

MoP-04-14

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) 4th Meeting of the Parties
26-30 June 2017

Aanari Hotel & Spa, Flic and Flac, Mauritius

Chair: Mr Kristofer Du Rietz

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Transparency and Distribution of Meeting Documents

Relates to agenda item: 14.6

Proposal Other Document Info Paper

Scientific Committee Chairperson

Abstract

Distribution of SC2 meeting documents prompted discussion regarding distribution of meeting documents and transparency.

A need was identified to discuss the subject at MoP4 to provide clarity how future meeting documents may be distributed.

As an interim measure, it was decided to distribute meeting documents on a password protected part of the SIOFA website until discussion

Transparency and Distribution of Meeting Documents

Background

Distribution of SC2 meeting documents prompted discussion regarding the distribution of meeting documents and transparency of such documents.

A need was identified to discuss the subject at MoP4 to provide clarity how future meeting documents may be distributed. As an interim measure, all meeting documents were distributed via a password protected part of the SIOFA website.

The object of this paper is to provide a basis for discussion which will result in agreement regarding how future meeting documents may be distributed.

Transparency in SIOFA

SIOFA Agreement Article 14 provides for the promotion of transparency in decision making processes and other activities carried out under the Agreement.

Posting of meeting documents on the publicly available part of the website, as done by other RFMOs, would achieve this transparency.

Distribution of future meeting documents

In the interests of achieving transparency in accordance with the SIOFA Agreement¹ and adopting best practices already in place in other RFMOs, the MoP is invited to consider the following approach for distribution of meeting documents:

1. Subject to any rules relating to the confidentiality of certain data and commercially sensitive information² and financial matters³, all meeting documents to be made available on the publicly accessible part of the SIOFA website prior to any meeting.
2. Meeting documents subject to rules relating to confidentiality to be made accessible via a secure part of the SIOFA website.
3. Access to the secure part of the website be made available to SIOFA Official Contact's and meeting participants registered by a Contracting Party.
4. Re-drafts of working papers under development through the course of a meeting will not be made available on publicly accessible part of the SIOFA website.
5. Meeting reports signed/approved by the Chairperson to be uploaded on the publicly accessible part of the SIOFA website.

¹ Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement - Article 14.1

² Rules of Procedure of Meetings of the Parties - Rule 18.4

³ Rules of Procedure of Meetings of the Parties- Rule 20.2