# Fisheries Operation Plan Checklist

Last modified at SC10

## SUCCINCT DESCRIPTION

Any CP or CNCP or PFE (CCP) seeking to permit a vessel that flies its flag to fish in an exploratory fishery, or to fish in an exploratory fishery with a gear type that has not been used in that fishery for the previous ten years to submit no less than 35 days prior to the next annual meeting of the Scientific Committee a detailed description of their intended Fisheries Operation Plan for evaluation by the SC.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CCP** |  |
| **Area** |  |
| **Target Species** |  |
| **Proposed Methods of Fishing** |  |
| **Proposed Maximum Catch / Effort Limit** |  |
| **Expected Operation Period**  |  |
| **Submission date** |  |

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This checklist is for the Scientific Committee to complete to ensure that all aspects of the Fisheries Operation Plan and the Data Collection and Analysis Plan have been assessed.

To assist the Scientific Committee with their deliberations, please pre-fill the Rationale column with a brief justification of how your Fisheries Operation Plan and Data Collection and Analysis Plan address the Scientific Committee consideration. The Scientific Committee will complete the Assessment column.

The SC assigns a status of either Yes, No, or Partial when evaluating the proponent’s rationale.

Fisheries Operation Plan checklist

| **Fisheries Operation Plan Considerations** | **Rationale from proponent** | **Assessment by SC** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a) A clear objective for the fishery stated in the FOP. |  |  |
| b) The FOP includes explicit target, limit and/or threshold reference points. |  |  |
| c) Method for evaluating the stock trends against the reference points is clearly stated. |  |  |
| d) An appropriate precautionary catch and/or effort limit is included.  |  |  |
| e) Catch/effort limit(s) are spread over areas or will be undertaken in a manner that ensures exploration and is not focused consistently fishing in one small area.  |  |  |
| f) The FOP includes an assessment of the cumulative impacts of all fishing activities in the area of the exploratory fishery. |  |  |
| g) The FOP includes an evaluation of the impact of the proposed fishing on the marine ecosystem including specific risk assessments for SSI, teleost bycatch, shark bycatch and VME impacts. |  |  |
| h) If the Data Collection and Analysis Plan is carried out as proposed it will result in sufficient information to inform the level of precaution required and the degree of certainty with which the Scientific Committee’s advice could be provided. |  |  |
| i) The degree to which the approach outlined in the Fisheries Operation Plan is likely to ensure the exploratory fishery is developed consistently with its nature as an exploratory fishery, and consistently with the objectives of the Agreement.  |  |  |
| j) If a Fisheries Operation Plan proposes any bottom fishing activities, advice and recommendations in accordance with CMM 01(2023) (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing)[[1]](#footnote-1). |  |  |

Data Collection and Analysis Plan checklist

| **Data Collection Plan considerations** | **Rationale from proponent**  | **Assessment by SC** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a) A description of the catch, effort and related biological, ecological and environmental data are included and are sufficient to address the questions raised in the FOP Checklist, items c, e, f, g and h. |  |  |
| b) The dates by which the data must be provided to the MoP are included. |  |  |
| c) A plan is included for directing fishing effort in an exploratory fishery 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 impact. |  |  |
| d) Where appropriate, the FOP includes 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, associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impacts. |  |  |
| e) The FOP includes a description of the planned analyse of catch and effort data including CPUE, catch distribution of the target and bycatch species; biological analysis including, length, age, growth maturity of target species; environmental impact analysis; VMEs impact assessment (if appropriate); and target species stock delineation. Including a time frame for these assessments[[2]](#footnote-2) (that is when will data be analysed and available for SC review). |  |  |
| f) The FOP includes an evaluation of the time scales involved in determining the responses of harvested, dependent and related populations to fishing activities (that is how long do you expect the fished stock to show a stock response to the fishing activities). |  |  |

Scientific Committee recommendations (SC to complete)

The SC discussed the Union of Comoros Fisheries Operational Plan and Data Collection and Analysis plan and **Agreed** that the approach outlined in the Fisheries Operation Plan is likely to ensure that the exploratory fishery is developed consistently with its nature as an exploratory fishery, and consistently with the objectives of the Agreement, with the following requested modifications:

* the proponents to provide the forms that will be used for data collection to SC11
1. The Scientific Committee shall undertake a review of the proposed assessment and provide advice to the MoP on:

	1. Whether the proposed bottom fishing would contribute to having significant adverse impacts on deep sea fish stocks for which no stock assessment has been completed, bycatch species and/or VMEs and, if so,
	2. Whether any proposed or additional mitigation measures would prevent such impacts.
	3. Whether this proposal overlaps with an existing bottom fishing footprint. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Noting that the SC should get annual updates on activities undertaken by the exploratory fishery, but this task is regarding a full analysis of the data, which should be completed prior to any proposed roll-over the exploratory fishery. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)