

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) 6th Meeting of the Parties
01-05 July 2019

Pearle Beach Resort & Spa conference centre, Flic en Flac, Mauritius

MoP6-Prop04

Proposal for amending Conservation and Management Measure for
the Interim Management of Bottom Fishing in the Agreement Area
(Interim Management of Bottom Fishing)

Relates to agenda item: CC3 4.1, MoP6 11.1

Proposal Working Paper Information Paper Other Document

Delegation of the European Union

Abstract

The proposed amendments can be summarized as follows:

- Para 9 (1)(a)(i): clarification that the metrics that can be used henceforth for reporting effort will be number of fishing days and number of hooks.
- Para 9 (1)(a)(ii): clarification of the process for possible expansion of line and trap operations. Cf, "EU proposal for a framework on new fisheries".
- VMEs section (page 5): introduction of SIOFA VMEs indicator species and threshold levels for VMEs encounters for trawls and longlines. In addition, original paras 38-39 have been grouped under this section.
- Concerning the interim protocol for the designation of protected areas, the EU intends to submit a dedicated working paper in view to providing the context for progressing the discussions on this important element of the general framework.
- Four new annexes are proposed for the management of key SIOFA fisheries, namely toothfish, alfonsino and orange roughy. They will be subject to a revision ahead of the MoP to provide text for the placeholders.

Recommendations (*proposals only*)

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1. [The CC3 and MoP6 are invited to review, discuss and adopt this proposal.]
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CMM 2018/01¹

Conservation and Management Measure for the Interim Management of Bottom Fishing in the Agreement Area (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing)

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;

RECOGNISING that Article 4(a) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) calls on the Contracting Parties, in giving effect to the duty to cooperate, to adopt measures on the basis of the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation of fishery resources, taking into account the sustainable use of such resources and implementing an ecosystem approach to their management;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 4(c), (e) and (f) of the Agreement which call on the Contracting Parties to apply the precautionary approach, that fishing practices and management measures shall take due account of the need to minimise the harmful impact that fishing activities may have on the marine environment and noting that biodiversity in the marine environment shall be protected;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 6(1)(d) and (e) of the Agreement which provides that the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt conservation and management measures (CMMs) for ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishery resources, taking into account the need to protect marine biodiversity, based on the best scientific evidence and adopt generally recommended international minimum standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations;

MINDFUL of Article 16 of the Agreement that calls on Contracting Parties, acting jointly under the Agreement, to cooperate closely with other international fisheries and related organisations in matters of mutual interest;

NOTING United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 61/105 and subsequent resolutions of UNGA that call upon RFMOs to assess, on the basis of the best available scientific information, whether individual bottom fishing activities would have significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), and to ensure that if it is assessed that these activities would have significant adverse impacts, they are managed to prevent such impacts, or not authorised to proceed;

FURTHER NOTING UNGA Resolution 64/72 which calls upon RFMOs to establish and implement appropriate protocols for the implementation of UNGA Resolution 61/105, including definitions of what constitutes evidence of an encounter with a VME, in

¹ CMM 2018/01 (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing) supersedes 2017/01 (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing)

particular threshold levels and indicator species; and to implement the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas (FAO, 2009; FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Guidelines) in order to sustainably manage fish stocks and protect VMEs;

FURTHER NOTING UNGA Resolution 66/68 which encourages RFMOs to consider the results available from marine scientific research, including those obtained from seabed mapping programs concerning the identification of areas containing VMEs, and to adopt conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts from bottom fishing on such ecosystems, consistent with the FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Guidelines, or to close such areas to bottom fishing until such conservation and management measures are adopted, as well as to continue to undertake further marine scientific research, in accordance with international law as reflected in Part XIII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

AWARE of the steps being taken by the Meeting of the Parties to address the impacts of large-scale pelagic drift nets and deepwater gillnets in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) through the adoption of CMM 2016/05;

COMMITTED to ensuring that bottom fishing undertaken in the Agreement Area is consistent with the long-term sustainability of deep sea fish stocks and the protection of the marine environment; and

DESIRING to progress the development of a SIOFA-wide bottom fishing impact assessment and SIOFA-wide footprint, as recommended by the Scientific Committee at its first ordinary meeting in Fremantle, Australia, in March 2016;

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:

Objective

1. The objective of this CMM is to promote the sustainable management of deep-sea fisheries resources in the Agreement Area, including target fish stocks and non-target species, and to protect the marine ecosystem, including, *inter alia*, the prevention of significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems.

General provisions and definitions

2. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party, participating fishing entity or cooperating non-participating fishing entity (collectively CCPs) to the Agreement engaging or intending to engage in bottom fishing in the Agreement Area. A reference in this CMM to fishing and related activities of a CCP (such as *its* fishing, *its* catch or *its* effort) is taken to refer to fishing and related activities undertaken by vessels flying its flag.

3. The following definitions apply to this CMM:

- (a) 'vulnerable marine ecosystem' (VME) means a marine ecosystem identified using the criteria outlined in paragraph 42 of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas (FAO, 2009; FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Guidelines).
- (b) 'bottom fishing' means fishing using any gear type likely to come in contact with the seafloor or benthic organisms during the normal course of operations.
- (c) 'SIOFA bottom fishing footprint' means a map of the spatial extent of historical bottom fishing in the Agreement Area, for all vessels flagged to all Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs over a period to be defined by the Meeting of the Parties.
- (d) 'electronic observer program' means a program that uses electronic monitoring equipment in place of, or in conjunction with, a human observer or human observers on board a vessel that is capable of generating, storing and transmitting data to competent authorities.

4. The provisions of this CMM are not necessarily to be considered precedents for future allocation or other decisions in accordance with Articles 6(2), (3) and (4) of the Agreement relating to participation in bottom fisheries in the Agreement Area and adjacent areas of national jurisdiction, as appropriate.

Scientific Committee work on bottom fishing and subsequent consideration by the Meeting of the Parties

5. The Scientific Committee shall, by no later than the close of the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee in 20~~2017~~²⁰¹⁷, and thereafter whenever a substantial change to the fishery has occurred or new data has otherwise been provided to the Scientific Committee warranting changes, develop and provide advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on:

- (a) a SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standard (BFIAS) which takes account of the latest scientific information available;
- (b) maps of where VMEs are known to occur, or likely to occur, in the Agreement Area;
- (c) guidelines for evaluating and approving electronic observer programs for scientific data collection for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties; and
- (d) a standard protocol for future protected areas designation (areas in which special management rules apply, that may include, inter alia, fishing closures for specific gears or all gears).

6. The Scientific Committee shall, by no later than the close of the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee in 20~~2019~~²⁰²⁰, and thereafter whenever a substantial change to the fishery has occurred or new data has otherwise been provided to the Scientific Committee warranting changes, develop and provide advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on:

- (a) the status of stocks of principal deep-sea fishery resources targeted, and, to the extent possible, taken as bycatch and caught incidentally in these deep-sea fisheries, including straddling fishery resources;
- (b) criteria for what constitutes evidence of an encounter with a VME, in particular threshold levels and indicator species [for all gears](#);
- (c) the most appropriate response to a VME encounter, including *inter alia* closing particular areas to a particular gear type or types;
- (d) the interim SIOFA Standard Protocol for Future Protected Areas Designation adopted by the Meeting of the Parties in 2018; and
- (e) research and management plans, to be adopted at MoP6, for each of the protected areas listed in Annex 2. Such plans shall include, *inter alia*, conservation and management objectives taking socio-economic considerations into account where possible, appropriate measures to implement these objectives and timeframes for evaluation and review.

7. The Scientific Committee shall, by no later than the close of the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee in 2020, and thereafter whenever a substantial change to the fishery has occurred or new data has otherwise been provided to the Scientific Committee warranting changes, develop and provide advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on:

- (a) an appropriate SIOFA bottom fishing footprint based on the data provided by CCPs to the Secretariat under paragraph 13; and
- (b) a SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment (SIOFA BFIA). The SIOFA BFIA shall take into account the activities of all fishing vessels to which this CMM applies that, at the time the SIOFA BFIA is prepared, are engaged in, or intending to engage in, bottom fishing within the agreed SIOFA bottom fishing footprint;

8. Upon receipt of advice and recommendations from the Scientific Committee on the matters listed in paragraphs 5 to 7, the Meeting of the Parties shall act on the Scientific Committee's advice and recommendations at its next ordinary meeting. This may include, when the Meeting of the Parties considers it appropriate, to authorise any document or other output arising from the advice or recommendations, and amendments thereto.

Duties of Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs undertaking bottom fishing activity in the

Agreement Area

Interim bottom fishing measures

[Effort limitation and general measures](#)

9. (1) Until such time as the Meeting of the Parties has acted in accordance with paragraph 8 on the advice of the Scientific Committee provided in accordance with paragraph 7, each CCP shall, unless otherwise approved by the Meeting of the Parties, establish and apply specific measures to limit the level and spatial extent of the bottom fishing effort of vessels flying their flag. In particular, such measures shall include:

(a) for CCPs that have fished more than 40 days in a single year, in the Agreement Area, at the time this CMM was adopted:

- i. limits on its bottom fishing effort ([number of fishing days or number of hooks](#)) and/or catch, over a 12 month period to its average annual level in active years over a representative period for which reliable data exists;
- ii. constraints on the spatial distribution of its bottom fishing effort, excluding line and trap methods, to recently fished areas to prevent any expansion of such fishing activities; [line and trap operations can be expanded in accordance with CMM 2019/xx \(New Fisheries\)](#).
- iii. provisions to ensure its bottom fishing will not have significant adverse impacts on VMEs and, where applicable, shall take into account its BFIA prepared and submitted pursuant to paragraph 14, and any areas identified under paragraph 39 where VMEs are known to occur, or are likely to occur; and
- iv. provisions ensuring that any vessel flying its flag is not authorised to fish in any areas that the Meeting of the Parties has decided to close to fishing.

(b) for CCPs that have not fished more than 40 days in a single year, in the Agreement Area, at the time this CMM was adopted:

- i. limits on its bottom fishing effort and/or catch, and spatial distribution, as disclosed to the Meeting of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 9(2); and
- ii. provisions as referred to in subparagraphs 9(1)(a)(iii) and (iv).

(2) The measures established by CCPs pursuant to this paragraph shall be disclosed to the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties following the entry into force of this CMM, and shall be made publicly available on the SIOFA website, by the Secretariat, once the website has been developed.²

² Until such time as the website is developed, this information will be made available upon request to the Secretariat.

(3) CCPs may revise the measures they establish pursuant to this paragraph provided that any amendments made are consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9(1). Revised measures shall be notified to the Secretariat within 30 days of the amendment, and shall be disclosed at the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

(4) The provisions of this paragraph are not necessarily to be considered a precedent for future decisions taken by the Meeting of the Parties pursuant to paragraph 8.

10. Any CCP that has not submitted the measures required pursuant to paragraph 9(1), shall not authorise any vessels flying its flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area until:

- (a) that CCP has submitted the measures required in paragraph 9(1); or
- (b) it has otherwise been decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems

~~11. Until the Meeting of the Parties has acted on the Scientific Committee's advice on SIOFA threshold levels pursuant to paragraph 6(b), each CCP shall establish and apply to vessels flying their flag threshold levels for encounters with VMEs, taking into account paragraph 68 of the FAO Deep sea Fisheries Guidelines. These threshold levels shall be disclosed in the measures referred to in paragraph 9(1).~~

11. SIOFA VME indicator species are listed in Annex J of the Report of the 4th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of SIOFA (25-29 March 2019).

11bis. CCPs shall apply to vessels flying their flag the following threshold levels for encounters with VMEs:

- a. the threshold that triggers the encounter protocol for longline gears shall be the catch/recovery of 10 or more VME-indicator units³ in a single line segment⁴.
- b. the threshold that triggers the encounter protocol for the trawls shall be more than 60 kg of live sponges and/or 60 kg of live coral in any tow.

12. Until the Meeting of the Parties has acted on the Scientific Committee's advice on the

³ 'VME indicator unit' means either one litre of those VME indicator organisms that can be placed in a 10-litre container, or one kilogram of those VME indicator organisms that do not fit into a 10-litre container.

⁴ 'Line segment' means a 1000-hook section of line or a 1 200 m section of line, whichever is the shorter.

most appropriate response to a VME encounter pursuant to paragraph 6(c), CCPs shall require any vessel flying their flag to cease bottom fishing activities within:

- (a) For bottom or mid water trawling, or fishing with any other net - two (2) nautical miles either side of a trawl track extended by two (2) nautical miles at each end;
- (b) For longline and trap activities - a radius of one (1) nautical mile from the midpoint of the line segment;⁵³
- (c) For all other bottom fishing gear types - a radius of one (1) nautical mile from the midpoint of the operation

where evidence of a VME is encountered above threshold levels established under paragraph 11 in the course of fishing operations. CCPs shall report any such encounter in their National Reports to the Scientific Committee in accordance with the guidelines at Annex 1, including any action taken by that CCP in respect of the relevant site.

12bis. Where the Meeting of the Parties, taking into account advice provided by the Scientific Committee in accordance with reported VMEs encounters above threshold levels, determines that bottom fishing may have significant adverse impacts on VMEs in areas where VMEs are known to occur, or are likely to occur, based on the best available scientific information, the Meeting of the Parties may take a decision to close such areas to bottom fishing, either entirely or with respect to bottom fishing by a particular gear type or types.

12tris. The Meeting of the Parties shall cooperate to identify, on the basis of the best available scientific information including advice and recommendations provided by the Scientific Committee pursuant to paragraph 5(b), areas where VMEs are known or likely to occur in the Agreement Area and to map these sites, and provide such data and information to all CCPs for circulation.

12quater. The Secretariat will develop a dedicated webpage for making available and timely updating these maps.

12quin. Fishing with benthic longlines shall be prohibited in depths shallower than 500m in order to protect benthic communities and juvenile *Dissostichus* spp.

Provision of data by CCPs

13. CCPs shall, at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee in 2018, submit to the Secretariat:

- (a) relevant data on the spatial extent of its historical bottom fishing effort in the Agreement Area expressed as grid blocks of at least 20 minute resolution or, if available, a finer scale; and

⁵ Line segment means a 1000 hook section of line or a 1200 meter~~se~~^{se} section of line, whichever is the shorter, and for pot lines a 1200 meter~~se~~^{se} section

- (b) any other data the Scientific Committee may consider to be useful in developing the SIOFA BFIA referred to in paragraph 7(b), including data relating to recorded encounters with VMEs or indicators of VMEs.

14. (a) Any CCP that authorises or is seeking to authorise any vessel flying its flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area shall, at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee in 2018, submit to the Secretariat a Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment for its individual bottom fishing activities in the Agreement Area that, to the extent possible, accords with paragraph 18 (BFIA). Any CCP that has prepared, or prepares, a BFIA prior to this CMM entering into force is encouraged to submit this BFIA to the Scientific Committee as soon as possible.

(b) Any CCP that has not submitted a BFIA pursuant to subparagraph (a) may, at least 30 days prior to the commencement of any subsequent ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee and before the Meeting of the Parties has authorised the SIOFA bottom fishing footprint and the SIOFA BFIA developed by the Scientific Committee in accordance with paragraph 7, submit to the Secretariat a BFIA.

15. The Scientific Committee shall consider all BFIA received under paragraph 14(a) and 19(b) at its ordinary meeting in 2018 or, if the BFIA is submitted under paragraph 14(b) or 19(b), at the next ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee, and provide advice in its meeting report as to:

- (a) the likely cumulative impacts of bottom fishing impact activity from vessels flying the flag of a CCP in the Agreement Area; and
- (b) whether each BFIA meets an appropriate standard in light of international standards and the SIOFA BFIA, where applicable.

16. If the Scientific Committee's advice is that a BFIA does not meet an appropriate standard, the Meeting of the Parties may request that CCP who submitted the BFIA to revise and resubmit its BFIA to the next ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee, and make a decision to either:

- (a) suspend any vessel flying the flag of that CCP from bottom fishing in the Agreement Area until the Scientific Committee provides advice that the BFIA meets an appropriate standard; or
- (b) undertake any other course of action, as the Meeting of the Parties may decide, taking into account Scientific Committee advice and the objectives of this CMM.

17. Any CCP that has not submitted a BFIA in accordance with subparagraph 14 shall not authorise any vessels flying its flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area until:

- (a) that CCP has prepared a BFIA, and the Scientific Committee has reviewed that BFIA in accordance with paragraph 15; or
- (b) the Meeting of the Parties has authorised the SIOFA bottom fishing footprint and the SIOFA BFIA developed by the Scientific Committee in accordance with paragraph 7; or
- (c) it has otherwise been decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

18. All BFIA's, including the SIOFA BFIA, shall:

- (a) be prepared, to the extent possible, in accordance with the FAO *International guidelines for the management of deep-sea fisheries resources in the high seas*;
- (b) meet the standards of the SIOFA BFIA's (if the BFIA is prepared after the Meeting of the Parties has adopted the BFIA's);
- (c) take into account areas identified where VMEs are known or are likely to occur in the area to be fished;
- (d) take into account all relevant information provided pursuant to paragraphs 13 and 39, and in addition, for the SIOFA BFIA, paragraph 14;
- (e) be updated when a substantial change in the fishery has occurred, such that it is likely that the risk or impacts of the fishery may have changed;
- (f) assess, to the extent possible, the historical and anticipated cumulative impact of all bottom fishing activity in the Agreement Area, if applicable;
- (g) address whether the proposed activities achieve the objectives described in paragraph 1 of this CMM and Article 2 of the Agreement; and
- (h) be made publicly available on the SIOFA website, once developed.

Provision of data by, and interim bottom fishing measures for, new CCPs

19. Paragraphs 9 to 12 shall not apply to any State or fishing entity that becomes a CCP after the Meeting of the Parties in 2017. However, prior to authorising any vessels flying its flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area, each of these new CCPs which has fished more or less than 40 days in a single calendar year as referred to in paragraph 9(1)(a) or (b) shall:

- (a) advise the Meeting of the Parties of the measures it intends to take pursuant to paragraph 9(1)(a)(i), (ii), (iii) and (iv);
- (b) 30 days prior to an ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee after it becomes a CCP, submit the data referred to in paragraph 13 and a BFIA as outlined in paragraph 14 to the Scientific Committee for its consideration in accordance with paragraph 15.

20. Subject to agreement of the Meeting of the Parties, based on the advice from the Scientific Committee and the measures submitted in accordance with paragraph 19, a new CCP referred to in paragraph 19 may then authorise vessels flying its flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area, in accordance with paragraphs 9-12.

21. A CCP seeking to authorise any vessel flying its flag to undertake bottom fishing in the Agreement Area in a manner at variance with the requirements of paragraph 9 to limit the bottom fishing effort of vessels flying its flag shall submit to the Scientific Committee, at least 30 days prior to an ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee, a proposal to undertake that activity or activities. This proposal shall include an assessment of the impact of the proposed fishing activity in accordance with the requirements for BFAs outlined in paragraph 18, any proposed measures to mitigate that impact, and any other information as required by the Scientific Committee to undertake the assessment in paragraph 22.

22. On receipt of any proposal developed pursuant to paragraph 21, the Scientific Committee shall, at its next ordinary meeting:

- (a) assess, on the basis of the best available scientific information, whether the proposed bottom fishing would have significant adverse impacts on VMEs;
- (b) if it is assessed that these activities would have significant adverse impacts, consider what measures should be taken to prevent such impacts, or, if those impacts cannot be appropriately mitigated, whether the proposed bottom fishing should proceed or not;
- (c) assess, taking into account, *inter alia*: the cumulative impacts of other fishing occurring in that area, where such information is available; whether the proposed activities are compatible with the sustainable management of bottom fisheries, including target fish stocks and non-target species; and the protection of the marine environment, including *inter alia*, the prevention of significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems; and
- (d) provide recommendations and advice to the Meeting of the Parties in its meeting report on each of these matters, as applicable.

23. The Meeting of the Parties shall, taking into account the recommendations and advice of the Scientific Committee, decide whether or not to authorise bottom fishing in accordance with a proposal made pursuant to paragraph 21 including, if applicable, the extent to which such bottom fishing shall be authorised.

24. If applicable, the Meeting of the Parties shall also decide which measures or conditions shall be applied to any activity authorised pursuant to paragraph 23 to ensure that fishing activity is consistent with the objectives of Article 2 of the Agreement and paragraph 1 of this CMM.

General management and conditions for bottom fishing in the Agreement Area

25. Consistently with Article 11(1)(a) of the Agreement, CCPs shall only authorise vessels flying their flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement, this CMM and all other applicable CMMs, and shall ensure that such vessels do not engage in any activity which undermines the effectiveness of these measures.

26. All CCPs shall ensure that all vessels flying its flag that participate in bottom fishing in the Agreement Area are equipped and configured to comply with all relevant CMMs.

27. Consistently with Article 11(3)(a) of the Agreement CCPs shall only authorise vessels flying their flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area where they are able to exercise their responsibilities as a flag State under the Agreement and all CMMs.

28. CCPs shall ensure that vessels flying their flag provide the minimum required data to the Secretariat in accordance with SIOFA data standards.

29. Nothing in this CMM shall affect the rights of a CCP to apply additional or more stringent compatible measures to vessels flying their flag that are conducting bottom fishing.

30. Nothing in this CMM exempts a CCP from complying with any other obligations in the Agreement or any CMMs adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

Scientific observer coverage

31. Each CCP shall ensure that any vessel flying its flag and undertaking bottom fishing in the Agreement Area:

- (a) using trawl gear has 100 percent scientific observer coverage for the duration of the trip; and
- (b) subject to paragraph 36(b), using any other bottom fishing gear type has 20 percent scientific observer coverage in any fishing year⁶.

32. Consistent with paragraph 13 of the SIOFA Data Standards CMM (CMM 2018/02), the Scientific Committee shall review the observer coverage levels prescribed in paragraph 31 at its ordinary meeting in 2018 and provide advice to the Meeting of the Parties thereon.

33. (a) The scientific observer coverage levels outlined in paragraph 31 shall be fulfilled through the use of human observers, except to the extent authorised by the Meeting of the

⁶ For line fishing this should be expressed as the percentage of the total number of observed hooks or days.

Parties pursuant to subparagraph (c)(iii).

(b) Once the Meeting of the Parties has adopted Guidelines for evaluating and approving electronic observer programs developed pursuant to paragraph 5(c), a CCP may submit a proposal to the Scientific Committee seeking to use an electronic observer program which uses, entirely or in part, electronic monitoring equipment, human observers and/or a port sampling program. As part of this proposal, that CCP shall submit evidence of, and data relating to, a statistically robust trial of the program that demonstrates it meets the data requirements prescribed in the SIOFA data standards CMM, once adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

(c) Following the submission of the proposal by the CCP to the Scientific Committee:

- i. The Scientific Committee shall review the proposal and provide recommendations and advice thereon to the Meeting of the Parties, taking into account the Guidelines and whether the program will reliably collect all data required by the SIOFA data standards CMM, once adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.
- ii. The Compliance Committee shall also review the proposal and provide advice and recommendations thereon to the Meeting of the Parties.
- iii. On receipt of the advice by the Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee on the proposal, the Meeting of the Parties shall, at its next meeting, consider whether to authorise the use of that program by that CCP in place of the exclusive use of human observers.

Position Reporting

34. Each CCP shall, in respect of each vessel flying its flag which participates in bottom fishing in the Agreement Area, submit VMS reports in an electronic format to the Secretariat in accordance with any VMS CMM and data standards CMM adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

Management of specific fisheries

34bis. The *Dissostichus* spp fishery in DelCano area will be regulated in accordance with the provisions laid down in Annex 3.

34tris. The *Dissostichus* spp fishery in William's Ridge area will be regulated in accordance with the provisions laid down in Annex 4.

34quater. The *Beryx* spp fishery in SIOFA will be regulated in accordance with the provisions

[laid down in Annex 5.](#)

[34quinc. The *Hoplostethus atlanticus* fishery in SIOFA will be regulated in accordance with the provisions laid down in Annex 6.](#)

Interim Protected Area Designation

35. The areas included in Annex 2 are provisionally designated as protected areas.

36. CCPs shall provisionally apply the following measures in the areas listed on Annex 2 until the adoption of a dedicated research and management plan, referred to in paragraph 6(e), for each area at MoP6:

- (a) CCPs shall prohibit all vessels flying their flag from engaging in bottom fishing, excluding line and trap methods; and
- (b) For all other gears, CCPs shall ensure each vessel flying their flag has a scientific observer onboard at all times while fishing inside those areas.

37. When the Meeting of the Parties adopts a revised SIOFA protocol for protected area designation after advice from the Scientific Committee arising from its review referred to in paragraph 6(d), the Meeting of the Parties shall also review Annex 2 of this CMM, taking into account advice of the Scientific Committee.

~~Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem closures~~ (the deleted text was moved after para 11 and slightly modified)

~~38. Where the Meeting of the Parties, taking into account advice provided by the Scientific Committee, determines that bottom fishing may have significant adverse impacts on VMEs in areas where VMEs are known to occur, or are likely to occur, based on the best available scientific information, the Meeting of the Parties may take a decision to close such areas to bottom fishing, either entirely or with respect to bottom fishing by a particular gear type or types.~~

~~39. The Meeting of the Parties shall cooperate to identify, on the basis of the best available scientific information including advice and recommendations provided by the Scientific Committee pursuant to paragraph 5(b), areas where VMEs are known or likely to occur in the Agreement Area and to map these sites, and provide such data and information to all CCPs for circulation.~~

Cooperation with other States

~~40-38.~~ Contracting Parties resolve, individually or jointly, to request those States and fishing entities that are undertaking bottom fishing in the Agreement Area but are not currently CCPs to cooperate fully in the implementation of this measure and to consider participating in the work of SIOFA as a matter of priority.

Review

41.39. This CMM shall be reviewed no later than at the ordinary Meeting of the Parties in 2019. This review shall take into account, *inter alia*, the latest advice of the Scientific Committee, including advice on those matters listed in paragraphs 5 to 7 and appropriate catch levels for principal target species, in accordance with the objective described in paragraph 1.

Annex 1 - Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of Notifications of Encounters with VMEs

1. General Information

Include contact information, nationality, vessel name(s) and dates of data collection.

2. VME location

Start and end positions of all gear deployments and/or observations.

Maps of fishing locations, underlying bathymetry or habitat and spatial scale of fishing.
Depth(s) fished.

3. Fishing gear

Indicate fishing gears used at each location.

4. Additional data collected

Indicate additional data collected at or near the locations fished, if possible.

Data such as multibeam bathymetry, oceanographic data such as CTD profiles, current profiles, water chemistry, substrate types recorded at or near those locations, other fauna observed, video recordings, acoustic profiles etc.

5. VME taxa

For each station fished, provide details of VME taxa observed, including but not limited to their relative density, absolute density, or weight and/or number of taxa.

Annex 2 – Interim Protected Areas

The boundary of each Area is a line that begins at point 1 then continues along the geodesics sequentially connecting the rest of the points for the area, then west to the point of commencement.

Atlantis Bank

Point	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
1	32° 00'	57° 00'
2	32° 50'	57° 00'
3	32° 50'	58° 00'
4	32° 00'	58° 00'

Coral

Point	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
1	41 ° 00'	42° 00'
2	41° 40'	42° 00'
3	41° 40'	44° 00'
4	41 ° 00'	44° 00'

Fools Flat

Point	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
1	31°30'	94° 40'
2	31°40'	94° 40'
3	31°40'	95° 00'
4	31°30'	95° 00'

Middle of What

Point	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
1	37° 54'	50° 23'
2	37° 56.5'	50° 23'
3	37° 56.5'	50° 27'
4	37° 54'	50° 27'

Walter’s Shoal

Point	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
1	33 ° 00'	43° 10'
2	33° 20'	43° 10'
3	33° 20'	44° 10'
4	33 ° 00'	44° 10'



Annex 3 –Management of the fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Del Cano [FAO Subarea 51.7]

Definitions

1. For the purpose of this CMM, the target species are *Dissostichus mawsoni* and *Dissostichus elegionoides*, defined as *Dissostichus* spp.

Area

2. [PLACEHOLDER]

Season

3. For the purpose of the longline fishery for *Dissostichus* spp in [FAO Subarea 51.7], the season is defined as the period from 1 November to 31 October.

Effort/catch and operational limits

4. [PLACEHOLDER]

5. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp in DelCano [FAO Subarea 51.7] to apply a break of a minimum of 21 days between consecutive fishing trips to Del Cano;
6. For any hauled longline, should the number of toothfish smaller than 60 cm exceed 10% of the total number of *Dissostichus* spp caught, the vessel shall at the end of the turn of his line to depart more than 3 nm from his spinning zone or to sound more than 100 meters from the initial maximum spinning probe.
7. CCPs not having fished and provided relevant data for *Dissostichus* spp in DelCano before 2019, cannot fish for this species in this area without an approved Fishery Operations Plan in accordance with CMM 2019/xx (New fisheries).

By-catch limits

8. Toothfish caught by vessels not targeting *Dissostichus* spp may not exceed 2 tonnes per season.
9. Should a vessel fishing for species other than *Dissostichus* spp reach the *Dissostichus* spp limit of 2 tonnes, the Del Cano area shall be closed for any fishery targeting species other than *Dissostichus* spp.

Mitigation of depredation

10. Longlines shall not exceed 3000 hooks per line to reduce potential for marine mammals' depredation and shall be set at minimum 3 nm from each other.

11. To reduce likelihood of depredation, vessels shall not haul longlines in the presence of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) and are discouraged from hauling longlines in presence of any odontocete (toothed) whales.

12. Should killer whales arrive during hauling operations, the vessel shall cease hauling, tie off the longline with a buoy, and move on. The vessel may only retrieve the tied-off line once the killer whales are no longer near the line.

13. To further reduce potential for depredation, vessels are encouraged to set lines at depths exceeding 1000 m.

VMS polling

14. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp in this area to report VMS data automatically to their FMC at least every hour when they are present in in the DelCano area.

Observers

15. Each vessel participating in the fishery shall have at least one scientific observer on board throughout all fishing activities within the fishing period. The observer shall have a target of observing 25% of hooks hauled over the duration of the fishing deployment.

Tagging and release

16. *Dissostichus* spp specimens shall be tagged and released at a rate of at least [x] fish per tonne green weight caught. A minimum overlap statistic of at least 60% shall apply for tag release, once 30 or more *Dissostichus* spp specimens have been caught.

Review

17. The provisions above shall be reviewed through a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCMLR. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking jointly the stock assessments and agreeing in coherent, fair and scientifically sound conservation and management measures for the *Dissostichus* spp that are shared by the two organisations.

Annex 4 – Management of the fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Williams Ridge [FAO Subarea 57.4]

Definitions

1. For the purpose of this CMM, the target species are *Dissostichus mawsoni* and *Dissostichus eleginoides*, defined as *Dissostichus* spp.

Area

2. [PLACEHOLDER]

Season

3. For the purpose of the new longline fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in [FAO Subarea 57.4], the season is defined as the period from 1 November to 31 October.

Effort/catch and operational limits

4. [PLACEHOLDER]

5. Longlines shall not exceed 7500 hooks per line and shall be set at minimum 3 nm from each other.
6. CCPs not having fished and provided relevant data for *Dissostichus* spp Williams Ridge area before 2019, cannot fish for this species in this area without an approved Fishery Operations Plan in accordance with CMM 2019/xx (New fisheries).

VMS polling

7. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels *Dissostichus* spp in this area to report VMS data automatically to their FMC at least every hour when they are present in in the William's Ridge area.

Observers

8. Each vessel participating in the fishery shall have at least one international scientific observer on board throughout all fishing activities within the fishing period. The observer shall have a target of observing 25% of hooks hauled over the duration of the fishing deployment.

Tagging and release

9. Toothfish shall be tagged and released at a rate of at least [x] fish per tonne green weight caught. A minimum overlap statistic of at least 60% shall apply for tag release,

once 30 or more toothfish have been caught.

Review

10. The review of the provisions above shall be reviewed through a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCMLR. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking jointly the stock assessments and agreeing in coherent, fair and scientifically sound conservation and management measures for the *Dissostichus* spp that are shared by the two organisations.

Annex 5 –Management of the fishery for Alfonsino (*Beryx*)

Definitions

1. For the purpose of this CMM, the target species are *Beryx*.

Area

2. [PLACEHOLDER]

Season

3. For the purpose of fishery for *Beryx* in SIOFA area the season is defined as the period from xxx to xxxx.

Effort/catch and operational limits

4. [PLACEHOLDER]

5. CCPs not having fished for *Beryx.spp* in SIOFA Area before 2019, cannot fish for this species in this area without an approved Fishery Operations Plan in accordance with CMM 2019/xx (New fisheries).

By-catch limits

6. *Beryx spp* caught by vessels not targeting *Beryx spp* may not exceed 2 tonnes per season.

VMS polling

7. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Beryx spp* to report VMS data automatically to their FMC at least every hour when they are present in in the SIOFA area.

Review

8. This Annex shall be reviewed every year based on recommendations provided by the Scientific Committee.
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Annex 6 –Management of the fishery for orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*)

Definitions

1. For the purpose of this CMM, the target species are *Hoplostethus atlanticus*.

Area

2. [PLACEHOLDER]

Season

3. For the purpose of fishery for *Hoplostethus atlanticus* in SIOFA area the season is defined as the period from xxx to xxxx.

Effort/catch and operational limits

4. [PLACEHOLDER]

5. CCPs not having fished for *Hoplostethus atlanticu* spp in SIOFA Area before 2019, cannot fish for this species in this area without an approved Fishery Operations Plan in accordance with CMM 2019/xx (New fisheries).

By-catch limits

6. *Hoplostethus atlanticus* caught by vessels not targeting *this species* may not exceed 2 tonnes per season.

VMS polling

7. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels to report VMS data automatically to their FMC at least every hour when they are present in in the SIOFA area.

Review

8. This Annex shall be reviewed every year based on recommendations provided by the Scientific Committee.