

MoP-04-INFO-04

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-INFO-04

EU - Report on Implementation of SIOFA CMMs

Relates to agenda item: 8, 9,10 & 13

Info Paper 

EU

Abstract

EU provides a report on their implementation of all SIOFA CMMs since their entry into force 18 October 2016

Report of implementation - SIOFA

European Union

The EU notes that pursuant to Article 216(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (EU), the EU as a Contracting Party to SIOFA is bound to ensure that the measures adopted by the Commission are effectively implemented by EU vessels operating in the SIOFA Agreement Area.

Such international obligations are also binding for EU Member States. They are bound to take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the provisions of the SIOFA Resolutions by their vessels and, as appropriate, their nationals.

Moreover, in accordance with EU legislation, all EU vessels operating in the SIOFA Agreement Area are subject to monitoring and control measures to ensure that SIOFA and EU Common Fisheries Policy rules are fully respected.

A. Measurable implementation obligations:

1. CMM 2016/01 on interim Management of Bottom Fishing in the SIOFA Agreement Area.

1.a Regarding the Spanish vessel that operates more than 40 days in a single year in SIOFA, its fishing effort didn't increase effort in last 12 months (use long line gear, so far there are no closed areas in SIOFA).

This Spanish deepwater longline will have a 20 percent scientific observer coverage in any fishing year, this mission should report scientific data including the nature of the gear used.

Moreover, Spain has implemented measures to prevent adverse impacts on VMEs, as follows:

RULES TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE EVENT OF ENCOUNTER WITH VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

It is considered a meeting with Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) when the occurrence of VME indicators exceeds the established limits.

Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) indicators are considered:

- Living coral (coral species identified as antipatharios, gorgonias, cerianthidos, lophelias, and sea feathers).
- Living sponges

All the VME indicators will be communicated monthly to the General Secretariat of Fisheries, indicating species, quantity and position.

When using the bottom longline, the following shall be taken into account:

- A meeting with Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) is considered when 10 or more indicator units of a VME have been recovered in a single line section.
- A VME indicator unit refers to one liter of VME indicator organisms that can be placed inside a 10 liter bucket, or to one kilogram of VME indicator organisms that do not fit into a 10 liter bucket.
- A "line section" is a section of the line with 1,000 hooks or a section of 1,200 m in length, the shortest line.

In case of encounter with VME indicators, the captains of the ships:

- Quantify the VME indicator species, ie sea, coral and sponge feathers.
- If the number of VME indicators exceeds the limits indicated above per fishing set:
 - According to Annex 1 of CMM 2016-01, it will indicate the incident to the General Secretariat of Fisheries.
 - According to point 12 of CMM 2016-01, it will stop fishing and separate at least 1 nautical mile from the mid-point of the operation, in the direction less likely to lead to an additional encounter. The captain will use his best judgment based on all available sources of information.

OTHER MEASURES AIMING MITIGATION OF MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

Although potential interactions with sensitive fauna such as mammals, seabirds or reptiles are not foreseeable, the following measures will be taken into account:

- Seabirds: the mitigation of any possible interaction with seabirds will be enhanced and for this the fishing operations will be carried out in such a way that the mother line sinks out of reach of seabirds as soon as possible after touching the water, Scarecrow lines will be deployed to reduce this issue to zero. When fishing for longlines at night, only the lights necessary for the safety of the boat shall be used.
- The disposal of fish remains and debris is prohibited while fishing gear is being cured and proper precautions are taken during turning.
- Reptiles: The distance from the coasts of the fishing areas and the planned depths of draft, together with the oceanographic characteristics of the same make this type of interaction are discarded from the base. In any case, the fishing unit will have equipment and devices for the release of turtles that would be applied in case of any such interaction.
- Any incident will be noted in the logbook.

Spanish vessel, operating with deepwater longline, will have a 20 percent scientific observer coverage in any fishing year, this mission should report scientific data including the nature of the gear used.

1.b With regard to French vessels, the fishing effort (in days) did not increase in 2016 in comparison with the reference period.

Moreover, an “arrêté” has been approved and will be published in June, regulating fisheries for French vessels according to the CMM 2016/01:

- Maximum number of fishing days decided upon an appropriate reference period of one year;
- Authorisation to be delivered only to ships having historical fishing record/effort in the area; the authorisation is time limited and mentions the gear (only longlines and handlines are authorised) and targeted species.

2. CMM 2016/05 regarding the use of large-scale pelagic driftnets and deepwater gillnets in SIOFA Agreement Area

2.a Regarding the Spanish flagged vessel, Spain doesn't authorize to use of any kind of gillnets in SIOFA Agreement Area. This vessel is fishing exclusively with deepwater longline.

2.b With regard to the French flagged vessel, these vessels do not use gillnets in the SIOFA Agreement Area. Only longline and handline are authorised.

B. Other measures

Concerning CMM 2016/02/03/04/06/07 there no specific implementation measures to report.

1. CMM 2016/02 on for the collection, reporting, verification and Exchange of Data relating to fishing activities in the Agreement Area: The EU collects logbook data and submits catch by EU member state to the secretariat. Further information is also included in the EU scientific report provided to the Scientific Committee, including historical catch data.

Provisions concerning VMS are also implemented in all EU vessels.

2. CMM 2016/03 for Data Confidentiality and Procedures for the Access and Use of data: noting to report.

3. CMM 2016/04 on vessels without Nationality: nothing to report, no sighted vessels without nationality.

4. CMM 2016/06 on the listing of IUU vessels: nothing to report, no vessels identified presumed to engage in IUU activities.

5. CMM2016/07 Vessel authorisation and notification to fish: List of authorised vessels notified to the secretariat according to obligations of this CMM.