

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

MoP-04-15

Report of the Second Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

Relates to agenda item: 6

Proposal Other Document Info Paper

Scientific Committee Chairperson

Abstract

Presentation and the Second Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee which took place 13-17 March 2017 in Saint-Denis, La Réunion

Second Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

La Réunion, 13-17 March 2017

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Outline



Recommendation



Request

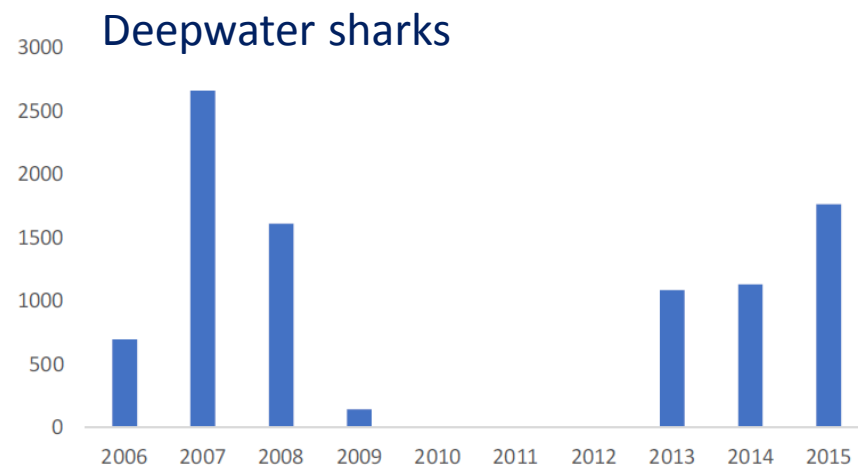
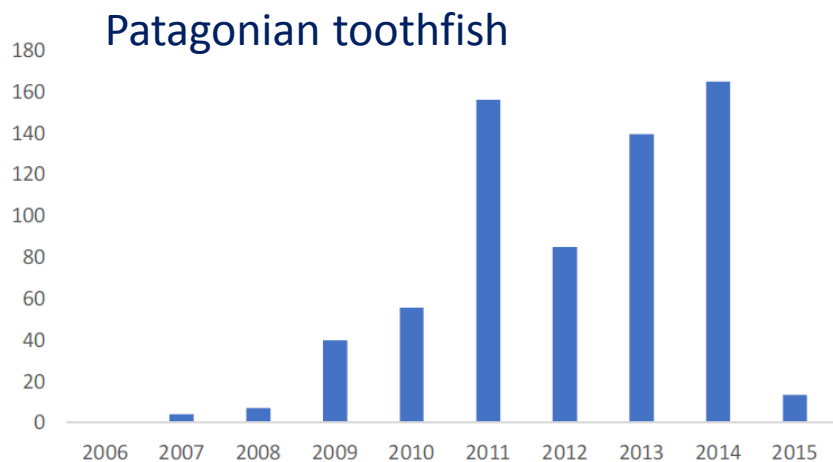
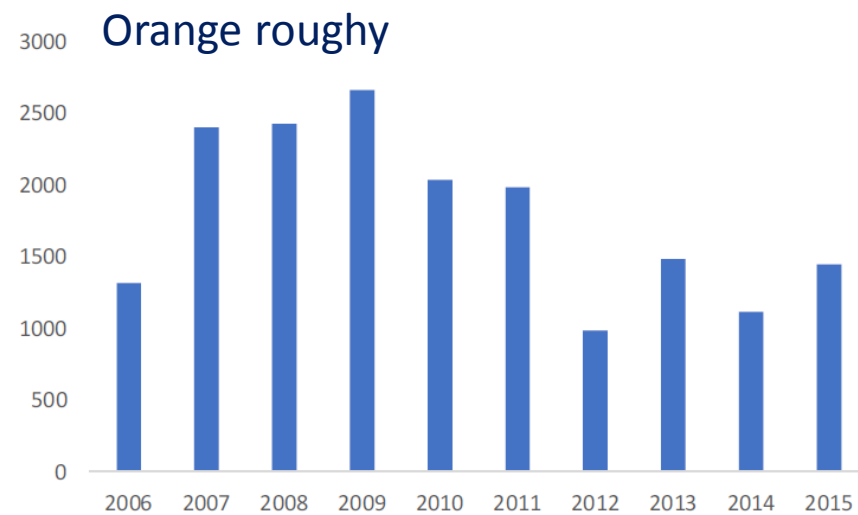
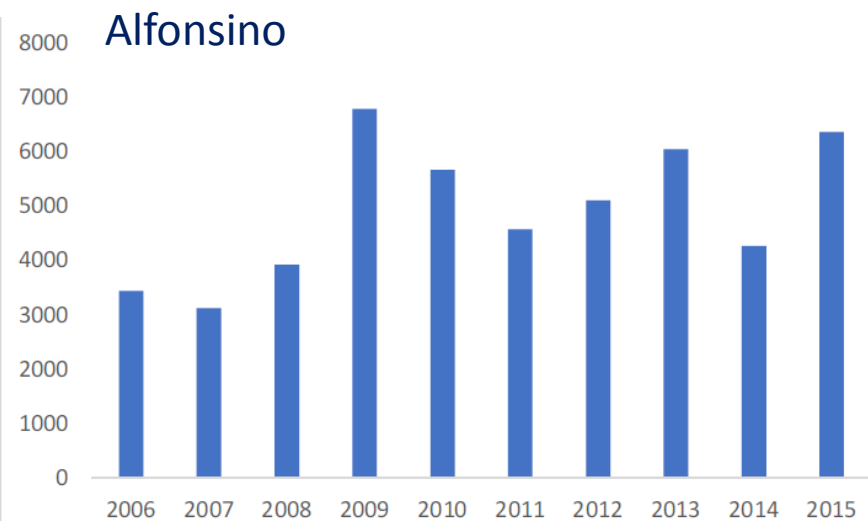
1. Overview of SIOFA fisheries 
2. SC Terminology
3. Scientific data standards
 - Guidelines for evaluating electronic observer programs 
 - SIOFA Scientific database 
4. Vulnerable marine ecosystems
 - Mapping where VMEs are known to, or likely to occur 
 - Standard protocols future protected area designation 
 - Bottom fishing impact assessment standard 
5. Stock assessments
 - Orange roughy and alfonsino 
 - Patagonian toothfish 
6. Impacts of fishing on associated and dependent species 
7. Cooperation 
8. SC work plan, including research activity budget 

1. Overview of SIOFA fisheries

| | Fleet composition 2011-2016 Number of vessels | Fishing effort 2011-2015 |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| All vessels (reported) | 7-15 | |
| Trawl | 4-7 | 712-912 days 813-2,274 hrs (AU, JP, KO) |
| Bottom longline | 2-8 | 643-2,696 thousand hooks |
| Gillnet | 0-1 | 0-5,422 km |

Mauritius, Seychelles, Thailand and non-members are not included

Overview of SIOFA fisheries – provisional annual catch



Overview of SIOFA fisheries

Thresholds of VME indicators

- Threshold weight for coral and sponge vary across parties
- Some parties have different thresholds for different gear types

Management responses


- Move-on rules vary in distance from the fishing location
- CI vessels can deploy an underwater camera system to verify whether substantial VME structures are present


Summary of observer programs

- Variable
- Most trawl fleets at or aiming for 100%
- Non-trawl 5-20%

2. Guide to terminology in SC reports

- 2016 MoP requested the SC develop a guide to assist the MoP interpret the terminology of SC reports
- Built on IOTC terminology guide
- SC **adopted** the guide (**Annex E**)

 **Recommended, recommendation:** Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken from the SC to the MoP which is to be formally provided to the MoP for its consideration/endorsement

 **Requested:** to a Party, Secretariat or other body, not the MoP, where the SC does not wish to formalise the request beyond the mandate of the SC.

3. Scientific data standards

Guidelines for evaluating and approving electronic observer programs (Annex G) directed in CMM 2016/02

- Electronic monitoring complements rather than replaces on-board observers.
- ★ • **Recommended MoP adopt the Guidelines** to review how electronic monitoring equipment satisfies each data field in the data standards
- SC will evaluate proposed electronic observer programs to collect scientific data, during its regular meetings or intersessionally

Questions?

Scientific data standards

SIOFA Scientific database

- Databases based on CMM 2016/02, 2016/07 and 2016/03:
 - Vessel registry
 - Catch and effort data
 - Scientific observer data
 - Historic catch and effort data at a coarser scale (by SC 2018)
- ★ • **Noted** the progress was encouraging, **requested that the Secretariat finalise the databases** as soon as possible as data are critical to the SC's ability to generate data summaries, data input for stock assessment, mapping, ERA and bycatch research
- ★ • **Requested Parties submit tow-by-tow observer and catch and effort data** (CMM 2016/02)
- ★ • **Requested Secretariat generate standard data summaries** prior to the SC.

4. Vulnerable marine Ecosystems

Maps of where VMEs are known to occur or likely to occur
CMM 2016/01 by SC 2017

- **Agreed** that georeferenced data should be made available on a haul-by-haul basis.
- ★ • **Requested Secretariat create maps** using the georeferenced data.
- ★ • **Requested Parties provide or facilitate provision of other data** available from surveys to be incorporated into these maps.
- ★ • **Requested Secretariat work with FAO ABNJ Deep Seas Project** on planned mapping of data on VMEs in the SIOFA area

Vulnerable marine Ecosystems

Standard protocols for future protected areas designation

- Protected areas (closed to fishing) are one tool available to implement UNGA Resolutions and CMM 2016/01
- Discussions took into account criteria developed by other organisations and those used in identifying SIODFA Benthic Protected Areas.
- **Agreed the protocols should include** the compilation and evaluation of relevant data, adopt the FAO Guidelines and that the SC will recommend future protected areas based on standard criteria

Vulnerable marine Ecosystems

Standard protocols for future protected areas designation

- **Agreed that the draft criteria should be reviewed** after the SC considered the first submission of a proposed protected area
- ★ • **Recommended the MoP adopt the proposed standard protocols** for future protected areas designation (**Annex H**)
- The protocols include a dedicated Working group within SIOFA SC to analyse the information and prepare a report to be considered by the SIOFA SC
- AU proposed Working group to consider the basis of the benthic protected areas

Questions?

Vulnerable marine Ecosystems

Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standard (BFIAS)

- CMM 2016/01 directs 2017 SC to provide advice and recommendations on a SIOFA BFIAS
- Contributing to meeting the UNGA resolutions
- BFIAS will guide members in developing their assessment of bottom fishing activities and the SC in evaluating these assessments.
- Draft SIOFA BFIAS draws on international standards and FAO guidelines

Vulnerable marine Ecosystems

Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standard (BFIAS)


- ★ Recommended MoP adopt the SIOFA BFIAS (Annex I)
- ★ Recommended MoP provide a definition of 'new fisheries' for inclusion in the BFIAS
- SC reflected that the timelines in CCM 2016/02 may permit fishing to occur for a year before the SC reviews the relevant assessment.
 - SC consideration of bottom fishing impact assessments at its regular meetings.
- SC 2018 expected to consider parties bottom fishing impact assessments, including likely cumulative impacts.

Questions?

5. Stock assessments – Orange roughy

- CMM 2016/01, SC will provide advice and recommendations on the status of stocks by SC 2019
- Review of orange roughy acoustic data that may support stock assessments
- Noted different assessment approaches would be appropriate depending on the MoP intended management approach.
- **Outcomes of SPRFMO Workshop may assist**
- **Agreed** there was a need to **progress intersessionally**

Stock assessments – Alfonsino

- CI drew attention to catch per unit effort (CPUE) trend in the national report – CPUE has steadily reduced over recent years
- SC discussed the need to review and understand the data and summaries provided (representation, standardisation, timeframe etc)
- **Agreed** there was a need to **progress intersessionally**
-  **Recommended MoP agree** that the SC Chair convene a **Stock Assessment Working Group** for the purpose of progressing the stock assessment work, initially orange roughly and alfonsino (Terms of reference and work plan **Annex K**)

Questions?

Stock assessments – Patagonian toothfish

- Discussed tagging information from CCAMLR, including fish tagged in the SIOFA area
- **Requested continued discussion with CCAMLR** on potential collaboration on stock assessment. Noted that the stock is also shared with the French and South African EEZs.
- ★ **Recommended MoP make their fishers aware** of potential capture of tagged fish and provide information on tag recaptures to the Secretariat.
- **Requested further information** on the CCAMLR tagging program and specifically if there was value in tag releases in the SIOFA area.

6. Associated and dependent species

- Discussed progress towards the develop of a quantitative ecological risk assessment (ERA) for deepwater sharks
- **Agreed that the key elements** in progressing ERA included:
 - Refining the list of species for each gear
 - Undertaking the analysis with fishing footprints, 20 minute grids. If high risk species are identified the analysis can be undertaken at a finer scale
- **Agreed** that the ERA approach could be applied to stocks of key target species, bycatch and incidentally caught species.
- **Agreed** that the ERA needed to be **progressed intersessionally**
- **Recommended MoP agree** that the SC Chair **convene an ERA Working Group** for the propose of progressing this work (Annex L)



7. Cooperation

FAO ABNJ Deep Sea Project



- **Requested the Executive Secretary engage on:**
 - Planned mapping work, to accelerate the availability of these maps to the SC
 - Planned assessment of the likely impact of gear types
 - Possible support for the ERA work (ERA WG)

Draft arrangement with CCAMLR

- **Noted** the value of the arrangement in facilitating the SC work on shared stocks

8. Work Plan

Long term Research Plan - No update at this time

Operational work plan - **Adopted** an updated work plan (Annex M)

 Research activity budget – **Recommended** MoP allocate:

- Stock assessment working group activities (EU30,000)
- ERA working group activities (EU30,000)

The allocation would support the engagement of relevant expertise to complete specific working group activities (for example a stock assessment), if required