

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Compliance  
Committee  
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Report on Implementation of SIOFA CMMs (Japan)

*Relates to agenda item: 3*

Proposal ☐ Other Document ☒ Info Paper ☐

## Delegation of Japan

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### Abstract

Japan provide a report on the implementation of SIOFA CMM 2017/01

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## Report on Implementation of SIOFA CMM 17/01 (JAPAN)

*\*As confirmed in the adoption of SIOFA CMM 17/01 at the last Meeting of the Parties, the Japanese trawl vessels operate in the mid-water and this Measure is not applied legally to their fishing activities.*

### **1. Fishing Effort** (paragraph 9(1)(a)(i) of CMM 2017/01)

Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) authorized three vessels, 2 trawl vessels and 1 bottom longline vessel, to operate in the SIOFA area for 2017 fishing season. The number of authorizations has not changed since 2012.

During the 2017 fishing season, 2 trawl vessels and 1 bottom longline vessel had actually operated in the SIOFA area. The annual number of active vessels in the Area ranges from one to three (two in average) between 2012 and 2016.

### **2. Spatial Distribution** (paragraph 9(1)(a)(ii) of CMM 2017/01)

The above two Japanese trawl vessels and one Japanese bottom longline vessel had operated only within the past footprints in 2017, namely they limit their spatial distribution of fishing efforts to fished areas.

### **3. VME** (paragraph 9(1)(a)(iii) of CMM 2017/01)

The above two Japanese trawl vessels had operated in mid-water and any adverse impacts on VMEs were not caused by their activities. The scientific observers on board confirmed that their operations did not come in contact with the seafloor or benthic organisms.

FAJ and the Japanese industry have set temporal threshold levels to 50 kg for the bottom trawl fishing as move-on protocol in preparation for incidental encounters with VMEs.

### **4. Closed Area** (paragraph 9(1)(a)(iv) of CMM 2017/01)

SIOFA has not established any specific closed areas. In case that SIOFA introduces such measures in future, FAJ could ensure that the relevant vessels do not operate in designated areas, through adding conditions to their fisheries authorizations.

And the Japanese vessels respect the protected areas established by Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fisher's Association (SIODFA) known as benthic protected areas (BPAs) and suspend their fishing activities in such area on a voluntary basis.