclusion of a vessel on a list of vessels having engaged in such fishing adopted by SIOFA, other Contracting Parties, CNCPs or PFEs, another regional fisheries management organization or the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE shall deny that vessel entry into its ports.

10. Notwithstanding paragraphs 8 and 9, a Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE may allow the entry into its ports of a vessel referred to in those paragraphs exclusively for the purpose of inspecting it 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.

11. Where a vessel referred to in paragraphs 9 or 10 is in port for any reason, Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall deny such vessels the use of its ports for landing, transhipping, packaging, and processing of fishery resources and for other port services including, *inter alia*, refuelling and resupplying, maintenance and dry-docking. Paragraphs 13 and 14 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* in such cases. Denial of such use of ports shall be in conformity with international law.

Use of ports by foreign vessels

12. Where a vessel has entered one of its ports, a Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE shall deny, pursuant to its laws and regulations and consistent with international law including the Agreement that vessel the use of the port for landing, transhipping, packaging and processing of fishery resources that have not been previously landed and for other port services, including, *inter alia*, refuelling and resupplying, maintenance and dry-docking, if:

(a) the Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE finds that the vessel does not have a valid and applicable authorisation to engage in fishing or fishing related activities required by its flag State;

(b) the State whose flag the vessel is flying does not confirm within a reasonable period of time, on the request of the port State, that the fishery resources on board were taken in accordance with the Agreement and SIOFA CMMs; or

(c) the Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE has reasonable grounds to believe that the vessel was otherwise engaged in IUU fishing, including in support of a vessel referred to in paragraph 9, unless the owner/operator of the vessel can prove:

i. that it was acting in a manner consistent with relevant conservation and management measures; or

ii. in the case of provision of personnel, fuel, gear and other supplies at sea, that the vessel that was provisioned was not, at the time of provisioning, a vessel referred to in paragraph 9.

13. Notwithstanding paragraph 12, a Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE shall not deny a vessel referred to in that paragraph the use of port services:

(a) essential to the safety or health of the crew or the safety of the vessel, provided these needs are duly proven; or

(b) where appropriate, for the scrapping of the vessel.

14. Where a Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE has denied the use of its port in accordance with paragraph 12, it shall promptly notify the State whose flag the vessel is flying and the Secretariat, who shall put this information on the SIOFA website.

15. A Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE shall withdraw its denial of the use of its ports pursuant to paragraph 11 only if there is sufficient proof that the grounds on which use was denied were inadequate or erroneous or that such grounds no longer apply.

16. Where a Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE has withdrawn its denial pursuant to paragraph 15 it shall notify those to whom a notification was issued pursuant to paragraph 14.

Inspections

17. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure that inspections of any vessels are carried out by inspectors duly authorised, trained and familiar with the Agreement and relevant CMMs adopted by the Meeting of the Parties. Inspector training programs shall take into account the elements set out in Annex II, and Contracting Parties, CNCPs or PFEs shall seek to cooperate in this regard.

18. Prior to an inspection, the inspector shall present to the master of the vessel an appropriate identity document.

19. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure that inspections of vessels in their ports are carried out at least in accordance with the procedures set out in Annex III.

20. The port State may invite inspectors of other Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs to accompany their own inspectors and observe the inspection of landings or transshipment operations of fishery resources caught by foreign vessels.

21. Inspections shall be carried out in accordance with international law, and shall be conducted within 72 hours of port entry[2] and shall be carried out in an expeditious fashion. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure that their inspectors make all possible efforts to avoid unduly delaying a vessel and that the vessel suffers minimum interference and inconvenience, and that degradation of the quality of the fish resources is avoided.

22. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall undertake inspections of all fishing vessels carrying or landing *Dissostichus* spp. which enter their ports.

23. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall inspect vessels not entitled to fly their flag in their ports when:

(a) there is a reasonable request from another Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE, any regional fisheries management organisation or CCAMLR that a particular vessel be

[2] Unless weather conditions or other circumstances make accessing the vessel for inspection unsafe, in which case the inspection shall be carried out at the earliest opportunity and the inspection report shall note the reason for the delay.

inspected, particularly where such requests are supported by evidence of IUU fishing by the vessel in question, and there are clear grounds for suspecting that a vessel has engaged in IUU fishing;

(b) a vessel has failed to provide the information required in paragraph 5;

24. The competent authority of each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall include at least the information set out in Annex IV in the written report of the results of each inspection, which shall be forwarded to the competent authority of the inspected vessel and to the Secretariat.

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.

Role of Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs in relation to vessels flying their flags

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.

27. When a Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE has clear grounds to believe that one of its vessels has engaged in IUU fishing and is seeking entry to or is in the port of another Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE, it shall, as appropriate, request that the Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE inspects the vessel or takes other adequate measures.

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.

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.

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.

Application

31. This CMM shall be applied to the ports of all Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs within the coastal States, which have areas of national jurisdiction adjacent to the Agreement Area.

32. Each Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE which does not have areas of national jurisdiction adjacent to the Agreement Area shall endeavour to apply this CMM.

ANNEX I

INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED IN ADVANCE BY FOREIGN VESSELS REQUESTING PORT ENTRY

1. Intended port of call	
2. Port State	
3. Estimated date and time of arrival	
4. Purpose(s)	
5. Port and date of last port call	
6. Name of the vessel	
7. Flag State	
8. Type of vessel	
9. International Radio Call Sign	
10. Vessel contact information	
11. Vessel owner(s)	
12. Certificate of registry ID	
13. IMO ship ID, if available	
14. External ID, if available	
15. SIOFA ID, if applicable	

16. VMS	No	Yes: National	Yes: SIOFA	Type:

17. Vessel dimensions	Length		Beam		Draft	

18. Vessel master name and nationality	

19. Relevant fishing authorisation(s)					
Identifier	*Issued by*	*Validity*	*Fishing area(s)*	*Species*	*Gear*

20. Relevant transhipment authorisation(s)					
Identifier		*Issued by*		*Validity*	

Identifier		*Issued by*		*Validity*	

21. Transhipment authorisations concerning donor vessels								
Date	*Location*	*Name*	*Flag State*	*ID no.*	*Species*	*Product form*	*Catch area*	*Quantity*

22. Total catch onboard				23. Catch to be offloaded
Species	*Product form*	*Catch area*	*Quantity, Conversion factor and Live weight*	*Quantity*

ANNEX II

GUIDELINES FOR THE TRAINING OF INSPECTORS

Elements of a training program for port State inspectors should include at least the following areas:

1. Ethics;
2. Health, safety and security issues;
3. Applicable national laws and regulations, areas of competence and conservation and management measures of SIOFA, and applicable international law;
4. Collection, evaluation and preservation of evidence;
5. General inspection procedures such as report writing and interview techniques;
6. Analysis of information, such as logbooks, electronic documentation and vessel history (name, ownership and flag State), required for the validation of information given by the master of the fishing vessel;
7. Fishing vessel boarding and inspection, including hold inspections and calculation of vessel hold volumes;
8. Verification and validation of information related to landings, transshipments, processing and fishery resources remaining onboard, including utilizing conversion factors for the various species and products;
9. Identification of fish species, and the measurement of length and other biological parameters;
10. Identification of vessels and gear, and techniques for the inspection and measurement of gear;
11. Equipment and operation of VMS and other electronic tracking systems; and
12. Actions to be taken following an inspection.

ANNEX III

PORT STATE INSPECTION PROCEDURES

Inspectors shall:

a) verify, to the extent possible, that the vessel identification documentation onboard and information relating to the owner of the vessel is true, complete and correct, including through appropriate contacts with the flag State or international records of vessels if necessary;

b) verify that the vessel's flag and markings (e.g. name, external registration number, International Maritime Organization (IMO) ship identification number, international radio call sign and other markings, main dimensions) are consistent with information contained in the documentation;

c) verify, to the extent possible, that the authorisations for fishing and fishing related activities are true, complete, correct and consistent with the information provided in accordance with Annex I;

d) review all other relevant documentation and records held onboard, including, to the extent possible, those in electronic format and vessel monitoring system (VMS) data from the flag State, SIOFA and where relevant other RFMOs and CCAMLR. Relevant documentation may include logbooks, catch, transshipment and trade documents, crew lists, stowage plans and drawings, descriptions of holds, and documents required pursuant to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;

e) examine, to the extent possible, all relevant areas, fishing gear onboard, including any gear stowed out of sight as well as related devices, and to the extent possible, verify that they are in conformity with the conditions of the authorisations. The fishing gear shall, to the extent possible, also be checked to ensure that features such as the mesh and twine size, devices and attachments, dimensions and configuration of nets, pots, dredges, hook sizes and numbers are in conformity with applicable regulations and that the markings correspond to those authorised for the vessel;

f) determine, to the extent possible, whether the fishery resources on board was harvested in accordance with the applicable authorisations;

g) examine the fishery resources, including by sampling, to determine its quantity and composition. In doing so, inspectors may open containers where the fishery resources have been pre-packed and move the catch or containers to ascertain the integrity of holds. Such examination may include inspections of product type and determination of nominal weight;

h) evaluate whether there is clear evidence for believing that a vessel has engaged in IUU fishing or fishing related activities in support of such fishing;

i) provide the master of the vessel with the report containing the result of the inspection, including possible measures that could be taken, to be signed by the inspector and the master. The master's signature on the report shall serve only as acknowledgment of the receipt of a copy of the report. The master shall be given the opportunity to add any comments or objection to the report, and, as appropriate, to contact the relevant authorities of the flag State in particular where the master has serious difficulties in understanding the content of the report. A copy of the report shall be provided to the master; and

j) arrange, where necessary and possible, for translation of relevant documentation.

ANNEX IV

REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF THE PORT INSPECTION

1. Inspection report no			**2. Port State**		
3. Inspecting authority					
4. Name of principal inspector			**ID**		
5. Port of inspection					
6. Commencement of inspection	*YYYY*	*MM*	*DD*	*HH*	
7. Completion of inspection	*YYYY*	*MM*	*DD*	*HH*	
8. Advanced notification received	*Yes*		*No*		
9. Purpose(s)	*LAN*	*TRX*	*PRO*	*OTH (specify)*	
10. Port and State and date of last port call			*YYYY*	*MM*	*DD*
11. Vessel name					
12. Flag State					
13. Type of vessel					
14. International Radio Call Sign					
15. Certificate of registry ID					
16. IMO ship ID, if available					
17. External ID , if available					
18. Port of registry					
19. Vessel owner(s)					
20. Vessel beneficial owner(s), if known and different from vessel owner					
21. Vessel operator(s), if different from vessel owner					
22. Vessel master name and nationality					
23. Fishing master name and nationality					
24. Vessel agent					

25. VMS	*No*	*Yes: National*	*Yes: SIOFA*	Type:

26. Status in SIOFA areas (if applicable) where fishing has been undertaken, including any IUU vessel listing				
Vessel identifier	*SIOFA*	*Flag State status*	*Vessel on authorised vessel list*	*Vessel on IUU vessel list*

27. Relevant fishing authorisation(s)					
Identifier	*Issued by*	*Validity*	*Fishing area(s)*	*Species*	*Gear*

28. Relevant transhipment authorisation(s)					
Identifier		*Issued by*		*Validity*	
Identifier		*Issued by*		*Validity*	

29. Transhipment information concerning donor vessels						
Name	*Flag State*	*ID no.*	*Species*	*Product form*	*Catch area(s)*	*Quantity*

30. Evaluation of offloaded catch (quantity)					
Species	*Product form*	*Catch area(s)*	*Quantity declared*	*Quantity offloaded*	*Difference between quantity declared and quantity determined, if any*

31. Catch retained onboard (quantity)					
Species	*Product form*	*Catch area(s)*	*Quantity declared*	*Quantity retained*	*Difference between quantity declared and quantity determined, if any*

32. Examination of logbook(s) and other documentation	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments*
33. Compliance with applicable catch documentation scheme(s)	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments*
34. Compliance with applicable trade information scheme(s)	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments*

35. Type of gear used	

36. Gear examined in accordance with paragraph e) of Annex VIII	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments*

37. Findings by inspector(s)
38. Apparent infringement(s) noted including reference to relevant legal instrument(s)
39. Comments by the master
40. Action taken
41. Master's signature
42. Inspector's signature

CMM 09(2022)[1]

Conservation and Management Measure for Control of fishing activities in the Agreement Area (Control)

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

HAVING A MUTUAL INTEREST in the proper management, long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources in the southern Indian Ocean, and desiring to further the attainment of their objectives through cooperation;

RECALLING Article 6(1)(h) of the Agreement requiring 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;

MINDFUL of the Commitment made under Article 5 (f) 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)* to minimise pollution, waste, and catch by lost or abandoned gear;

AWARE of Article 18(3)(d) of UNFSA in relation to the marking of fishing vessels and fishing gear for identification in accordance with uniform and internationally recognizable vessel and gear marking systems, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Standard Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels and the draft Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear;

CONCERNED of the impact of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and plastic residues in the ocean greatly affecting marine life and the need to facilitate the identification and recovery of such gear;

RECALLING that the *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)* seeks to eliminate and reduce the amount of garbage, including fishing gear and plastics, being discharged into the sea from ships and that its Annex V applies to all vessels;

NOTING that there is limited monitoring and implementation of MARPOL obligations on fishing vessels;

CONCERNED by the fact that illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) undermine the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources;

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

Co-operation and Contact Points

1. In furtherance of the objectives of the Agreement, Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Party (CNCPs) and participating fishing entities (PFEs) shall consult, co-operate and exchange information with other Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs and/or the Secretariat to facilitate the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities conducted in order to ensure compliance with SIOFA CMMs, taking into account the SIOFA policy and procedures on confidentiality of data described in CMM 03(2025).

[1] CMM 09(2022) (Control) supersedes CMM 2018/09 (Control)

2. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall designate the competent authority or authorities which shall act as the Contact Point for the purposes of receiving reports and notifications and issuing authorisations in accordance with the relevant SIOFA CMMs. Each Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE shall send to the Secretariat the name, telephone number, e-mail address and fax number of at least two designated contact points before 30 days have passed following the adoption of this CMM. Any subsequent changes to the list shall be notified to the Secretariat without delay. The Secretariat shall put the details of the Contact Points and any changes thereto on the SIOFA website without delay.

Vessel requirements

3. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall:

(a) ensure that vessels flying its flag carry on board the current, valid documents issued by its competent authority that are contained in paragraph 5c of CMM 07(2025); and

(b) either ensure that vessels flying its flag carry on board valid documents issued by its competent authority containing the up to date information listed in paragraph 2 of CMM 07(2025), or otherwise agree that the Secretariat shall make this information available upon request for the purposes of control.

4. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure that vessels flying their flag authorised to operate in the Agreement Area are marked in such a way that they can be readily identified and where possible marked with generally accepted international standards, such as the FAO Standard Specification for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels.

Marking of fixed gear

5. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure that fixed gear used by vessels flying its flag is marked as follows: the ends of nets, lines and gear anchored to the seabed shall be fitted with flag or radar reflector buoys by day, and light buoys by night, sufficient to indicate their position and extent. Such lights should be visible at a distance of at least two nautical miles in good visibility. Marker buoys and similar objects floating on the surface and intended to indicate the location and/or origin of fixed fishing gear, and where possible, the gear itself shall be clearly marked with the vessel's name and International Radio Call Sign.

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.

Retrieval of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear

7. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure that:

(a) vessels flying its flag operating with any gear on board, with the exception of handline fishing, where possible have equipment on board to retrieve abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and training available to facilitate the recovery of ALDFG;

(b) vessels flying its flag that have lost gear shall not abandon it without making every reasonable attempt to retrieve it as soon as possible;

(c) no vessels flying its flag shall deliberately abandon fishing gear, except for safety reasons, notably vessels in distress and/or life in danger;

(d) if gear cannot be retrieved, a vessel flying its flag shall promptly notify its competent authority of the following information:

i. the name, IMO number and call sign of the vessel;
ii. the type of lost gear;
iii. the quantity of gear lost;
iv. the time when the gear was lost (consistent with the Standards for the Specification of Data described in CMM 02(2026));
v. the position (longitude/latitude) where the gear was lost (consistent with the Standards for the Specification of Data described in CMM 02(2026));
vi. measures taken by the vessel to retrieve lost gear; and
vii. report, if known, the circumstances that led to the gear being lost, or abandoned for safety reasons;

(e) following retrieval of any ALDFG, a vessel flying its flag shall notify its competent authority of the following:

i. the name, IMO number and call sign of the vessel that has retrieved the gear;
ii. the name, IMO number and call sign of the vessel that lost the gear (if known);
iii. the type of gear retrieved;
iv. the quantity of gear retrieved;
v. the time when the gear was retrieved (consistent with the Standards for the Specification of Data described in CMM 02(2026));
vi. the position (longitude/latitude) where the gear was retrieved (consistent with the Standards for the Specification of Data described in CMM 02(2026)); and
vii. if possible, photographs of the gear retrieved;

(f) its competent authority shall without delay notify the Secretariat of the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (d) and (e). Where the Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE provides consent, the Secretariat shall put this information on the SIOFA website.

Discharge of plastics

8. Except as provided in paragraph 9, the discharge into the sea of all plastics[2], including but not limited to synthetic ropes, synthetic fishing nets, plastic garbage bags and incinerator ashes from plastic products by vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties, CNCPs or PFEs shall be prohibited. All plastics on-board shall be stored on-board the vessel until they can be discharged at adequate port reception facilities.

9. Paragraph 8 shall not apply to:

(a) The discharge of plastics from a vessel necessary for the purpose of securing the safety of a ship and those on board or saving life at sea;

(b) The accidental loss of plastics, synthetic ropes and fishing nets from a vessel provided that all reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent such loss.

Labelling of frozen products of fishery resources

10. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure that:

(a) when frozen, all fishery resources or fishery resource products derived from fishing caught and retained onboard shall be identified by a clearly legible label or stamp.

[2] Plastic means a solid material which contains as an essential ingredient one or more high molecular mass polymers and which is formed (shaped) during either manufacture of the polymer or the fabrication into a finished product by heat and /or pressure.

The label or stamp, on each box, carton, container, bag or block (hereafter 'package') of frozen fishery resources or fishery resource products derived from fishing, shall indicate the species (*e.g.* common name/scientific name/FAO 3-Alpha code/codes as defined by the Scientific Committee), presentation, production date, and vessel identification number of the catching vessel. Where a package contains multiple species, the label or stamp shall indicate all of the species contained in the package and its quantity in kilograms;

(b) labels are securely affixed, stamped, pre-printed or written on packaging at the time of stowage and be of a size that can be clearly read by inspectors in the normal course of their duties;

(c) labels are marked in ink on a contrasting background; and

(d) each package shall contain only one species (common name/scientific name/FAO 3-Alpha code or codes as defined by the Scientific Committee) unless the package:

i. contains small quantities of mixed species intended for human consumption, and that do not exceed 25 kg of any single species by haul, or

ii. contains fishery resources intended for use other than human consumption (such as, for example, fish meal). The words « not for human consumption » shall appear on the label[3] .

(e) Packages referred in sub-paragraph (d) will be stored onboard the fishing vessel in a manner that allows observers and inspectors to perform their respective tasks. Observers, when they are on board, shall record weight and species composition in packages containing multiple species.

(f) The provisions under sub-paragraph (d) shall not constrain the collection and reporting of data required under Annex A of CMM 02(2026).

Scientific observer programme

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.

Sightings and identifications of non-Contracting Party, non-CNCP and non-PFE vessels

12. Each Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE shall ensure that vessels flying its flag report any presumed fishing as defined in the Agreement, including transshipment, by vessels flying the flag of a State or fishing entity which is not a Party to or otherwise cooperating with the Agreement in the Agreement Area. Each Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE shall ensure that reports from vessels flying its flag contain, to the extent possible, the following information:

(a) name of vessel;

(b) registration number/call sign of the vessel

(c) flag State of the vessel;

(d) date, time and position of sighting consistent with the standards for specification of data described in CMM 02(2026); and

[3] In the event of all the information not being available at the time of storage, it is possible to attribute an identification number to the package and to specify at the latest by the end of the day the content's details, by identification number, on a separate document, available on board at all times.

(e) any other relevant information regarding the sighted vessel, including photographs.

13. Each Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE shall submit this information to the Secretariat as soon as practical. The Secretariat shall forward this information to all Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs for information and for consideration of further action as required by Article 17 of the Agreement at the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

Summary of reporting obligations

14. To facilitate compliance with SIOFA reporting and submission requirements the Secretariat shall develop a summary checklist of obligations which shall be circulated to all Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs annually within 30 days following any changes coming into force which will be made available on the SIOFA website.

CMM 10(2026)[1]

Conservation and Management Measure for the Monitoring of Fisheries in the Agreement Area (Monitoring)

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

RECALLING Article 6(1)(h) of the Agreement calls of 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;

MINDFUL of Article 18(3)(e) 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 are 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;

NOTING Article 18(3)(f) and (h) of UNFSA relating to the regulation of transshipment on the high seas;

BEARING IN MIND that transshipment at sea is a common global practice, but that unregulated and unreported transshipment of catches of fishery resources, in particular on the high seas, contributes to distorted reporting of catches of such stocks and supports illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area);

NOTING the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment endorsed by the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at its thirty-fifth session from 5 to 9 September 2022, which seek to assist States, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), and other intergovernmental organizations by providing standards for developing their policies and regulations that govern transshipment, with a view to integrating these in their regulatory frameworks;

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

Scope

1. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels of Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities to the Agreement (CCP), engaged in fishing operations in the SIOFA Area of Application (Agreement Area) for fishery resources as defined in Article 1(f) of the Agreement.

Information on fishing activities

2. Each CCP shall ensure that its vessels maintain either an electronic fishing logbook or a bound fishing logbook containing the information relevant for their compliance with the data collection and submission requirements of CMM 02(2026) (Data Standards) with consecutively numbered pages.
3. Each CCP shall ensure:
    a. that vessels flying its flag submit the fishing logbook data within 30 days of the completion of a fishing trip in the Agreement Area to its competent authority;

[1] CMM 10(2026) (Monitoring) supersedes CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring). Obsolete references have been updated during 2026 technical edits.

b. data referred to in sub-paragraph a. are submitted in accordance with CMM 02(2026) and maintained in accordance with CMM 03(2025) (Data Confidentiality); and

c. the quantities of catch recorded on vessels flying its flag correspond to the quantities of catch kept on board.

4. Each CCP shall cooperate with any reasonable request from other CCPs for any information contained in the fishing logbooks from the preceding 12 months for the purposes of control.

Entry- Exit reports

5. Each CCP shall monitor the entry to and exit from the Agreement Area of fishing vessels flying its flag, and their activities while in the Agreement Area.
6. Each CCP shall require its fishing vessels or relevant authorities to notify the Secretariat of each entry to or exit from the Agreement Area of vessels authorised to fish for species managed by SIOFA flying their flag, through a specific entry and exit notification by means of VMS reporting in accordance with the requirements of CMM 16 (2026) (Vessel Monitoring System), or by email, in the format provided in Annex 1.
7. In the event of a malfunctioning of the ALC on board a fishing vessel preventing the entry and exit notification by means of VMS reporting required under paragraph 6, the flag CCP shall require its fishing vessels or relevant authorities to provide the notification to the Secretariat, within 24 hours of the vessel's entry into or exit from the Agreement Area, via a manual report transmitted by email. The manual report shall include information on the activity of the vessel in the Agreement Area.
8. If a fishing vessel enters the Agreement Area with an observer on board, the flag CCP of the vessel shall require the vessel or its relevant authorities to notify the Secretariat by email, within 24 hours of the vessel's entry into the Agreement Area, of the presence of an observer on board the vessel.

Monitoring of at sea transshipments and transfers

9. For the purpose of this CMM, transshipment means the unloading of all or any fishery resources, including fishery products, on board a fishing vessel onto another vessel, without the fish being recorded as landed, as defined in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment.

10. Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag only undertake transshipments at sea of fishery resources if they have prior authorization from their competent authority.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. Each CCP shall ensure, for each vessel flying its flag undertaking an at sea transshipment operation, that:

    a. the vessel notifies its competent authority at least 7 days in advance of a 14-day period during which the at sea transshipment is scheduled to occur.

    b. the vessel notifies its competent authority 24 hours in advance of the estimated time during which the at sea transshipment will occur.

c. the notifications referred to in sub-paragraphs a. and b include the relevant information available regarding the at sea transshipment in accordance with Transshipment Notification Annex II.

d. its competent authority transmits the notifications referred to in sub-paragraphs a. and b. to the Secretariat within 7 days.

e. an impartial and qualified observer is deployed on board every receiving vessel to monitor the transshipment.
Electronic monitoring can be implemented as an alternative or to complement the deployment of human observers. CCPs that elect to use the electronic monitoring shall ensure that all relevant aspects are monitored effectively.

f. the observer assigned to their vessel collect and record the information of each transshipment operation as indicated in the Transshipment Logsheet in Annex III.

g. the master of the vessel provides the observer on board full access to all operational areas of the vessel necessary to complete their duties, including the fish holds, production areas, crew, nets or other gear, equipment, and any documents related with the catch retained onboard.

h. the observer referred to sub-paragraphs e and f. provides a copy of the information collected as indicated in the TransshipmentLogsheet to the competent authority of the observed vessel.

i. its competent authority submits the observer data referred to in sub-paragraph f. to the Secretariat, no later than 15 days from debarkation of the observer.

j. the vessel notifies all of the operational details to its competent authority, using the Transshipment Declaration in Annex IV, within 24 hours following the transshipment.

k. its competent authority transmits the Transshipment Declaration referred to in sub- paragraph j. to the Secretariat within 30 days.

l. where its competent authority authorizes the vessel operator to transmit the Transshipment Declaration referred to in sub-paragraph j. directly to the Secretariat, the vessel operator directs any requests for clarifications from the Secretariat to its competent authority.

14. 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.

15. The Secretariat shall make all information provided under paragraphs 13 and 14 available on the secure section of the SIOFA website as soon as possible.

16. 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 13 and 14 and take appropriate follow-up action in the event that an observer reports discrepancies in the data reported by the masters of the unloading or receiving vessels or in the event of possible non-compliance with SIOFA CMMs, including coordination with the Port State where the receiving vessel is to unload, if it considers that an inspection of the unload is necessary.

17. 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:
    a. 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.
    b. 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.
    c. makes available the information referred to in sub-paragraph b. to its competent authority and to the relevant port State when required.

18. Nothing in this measure shall prevent vessels from undertaking transshipments or transfers at sea in cases of force majeure or distress, in which case those vessels shall report their transshipment or transfer activities to their competent authorities and the Secretariat, as appropriate, in accordance with the relevant procedures and templates established in paragraphs 13 and 14, after the transshipment or transfer has been completed, including information on the circumstances giving rise to the force majeure or distress.

Monitoring of transshipments in ports

19. Each CCP shall ensure that a vessel flying its flag that is carrying fishery resources shall only transship in a port if it has prior authorisation from its competent authority and the port State.

20. 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.

21. 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 following information to the competent authority of the port State and to the competent authority of the receivingvessel:
    a. the date, time and port of transshipment;
    b. the name and flag of the unloading transshipping vessel;
    c. the name and flag of the receiving vessel;
    d. the weight of fishery resources (Kg) by species (FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name) to be transshipped.

22. Where applicable, the competent authority of a CCP of a receiving vessel shall inform the competent authority of the port State of the quantities of fishery resources on board the vessel 24 hours before the transshipment and again 24 hours after the transshipment.

23. 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.

24. Where applicable, the competent authority of the CCP of a receiving vessel shall, 48 hours before landing of the transshipped fishery resources, submit a copy of the received Transshipment

Declaration to the competent authority of the port State where the landing takes place.

25. 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 21 to 24 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 non-compliance with SIOFA CMMs.

Reporting of transshipments and at sea transfers

26. As part of its CCP Compliance Report under paragraph 12 of CMM 11(2026) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme), each CCP shall provide annually the following information, 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 9 to 25:

    a. date, time and location of transshipment or transfer in accordance with the specifications in CMM 02(2026) (Data Standards);

    b. names of vessels, flags and registration number/call sign of the transshipping vesselsor transferring vessels;

    c. tonnage of any fishery resources, including species/group name (FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name) transshipped;

    d. type and description of transfers; and

    e. any other relevant information.

27. The Secretariat shall report annually on the implementation of this CMM. As regards transshipments and at sea transfers, the report shall include information, aggregated at CCP level, about the number of events, locations, quantities of fishery resources (by species, product form and catch area) transshipped and transferred, which shall be made publicly available on the SIOFA website.

28. This CMM shall enter into force on 1 January 2024.

ANNEX I

REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSEL ENTRY AND EXIT NOTIFICATIONS BY EMAIL

Information required	***Remarks:***
Vessel name	*Name of the vessel*
Vessel flag CCP	*CCP where the vessel is registered (3-alpha country code)*
IMO number	*IMO number of the vessel*
Registration number	*External registration number*
Radio call sign	*International radio call sign of the vessel*
Entry or exit	*"ENTRY" or "EXIT"; free text message*
Latitude	*Position at the time of transmission (decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)*
Longitude	*Position at the time of transmission (decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)*
Date	*UTC date of transmission from the vessel (YYYY-MON-DDT)*
Time	*UTC time of transmission from the vessel (hh:mm)*
Activity in the Agreement Area (intended activity on entry OR activity carried out prior to exit)	*Fishing (FAO 3-alpha species code of targeted species),transiting, transshipping or transferring*
Observer on board	*"YES" or "NO"*
Heading (optional)	*Vessel heading when entering OR exiting the area (from 0° to 359°)*

ANNEX II

SIOFA TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA PRIOR NOTIFICATION

The following information shall be provided to the competent authority/ies of the unloading and receiving vessels 7 days in advance of a 14 day window, and again 24 hours in advance of a transshipment at sea.

I. DETAILS OF THE NOTIFYING VESSEL	
Notifying vessel is UNLOADING / RECEIVING vessel (strike out as appropriate)	
II. DETAILS OF THE UNLOADING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Vessel flag CCP	*CCP where the vessel is registered (3–alpha country code)*
IMO number	
Registration number	*External registration number if available, or national registration number*
Radio call sign	*International radio call sign of the vessel*
Vessel owner and/or company information	*Name, complete address, email, phone number*
Vessel contact information (name, address, email and phone number)	*Master name, nationality, address, email, phone number*
III. DETAILS OF THE RECEIVING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	*Name of the vessel~~Name of the vessel~~*
Vessel flag CCP	*CCP where the vessel is registered (3–alpha country code)*
IMO number	*IMO number of the vessel*
Registration number	*External registration number if available, or national registration number*
Radio call sign	*International radio call sign of the vessel*
Vessel owner / company information	*Last name, name / complete address / email / fax/phone number*
Vessel contact information	*Master name / nationality / address / email / fax/phone number*
IV. DETAILS OF TRANSSHIPMENT	
Transshipment authorisation identifier, if any	*Transshipment authorisation identifier, if assigned*
Transshipment authorisation issued by	*Name and email of the competent authority*
Transshipment authorisation validity period	*Start and end date UTC of the transshipment authorisation (YYYY-MON-DDT)-(YYYY-MON-DDT)*
Estimated date of transshipment	*Predicted date UTC when the master intends to conduct the transshipment (YYYY-MON-DDT)*
Estimated start time of transshipment	*Predicted time UTC when the master intends to start the transshipment (hh:mm)*

Estimated end time of transshipment	*Predicted time UTC for the ending of transshipment (hh:mm)*
Estimated location of transshipment	*Estimated position where the master intends to conduct the transshipment expressed as latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees*
Fishery resources to be transshipped	
Quantities to be transshipped - Species - Catch area - Weight - Product form	 *FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name* *RFMO/A /geographical location / FAO Statistical Area* *Weight in Kilograms* *Preservation type and presentation type*
Number of units	*Boxes / packages*
Net weight of a unit	*Weight in Kilogram*

ANNEX III
SIOFA TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA LOGSHEET

The following information shall be provided by the observer to the competent authority of the vessel

I. DETAILS OF THE OBSERVER	
Observer onboard the UNLOADING / RECEIVING vessel (strike out as appropriate)	
Observer name	
Observer nationality	
Observer competent authority	name, address, email and phone number
II. DETAILS OF THE UNLOADING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	*External registration number if available, or national registration number*
Radio call sign	*International radio call sign of the vessel*
Vessel flag CCP	*CCP where the vessel is registered (3–alpha country code)*
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
III. DETAILS OF THE RECEIVING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	*External registration number if available, or national registration number*
Radio call sign	*International radio call sign of the vessel*
Vessel flag CCP	*CCP where the vessel is registered (3–alpha country code)*
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
IV. DETAILS OF TRANSSHIPMENT	
Transshipment authorisation identifier, if any	
Transshipment authorisation issued by	*name and email of competent authority*
Transshipment authorisation validity period	*Start and end date UTC of the transshipment authorisation (YYYY-MON-DDT)-(YYYY-MON-DDT)*

Date of transshipment	*Date UTC when the transshipment was conducted (YYYY-MON-DDT)*
Start time of transshipment ~~(UTC)~~	*Time UTC when the transshipment started (hh:mm)*
End time of transshipment	*Time UTC when the transshipment ended (hh:mm)*
Location of transshipment	*Position where the transshipment was conducted, expressed as latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees*
Fishery resources transshipped	
- Species - Catch area - Weight - Product form	*FAO 3-alpha species code/groupcode/scientific name* *RFMO/A /geographical location / FAO Statistical Area* *Weight in Kilograms* *Preservation type and presentation type*
Number of units	*Boxes / packages*
Net weight of a unit	*Weight in Kilogram*
V. SIGNATURE	
Observer's name and signature	
Remarks or observations, if any	

ANNEX IV

SIOFA TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA/ IN PORT DECLARATION

In port |**Y/N**__| (strike out as appropriate)	Name of port |_____|	Port State |_____|
At Sea| **Y/N**__| (strike out as appropriate)	Latitude/Longitude |_____|	(expressed in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)
Declaring vessel is **UNLOADING** or **RECEIVING** Vessel (strike out as appropriate)		
Name of declaring vessel:	Name of other vessel:	
IMO number of declaring vessel:	IMO number of other vessel:	
Radio Call sign of declaring vessel:	Radio Call sign of other vessel:	
External identification of declaring vessel:	External identification of other vessel:	
Flag CCP of declaring vessel:	Flag of other vessel:	
Transshipment authorization identifier:		
Transshipment authorisation issued by (name and email of competent authority):		
Start of transshipment operation day/month/year | | | | | | | | |	from (time: hour/minutes, UTC) | |	
End of transshipment operation day/month/year | | | | | | | | |	to (time: hour/minutes, UTC) | |	
Declaring master's name & nationality:	Signature:	Date:

TRANSSHIPPED FISHERY RESSOURCES

Species (FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name and catch area(s)/RFMO/geographical location/FAO Statistical Area)	Product form (preservation & presentation) 1: |_____|			Product form (preservation & presentation) 2: |_____|			Product form (preservation & presentation) 3: |_____|			**TOTAL Weight (Kg)**
	No units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	No. units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	No. units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	

TOTAL										

FISHERY RESSOURCES REMAINING ON BOARD AFTER TRANSSHIPMENT										
Species (FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name and catch area(s)/RFMO/geographical location/FAO Statistical Area)	Product form (preservation & presentation) 1: | |			Product form (preservation & presentation) 2: | |			Product form (preservation & presentation) 3: | |			**TOTAL Weight (Kg)**
	No units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	No. units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	No. units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	
TOTAL										

ANNEX V

SIOFA TRANSFER AT SEA NOTIFICATION

The following Information shall be provided to the competent authority of the declaring vessel 24 hours in advance of a transfer at sea.

I. DETAILS OF THE DECLARING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	
Radio call sign	*International radio call sign of the vessel*
Vessel flag CCP	*CCP where the vessel is registered (3–alpha country code)*
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
II. DETAILS OF THE OTHER VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	*External registration number if available, or national registration number*
Radio call sign	*International radio call sign of the vessel*
Vessel flag	Vessel flag *(3–alpha country code)*
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
III. DETAILS OF TRANSFER	
Estimated date of transfer	*Predicted date UTC when the master intends to conduct the transfer (YYYY-MON-DDT)*
Estimated time of transfer	*Predicted time UTC when the master intends to conduct the transshipment (hh:mm)*
Estimated location of transfer	*Estimated position where the master intends to conduct the transfer expressed as latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees*

Type and quantity received - fuel - crew - gear - supplies - other	 *Liters* *Number* *Number* *Kilograms, tonnes, units*
Type and quantity unloaded - fuel - crew - gear - supplies - other	 *Liters* *Number* *Number* *Kilograms, tonnes, units*
IV. SIGNATURE	
Name of master	

ANNEX VI

SIOFA TRANSFER AT SEA DECLARATION

The following Information shall be provided to the competent authority of the declaring vessel within 24 hours following a transfer at sea.

I. DETAILS OF THE DECLARING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	*External registration number if available, or national registration number*
Radio call sign	*International radio call sign of the vessel*
Vessel flag CCP	*CCP where the vessel is registered (3–alpha country code)*
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
II. DETAILS OF THE OTHER VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	*External registration number if available, or national registration number*
Radio call sign	*International radio call sign of the vessel*
Vessel flag	Vessel flag *(3–alpha country code)*
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
III. DETAILS OF TRANSFER	
Date of transfer	*Date UTC when transfer was conducted (YYYY-MON-DDT)*
Time of transfer	*Time UTC when the transfer was conducted (hh:mm)*
Location of transfer	*Position where the transfer was conducted, expressed as latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees*

Type and quantity received - fuel - crew - gear - supplies - other	 *Liters* *Number* *Number* *Kilograms, tonnes, units*
Type and quantity unloaded - fuel - crew - gear - supplies - other	 *Liters* *Number* *Number* *Kilograms, tonnes, units*
IV. SIGNATURE	
Name of master	

CMM 11(2026)[1]

Conservation and Management Measure for the Establishment of a Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Compliance Monitoring Scheme (Compliance Monitoring Scheme)

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

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (the Agreement), in particular Article 10;

Noting their responsibilities under international law to effectively exercise jurisdiction and control over vessels flying their flag and their nationals;

Recognising the importance of introducing a robust compliance review mechanism by which the compliance of each Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party, participating fishing entity and cooperating non-participating fishing entity is examined in depth annually;

Committed to introducing fair and transparent procedures which promote and support improved implementation of and compliance with the Agreement and CMMs;

Adopts **the following CMM in accordance with Articles 6 and 7 (2) of the Agreement:**

Purpose

1. This CMM establishes the SIOFA Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS).

2. The purpose of the SIOFA CMS is to ensure that Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties, participating fishing entities and cooperating non-participating fishing entities (collectively CCPs) implement and comply with obligations arising under the Agreement and all CMMs adopted by the Meeting of the Parties, and to provide a mechanism to monitor and improve implementation of and compliance with these obligations. Specifically, the CMS is designed to:

    a. Monitor and assess implementation and compliance by CCPs with their obligations under the Agreement and CMMs;
    b. Improve compliance of CCPs with SIOFA obligations and ensure the Meeting of the Parties fulfils its functions and supports the objectives of the Agreement.
    c. Identify areas in which technical assistance or capacity building may be needed to assist CCPs to achieve compliance with their obligations;
    d. Identify and resolve aspects of CMMs which may require improvement or amendment to facilitate or advance their implementation and compliance;
    e. Respond to non-compliance through preventative and/or remedial options, taking account of the cause of the non-compliance, the severity of non-compliance, the frequency of non-compliance and any consequences of non-compliance; and in cases of persistent non-compliance, take other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to promote and achieve compliance with the Agreement and SIOFA CMMs;
    f. Ensure the adequate implementation of recommendations on compliance matters made by the Meeting of the Parties including in relation to follow-up actions.

[1] CMM 11(2026) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) supersedes CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme).

Scope and Application

3. This CMS shall apply to all obligations arising under the Agreement and CMMs adopted. The Meeting of the Parties may decide to adapt the application of the CMS, including to extend it to any other rules, procedures or decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

4. At each ordinary meeting, with the assistance of the Compliance Committee, the Meeting of the Parties will verify CCPs' implementation of and compliance with their obligations arising under the Agreement, SIOFA CMMs and any other instrument as may be decided by the Meeting of the Parties pursuant to paragraph 3.

5. The Meeting of the Parties and the Compliance Committee shall also review any other recommendations made by the Meeting of the Parties in previous years' Final Compliance Reports in order to verify how those recommendations have been implemented by the concerned CCPs, the Compliance Committee or the Meeting of the Parties, as applicable, including in relation to follow-up actions.

Assessment and Response to potential non-compliance

6. The Meeting of the Parties shall take a graduated response to non-compliance, taking into account the type, severity, degree and cause of the non-compliance in question.

7. The Meeting of the Parties will apply Annex I to assign a compliance status and determine any follow-up actions to non-compliance, including any remedial or corrective actions needed.

8. Notwithstanding the above, the CMS will not prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of any CCP to enforce its national laws or to take more stringent measures in accordance with its national laws, consistent with its international obligations.

Compliance Assessment Period

9. The Compliance Assessment Period shall be the period from 1 January – 31 December of the preceding year, both dates inclusive.

Compliance Assessment Procedure

CCP's Compliance Report (CCR)

10. The Secretariat shall have the function of developing and maintaining a CCR template which shall be reviewed annually, taking into account new and amended CMMs or obligations and the requirements of Articles 10(2) and 11(3)(c) of the Agreement.

11. At least 120 days before the commencement of each ordinary Meeting of the Parties, the Secretariat shall circulate the CCR template.

12. Each CCP shall prepare a CCP Compliance Report [2]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.

[2] For the avoidance of doubt, the submission of a complete CCP Compliance Report will be taken to satisfy the obligation to provide an implementation report in Article 10 (2) of the Agreement.

Draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR)

13. Prior to each annual meeting of the Meeting of the Parties, the Secretariat shall prepare a Draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR) on the basis of information received from CCPs, including CCRs, reports of transhipments and transfers, port inspection reports, high seas boarding and inspection reports, data collection programs (such as catch/effort data, observer data, VMS data) and any other suitably documented information or reports regarding implementation and compliance during the relevant Compliance Assessment Period.

14. The dSCR shall be prepared in a way that facilitates monitoring and evaluation of compliance, and shall identify possible compliance issues.

15. The Secretariat shall provide to each CCP its respective section of the dSCR no later than 45 days before the commencement of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

16. Each CCP shall have the opportunity to comment on its respective section of the dSCR no later than 30 days before the ordinary Meeting of the Parties. This information may, as appropriate:
    a. incorporate any additional information the CCP considers necessary (which may include, but is not limited to, any relevant documentary or photographic evidence);
    b. provide clarifications and advise of any amendments or corrections that the CCP considers should be made to the information initially provided by that CCP;
    c. identify causes of the identified compliance issues, including any technical impediments to compliance;
    d. identify any action that has been taken to address the non-compliance and any further action the CCP intends to take;
    e. revise the preliminary self-assessment of its compliance status using Annex I as a reference; and
    f. identify any technical assistance or capacity building the CCP considers is needed to assist the CCP in complying with the relevant obligations.

17. The Secretariat shall complete the dSCR, which shall: include all information, clarification and comments provided by CCPs received in accordance with paragraph 16, identify any potential compliance issues and requirements for further information necessary to undertake an assessment of compliance, and propose a provisional compliance status.

18. The Secretariat shall circulate the dSCR to all CCPs no later than 20 days prior to the ordinary Meeting of the Parties and make it available on the secure section of the SIOFA website. Where no preliminary compliance status is provided by the CCP in accordance with paragraph 16(e), the Secretariat shall populate the dSCR in respect of that CCP using Annex I as a reference.

Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (pSCR)

19. The Compliance Committee shall consider the dSCR at its ordinary meeting and any additional information received prior to the Compliance Committee meeting from CCPs. During the course of the Compliance Committee meeting, each CCP shall have the opportunity to comment on its respective section of the dSCR. The Compliance Committee may take into account information received from observers, including non-governmental organisations and other organisations concerned with matters relevant to the implementation of the Agreement.

20. On the basis of the information available to it, the Compliance Committee shall adopt a Provisional Compliance Report (pSCR). The pSCR shall be based on the template at Annex II and include:
    a. An agreed provisional compliance status for each CCP in respect of each obligation assessed;
    b. Any follow-up action taken, or proposed to be taken, by the relevant CCP;
    c. Technical impediments to compliance;
    d. Any ambiguities identified in a CMM that result in compliance assessment difficulties and, if possible, proposals to address them;
    e. Other barriers to implementation or compliance, including capacity issues and how these may be addressed;
    f. Where appropriate, proposals to amend or improve existing CMMs to address implementation and compliance difficulties encountered by CCPs;
    g. Any priority obligations to be monitored and reviewed, or additional obligations to be included within the scope of the CMS; and
    h. Recommendations for any other follow-up action by the Meeting of the Parties, as appropriate taking into account the guidance set out in Annex I.

21. The pSCR shall be forwarded to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration at its ordinary meeting.

Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR)

22. The Meeting of the Parties shall consider the pSCR and any comments from CCPs on their respective sections of the pSCR. The Meeting of the Parties shall adopt by consensus a Final Compliance Report (fSCR) at its ordinary meeting in accordance with Article 8 of the Agreement and Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure. The fSCR shall be based on the template at Annex III and shall include:
    a. A final compliance status in respect of each compliance issue identified in the pSCR and any response/follow-up action needed, based on the criteria set out in Annex I;
    b. Any follow-up action taken, or proposed to be taken, by the CCP;
    c. Any technical impediments to compliance, including any ambiguities in the measure
    d. Any specific proposal for addressing any capacity issue identified in the Final Compliance Report;
    e. Where amendments to existing CMMs have been recommended in the pSCR, the outcome of the Meeting of Parties' consideration of such recommendations;
    f. Where any additional obligations to be included within the scope of the CMS to be monitored and reviewed, have been recommended in the Provisional Compliance Report, the outcome of the Meeting of Parties' consideration of such recommendations; and
    g. The fSCR shall also document the Meeting of the Parties' response to any recommendation for further consideration made in the pSCR.

General Provisions

23. The preparation, distribution and discussion of compliance information arising from the CMS shall be subject to the relevant applicable SIOFA rules and procedures regarding the use of information and transparency. Therefore:

    a. The Implementation Report, Draft Compliance Report and Provisional Compliance Report shall not be considered to be "public domain data."

    b. Notwithstanding subparagraph (a), the Draft Compliance Report and Provisional Compliance Reports shall be discussed in open sessions of the Compliance Committee and the Meeting of the Parties respectively unless a decision is taken in

accordance with Rules 20(1) of the Rules of Procedure to hold that discussion, or part thereof, in closed session.

c. The Final Compliance Report shall be annexed to the report of the relevant ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

24. In accordance with Article 8 of the Agreement and Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure, the compliance assessment of each CCP shall be decided by consensus. The pSCR and/or fSCR as appropriate shall reflect the decision of the Compliance Committee and/or the Meeting of the Parties, as applicable, and the different views expressed by CCPs during discussions of those reports.

25. Nothing in this CMM shall prejudice or affect the application of the decision-making articles contained in Article 8 of the Agreement.

26. Notwithstanding paragraph 25, CCPs commit themselves to the cooperative and equitable resolution of any issues which may arise under this CMS.

27. The Secretariat shall, prior to the 2019 ordinary Meeting of the Parties:

    a. prepare a table outlining all of the obligations contained in the Agreement and SIOFA CMMs with which CCPs must comply. This table shall outline the information available to the Secretariat through CMMs and any other reporting requirements that can be used to assess compliance, and identify any areas where additional information would be required to adequately assess compliance for the purposes of this CMS; and

    b. Prepare a web-based form which is capable of being populated with relevant information submitted by the CCP in the previous Compliance Assessment Period for review and amendment, as necessary, in subsequent years.

Review

28. The Meeting of the Parties shall review this CMM and its effectiveness at latest at its ordinary meeting in 2021.

Annex I

Compliance Categories

1. For the purposes of this CMM, "Compliance Status" refers to a CCP's compliance with an obligation contained in the Agreement or a SIOFA CMM. 'Criteria' provides guidance to CCPs, the Compliance Committee and the Meeting of the Parties on how to determine which Compliance Status should be assigned in respect of a given compliance issue. 'Follow up action/Response' sets out possible actions or responses that may be proposed or recommended to be taken in respect of a compliance issue. Such actions and responses shall take account of the relevant CCP's responses and corrective actions to address any compliance issues identified.

2. Remedial or corrective actions that may be considered as part of follow up actions could include:
    a. Reviewing or clarifying issues, which could include requesting additional information to resolve an information gap, clarifying existing information, specifying a question where further information is needed or seeking an explanation of the compliance issue within a given timeframe.

    b. Requesting that the relevant CCP cease the non-compliant conduct, in general or specific terms, and providing a clear deadline by which time compliance is to be achieved and information demonstrating compliance provided to the Meeting of the Parties.

    c. Cooperation and capacity building to address non-compliance where a State may not have the capacity to ensure compliance with SIOFA measures.

    d. Institutional responses to provide an effective deterrent for non-compliance, including, for example or limiting access to fisheries resources until the issue is addressed and resolved to the satisfaction of the Meeting of the Parties. Such recommendations shall take account of the relevant CCP's responses

Compliance Status	Criteria	Follow up action / Response
Compliant	This compliance rating may be used where, following review, it is determined that there is no compliance issue with respect to the relevant obligation, including meeting-related deadlines, all requested information has been submitted in the appropriate formats and/or having investigated and appropriately addressed any alleged violations.	No further action required.
Minor non-compliant	This compliance rating may be used only where the non-compliance does not materially affect the effectiveness of conservation and management measures, scientific assessments or monitoring control and surveillance systems and for cases such as: a) Non repeated submission or reporting of information or data in a way that is incomplete, wrongly formatted or is otherwise insufficient but that has been corrected [at least 45 days] in advance of the Meeting of the Parties for the current assessment cycle. This could also refer to inadequate responses to the CCR which compromise the effectiveness of the CMS. b) a CCP has submitted reports (CCR, PIR, Entry/Exit reports, etc) within 2 hours after the expected deadline	The Compliance Committee and the Meeting of Parties may make the necessary recommendation on any action that may be required to respond to and rectify minor non-compliance, and/or improve implementation of relevant obligations. The Meeting of Parties may also consider technical assistance or capacity building that may be required. The CCP shall report on follow-up actions taken in advance of the next ordinary Meeting of Parties. The relevant CCP shall commit to addressing the identified issue for the next compliance assessment period.
Non-compliant	This compliance rating may be used for cases such as: a) Submission of information or data in a way that it is incomplete, incorrect, wrongly formatted or is otherwise insufficient and which has not been corrected by the CCP b) Repeated submission of information or data in a way that it is incomplete, incorrect, wrongly formatted or is otherwise insufficient and which has not been corrected by the CCP. This could also refer to inadequate responses to the SCR which compromise the effectiveness of the CMS; c) Repeated minor non-compliance with an obligation for two or more consecutively assessed years; d) Failure to meet reporting or submission by more than 24 hours after expected deadlines; e) Failure to meet a SIOFA obligation, including implementation deadlines, which does not fall into the category of 'critically non-compliant'. f) Other actions or omissions that constitute an infringement of relevant obligations;	Determine if the relevant CCP has already taken appropriate action and/or if action is required. If necessary, the Meeting of the Parties may make a recommendation on any action that may be required to respond to and rectify non-compliance, and/or improve implementation of relevant obligations. The Meeting of the Parties may also consider technical assistance or capacity building may be required. The CCP shall report on follow-up actions taken in advance of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties. The relevant CCP shall commit to addressing the identified issue for the next compliance assessment period.

Compliance Status	Criteria	Follow up action / Response
Critically non-compliant	This compliance rating may be used for cases such as: a) Engaging in fishing in any areas closed to fishing by the Meeting of the Parties; b) Repeated rating of non-compliant with the same obligation for the second consecutive year; c) Failure to comply with previous CMS recommendations adopted by the Meeting of the Parties for two or more consecutively assessed years; d) Repeated non-compliance with an obligation for two or more consecutively assessed years; e) Exceeding the catch or effort limits established pursuant to paragraph 10(1) of CMM 01(2025), or any other catch or effort limits established by the Meeting of the Parties; f) Failure to provide its annual CCR required by Article 10(2) of the Agreement or the National Report required by paragraph 9 of CMM 02(2026).	The Meeting of the Parties identifies remedial or follow-up actions to address instances of seriously non-compliance taking into account paragraph 2 of this Annex. The CCP shall report on follow-up actions taken to in advance of the next ordinary meeting of the Compliance Committee or Meeting of the Parties as appropriate.
Not assessed	This compliance rating may be used for cases where there is ambiguity in the relevant obligation, or that there is a technical impediment to compliance.	Meeting of the Parties to review relevant obligation, clarify the obligation and, if necessary, amend relevant provisions.
No compliance status assigned	This compliance rating may be used for cases of emergency relating to the safety of a ship and those on board, or safety of life at sea, which resulted in a compliance issue.	No further action required.

Annex II

Template for the Provisional Compliance Report

1. Compliance Assessment Period: *[year]*

2. CMMs assessed in accordance with this CMM: *[All CMMs currently in force]*

3. Proposals to amend or improve existing CMMs
    a. (example) CMM XX(20XX)

4. Priority obligations to be monitored and reviewed
    a. (List, if applicable)

5. Additional obligations to be included within the scope of the CMS:
    a. (List, if applicable)

Compliance Committee Assessment

[CMM XX(20XX) *name of conservation and management measure]*

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	20XX-20YY [previous year] compliance status	Current 20YY-20ZZ assessment[3] and Supporting info	Current 20YY-20ZZ status [rating] [category]	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken

Annex III

Template for the Final Compliance Report

1. Compliance Assessment Period: *[year]*

2. CMMs assessed in accordance with this CMM: *[All CMMs currently in force]*

3. Technical impediments to compliance identified
    a. (List, if applicable)

4. Amendments to existing CMMs
    a. (example) CMM XX(20XX)

5. Priority obligations to be monitored and reviewed
    a. (List, if applicable)

6. Additional obligations to be included within the scope of the CMS:
    a. (List, if applicable)

7. Response to the Compliance Committee's assessment

8. Specific proposals for addressing capacity issues

[CMM XX(20XX) *name of conservation and management measure]*

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	20XX-20YY [previous year] compliance status	Current 20YY-20ZZ assessment[4] and Supporting info	Current 20YY-20ZZ status [rating] [category]	Follow up responsive or corrective action to be undertaken

CMM 12(2025)[1]

Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks[2] (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;

FURTHER RECALLING Article 4(c) of the Agreement that the precautionary approach shall be applied in accordance with the Code of Conduct and the 1995 Agreement, whereby the absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures;

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;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the Scientific Committee have recommended the Meeting of the Parties to take urgent action to limit the mortality of deepwater sharks associated with the bottom longline fishery in Subareas 2, 4 and 5, consistent with previous advice from SC8 and SC9.

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 (CNCPs) 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

[1] CMM 12(2025) (Sharks) supersedes CMM 12(2024) (Sharks).
[2] The term "sharks" refers to Chondrichthyes for the purposes of this CMM, as defined by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

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 bycatch limit for Portuguese dogfish (*Centroscymnus coelolepis)* of 767.6t. The fishing season for this catch limit is the calendar year.

4. Bottom longline vessels fishing in subarea 4 shall move at least 5nm from any set where catch composition is comprised of more than 50% deepwater sharks. The vessel shall not set a line within 5nm from any area where catch composition was greater than 50% deepwater sharks for the remainder of the trip.

5. Bottom longline fishing shall be prohibited in subarea 5 until a Portuguese dogfish stock assessment for the SIOFA Area is presented and the Meeting of the Parties has endorsed the Scientific Committee's advice.

6. Subarea 2 is defined as:

- South border is 36° South,
- East border is 49° East,
- West border is 40° East,
- North border are EEZs

7. Subarea 4 is defined as:

- South border is 36° South and EEZ,
- East border is 90° East,
- West border is 80° East and EEZ,
- North border is 20° South.

The southwest corner is cut at the edge by the Martin-de-Vivès/Saint-Paul EEZ.

8. Subarea 5 is defined as:

- South border is 36° South,
- East border is 105° East,
- West border is 90° East,
- North border is 25° South.

9. 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.

10. 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 year[3].

[3] 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.

11. CCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag record and submit all reporting requirements as per CMM 02(2026) (Data Standards) for all deep-sea sharks to the lowest taxonomical level possible when engaged in fishing for fishery resources.

12. By 2026 the Scientific Committee shall advise the Meeting of the Parties on the need to adopt any appropriate bycatch limits and/or mitigation for relevant SIOFA deep sea shark species and fleets, including on scientific and data needs for underpinning the elaboration of such advice and on possible appropriate fishing mortality and harvest levels for any of these species (as per paragraph 2).

13. CCPs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make all relevant fishing gears more selective to minimise deep sea shark bycatch and shall provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee.

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

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 CMM.[4]

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

[4] As modified by the SIOFA SC in Annex D2 of the SC10 report.

CMM 13(2025)[1]

Conservation and Management Measure on mitigation of seabird bycatch in fishing gear 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 bycatch 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;

ALSO NOTING that the seabird interaction data show low interactions due to the low densities of seabirds in some fishing areas, but also that mitigation measures that are currently voluntary applied in some trawl fleets showing low levels of seabird vessel interaction records;

***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 all fishing gear

2. CCPs shall require any vessel flying their flag operating in the area south of 25°S to apply the following mitigation measures:
    a. information about birds colliding with the vessel, or caught by its gears will be recorded in accordance with CMM 02(2026) (Data Standards); and
    b. every effort should be made to ensure that seabirds captured alive during fishing operations are released alive and, that any hooks are removed without jeopardising the life of the bird concerned wherever possible.

[1] CMM 13(2025) (Mitigation of seabird bycatch) supersedes CMM13(2022) (Mitigation of seabirds bycatch).

3. For longline vessels the provisions below apply, for non-longline vessels CCPs should encourage any vessels flying their flag to apply additional mitigation measures with reference to ACAP best practices (e.g. Best Practice Advice for Reducing the Impact of Pelagic and Demersal Trawl Fisheries on Seabirds), other practices implemented in or around the Area, or the guidelines outlined in Annex 4, especially when/where seabird interactions are relatively high.

Provisions applying to demersal longliners

4. 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; and

    d. 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.

5. 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:

    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;

    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;

    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 for the Spanish system: line weighting shall conform to the provisions in paragraph 5 c;

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.

6. 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:

    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

7. 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

8. 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.

Reporting provisions

9. CCPs shall record all seabird bycatch as specified in CMM 02(2026[2]) and shall report these data annually, to the SC in the CCP's country report.

Final provisions

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

[2] Or any subsequent replacements.

ANNEX 1: Specification of bird scaring line for longliners

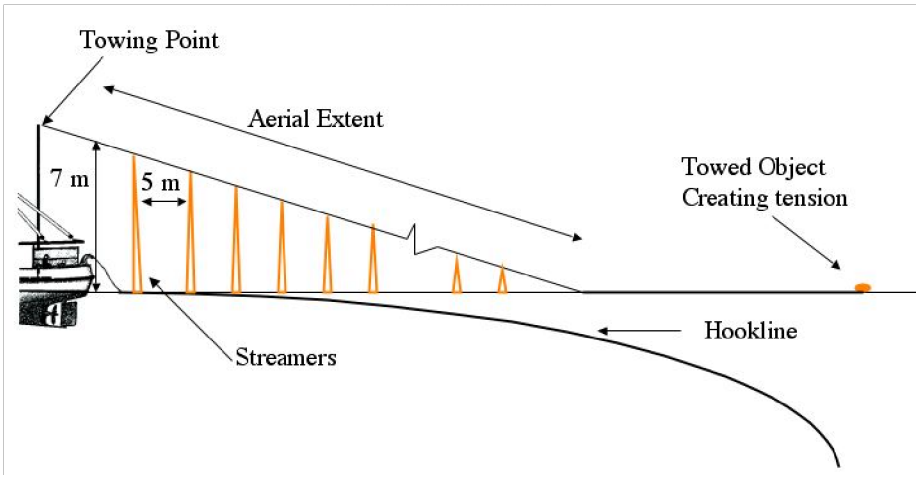


Figure A1-1: Specifications of the longline bird scaring lines.

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 ≥ 25m 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.

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: • 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: • 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: 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: Guidelines for trawl vessel seabird mitigation

1. In addition to the provisions in paragraph 2 of CMM13(2025), CCPs should encourage any fishing trawler flying their flag and operating in the SIOFA area south of 25°S to apply the following mitigation measures:

    a. Vessels should if feasible 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 should 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. Seabird mitigation, should if feasible be deployed during fishing operations to prevent seabird from flying around the stern of the vessel or-prevent seabirds from interacting with the fishing gear;

        i. If 'Bird Bafflers', are used they should be deployed prior to the fishing gear being deployed, and should remain in place until all fishing gear is removed from the water (see example specifications in Annex 4 Figure A4-1);
        ii. If bird scaring lines are used (see example specifications in Annex 4 Figure A4-2) they should be deployed immediately after shooting and retrieved before hauling

    e. Vessels should carry materials for construction, replacement, and repair of bird scaring lines in the event of changes to seabird abundance or behaviour (par 1. b).

2. In the event that a vessel causes 3 or more threatened seabird mortalities in the same calendar year. In addition to the provisions in paragraphs 2, 3 and 9, the following additional seabird mitigation measures should be added for this vessel. The following additional measures should remain in place until the incidences have been reviewed by the CCP and appropriate mitigation actions have been implemented:

    a. There should be no discharging of offal or discards immediately prior to and during the deployment or retrieval of fishing. 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;

    b. In the event that the seabird mortalities are from warp strikes, bird scaring streamer lines should 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 A4-2);

    c. Net monitor cables[3] should not be used. Where this is impracticable:

[3] 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).

i. a snatch block should 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 should be deployed and specifically positioned to deter birds away from net monitoring cables while fishing.

After this review process has been completed the provisions of paragraph 1 should be reapplied.

Bird Bafflers

1. Exact design and placement will be contingent on vessel shape.
2. Each boom should extend outwards not less than four metres from the side or stern of the vessel (Figure A4-1).
3. Dropper lines should be attached to the booms and be no more than 2 metres apart.
4. Plastic cones, rods or other brightly coloured and durable material should 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.

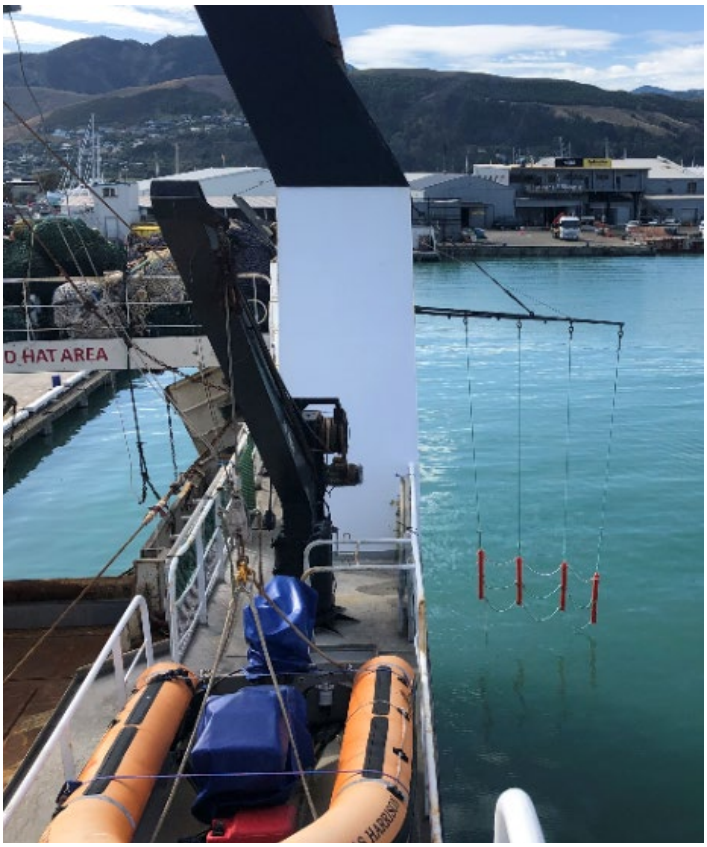


Figure A4-1: Bird baffler deployed. Seabirds are impeded from flying round the stern of the vessel.

Bird Scaring Lines for Demersal and Mid-water Trawlers

6. The main line should be at least 50 metres in length.
7. Streamers should be attached no more than 5 metres apart and 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.
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 should be mounted outboard of the trawl blocks on both the port and starboard sides.
11. Streamer lines should be deployed once the trawl doors are submerged during setting and should 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 should be carried and deployed in the event of loss or damage of a line.

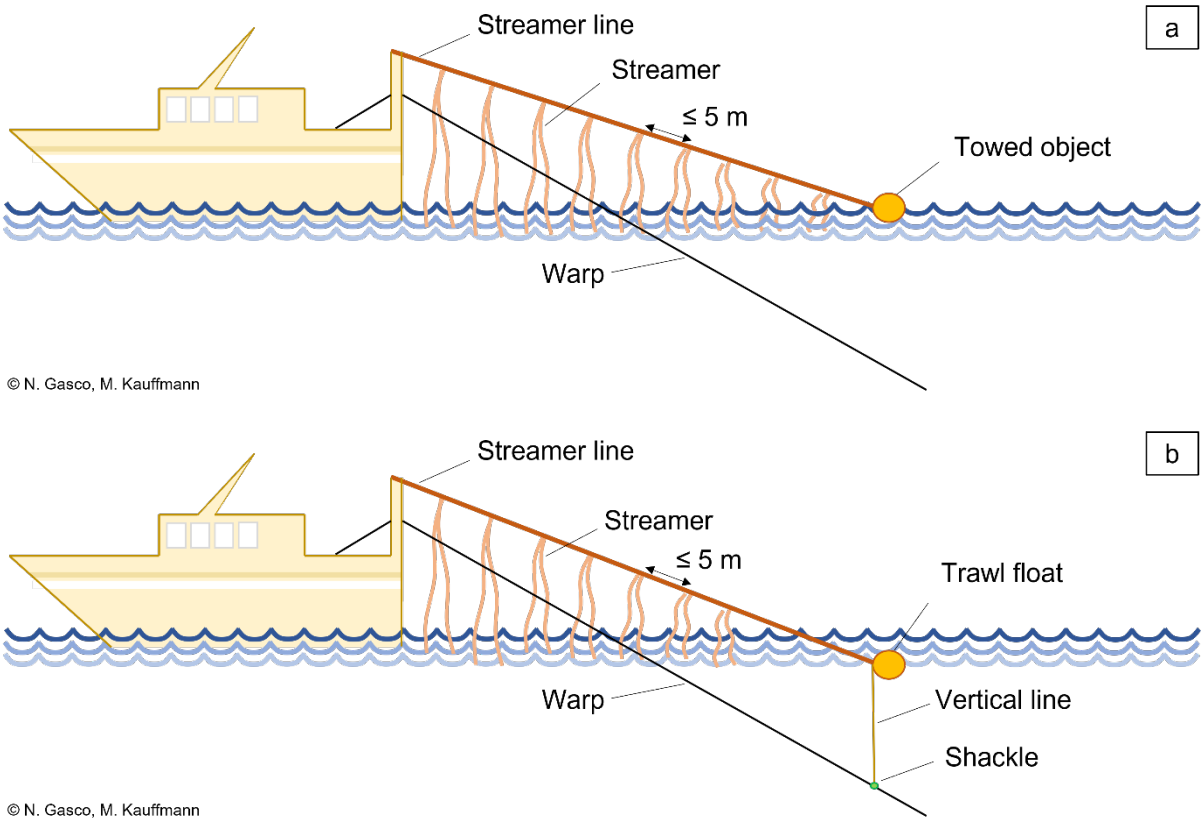


Figure A4-2: Examples of bird scaring lines either free from the warp (a) or linked to the warp with a shackle (b).

CMM 14(2021)[1]

Conservation and Management Measure for High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures for the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
(High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures)

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

RECOGNISING that effective management of fishing vessels in the SIOFA Area of Application (Agreement Area) relies upon a number of monitoring, control and surveillance activities to be undertaken by Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties, participating fishing entities and cooperating non-participating fishing entities (CCPs);

FURTHER RECOGNISING that the boarding and inspection of fishing vessels requires procedures to be formalised so that all boarding and inspection activities are carried out in a safe, consistent and transparent manner;

RECALLING Articles 21 and 22 of the 1995 Agreement which give direction to Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and arrangements (RFMOs) to establish procedures for boarding and inspection in the high seas areas covered by RFMOs;

RECALLING ALSO the obligations in Article 6(1)(h) of the Agreement for 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 (CMMs) including where appropriate rules concerning the boarding and inspection of vessels operating in the Agreement Area;

MINDFUL that Article 6(1)(i) requires the Meeting of the Parties to develop and monitor measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

RECALLING the commitments to be given by Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) to abide by CMMs in Rule 17(5)(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of the Parties;

CERTAIN that a specific SIOFA measure relating to at sea inspection of vessels in the Agreement Area will greatly assist in furthering the objective of the Agreement;

DESIRING to ensure the optimum use of the inspection vessels and inspectors including by ensuring that boarding and inspection operations are fully integrated with the other monitoring and compliance tools available pursuant to the Agreement and CMMs, by ensuring a non-discriminatory distribution of boarding and inspections of vessels present in the Agreement Area without compromising the opportunity to investigate possible serious infringements, and by ensuring compliance by vessels flying the same flag as the inspecting authorities.

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

[1] CMM 14(2021) (High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures) supersedes 2019/14 (High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures).

1. The following procedures are established by the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with Article 6(1)(h) of its Agreement, to govern high seas boarding and inspection of fishing vessels in the Agreement Area.

Definitions

2. For the purposes of interpreting and implementing these procedures, the following definitions shall apply:

    a. 'Authorities of the Inspection Vessel' means the authorities of the Contracting Party under whose flag the inspection vessel is operating;

    b. 'Authorities of the Fishing Vessel' means the authorities of the CCP under whose flag the fishing vessel is operating;

    c. 'Authorised Inspection Vessel' means any vessel included in the SIOFA register of Authorised Inspection Vessels and Inspection Authorities established under paragraph 14 and authorised to engage in boarding and inspection activities pursuant to these procedures; and

    d. 'Authorised Inspector' means an inspector designated by the authorities of a Contracting Party responsible for boarding and inspection and assigned to conduct boarding and inspection activities pursuant to this CCM.

Purpose

3. Boarding and inspection conducted pursuant to this CMM shall be for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Agreement and the CMMs adopted by the Meeting of the Parties and in force.

Area of application

4. This measure shall apply throughout the Agreement Area.

General provisions

5. Each Contracting Party may, subject to these procedures, carry out boarding and inspection in the Agreement Area of fishing vessels flying the flag of a CCP that is engaged in or suspected to have engaged in fishing as defined in Article 1(g) of the Agreement for fishery resources.

6. Each CCP shall require the masters of fishing vessels flying their flag to accept and facilitate boarding and inspection carried out pursuant to this measure.

7. This measure shall also apply in its entirety as between a Contracting Party and a participating fishing entity, subject to and 90 days after a notification to that effect is transmitted to the Meeting of the Parties from the Contracting Party concerned.

8. Each CCP shall provide this measure or a translation of it to vessels flying its flag and ensure that vessels flying its flag accept boarding and inspection by Authorised Inspectors in accordance with these procedures.

9. Contracting Parties shall ensure that Authorised Inspectors comply with this measure in the conduct of any boarding and inspection activities undertaken under these procedures.

Notification requirements

10. Each CCP shall, by 1 September 2019 (or, for CCPs that acquire their status after that date, within 60 days of acquiring their status), notify the Executive Secretary of two contact points (including name, telephone, fax number and e-mail address) for the purposes of receiving and sending notifications and reports to and from its Authorities of the Fishing Vessel pursuant to this CMM. Each Contracting Party intending to carry out boarding and inspection pursuant to this measure shall provide the same information for the purposes of receiving and sending notifications and reports to its Authorities of the Inspection Vessel pursuant to this CMM. The Executive Secretary shall include this information on the SIOFA website so that it is available to CCPs. Each CCP shall notify the Secretariat promptly of any changes to their contact points.

Priorities of Boarding

11. The inspecting Contracting Party should give priority to inspecting a vessel flying the flag of a CCP that is engaged in or suspected to have engaged in fishing as defined in Article 1(g) of the Agreement for fishery resources:

    a. that is not included on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels;

    b. where there are reasonable grounds to suspect the vessel is, or has been, engaged in IUU fishing activities (noting paragraph 5 of CMM 06(2024) (IUU Vessel List) or in any activity in contravention of the Agreement and CMMs;

    c. included in the list of vessels that have engaged in IUU fishing activities adopted by a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organisation;

    d. pursuant to a request by a CCP or a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organisation, supported by evidence of possible IUU fishing activities by the vessel in question;

    e. that does not have an observer on board; or

    f. that has a known history of violating conservation and management measures adopted by a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organisation or national laws and regulations.

Participation

12. Each Contracting Party that intends to carry out boarding and inspection activities under this measure shall notify the Executive Secretary of this intention, and shall provide the following:

    a. with respect to each Authorised Inspection Vessel under these procedures:

        i. details of the vessel (name, description, photograph, registration number, port of registry (and, if different from the port of registry, port marked on the vessel hull), international radio call sign), except where not applicable for military vessels; and
        ii. notification that the inspection vessel is clearly marked and identifiable as being on government service and by clearly flying a SIOFA inspection flag at Annex 2.

    b. with respect to Authorised Inspectors it designates pursuant to these procedures:

        i. the name(s) of the authorities responsible for boarding and inspection;

ii. an example of the credentials issued to its Authorised Inspectors;
iii. notification that such Authorised Inspectors are fully familiar with the species and fishing activities to be inspected and the relevant provisions of the Agreement and CMMs in force;
iv. notification that the Authorised Inspectors have received and completed training to safely carry out boarding and inspection activities at sea. Such training should include instruction on overcoming communication barriers and on de-escalation techniques; and
v. notification that any Authorised Inspectors carrying arms have received and completed appropriate levels of training on the use of those arms.

13. Contracting Parties shall promptly notify the Executive Secretary of any changes to the information provided under paragraph 12.

14. The Executive Secretary shall forward any notification provided in paragraph 12 to CCPs and establish and maintain a register of all Authorised Inspection Vessels and Inspection Authorities on the SIOFA website. The Executive Secretary shall circulate to CCPs any changes notified under paragraph 13 without delay. Each CCP shall take necessary measures to ensure that the information on the register is circulated to each of its fishing vessels operating in the Agreement Area. Only vessels and inspectors from authorities listed on this SIOFA register are authorised under this measure to board and inspect fishing vessels within the Agreement Area with the exception that a Contracting Party may use vessels and inspectors from authorities not listed on the SIOFA register when boarding and inspecting a fishing vessel flying its flag.

15. Where military vessels are used for conducting boarding and inspection under this measure, the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel shall ensure that the boarding and inspection is safely carried out by inspectors fully trained in fisheries enforcement procedures and duly authorised for this purpose under national laws, and that boardings from such military vessels by Authorised Inspectors conform to the procedures contained within this measure.

Cooperative activities

16. Contracting Parties are encouraged to identify opportunities to place Authorised Inspectors on the Authorised Inspection Vessels of another Contracting Party. To this end, where appropriate, Contracting Parties should seek to conclude bilateral or multilateral arrangements, to develop joint training and information sharing mechanisms and otherwise facilitate communication and coordination between them for the purpose of implementing this measure.

17. Contracting Parties deploying Authorised Inspection Vessels in the Agreement Area are encouraged to enter into arrangements as outlined in paragraph 16 and to embark Authorised Inspectors from another Contracting Party if available. Such foreign Authorised Inspectors may participate in all inspections conducted by the Authorised Inspection Vessel under this measure as arranged between the relevant Contracting Parties prior to deployment.

18. Where a bilateral or multilateral arrangement referred to in paragraph 16 has been concluded, it shall be notified to the Executive Secretary and referred to in the SIOFA register of paragraph 14. The Executive Secretary shall develop a template with the minimum information to be included on such a notification.

Procedures

19. Authorised Inspection Vessels shall fly the SIOFA inspection flag at Annex 2 in clearly visible fashion, when carrying out activities under this CMM.

20. Authorised Inspectors shall carry an official and valid identity card identifying the inspector as authorised to carry out boarding and inspection in accordance with these procedures.

21. An Authorised Inspection Vessel that intends to board and inspect a fishing vessel in the Agreement Area that is engaged in or suspected to have engaged in fishing as defined in Article 1(g) of the Agreement shall, prior to initiating the boarding and inspection:

    a. initiate notice to the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel, where known;

    b. make best efforts to establish contact with the fishing vessel by radio, by the appropriate International Code of Signals or by other accepted means of alerting the vessel;

    c. provide the following information to identify itself as an Authorised Inspection Vessel - name, registration number, international radio call sign, Authority of the Inspection Vessel, and contact frequency; and

    d. communicate to the master of the vessel its intention to board and inspect the vessel pursuant to this measure.

22. In carrying out boarding and inspection pursuant to this measure, Authorised Inspectors shall make their best efforts to communicate with the master of the fishing vessel(s) in a manner that the master can understand. If necessary to facilitate communication between the Authorized Inspectors and the master of the fishing vessel, the Authorized Inspector shall use the relevant parts of the standardized questionnaire adopted by the MoP at its 8th meeting in 2021 at Annex 3, which shall be translated into multiple languages, circulated to all CCPs, and published on the SIOFA website. Communication needs should be taken into account when planning operations under this measure.

23. Authorised Inspectors shall have the authority to inspect, take evidence and samples, and record information on the fishing vessel, its license, gear, equipment, catch and production records, facilities, fishery resources and any other documents which may be relevant to verifying compliance with the CMMs in force and the Agreement.

24. Contracting Parties shall seek to ensure that a maximum of 4 (four) Authorised Inspectors are assigned as part of a boarding team from an Authorised Inspection Vessel unless the commanding officer of the Authorised Inspection Vessel decides additional Authorised Inspectors are required due to the anticipated complexity of the inspection. In all instances, the boarding team shall only contain the number of Authorised Inspectors necessary to conduct an effective inspection safely and securely.

25. Boarding and inspection under this measure shall be conducted in a manner:

    a. that avoids risks to the safety of fishing vessels and crew, including by ensuring that the Authorised Inspection Vessel maintains a safe distance from the fishing vessel during the inspection;

    b. that does not unduly interfere with the lawful operation of the fishing vessel;

    c. that avoids actions that will damage fishing gears or adversely affect the quality of the catch; and

    d. that does not harass the officers, crew, or observers of the fishing vessel.

26. In the conduct of a boarding and inspection, each Authorised Inspector shall:

    a. present their identity card, referred as in paragraph 20, to the master of the vessel;

    b. not interfere with the master's ability to communicate with the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel;

    c. collect and clearly document any evidence they believe indicates a violation of CMMs or the Agreement;

    d. provide to the master prior to leaving the vessel a copy of an interim report[2] on the boarding and inspection including any objection or statement[3] which the master wishes to include in the interim report; and

    e. complete the inspection within four hours of boarding unless evidence of a serious violation is found, or where a longer time period is required to obtain related documentation issued by the master. However, in special circumstances related to the size of the fishing vessel, and the quantities of fish retained onboard, the duration of the inspection may exceed the limit stipulated above. In such a situation the boarding team shall in no case stay on board the fishing vessel longer than the time required to complete the inspection.

27. During the conduct of a boarding and inspection, each CCP shall require that the master and crew of any fishing vessel flying its flag shall:

    a. avoid risks to the safety of Authorised Inspection Vessels and Authorised Inspectors;

    b. accept and facilitate prompt and safe boarding by the Authorised Inspectors when directed or when intention to board and inspect has been communicated;

    c. cooperate with and assist in the safe inspection of the vessel pursuant to these procedures;

    d. not assault, resist, intimidate, interfere with, obstruct or delay the Authorised Inspectors in the performance of their duties;

    e. allow the Authorised Inspectors to promptly communicate with the crew of the Authorised Inspection Vessel, the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel, any observers on the fishing vessel, as well as with the crew and Authorities of the Fishing Vessel when directed;

    f. take such action as may be necessary to preserve the integrity of any seal affixed by the inspectors and of any evidence remaining on board, until otherwise directed by the flag CCP;

    g. to secure the continuity of evidence, where seals have been affixed and/or evidence has been secured, sign[4] the appropriate section of the inspection report acknowledging the placement of seals;

    h. cease fishing when requested, and not resume fishing until:

        i. the Authorised Inspectors have completed the inspection and secured any evidence, and
        ii. the master has signed the appropriate section of the inspection report as referred to in Annex 1;

[2] An interim report can be an electronic report.
[3] The objection or statement of the fishing vessel master may be in a language other than English.
[4] In this measure a signature includes an electronic signature.

i. provide the Authorised Inspectors onboard with reasonable facilities; and

j. facilitate safe and prompt disembarkation by the Authorised Inspectors when directed.

28. If the master or crew of a fishing vessel refuses to allow an Authorised Inspector to carry out a boarding and inspection in accordance with this measure, this person and the Master or officer on watch shall offer an explanation of the reason for refusing. Contracting Parties shall ensure that Authorities of the Inspection Vessel immediately notify the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel, as well as the Executive Secretary, of the refusal and the explanation offered.

29. Except where generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices relating to safety at sea make it necessary to delay the boarding and inspection, CCPs shall require the master of a fishing vessel flying its flag to accept the boarding and inspection. If the master does not comply with such direction, the relevant CCP shall suspend the vessel's authorisation to fish and order the vessel to return immediately to port. The CCP shall immediately notify the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel and the Executive Secretary of the action it has taken in these circumstances.

Restrictions on the Use of force

30. The use of force shall be avoided except when and to the degree necessary to ensure the safety of the Authorised Inspectors and where the Authorised Inspectors are obstructed in the execution of their duties. The degree of force used shall not exceed that reasonably required in the circumstances.

31. Contracting Parties shall ensure that any incident involving the use of force in relation to boarding and inspection under this measure shall be immediately reported to the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel, the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel, as well as to the Executive Secretary for circulation to all CCPs.

Restrictions on the carriage and use of arms

32. The use of any arms carried by members of the boarding team is subject to the restrictions on the use of force set out in paragraph 30. Any arms carried by members of the boarding team shall be carried in a non-aggressive posture throughout the boarding and inspection unless otherwise required for the purpose of ensuring safety and security.

Inspection reports

33. Authorised Inspectors shall be required to prepare a full report on each boarding and inspection they carry out under this measure, including any supporting information, using the data fields in the Boarding and Inspection Reporting Form at Annex 1. The Authorities of the Inspection Vessel from which the boarding and inspection was carried out shall transmit an electronic copy of the boarding and inspection report to the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel of the inspected vessel, and to the Executive Secretary, within 3 (three) working days of the completion of the boarding and inspection. Where it is not technically possible for the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel to provide this report to the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel within this timeframe, the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel shall inform the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel and shall specify the time period within which the report will be provided.

34. The report shall include the name(s) and authority of the Authorised Inspector(s) and clearly identify any observed activity or condition that the Authorised Inspectors believe to

be a violation of the Agreement or CMMs in force and indicate specific factual evidence relating to each alleged violation.

Serious violations

35. Where Authorised Inspectors observe an activity or condition of a fishing vessel that may constitute a serious violation within the meaning of paragraph 41 (alleged serious violation), Contracting Parties shall ensure that the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel immediately notify the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel, directly and through the Executive Secretary.

36. Upon receipt of a notification of an alleged serious violation in accordance with paragraph 35, CCPs shall ensure that the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel provide without delay and in any case no later than within 3 (three) full working days[5] an initial response to the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel and Executive Secretary for circulation to all CCPs:

    a. notifying that the Authorities of the Fishing Vessels will investigate the alleged serious violation; or

    b. authorising the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel to undertake the investigation of the alleged serious violation.

37. In the case of paragraph 36(a) above, Contracting Parties shall ensure that the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel provide, as soon as practicable, the specific evidence collected by the Authorised Inspectors to the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel.

38. The Authorities of the Fishing Vessel shall provide a report of the investigation to the Executive Secretary and Authorities of the Inspection Vessel within 2 (two) months of the notification in paragraph 36, and if the evidence warrants, take enforcement action against the fishing vessel in question and notify the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel, as well as the Executive Secretary of any such enforcement action within 6 (six) months of the date of notification at paragraph 36. The Executive Secretary shall circulate without delay any report of an investigation by the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel and any notification of enforcement action against the fishing vessel to all CCPs.

39. In the case of paragraph 36(b) above, if the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel decide to undertake an investigation, Contracting Parties shall ensure that the specific evidence collected by the Authorised Inspectors, along with the results of any investigation, is provided to the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel and the Executive Secretary immediately upon completion of the investigation and in any case no later than 6 (six) months after the date of the inspection. The Executive Secretary shall circulate without delay the results of any investigation to all CCPs.

40. Notwithstanding paragraphs 37-39, any Contracting Party may request that the relevant authorities of a CCP investigate an alleged serious violation within the meaning of paragraph 41. Consistent with obligations in Articles 10(4) and 11(3) of the Agreement, the Contracting Party making such a request shall provide the relevant authorities of the nationals or fishing vessel concerned with all relevant information in relation to the alleged serious violation. When such a request is made, CCPs shall provide a reply, including details of any action taken or proposed to be taken in relation to the alleged serious violation, to all Contracting Parties as soon as practicable and in any case within two (2) months of such a request. When the investigation is completed, the relevant CCP shall also provide a report

[5] Three full working days is determined based on the time zone in which the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel receive the notification.

on the outcome of the investigation to the Executive Secretary for circulation to all CCPs for consideration at the next Meeting of the Parties.

41. For the purposes of this measure, a serious violation includes the following violations of the provisions of the Agreement or CMMs:

    a. fishing without a valid license, permit or authorisation issued by the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel, in accordance with Article 11(2) of the Agreement, or failure to produce a valid license, permit or authorisation when requested by an Authorised Inspector;

    b. failure to maintain records of effort, catch and catch-related data in accordance with SIOFA's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such effort, catch and/or catch-related data;

    c. fishing in a closed area, if established by the Meeting of the Parties;

    d. fishing during a closed season, if established by the Meeting of the Parties;

    e. intentionally taking or retaining a species in contravention of any applicable CMM;

    f. significant violation of effort and/or catch limits or quotas in force;

    g. using prohibited fishing gear;

    h. falsifying, intentionally concealing or intentionally removing the markings, identity and/or registration of a fishing vessel;

    i. concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to an investigation being carried out under this measure, including the intentional breaking of seals or intentionally gaining access to sealed areas;

    j. failing to carry, or intentionally tampering with or disabling, the vessel monitoring system (VMS);

    k. presentation of falsified documents or intentionally providing false information to an Authorised Inspector that would prevent a serious infringement from being detected;

    l. multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of CMMs;

    m. refusal to accept or facilitate a safe and prompt boarding and inspection when directed by an Authorised Inspector, other than as provided in accordance with paragraph 29;

    n. assaulting, resisting, intimidating, sexually harassing, interfering with, or unduly obstructing or delaying an Authorised Inspector;

    o. breaching observer safety requirements after such requirements have been formally adopted by the Meeting of the Parties; and

    p. such other violations as may be determined by the Meeting of the Parties, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of this measure, or specified as a serious violation in any measure adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

Enforcement

42. Any evidence obtained as a result of a boarding and inspection under this measure with respect to a violation of the Agreement or CMMs by a fishing vessel shall be referred to the

Authorities of the Fishing Vessel for action consistent with the provisions of Article 11 of the Agreement.

43. For the purposes of this measure, each CCP shall ensure that it can effectively respond to any interference by a fishing vessel flying its flag, or its master or crew, with an Authorised Inspector, or an Authorised Inspection Vessel.

Annual reports

44. Contracting Parties that authorise inspection vessels to operate under this measure shall report annually to the Meeting of the Parties through its implementation report required under Article 10(2) or under CMM 11(2026) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) on the boarding and inspections carried out by its Authorised Inspection Vessels, as well as upon possible violations observed.

45. Consistent with the obligation in Article 10(2), CCPs shall include in their implementation reports actions that they have taken in response to boarding and inspections that resulted in observation of alleged violations in relation to fishing vessels flying their flag or their nationals, including any proceedings instituted and sanctions applied.

Provisions relating to non-CCPs

46. Authorised Inspection Vessels, while carrying out activities in accordance with this measure, shall aim to identify unauthorised or unidentified vessels of non-CCPs that are fishing in the Agreement Area. Contracting Parties shall report any such vessels to the Executive Secretary for notification to the Meeting of the Parties.

47. Contracting Parties shall ensure that an Authorised Inspection Vessel attempts to inform any fishing vessel identified pursuant to paragraph 46 that it has been seen or identified as potentially engaging in fishing that undermines the effectiveness of the Agreement or CMMs. Contracting Parties shall ensure that this information is sent to the Executive Secretary for distribution to the Meeting of the Parties, as well as to the authorities of the relevant non-CCP.

48. The Authorised Inspectors may request permission from the fishing vessel to board a vessel identified pursuant to paragraph 46. If the vessel master or the authorities consent to a boarding, the findings of any subsequent inspection shall be transmitted to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall distribute this information to the Meeting of the Parties, as well as to the authorities of the relevant non-CCP.

Claims for damage

49. To the extent permissible under international law, any claim submitted for damage, injury, death or loss resulting from an operation carried out under this measure may be considered by the Contracting Party whose official(s) are asserted by the claimant to be responsible for the acts or omissions out of which the claim arises, in accordance with the domestic laws of that Contracting Party.

Meeting of the Parties coordination, oversight and review

50. Contracting Parties shall seek to establish regular contact for the purpose of sharing information on areas in which they are patrolling, on sightings and on boarding and inspections they have carried out, as well as other operational activities and/or information relevant to carrying out their responsibilities under these procedures.

51. The Executive Secretary shall by 2021 develop an electronic capability to catalogue and share with Authorised Inspectors a list of prior high seas boarding and inspection activities. This list shall include information on the date of the inspection, fishing vessel, inspection vessel, gear type, species, the CMM related to any potential violations found during the boarding, and the penalty or sanction imposed as the result of any investigation, where applicable.

52. The Meeting of the Parties shall keep under continuous review the implementation and operation of this measure, including review of implementation reports relating to this measure provided by CCPs and the implementation of paragraphs 30 to 32.

Settlement of disagreements

53. In the event of a disagreement concerning the application or implementation of this measure between two or more CCPs (the CCPs), the CCPs concerned shall consult in an attempt to resolve the disagreement.

54. If the disagreement remains unresolved following the consultations, the Executive Secretary shall, at the joint request of the CCPs, refer the disagreement to the next meeting of the Compliance Committee. The Compliance Committee shall establish a panel of five representatives, acceptable to the CCPs, to consider the matter.

55. A report on the disagreement, including recommendations for the resolution of the disagreement, shall be drawn up by the panel, provided to the CCPs, and forwarded through the Chairperson of the Compliance Committee to the Executive Secretary for distribution to the Meeting of the Parties within two months of the Compliance Committee meeting at which the matter is reviewed.

56. Upon receipt of such report, the Meeting of the Parties may provide appropriate advice with respect to any such disagreement for the consideration of the CCPs.

57. Application of these provisions for the settlement of disagreements, including with respect to the Compliance Committee panel reports and any advice provided by the Meeting of the Parties, shall be non-binding. These provisions shall not prejudice the rights of any Contracting Party or participating fishing entity to use the dispute settlement procedures provided in Article 20 of the Agreement.

ANNEX 1 - Boarding and Inspection Reporting Form

REPORT OF HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTION

(Inspector: please use BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS)

Note to master of the vessel to be inspected

In accordance with paragraphs 5-9 of CMM 14(2021) High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures in the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (SIOFA), the Authorised Inspectors have the authority to inspect, collect and record information on a fishing vessel in the Agreement Area, its license, gear, equipment, catch and production records, facilities, fishery resources and any relevant documents and samples necessary to verify compliance with SIOFA Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) and the Agreement. The inspection will be to check your compliance with SIOFA's CMMs. The Authorised Inspector is authorised to examine, sample, measure and photograph the vessel's gear, catch, logbook or other relevant documents. The information provided during the course of this inspection will be made available to the SIOFA Executive Secretary and your flag State. Should an alleged infringement be detected contents from this report may be circulated to SIOFA Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties, participating fishing entities and/or cooperating non-participating fishing entities. All information, data and samples contained in this report will be handled in accordance with the SIOFA policy and procedures on confidentiality of data of CMM 03(2025) (Data Confidentiality).

1. AUTHORISED INSPECTOR(S)[6]

	Name	Nationality
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

[6] The table in this section shall be completed for all Authorised Inspectors forming part of the boarding team. In the event that more than four Authorised Inspectors form part of the boarding team, then additional rows to the table shall be added.

2. INFORMATION ON VESSEL INSPECTED

Vessel's name and registration number	
Flag and port of registration	
International radio call sign	
Type of vessel (fishing)	
Tonnage (GRT or GT)	
Number of Crew	
Master's name	
Owner's name and address	

3. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY IN WHICH THE FISHING VESSEL WAS ENGAGED

Vessel Activity When Sighted:	Vessel Activity When Boarded:

Vessel Activity: Steaming, setting gear, hauling gear, towing gear, stationary, transhipping, other (specify)

4. DETAILS OF INSPECTION

4.a. Observations of the Master and Authorised Inspector regarding the position of the vessel at time of boarding

	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Time (UTC)	Latitude		Longitude		Equipment used in determining position (e.g. GPS)
			Deg.	Min.	Deg.	Min.	
Master							

Inspector							

4. b Type of fishing gear in current or recent use (e.g. bottom trawl, midwater travel, longlining, traps)	

4. c Target species	

5. CATCHES RETAINED ON BOARD FROM LOGBOOK

5.a. Quantities recorded by the Master

SPECIES (common name/scientific name/FAO 3-Alpha code)	DECLARED LIVE WEIGHT	Where available, DECLARED PROCESSED WEIGHT ONBOARD (Kg)	PROCESSING Type	CONVERSION FACTOR (live weight / processed weight)
TOTAL				

5.b. Quantities On-Board determined by the Inspector

SPECIES (common name/scientific name/FAO 3-Alpha code)	CALCULATED LIVE WEIGHT ON BOARD (Kg)	CALCULATED PROCESSED WEIGHT ON BOARD (Kg)	PROCESSING Type	CONVERSION FACTOR[7]	DIFFERENCE (%)[8]	OBSERVATIONS
TOTAL						

[7] Conversation Factor as provided by the Master in 5.a
[8] Difference between the quantities on board as determined by the Authorised Inspector and the total quantities on board as compared by the master

6. COMPLIANCE WITH CURRENT CMMs

6.a. Current CMMs applicable, in the opinion of the Authorised Inspector, to this fishery:

	Reference CMM /Paragraph	Summary Title
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

6.b. Authorised Inspector's opinion on whether or not the CMMs outlined in paragraph 6.a above were complied with:

NB: An entry of NO must be followed by a statement by the Authorised Inspector. The master may also make a statement but is not obliged to do so.

	Reference CMM /Paragraph	Compliance (YES/NO)	Seal affixed (Serial Number)	Comments
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Evidence and/or samples collected from vessel

Evidence / Sample Type	Purpose	Number	Comments
(example) muscle tissue	*DNA species identification*	*20*	*Master claims species is alfonsino*

6.c Authorised Inspector's Statement

6.d Master's Statement

7. COMPLETION OF INSPECTION

Date: Time of Departure (UTC):

Name of Authorised Inspector in charge	Signature of Authorised Inspector in charge

Name of second Authorised Inspector	Signature of second Authorised Inspector

Acknowledgment and receipt of report:

I, the undersigned, Master of the vessel _____, hereby confirm that a copy of this report has been delivered to me on this date. I acknowledge being informed about any alleged infringements and any seals to secure evidence that are listed in the table set out in paragraph 6.b above. My signature does not otherwise necessarily constitute acceptance of any part of the contents of this report.

Date and Time

Name of Master

Signature of Master

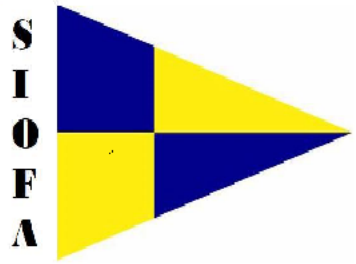
ANNEX 2 – SIOFA INSPECTION FLAGS

(Source: MOP-07-35 HSBI INSPECTION FLAG)

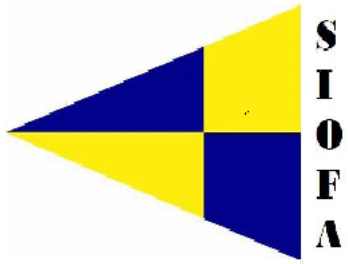
1. Boarding pennant:

The following pennant, with a dimension of 44 cm by 66 cm (height by length), shall be visibly displayed on the vessel:

STARBOARD SIDE

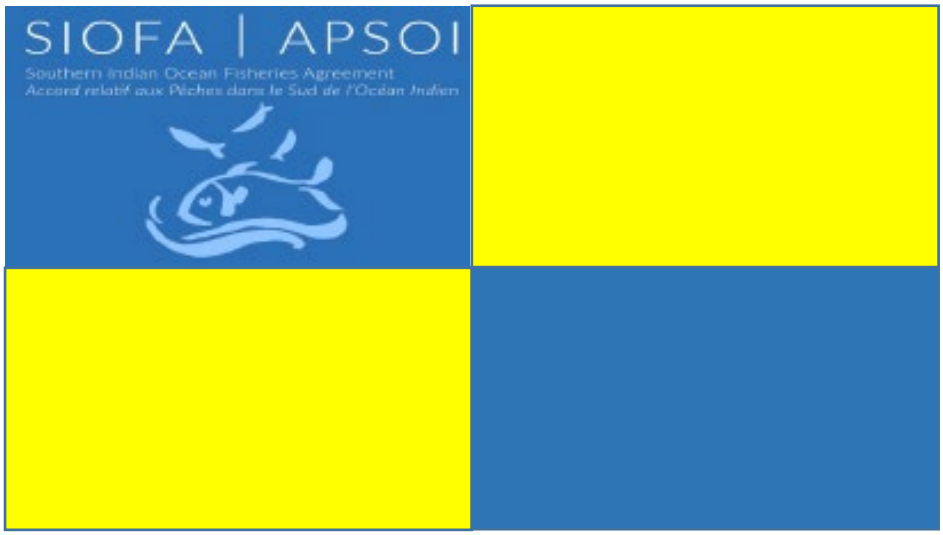


PORT SIDE



2. Inspection flag:

The following inspection flag, with a dimension of 94 cm by 213 cm (height by length), must also be displayed:



ANNEX 3 - SIOFA HIGH SEAS BOARDING QUESTIONNAIRE

SIOFA HIGH SEAS BOARDING QUESTIONNAIRE

In accordance with paragraph 22 of CMM 14(2021), this questionnaire is provided as a guide only, to assist inspectors and facilitate a safe and transparent boarding when communicating with the master and/or crew of a fishing vessel encountered in the SIOFA Convention Area.
For that reason, the questionnaire will be translated into multiple languages. To facilitate communication based on a translated version of the questionnaire, each question has been numbered. In the case where crewmembers do not understand English, inspectors may ask the crew to use the questionnaire translated in their own language. Inspectors can use the translated versions of the questionnaire by referring to each question number, to ensure the master of the vessel clearly understands which question is under consideration.
The questionnaire is also divided into three distinctive parts, to distinguish between the actions prior to boarding, the conduct of the onboard inspection and finally the conclusion of the inspection.

Inspectors are not required to ask all of the questions presented below, nor to fill in or sign this questionnaire. Likewise, masters and crew are not required to fill in or sign this questionnaire. The requirement lies in the preparation and transmission of a full report on each boarding and inspection carried out under CMM 14(2021), including any supporting information, using the data fields in the Boarding and Inspection Reporting Form at Annex 1 of CMM 14(2021). Therefore, the inspector and the master of the vessel shall sign the boarding and inspection report only.
More generally, inspectors shall use their discretion and inspections shall be guided by physical surroundings and the actions of the fishing vessel that is targeted.

PART 1: Prior to boarding

Note to inspectors: The following questions are provided to assist inspectors in establishing the *bona fides* of the vessel and to prepare the boarding crew and fishing vessel crew with information to accept and facilitate a safe and transparent boarding.

1. ESTABLISH RADIO CONTACT		
1.1. *"This is (name of Patrol Vessel) :....., (flag of PV) :……(international call sign) :..... patrolling international seas in accordance with the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement conservation and management measure on High Seas Boarding and Inspection.* (CMM 14(2021)).		
1.2. "*Can you understand me?*"	Yes	No
1.3. If not: *"Can you or any of your crew speak the following languages?":* Note to inspectors: if crewmembers do not speak English, refer to each question number for correspondence with the translated version of the questionnaire	*a) English* *b) French* *c) Chinese* *d) Spanish* e) *Other (Korean, Japanese, Thai, or other):*	
1.4. *What is your flag*?		

1.5. *"Your authority has agreed to apply the SIOFA high seas boarding and inspection procedures between, (flag of inspected Vessel) and (flag of patrol vessel)"*		
1.6. *Do you agree to cooperate*?	Yes	No
1.7. If yes, notify intent to board.		

2. NOTIFY INTENT TO BOARD		
2.1. *"We must board to check the accuracy of your declarations. Do you accept that a visiting team of 4 inspectors maximum can come on board?"*	Yes	No (capture the reason)
2.2. If acceptance: *"We will be sending over a boarding party in (five/fifteen/thirty) minutes; please assist them in getting onboard and by complying with all of their instructions.* *To assist our boarding party in boarding your vessel, could you please:* - *[stop your vessel] or [slow your vessel to … knots], and* - *[continue your present course and speed] or [turn to (port/Starboard)], and* - *Lower a ladder on the (port/Starboard) side.* *To conduct this inspection in a timely manner, please make available to our boarding officer all of your vessel's document."*		
2.3. If opposition: *"In the absence of cooperation, I shall immediately notify your flag Authorities and the Executive Secretary of the SIOFA of your refusal.* *In such case, and without an explanation of this refusal, your flag CCP might suspend your authorization to fish and request the vessel to return immediately to port."*		

PART 2: Conduct of the inspection

3. INTRODUCTION OF THE INSPECTION				
3.1. *"Good morning/ afternoon/ evening. Are you the master of the fishing vessel?"*				
3.2. *"I am an authorized SIOFA inspector, my name is.....* *Here is my identification. I am authorized to inspect your vessel for compliance with SIOFA conservation and management measures. This provides me and my party with the authority to board and inspect your vessel."*				
3.3. **"***I am using this questionnaire. Please slowly answer my questions and use yes or no whenever possible."*				
3.4. Have you been informed of CMM 14(2021) by your flag?			Yes	No
3.5. How many crew members and passengers on board?				
3.6. Security team on board?	Yes / No	**3.7.** Weapons on board?	**3.7.1.** If yes, where are they located?	No
3.8. Fishery observer on board?			**3.8.1.** If yes, what is his/her name and nationality?	No
3.9. *"I will use the High Sea Boarding and Inspection Report (hereinafter the Inspection report) to document my inspection of your vessel".*				
3.10. *"Photographs may be taken as evidence to supplement the Inspection Report".*				

4. IDENTIFICATION OF THE FISHING VESSEL
"I request the following information regarding your vessel. Please show me your vessel's equipment and documents, including valid fishing license/permit/authorization, certificate of nationality and any other documents that contain information about the fishing vessel." Note to inspectors: If necessary because this information could not be acquired from the aforementioned documents, the following information can also be requested from the master.
4.1. Type of fishing vessel? / Fishing method?
4.2. Position of the vessel at the time of boarding (by fishing master)?: a) Time (UTC)? b) Latitude (Deg./Min.)? c) Longitude (Deg./Min.)?
4.3. Equipment used in determining position (e.g. GPS)?
4.4.*"Please show me the passports or seaman book of the master, crewmembers and passengers so that I can fill in the inspection report and compare with the crew list."*

4.5. Length of the fishing vessel (meters)?	**4.6.** Tonnage (GT or GTR)?
4.7. IMO Number? (if issued)	**4.8.** Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) ? (if any)
4.9. IOTC number? (if any)	**4.10.** Call sign? (if any)
4.11. Port of registry?	**4.12.** Number of registrations?
4.13. If different from the port of registry, what is the port marked on your vessel hull?	
4.14. Name and address of the owner (natural person or legal entity) of your vessel?	
4.15. Name and address of your employer (natural or legal person) or whose interests you represent?	

5. ACTIVITY OF THE FISHING VESSEL

"I request the following information regarding your fishing activities."

5.1. Do you carry a functioning vessel monitoring system (VMS)?	Yes	No

5.2. Type of activity when notified of intent to board? (below)

a) Steaming	**b)** Setting gear	**c)** Hauling gear	**d)** Towing gear	**e)** Stationary	**f)** Transhipping	**g)** Other

5.2.1. If other, description?

6. FISHING PERMIT / LICENCE / AUTHORIZATION

"I request the following information regarding your fishing authorization(s). Please show me the relevant documents."

Note to inspectors: Request all fishing authorizations, not only SIOFA. If necessary, the following information can also be requested from the master.

6.1. Do you currently own a valid fishing license / permit / authorization issued by the relevant Authorities?	Yes	No
6.2. License number?	**6.3.** Date of validity?	
6.4. Species authorized by license?		
6.5. Fishing area(s) authorized by license?		

6.6. Gears authorized by license?	**6.6.1.** For longlines: number of hooks per line?
6.7. Authority which issued the title (license / permit / authorization)?	

7. CATCH RETAINED ON BOARD		
7.1. *"Do you have sea products on board? Please show me where you record this information (catch logs)."*	Yes	No
7.2. *"Please show me the following information regarding catch retained onboard."*		
7.2.1. Species (FAO code if possible)?		
7.2.2. Processed weight?		
7.2.3. Processing type (FAO code if possible)		
7.2.4. Live weight?		
7.2.5. Conversion factor?		
7.3. If catch samples are required: *"I will be taking samples of this catch for DNA analysis with the purpose of identifying species. This sample will not reduce the value of the catch."*		

8. TRANSHIPMENT		
8.1. Transhipment(s) at sea since the last departure from last port?	Yes	No
8.2. If yes: *"I require the following information on the carrier vessel(s), please show me the transhipment declaration(s) :"*		
8.2.1. Carrier vessel(s):	**a)** Name?	**b)** Flag?

9. RECORDS OF EFFORT, CATCH AND CATCH-RELATED DATA		
9.1. Do you maintain records of effort, catch and catch-related data in accordance with SIOFA's reporting requirements?	Yes	No

9.2. Do you have any accidental by-catch (including sharks and/or seabirds) to report?	If yes, specify:	**9.3.** If applicable (longline): seabird bycatch mitigation / exclusion device?

9.4. Type of catch recording ?	**a)** Paper	**b)** Electronic

PART 3: Conclusion of the inspection

10. SUGGESTIONS FOR CONCLUDING STATEMENTS Note to inspectors: The following are suggested concluding statements an inspector could make following completion of an inspection and provision of a boarding report/interim boarding report as per the requirements of CMM 14(2021). After inspectors fill in items 1 to 6c of the inspection report form (CMM 14(2021), Annex 1), inspectors could make the following statements and ask the following questions in order to complete the inspection report.
10.1. *Thank-you for your cooperation. The boarding and inspection report (Boarding and Inspection Reporting Form, Annex 1 of CMM* 14(2021)*) includes observations by the boarding party during this inspection. It will be shared with the authorities of the fishing vessel and the SIOFA Executive Secretary.*
10.2. *Your documents and records indicate you are (in complete compliance/ not in complete compliance) with all SIOFA Conservation and Management Measures.*
10.3. *This is the specific Conservation and Management Measure which you are not in compliance with.*
10.4. *This (is/ is not) considered to be a serious violation.* (Note to inspectors: refer to paragraph 41 of 14(2021))
10.5. *I am photographing this item to document the violation.*
10.6. *You may make a statement here (Section 6d of the boarding and inspection report) but you are not obliged to do so.*
10.7. *You may choose to sign the boarding and inspection report (section 7 of the report) to acknowledge the inspection was completed.*
10.8. *Your signature does not necessarily constitute acceptance of any part of the contents of the report.*

10.9. *Please photocopy, scan or photograph the interim boarding and inspection report for your records.*
10.10. *This is your copy of the interim boarding and inspection report.*
10.11. *The boarding and inspection report will be provided to the Authorities of this vessel.*
10.12. *Have you understood all you have read?*
10.13. *We have completed the inspection of your vessel.*

CMM 15(2026)[1]

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 Area[2], 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°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

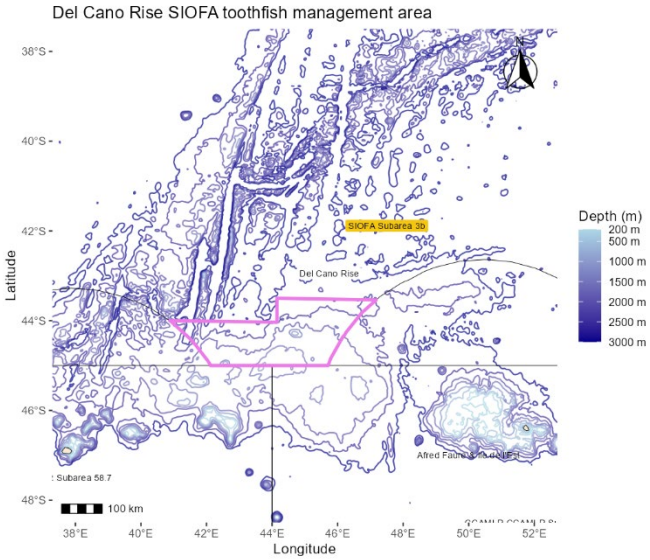


Figure A: Boundaries of the extended Del Cano Rise management area.

South Indian Ridge

The South Indian Ridge is defined as 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

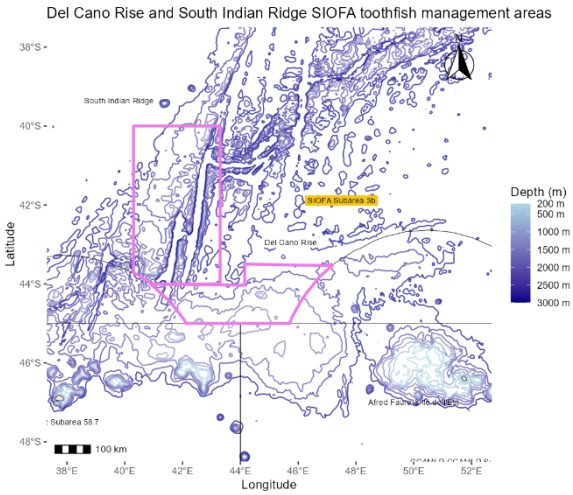


Figure B: Boundaries of the Del Cano Rise and the South Indian Ridge management areas (2024).

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

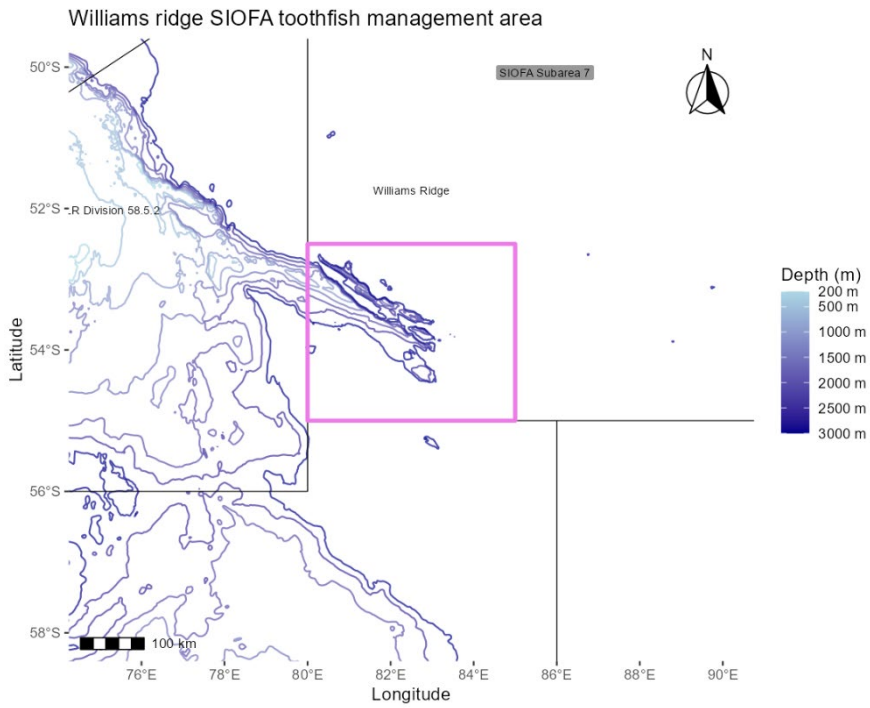


Figure C: The boundary of the Williams Ridge management area.

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			

CMM 16(2026)[1]

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(2026)) 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):

[1] CMM 16(2026) on Vessel Monitoring System supersedes CMM 16(2025) on Vessel Monitoring System

i. the fishing vessel's unique vessel identifier[2];
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 SIOFA VMS via their FMC; or

   b) simultaneously to both the 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 SIOFA VMS without delay but not later than one hour after receipt.

8. CCPs shall ensure that VMS position reports are reported automatically[3] by each of their vessels while operating in the Agreement Area:

   a) at least once every hour as provided for in paragraph 28 of CMM 15(2026) (Management of Demersal Stocks), and;

[2] 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.
[3] 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.

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 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 satellite navigation decoder and transmitter 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 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 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 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 template[4] at least 5 working

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

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 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, 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 Working Groups where the VMS position reports relate 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 CMM 18(2025) (Benthic Fishery Closures), 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 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(2026) (Data Standards), CMM 03(2025) (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.

Entry into operation

32. The SIOFA VMS shall enter into operation at a date to be determined by the Meeting of the Parties.

Review

33. 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.

34. 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 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 × 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 mandatory data elements in Table 1.

Table 1: NAF message data elements

Data Element	Field Code	Definition	Mandatory / Optional	Contents
Start Record	SR	Defines the start of the message structure.	M	No Data
Address	AD	Indicates the destination. Provider and Secretariat to define code for SIOFA VMS	M	3-Alpha code
From	FR	3-alpha code describing the country which FMC is submitting the report.	M	3-Alpha code
Sequence Number	SQ	Message Sequence Number	M	0-999999
IMO Number	IM	IMO ship identification number	M[5]	IMO ship identification number
Internal Reference Number*	IR	Unique Number attributed by the flag state	O	3-Alpha code. 0-999999999
Type of Message[6]	TM	Letter code of the type of message	M	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	M[7]	IRCS
Latitude (decimal)	LT	Latitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	M	+(-)DD.ddd
Longitude (decimal)	LG	Longitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	M	+(-)DD.ddd
Vessel Speed	SP	Speed of the vessel	M	Knots * 10

[5] Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of this CMM and with paragraph 2.d. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).
[6] ENT and EXI shall be submitted in accordance with paragraph [6] of CMM 10 (2026)
[7] Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of this CMM and with paragraph 2.c. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).

Vessel Course	CO	Heading of the vessel in degrees	M	1-360
Flag State	FS	State of registration of the vessel	M	3-Alpha code
Date	DA	Date of reported event	M	YYYYMMDD
Time	TI	Time of reported event	M	HHMM
End of Record	ER	Indicates the end of the message/report		No Data

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

Data Element	**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[8]
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

[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, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (i.e. UTC).

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
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[9]

9 YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less then 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less then 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, 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.

CMM 17(2026)[1]

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(2025) 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.

[1] CMM 17(2026) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) supersedes CMM 17(2025) (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 Area[2].

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(2025), conducted outside the SIOFA bottom fishing footprint, as defined in paragraph [3.c.] of CMM 01(2025); or
    b. it is a bottom fishing activity, as defined in paragraph 3.c. of CMM 01(2025), conducted within the SIOFA bottom fishing footprint, as defined in paragraph 3.c. of CMM 01(2025), 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;

[2] This CMM shall not apply to research cruises.

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;

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(2025), 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(2025); 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(2025) and CMM 15(2026), 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(2025) and CMM 15(2026) 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:

    a. full details of the intended replacement vessel(s);

    b. a comprehensive account of the reasons for the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence; and

    c. 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:

    a. to evaluate the distribution, abundance and demography of the target and primary species to inform an estimate of the fishery's potential yield; and

    b. 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

    c. 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 Area[3]

Targeted species[4]/ fisheries[5]	Fishing gear[6]	Area	Participants
Patagonian toothfish	Traps (deep water >200m)	Designated bottom fishing footprints of Australia, EU (Spain), Japan, and France (Overseas Territories). SIOFA sub-areas 3b and 7	Australia, EU (Spain), France (Overseas Territories), Japan, Korea
	Set longline (deep water >200m)	Designated bottom fishing footprints of Australia, EU (Spain), Japan, and France (Overseas Territories). SIOFA sub-areas 3b and 7	Australia, EU (Spain), France (Overseas Territories), Japan, Korea
Orange roughy	Bottom trawl	Designated bottom fishing footprints of Australia, Cook Islands, Japan. Underwater topographic features in SIOFA sub-areas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6.	Australia, Cook Islands, Japan, China, Mauritius
Alfonsino	Midwater trawl	Designated fishing footprints of Australia, Cook Islands and Japan. Underwater topographic features in SIOFA sub-areas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6.	Australia, Cook Islands, Japan, Korea, Mauritius
	Benthopelagic trawl	Designated fishing footprints of Australia, Cook Islands and Japan. Underwater topographic features in SIOFA sub-areas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6.	Australia, Cook Islands, Japan, Korea, Mauritius
	Bottom trawl	Designated bottom fishing footprints of Australia, Cook Islands, Japan. Underwater topographic features in SIOFA sub-areas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6.	Australia, Cook Islands
Brushtooth lizardfish and scads	Single boat otter board trawl	Designated bottom fishing footprint of Thailand.	Thailand
	Paired trawls	Designated bottom fishing footprint of Thailand.	Thailand
Carangoides spp., snappers,	Bottom trawl (shallow water <200m)	Designated bottom fishing footprint of Thailand. SIOFA sub-area 8 (mainly Saya de Malha Bank)	EU (France), Mauritius, Thailand, Comoros

[3] 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.
[4] As per the endorsed definition adopted by MoP10 (MoP10 Report Para 130).
[5] For each listed participant, an established fishery may include other primary and secondary species taken with the listed gear, provided that such species have been historically recorded as part of the normal fishing operations.
[6] See FAO Fishing Gear Descriptions.

Targeted species[4]/ fisheries[5]	Fishing gear[6]	Area	Participants
emperors and groupers	Traps (shallow water <200m)	Designated bottom fishing footprint of Thailand. SIOFA sub-area 8 (mainly Saya de Malha Bank)	EU (France), Mauritius, Thailand, Comoros
	Set longline (shallow water <200m)	SIOFA sub-area 8 (mainly Saya de Malha Bank)	EU (France), Mauritius, Comoros
	Hook and line (handlines) (shallow water <200m)	Designated fishing footprint of Thailand. SIOFA sub-area 8 (mainly Saya de Malha Bank)	EU (France), Mauritius, Thailand, Comoros
Snappers, lutjanids and hapuka	Set longline (deep water >200m)	Designated bottom fishing footprints of the EU (Spain) and Australia. SIOFA Subareas 2, 3a, 3b and 4.	Australia, China, EU (Spain)
	Dropline (deep water >200m)	Designated bottom fishing footprints of the EU (Spain) and Australia. SIOFA Subareas 2, 3a, 3b and 4.	Australia, China, EU (Spain)
Oilfish	Pelagic longline	Southwest Indian Ocean	Chinese Taipei, Seychelles
Squid	Light seining	SIOFA Subareas 1, 4, 7 and 8	China
	Squid jigging	SIOFA Area	China

Annex 2 – SIOFA Fishery Operations Plan Template

Paragraph 5 of CMM 17(2025) (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 assessment[7]

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

[7] 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.

Species Z - low

10.3 Seabirds

Specify what species are likely to be caught on the gear and which species are likely to 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 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

CMM 18(2025)

Conservation and Management Measure for Benthic Fishery Closures

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;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that the Mid-Indian Ridge Benthic Fishery Closure established under this CMM shall be implemented in accordance with SIOFA's mandate and not prejudice any CCP's rights and obligations under international law. This includes provisions under UNCLOS, International Seabed Authority (ISA) or other competent international organizations and shall not prejudice any rights exercised or activities undertaken subsequent to the claim for an extended continental shelf undertaken in accordance with international law.

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, SIODFA 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 Fishery Closures (BFCs) under SIOFA CMMs;

NOTING the requirements in CMM 01(2025) 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 Fishery Closures (BFCs) 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 BFCs outlined in Table 1.

4. CCPs shall ensure that their flagged vessels do not engage in bottom fishing within the BFCs outlined in Table 2 unless the CCP has existing bottom longline 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; 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. 'BFC' means Benthic Fishery Closure where bottom fishing is not permitted, unless specifically provided for in Table 2. The latitude and longitude coordinates of the BFCs are specified in Tables 1 and 2 and a map of the BFCs are included at Figure 1.

Reporting requirements

6. For any vessel allowed to fish, and engaging in fishing within the BFCs listed in Tables 1 and 2, CCPs shall record all catch and effort occurring within these BFCs and shall report these data annually, for each BFC 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 BFCs noting the time spent and potential activity (fishing and transiting) by vessel type and flag in each BFC. In addition, the secretariat shall provide a summary of VMS reporting under paragraph 30 of CMM 16(2025)[1].

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 BFC shall report to the Secretariat and its flag CCP 4 hours prior to entering and exiting a BFC.

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 BFC by latitude/longitude (to one tenth of a minute of arc)
   - (ix) Intended or completed activity while inside the BFC
   - (x) On exit from a FC, catch on board by weight (kilograms) and species for all catch caught within the BFC.

Research and Monitoring

10. By 2028, the SC shall develop a research and monitoring plan for the BFCs listed in Tables 1 and 2 and provide advice to the Meeting of the Parties on the maintenance, modification or termination of these BFCs. 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.

[1] Or its replacement.

Table 1: SIOFA Benthic Fishery Closures, closed to all bottom fishing with the coordinates and closure type. Note these can be downloaded as shapefiles from the SIOFA website.

Area Name	Coordinates					Closure type
	Position 1	Position 2	Position 3		Position 4	
Gulden Draak	28° 00'S 98° 00E	29° 00'S 98° 00'E	28° 00'S 99° 00'E		29° 00'S 99° 00'E	Closed to all bottom fishing activities
Rusky	31° 20'S 94° 55'E	31° 30'S 94° 55'E	31 ° 20'S 95° 00'E		31° 30'S 95° 00'E	
Fools-Flat	31° 30'S 94° 40'E	31 ° 40'S 94° 40'E	31° 30'S 95° 00'E		31° 40'S 95° 00'E	
East Broken Ridge	32° 50'S 100° 50'E	33 ° 25'S 100° 50'E	32° 50'S 101° 40'E		33 ° 25'S 101° 40'E	
Mid-Indian Ridge[2]	13° 00'S 64° 00'E	15° 50'S 64° 00'E	**3a** 15° 50'S 66° 48'E	**3b** 15° 02'S 68°00'E	15° 50'S 68° 00'E	
Atlantis Bank	32° 00'S 57° 00'E	32° 50'S 57° 00'E	32° 00'S 58° 00'E		32° 50'S 58° 00'E	
Bridle	38° 03'S 49° 00'E	38° 45 'S 49° 00'E	38° 03'S 50° 00'E		38° 45'S 50° 00'E	
Banana	30° 20'S 45° 40'E	30° 30'S 45° 40'E	30° 20'S 46° 00'E		30° 30'S 46° 00'E	
Middle of What	37° 54'S 50° 23'E	37° 56.5'S 50° 23'E	37° 54'S 50° 27'E		37° 56.5'S 50° 27'E	

[2] The Mid-Indian Ridge BFC established under this CMM shall not prejudice any rights of coastal States in respect of extended continental shelf claims submitted in accordance with international law.

Table 2: SIOFA Benthic Fishery Closures, 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.

Area Name	Coordinates				Closure type
	Position 1	Position 2	Position 3	Position 4	
Walters Shoal	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
Coral	41° 00'S 42° 00'E	41° 40'S 42° 00'E	41° 00'S 44° 00'E	41° 40'S 44° 00'E	
Magneto (formally South Indian Ridge)	44° 00'S 40° 52'40.8"E	45 ° 00'S 42° 07'26.4"E	44° 00'S 46° 32'38.4"E	45° 42'39.6"E	

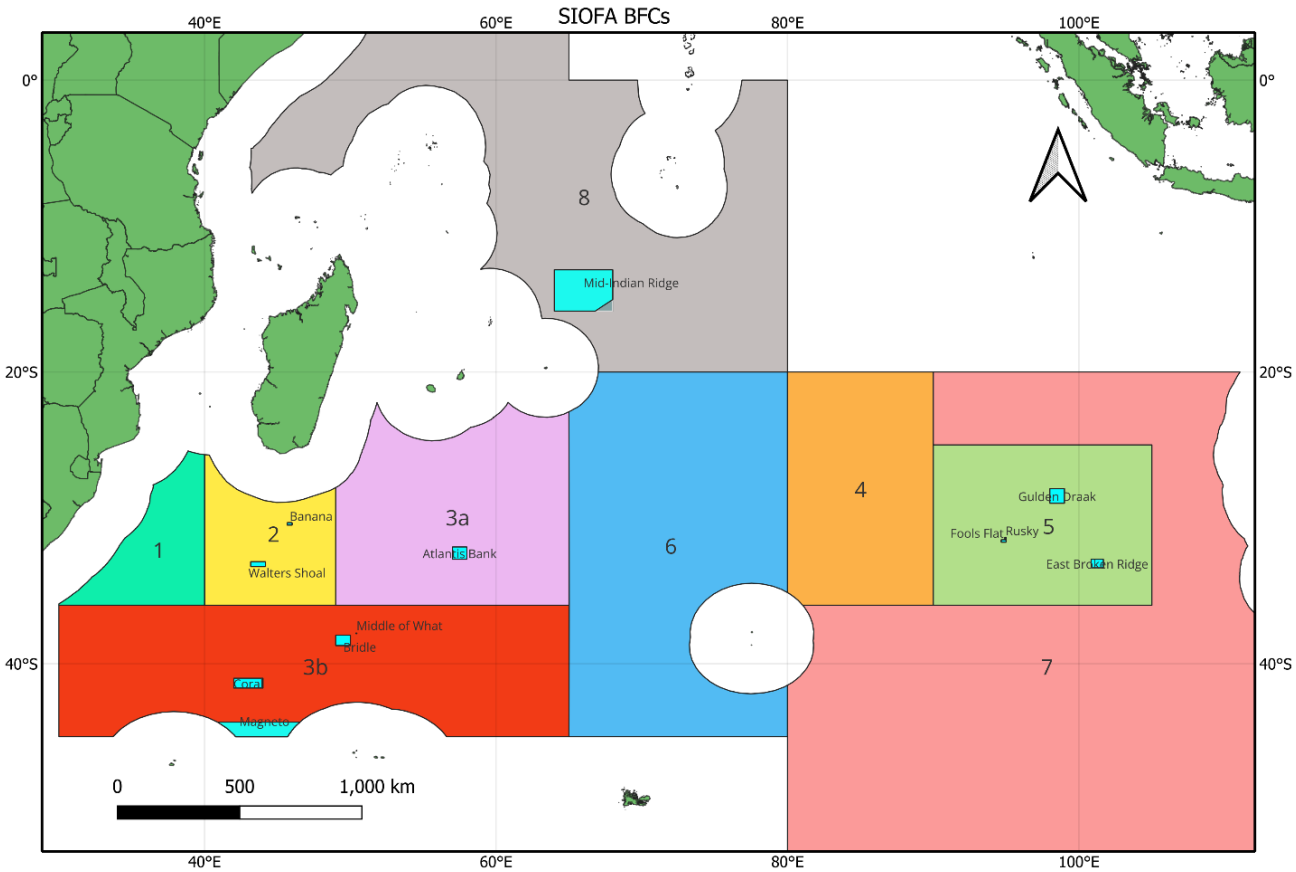


Figure 1: Map showing the location of all the SIOFA BFCs.