

MoP6-Prop19

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-Prop19

Proposal for a new suite of bottom fishing measures
(Support paper for MoP6-Prop14, MoP6-Prop15 & MoP6-Prop16)

Relates to agenda item: CC 4.1, 4.2 MoP6 11, 12

Proposal Working Document Information Paper Other Document

Delegation of Australia

Abstract

At the 2018 ordinary MoP, Australia volunteered to lead efforts on a new bottom fishing measure for SIOFA. Australia submits the following summary of ideas, along with three proposals for consideration:

MoP6-Prop14 - A general CMM for bottom fishing;

MoP6-Prop16 - A CMM for prevention of SAls on VMEs; and

MoP6-Prop15 - A CMM for demersal species

Recommendations *(proposals only)*

- 1. The Meeting of the Parties consider the proposals for the new bottom fishing measure, both in terms of content and format.**
 - 2. The Meeting of the Parties provide direction on a new bottom fishing measure that implements common rules for all CCPs to inform a proposal for adoption in 2020.**
 - 3. The Meeting of the Parties considers adoption of certain elements in 2019 which are based on existing SC advice and can be readily implemented in 2019.**
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Australian proposal for a new suite of SIOFA bottom fishing measures

At the 2018 ordinary Meeting of the Parties, Australia volunteered to lead efforts on a new bottom fishing measure for SIOFA.

CMM 2018/01, the current measure, is an interim measure. It sets out tasking for the Scientific Committee, a range of general rules- including for bottom fishing impact assessment - and permits each CCP to implement unilateral catch or effort limits for certain methods. While it was important to implement rules early, these rules are ineffective for long-term management.

Australia is conscious that the next UN Bottom Fishing review will be in 2020 and is keen to ensure that SIOFA has demonstrated progress following the 2016 review, which was the same year SIOFA's first bottom fishing measure was adopted.

Objectives

Australia's objectives for a new bottom fishing measure are:

- To improve the management arrangements for the SIOFA fisheries, but specifically to ensure that the right arrangements are in place for each fishery.
- To provide common rules for all CCPs – all CCPs should play by the same rules, rather than taking a unilateral approach.
- For the Meeting of the Parties to be in a position to implement Scientific Committee advice when it is provided (for example, on the bottom fishing footprints), much of which is due to the MoP in 2020.
- To make the CMM more accessible and easier to understand.

Approach

With these objectives in mind, Australia has proposed 3 CMMs to replace CMM 2018/01 which take into account the advice and recommendations of the Scientific Committee provided to date.

- CMM 1– A General measure for bottom fisheries
- CMM 2 – A CMM for the protection of VMEs
- CMM 3 – A CMM for demersal stocks – with the possibility that this may need to be separate measures by species.

Draft measures with explanatory statements are proposed. The draft measures borrow text from CMM 2018/01, the source for which is clearly identified in the drafts.

The MoP will need to consider these measures in the context of:

- the Scientific Committee's commendable progress to date towards the tasks outlined in CMM 2018/01, and the need to be ready to act on that advice once provided.
- recognising that, with the exception of the toothfish fisheries, SIOFA is a generally data poor, low effort fishery and that it may not be possible to assess all stocks, so a precautionary management approach will be required in the interim.
- concurrent work to develop rules for new and exploratory fisheries and research fishing – clarity in the rules for established fisheries will assist in this exercise.

Process

Australia recognises that SIOFA is a complex fishery. Australia’s ambition for this meeting is to socialise the proposed new measures and seek feedback so that the MoP is in a position to adopt the new structure at MoP 2020.

However, Australia considers that there are some matters that the MoP should seek to address urgently in 2019, perhaps drawing on Australia’s proposals, including:

- Protected area designation and associated research and management plan
- Monitoring trigger for (at least) orange roughy
- Thresholds for line methods
- SC recommendations on William’s Ridge, Del Cano Rise and Deepwater sharks.

Quick reference guide – Summary of proposed CMMs

Summary of CMMs

General measure	<p>General rules and conditions</p> <p>Definitions</p> <p>Established bottom fishing fisheries</p> <p>Bottom fishing footprint</p> <p>Rules for new entrants</p> <p>Observer coverage</p> <p>Cooperation with other States</p> <p>Position reporting</p> <p>Review</p>
Protection of VMEs	<p>VME Encounter protocol</p> <p>Bottom fishing impact assessments</p> <p>Future scientific work</p> <p>Protected areas designation</p>
Stocks	<p>Aims to propose management measures for stocks – ideally catch limits or triggers for assessment</p>