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Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
Accord relatif aux Pêches dans le Sud de l'Océan Indien

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties
to the
Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
(SIOFA)

Flic en Flac, Mauritius

01 – 05 July 2019

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Agenda Item 1 – Opening of the Session

1. The Executive Secretary opened the session highlighting that due to extenuating circumstances, there was a need to elect the Chair for the Sixth Meeting of the Parties. The Cook Islands nominated Ms. Pamela Maru to serve as Chair for this meeting only, and the Meeting of the Parties supported this nomination.

1.1 Opening statement from the Chair

2. The Chair thanked the Meeting of the Parties for their support and opened the Sixth Meeting of the Parties and thanked Mauritius for hosting.

1.2 Opening statement from the SIOFA Executive Secretary

3. The Executive Secretary welcomed delegates and thanked Mauritius for hosting as well as the hotel and support staff for assisting with meeting preparations.

1.3 Welcome by Administration of Mauritius

4. The Chair invited Mr. J. D. P. Labonne, Deputy Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping of Mauritius to make a welcoming statement (Annex A).

1.4 Presentation of the Meeting of the Parties Delegations

5. The Chair invited the Meeting of the Parties to make opening statements and introduce their delegations (Annex B). The Chair informed the Meeting of the Parties that apologies were received from the Republic of Korea for not being able to send a delegation and that, at their request, a representative from Korea was registered and attending the meeting as an observer.

1.5 Admission of Observers

6. The Chair welcomed observers from China, Chinese Taipei, Comoros, the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA), and the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC). The observers provided opening statements and introduced their representatives (Annex B).
7. During the meeting, it was noted that a representative of one observer organisation disseminated through a social network service, part of ongoing discussions at the MoP6, which contradicts provisions in the Rules of Procedures. The representative was directed to refrain from disclosing contents of any discussions at MoP.

1.6 Status of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

8. The Executive Secretary highlighted the document MoP6-INFO-13 containing the status of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement with reference to a statement on the status provided by the FAO. The Executive Secretary confirmed that there were currently nine Contracting Parties and five signatories to SIOFA.
9. During the course of the meeting, on the 4th of July 2019, Chinese Taipei became a Participating Fishing Entity to SIOFA in accordance with the Agreement.

1.7 Participation in decision making

10. The Executive Secretary reminded the Meeting of the Parties that in accordance with Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure, a contributor to the budget of the Meeting of the Parties, which is in arrears for the preceding two full years or more, may not participate in the taking of decisions. The Executive Secretary noted that, at this time, there were no budget contributors in this category, therefore all Contracting Parties and Participating Fishing Entities were entitled to participate in the taking of decisions during this meeting.

Agenda Item 2 – Administrative arrangements

2.1 Adoption of the agenda

11. The Chair highlighted the Provisional Agenda outlined in the document MoP6-Doc01_Rev4.
12. The Executive Secretary noted that there had been an additional information paper presented in document MoP6-INFO-15, which will be discussed under Agenda Item 21, Any Other Business. The information paper contains a report on Thailand's implementation of SIOFA CMMs. The Meeting of the Parties AGREED to add this item to the agenda.
13. The European Union highlighted their information paper presented in document MoP6-INFO-09 outlining the implementation of the EU Funded E€OFISH Programme of the Eastern African, Southern African and Indian Ocean region under Cross Regional Envelope of the 11th EDF. The European Union requested time to provide a brief presentation of the programme prior to the discussion on VMS. It indicated that the programme could financially support the work of SIOFA and represented an opportunity to be considered by the MoP. The Meeting of the Parties AGREED to add this item to the agenda.

14. The agenda, as modified, was ADOPTED as Annex C.

2.2 Confirmation of meeting documents

15. The Executive Secretary advised that all meeting documents were available on the website, and that the list of meeting documents is presented in MoP6-Doc02 (Annex D) and the table of agenda items and related papers is presented in MoP6-Doc03 and that these documents were updated on 30 June 2019.

2.3 Appointment of rapporteurs

16. The Executive Secretary nominated Jana Aker from the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Secretariat as lead rapporteur. The Executive Secretary also noted that Ms. Aker will be conducting capacity building rapporteur training with two Mauritian representatives during the meeting with support from the FAO ABNJ Deep Seas Project.
17. The Meeting of the Parties acknowledged the FAO's generous contribution and AGREED to appoint Jana Aker as lead rapporteur.

2.4 Practical arrangements for the meeting

18. The Executive Secretary provided an overview of practical arrangements for the meeting.

Agenda Item 3 – Intersessional decision making

19. The Executive Secretary reminded the Meeting of the Parties that in accordance with Rule 13.12 of the Rules of Procedure, where any decision is taken intersessionally, the Executive Secretary shall include an agenda item on decisions taken at the following Meeting of the Parties. The decisions that were taken intersessionally were outlined in MoP6-INFO-14.
20. CCPs thanked the Executive Secretary for the summary but some CCPs stated that there had been decisions taken intersessionally that had not followed this procedure, and that going

forward, all intersessional decisions should be taken in accordance with Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure.

Agenda Item 4 – Report of the Third Meeting of the Compliance Committee

21. The Chair of the Third Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC3), Mr. Dominique Person, gave a presentation on the report (<https://www.apsoi.org/meetings/cc3>) from the meeting that took place from 27-29 June 2019 (MoP6-INFO-16). The CC3 Chair highlighted the decisions taken in relation to the first SIOFA Compliance Monitoring Scheme (outlined in restricted document MoP6-WP03) as well as the status of the proposals discussed, noting that the proposals relating to vessel authorisation (MoP6-Prop02), and monitoring (MoP6-Prop11_Rev1), were presented to the Meeting of the Parties for adoption.
22. The CC3 Chair reported that the Compliance Committee adopted the report but highlighted the reservation that Mauritius has made to paragraphs 29 and 30.
23. Mauritius stated that:
 - a. In relation to the non-submission of the report by Mauritius, the Mauritius delegation highlighted that para. 10 of the Compliance Committee report refers to the fact that the Mauritius delegation did explain why there was no report submitted, namely that the national report is under consideration and relevant approvals at national level are to be obtained.
 - b. As regards the Compliance Committee Report, the Mauritius delegation notes that there has been a request made for a legal position paper from Mauritius in relation to Saya de Malha Bank. The Mauritius delegation highlights that the request is still under consideration may be provided subsequent to this meeting. The Mauritius delegation also took note of the fact that the delegations may require some time to consider any document so issued prior to the next Meeting of the Parties.
 - c. The Mauritius delegation also stated that the wording used in the Compliance Committee report refers to 'historic rights' which may have caused some confusion. A letter has been issued to the Executive Secretary of the SIOFA by Mauritius some 2 years above; the reference is to be made in the Report to historic/traditional fishing rights, not historic rights.
 - d. The Mauritius delegation further stated that Mauritius is a party to UNCLOS and a member of IOTC and SIOFA. Mauritius remains committed to sustainable fisheries and that its presence at this meeting shows its desire to have effective conservation and management measures.
24. It was noted that discussions on this specific issue would continue under Agenda Item 15. Some CCPs indicated that they would respond to Mauritius' claims later in the meeting.
25. The Cook Islands made a statement to elaborate on the issues raised in paragraph 16 of the CC3 report in relation to data security concerns.
 - a. The Cook Islands raised concerns over data security and the protocols applied by the Secretariat, given that Cook Islands fine scale data had been displayed inappropriately over the last two years. The Cook Islands explained that Cook Islands flagged vessels operating in the SIOFA Agreement Area fish in a one to two boat low volume fishery. Secure management of fine scale resolution data is of great importance, given its sensitivity and holds commercial intellectual property that has been built over many years.
 - b. The Cook Islands reiterated that they would be willing to provide this data once data security is assured and that it would be provided for Scientific Committee activities where it is confirmed as necessary to fulfil agreed tasks assigned to the Scientific Committee.
26. The EU encouraged the Cook Islands to provide these data in particular because they constitute a key reporting requirement which is essential for the work of the SC, but also because next year

in the absence of submission of these data the Cook Islands would be assessed as priority non-compliant with this obligation.

27. The Cook Islands also provided an update on the issue of the Cook Islands vessel operating in a closed area, as outlined in paragraphs 19 and 20 in the report of the Second Compliance Committee (CC2) meeting. The Cook Islands reported that the incident has been resolved at the flag State level under national law and resulted in fines being issued and the Captain being released of his duty. Voluntary preventive measures had been adopted by the vessel such as a 10nm buffer around the Cook Island designated closed areas, as well as SIOFA closed areas.
28. The EU thanked Cook Islands for sharing this information and indicated that it should have been also been presented at the CC.
29. The CC3 Chair also reported that Mr. Johnny Louys from Seychelles was elected to serve as the next Compliance Committee Chair.
30. The Chair thanked the CC3 Chair for the report and encouraged the Meeting of the Parties to consider nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

31. The Meeting of the Parties ADOPTED the report and recommendations of the CC3.

Agenda Item 5 – Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific Committee

32. The Chair of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC4), Dr. Ilona Stobutzki, gave a presentation (MoP6-INFO-17) on the report from the meeting that took place from 25 – 29 March 2019. The Meeting of the Parties expressed their thanks to the Scientific Committee and to the SC Chair for their work.
33. The Mauritius delegation highlighted that as far as maps are concerned, the maps shown seek to show the Chagos Archipelago as so-called “British Indian Ocean Territory” which is not valid under international law, especially following the UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295. Nothing done or said by the Mauritius delegation during this meeting should be construed as recognition by Mauritius of the so-called “B. I. O. T.”. The maps should be amended accordingly. This applies to all agenda items.
34. The EU indicated that it was difficult to determine the amount of data available based on the tables presented in the SC4 report. In particular, it would be very useful to develop a process for displaying completeness of data provision, at least for the key requirements under CMM 2018-02. It also highlighted the utility of having this information available for the Compliance Monitoring process. The SC Chair indicated that this work is being completed by the Secretariat as discussed under Agenda Item 5.4 of the SC4 report.

35. In relation to CMM 2018/02, the Meeting of the Parties REQUESTED the Secretariat to develop a process to evaluate the degree of completeness and to identify any outstanding gaps in the data submitted annually by each CCP.

36. The EU sought clarification on the coverage levels for observers in SIOFA in terms of 100% coverage meaning having an observer onboard vessels for 100% of the trips, or having the observer onboard the vessel observing 100% of the fishing activity, noting that this distinction has important implications in terms of effective observer coverage levels.
37. The SC Chair noted the meeting had discussed this issue and that it was expected to be considered further at the next meeting.

38. The Meeting of the Parties REQUESTED that the Scientific Committee work on harmonizing an approach to understanding the observer coverage levels.

39. In relation to VMEs, the Meeting of the Parties ADOPTED the VME taxa list (Annex J of the SC4 report).

40. The Meeting of the Parties noted that the VME taxa list had been included in two proposals, MoP6-Prop4_Rev1 and MoP6-Prop16, which would be discussed under Agenda Items 11 and 12 respectively.

41. The EU indicated that it was extremely worrying that SIOFA had not yet adopted any thresholds for demersal/benthic trawlers which by far have the largest potential adverse impact on deep sea ecosystems. It also expressed its concerns that the SC could not agree on any common limits so far and urged the MoP to adopt, as a first step, the precautionary limits proposed in its proposed amendments to CMM 2018/01 tabled at this meeting.

42. The Meeting of the Parties REQUESTS the SC progress the work to identify a suitable threshold for trawl gears (SC Report para 111). This should include a review of the methods used by CCPs to establish their existing thresholds, as well as development of a consistent threshold based on consolidated records of benthic bycatch data for trawl gears.

43. In relation to the weight conversion of VME indicators / encounters, the Meeting of the Parties REQUESTS that CCPs provide information on how they convert volume units of bycaught benthos to weight units in trawl fisheries to the Secretariat, and REQUESTS the Secretariat prepare a summary for SC5 and its WGs for review in order to provide advice on a standardised approach of conversion.

44. The SC Chair highlighted the revision of the standard protocol for future protected area designation (Annex L of SC4), noting that the MoP4 had requested the Scientific Committee to review and revise the protocol.
45. The EU noted that the concerns expressed at MoP5 in relation to the interim protocol had not been addressed and referred to an information paper it submitted on this subject (MoP6-INFO-07). In particular, it indicated that there was a lack of clarity about the overarching objectives served by the protocol and that it seemed that different CCPs had a different understanding of this process. For the EU the key objective was to ensure the identification, mapping and protection of VMEs against significant adverse impacts. However, the interim protocol seemed to address a range of wider environmental considerations that need to be clarified, understood and addressed adequately, preferably through a separate process.
46. CCPs noted that the interim protocol would continue to apply.
47. In relation to the proposed research and management plans for existing protected areas and protected area measures, the SC Chair highlighted the recommendations outlined in paragraphs 118-120 and 122-123 of the SC4 report.
48. The EU noted its appreciation to the Scientific Committee for their work on this but noted that the proposed “management and research plans” seemed to rather be a collation of text from the initial proposals that underpinned the adoption of the five interim protected areas at MoP5. As such there were no dedicated management/research plans for the consideration of the MoP6. Instead of that, new management measures, overriding those adopted at MoP5, were proposed which did not appear to be what it was expected. The EU indicated its view that that overall process would need to be clarified before such recommendations could be considered for adoption. Finally, the EU proposed that this issue is revisited in the context of the ongoing efforts to revise and strengthen the existing bottom fishing measure.
49. In relation to stock assessments, the SC Chair noted that for alfonsino, the Scientific Committee was not able to provide advice on the stock at this time, but the workplan in Annex V of the SC4 report outlined the upcoming work for this stock. For orange roughy, the SC Chair noted that the Scientific Committee agreed that deterministic estimates of BMSY were highly uncertain and therefore not suitable to be used as a reference point for management advice for this stock. The EU expressed concerns that there was still no specific management advice for these stocks provided by the SC, considering that thousands of tons are harvested every year and those species are not considered resilient, in particular Orange roughy.
50. In relation to Patagonian toothfish, the EU sought clarification on some statements and conclusions of the report of the SC, in particular because their justification did not seem to be available in that report. The first question for clarification was related to the distinction between population and management unit. Evidence was available indicating linkages between toothfish (sub) populations across the Antarctic. Also, tagging information demonstrated movements of

toothfish between William's Ridge and Crozet. In that situation and in the absence of enough scientific information, clarification was sought about the attribution of the fish caught in the William's Ridge SIOFA area to the Kergelen plateau population or stock.

51. The SC Chair noted that in formulating the advice on population linkages, the Working Group and Scientific Committee considered evidence from genetic studies, tagging and catch composition, and that the details are spelt out in the working paper the Scientific Committee considered. Genetic studies indicate that the populations on the Kerguelen Plateau are more closely related to each other than to other populations. In line with the evidence considered, the toothfish caught on the SIOFA part of the William's Ridge is part of the population, or some would say 'fish stock', assessed in the Australian EEZ within CCAMLR.
52. The EU sought clarification on another statement in the SC report, about "large catches of toothfish" in William's Ridge implying that they could involve a conservation risk to the "population", when considering that 350 tonnes were caught in that area, in a single year, in comparison to an estimate of the biomass estimate over the entire Kerguelen Plateau that is ~200,000 tonnes.
53. The SC Chair noted that in developing this advice, the Scientific Committee considered the level of catch, the high catch rates reported, and the large size composition of the fish reported within a small area and what has been observed in toothfish fisheries.
 - a. For context, the area has roughly 3500 km² of fishable habitat (~30 km wide by ~120 km long). In general, sustainable toothfish fisheries are low intensity over a large area. This size of fishable habitat on part of the William's Ridge that extends into SIOFA, is relatively small compared to that available in most research blocks in the CCAMLR area where toothfish fishing occurs. For example, a research block that has a similar fishable habitat area has a catch limit of only 20 tonnes, and a much larger area (20,000 km² fishable habitat) has a catch limit of 38 tonnes.
 - b. The Scientific Committee advice that there is a high risk of localised depletion in the SIOFA part of the William's Ridge, was based on the level of catch in a relatively small area, given what is known from other toothfish areas.
54. The EU also sought clarification on the scientific analysis that allowed to estimate F, local abundance and derive potential risk of local depletion in Del Cano and William's Ridge, noting that this analysis seemed not to be available in the SC report, also noting that only aggregated catch data were available in the 2018 National reports reviewed by the SC in 2019..
55. The SC Chair noted that, in reference to the term 'fishing mortality' in the advice 'Toothfish catches on the SIOFA part of William's Ridge are likely to result in total fishing mortality exceeding the fishing mortality used by CCAMLR to determine the catch limit', there has not been an estimate of fishing mortality, as the term is used within a formal stock assessment. The Scientific Committee advice is clear that the catches on the SIOFA part of William's Ridge are likely to increase fishing mortality higher than used to determine the catch limit. Previous IUU catch estimates are included in the assessment.
56. The EU sought clarification on the statement in the SC report that the 'CCAMLR catch allocation is fully taken' in CCAMLR waters in previous years, as the official fisheries reports and catch statistics submitted by CCAMLR Members and posted on the CCAMLR website clearly indicate that they were not in the Kerguelen Plateau next to William's Ridge SIOFA area. This was considered particularly misleading because the key argument made was that (under the assumption, yet to be demonstrated, that toothfish in William's Ridge would be part of the stock of the Kerguelen Plateau) any catch of toothfish in Williams Ridge would result in exceeding the total allowable catch determined by CCAMLR for the south Kerguelen management unit, also noting that CCAMLR catch limits are very precautionary (4% of estimated total biomass).
57. The SC Chair noted that in relation to the 'yield is fully taken within CCAMLR waters', the Scientific Committee had information on the reported catches from CCAMLR areas, so

equivalent to the reports to CCAMLR referred to by the European Union. The Scientific Committee advice is given in the context that:

- a. The stock assessment estimated a catch limit which has been assigned to the fishery in the CCAMLR area and the understanding is that it can be fully taken within the CCAMLR area
 - b. In terms of reported catch, the CCAMLR processes require members to take significant care that they do not exceed catch limits, if this occurs it is taken seriously and questioned extensively. Therefore, care is taken to not exceed catch limits, so in this context the Scientific Committee provided this advice, the 'yield is fully taken'.
58. The European Union inquired how the SC made its assessment on the impact of activities having taken place in 2018, in the absence of key relevant data, noting that the 2018 catch and effort data were not submitted (not due) at the time of the SC meeting. The SC Chair clarified that the European Union observer information (catch, catch rates, length frequency and tag recoveries information) was provided in the scoping study and was considered by the SERAWG and SC in the development of the advice.
59. One CCP expressed their concern with the questioning of the advice from the Scientific Committee noting that the advice had been adopted by consensus and that the MoP was not the place to re-litigate scientific advice.
60. The European Union clarified that the questions were not related to the advice of the Scientific Committee itself, but rather aimed at seeking clarity on terms used in the report to ensure common understanding. It regretted that the answers provided did not allow to further clarify its questions. To that end it indicated that would be very useful that the SC reports provides in a clear way the rationale and evidence that underpins key conclusions and that the MoP formulates its needs for scientific support and advice in a more clear way to the SC.
61. The SC Chair stated that there has been discussion about the need for further research. The Scientific Committee was conscious of this and explicitly requested that the European Union provide the data from these fishing activities to Australia so that it can be incorporated in the stock assessment scheduled for next year. The SC Chair urged the Meeting of the Parties to facilitate this request. It is important to have the opportunity to provide clarity and build a shared understanding of the advice. The SC Chair reiterated that the Scientific Committee process has been and continues to be an evidence based, scientific process.
62. The European Union indicated that all the data were, as every year, submitted to SIOFA, noting that the SC has commended the EU for the level of completeness of its data submissions. It also indicated that these data should be available for scientific purposes under the existing data sharing and confidentiality rules, as well as the terms of the MoU between CCAMLR and SIOFA.
63. The Meeting of the Parties thanked the Scientific Committee and, in particular, the Scientific Committee Chair, for the work completed and advice provided. The Meeting of the Parties noted that the Scientific Committee and its advice are integral to the effectiveness of the Meeting of the Parties and to SIOFA as a whole.

64. With the exception of the above-mentioned concerns and clarification, the Meeting of the Parties ADOPTED the advice, requests and recommendations of the Scientific Committee outlined in the SC4 Report.

Agenda Item 6 – Definition for 'new fisheries'

65. France (Territories) presented the report of the intersessional discussion on new fisheries in document MoP6-WP01 and highlighted that to determine a SIOFA fishing footprint, there was a need for a deadline to submit the data to enable this to be created and that this was required to facilitate spatial analysis. The SC Chair confirmed with the Secretariat that data at the spatial scale specified in CMM 2018/01 had not yet been received from the Republic of Korea, but other Parties have submitted the data.

66. It was noted that it was difficult to progress this work without a common footprint, and available data would be used to illustrate and map SIOFA fishing footprints, noting that fine scale data was not available from all CCPs.
67. Furthermore participation in the intersessional working group had been limited, and therefore did not warrant its continuation.

68. The Meeting of the Parties REQUESTED that the Republic of Korea meet the fine scale historical data submission requirement by 1st September 2019, and tasked the Secretariat to send a reminder.

69. The Meeting of the Parties also AGREED that the work to prepare maps of the spatial distribution of effort (as described in paragraphs 59-62 of the SC4 Report) will move forward, with the data that has been submitted by 1st September 2019.

70. The European Union highlighted their current proposal outlined in document MoP6-Prop08 which aims to address issues that were discussed by the intersessional working group and provide for a comprehensive framework for governing issues related to new/exploratory fisheries.

71. The Meeting of the Parties AGREED to progress the work on the proposal to establish a Framework for New and Exploratory Fisheries in the SIOFA Area (MoP6-Prop08) intersessionally.

Agenda Item 7 – Interim Bottom Fishing Measures

72. The Executive Secretary noted the information outlined in document MoP6-INFO-01 relating to an analysis of bycatch by Cook Island Flagged Vessels for 2017-19.

7.1 Existing CCPs

73. The Executive Secretary noted the information outlined in document MoP6-INFO-12 relating to the bottom fishing impact assessment (BFIA) for the European Union.
74. Australia made a statement in relation to EU's paragraph 9 measures as disclosed in 2017, stating that they no longer met the requirements of paragraph 9(1)(a)(i) because they do not specify and limits or reference period and are no longer accurate given the significant expansion in effort and target species in 2018 which was taken without updating their BFIA. Australia also spoke to the process for submitting an updated BFIA, noting that their interpretation of the CMM 2018/01 was that the EU's BFIA needed to be updated in response to a substantial change in the fishery, which the EU itself had acknowledged in the SC report, and that an updated BFIA should be subject to the processes of review by the Scientific Committee and subsequently the Meeting of the Parties.
75. The European Union noted that their interpretation of CMM 2018/01 in relation to this issue was different and reiterated the discussions during the CC3 that they had submitted the relevant information in accordance with the CMM. It reiterated the conclusions of CC3 on the need for clarifying some of the provisions of the measure. The European Union also indicated that its updated BFIA was submitted to SIOFA ahead of the MoP and was available for the consideration of the Scientific Committee as appropriate. It also indicated that the SC had identified a range of gaps in several BFIA's and encouraged other CCPs to update and resubmit their BFIA's to address the gaps identified by the SC.

7.2 New CCPs

76. The Executive Secretary noted the information outlined in document MoP6-INFO-06 relating to the SIODFA statement on alfonsino management.

77. The Executive Secretary presented the Comoros bottom fisheries impact assessment in document MoP6-Doc11. The Executive Secretary reported that Comoros presented the BFIA at SC4 in accordance with CMM2018/01 Paragraph 19(b) for the proposed registration of two of their vessels on the SIOFA list of authorised vessels.
78. Comoros noted that it had submitted its BFIA to SC4, and noted that some information required updating.

79. The Meeting of the Parties ACKNOWLEDGED the BFIA of Comoros.

80. The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that the provision of information required in CMM 2018/01, paragraphs 9(2) and 19(a) must be submitted before Comoros authorises their vessels to fish.

Agenda Item 8 – Vessel catch, Effort and Scientific Observer Data

81. The Secretariat presented a summary of data available at the SIOFA Secretariat in document MoP6-INFO-04. The Meeting of the Parties thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and raised the question of how the SIOFA footprint would be developed where data were not available or not available at the required resolution, 20-minute grid cell. The SC Chair clarified that the process will include reviewing maps at all available data scales to determine the potential impacts of not having the data at the 20-minute resolution.
82. One CCP reiterated the comments made during CC3 on the utility of expanding the tables in MoP6-INFO-04 to better identify the degree of data provision of the various types of data from all CCPs. The Secretariat noted that this review was possible to complete but would consist of a lot more tables.

Agenda Item 9 – SIOFA Compliance Report

83. The Executive Secretary noted the provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (pSCR) in restricted document MoP6-WP03 outlining the decisions of the CC3 on the levels of compliance for each CCP.

84. The Meeting of the Parties ADOPTED the Compliance Report outlined in restricted document MoP6-WP03 (Annex E).

85. The Mauritius delegation reiterated its statements made under the previous agenda items during this meeting.

Agenda Item 10 – Listing of IUU vessels

86. The Executive Secretary presented CC3-Doc07 the current SIOFA IUU Vessel List compiled following the special procedure for cross listing provided in CMM 2018/06 and noted that some vessel details within the list had been updated and presented in CC3-Doc12. The Executive Secretary highlighted that there were no new vessels introduced and reflected on the discussions of the Compliance Committee outlined in paragraph 50 of the CC3 Report.
87. The Meeting of the Parties did not make any changes to the current SIOFA IUU vessel list in CC3-Doc07.

Agenda Item 11 – Reviews and amendments to Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) currently in force

11.1 CMM 2018/01 for Interim Management of Bottom Fishing

88. The European Union presented its proposal for amending CMM 2018/01 for the interim management of bottom fishing in the Agreement Area outlined in document MoP6-Prop04. During discussions, the Meeting of the Parties noted that there were several overlapping

proposals relating to this measure (MoP6-Prop15, MoP6-Prop13, MoP6-Prop17). These proposals were reviewed and discussed in detail in small working group sessions during the Meeting of the Parties, and they were combined and presented in MoP6-Prop21_Rev3 and MoP6-Prop22.

89. Japan presented its proposal for amending CMM 2018/01 in document MoP6-Prop17. While this proposal got wider support by most of the parties, one party refused to adopt it without providing relevant reasons for its refusal. Japan as the proponent of this proposal expressed its deep disappointment at the rejection of its proposal at the very end of the meeting after intensive discussions thereon.
90. MoP6-Prop21_Rev3 proposed clarifying amendments to CMM 2018/01 as well as the insertion of encounter protocols for VME species.

91. The Meeting of the Parties ADOPTED the Conservation and Management Measure 2019/01 Interim Management of Bottom Fishing (Annex F).

92. MoP6-Prop22 proposed a new conservation and management measure for management of demersal stocks in the Agreement Area and included provisions for the management of toothfish, orange roughy and alfonso.

93. The Meeting of the Parties ADOPTED the Conservation and Management Measure 2019/15 Management of Demersal Stocks in the Agreement Area (Annex G).

94. SIODFA stated that they are deeply concerned about the deviation from the scientific advice provided by the SC during this meeting. SIODFA stated it looked forward to continuing to work with the Scientific Committee and Meeting of the Parties, to ensure that SIOFA's fisheries are managed sustainably through the application of sound, robust, science, with management arrangements that are in accordance with the recommendations of the Scientific Committee.
95. France (Territories) stated their strong concern for the management measures that were adopted in relation to toothfish and share the concerns that have been mentioned by other CCPs. France (Territories) regretted and expressed its strong concern that measures have not been taken during MoP6 to fight depredation in Del Cano toothfish fisheries. Depredation had been identified as a major concern in the SC4 report, and by many CCAMLR CCPs. While fishing effort limits have been accepted in William's Ridge area, management measures in the Del Cano area would have also been justified, considering the depredation level observed in the Zone of Crozet Island, contiguous to Del Cano area.
96. In relation to data collection for toothfish in William's Ridge, Australia rejected unequivocally the assertion that more information is needed on biomass estimates or the biology of the Heard Island population, of which William's Ridge is a part. Australia also stated that it would accept the TAC of 140t for Williams Ridge but that it did not accept the reasons given by the EU.
97. Australia stated that while it accepted the outcome of this CMM in relation to toothfish, it had strong concerns with the unjustifiable deviation from the advice of the SC with respect to toothfish and the regrettable politicisation of the scientific process. Australia emphasised it would be concerned if this practice of dismissing the SC advice was to continue. Australia also noted that in the process of developing CMM 2019/15 concerns had been raised about the orange roughy stock assessment Australia did not agree with, and noted that these concerns had not been raised at the appropriate time during the 2018 ordinary meeting. Australia urged SIOFA to protect its integrity and credibility by ensuring that it is in future science based in its decision making.
98. Australia also acknowledged the importance of the bottom fishing proposals to both Australia and the EU and that Australia had made a significant concession in accepting anything other than a 0t TAC for William's Ridge. Australia noted it looks forward to continuing to working constructively with the EU.

99. The EU welcomed the adoption of the CMM which it considered to be a first step towards addressing a key gap in the SIOFA framework, ie, species and stock specific management plans. The EU considered that:

- i) the CMM adopted was within the range of the broad formulation of the scientific advice for toothfish and expressed its concerns over a risk of politicisation of the SC, in particular because CCPs seem to be much more concerned about 350 tonnes of toothfish taken in a single year and much less about thousands of tonnes of alfonsino and orange roughy taken every year (for many years) in the absence of stock status determination (for alfonsino) and management advice (for both alfonsino and orange roughy). The EU indicated that it was in favour of a consistent and proportional approach across all key SIOFA species and that it cared equally about all of them, which was also the basis for its related proposal.
- ii) the precautionary measures adopted for toothfish will address, in the short and mid-term, the concerns formulated by the SC, in particular by making possible the collection of scientific information badly needed in view to undertaking an scientific analysis allowing deriving estimates for F, local abundance estimates, assessing potential risks of local depletion, and deriving robust catch advice for long term management of the SIOFA toothfish management units concerned, in the spirit of the related and genuine EU proposal.
- iii) it was very concerned with the optimistic approach taken by the MoP for orange roughy, considering the many limitations of the recent stock assessment and puzzled with the the consideration of very short term projections only (5 years) and the reluctance to consider longer term trends which seems more appropriate for long lived species characterised by low resilience, such as orange roughy and noting that long term projections show a clear declining trend.
- iv) it was very concerned with the optimistic approach taken by the MoP for alfonsino where in the absence of any information on the conservation status of the stock thousands of tonnes are taken every year in SIOFA fisheries.

11.2 CMM 2018/02 Data Standards

100. The European Union presented its proposal MoP6-Prop05 'Proposal for amending Conservation and Management Measure for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data relating to fishing activities in the Agreement Area (Data Standards)'. The European Union highlighted the incorporation of an annex in the CMM 2018/02 regarding the roles of observers onboard fishing vessels, and mentioned the need to harmonize data collection of observers through standardized templates to be developed as appropriate.

101. The European Union presented the final proposal MoP6-Prop05_Rev3.1, with meeting participants offering some comments and suggestions.

102. The Meeting of the Parties ADOPTED the Conservation and Management Measure 2019/02 Data Standards (Annex H).

11.3 CMM 2017/07 Vessel Authorisation

103. Thailand presented its proposal MoP6-Prop02 regarding and amendment to CMM 2017/07 so that the CCPs have the option of other satellite communication systems, aside from INMARSAT. Thailand also noted that this proposal was forwarded to the Meeting of the Parties for adoption by the CC3.

104. The Meeting of the Parties ADOPTED the Conservation and Management Measure 2019/07 Vessel Authorization (Annex I).

11.4 CMM 2018/10 Monitoring

105. The SIOFA Secretariat presented its proposal MoP6-Prop11_Rev1 noting that the activity field in Annex I of CMM 2018/10 was updated to clarify the required activity information in the

notification of Entry to and on Exit from the Agreement Area. The MoP noted that CC3 agreed to forward this proposal to the Meeting of the Parties for adoption.

106. The Meeting of the Parties ADOPTED the Conservation and Management Measure 2019/10 Monitoring of Fisheries in the Agreement Area (Annex J).

Agenda Item 12 – New Conservation and Managements Measures (CMMs)

12.1 High Seas Boarding Inspection

107. Australia and the European Union presented a proposal for a CMM for High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures for SIOFA outlined in document MoP6-Prop01_Rev1. This proposal was discussed in detail in small working group sessions during the Meeting of the Parties, and the final proposal was presented in MoP6-Prop01_Rev7.1.

108. CCPs recognised that agreed paragraph 22b (the requirement not to unduly interfere with the lawful operation of the fishing vessel) does not require any fishing vessel to stop or manoeuvre when towing, shooting or hauling unless the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel suspects on reasonable grounds that the vessel is operating in the manner that contravenes a SIOFA CMM.

109. CCPs expressed their gratitude to Australia for leading the work on this proposal, and Australia likewise expressed gratitude to the CCPs for their cooperation.

110. The Meeting of the Parties ADOPTED the Conservation and Management Measure 2019/14 High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures (Annex K).

12.2 Establishment of VMS in SIOFA

111. The European Union presented a proposal for a CMM for the establishment of the Vessel Monitoring System in the SIOFA outlined in document MoP6-Prop06 and noted that the purpose of this proposal is to provide a more complete framework covering all key aspects of the SIOFA VMS. The European Union thanked meeting participants for their comments and collaboration on this proposal during the margins of this meeting but noted that work would continue intersessionally on this. It also noted that the regional EU programme Ecofish could contribute in this endeavour.

112. The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that CCPs would continue deliberations on the proposal outlined in document MoP6-Prop06 intersessionally, with the European Union leading this work.

12.3 Framework for Scientific Research

113. The European Union presented the proposal to establish a Framework for Scientific Research and Fisheries-based research in the SIOFA Area outlined in document MoP6-Prop07. The European Union noted that following productive discussions in the CC3 and in the margins of this meeting, the proposal needed further development with input from CCPs.

114. The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that CCPs would continue deliberations on the proposal outlined in document MoP6-Prop07 intersessionally.

12.4 New & Exploratory Fisheries

115. The European Union presented the proposal to establish a Framework for New and Exploratory Fisheries in the SIOFA Area outlined in document MoP6-Prop08. The European Union noted that following productive discussions in the CC3 and in the margins of this meeting, the proposal needed further development with input from CCPs.

116. The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that CCPs would continue deliberations on the proposal outlined in document MoP6-Prop08 intersessionally.

12.5 Proposal on Sharks

117. The European Union presented a proposal for a CMM for the conservation and management of deep sea sharks including a prohibition on targeting any deep-sea shark species by vessels operating under SIOFA, as well as prohibiting the removal, retention of board, transshipment and landing of shark fins outlined in document MoP6-Prop09_Rev1 and noted that the purpose of this proposal is to fill a management gap and provide for specific measures for the conservation and management of deep sea sharks in SIOFA.

118. The MoP discussed the proposal and some CCPs indicated that they could not agree to the provisions regarding the finning ban. Other CCPs expressed concerns about the lack of a species list that could result in implementation and compliance difficulties. To address this concern, a list of species was developed taking into account the recent SIOFA ERA on sharks and the advice of the SC. CCPs further developed this proposal in a small working group and the final proposal was presented in MoP6-Prop09_Rev3.3. CCPs were supportive of this proposal and Australia reiterated their sincere hope that this measure will result in reduced mortality of deep sea sharks in the Agreement Area.

119. The EU noted that MoP has taken an important step towards protecting and managing deep-sea shark species in the SIOFA area. This would need to be further strengthened based on advice from the SC on appropriate by catch limits. It also expressed its disappointment that although directed fishing for some deep-sea shark species was now prohibited within the Agreement area, MoP-6 could not adopt the proposed prohibition of the finning of sharks and hoped that the measure could be further strengthened in the future.

120. The Meeting of the Parties ADOPTED the Conservation and Management Measure 2019/12 Conservation and Management of Sharks (Annex L).

12.6 Mitigation of seabird bycatch

121. The European Union presented a proposal for a CMM for the mitigation of seabird bycatch in fisheries managed by SIOFA outlined in document MoP6-Prop10-Rev1. This proposal was discussed in detail in small working group sessions during the Meeting of the Parties and the final proposal is outlined in MoP6 Prop10_Rev6. Australia requested that a seasonal closure for longline fishing in areas south of 42°S be introduced into this measure, noting the high seabird abundance in parts of the Agreement Area during the Austral summer, the fact that the areas are classified as high risk and the success of comparable measure in place in CCAMLR. The EU noted that the measures, as drafted, achieved the conservation requirements without the inclusion of a seasonal closure. Australia agreed to withdraw the request but stated their discomfort and disappointment.

122. The European Union regretted that the proposal was down watered and once again trawls, would escape from the required regulatory framework, in this case for the mitigation of seabirds by catch. It expressed the view that the SC should continue the work specifically on this gear to allow strengthening the measure adopted in the close future. Concerning the suggestion from Australia for a temporal closure, it indicated that although it could understand and to some extent share the aspiration, there would be no conservation benefit for endangered sea bird species, such as albatrosses because the measure adopted already includes the night setting, which fully benefits to those species.

123. The Meeting of the Parties ADOPTED the Conservation and Management Measure 2019/13 Mitigation of Seabird Bycatch (Annex M).

12.7 Management of Toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*)

124. Australia presented the proposal for CMM for *Dissostichus eleginoides* on Williams Ridge and Del Cano Rise in the Agreement Area outlined in document MoP6-Prop13. Australia noted that this proposal was in response to the advice from the Scientific Committee on this species, noting CCAMLR's success in robust and science-based management of toothfish in the CCAMLR Convention Area. Australia also noted that there is strong scientific evidence that these stocks are linked, which is supported by SC advice, which means that SIOFA has a legal and moral obligation to manage the stock in its entirety and to take full account of the obligations under international law, including the requirement under UNFSA to establish compatible measures and take into account the measures already established in respect of this stock. Australia noted its view that recent catches in Williams Ridge were too high and recalled that the SC had advised the MoP to take urgent measures and advised there is a risk of localised depletion in the Williams Ridge. The SC recommended returning catches to levels commensurate with 2016 levels for Williams Ridge and up to 2016 levels for Del Cano Rise. Australia stated its desire to be clear in the objective to manage stocks in a way that ensures complementary arrangements and ensures biologically sustainable catch levels for the population are not exceeded.
125. The EU referred to its proposal for two management plans for toothfish respectively in Del Cano and Williams Ridge, included as an annex in its proposal for amending CMM 2018-01 (ref xx). It indicated that SIOFA and CCAMLR should cooperate on an equal footing and within their respective mandates for the conservation and management of any shared stocks, such as toothfish, in the context of the existing MoU and/or any other ad hoc arrangement. In particular, it supported the organisation of a joint WG between the two organisations to focus specifically on the management of toothfish. It also reminded that SIOFA was not CCAMLR and that the objectives of the two organisations were not exactly the same, which of course should not prevent a fruitful collaboration.
126. The DSCC provided a statement in relation to toothfish management in SIOFA (Annex N).
127. During discussions, part of this proposal was incorporated in CMM 2018/01 and elements of it were combined with other relevant proposals presented in MoP6-Prop22, which became the CMM 2019/15 on demersal stocks.

12.8 General rules for bottom fishing

128. Australia presented the proposal for General Rules for the Management of Bottom Fishing in the Agreement Area, outlined in document MoP6-Prop14. Australia noted that at this time, the proposal was being presented for the purposes of receiving feedback from CCPs to facilitate further developments for possible adoption next year and thanked the CCPs that have already submitted constructive comments.
129. The EU thanked Australia for the forward thinking and indicated its willingness to participate to such an endeavour. This would allow addressing the lack of clarity in many provisions of CMM 2018-01 identified during the Compliance Monitoring process by CC3.
130. The Mauritius delegation delivered a statement in relation to this proposal from the delegation of Australia and also the other proposals dealing with bottom fishing.
- a. The Joint Commission of the Extended Continental Shelf Mascarene Plateau Region has addressed two letters to SIOFA: one dated 18.02.19 wherein the Joint Commission informs the SIOFA that, inter alia, the two countries have signed two treaties in March 2012 establishing the joint exercise of their sovereign rights on and to sustainably manage the natural resources of that area and that SIOFA can no longer devise any policy or implement any project in the Mauritius Seychelles Joint Management Area. The second letter dated 08.04.19. The Mauritius delegation invites the delegation to take these on board when dealing with bottom fishing.
 - b. Without prejudging what will be accepted by the Republic of Mauritius, it is highlighted that no specific mention of a separate treatment or an express exclusion has been made

in relation to the resources which are sedentary species or pertain to the seabed and subsoil of the JMA and no mention has been made of the Joint Commission which has been set up by the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles to manage the said area.

- c. The Mauritius delegation therefore expresses some serious concerns that in the light of the existence of the Joint Commission and the Joint Management Area wherein the two States have, pursuant to art. 77 of UNCLOS, the present proposal and other proposals on bottom fishing fail to acknowledge the above.
 - d. In view of these serious concerns, it is eminently unclear how Mauritius can validly support any of these proposals.
 - e. The Mauritius delegation invites the Members to consider and take the necessary measures so as not to breach the rights in the extended continental shelf conferred by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf under UNCLOS at the UN. The Mauritius delegation also states that this is not a mere statement but a formal invitation and request being made to the other members.
 - f. The Mauritius delegation underlines that the work undertaken on the proposal has been undertaken, it would appear prior to the two abovementioned letters. These two letters have been circulated to all Members.
 - g. The Mauritius delegation is of the view that the above is relevant under this agenda item given that there seems to be some overlap in the mapping between the Joint Management Area, the Mascarene Plateau and the Area of SIOFA.
131. Seychelles supported the statement from Mauritius, noting specifically that Paragraph 5.e in MoP6-Prop14 makes reference to fishing in the Saya de Mahla Bank using gears that have the potential to negatively impact benthic habitats and species.
132. The EU and Australian delegations indicated that they did not share Mauritius' interpretation, and that they would respond in more detail later in the meeting.
133. The Meeting of the Parties expressed a willingness to work with Australia intersessionally to further develop this proposal.
134. The DSCC provided a statement in relation to encounter protocols for VMEs (Annex O).
135. **The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that Australia will continue to lead the work on the general rules for bottom fishing and CCPs will work with them intersessionally to further develop this proposal.**

12.9 Management of demersal stocks

136. Australia presented MoP6-Prop15 and noted that it was the second proposal in the suite of bottom fishing proposals, which proposes a CMM for the management of demersal stocks in the Agreement Area. During discussions, elements of this proposal were incorporated into CMM 2018/01 and presented in MoP6-Prop22, which became the CMM 2019/15 on demersal stocks.

12.10 Prevention of impact on VMEs

137. Australia presented MoP6-Prop16 and noted that it is the third and final proposal in the suite of bottom fishing proposals, which proposes a dedicated CMM for the prevention of significant adverse impacts on VMEs. The main changes in this CMM from what is currently in CMM 2018/01 were the updated tasks of the Scientific Committee, the cumulative assessment of the environment, thresholds and a response to a potential VME encounter and reflects the advice of the Scientific Committee in relation to protected areas. During discussions, elements of this proposal was suited for inclusion in CMM 2018/01 and combined with other relevant proposals presented in MoP6-Prop21_Rev3, which became the CMM 2019/01.

12.11 Suite of bottom fishing measures (support paper for 12.8, 12.9 and 12.10)

138. Australia presented the proposal for a suite of bottom fishing measures, outlined in document MoP6-Prop19, noting that the purpose of this paper was to summarise the proposals outlined in MoP6-Prop14, MoP6-Prop15, and MoP6-Prop16. Australia provided an overview of the three proposals, summarising that the intention is to dismantle CMM 2018/01 into three distinct CMMs, to make the CMMs easier to follow and to ensure that all CCPs were playing by the same rules.

12.12 Amendment to ToR for the PAEWG or new CMM

139. France (Territories) presented MoP6-Prop18, a working document outlining the amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Group (PAEWG). The amendments include two tasks from the Scientific Committee on the VME mapping workflow and the bioregionalization workflow, as well as including deadlines for proposal submissions to the Scientific Committee, and clarification for the reporting of meeting outcomes when the PAEWG does not meet?. Meeting participants provided comments and clarifications to the proposal, and the final version was presented in MoP6-Prop18_Rev1.

140. **The Meeting of the Parties ADOPTED the amendments to the Terms of Reference of the PAEWG in Annex P.**

Agenda Item 13 – Secretariat Administration (Executive Secretary)

13.1 Report on Financial Resources – RoP Rule 8(f)

141. The Executive Secretary presented the Secretariat Report on Financial Resources outlined in document MoP6-Doc07.

142. **In accordance with Financial Regulations of the Meeting of the Parties, Regulation 14.1, the Meeting of the Parties AGREED to establish a Scientific Research Activities account, and to add a new paragraph 7.8 to the Financial Regulations as follows:**
“7.8 Residual funds available in the Scientific Research Activities account at the end of each financial year are to be carried over to the next financial year for the purposes of future scientific research activities.”

143. The Executive Secretary presented the SIOFA Financial Report and External Auditor Report 2019 outlined in document MoP6-Doc06.

144. In accordance with Financial Regulation 11.10, the Meeting of the Parties considered the Financial Report and the Auditor’s Report and noted that the audit report did not identify any inconsistencies with the Financial Regulations. The MoP agreed that no further action is required.

145. The Executive Secretary presented MoP6-Doc08_Rev2 outlining the proposed 2020 budget.

146. **The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that the Executive Secretary separation from service, installation and recruitment expenses (items 1.3, 1.4, and 1.13) of the budget be funded from the SIOFA Reserve Fund.**

147. **The Meeting of the Parties AGREED to retain the funding, under budget item 4, for the participation of one Chair for CC4 and one Chair for MoP7, with the understanding that this funding was only available to those Chairs if they are from a developing Country.**

148. **The Meeting of the Parties AUTHORISED the payment of the Convention D’Herbergement charges for years 2017-2019 from available reserves in the SIOFA general account.**

149. **The Meeting of the Parties AGREED to clarify intersessionally the interpretations of Regulation 4 of the Financial Regulations.**

150. Thailand presented a proposal for a new formula to calculate SIOFA Annual Contributions in document MoP6-Prop03 noting the proposed formula was meant to accommodate those CCPs that have high catch amounts of low value species. Some CCPs expressed concerns about the division of the catch at 50% for high value species and 10% for low value species but felt a division of 30%/30% would be amenable as an interim solution for this year.

151. **The Meeting of the Parties ADOPTED the interim formula for annual contributions that composes of 10% Base, 30% National Wealth, 30% of high-value species catch (orange roughly, alfonsino, toothfish and all species of deep sea sharks) and 30% of all other low-value species (effectively this covers the Saya de Malha Bank). The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that this formula shall be reviewed, and amended if required, at MoP7.**

152. France (Territories) expressed its concern about the refusal of several parties to finance scientific studies that the SC defined as priorities or which results would lead to significant progress in the sustainable exploitation of the stocks, avoiding any significant impact on the benthos.

153. **The Meeting of the Parties ADOPTED the budget in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.7 (Annex Q).**

13.2 Report on Staff Resources and Secretariat Activities – RoP Rule 8(g)

154. The Executive Secretary presented the report on staff resources and secretariat activities outlined in document MoP6-Doc14 for information.

13.3 Recruitment of consultants

155. The Executive Secretary presented the SIOFA Consultant Recruitment Procedure outlined in MoP6-Doc12.

156. One CCP sought clarification on the wording in Paragraphs 4 and 6, expressing concerns that this would limit participation, worrying that it could prevent independent national research institutes to conduct works identified by the SC. The SC Chair clarified that the intent of these paragraphs was to ensure no conflict of interest between those that develop the activity descriptions and costings, through the SC and working group processes, and then apply to be the service provider which the MoP would decide. The SC Chair emphasised the importance of ensuring SIOFA's procedure for engaging scientific service providers is credible and the decision makers not exposed to criticism based on perceived conflicts of interest.

157. **The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that the text of the SIOFA Consultant Recruitment Procedure outlined in MoP6-Doc12 needed to be clarified intersessionally and France (Territories) AGREED to lead this work and that the SIOFA Consultant Recruitment Procedure would continue to be the process used in the interim.**

13.4 SIOFA Technical Editing Process

158. The Executive Secretary presented the SIOFA Technical Editing Process outlined in MoP6-Doc13 and noted that the Meeting of the Parties needed to consider the proposed changes to the technical editing process. One CCP indicated that the text in subparagraph 'n' should be included in subparagraph 'j' and requested that this document be made more easily available on the website so that the technical editing process is clear and accessible.

159. **The Meeting of the Parties, noting the above-mentioned change, ADOPTED the SIOFA Technical Editing Process Annex R.**

13.5 Data Confidentiality

13.5.1 Confidential data exchange procedure

160. The Secretariat presented MoP6-Doc09 outlining the protocols for the secure transfer of confidential data and summarized that there are two methods for submitting data to the Secretariat, through encrypted email, or through encrypted FTP.
161. The Cook Islands reiterated their concerns relating to the confidentiality of the data that are submitted to the Secretariat and proposed an option for the Secretariat to regularly undertake a data security audit. The Meeting of the Parties expressed interest in a data security audit process but noted that further research was required before implementing this procedure.

13.5.2 Points of clarification of CMM 2016/03 (para 2 b, c, e)

162. The Secretariat presented MoP6-WP02 outlining questions from the Secretariat for clarification on CMM 2016/03 (Data Confidentiality). The Secretariat expressed its concern that the current publishing of the National Reports on the SIOFA website, and the inclusion of the overview of fisheries in the Scientific Committee may not align with the text of CMM 2016/03.

163. The Meeting of the Parties AGREED to undertake an intersessional review of CMM 2016/03, with the SC Chair leading this work.

164. The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that the Secretariat could continue to publish Annual National Reports, and that CCPs would be responsible for reviewing their reports to ensure information contained therein are appropriate for the public domain.

165. The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that the overview of fisheries, with the data presented in the formats used to date, can continue to be included in the Scientific Committee Report while CMM 2016/03 is being reviewed.

13.5.3 Confidential data process clarification and guidelines for SC activities (ref. CMM 2016/03 para 2e, 4)

166. The Secretariat, in MoP6-WP02, also sought clarification on the interpretation of Paragraphs 2.e and 4 in CMM 2016/03 noting that if Paragraph 2.e, when read in tandem with Paragraph 4 requires the Secretariat to seek approval from all CCPs before providing fine scale data to the Scientific Committee.

167. The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that in the interim, the Secretariat will follow the procedure outlined in Paragraph 4 of CMM 2016/03, but that the text will be clarified through the intersessional work, as mentioned in the previous agenda item.

Agenda Item 14 – Cooperation with other RFMOs, international bodies and other relevant matters

14.1 Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)

168. The Chair welcomed Mr. Luca Garibaldi, SWIOFC Secretary, to provide a presentation on possible collaboration between SWIOFC and SIOFA that had been discussed at recent meetings of both organizations (MoP6-INFO-08 and MoP6-INFO-18). Following up suggested areas for collaboration put forward by the SIOFA Executive Secretary at the last SWIOFC Session, details on the following three main areas of possible collaboration were provided: a) Research on Saya de Malha bank fisheries; b) Fight against IUU; c) Promotion of SIOFA's CMM among SWIOFC Member Countries.

169. The Meeting of the Parties thanked Mr. Luca Garibaldi for the presentation and expressed their interest in the work under way for the establishment of the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC).

14.2 CCAMLR

170. The Executive Secretary provided an update of the activities completed under the arrangement between SIOFA and CCAMLR that was signed on 28 August 2018 (<https://www.apsoi.org/about-siofa/international-cooperation/CCAMLR>). The Executive Secretary met with the Executive Secretary of CCAMLR during July 2018 to discuss possible areas for cooperation, and it was agreed that CCAMLR could participate in and contribute to the SIOFA SERAGB1, SC4, and CC3 meetings. The Executive Secretary noted that the SIOFA Secretariat looks forward to facilitating a continuation of positive exchanges between the two organisations. A CCP thanked the Executive Secretary for the update and noted the importance of the meaningful cooperation under this arrangement.

14.3 FAO ABNJ Deep Seas Project

171. The Chair welcomed Dr. William Emerson from the FAO ABNJ Deep Seas Project to provide an overview of the project (MoP6-INFO-11 and MoP6-INFO-19). The Meeting of the Parties thanked Dr. Emerson for the presentation and expressed interest in several aspects of the project including the VME database, best practices for VMEs, the work on sponges, ecosystem approaches, the potential for facilitating fisheries sector representation in international fora, as well as the prospective work on the electronic monitoring system with the Cook Islands. Dr. Emerson thanked CCPs and expressed interest in continuing the discussions in the margins of the meeting.

172. The Meeting of the Parties expressed appreciation for the work undertaken through the Project that has contributed to SIOFA and CCP activities.

14.4 FAO Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS)

173. The Chair welcomed Mr. Aureliano Gentile from the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) to provide an overview of the Partnership and the FAO related activities as FIRMS Secretariat (MoP6-INFO-20). The Meeting of the Parties thanked Mr. Gentile for the presentation and expressed their interest in the partnership. The Chair highlighted that in MoP6-Doc10_rev1 there is a request from the Scientific Committee to confirm the participation of SIOFA in FIRMS.

<p>174. The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that SIOFA will be a partner of FIRMS and mandated the Secretariat to facilitate the necessary arrangements.</p>

14.5 Other matters of interest

14.5.1 EEOFISH Programme

175. The Chair welcomed Mr. Madev Balloo from the EEOFISH Programme to provide an overview of the programme (MoP6-INFO-09 and MoP6-INFO-21). Mr. Balloo noted that the funding has been received for the programme and that work is currently underway to finalise the programme estimate. The European Union asked if MCS related activities of SIOFA would be eligible for under this programme, and Mr. Balloo indicated that it would be, and that if SIOFA were interested in receiving funding under this programme, they would have to submit a proposal as soon as possible. The Meeting of the Parties thanked Mr. Balloo for the information.

14.5.2 Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN)

176. Dr. Piero Mannini briefly described the role of the RSN and encouraged the meeting participants to review the information in documents MoP6-INFO-03 and MoP6-INFO-22. The last meeting of the RSN was held in the margins of the last meeting of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), and the SIOFA Executive Secretary was in attendance.
177. One CCP noted that the RSN was a unique forum to discuss the conservation and management measures of RFMOs, and that through these exchanges, duplications can be avoided and lessons learned from good practices and supported the Secretariat to engage with this body.

Agenda Item 15 – Joint Commission of the Extended Continental Shelf Mascarene Plateau Region

178. Mauritius provided a statement to complement the information already provided, on the Joint Management Area:
- a. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) sets out specific criteria for the establishment of the various maritime zones. Part VI (art. 76-85) of UNCLOS deals with the coastal State's rights in relation to the continental shelf, including any extended continental shelf. UNCLOS also regulates the exploitation of natural resources found in the continental shelf of a coastal State and those found in the international seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
 - b. The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) has been established under UNCLOS to allow coastal States to establish the outer limits of their extended continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles where they satisfy the conditions prescribed by UNCLOS.
 - c. Where a coastal State applies to the CLCS, the CLCS is to assess the information and technical data which has been provided by the said State on the proposed outer limits. The CLCS may also provide scientific and technical advice on the information and technical data, where it deems appropriate. It is underlined that Article 76 of UNCLOS provides that the limits of the continental shelf established by coastal States on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission shall be final and binding.
 - d. In accordance with art. 78 of UNCLOS, both Mauritius and Seychelles could claim the area of the Mascarene Plateau as the natural prolongation of their respective land mass.
 - e. In December 2008, the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles, both parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), made a joint submission to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) for an extended continental shelf beyond their respective 200 nautical miles Exclusive Economic Zones in the region of the Mascarene Plateau pursuant to art. 76, para. 8 of UNCLOS.
 - f. The joint submission demonstrates the willingness of both coastal States to collaborate closely to harness the huge potential which the extended continental shelf represents.
 - g. The CLCS approved the setting up of a sub-commission to examine the Joint Submission. This joint submission was examined by the sub-commission in 2009.
 - h. The CLCS adopted recommendations confirming the entitlement of the Meeting of the Parties to the area of continental shelf submitted by them in the Joint Submission on 30 March 2011. This led to Mauritius and Seychelles being jointly conferred the jurisdiction upon the joint area of ECS of 396,000 sq. km.
 - i. UNCLOS provides that a coastal State exercises sovereign rights over the extended continental shelf for the purposes of exploring it and exploiting its natural resources, living or not, but has no control over any living organism above the shelf that are beyond its exclusive economic zone, see art. 77 and 78.

- j. Furthermore, the rights of the coastal State over the continental shelf/extended continental shelf do not affect the legal status of the superjacent waters or of the air space above those waters. The exercise of the rights of the coastal State over the continental shelf must not infringe or result in any unjustifiable interference with navigation and other rights and freedoms of other States as provided for under UNCLOS.
 - k. On 12 March 2012, Mauritius and Seychelles signed two bilateral Treaties. The first Treaty deals with the joint exercise of the sovereign rights in the joint zone and the second Treaty defines the framework for the co-management of the said area. The second Treaty contains parts which address a number of subjects, including:
 - i. in Part 5, the protection of the marine seabed environment, the application of the precautionary principle and co-operation with a view to protect seabed marine habitats and associated ecological communities of the seabed in the JMA, together with the identification of environmental benchmarks; and
 - ii. in Part 7, surveillance, security and rescue.
 - l. These are in line with the parameters set by UNCLOS.
 - m. The two bilateral Treaties therefore allow the two States to agree on the mechanisms to be able to explore the extended continental shelf and exploit its resources. A number of subject-specific codes are to be adopted. They provide for institutional and regulatory arrangements in the form of three bodies, namely the Ministerial Council, a Joint Commission and a Designated Authority.
 - n. Moreover, the coordinates of the outer limits of the extended continental shelf have also been duly set out in national legislation of the Republic of Mauritius and deposited at DOALOS.
 - o. The Mauritius delegation believes that this is relevant in this multilateral forum and remains available for any query which any delegation may have and invites the delegation which has expressed the view not to recognise the Joint Management Area or the rights the two coastal States are entitled to by virtue of art. 76, para. 8, of UNCLOS, to consider its position in the light of the above.
179. The European Union stated in response to the statement from Mauritius:
- a. For what concerns the superjacent waters, the European Union disagrees with Mauritius and Seychelles. This since that body of waters, despite the CLCS recommendation of 2011 and their subsequent JMA, still keep the status of high seas therefore neither Mauritius nor Seychelles can claim rights under the EEZ regime for those waters. Article 78.1 UNCLOS states clearly that *'the rights of the coastal State over the continental shelf [be it an extended continental shelf like in this case] do not affect the legal status of the superjacent waters...'*. From a perspective of international law, that means that the superjacent waters above the JMA of Mauritius and Seychelles can be subject to joint management by way of an RFMO. Regarding the Article 2 of the SIOFA agreement, the objective is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Area. A more detailed reading of what those terms mean under Article 1(f) (fishery resources) and Article 3 (the Area of application) SIOFA leaves *the fish, molluscs and crustaceans* in the body of the superjacent waters to the JMA part of scope of SIOFA agreement.
 - b. For what concerns the extended continental shelf, Mauritius and Seychelles do enjoy rights over the continental shelf and that would seem to fall out of the scope of the SIOFA agreement.
Article 1(f) defining the fishery resources: *(f) "fishery resources" means resources of fish, molluscs, crustaceans and other sedentary species within the Area, but excluding: sedentary species subject to the fishery jurisdiction of coastal States pursuant to article 77(4) of the 1982 Convention; and highly migratory species listed in Annex I of the 1982 Convention.*

- c. It is by effect of this article that any sedentary species on the continental shelf of a State is excluded from the definition of the fishery resources. Article 77.4 defines sedentary species as *organisms which, at the harvestable stage, either are immobile on or under the seabed or are unable to move except in constant physical contact with the seabed or the subsoil*. In conclusion that means that the management of the sedentary species in the JMA of Seychelles and Mauritius falls outside of the scope of SIOFA.
180. Australia stated in response from the statement from Mauritius:
- a. Australia notes the claim in the letter from the Joint Commission of 18 February 2019 that ‘SIOFA can no longer devise any policy or implement any project’ in the Joint Management Area.
 - b. Australia does not agree with this claim.
 - c. As noted by Mauritius, article 78 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides that the rights of the coastal State over the continental shelf do not affect the legal status of the superjacent waters. It provides further that the exercise of the rights of the coastal State over the continental shelf must not infringe or result in any unjustifiable interference with the freedoms of other States as provided for in UNCLOS.
 - d. The Meeting of the Parties has a responsibility to manage SIOFA fishery resources within the whole of the Agreement Area, including the water column above the Joint Management Area.
 - e. Australia also observes that the bottom fishing proposals under discussion at this meeting seek to regulate SIOFA fishery resources. These resources are defined in article 1(f)(i) of the SIOFA Agreement so as to exclude sedentary species subject to the fishery jurisdiction of coastal States pursuant to Article 77(4) of UNCLOS. Accordingly, these proposals are not seeking to regulate fishing for the sedentary species subject to the joint jurisdiction of Mauritius and Seychelles in the Joint Management Area.
181. Thailand stated in response to the Statement from Mauritius:
- a. As party to the SIOFA Agreement, Thailand has its sovereign rights to explore and exploit the fisheries resources in the SIOFA area and under the SIOFA competent and in the continental shelf of coastal State as the case may be. Such sovereign rights are also in conformity with the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea to which Thailand is also party. However, in regard to claims by other parties to the SIOFA Agreement area, Thailand reserve its right to protest or verify whether or not such claims are justified under the 1982 Convention.
 - b. In addition, UNCLOS Article 76 defined the continental shelf and addressed the right of the coastal State over the living resources in continental shelf is the sedentary species, and UNCLOS Article 77 (4) also further address clearly that the sedentary species are organisms which, at the harvestable stage, either are immobile or under the seabed or are unable to move except in constant physical contact with the seabed or the subsoil. So, under the umbrella of UNCLOS, fisheries resources under the SIOFA competent they are the moving living resources in the water column and they are not the sedentary species that addressed or claimed by the coastal State by conformity to UNCLOS Article 76.
182. One CCP sought clarity from Mauritius if the Joint Commission still maintained the position that “It also follows that SIOFA can no longer devise any policy or implement any project in the Mauritius Seychelles Join Management Area” as stated in the letters received (MoP6-INFO-05_Rev1). The Mauritius delegation stated that the question will be relayed to the Joint Commission, which is a distinct body to the Republic of Mauritius for consideration and action at its end.

183. One CCP sought clarity from Mauritius if their position is aligned with that of the Joint Commission. The Mauritius delegation stated that a written reply from the Mauritius delegation may be made intersessionally.

Agenda Item 16 – Observer Nominations for other RFMO and CCAMLR meetings

184. The Chair recalled the discussion in the Heads of Delegation meeting that the specific names of the observers need to be provided to the Executive Secretary so that other CCPs can be advised.

185. **The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that the role of Observers in other RFMO meetings is simply to observe the meetings and report back to SIOFA, and not to represent SIOFA at these meetings.**

Agenda Item 17 – Participation of cooperating non-Contracting Parties and non-Participating Fishing Entities

17.1 New applications for participation as a cooperating non-Contracting Party or as a cooperating non-participating fishing entity

186. The Executive Secretary confirmed that in the last twelve months, there have been no applications for new cooperating non-Contracting Parties or as cooperating non-participating fishing entities.

17.2 Status of registered cooperating non-Contracting Parties and cooperating non-Participating Fishing Entities

187. **The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that Comoros maintain its status as a cooperating non-Contracting Party.**

188. One CCP reminded the Meeting of the Parties of the agreement in CC3 to translate the draft Compliance Report Template Questionnaire into French next year.

Agenda Item 18 – Election of MoP and SCAF Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons

18.1 Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF)

189. The Meeting of the Parties did not elect a Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF). In accordance with Rule 3.6 of the Financial Regulations, the functions of the SCAF, shall be carried out by the Meeting of the Parties.

18.2 Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties

190. **The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that an intersessional decision would be taken to elect an MoP Chair.**

191. **The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that representatives from Australia, France (Territories), and Thailand would collectively fulfil the roles and responsibilities of SIOFA MoP Chair in support of the SIOFA Secretariat until an MoP Chair is elected.**

Agenda Item 19 – Future Meeting Arrangements

19.1 Dates and venues for the Scientific Committee and associated Working Groups in 2020 and 2021

192. **The Scientific Committee and associated Working Groups will take place between the period of 11 March and 05 April 2020 in La Reunion. The Working Groups will meet for a total of five days and the Scientific Committee will meet for five days.**

19.2 Dates and venues for the Meeting of the Parties and the Compliance Committee in 2020

193. **The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that the CC4 will take place from 01 to 03 July 2020 and the MoP7 will take place from 05 to 09 July 2020 in La Reunion.**

Agenda Item 20 – Recruitment of SIOFA Executive Secretary

194. The Chair noted that the recruitment process for the new Executive Secretary had been taking place during this meeting, and that the selection committee was still working toward the selection of a candidate.

195. **The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that the interim Executive Secretary will be Mr. Pierre Périès.**

196. **The Meeting of the Parties AUTHORISED Dr. Ilona Stobutzki to complete the recruitment process until the Executive Secretary is appointed, including to enter into a contract with the successful candidate on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties.**

Agenda Item 21 – Any Other Business

197. Thailand presented their report on implementation of SIOFA CMMs outlined in document MoP6-INFO-15 noting that this report is being shared for the information of interested participants.

198. Mauritius stated that nothing said or done by the Mauritius delegation during this meeting is or should be construed as a recognition by the Republic of Mauritius that Tromelin Island is not an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius.

199. France (Territories) indicated that they do not recognize any legal value in the statement made by Mauritius. France (Territories) declared that it does not recognize any legal force to the declaration by Mauritius, as the declaration ignores the fact that Tromelin Island is a French territory over which France has constantly exercised full and total sovereignty. France therefore has sovereign rights and jurisdiction under international law over the exclusive economic zone adjacent to Tromelin island. The meetings of the Indian Ocean RFMO's are not the forum to discuss questions of territorial sovereignty, but France highlights that it will continue to maintain constructive dialogue with the Republic of Mauritius on this subject.

200. China stated that:

- a. China would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Chair, the Executive Secretary, the Contracting Parties, especially our host-Mauritius, for your efforts to make this meeting smoothly and successfully.
- b. As the head of Chinese delegation, I would like to reiterate our sincere will to accede to the SIOFA Agreement for the purpose of the long-term sustainable utilization of fisheries resources of this region. China will cooperate with all relevant parties to work towards that end.

- c. Having said that, China notes that MOP 6 has no consensus on the meeting arrangement. The current arrangement is temporary upon a ruling by the Chair and only applied for this meeting. We believe SIOFA will arrange the meeting in a more appropriate way at next year's meeting, in accordance with the Agreement.
201. Chinese Taipei stated that:
- a. This year is important for us that we formally participate in the SIOFA meeting. I must thank everyone involved in the whole process facilitating our participation. We believe that SIOFA will remain as a professional fishery organization and refrain from political interference. Chinese Taipei will cooperate with all parties and play a constructive role to pursue our common goals.
202. Australia stated that:
- a. Australia notes that Mauritius has clarified that it is claiming 'historic traditional fishing rights', not 'historic rights', on the Saya de Malha Bank.
 - b. It is unfortunate that Mauritius has been unable to provide the Meeting of the Parties with more detail about its claims.
 - c. UNCLOS establishes the legal regime for maritime zones and the allocation of associated rights and obligations. It reflects a delicate balance.
 - d. We do not consider that the exercise of high seas freedoms under international law gives rise to historic rights.
 - e. In light of this we are unclear as to how a claim for historic rights could be made over an area of high seas consistent with high seas freedoms.
 - f. We take this opportunity to make it clear that Australia has not acquiesced to Mauritius' claims.
203. The Mauritius delegation stated that reference has been made to historic/traditional fishing rights and not "historic rights".
204. Thailand stated that as a Party to SIOFA, they have the right to explore and exploit fisheries resources in the SIOFA Agreement Area and this is in conformity with UNCLOS. In regard to the claim of Mauritius, Thailand reserves its right to attest this claim.

Agenda Item 22 – Adoption of the report

205. The Chair sought the agreement of the Meeting of the Parties to consider a process to adopt the meeting report that deviates from the process outlined in Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure, given the late hour. The Chair, under Rule 13.2 of the Rules of Procedure proposed that the Meeting of the Parties review and adopt decision points in the report during MoP6, however discussion elements of the report would be adopted intersessionally as permitted by Rule 13.1 and within a specified time frame suggested by the Chair.
206. The Meeting of the Parties agreed to the Chair's suggested process for adopting the meeting report, and proceeded to adopt decision points under this agenda item, noting that these could not be changed through the intersessional report adoption process. The Chair proposed that meeting participants would provide comments to the Chair by no later than the 26th July 2019, after which comments would be incorporated and the final report redistributed by 2nd August 2019.

207. **The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that comments on the draft meeting report would be submitted to the Secretariat by 26 July 2019 and the meeting report will be adopted intersessionally.**

Agenda Item 23 – Close of the meeting

208. Chinese Taipei provided a statement in Annex S.
209. The Chair closed the meeting at 11:15pm on 05 July 2019.

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**MINISTRY OF OCEAN ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES,
FISHERIES AND SHIPPING
SIOFA Sixth Meeting of Parties
Pearl Beach Hotel – Flic-en-Flac
Opening Ceremony - 01 JULY 2019 at 09 15 hrs**

Mr Jon LANSLEY Executive Secretary, SIOFA

Ms Pamela MARU, Chairperson

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

1. It gives me great pleasure to be associated with the opening ceremony of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Sixth Meeting of Parties which will be held during this week. I understand that the Third Compliance Committee meeting has already been held from 27 to 29 June 2019 and you have had good deliberations.
2. First and foremost, let me extend a very warm welcome to all foreign delegates who have travelled a long way to Mauritius to attend these two meetings.
3. Delegates, your presence today give a clear indication of the willingness of all the Parties to preserve the fishery resources under the purview of the SIOFA to maximum sustainable limit with a view to ensuring sustainability of stocks. These two meetings would no doubt enhance our capacity in doing better in the conservation and management of the fishery resources.
4. Let me assure you that Mauritius has been driving towards the sound development of the fisheries sector including the fisheries-based industrial segment. However, when it comes to sustainable fisheries management and conservation, it is really challenging to manage and implement sets of rules and procedures. If we mutually assist each other, we

can enforce regulations, build capacity, monitor and control fishing activities in an effective and timely manner.

5. In Mauritius, the fisheries sector is an economic pillar with due regard to sustainability of aquatic resources and social development. The focus is to provide an enabling environment for the promotion of sustainable development of the fisheries sector and to ensure continued economic growth and social benefits within the framework of good governance.

Ladies and Gentlemen

6. SIOFA has developed a new linkage and mechanism to foster dialogues and provides valuable insights as a near and medium term barometer of the marine resources and economy among the Contracting Parties. This is indeed a laudable initiative of its kind for the entire member states.

7. Furthermore, we have an international obligation to ensure that we use the best available scientific advice for policy-making, taking into account the eco-system and precautionary approach. Scientific advice needs to be clear, easy to understand and should provide all the elements required so as to take sound decisions.

8. For efficient management measures we must apply a precautionary and ecosystem approach to all fisheries under the competence of SIOFA with a view to striking the right balance between fishing capacity and available resources. Hence the need for effective instruments and tools that to eradicate IUU-fishing. We need to jointly fight IUU fishing which has also been present in the Deep Sea resources under the purview of the SIOFA.

9. Mauritius being an island state depends and derives much from the exploitation of the fisheries resources found in its EEZ and from the high seas. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing occur in almost all capture fisheries. Considering the magnitude of IUU fishing, Mauritius has taken several measures and has put in place instruments to deter, combat and eliminate IUU fishing.

10. Mauritius has signed three important agreements and also abides to regional and international instruments to deter, combat and eliminate IUU fishing. The agreements signed by Mauritius are:

- a) “Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks”;
- b) “Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas”.
- c) The FAO Port State Measures Agreement – August 2015

11. Mauritius is fully implementing the FAO Port State Measures Agreement and has published its National Plan of Action to combat IUU fishing which is in line with the FAO International Plan of Action.

Ladies and Gentlemen

12. We can achieve the target to save fish for the future generation through compliances by the application of best science and appropriate measures. The Compliance Committee has therefore a crucial role to play in this respect whilst ensuring regular and comprehensive compliance reviews.

13. Parties need to help each other in capacity building to collect the data needed, provide input to the scientific process, enforce the rules in place and monitor and control fishing activities for better performances in the SIOFA area of competence.

14. I am sure that the meetings would come up with findings which will delineate the main directions in which SIOFA member states could best manage their fish stocks. However, we need to ensure that economic, social and environmental considerations form part of the entire policy process which is bearable, equitable, viable and that spins around sustainability.

15. To conclude, I would emphasize that it is important for all the Member States to work together to preserve the marine ecosystem for the creation of economic growth. In this endeavor, the better SIOFA Member States perform the healthier fish we will have for ourselves and for future generations.

Ladies and Gentlemen

16. I, now, have the pleasure to declare the sixth Meeting of Parties open and I wish you all fruitful deliberations.

17. Thank you for your attention.

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

6th Meeting of the Parties (MoP6)

1-5 July 2019, Flic-en-flac, Mauritius

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Adopted Agenda

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Fifth Meeting of the Parties

01-05 July 2019

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

SIOFA Chairperson: tbd

Registration will be open from 08:00 and the meeting will start 09:00 on Monday 1st July

A Heads of Delegation meeting will be held on Sunday 30th June 20:00 – 20:45.

1. Opening of the session

- 1.1. Opening statement from the Chair
- 1.2. Opening statement from the SIOFA Executive Secretary
- 1.3. Welcome by Administration of Mauritius
- 1.4. Presentation of Contracting Parties Delegations
- 1.5. Admission of Observers
- 1.6. Status of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
- 1.7. Participation in decision making

2. Administrative arrangements

- 2.1. Adoption of the agenda
- 2.2. Confirmation of meeting documents
- 2.3. Appointment of rapporteurs
- 2.4. Practical arrangements for the meeting

3. Intersessional decision making

In accordance with SIOFA RoP 13, the Executive Secretary to inform on any decision taken intersessionally.

4. Report of the Third Meeting of the Compliance Committee

Standing agenda item.

5. Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific Committee

Standing agenda item.

6. Definition for 'new fisheries'

Following progress made at MoP5, update on this work led by France (Territories)

7. Interim Bottom Fishing Measures

7.1. Existing CCPs

Standing item for the disclosure of revised measures notified in accordance with CMM 2018/01 para 9.

7.2. New CCPs

Standing item for advice provided in accordance with CMM 2018/01 para 19 (a). Deadline for submission of report 14 days prior to the Meeting of the Parties.

8. Vessel catch, Effort and Scientific Observer Data

Standing agenda item. Summary of reports provided to the secretariat in accordance with CMM 2018/02 paras 6, 7 and 13. Deadline for submission of reports 31 May each year.

8.1. Annual catch

8.2. Vessels catch and effort

8.3. Scientific observer data

9. SIOFA Compliance Report

Standing agenda item. In accordance with CMM2018/11 Compliance Monitoring Scheme, the MoP to consider a Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (pSCR) prepared by the Compliance Committee, for consideration and adoption of a final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR). The fSCR shall be annexed to the MoP6 Report.

10. Listing of IUU vessels

Standing agenda item. In accordance with CMM 2018/06 IUU Vessel List, the MoP shall review the Provisional IUU Vessel List adopted by the Compliance Committee and adopt a new IUU Vessel List.

11. Reviews and amendments to Conservation and Managements Measures (CMMs) currently in force

Standing agenda item for the presentation of reviews or proposed amendments to existing CMMs and possible adoption.

11.1. CMM2018/01 Interim Management of Bottom Fishing

In accordance with CMM2018/01 para 41, this CMM shall be reviewed no later than MoP6.

12. New Conservation and Managements Measures (CMMs)

Standing agenda item for the presentation of any proposals of new CMMs and possible adoption.

13. Secretariat Administration (Executive Secretary)

Standing agenda item to report Secretariat Administration

13.1. Report on Financial Resources - RoP Rule 8 (f)

Secretariat to present the Financial Report, external Auditor's Report and draft budget – prepared and circulated in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the MoP. Presentation to be followed by discussions and adoption of the budget for the ensuing financial year.

13.2. Report on Staff Resources and Secretaries Activities– RoP Rule 8 (g)

Secretariat to present a report

13.3. Recruitment of consultants

Secretariat to present the SIOFA Consultant Recruitment Procedure for MoP comment

13.4. SIOFA Technical Editing Process

Secretariat to present a suggested update for the process of proposing corrections to new or amended Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)

13.5. Data confidentiality

Secretariat to present the following;

- 11.5.1. Confidential data exchange procedure
- 11.5.2. Points of clarification of CMM 2016/03 (para 2 b, c, e)
- 11.5.3. Confidential data process clarification and guidelines for SC activities (ref. CMM 2016/03 para 2e, 4)

14. Cooperation with other RFMOs, international bodies and other relevant matters

Standing item to inform of any issues or matters which may be of interest to the Meeting of the Parties

- 14.1. Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)
- 14.2. CCAMLR
- 14.3. FAO ABNJ Deep Seas Project
- 14.4. FAO Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS)
- 14.5. Other matters of interest
 - 14.5.1. EEOFISH programme
 - 14.5.2. FAO FIRMS presentation

15. Joint Commission of the Extended Continental Shelf Mascarene Plateau Region

Update on the Mauritius-Seychelles Establishment of the Joint Management Area

16. Observer Nominations for other RFMO and CCAMLR meetings

Standing item to confirm which CPs (including contact name) will serve as SIOFA Observer at other relevant meetings during the following 12 month period.

17. Participation of cooperating non-Contracting Parties and non-Participating Fishing Entities

Standing item.

- 17.1. New applications for participation as a cooperating non-Contracting Party or as a cooperating non-participating fishing entity

MoP to decide whether to admit applicants in accordance with RoP Rule 17 para 6
- 17.2. Status of registered cooperating non-Contracting Parties and cooperating non-participating fishing entities

MoP to determine if each CNCP and CNPFE qualify to retain their status in accordance with RoP Rule 17 para 8

18. Election of a future MoP Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

- 18.1. Election of a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF)

19. Future Meeting Arrangements

- 19.1. Dates and venues for the Stock Assessment Working Group and the Scientific Committee in 2019 and 2020
- 19.2. Dates and venues for the Compliance Committee and the Meeting of the Parties in 2019 and 2020

20. Any Other Business

Thailand's Report on Implementation of SIOFA CMMs

21. Adoption of the report

Review and adoption of the report.

22. Close of the meeting

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Sixth Meeting of the Parties

01-05 July 2019

List of Meeting Documents

(as at 05/07/2019)

Document Reference N°	Document	Relevant agenda items	Date of submission
Meeting of the Parties Administration and Other Documents			Deadline 16.06.2019
MoP6-Doc01_Rev4	Provisional Agenda	2	
MoP6-Doc02	List of Meeting Documents	2	
MoP6-Doc03	Table of agenda items and related papers	2	
MoP6-Doc04	SIOFA Rules of Procedure	2	
MoP6-Doc05	List of Participants	2	
MoP6-Doc06	SIOFA Financial Report and External Auditor Report 2019	13.1	01.06.2019
MoP6-Doc07	Secretariat Report on Financial Resources	13.1	05.06.2019
MoP6-Doc08_Rev2	Draft SIOFA 2020 Budget_Rev2	13.1	05.06.2019
MoP6-Doc09	Protocols for the secure transfer of confidential data	13.5	05.06.2019
MoP6-Doc10_Rev1	SIOFA-FIRMS Partnership	14.4	13.06.2019
MoP6-Doc11	Comoros BFIA	7.2	13.06.2019
MoP6-Doc12	SIOFA Procedure for Recruitment of Consultants	13.3	16.06.2019
MoP6-Doc13	SIOFA Technical Editing Process	13.4	16.06.2019
MoP6-Doc14	Secretariat Report on Staff Resources and Secretariat Activities	13.2	16.06.2019
CC3 Report	Report of the Third Compliance Committee of SIOFA Available on CC3 meeting page of SIOFA website	4	01.07.2019
MoP6 Proposals			Deadline 31.05.2019
MoP6-Prop01_Rev1	Australia and EU proposal for High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures_CC3-Annex-F	12.1	24.05.2019

MoP6-Prop02	Thailand's proposal for Amendment of CMM 2017/07 Vessel Authorisation	11.7	27.05.2019
MoP6-Prop03	Thailand's proposal for amendment to SIOFA Financial Regulations	13.1	27.05.2019
MoP6-Prop04	EU proposal for amending CMM2018 01 Bottom Fishing_Rev1	11.1	27.05.2019
MoP6-Prop05	EU proposal for amending CMM 2018 02 Data Standards	11.2	27.05.2019
MoP6-Prop06	EU proposal for establishment of VMS in SIOFA	12.2	27.05.2019
MoP6-Prop07	EU proposal to establish a Framework for Scientific Research	12.3	27.05.2019
MoP6-Prop08	SIOFA EU proposal for a Framework for New and Exploratory Fisheries	12.4	27.05.2019
MoP6-Prop09_Rev1	EU proposal on sharks_rev1_CC3-Annex-F	12.5	27.05.2019
MoP6-Prop10_Rev1	MoP6-Prop10_Rev1 EU proposal for the mitigation of seabird bycatch-withcomments_CC3-Annex-I	12.6	27.05.2019
MoP6-Prop11_Rev1	Secretariat proposal for amending CMM 2010_10 Monitoring_CC3-Annex-F	11.4	27.05.2019
MoP6-Prop13	AUS proposal for the management of Dissostichus eleginoides	12.7	31.05.2019
MoP6-Prop14	AUS proposal for General Rules for the Management of Bottom Fishing	12.8	31.05.2019
MoP6-Prop15	AUS Proposal for Management of Demersal Stocks	12.9	31.05.2019
MoP6-Prop16	AUS Proposal for the Prevention of Significant Adverse Impacts on VMEs	12.10	31.05.2019
MoP6-Prop17	JPN proposal for amending CMM 2018_01 Interim Management of Bottom Fishing	11.1	31.05.2019
MoP6-Prop18	MoP6-Prop18 FR proposal for amendment to ToR for the PAEWG or a new CMM	12.12	31.05.2019
MoP6-Prop19	AUS Proposal for a new suite of bottom fishing measures (support paper for 12.8, 12.9, 12.10)	12.8, 12.9, 12.10	31.05.2019
Working Papers			Deadline 31.05.2019
MoP6-WP01	Intercessional discussion group on new fisheries	6	31.05.2019
MoP6-WP02	Questions on clarification on CMM 2016/03 Data Confidentiality	13.5	27.05.2019
MoP6-WP03	Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (pSCR)_RESTRICTED	9	29.06.2019
Information Papers			Deadline 16.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-01	Analysis of Bycatch by Cook Island Flagged Vessels 2017-19	7, 11, 12, 13	27.05.2019

MoP6-INFO-02	The influence of performance reviews on RFMOS, Haas et al 2019	General interest	28.05.2019
MoP6-INFO-03	The Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network	14	04.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-04	Summary of data available at the Secretariat	8	08.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-05 _Rev1	JC of the Extended Continental Shelf Mascarene Plateau Region	15	08.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-06	SIODFA Statement on Alfonsino Management	1.5, 5, 7.2, 11 & 13.1	04.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-07	Directions for the SIOFA Interim standard protocol for future designation of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems and Protected Areas	11.1	17.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-08	Cooperation with the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)	14.1	14.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-09	E€OFISH Programme of the Eastern African, Southern African and Indian Ocean region	14.5	14.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-10	ABNJ Deep Seas Project Workshop on rights-based management for deep-sea fisheries Summary of Conclusions	14.3	13.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-11	ABNJ Deep Seas Project Update	14.3	13.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-12	Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment EU_updated June 2019	11.1	16.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-13	Status of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement	1.6	20.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-14	Intersessional Decisions	3	16.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-15	Thailand's Report on Implementation of SIOFA CMMS	20	29.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-16	Presentation of the report of the third Compliance Committee	4	01.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-17	Presentation of the report of the fourth Scientific Committee	5	01.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-18	SWIOFC presentation	14.1	01.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-19	FAO ABNJ Deep Sea Project presentation	14.3	01.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-20	FAO FIRMS presentation	14.4	01.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-21	ECOFISH Presentation	15.5.1	01.06.2019
MoP6-INFO-22	FAO-RSN presentation	15.5.2	01.06.2019

FINAL SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR) 2019

In accordance with CMM 2018/11 paras 22, the Sixth Meeting of the Parties, 1-5 July 2019, Flic-en-Flac, Mauritius adopted this final SIOFA Compliance Report (SCR).

In accordance with CMM 2018/11 paras 23. c. the Final Compliance Report shall be annexed to the report of the relevant ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

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AUSTRALIA

Table 3: CMM 2018/02 Data Standards							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP (+ comments, information, etc.)	Secretariat assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
AU	16-17 data reported in accordance with the formats described in CMM 2018'02, including its annexes	x	Compliant Data was provided as required	to be assessed (when the Secretariat will be able to process the observer data)		not assessed	Responsibility of the Secretariat

Table 9: CMM 2018/10 Monitoring							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP (+ comments, information, etc.)	Secretariat assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
AU	14 Secretariat is notified of each entry to or exit from the Agreement Area of all vessels flying your flag	x	Compliant Yes – Entry notification for 18/12/2018 was submitted on 16/12/2018.	Compliant		Non-compliant with notification period Compliant with information provided	Some late notifications. AU will improve the process with the industry

COOK ISLAND

Table 1: Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
CI	Article 10 (2) submission of a statement of implementing and compliance measures, including any imposition of sanctions for any violations (NOTE: submission of CCP Compliance Report satisfies this requirement)	Not assessed (X)	Compliant	Submitted late		Compliant Non-compliant with deadline	CMS was submitted Extra work caused by Compliance Report explains the late submission

Table 3: CMM 2018/02 Data Standards							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP (+ comments, information, etc.)	Secretariat assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
CI	6 submission of vessel catch and effort data to Secretariat by 31 May	x	This date not yet arrived, submission work underway	to be assessed later non-compliant, data not received within deadline		Non-Compliant Non-compliant	Data submitted, no tow by tow data provided but daily summary, CI express concerns with data security. Late submission
CI	7 submission of annual catch summary by 31 st May	x	This date not yet arrived, submission work underway	to be assessed later non-compliant, data not received within deadline		Compliant Non-compliant	Data submitted Late submission
CI	14 submission of Scientific Observer Data by 31 May.	x	This date not yet arrived, submission work underway	to be assessed later non-compliant, data not received within deadline		Compliant Non-compliant	Data submitted Late submission
CI	16-17 data reported in accordance with the formats described in CMM 2018/02, including its annexes	x	Compliant	to be assessed (when the Secretariat will be able to process the observer data)		not assessed	Responsibility of the Secretariat

Table 9: CMM 2018/10 Monitoring							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP (+ comments, information, etc.)	Secretariat assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
CI	14 Secretariat is notified of each entry to or exit from the Agreement Area of all vessels flying your flag	x	Compliant Yes	non-compliant No entry exit notifications from CI flagged vessels have been received by the Secretariat in 2018		Non-compliant	CI had no address were to send notifications. Address is mcs@siofa.org

EUROPEAN UNION

Table 2: CMM 2018/01 Interim Management of Bottom Fishing							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP (+ comments, information, etc.)	Secretariat assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
EU	9(1)(a)i: limit bottom fishing effort and or catch (>40 days fishing CCP)	x	Compliant The EU-Spain fleet uses number of vessels as metric for fishing effort freezing, subsequently the limit of two vessels has not being exceeded in 2018.	non-compliant According to the CMM, the metric is effort or/and catch. CMM does not provide for calculating effort by vessel number.		Not assessed	Ref. CC3 Final report para XX
EU	9(3) Amendments to Interim bottom fishing measures, notified to secretariat within 30 days	x	No. EU-Spain has limited effort for a maximum of 2 vessels and EU-France still uses « Arrêté du 24 mai 2018 modifiant l'arrêté du 25 février 2013 portant création des autorisations de pêche ORGP pour certaines pêcheries non contingentées ou contingentées soumises à des mesures de gestion adoptées dans le cadre de certaines organisations régionales de gestion de la pêche »	non-compliant EU did not assess efforts. MoP should consider if it is suitable to use vessel number for determining effort value. Effort between vessels can vary greatly.		Not assessed	Ref. CC3 Final report para YY

Table 3: CMM 2018/02 Data Standards							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP (+ comments, information, etc.)	Secretariat assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
EU	6 submission of vessel catch and effort data to Secretariat by 31 May	x	Still ongoing - DL 31/05.	to be assessed non-compliant; no data received by May 31st		Compliant non-compliant	data have been submitted data received after deadline
EU	7 submission of annual catch summary by 31 st May	x	Still ongoing - DL 31/05.	to be assessed non-compliant; no data received by May 31st		Compliant non-compliant	data have been submitted data received after deadline
EU	14 submission of Scientific Observer Data by 31 May.	x	Still ongoing - DL 31/05.	to be assessed non-compliant, no data received by May 31 st .		Compliant non-compliant	data have been submitted data received after deadline
EU	16-17 data reported in accordance with the formats described in CMM 2018'02, including its annexes	x	Compliant No, the EU did not encounter any problems with providing data in accordance with the specified formats. However, SIOFA standardized official forms are needed.	to be assessed (when the Secretariat will be able to process the observer data)		not assessed	Responsibility of the Secretariat

Table 8: CMM 2018/09 Control							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP (+ comments, information, etc.)	Secretariat assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
EU	2 designated the competent authority or authorities which shall act as the Contact Point and provide contacts to the Secretariat	x	Compliant Yes, the EU designated the competent authority which shall act as the Contact Point.			compliant non-compliant	contacts points designated provided to the Secretariat late submission

Table 9: CMM 2018/10 Monitoring							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP (+ comments, information, etc.)	Secretariat assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
EU	14 Secretariat is notified of each entry to or exit from the Agreement Area of all vessels flying your flag	x	Compliant Due to a misunderstanding between fisheries department and vessel owner, the messages were not sent. Vessel has been informed to do it since now. EU-Spain FMC has already sent to SIOFA Secretariat on 05/04/2018 entry/exit messages for the vessel since 08/10/2018 .	non-compliant (late submission)		Non-compliant for deadline Compliant for provision	There was misunderstanding to who sending the report. Reports are sent one time now.

FRANCE TERRITORIES

Table 3: CMM 2018/02 Data Standards							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP (+ comments, information, etc.)	Secretariat assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
FR	16-17 data reported in accordance with the formats described in CMM 2018'02, including its annexes	x	Compliant	to be assessed (when the Secretariat will be able to process the observer data)		not assessed	Responsibility of the Secretariat

Table 9: CMM 2018/10 Monitoring							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP (+ comments, information, etc.)	Secretariat assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
FR	14 Secretariat is notified of each entry to or exit from the Agreement Area of all vessels flying your flag	x	Compliant Yes. We recently detected a problem with messages sent to the Secretariat on entry or exit of French vessels in/ from the Agreement Area: they were automatically sent but did not indicate the aim of the boat (fishing or not). We are currently looking for a solution to that problem and, in the meanwhile, we will send manually the missing information.	non-compliant Activity not provided within the notifications	All notifications have been provided, only some of them were not compliant lacking activity information. Rectified already for future messages. Activity to be more accurately worded and distinct for entry and exit reports.	non-compliant	Missing field in the automatic reporting. Corrected now.

JAPAN

Table 3: CMM 2018/02 Data Standards							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
JPN	5 data collected on a haul-by-haul basis	x	Complaint Available to collect the data from each operation of longline. In accordance with the domestic law, the data are collated per day and 30 minutes mesh from the catch report for middle trawl.	non-compliant Midwater trawl operations are not collected on a haul-by-haul basis	non-compliant Japan will submit data on a haul-by-haul basis.	non-compliant	Data to be provided on hauls basis in the near future
JPN	16-17 data reported in accordance with the formats described in CMM 2018'02, including its annexes	x	Compliant	to be assessed (when the Secretariat will be able to process the observer data)		not assessed	Responsibility of the Secretariat

Table 9: CMM 2018/10 Monitoring							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
JPN	14 Secretariat is notified of each entry to or exit from the Agreement Area of all vessels flying your flag	x	Compliant Yes	not assessed No Entry-exit notifications received from Japan Flagged F/V in 2018.	Compliant	non-compliant	Some EE notifications were not sent due to wrong email address used.

KOREA

Table 1: Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
KOR	Article 10 (2) submission of a statement of implementing and compliance measures, including any imposition of sanctions for any violations (NOTE: submission of CCP Compliance Report satisfies this requirement)	Not assessed X		non-compliant No statement of implementation, or compliance report provided		non-compliant	

Table 2: CMM 2018/01 Interim Management of Bottom Fishing							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
KOR	13(a) submission spatial extent of historic bottom fishing effort to SC3 2018	x		non-compliant no spatial extent of historic bottom fishing effort submitted		Non-compliant	Secretariat to inquire about this information

Table 7: CMM 2017/08 Port Inspection							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
KOR	2 notified the Secretariat of designated ports to which foreign vessels may request entry	x		non-compliant No port designated		Non-compliant	Information to be asked to Korea by Secretariat

Table 11: CMM 2018/11 Compliance Monitoring Scheme							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
KOR	12 completion of a CCP Compliance Report in full accordance with paragraph 12 and submitted to the Secretariat no later than 60 days before the commencement of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties	x		non-compliant CCP Compliance Report not submitted to Secretariat		non-compliant	

MAURITIUS

Table 1: Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
MU	<i>Article 10 (2)</i> submission of a statement of implementing and compliance measures, including any imposition of sanctions for any violations (NOTE: submission of CCP Compliance Report satisfies this requirement)	Not assessed X	N/A	non-compliant no Compliance Report provided		non-compliant	
MU	<i>Article 11 3. (c)</i> submission of a report on fishing activities (this report is included within the annual National Report).	X	N/A	non-compliant no National Report provided		Critically non-compliant	

Table 2: CMM 2018/01 Interim Management of Bottom Fishing							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
MU	9 b submission of an annual National Report 30 days prior to the ordinary SC meeting	x		non-compliant no National Report provided		non-compliant	
MU	10 submission of historical catch, effort, observer data for period 2000-2015 by 31 Jan 2018	x		non-compliant no historical data submission		non-compliant	

Table 6: CMM 2017/07 Vessel Authorisation							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
MU	2, all states or fishing entities that was a CCP before 18 Oct 2016 - submission electronically to the Secretariat a list of vessels authorised to operate in the agreement area in accordance with all requirements listed in paragraph 2(a)-(s)	x		Non-compliant 32 vessels registered; no photos provided		non-compliant	

Table 7: CMM 2017/08 Port Inspection							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
MU	2 notified the Secretariat of designated ports to which foreign vessels may request entry	x		non-compliant no port designated		non-compliant	

Table 9: CMM 2018/10 Monitoring							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
MU	14 Secretariat is notified of each entry to or exit from the Agreement Area of all vessels flying your flag	x		no notifications received		not assessed	

Table 11: CMM 2018/11 Compliance Monitoring Scheme							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
MU	12 completion of a CCP Compliance Report in full accordance with paragraph 12 and submitted to the Secretariat no later than 60 days before the commencement of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties	x		non-compliant CCP compliance report not completed		non-compliant	

SEYCHELLES

Table 5: CMM 2018/06 IUU Vessel List							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
SYC	31 cooperation with other CCPs in exchanging information for the purpose of implementing this CMM	x	non-compliant No contact point designated to exchange information on IUU activities	non-compliant		Compliant with submission Non-compliant for deadline	Contact details provided

Table 7: CMM 2017/08 Port Inspection							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
SYC	2 notified the Secretariat of designated ports to which foreign vessels may request entry	x	Non-compliant No port designated	Non-compliant		Compliant with info provided Non compliant with deadline	Info has been provided to the Secretariat

Table 8: CMM 2018/09 Control							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
SYC	2 designated the competent authority or authorities which shall act as the Contact Point and provide contacts to the Secretariat	x	no compliance status assigned	non-compliant no contacts provided to the Secretariat		Compliant with information provided Non-compliant vs deadline	Info provided to secretariat

THAILAND

Table 3: CMM 2018/02 Data Standards							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP (+ comments, information, etc.)	Secretariat assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
THA	5 data collected on a haul-by-haul basis	x	N/A	non-compliant Historical data was not collected on a haul by haul basis but on a daily basis.	The collected data in the Thailand Historical data was the data before Thailand became a SIOFA CCP. So, this paragraph is not applicable to Thailand.	compliant	Best available data has been provided by Thailand to SIOFA Secretariat

COMOROS (Participating non contracting Party)

Table 1: Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
COM	<i>Article 10 (2)</i> submission of a statement of implementing and compliance measures, including any imposition of sanctions for any violations (NOTE: submission of CCP Compliance Report satisfies this requirement)	Not assessed X	N/A	non-compliant no Compliance Report provided		non-compliant	
COM	<i>Article 11 3. (c)</i> submission of a report on fishing activities (this report is included within the annual National Report).	X	N/A	non-compliant no National Report provided		non-compliant	

Table 3: CMM 2018/02 Data Standards							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
COM	4 data collected in accordance with the relevant sections of Annex A	x		non-compliant Logbook scan provided do not includes provision for effort information or species codes		non-compliant	
COM	5 data collected on a haul-by-haul basis	x		not assessed Data collected on a daily basis from logbooks. Haul basis to be discussed in regards of the fishery type (handlines)		Not assessed	
COM	6 submission of vessel catch and effort data to Secretariat by 31 May	x		non-compliant No catch effort data submitted to the Secretariat		non-compliant	
COM	7 submission of annual catch summary by 31 st May	x		non-compliant No annual catch summary submitted to the Secretariat		non-compliant	
COM	9 b submission of an annual National Report 30 days prior to the ordinary SC meeting	x		non-compliant no National Report provided		non-compliant	
COM	10 for new CCPs joining after October 2016	x		non-compliant		non-compliant	

	submission of historical catch, effort, observer data for period 2000-2015 within 12 months after joining.			no historical data provided, logbooks scans cannot be used as such.			
COM	14 submission of Scientific Observer Data by 31 May.	x		non-compliant No observer's data submitted		non-compliant	

Table 7: CMM 2017/08 Port Inspection

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
COM	2 notified the Secretariat of designated ports to which foreign vessels may request entry	x		Non-compliant no port designated		non-compliant	Landing done in Mauritius Port information to be provided

Table 8: CMM 2018/09 Control							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
COM	2 designated the competent authority or authorities which shall act as the Contact Point and provide contacts to the Secretariat	x		non-compliant no contact point provided		non-compliant	

Table 9: CMM 2018/10 Monitoring							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
COM	1 implemented measures to ensure vessels maintain an electronic fishing logbook or a bound fishing logbook in accordance with requirements of CMM 2018/02	x		non-compliant logbook does not match all CMM 2018/02 requirements		non-compliant	

Table 11: CMM 2018/11 Compliance Monitoring Scheme							
CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	2017 compliance status	2018 compliance status proposed by CCP	Secretariat pre-assessment (Compliant, information missing, possible compliance issues)	Additional information provided by CCP	2018 Compliance status proposed by CC3	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed by CCP
COM	12 completion of a CCP Compliance Report in full accordance with paragraph 12 and submitted to the Secretariat no later than 60 days before the commencement of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties	x		non-compliant CCP compliance report not completed		non-compliant	

CMM 2019/01¹**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 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

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

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 [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) 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 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;

7bis: The Scientific Committee shall also periodically review all benthic taxa bycatch data to inform its consideration of the location of potential VMEs and potential impacts thereon. [

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 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;
- 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

(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

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

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

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 of species listed in Annex 1 in a single line segment⁴.
- b. the threshold that triggers the encounter protocol for the trawls shall be more than 60 kg of live corals and 300 Kg of sponges in any tow.

11bis The threshold that triggers the encounter protocol for the trawl as defined in paragraph 11b shall be reviewed by the Scientific Committee in 2020.

11. 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;⁵
- (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. In the event of an encounter, CCPs shall cooperate to the extent possible with the Secretariat and other CCPs engaged in bottom fishing to exchange such data and information as may be relevant to the Scientific Committee's consideration of the encounter area.

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].

⁵ Line segment means a 1000 hook section of line or a 1200 meters section of line, whichever is the shorter, and for pot lines a 1200 meters section

10. On receipt of a notification under paragraph [7], the Secretariat shall:

- (a) record the location of the encounter area; and
- (b) within three working days of receipt, notify all CCPs that bottom fishing is suspended in the encounter area.

11. Upon receipt of a notification from the Secretariat under paragraph 10(b), CCPs shall ensure that vessels flying their flags do not undertake bottom fishing in the notified encounter area unless and until the Meeting of the Parties determines management action under paragraph [13] that would permit the resumption of bottom fishing in the encounter area.

12. As an encounter may be considered evidence of a potential presence of a VME, the Scientific Committee shall, at each ordinary meeting, review any encounter reported pursuant to paragraph 7 and any other benthic bycatch data it considers relevant and provide advice to the Meeting of the Parties thereon.

12bis On the basis of the advice of the SC, the MoP shall decide to confirm whether the encounter area should remain closed to all or some gears.

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.

Provision of data by CCPs

12. 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
- (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.

13. (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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. All BFIA, 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 BFIAS (if the BFIA is prepared after the Meeting of the Parties has adopted the BFIAS);
- (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

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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 BFIAs 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.

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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.

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

28. 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.

29. 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

30. 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.

31. 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.

32. (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 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,

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

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

33. 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.

Interim Protected Area Designation

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

35. 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.

36. 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.

(the deleted text was moved after para 11 and slightly modified)

Cooperation with other States

37. 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

38. 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'

CMM 2019/15

Management of Demersal Stocks in the Agreement Area

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; [source: PP01 CMM 2018/01];

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 4(c), (e) and (f) of the Agreement which call on the Contracting Parties to apply the precautionary approach and the principles 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 that biodiversity in the marine environment shall be protected; [source: PP02 CMM 2018/01];

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 6(1)(d) and (e) of the Agreement which provide that the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt conservation and management measures (CMMs) necessary for ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishery resources, taking into account the need to protect marine biodiversity, based on the best scientific evidence available and adopt generally recommended international minimum standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations; [source: PP03 CMM 2018/01];

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; [source: PP04 CMM 2018/01];

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; [source: PP09 CMM 2018/01];

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.

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.

3. Fishing with demersal longlines shall be prohibited in depths shallower than 500m (move to toothfish sections). in order to protect benthic communities and juvenile *Dissostichus* spp.?

Status of Stocks

4. The Scientific Committee shall provide annual reports, based on the best available science, on the status of the demersal fisheries resources targeted in the Agreement Area, relative to available and/or relevant reference points. The reports shall include, where possible, projections of stock status over a period no less than 20 years, with 5 yr steps, relative to a range of fishing mortality. In addition to the annual report on stock status, the Scientific Committee will provide management advice relative to available and/or relevant reference points.

Orange Roughy

Fishing season

5. For the purposes of this CMM, the fishing season for *Hoplostethus atlanticus* in the Agreement area shall be defined as the period from 1st January to 31 December both dates inclusive.

Stock assessment

6.

The orange roughy stocks shall be the subject of a full stock assessment be assessed every three to five years. In the interim period available information on ORY stocks shall be presented annually, .

7. The SC shall provide a summary of future data needs to improve assessment accuracy, as well as provide a summary to MoP-7 on progress against the ORY workplan.

8.

C

Toothfish

9. The objectives of this CMM are to:

- (a) ensure collaborative and complementary arrangements are in place for *D. eleginoides* between SIOFA and CCAMLR; and
- (b) ensure that fishing mortality of *D. eleginoides* on William's Ridge in the Agreement Area¹ and Del Cano Rise do not cause biologically sustainable catch levels to be exceeded, taking into account population links.

10. The catch limit for *Dissostichus spp.* on Del Cano Rise, and research catch limit for *Dissostichus spp.* on William's Ridge as specified in paragraphs ~~xx~~ shall apply until:

- (a) the Meeting of the Parties has adopted a biologically appropriate catch limit for the populations of *D. eleginoides* occurring in the SIOFA portion of Williams Ridge and Del Cano Rise and other appropriate management measures which are comparable in effectiveness to those in force in CCAMLR taking into account the advice and recommendations of the SIOFA Scientific Committee and

¹ The portion of Williams Ridge in the Agreement Area is bounded by the area 80E to 85E and 52S to 55S.

(b) the Meeting of the Parties has adopted appropriate bycatch mitigation measures, including measures to minimize the incidental catch of seabirds which are comparable in effectiveness to those in force in CCAMLR consistent with the advice provided by the Scientific Committee.;

11. The Scientific Committee shall, by no later than the close of its 7th ordinary meeting in 2022, provide advice and recommendations on:
- (a) A biologically appropriate catch limit for the populations of *D. eleginoides* occurring in the SIOFA portion of Williams Ridge and Del Cano Rise.
 - (b) [Appropriate bycatch mitigation measures, including for benthic bycatch and seabirds; and]
 - (c) Any other matter that the Scientific Committee determines as relevant or necessary for the sustainable management of the *D. eleginoides* populations.

12bis In formulating its advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties in respect of this CMM, the SIOFA Scientific Committee shall take full account of relevant CCAMLR Scientific Committee material.

12. CCPs with an interest in this stock [shall cooperate] to ensure scientific collaboration between CCAMLR and SIOFA to ensure long-term sustainable management for *D.eleginoides* stocks which takes due account of relevant rights and responsibilities under international law, and which does not undermine the conservation status of the stock.

General Provisions: from above

Definitions

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

Management measures for toothfish in the Del Cano Area [FAO Subarea 51.7]

14. For the purpose of this fishery, the Del Cano fishing area is defined as the area set out in Figure A defined in Table 1.

Season

15. For the purpose of the longline fishery for *Dissostichus* spp in [FAO Subarea 51.7], the season is defined as the period from 1 [December to 30 November]

Effort/catch and operational limits

16. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches in this area do not exceed 55t. Without prejudice to any future sharing arrangement of the catch opportunities, this catch shall be equally shared between those CCPs which have historical catches declared to SIOFA up to 2016 in the Del Cano area. Any excess by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.

17. CCPs shall send monthly reports of their *Dissostichus* spp catches to SIOFA secretariat. As soon as 90% of the catch limit is reached, the secretariat shall notify the CCPs of the closure of the fishery.
- 18.
19. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat daily on start and end points of set longlines.
20. Longlines shall not exceed 3000 hooks per line and shall be set at minimum 3 nautical miles from each other.
21. .
- 25 (ALT) For any hauled longline, should the number of toothfish smaller than 60 cm exceed 10% of the total number of *Dissostichus* spp caught on the same line, the vessel shall
 - i. Not set any line closer than 3 nautical miles distance from the path of the current line, or
 - ii. Set any subsequent lines 100m deeper than the deepest point of the current line.

22. [.]

By-catch limits

23. Toothfish caught by vessels not targeting *Dissostichus* spp may not exceed 0.5 t per season.
24. Should a vessel fishing for species other than *Dissostichus* spp reach the *Dissostichus* spp limit of 0.5t, the Del Cano area shall be closed for this vessel for that season.

Mitigation of depredation

25. To reduce likelihood of depredation, vessels are encouraged to not haul longlines in the presence of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) and are discouraged from hauling longlines in presence of any odontocete (toothed) whales.
26. Should killer whales arrive during hauling operations, the vessel are encouraged to 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.
27. To further reduce potential for depredation, vessels are encouraged to set lines at depths exceeding 1000 m.

[VMS polling

28. 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.] TO BE MOVED TO CMM 2018/10 Monitoring (valid only for ORY, TOP and BYX)

Observers

29. 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 per line over the duration of the fishing deployment.

Tagging and release

30. *Dissostichus spp* specimens shall be tagged and released at a rate of at least 5 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.

Scientific committee

In 2020 the SC shall make recommendations in order to build an area wide habitat model, a spatial and temporal CPUE analysis, an estimate and map of local abundancies and a local population assessment. It shall further advise on any necessary improvements to data collection in order to reduce future assessment uncertainty.

The SC shall also address the issues related to depredation

At its ordinary meeting in 2020 the Scientific Committee will advise on the appropriate limits for relevant species caught as bycatch in *Dissostichus spp.* fisheries.

Review

31. The provisions above shall be reviewed annually until a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCAMLR is established. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking collaboratively 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.]

Management & research measures for toothfish in Williams Ridge [FAO Subarea 57.4]

Definitions

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

Area and purpose

33. For the purpose of this fishery, the Williams Ridge fishing area is defined as the area set out in Figure B and Table 2, and divided into a 15'x15' grid for spatial management. This grid is in place to address the risk of localised depletion and ensure representative data collection throughout the SIOFA part of the Williams Ridge area.

Season

34. 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 Dec to 30 Nov
35. [,

Data collection for fisheries research

36. Toothfish shall be tagged and released at a rate of at least 5 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.
37. Representative data and samples of length, weight, sex, maturity stage, gonad weight and otoliths shall be collected to contribute to the work of SC-05 and the CCAMLR 58.5.2 toothfish assessment, and in particular to contribute to assessing the risk to localised depletion. .

Effort/catch and operational limits

38. Total annual research catches in this area shall not exceed 140 tonnes. Any excess in a given year shall be deducted from that CCP from the following year.
- 39.bis CCPs shall send monthly reports of their *Dissostichus* spp catches to SIOFA secretariat. As soon as 90% of the catch limit is reached, the secretariat shall notify the CCPs of the closure of the fishery.
39. Only one fishing vessel at a time can fish for *Dissostichus* spp. in a given grid cell. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the secretariat as soon as they enter a grid cell to fish for *Dissostichus* spp. and as soon as they exit any fished grid cell. The Secretariat, shall inform the vessel as soon as possible if the grid cell has been fished during that season or is currently fished by another vessel.
40. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels shall not fish in a grid cell before having received

the confirmation from the Secretariat that the grid cell concerned has not been fished in that season.

41. Longlines shall not exceed [6250] hooks per line.
42. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat daily on start and end points of set longlines.
43. CCPs shall ensure that no more than two lines in total are set per grid for the duration of the fishing season.
44. After leaving a fished Williams Ridge grid cell, a fishing vessel shall not be entitled to fish again in that grid cell within the same fishing season. After leaving a fished Williams Ridge grid cell, a fishing vessel can fish in any other Williams Ridge grid cell that has not been fished in that season.
45. Once a grid cell has been fished by a fishing vessel it cannot be fished by another fishing vessel during that same season.
46. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. in Williams Ridge [FAO Subarea 57.4] to apply a break of a minimum of 30 days between consecutive fishing trips to Williams Ridge;
- 47.
48. [(ALT) For any hauled longline, should the number of toothfish smaller than 60 cm exceed 10% of the total number of *Dissostichus* spp caught on the same line, the vessel shall
 - iii. Not set any line closer than 3 nautical miles distance from the path of the current line, or
 - iv. Set any subsequent lines 100m deeper than the deepest point of the current line.

By-catch limits

49. Toothfish caught by vessels not targeting *Dissostichus* spp. may not exceed 0.5 t per season.
50. Should a vessel fishing for species other than *Dissostichus* spp reach the *Dissostichus* spp limit of 0.5 t, the Williams Ridge area shall be closed for this vessel for that season.

Mitigation of depredation

51. To reduce likelihood of depredation, vessels are encouraged not to haul longlines in the presence of sperm whales (*Physetes catodon*) and are discouraged from hauling longlines in presence of any odontocete (toothed) whales.
52. Should sperm whales arrive during hauling operations, the vessel are encouraged to cease hauling, tie off the longline with a buoy, and move on. The vessel may only retrieve the tied-off line once the sperm whales are no longer near the line.

[VMS polling

Observers

- 53. 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 per line over the duration of the fishing deployment.

Review

- 54. The level of fishing on Williams Ridge shall be reviewed annually. This CMM may be reviewed annually until a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCAMLR is established. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking collaboratively 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.

Table 2: Williams Ridge Fishing Area Coordinates

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	-52.5	80.0
2	-55	80.0
3	-55	85.0
4	-52.5	85.0

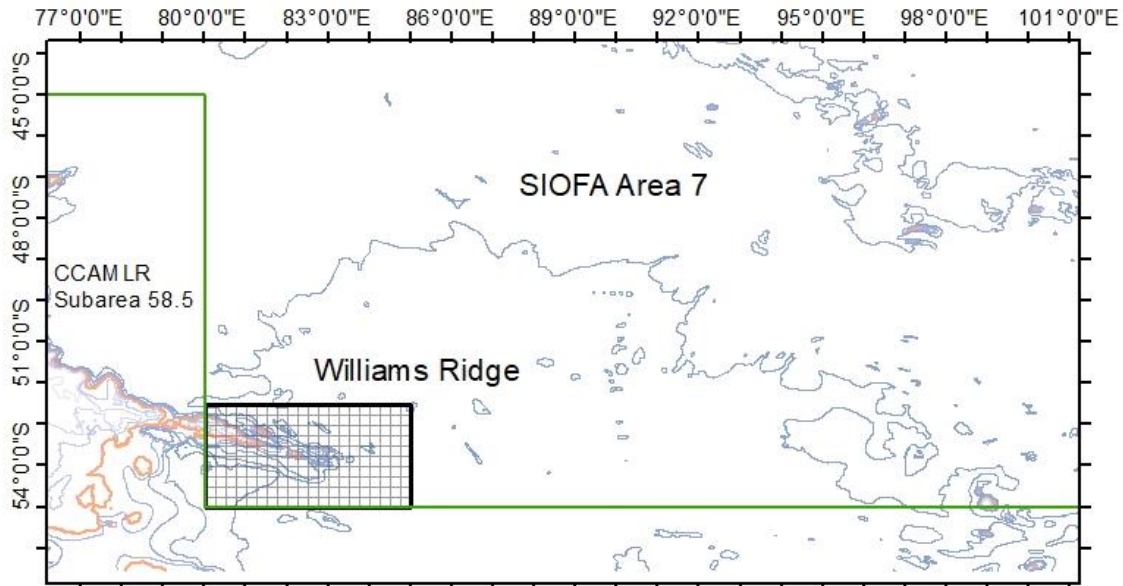


Figure B Extent of the proposed Williams Ridge longline fishing area. The area boundaries are given in Table 1. The red bathymetry line denotes depth at -2000 m.

Management plan for Alfonsino

Season

55. For the purpose of fishery for *Beryx splendens* in SIOFA area the season is defined as the period from 1 January to 31 December.

Stock assessment

1. The *Beryx splendens* stocks shall be assessed in 2020 at the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee and provide advice on assessment time frames
2. The SC shall provide clear advice and guidance on any necessary changes to data collection in order to reduce future assessment uncertainty.

CMM 2019/02¹**Conservation and Management Measure for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data relating to fishing activities in the Agreement Area (Data Standards)****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;**

RECALLING that Article 6(1) (f) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) calls on the Meeting of the Parties to develop rules for the collection and verification of scientific and statistical data, as well as for the submission, publication, dissemination and use of such data;

FURTHER RECALLING that Articles 10(1)(c) and 11(3) set out the duties relevant to the collection and provision of data and related processes for Contracting Parties and flag States respectively;

RECOGNISING the importance of developing comprehensive arrangements for data collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data to assist the Scientific Committee in performing its functions as outlined in Article 7 of the Agreement;

NOTING the relevance of Articles 10(e) and 14 of the *Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks* (UNFSA) which call on States to cooperate through regional fisheries management organisations to agree on the standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data on fisheries for the stocks, and the specifications and format for the data to be provided and to cooperate in their scientific research;

CONSIDERING the provisions set forth in the *Resolution on data collection concerning the high seas in the Southern Indian Ocean*, adopted by the Conference on the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement in the Seychelles from 13-16 July 2004;

NOTING the importance of data collection and catch reporting for the purposes of ensuring scientific stock assessment and implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management;

NOTING the recommendation by the Third meeting of the Scientific Committee to improve the collection of sharks catch information and the submission of scientific observer data; and

FURTHER NOTING that the Meeting of Parties has adopted policies and procedures for the maintenance of data confidentiality (CMM 2016/03);

ADOPTS the following conservation and management measure (CMM) in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:

Application

1. This CMM applies to all Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) and participating fishing entities (PFEs).
2. This CMM prescribes the standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange

¹ CMM 2019/02 (Data Standards) supersedes CMM 2018/02 (Data Standards)

of data related to fishing activities by vessels fishing in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) that are flying the flag of a Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE. These data standards shall assist the Meeting of the Parties to fulfil its objectives under the Agreement insofar as it relates to assessing the state of the fisheries within SIOFA's competence, including the status of target and non-target species and the impact of fishing on the marine environment.

Terminology

3. The following definitions apply to this CMM including its annexes:
 - a. 'other species of concern' means those species as may be defined by the Scientific Committee from time to time.
 - b. 'National Report' means the report defined in paragraph-9 of this CMM.

Vessel Catch and Effort Data

Collection of data

4. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall ensure that data on fishing activities, including for target, non-target and associated and dependent species such as marine mammals, marine reptiles, seabirds or 'other species of concern', are collected from vessels flying their flag that are fishing in the Agreement Area in accordance with the relevant sections of Annex A.
5. The Scientific Committee shall, by no later than the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee in 2019, provide advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on an appropriate spatial resolution for the collection and reporting of data to facilitate effective stock assessment. Until the Meeting of the Parties, based on the advice of the Scientific Committee, determines an appropriate spatial resolution for the collection and reporting of data, Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall ensure that data are collected on a haul by haul basis.

Data collection and submission

6. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall report to the Secretariat, by 31 May each year, the data collected under paragraphs 4 and 5 for the previous calendar year, in accordance with the format prescribed in the corresponding annexes.
7. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall provide to the Secretariat, by 31 May each year, annual catch summaries for all species/groups caught in the Agreement Area during the previous calendar year. The catch summaries shall include the following information:
 - a. Calendar year (eg 2015)
 - b. FAO statistical area (eg FAO87)
 - c. Species/group name (common name and scientific name)
 - d. Species/group code (FAO3-alpha code 19, EG ORY) (if available)
 - e. Annual catch total - tonnes raised to 'live' weight.
8. To assist in data collection Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall implement on-board

all fishing vessels flying their flag the FAO Identification guide to the deep-sea cartilaginous fishes of the Indian Ocean². Where available the use of Smartforms may be considered.

National report

9. Following the entry into force of this CMM, Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall provide to the Scientific Committee, at least 30 days prior to the commencement of each ordinary meeting, an annual National Report of their fishing, research and management activities in accordance with the following:
 - a. For the first report: the National Report shall include details of activities of the previous five calendar years;
 - b. For all reports thereafter: the National Report shall include details of activities of the previous calendar year; and
 - c. In either case, the National Report shall take into account the guidelines prepared by the Scientific Committee for the preparation of such reports.

Historical Data

10. To assist with the development of a bottom fishing footprint and stock assessments, Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall provide to the Secretariat, by 31 January 2018 historical catch, effort and, if available, observer data from vessels flying their flag that were fishing in the Agreement Area at any time during the period 2000 to 2015, and any previous years where available, in a format as close as is possible to the annexes to this CMM. The catch, effort and, if available, observer data provided to the Secretariat may initially be provided as unverified data, and updated with verified data any time before 31 January 2018. Any State or fishing entity that becomes a Party to the Agreement, a CNCP or PFE after the date this CMM is adopted shall provide their historical data to the Secretariat within 12 months of becoming Party to the Agreement, or becoming a CNCP or PFE.
11. Where possible, Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs are encouraged to provide relevant, reliable historical data for species caught in waters under their national jurisdiction where such information would assist in understanding the status of the stocks and the impacts of fishing on all target species, non-target and associated and dependent species and the marine environment within the Agreement Area.

Scientific Observer Data

12. All Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall implement national scientific observer programmes to collect from activities undertaken by vessels flying their flag:
 - a. Vessel information, effort and catch data for its fishing activities in the Agreement Area, including target, non-target and associated and dependent species including marine mammals, marine reptiles, seabirds or 'other species of concern';
 - b. Biological or other data and information relevant to the management of fishery resources in the Agreement Area, as specified in this CMM, or as identified from time to time by the Scientific Committee or through processes identified by the

² Ebert, D.A. and Mostarda, E. 2013. Identification guide to the deep-sea cartilaginous fishes of the Indian Ocean, FishFinder Programme, FAO, Rome. 76 p

Meeting of the Parties; and

- c. Relevant scientific information related to the implementation of the provisions of the CMMs adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

12bis. The function and tasks of the scientific observer are described in Annex D.

13. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall, through their National Report, provide to the Scientific Committee an annual observer programme implementation report which should include sections covering: observer training, programme design and coverage, type of data collected, and any problems encountered during the previous calendar year.

14. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall, for all observed trips, collect observer data in accordance with the relevant sections of Annex B. All observer data collected by Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall be reported to the Secretariat by 31 May each year for the previous calendar year. Annex B will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee at its ordinary meeting in 2020 based on observer data provided.

14 bis. By 2023, the Scientific Committee shall develop and adopt a template for the observer reports, and a template for an observer data collection form that may be used by observers in subsequent years.

14 tris. By 2023, the MoP, based on recommendations from the Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee shall adopt a SIOFA framework for scientific observation clarifying all the aspects related to the role.

Data Verification

15. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall:

- a. ensure that fishery data are verified through an appropriate system of data verification mechanisms;
- b. develop, implement and improve data verification mechanisms, which may include:
 - i. Position verification through vessel monitoring systems;
 - ii. Independent monitoring, including scientific observer programs and approved electronic observer programs,³ to verify industry data on catch, effort, catch composition (target and non-target), discards and other details of fishing operations;
 - iii. Vessel trip, landing and transshipment reports; and
 - iv. Port sampling.
- c. provide to the Scientific Committee, through their National Report, an annual data verification report which should provide information regarding their development and implementation of data verification mechanisms.

³ Approved electronic observer programs refers to those programs that meet the SIOFA agreed standard and have been reviewed by the Scientific Committee and approved by the Meeting of the Parties as being capable of meeting the data requirements in this CMM.

Format for data submission

16. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall report all data required to be reported by this measure to the Secretariat in accordance with the formats described in this CMM, including its annexes.

17. Specifications for the submission of data:

- a. times, longitudinal/latitudinal information and units of measure are to be reported in accordance with the format described in Annex C;
- b. Species are to be described using the FAO 3 letter Species Codes;⁴
- c. Fishing methods are to be described using the International Standard Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG - 29 July 1980) codes;⁵ and
- d. Types of fishing vessels are to be described using the International Standard Classification of Fishery Vessels (ISSCFV) codes.⁶

Review

18. This CMM should be reviewed periodically by the Scientific Committee and the Meeting of the Parties, taking into account new information or data requirements as may be decided.

⁴ www.fao.org/fi/statist/fisoft/asfis/asfis.asp

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/fishery/cwp/handbook/M>

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/fishery/cwp/handbook/L>

Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data Annexes

List of Annexes:

Annex A - Vessel Catch and Effort Data

Annex B - Observer Data

Annex C - Specifications for the Exchange of Data

Annex D – Function and tasks of the scientific observer

Vessel Catch and Effort Data

1. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall ensure that the following data on fishing activities are collected from all fishing vessels flying their flag in the Agreement Area:

<p>Data Set - Fishing activities General (Trip)</p> <p>Vessel flag State (ISO 3-apha) Name of vessel International radio call sign (if any) Vessel Registration number (flag State) Lloyd's / IMO /IHS Fairplay Number (if allocated) Vessel size: Gross Tonnage (Gross register tonnage may be used if GT is not available, or both) Name of person filling in the data</p>
<p>Weight Conversion Factor</p> <p>Species Processing type Conversion factor = live weight/processed weight</p>
<p>Haul Information</p> <p>Intended Target species (FAO code) Type of fishing (C)ommercial; (R)esearch; (S)urvey data Haul ID number</p>
<p>Set Start date and Time (Based on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)) Recorded at start and end of fishing For longline vessels - record at start and end of setting, in addition to start and end of haul Date format (YYYY.MON.DD) Time format (hh.mm) Decimal degrees (WGS84 are to be used to describe locations)</p>
<p>Position at start and end of fishing</p> <p>Latitude Longitude Use N and S rather than + and - Use E and W rather than + and - For longline vessels - position is recorded at the start and end of setting For Trawl fishing - for bottom trawl "start" is defined as when the groundrope is on the bottom, "end" is when the tow ends. - for midwater trawl "start" is defined as when the fishing gear is at target fishing depth, "end" is when the tow ends.</p>
<p>Bottom Depth (m)</p> <p>As recorded at the start and end of fishing</p>
<p>Fishing / gear depth (m)</p> <p>As recorded at the start and end of fishing For trapping/potting, Actual Fishing / gear depth (m) as recorded at start is required</p>
<p>Species retained</p> <p>Estimated catch retained on board by species (FAO species/group code/scientific name) in live weight (kg)</p>
<p>Species Discarded</p> <p>An estimation of the amount of living marine resources discarded by species if possible in live weight (kg)</p>

<p>Incidental bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and 'other species of concern' Yes / No For each species caught</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species name • Number alive • Number dead or injured

2. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall ensure that the following gear-specific data on fishing activities, as applicable, are collected from all fishing vessels flying their flag in the Agreement Area.

<p>Data Set - Gear</p>
<p>Trawl Mesh Size (mm) Trawl technique: Type of trawl: (S)ingle, (D)ouble or (T)riple</p>
<p>Longline Type of longline (Spanish, Trotline, Autoline) Type of bait Hook size (mm) Hook spacing (m) Hook code or make Length of line (m) Number of hooks set Number hooks per cluster (if Trotline) Number of hooks lost (attached to lost sections of line)</p>
<p>Trap/Pot Pot type Type of line: Dropline or longline Length of line (m) Pot spacing (m) Number of pots set Number of pots lost Type of bait</p>
<p>Dahn/Drop Line/ Handline Total number of hooks in the set Number of hooks lost Hook code or make Type of leader used Total number of line lifts in the set Type of bait used</p>

Observer Data

1. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall, for all observed trips, collect and provide to the Secretariat the data contained in this Annex in accordance with the format set out below.
2. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall, where appropriate, ensure that observers are briefed and provided with documented length-frequency and biological sampling protocols and the specific priorities for the trip for the sampling activities documented below.
3. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall endeavor to collect tissue, otolith and/or stomach samples in accordance with any research programs developed by the Scientific Committee.

Data Set - Observer data
<p>Trip Details</p> <p>Trip Number Cruise details (start and end dates - YYYY.MON.DD) Date report is generated (UTC) Current vessel flag State (ISO 3-apha) Name of vessel</p>
<p>Observer Details</p> <p>Observer name and ID Nationality (ISO 3-apha) Employing organisation Contact name in organisation (Address/email/fax) Boarding location (UNLOCODE, if applicable or Latitude/Longitude) Boarding Date (UTC:YYYY.MON.DD) Disembarkation location (UNLOCODE, if applicable or Latitude/Longitude) Disembarkation date (UTC:YYYY.MON.DD) Time Zone (UTC +/-)</p>
<p>Length Frequency Data</p> <p>Representative and randomly sampled length-frequency data shall be collected for the target species (FAO species code)</p> <p>Optional: Representative and randomly sampled length-frequency data shall be collected for other main by-catch species.</p> <p>Length data shall be collected and recorded at the most precise level appropriate for the species (cm or mm and whether to the nearest unit or unit below) and the type of measurement used (total length, fork length, or standard length) shall also be recorded. Where possible, total weight of length-frequency samples should be recorded, or estimated and the method of estimation recorded</p>

Where possible, Observers should determine and record sex of measured fish to generate length-frequency data stratified by sex

Biological Sampling

Species

Length (mm or cm), with record of the type of length measurement used.

Skates and rays:

- maximum disk width shall be measured

Sharks

- Appropriate length measurement to be used should be selected for each species. As a default, total length should be measured.

Weight (kg)

Sex (male, female, immature (optional), unsexed (optional))

Maturity stage (optional) and criteria/schedule used (optional)

Gonad weight (g) (optional)

Otoliths

Incidental bycatch of seabirds, mammals turtles or 'other species of concern'

The following data shall be collected for all seabirds, mammals, turtles and other species of concern caught in fishing operations:

- Species (identified taxonomically as far as possible, or accompanied by photographs if identification is difficult) and size
- Estimated species abundance around fishing vessel
- Species interactions with fishing gear
- Count of the number of each species caught per tow or set
- Fate of bycatch animal(s) (retained or released/discarded)
- If released, life status (vigorous, alive, lethargic, injured, dead) upon release
- If injured, what was the cause of injury?
- If dead, then collect information or samples for onshore identification in accordance with pre-determined sampling protocols. Where this is not possible, observers may be required to collect sub-samples of identifying parts, as specified in biological sampling protocols
 - Record the type of interaction (hook/line entanglement/warp strike/net capture/other) if other, describe
- Sex of each individual for taxa where this is feasible from external observation, e.g. pinnipeds, small cetaceans or Elasmobranchii species
- identify any circumstances or actions that may have contributed to the bycatch event? (E.g. tori line tangle, high levels of bait loss)

Tag Recoveries

The following data shall be collected for all recovered fish, seabird, mammal or reptile tags if the organism is dead, to be retained, or alive:

- Name of observer
- Name of vessel
- International radio call sign (if any)
- Vessel flag State (ISO 3-apha)
- Collect, label (with all details below) and store the actual tags for later return to the tagging agency

- Species from which tag recovered
- Tag colour and type (spaghetti, archival)
- Tag numbers
- Date and time of capture (UTC)
- Location of capture (Lat/Lon, to the nearest 1 minute)
- Animal length / size (cm or mm) with description of what measurement was taken (such as total length, fork length, etc)
- Sex (F=female, M=male, I=indeterminate, D=not examined)
- Whether the tags were found during a period of fishing that was being observed (Y/N)

Hierarchies for Observer Data collection

Fishing Operation Information

All vessel and tow / set / effort information.

Reporting of Catches

Record time, weight of catch sampled versus total catch or effort (e.g. number of hooks), and total numbers of each species caught

Identification and counts of seabirds, mammals, reptiles (e.g. turtles), sensitive benthic species and vulnerable species

Record numbers or weights of each species retained or discarded Record instances of depredation, where appropriate

Biological Sampling

Check for presence of tags

Length-frequency data for Target species (FAO species code)

Basic biological data (sex, maturity) for Target species (FAO species code)

Length-frequency data for main by-catch species

Otoliths (and stomach samples, if being collected) for Target species (FAO species code)

Basic biological data for by-catch species

Biological samples of by-catch species (if being collected)

Take photos

For trawl fishing activities ONLY

Gear details

Net ID

Net type (ISSFCV)

Headrope length (m)

Groundrope length (m)

Bobbin diameter (cm)

Otterboard to wing length (m)

Horizontal Opening (m)

Vertical Opening (m)

Codend mesh

Mesh size (cm), codend circumference (cm), Orientation Mesh type (diamond, square, etc)

Otterboard

Type, weight (kg)
Net design Net design description including make, model etc
Trawl details Trawl Number Gear Trawl type: Research or Commercial (R/C) Observed (Yes/No) Target Species (FAO species code) Date Start (YYYY.MON.DD) Date Finish (YYYY.MON.DD) Time net deployed (hh:mm) Time net retrieved (hh:mm)
Start and End Fishing For Trawl fishing - for bottom trawl "start" is defined as when the groundrope is on the bottom, "end" is when the tow ends. - for midwater trawl "start" is defined as when the fishing gear is at target fishing depth, "end" is when the tow ends. Time (hh:mm) Latitude Longitude Trawl Depth (m) Bottom Depth (m)
Other Offal discharged during shooting (Y/N) Offal discharged during hauling (Y/N) Trawl speed (knots) Horizontal opening (m) Total catch (kg)
Observed catch composition Observer ID Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate by-catch (Y/N): Record the total weight of all sub-samples for this shot (kg):
Species FAO species code Scientific name Total retained catch weight (kg) Total discarded catch weight (kg)
Bycatch mitigation measures employed: Were bird scaring (tori) lines in use? (Yes/No) Were bird bafflers in use? (Yes/No)
Trawl warp strike (to be monitored for 15 minutes immediately after the net has been deployed).(optional) Trawl number (optional)

Name of observer (optional)
 Start observation time (hh:mm) (optional)
 End observation time (hh:mm) (optional)

Number of heavy warp strikes (record for Albatross, Giant Petrels, White chinned petrels, Other petrels)

Air
 Water
 Sinker

Seabird abundance observation

Seabirds present in observation area (y/n)
 Estimated numbers of abundance (by species)

For Longline fishing activities ONLY

Longline Description

Longline Type (FFSSCV)
 Period in which the gear was used (YYYY.MON.DD)
 Start and end date (YYYY.MON.DD)
 Target Species (FAO species code)

Main Line

Material
 Diameter (mm)
 Integrated Wt (g/m)

Branch Lines

Material
 Length (M)
 Spacing (m)

Hooks

Type
 Make
 Total length (mm)
 Shank (mm)
 Gape (mm)
 Throat (mm)
 Front length (mm)
 Usual setting position Line off bottom (m)
 Hooks off bottom (m)
 Method of baiting (manual/automatic)
 Automatic baiting equipment (make and model)

Hook sinkers

Size (g)
 Position from hook (mm)
 Offal dumping position (port, starboard, stern) longline setting position (port,

starboard, stern)

Offal dumping during hauling (never, occasionally, always)
 Propeller rotation direction (clockwise/anti-clockwise)
 Detail the weight and distance between the line weights for the longline system used Single (Auto) Line (kg:m)
 Double (Spanish) Line (kg:m)
 Trotline (vertical droppers/trots attached to a mainline) (kg:m)

General Streamer Line Description

Vessel equipped with a streamer line (y/n)
 Number of streamer lines regularly set
 Streamer line position (port, starboard, stern)
 Streamer line length (m)
 Streamer length min/max (m)
 Attached height above water (m)
 Distance between streamers (m)
 Number of streamers Streamer design (single or paired)
 Aerial extent of line (m)
 Method used to assess aerial extent Streamer material Streamer line diameter (mm)
 Streamer colours
 Streamer line over bait entry position? (y/n/u)
 Distance from stern to bait entry point (m)
 Towed object (Y/N)
 Horizontal distance from bait entry point to streamer line (m)

Daily setting observations

Set Number (as referenced in catch and effort log)
 Set Type: Research or Commercial (R/C)
 Longline Type Code (FSSCV)
 Trotline cetacean exclusion device used (Y/N)
 Date of observation (YYYY/MON/DDy)

Setting information

Vessel setting speed (knots)
 Number sets unobserved since last set

Start and End setting for each haul

Date (YYYY/MON/DD)
 Time (hh:mm)
 Latitude
 Longitude
 Bottom Depth (m)
 Total length of longline set (km)
 Total number of hooks for the set

For each Observation

Start date (YYYY.MON.DD)
 Start time (hh:mm)
 End date (YYYY.MON.DD)
 End time (hh:mm)

Details of Longline Setting

Main line length (m)
 Number of hooks set
 Number of Baskets/Magazines Set
 Number of hooks per Basket/Magazine
 Percentage hooks baited
 Distance between branches (m)
 Distance of hooks off bottom (m)
 Bait species (FAO species code)
 Deck lights during setting (On, Off)
 Streamer lines used (Yes, No)
 Number of streamer lines used Offal dumping
 during setting (Yes, No)
 Bait entry position (Port, Starboard, Stern)

Daily hauling observations

Set number
 Date of observation (YYYY.MON.DD)

Hauling Information

Number of hooks observed for seabird and fish by-catch (tally
 period) Offal dumped during hauling (Yes / No)

Gear lost

Number of sections lost
 Number of hooks lost that were attached to lost sections of the
 longline Number of other hooks lost (excluding hooks attached
 to lost sections)

Observed catch composition

Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate by-catch (Y/N):
 Estimate percentage of the haul observed for by-catch (%)

Species

Species code (FAO species code)
 Total retained catch weight (kg)
 Total discarded catch weight (kg)

Species Retained

Observed number retained Observed number retained with
 tags

Species Discarded

Observed number discarded Observed number discarded dead
 Observed number discarded alive

Species Lost

Observed number lost/dropped off at surface

For Trapping/Potting Fishing Activities ONLY Gear

type

pot type (with drawing)
mesh size (mm)

Funnel position

orientation
aperture (cm)
number of chambers
Escape port present
(y/n) dimensions (cm) of escape
port

Processing Details and Conversion Factors (CF)

Haul Number
Name of observer
Species Code (FAO species code)
Processing Code Length Range Min Max
Number of individuals Live Weight (kg)
Processed Weight (kg)
Grade
Conversion Factor

Set and haul details

Set Number
Date of observation YYYY.MON.DD)
Set Type: Research or Commercial (R/C)
Target species (FAO species code)
Offal dumped during setting (Yes / No)
Offal dumped during hauling (Yes / No)

Start and End setting. Repeat for hauling

Date (YYYY.MON.DD)
Time (:mm)
Latitude Longitude bottom depth (m)

Gear Details

Length of line (m)
Type of line Pot spacing (m)
Bait type

Setting

number of pots set
number of pots observed

Hauling

number of pots hauled
number of pots observed

Observed interactions with birds or marine mammals

<p>Species Code (FAO species code)</p> <p>Setting Abundance (500m radius) Gear interaction (y/n)</p> <p>Hauling Abundance (500m radius) Gear interaction (y/n)</p> <p>Observed catch composition Name of observer Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate by-catch (Y/N): Estimate percentage of the haul observed for by-catch (%):</p> <p>Number of pots observed for by-catch: Species Code (FAO species code) total retained catch weight (kg) total discarded catch weight (kg)</p> <p>Species Retained observed number retained observed number retained with tags</p> <p>Species Discarded observed number discarded observed number discarded dead observed number discarded alive</p> <p>Species Lost observed number lost/dropped off at surface</p>
<p>For Dahn/Drop lining/Handline fishing activity ONLY</p> <p>Dahn/Dropline Description Line Type Period in which the gear was used (YYYY.MON.DD) Start and end date Target species (FAO species code)</p> <p>Main Line Material Diameter (mm) Integrated Wt (g/m)</p> <p>Hooks Type Make Total length (mm) Shank (mm) Gape (mm) Throat (mm) Front length (mm)</p>

Usual setting position
 Line off bottom (m)
 Hooks off bottom (m)
 Method of baiting (manual/automatic)
 Automatic baiting equipment (make and model)

Offal

Offal dumping position (port, starboard, stern)
 offal dumping during hauling (never, occasionally, always)
 Propeller rotation direction (clockwise/anti-clockwise)

General Streamer Line Description

Vessel equipped with a streamer line (y/n)
 Number of streamer lines regularly set
 Streamer line position (port, starboard, stern)
 Streamer line length (m)
 Streamer length min/max (m)
 Attached height above water (m)
 Distance between streamers (m)
 Number of streamers
 Streamer design (single or paired)
 Ariel extent of line (m)
 Method used to assess aerial extent
 Streamer material
 Streamer line diameter (mm)
 Streamer colours
 Streamer line over bait entry position? (y/n/u)
 Distance from stern to bait entry point (m)
 Horizontal distance from bait entry point to streamer line (m)

Details of Dahn/Dropline/Handline Setting

Main line length (m)
 Number of hooks set
 Percentage hooks baited
 Distance between branches/snoods (m)
 Distance of hooks off bottom (m)
 Bait species
 Bait size
 Bait proportion
 Deck lights during setting (On, Off)
 Streamer lines used (Yes, No)
 Number of streamer lines used Offal dumping during setting (Yes, No)
 Daylight period
 Moonlight
 Bait entry position (Port, Starboard, Stern)
 Vessel setting speed (knots)

Start and End setting. Repeat for Start and End of hauling

Date (YYYY.MON.DD)
 Time (hh:mm)
 Latitude

<p>Longitude Bottom Depth (m)</p> <p><i>Gear lost</i> Number of sections lost Number of hooks lost that were attached to lost sections of the dahn/dropline Number of other hooks lost (excluding hooks attached to lost sections)</p> <p><i>Observed catch composition</i> Observer ID Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate by-catch (Y/N): Estimate percentage of the haul observed for by-catch (%) Species (data shall be collected for each observed species) Species code (FAO species code) total retained catch weight (kg) total discarded catch weight (kg)</p> <p><i>Species Retained</i> observed number retained observed number retained with tags</p> <p><i>Species Discarded</i> observed number discarded observed number discarded dead observed number discarded alive</p> <p><i>Species Lost</i> observed number lost/dropped off at surface</p>
<p>Interactions with Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)</p> <p>General information Name of observer Name of vessel Date Trip number Set number</p> <p>VME location Start and end positions of all gear deployments and/or observations. (Latitude/longitude) Depth(s) fished (m)</p> <p>Fishing Gear Indicate fishing gears used at each location</p>

VME Taxa

- a) Species (identified taxonomically as far as possible, or accompanied by a photograph where identification is difficult).
- b) An estimate of the quantity (weight (kg) or volume (m³)) of each listed benthic species caught in the tow.
- c) An overall estimate of the total quantity (weight (kg) or volume (m³)) of all invertebrate benthic species caught in the tow.
- d) Where possible, and particularly for new or scarce benthic species which do not appear in ID guides, whole samples should be collected and suitably preserved for identification on shore.
- e) Collect representative biological samples from the entire VME catch. (Biological samples shall be collected and frozen when requested by the scientific authority in a Contracting Party). For some coral species that are under the CITES list photographs should be taken.

Specifications for the Exchange of Data

1. Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) shall be used to describe times, using the following submission format: YYYY-MON-DDThh:mm:ss where:
 - a. YYYY - represents a 4-digit year e.g. "2007"
 - b. MON - represents a 3-character month abbreviation e.g. "APR"
 - c. DD - represents a 2-digit day e.g. "05"
 - d. T - is a space separator
 - e. hh - represents hours based on the 24hr clock (length = 2 digits) e.g. "16"
 - f. mm - represents minutes (length = 2 digits) e.g. "05"
 - g. ss - represent seconds (length = 2 digits) e.g. "00"

Example

2003-JUL-17T13:10:00 = 1.10pm (1310h), 17 July 2003

2. Decimal degrees (WGS84) are to be used to describe locations.
3. The following standard shall be used for the submission of latitudinal/ longitudinal information:
 - a. Northern latitudes and eastern longitudes should be indicated by the use of [unsigned] positive decimal degree values
 - b. Southern latitudes and western longitudes should be indicated by the use of negative decimal degree values

Latitude - Degrees: Represented as positive (unsigned) or negative numbers from 0 to 89.99	E.g. If value = 83.2, this means 83.2° N E.g. if value = -83.2, this means 83.2° S
Longitude - Degrees: Represented as positive (unsigned) or negative numbers from 0 to 179.99	E.g. If value = 83.2, this means 83.2° E E.g. if value = -83.2, this means 83.2° W

4. Metric units of measure be used, specifically:
 - a. Tonnes or kilograms are to be used to describe catch weight
 - b. Metres are to be used to describe height, width, depth, beam or length
 - c. Cubic metres are to be used to describe volume
 - d. Kilowatts are to be used to describe engine power

Role and tasks of the scientific observer

1. The function of scientific observers on board vessels engaged in harvesting of marine living resources is to independently observe and report on the operation of fishing activities in the SIOFA Area.
2. In fulfilling this function, scientific observers will undertake the following tasks:
 - a) Record details of vessel operations, including inter alia, times of, searching, fishing, transit etc., and details of hauls;
 - b) Take biological samples of catches;
 - c) Record biological data of species caught;
 - d) Record by-catch information, such as species, quantity and other biological data [as specified in Annex B]
 - e) Record interactions with seabirds, marine mammals, and marine reptiles
 - f) Record information on catch including data relating to processed conversion factors;
 - g) prepare reports of their observations for their respective national authorities;
 - h) collect and report data on sightings fishing vessels, unmarked fishing gear, and recovery of fishing gear in the SIOFA Area, including vessel type identification, vessel position and activity and gear type;
 - i) collect information on fishing gear loss and waste disposal by the fishing vessels at sea.

CMM 2019/07¹**Conservation and Management Measure for Vessel Authorisation and Notification to Fish (Vessel Authorisation)****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;**

RECOGNISING that Article 6(1)(h) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (SIOFA or the Agreement) calls on the Meeting of the Parties to develop, *inter alia*, a system of verification to incorporate vessel monitoring and observation;

NOTING that Article 1(i) of the Agreement defines 'fishing vessel' as any vessel used or intended for fishing, including a mothership, any other vessel directly engaged in fishing operations, and any vessel engaged in transshipment;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the provisions of Article 11(2) of the Agreement which provides that no Contracting Party shall allow any fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag to be used for fishing in the SIOFA Area of Application (Agreement Area) unless it has been authorised to do so by the appropriate authority or authorities of that Contracting Party;

ADOPTS the following Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:

1. The Meeting of the Parties shall establish a SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels for fishing vessels authorised to fish in the Agreement Area. For the purpose of this CMM, fishing vessels that are not entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are deemed not to be authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship or land fishery resources in the Agreement Area.

2. Prior to the entry into force of this CMM, each Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party (CNCNP) and Participating Fishing Entity (PFE) shall submit electronically to the Secretariat the list of vessels flying their flag that are authorised to operate in the Agreement Area. In doing so, this list shall include the following information:

- (a) name of vessel, registration number, previous names (if known), and port of registry;
- (b) previous flag (if any), using codes;
- (c) International Radio Call Sign (if any);
- (d) IMO Number (if issued);
- (e) name and address of owner or owners;
- (f) type of vessel (using appropriate ISSCFV codes);
- (g) length and length type (e.g. LOA, LBP);
- (h) name and address of operator (manager) or operators (managers) (if any);
- (i) type of fishing method or methods (using appropriate ISSCFG codes);
- (j) gross tonnage (GT);
- (k) power of main engine or engines (kw);
- (l) Fish hold capacity (cubic metres);
- (m) Freezer type (if applicable);
- (n) Number of freezing units (if applicable);
- (o) Freezing capacity (if applicable);
- (p) Vessel communication types and numbers (e.g. INMARSAT A, B and C, VSAT numbers);
- (q) certified drawings or description of all fish holds
- (r) VMS system details (brand, model, features and identification); and

¹ CMM 2019/07 Vessel Authorisation supersedes CMM 2017/07 Vessel Authorisation

(s) Good quality, high resolution digital images of the vessel of appropriate brightness and contrast, no older than 5 years old:

- one digital image showing the starboard side of the vessel displaying its full overall length and complete structural features;
- one digital image showing the port side of the vessel displaying its full overall length and complete structural features; and
- one digital image of the stern taken directly from astern.

3. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall ensure that the data referred to in Paragraph 2 on the vessels flying their flag authorised to fish in the Agreement Area is kept up to date. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall inform the Executive Secretary of any modification regarding the vessel data, including authorisation status of current fishing vessels and any new vessels, within 15 days after such modification.

4. Any State or fishing entity that becomes a Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE after the date that this CMM enters into force shall provide the information referred to in Paragraph 2 within 30 days of becoming a Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE.

5. The Executive Secretary shall maintain the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels. A summary of the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels shall be made publicly available on the SIOFA website according to the provisions of paragraph 2 (a) (i) of the CMM on Data Confidentiality and Procedures for Access and Use of Data.

6. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall:

(a) authorise the vessels flying their flag to operate in the Agreement Area only if they are able to fulfil in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the Agreement, and all relevant SIOFA CMMs;

(b) take necessary measures to ensure that the vessels flying their flag comply with all relevant SIOFA CMMs;

(c) take necessary measures to ensure that the vessels flying their flag that are on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorisation to fish and/or to undertake fishing related activities;

(d) ensure that the vessels flying their flag on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels have no history of IUU fishing, or, if those vessels have such history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels, or that having taken into account all relevant facts, its vessels are not engaged in or associated with IUU fishing;

(e) ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of its registered vessels on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are not engaged in or associated with fishing activities conducted in the Agreement Area by vessels not registered in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels; and

(f) take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and/or operators of the vessels on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are citizens, residents or legal entities within its jurisdiction so that any enforcement or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.

7. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing and fishing related activities on fishery resources covered by the Agreement by vessels which are not registered in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels.
8. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall, as soon as practicable, notify the Secretariat of any evidence showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting vessels not registered on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are operating in the Agreement Area.

CMM 2019/10¹**Conservation and Management Measure for the Monitoring of Fisheries in the Agreement Area (Monitoring)****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;**

RECALLING Article 6(1)(h) of the Agreement calls of the Meeting of the Parties to develop rules and procedures for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities in order to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the Meeting of the Parties including, where appropriate, a system of verification incorporating vessel monitoring and observation;

MINDFUL of Article 18(3)(e) of the *Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA)* which outlines the duties of the flag State are to take measures to ensure recording and timely reporting of vessel position, catch of target and non-target species, fishing effort and other relevant fisheries data;

NOTING Article 18(3)(f) and (h) of UNFSA relating to the regulation of transshipment on the high seas;

BEARING IN MIND that transshipment at sea is a common global practice, but that unregulated and unreported transshipment of catches of fishery resources, in particular on the high seas, contributes to distorted reporting of catches of such stocks and supports illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area);

ADOPTS the following Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:**Information on fishing activities**

1. Each Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party (CNCP) and participating fishing entity (PFE) shall ensure that its vessels maintain either an electronic fishing logbook or a bound fishing logbook containing the information relevant for their compliance with the data collection and submission requirements of CMM 2018/02 with consecutively numbered pages.
2. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure:
 - (a) that vessels flying its flag submit the fishing logbook data within 30 days of the completion of a fishing trip in the Agreement Area to its competent authority;
 - (b) data referred to in sub-paragraph (a) are submitted in accordance with CMM 2018/02 and maintained in accordance with CMM 2016/03; and
 - (c) the quantities of catch recorded on vessels flying its flag correspond to the quantities of catch kept on board.
3. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall cooperate with any reasonable request from other Contracting Parties, CNCPs or PFEs for any information contained in the fishing logbooks from the preceding 12 months for the purposes of control.

¹ CMM 2019/10 (Monitoring) supersedes CMM 2018/10 (Monitoring)

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

4. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure that all fishing vessels flying its flag that are operating in the Agreement Area are fitted with an operational automatic location communicator (ALC) unit reporting back to its competent authority.
5. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall ensure that ALC units on vessels flying their flag remain operational at all times while in the Agreement Area.
6. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall develop, implement and improve systems to maintain a record of all vessel position information reported through VMS and logbooks, in relation to vessels flying their flags while these vessels are in the Agreement Area, such that this information may be used to document vessel activity in the Agreement Area, and to validate fishing position information provided by those vessels.
7. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs are encouraged to share VMS data where it is requested from another Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE in support of patrol or surveillance activities. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall not use any information received in accordance with this paragraph for other purposes.
8. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall ensure that:

VMS position reports are transmitted at least once every 2 hours from each fishing vessel flying their flag and included in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, while operating in the Agreement Area;

- (a) under normal satellite navigation operating conditions, positions derived from the data reported shall be accurate to within 100m;
- (b) VMS position reports include at least the following information:

Category	Data	Remarks
Vessel information	Static unique	For example, FAO 3 alpha or 2 alpha, country code
		followed by national vessel registration number
Activity detail	Latitude	Position latitude (decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)
	Longitude	Position longitude (decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)
Message	Date	Position date (UTC)
	Time	Position time (UTC)
	Speed	Vessel speed at time of position (knots)
	Course	Vessel course at time of position (degrees)

- (c) its vessels do not enter the Agreement Area and commence operations with a defective ALC.
9. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the ALC fitted on board a vessel:
- i. the device shall be repaired or replaced within a month. After this period, the vessel shall not be authorised to begin a new trip with a defective ALC. If the trip is lasting more than one month, the repair or the replacement shall take place as soon as practicable after the vessel enters a port. If the ALC has not been repaired or replaced within 90 days, the Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE shall order the vessel to cease fishing, stow all fishing gear and return immediately to port in order to undertake repairs. The vessel shall not be authorised to begin a new trip without a ALC having been repaired or replaced; and
 - ii. the master of the fishing vessel shall manually communicate to its Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC), at least every four hours, reports by other means of communication (such as email, facsimile, telex, telephone message or radio). Such reports must include, *inter alia*, information required in paragraph 8(c).
10. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure that the ALCs fitted on board vessels flying its flag are tamper resistant, that is, are of a type and configuration that prevent the input or output of false positions, and that they are not capable of being over-ridden, whether manually, electronically or otherwise. To this end, the ALC must:
- (a) be located within a sealed unit; and
 - (b) be protected by official seals (or mechanisms) of a type that will indicate whether the unit has been accessed or tampered with.
11. Each flag Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure that any VMS reports and messages transmitted to the Secretariat shall be in accordance with the data exchange format of CMM 2018/02 Annex C.
12. VMS reports transmitted pursuant to paragraph 11 shall not be treated as “public domain data” for the purposes of CMM 2016/03. The procedures for the safeguarding of records described in CMM 2016/03 shall similarly apply to all VMS data held by the Secretariat.
13. In order to cost-effectively and continuously monitor the movements of fishing vessels authorised by Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs to fish in the Agreement Area and to, *inter alia*, support the implementation of SIOFA CMMs, the Meeting of the Parties shall at the latest by its ordinary meeting in 2020 develop specifications and proposed rules and procedures for the establishment of a SIOFA VMS for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.

Entry- Exit reports

14. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall require their vessels or relevant authorities to notify the Secretariat, by email or other means, within 24 hours, in the format provided in Annex I, of each entry to or exit from the Agreement Area of vessels authorised to fish for species managed by SIOFA flying its flag, in accordance with CMM 2017/07.

Interim regime for at sea transshipments and transfers

15. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure that vessels flying its flag only undertake transshipments at sea of fishery resources, with other vessels included on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels.

16. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure, for each vessel flying its flag undertaking an at sea transshipment operation, that:

- (a) the vessel notifies its competent authority at least 7 days in advance of a 14-day period during which the at sea transshipment is scheduled to occur.
- (b) the vessel notifies its competent authority 24 hours in advance of the estimated time during which the at sea transshipment will occur.
- (c) the notifications referred to in (a) and (b) shall include the relevant information available regarding the at sea transshipment in accordance with Transshipment Notification Annex II.
- (d) its competent authority transmits the notifications referred to in (a) and (b) to the Secretariat without delay.
- (e) an impartial and qualified observer that it has authorised is either on board the receiving vessel or the unloading vessel, who shall to the extent possible monitor the transshipment and to the extent possible completes the logsheet as set out in Transshipment Logsheets Annex III relating to quantities of the species (FAO species/group code/scientific name) of any fishery resources being transshipped.
- (f) an observer referred to sub-paragraph (e) provides a copy of the Transshipment Logsheets to the competent authority of the observed vessel.
- (g) its competent authority submits the observer data on the Transshipment Logsheets referred to in sub-paragraph (f) to the Secretariat, no later than 15 days from debarkation of the observer.
- (h) the vessel notifies all of the operational details to its competent authority, as specified in a Transshipment Declaration Annex IV, within 24 hours following the transshipment.

17. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure, for each vessel flying its flag undertaking an at sea transfer operation of fuel, crew, gear or any other supplies, either as an unloading or receiving vessel, where one or both vessels has been involved or intends to undertake fishing for fishery resources in the Agreement Area during that trip, other than in the case of emergencies, that:

- (a) the vessel notifies its competent authority at least 24 hours in advance of the planned transfer.
- (b) the notifications shall include the relevant information available regarding the transfer in accordance with Transfer Notification Annex V.
- (c) the competent authority shall transmit the notification to the Secretariat without delay.
- (d) the vessel notifies all of the operational details to its competent authority, as specified in Transfer Declaration Annex VI, within 24 hours following the transfer.

18. The Secretariat shall make all information provided under paragraphs 16 and 17 available on the secure section of the SIOFA website as soon as possible.

19. Each Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE with a vessel flying its flag involved in a transshipment or transfer at sea shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received in accordance with paragraphs 16 and 17.

Monitoring of transshipments in ports

20. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure that a vessel flying its flag that is carrying fishery resources shall only transship in a port if it has prior authorisation from its competent authority and the port State.

21. For each transshipment of fishery resources in port, the competent authority of the Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE of the unloading vessel shall notify, at least 24 hours in advance, the following information to the competent authority of the port State and, if known, the competent authority of the receiving vessel:

- (a) the date, time and port of transshipment;
- (b) the name and flag of the unloading transshipping vessel;
- (c) if known, the name and flag of the receiving vessel; and
- (d) the weight of fishery resources (Kg) by species (FAO species/group code/scientific name) to be transshipped.

22. Where applicable, the competent authority of a Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE of a receiving vessel shall inform the competent authority of the port State of the quantities of fishery resources on board the vessel 24 hours before the transshipment and again 24 hours after the transshipment.

23. The Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE of the unloading vessel shall require that the vessel submits a Transshipment Declaration in accordance with the format set out in Annex IV to its competent authority, and that of the port State within 24 hours of the transshipment, and also provides a copy to the receiving vessel.

24. Where applicable, the competent authority of the Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE of a receiving vessel shall, 48 hours before a landing of the transshipped fishery resources, submit a copy of the received Transshipment Declaration to the competent authority of the port State where the landing takes place.

25. Each Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE with a vessel flying its flag involved in the transshipment in port shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received in accordance with paragraphs 21 to 24.

Reporting of transshipments and at sea transfers

26. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall provide annually the following information, as applicable, to the Secretariat for consideration by the Compliance Committee in relation to each transshipment and at sea transfer by vessels flying its flag that takes place in accordance with paragraphs 15 to 25:

- (a) date, time and location of transshipment or transfer in accordance with the specifications in CMM 2018/02 (Data Standards);
- (b) names of vessels, flag States and registration number/call sign of the transshipping vessels or transferring vessels;
- (c) tonnage of any fishery resources, including species/group name (FAO species/group code/scientific name) transshipped;
- (d) type and description of transfers; and

(e) any other relevant information.

27. Until such a time as a compliance monitoring scheme is adopted, the information of paragraph 26 shall be submitted to the Secretariat at least one month before each ordinary Meeting of the Parties, in relation to activities in the past 12 months.

ANNEX I
REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSEL ENTRY AND EXIT NOTIFICATIONS

Information required	
Vessel name	
Entry or exit	
IMO number, if applicable	
Radio call sign	
Vessel flag State	
Latitude	
Longitude	
Date	Date of entry or exit
Time	Time of entry or exit in UTC
Activity in the Agreement Area (intended activity on entry OR activity carried out prior to exit)	Fishing (species), transiting or transshipping
Heading (optional)	Vessel heading when entering OR exiting the area (from 0° to 359°)

ANNEX II**SIOFA TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA NOTIFICATION**

The following information shall be provided to the competent authority/ies of the unloading and receiving vessels 7 days in advance of a 14 day window, and again 24 hours in advance of a transshipment at sea.

I. DETAILS OF THE NOTIFYING VESSEL	
Notifying vessel is UNLOADING / RECEIVING vessel (strike out as appropriate)	
I. DETAILS OF THE UNLOADING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	
Radio call sign	
Vessel flag State	
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
II. DETAILS OF THE RECEIVING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	
Radio call sign	
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
DETAILS OF TRANSSHIPMENT	
Estimated date of transshipment (UTC)	
Estimated time of transshipment (UTC)	
Estimated location of transshipment (latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)	
Species to be transshipped (FAO species/group code/scientific name)	
Quantities to be (Kg) transshipped	
Number of units (boxes/packages) to be transshipped	
Weight of a unit (Kg)	

ANNEX III
SIOFA TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA LOGSHEET

The following information shall be provided by the observer to the competent authority of the vessel

I. DETAILS OF THE OBSERVER	
Observer onboard the UNLOADING / RECEIVING vessel (strike out as appropriate)	
Observer name and date of birth	
Observer nationality	
I. DETAILS OF THE UNLOADING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	
Radio call sign	
Vessel flag State	
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
II. DETAILS OF THE RECEIVING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	
Radio call sign	
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
DETAILS OF TRANSSHIPMENT	
Date of transshipment (UTC)	
Time of transshipment (UTC)	
Location of transshipment (latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)	
Species transshipped (FAO species/group code/scientific name)	
Quantities (Kg) transshipped	
Number of units (boxes/packages) transshipped	
Weight of a unit (Kg)	

ANNEX IV

SIOFA TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA/ IN PORT DECLARATION

In port Y/N__ (strike out as appropriate) Name of port _____ Country of port _____										
At Sea Y/N__ (strike out as appropriate) Latitude/Longitude _____										
Declaring vessel is UNLOADING or RECEIVING (only applicable for at-sea transshipments) Vessel (strike out as appropriate)										
Name of declaring vessel:					Name of other vessel:					
Radio Call sign of declaring vessel:					Radio Call sign of other vessel:					
Radio Call sign of declaring vessel:					Radio Call sign of other vessel:					
External identification of declaring vessel:					External identification of other vessel:					
Flag State of declaring vessel::					Flag State of other vessel:					
Start of transshipment operation day/month/year __ __ __ from (time) _____										
End of transshipment operation day/month/year __ __ __ to (time) _____										
Declaring master's name & date of birth:					Signature:					
TRANSSHIPPED CATCH										
Species (FAO species/group code/scientific name)	Presentation 1: _____			Presentation 2: _____			Presentation 3: _____			TOTAL Weight (Kg)
	No units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	No. units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	No. units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	

TOTAL										

ANNEX V
SIOFA TRANSFER AT SEA NOTIFICATION

The following Information shall be provided to the competent authority of the declaring vessel 24 hours in advance of a transfer at sea.

I. DETAILS OF THE DECLARING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	
Radio call sign	
Vessel flag State	
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
II. DETAILS OF THE OTHER VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	
Radio call sign	
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
DETAILS OF TRANSFER	
Estimated date of transfer (UTC)	
Estimated time of transfer (UTC)	
Estimated location of transfer (latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)	
Type and quantity received (fuel (liters), crew (number), gear (number), supplies (kg/tonnes/units) etc)	
Type and quantity unloaded (fuel (liters), crew (number), gear, supplies etc)	

ANNEX VI
SIOFA TRANSFER AT SEA DECLARATION

The following Information shall be provided to the competent authority of the declaring vessel within 24 hours following a transfer at sea.

I. DETAILS OF THE DECLARING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	
Radio call sign	
Vessel flag State	
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
II. DETAILS OF THE OTHER VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	
Radio call sign	
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
DETAILS OF TRANSFER	
Date of transfer (UTC)	
Time of transfer (UTC)	
Location of transfer (latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)	
Type and quantity received (fuel (liters), crew (number), gear (number), supplies (kg/tonnes/units) etc)	
Type and quantity unloaded (fuel (liters), crew (number), gear, supplies etc)	

CMM 2019/14**Conservation and Management Measure for High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures for the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures)****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;**

RECOGNISING that effective management of fishing vessels in the SIOFA Area of Application (Agreement Area) relies upon a number of monitoring, control and surveillance activities to be undertaken by Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties, participating fishing entities and cooperating non-participating fishing entities (CCPs);

FURTHER RECOGNISING that the boarding and inspection of fishing vessels requires procedures to be formalised so that all boarding and inspection activities are carried out in a safe, consistent and transparent manner;

RECALLING Articles 21 and 22 of the 1995 Agreement which give direction to Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and arrangements (RFMOs) to establish procedures for boarding and inspection in the high seas areas covered by RFMOs;

RECALLING ALSO the obligations in Article 6(1)(h) of the Agreement for the Meeting of the Parties to develop rules and procedures for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities in order to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures (CMMs) including where appropriate rules concerning the boarding and inspection of vessels operating in the Agreement Area;

MINDFUL that Article 6(1)(i) requires the Meeting of the Parties to develop and monitor measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

RECALLING the commitments to be given by Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) to abide by CMMs in Rule 17(4)(b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of the Parties;

CERTAIN that a specific SIOFA measure relating to at sea inspection of vessels in the Agreement Area will greatly assist in furthering the objective of the Agreement;

DESIRING to ensure the optimum use of the inspection vessels and inspectors including by ensuring that boarding and inspection operations are fully integrated with the other monitoring and compliance tools available pursuant to the Agreement and CMMs, by ensuring a non-discriminatory distribution of boarding and inspections of vessels present in the Agreement Area without compromising the opportunity to investigate possible serious infringements, and by ensuring compliance by vessels flying the same flag as the inspecting authorities.

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

1. The following procedures are established by the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with

Article 6(1)(h) of its Agreement, to govern high seas boarding and inspection of fishing vessels in the Agreement Area.

Definitions

2. For the purposes of interpreting and implementing these procedures, the following definitions shall apply:
 - a. 'Authorities of the Inspection Vessel' means the authorities of the Contracting Party under whose flag the inspection vessel is operating;
 - b. 'Authorities of the Fishing Vessel' means the authorities of the CCP under whose flag the fishing vessel is operating;
 - c. 'Authorised Inspection Vessel' means any vessel included in the SIOFA register of Authorised Inspection Vessels and Inspection Authorities established under paragraph 10 and authorised to engage in boarding and inspection activities pursuant to these procedures;
 - d. 'Authorised Inspector' means an inspector designated by the authorities of a Contracting Party responsible for boarding and inspection and assigned to conduct boarding and inspection activities pursuant to this CCM; and

Purpose

3. Boarding and inspection conducted pursuant to this CMM shall be for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Agreement and the CMMs adopted by the Meeting of the Parties and in force.

Area of application

4. This measure shall apply throughout the Agreement Area.

General provisions

5. Each Contracting Party may, subject to these procedures, carry out boarding and inspection in the Agreement Area of fishing vessels flying the flag of a CP that is engaged in or suspected to have engaged in fishing as defined in Article 1(g) of the Agreement for fishery resources.

5bis. Each CCP shall require the masters of fishing vessels flying their flag to accept and facilitate boarding and inspection carried out pursuant to this measure.

6. This measure shall also apply in its entirety as between a Contracting Party and a participating fishing entity, subject to and 90 days after a notification to that effect is transmitted to the Meeting of the Parties from the Contracting Party concerned.

7. Each CCP shall provide this measure or a translation of it to vessels flying its flag and ensure that vessels flying its flag accept boarding and inspection by Authorised Inspectors in accordance with these procedures.

8. Contracting Parties shall ensure that Authorised Inspectors comply with this measure in the conduct of any boarding and inspection activities undertaken under these procedures.

Notification requirements

8bis. Each CCP shall, by 1 September 2019 (or, for CCPs that acquire their status after that date, within 60 days of acquiring their status), notify the Executive Secretary of two contact points (including name, telephone, fax number and e-mail address) for the purposes of receiving and sending notifications and reports to and from its Authorities of the Fishing Vessel pursuant to this CMM. Each Contracting Party intending to carry out boarding and inspection pursuant to this measure shall provide the same information for the purposes of receiving and sending notifications and reports to its Authorities of the Inspection Vessel pursuant to this CMM. The Executive Secretary shall include this information on the SIOFA website so that it is available to CCPs. Each CCP shall notify the Secretariat promptly of any changes to their contact points.

Priorities of Boarding

8ter The inspecting Contracting Party should give priority to inspecting a vessel flying the flag of a CCP that is engaged in or suspected to have engaged in fishing as defined in Article 1(g) of the Agreement for fishery resources:

- a. that is not included on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels;
- b. where there are reasonable grounds to suspect the vessel is, or has been, engaged in IUU fishing activities (noting paragraph 5 of CMM 2018/06) or in any activity in contravention of the Agreement and CMMs;
- c. included in the list of vessels that have engaged in IUU fishing activities adopted by a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organisation;
- d. pursuant to a request by a CCP or a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organisation, supported by evidence of possible IUU fishing activities by the vessel in question;.
- f. that does not have an observer on board; or
- g. that has a known history of violating conservation and management measures adopted by a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organisation or national laws and regulations.

Participation

9. Each Contracting Party that intends to carry out boarding and inspection activities under this measure shall notify the Executive Secretary of this intention, and shall provide the following:

- a. with respect to each Authorised Inspection Vessel under these procedures:
 - (i) details of the vessel (name, description, photograph, registration number, port of

registry (and, if different from the port of registry, port marked on the vessel hull), international radio call sign), except where not applicable for military vessels;

(ii) notification that the inspection vessel is clearly marked and identifiable as being on government service and by clearly flying a SIOFA inspection flag once established by the Meeting of the Parties;

b. with respect to Authorised Inspectors it designates pursuant to these procedures:

(i) the name(s) of the authorities responsible for boarding and inspection;

(ii) an example of the credentials issued to its Authorised Inspectors;

(iii) notification that such Authorised Inspectors are fully familiar with the species and fishing activities to be inspected and the relevant provisions of the Agreement and CMMs in force;

(iv) notification that the Authorised Inspectors have received and completed training to safely carry out boarding and inspection activities at sea. Such training should include instruction on overcoming communication barriers and on de-escalation techniques; and

(v) notification that any Authorised Inspectors carrying arms have received and completed appropriate levels of training on the use of those arms.

9bis. Contracting Parties shall promptly notify the Executive Secretary of any changes to the information provided under paragraph 9.

10. The Executive Secretary shall forward any notification provided in paragraph 9 to CCPs and establish and maintain a register of all Authorised Inspection Vessels and Inspection Authorities on the SIOFA website. The Executive Secretary shall circulate to CCPs any changes notified under paragraph 9bis without delay. Each CCP shall take necessary measures to ensure that the information on the register is circulated to each of its fishing vessels operating in the Agreement Area. Only vessels and inspectors from authorities listed on this SIOFA register are authorised under this measure to board and inspect fishing vessels within the Agreement Area with the exception that a CP may use vessels and inspectors from authorities not listed on the SIOFA register when boarding and inspecting a fishing vessel flying its flag.

11. .

12. Where military vessels are used for conducting boarding and inspection under this measure, the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel shall ensure that the boarding and inspection is safely carried out by inspectors fully trained in fisheries enforcement procedures and duly authorised for this purpose under national laws, and that boardings from such military vessels by Authorised Inspectors conform to the procedures contained within this measure.

13.

Cooperative activities

14. Contracting Parties are encouraged to identify opportunities to place Authorised Inspectors on the Authorised Inspection Vessels of another Contracting Party. To this end, where appropriate, Contracting Parties should seek to conclude bilateral or multilateral arrangements, to develop joint training and information sharing mechanisms and otherwise facilitate communication and coordination between them for the purpose of implementing this measure.

14bis Contracting Parties deploying Authorised Inspection Vessels in the Agreement Area are encouraged to enter into arrangements as outlined in paragraph 14 and to embark Authorised Inspectors from another Contracting Party if available. Such foreign Authorised Inspectors may participate in all inspections conducted by the Authorised Inspection Vessel under this measure as arranged between the relevant Contracting Parties prior to deployment.

14ter Where a bilateral or multilateral arrangement referred to in paragraph 14 has been concluded, it shall be notified to the Executive Secretary and referred to in the SIOFA register of paragraph 10. The Executive Secretary shall develop a template with the minimum information to be included on such a notification.

Procedures

15. The Secretariat shall develop and the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt a SIOFA inspection flag in the intersessional period following the 6th Meeting of the Parties. Once the Meeting of the Parties has decided on the SIOFA inspection flag for use in accordance with this CMM, this flag shall be flown by Authorised Inspection Vessels, in clearly visible fashion, when carrying out activities under this CMM.

16. Authorised Inspectors shall carry an official and valid identity card identifying the inspector as authorised to carry out boarding and inspection in accordance with these procedures.

17. An Authorised Inspection Vessel that intends to board and inspect a fishing vessel in the Agreement Area that is engaged in or suspected to have engaged in fishing as defined in Article 1(g) of the Agreement shall, prior to initiating the boarding and inspection:

- a. initiate notice to the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel, where known;
- b. make best efforts to establish contact with the fishing vessel by radio, by the appropriate International Code of Signals or by other accepted means of alerting the vessel;
- c. provide the following information to identify itself as an Authorised Inspection Vessel - name, registration number, international radio call sign, Authority of the Inspection Vessel, and contact frequency; and
- d. communicate to the master of the vessel its intention to board and inspect the vessel pursuant to this measure.

18. In carrying out boarding and inspection pursuant to this measure, Authorised Inspectors shall make their best efforts to communicate with the master of the fishing vessel(s) in a manner that

the master can understand. In order to facilitate communications between the Authorised Inspectors and the master of the vessel wherever possible, the Meeting of the Parties shall develop a standardised questionnaire during the intersessional period following the 6th Meeting of the Parties, which once adopted shall be translated into multiple languages and circulated to all CCPs and published on the SIOFA website. The 4th Compliance Committee shall review the standardised questionnaire and provide any recommendations to the 7th Meeting of the Parties. Contracting Parties are encouraged to take communication needs into account when planning operations under this measure.

19. Authorised Inspectors shall have the authority to inspect, take evidence and samples, and record information on the fishing vessel, its license, gear, equipment, catch and production records, facilities, fishery resources and any other documents which may be relevant to verifying compliance with the CMMs in force and the Agreement.

20. Contracting Parties shall seek to ensure that a maximum of 4 (four) Authorised Inspectors are assigned as part of a boarding team from an Authorised Inspection Vessel unless the commanding officer of the Authorised Inspection Vessel decides additional Authorised Inspectors are required due to the anticipated complexity of the inspection. In all instances, the boarding team shall only contain the number of Authorised Inspectors necessary to conduct an effective inspection safely and securely.

21. Boarding and inspection under this measure shall be conducted in a manner:

- a. that avoids risks to the safety of fishing vessels and crew, including by ensuring that the Authorised Inspection Vessel maintains a safe distance from the fishing vessel during the inspection;
- b. that does not unduly interfere with the lawful operation of the fishing vessel;
- c. that avoids actions that will damage fishing gears or adversely affect the quality of the catch; and
- d. that does not harass the officers, crew, or observers of the fishing vessel.

22. In the conduct of a boarding and inspection, each Authorised Inspector shall:

- a. present their identity card, referred as in para 17, to the master of the vessel;
- b. not interfere with the master's ability to communicate with the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel;
- c. collect and clearly document any evidence they believe indicates a violation of CMMs or the Agreement;
- d. provide to the master prior to leaving the vessel a copy of an interim report¹ on the boarding and inspection including any objection or statement² which the master wishes to

¹ An interim report can be an electronic report.

² The objection or statement of the fishing vessel master may be in a language other than English.

include in the interim report; and

e. complete the inspection within four hours of boarding unless evidence of a serious violation is found, or where a longer time period is required to obtain related documentation issued by the master. However, in special circumstances related to the size of the fishing vessel, and the quantities of fish retained onboard, the duration of the inspection may exceed the limit stipulated above. In such a situation the boarding team shall in no case stay on board the fishing vessel longer than the time required to complete the inspection.

23. During the conduct of a boarding and inspection, each CCP shall require that the master and crew of any fishing vessel flying its flag shall:

- a. avoid risks to the safety of Authorised Inspection Vessels and Authorised Inspectors; accept and facilitate prompt and safe boarding by the Authorised Inspectors when directed or when intention to board and inspect has been communicated;
- b. cooperate with and assist in the safe inspection of the vessel pursuant to these procedures;
- c. not assault, resist, intimidate, interfere with, or obstruct or delay the Authorised Inspectors in the performance of their duties;
- d. allow the Authorised Inspectors to promptly communicate with the crew of the Authorised Inspection Vessel, the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel, any observers on the fishing vessel, as well as with the crew and Authorities of the Fishing Vessel when directed;
- e. take such action as may be necessary to preserve the integrity of any seal affixed by the inspectors and of any evidence remaining on board, until otherwise directed by the flag CCP;
- f. to secure the continuity of evidence, where seals have been affixed and/or evidence has been secured, sign³ the appropriate section of the inspection report acknowledging the placement of seals;
- g. cease fishing when requested, and not resume fishing until:
 - h. the Authorised Inspectors have completed the inspection and secured any evidence, and
 - ii. the master has signed the appropriate section of the inspection report as referred to in Annex 1);
- i. provide the Authorised Inspectors onboard with reasonable facilities; and
- i. facilitate safe and prompt disembarkation by the Authorised Inspectors when directed.

³ In this measure a signature includes an electronic signature.

24. If the master or crew of a fishing vessel refuses to allow an Authorised Inspector to carry out a boarding and inspection in accordance with this measure, this person and the Master or officer on watch shall offer an explanation of the reason for refusing. Contracting Parties shall ensure that Authorities of the Inspection Vessel immediately notify the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel, as well as the Executive Secretary, of the refusal and the explanation offered.

25. Except where generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices relating to safety at sea make it necessary to delay the boarding and inspection, CCPs shall require the master of a fishing vessel flying its flag to accept the boarding and inspection. If the master does not comply with such direction, the relevant CCP shall suspend the vessel's authorisation to fish and order the vessel to return immediately to port. The CCP shall immediately notify the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel and the Executive Secretary of the action it has taken in these circumstances.

Restrictions on the Use of force

26. The use of force shall be avoided except when and to the degree necessary to ensure the safety of the Authorised Inspectors and where the Authorised Inspectors are obstructed in the execution of their duties. The degree of force used shall not exceed that reasonably required in the circumstances.

27. Contracting Parties shall ensure that any incident involving the use of force in relation to boarding and inspection under this measure shall be immediately reported to the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel, the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel, as well as to the Executive Secretary for circulation to all CCPs.

Restrictions on the carriage and use of arms

28bis The use of any arms carried by members of the boarding team is subject to the restrictions on the use of force set out in paragraph 27. Any arms carried by members of the boarding team shall be carried in a non-aggressive posture throughout the boarding and inspection unless otherwise required for the purpose of ensuring safety and security.

Inspection reports

28. Authorised Inspectors shall be required to prepare a full report on each boarding and inspection they carry out under this measure, including any supporting information, using the data fields in the Boarding and Inspection Reporting Form at Annex 1. The Authorities of the Inspection Vessel from which the boarding and inspection was carried out shall transmit an electronic copy of the boarding and inspection report to the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel of the inspected vessel, as well as the Executive Secretary, within 3 (three) working days of the completion of the boarding and inspection. Where it is not technically possible for the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel to provide this report to the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel within this timeframe, the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel shall inform the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel and shall specify the time period within which the report will be provided.

29. The report shall include the name(s) and authority of the Authorised Inspector(s) and clearly

identify any observed activity or condition that the Authorised Inspectors believe to be a violation of the Agreement or CMMs in force and indicate specific factual evidence relating to each alleged violation.

Serious violations

30. Where Authorised Inspectors observe an activity or condition of a fishing vessel that may constitute a serious violation within the meaning of paragraph 37 (alleged serious violation), Contracting Parties shall ensure that the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel immediately notify the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel, directly and through the Executive Secretary.

31. Upon receipt of a notification of an alleged serious violation in accordance with paragraph 31, CCPs shall ensure that the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel provide without delay and in any case no later than within 3 (three) full working days⁴ an initial response to the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel and Executive Secretary for circulation to all CCPs:

a. notifying that the Authorities of the Fishing Vessels will investigate the alleged serious violation; or

b. authorising the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel to undertake the investigation of the alleged serious violation.

32. In the case of paragraph 32(a) above, Contracting Parties shall ensure that the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel provide, as soon as practicable, the specific evidence collected by the Authorised Inspectors to the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel.

33. The Authorities of the Fishing Vessel shall provide a report of the investigation to the Executive Secretary and Authorities of the Inspection Vessel within 2 (two) months of the notification in paragraph 31, and if the evidence warrants, take enforcement action against the fishing vessel in question and notify the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel, as well as the Executive Secretary of any such enforcement action within 6 (six) months of the date of notification at paragraph 31. The Executive Secretary shall circulate without delay any report of an investigation by the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel and any notification of enforcement action against the fishing vessel to all CCPs.

34. In the case of paragraph 32(b) above, if the Authorities of the Inspection Vessel decide to undertake an investigation, Contracting Parties shall ensure that the specific evidence collected by the Authorised Inspectors, along with the results of any investigation, is provided to the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel and the Executive Secretary immediately upon completion of the investigation and in any case no later than 6 (six) months after the date of the inspection. The Executive Secretary shall circulate without delay the results of any investigation to all CCPs.

35. Notwithstanding paragraphs 32-35, any Contracting Party may request that the relevant authorities of a CCP investigate an alleged serious violation within the meaning of paragraph 37. Consistent with obligations in Articles 10(4) and 11(3) of the Agreement, the Contracting Party

⁴ Three full working days is determined based on the time zone in which the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel receive the notification.

making such a request shall provide the relevant authorities of the nationals or fishing vessel concerned with all relevant information in relation to the alleged serious violation. When such a request is made, CCPs shall provide a reply, including details of any action taken or proposed to be taken in relation to the alleged serious violation, to all Contracting Parties as soon as practicable and in any case within two (2) months of such a request. When the investigation is completed, the relevant CCP shall also provide a report on the outcome of the investigation to the Executive Secretary for circulation to all CCPs for consideration at the next Meeting of the Parties.

36. For the purposes of this measure, a serious violation includes the following violations of the provisions of the Agreement or CMMs:

- a. fishing without a valid license, permit or authorisation issued by the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel, in accordance with Article 11(2) of the Agreement, or failure to produce a valid license, permit or authorisation when requested by an Authorised Inspector;
- b. failure to maintain records of effort, catch and catch-related data in accordance with SIOFA's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such effort, catch and/or catch-related data;
- c. fishing in a closed area, if established by the Meeting of the Parties;
- d. fishing during a closed season, if established by the Meeting of the Parties;
- e. intentionally taking or retaining a species in contravention of any applicable CMM;
- f. significant violation of effort and/or catch limits or quotas in force
- g. using prohibited fishing gear;
- h. falsifying, intentionally concealing or intentionally removing the markings, identity and/or registration of a fishing vessel;
- i. concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to an investigation being carried out under this measure, including the intentional breaking of seals or intentionally gaining access to sealed areas;
- j. failing to carry, or intentionally tampering with or disabling, the satellite monitoring system (VMS);
- k. presentation of falsified documents or intentionally providing false information to an Authorised Inspector that would prevent a serious infringement from being detected;
- l. multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of CMMs;
- m. refusal to accept or facilitate a safe and prompt boarding and inspection when directed by an Authorised Inspector, other than as provided in accordance with paragraph 26;
- n. assaulting, resisting, intimidating, sexually harassing, interfering with, or unduly obstructing or delaying an Authorised Inspector;

- o. breaching observer safety requirements after such requirements have been formally adopted by the Meeting of the Parties; and
- p. such other violations as may be determined by the Meeting of the Parties, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of this measure, or specified as a serious violation in any measure adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

Enforcement

37. Any evidence obtained as a result of a boarding and inspection under this measure with respect to a violation of the Agreement or CMMs by a fishing vessel shall be referred to the Authorities of the Fishing Vessel for action consistent with the provisions of Article 11 of the Agreement.

38. For the purposes of this measure, each CCP shall ensure that it can effectively respond to any interference by a fishing vessel flying its flag, or its master or crew, with an Authorised Inspector, or an Authorised Inspection Vessel.

Annual reports

39. Contracting Parties that authorise inspection vessels to operate under this measure shall report annually to the Meeting of the Parties through its implementation report required under Article 10(2) or under CMM 2018/11 (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) on the boarding and inspections carried out by its Authorised Inspection Vessels, as well as upon possible violations observed.

40. Consistent with the obligation in Article 10(2), CCPs shall include in their implementation reports actions that they have taken in response to boarding and inspections that resulted in observation of alleged violations in relation to fishing vessels flying their flag or their nationals, including any proceedings instituted and sanctions applied.

Provisions relating to non-CCPs

41. Authorised Inspection Vessels, while carrying out activities in accordance with this measure, shall aim to identify unauthorised or unidentified vessels of non-CCPs that are fishing in the Agreement Area. Contracting Parties shall report any such vessels to the Executive Secretary for notification to the Meeting of the Parties.

42. Contracting Parties shall ensure that an Authorised Inspection Vessel attempts to inform any fishing vessel identified pursuant to paragraph 42 that it has been seen or identified as potentially engaging in fishing that undermines the effectiveness of the Agreement or CMMs. Contracting Parties shall ensure that this information is sent to the Executive Secretary for distribution to the Meeting of the Parties, as well as to the authorities of the relevant non-CCP.

43. The Authorised Inspectors may request permission from the fishing vessel to board a vessel identified pursuant to paragraph 42. If the vessel master or the authorities consent to a boarding, the findings of any subsequent inspection shall be transmitted to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall distribute this information to the Meeting of the Parties, as well as to the authorities of the relevant non-CCP.

Claims for damage

44. To the extent permissible under international law, any claim submitted for damage, injury, death or loss resulting from an operation carried out under this measure may be considered by the Contracting Party whose official(s) are asserted by the claimant to be responsible for the acts or omissions out of which the claim arises, in accordance with the domestic laws of that Contracting Party.

Meeting of the Parties coordination, oversight and review

45. Contracting Parties shall seek to establish regular contact for the purpose of sharing information on areas in which they are patrolling, on sightings and on boarding and inspections they have carried out, as well as other operational activities and/or information relevant to carrying out their responsibilities under these procedures.

46. The Executive Secretary shall by 2021 develop an electronic capability to catalogue and share with Authorised Inspectors a list of prior high seas boarding and inspection activities. This list shall include information on the date of the inspection, fishing vessel, inspection vessel, gear type, species, the CMM related to any potential violations found during the boarding, and the penalty or sanction imposed as the result of any investigation, where applicable.

47. The Meeting of the Parties shall keep under continuous review the implementation and operation of this measure, including review of implementation reports relating to this measure provided by CCPs and the implementation of paragraphs 27-28bis.

Settlement of disagreements

48. In the event of a disagreement concerning the application or implementation of this measure between two or more CCPs (the CCPs), the CCPs concerned shall consult in an attempt to resolve the disagreement.

49. If the disagreement remains unresolved following the consultations, the Executive Secretary shall, at the joint request of the CCPs, refer the disagreement to the next meeting of the Compliance Committee. The Compliance Committee shall establish a panel of five representatives, acceptable to the CCPs, to consider the matter.

50. A report on the disagreement, including recommendations for the resolution of the disagreement, shall be drawn up by the panel, provided to the CCPs, and forwarded through the Chairperson of the Compliance Committee to the Executive Secretary for distribution to the Meeting of the Parties within two months of the Compliance Committee meeting at which the matter is reviewed.

51. Upon receipt of such report, the Meeting of the Parties may provide appropriate advice with respect to any such disagreement for the consideration of the CCPs.

52. Application of these provisions for the settlement of disagreements, including with respect to the Compliance Committee panel reports and any advice provided by the Meeting of the Parties, shall be non-binding. These provisions shall not prejudice the rights of any Contracting Party or

participating fishing entity to use the dispute settlement procedures provided in Article 20 of the Agreement.

ANNEX 1 - Boarding and Inspection Reporting Form**REPORT OF HIGH SEAS BOARDING
AND INSPECTION**

(Inspector: Please use BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS)

Note to master of the vessel to be inspected

In accordance with paragraphs 5-8 of CMM 2019/xx High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), the Authorised Inspectors have the authority to inspect, collect and record information on a fishing vessel in the Agreement Area, its license, gear, equipment, catch and production records, facilities, fishery resources and any relevant documents and samples necessary to verify compliance with SIOFA Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) and the Agreement. The inspection will be to check your compliance with SIOFA's CMMs. The Authorised Inspector is authorised to examine, sample, measure and photograph the vessel's gear, catch, logbook or other relevant documents. The information provided during the course of this inspection will be made available to the SIOFA Executive Secretary and your flag State. Should an alleged infringement be detected contents from this report may be circulated to SIOFA Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties, participating fishing entities and/or cooperating nonparticipating fishing entities. All information, data and samples contained in this report will be handled in accordance with the SIOFA policy and procedures on confidentiality of data of CMM 2016/03 (Data Confidentiality).

1. AUTHORISED INSPECTOR(S)⁵

Name	Nationality
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

⁵ The table in this section shall be completed for all Authorised Inspectors forming part of the boarding team. In the event that more than four Authorised Inspectors form part of the boarding team, then additional rows to the table shall be added.

Adopted at MoP6. To be subjected to the SIOFA Technical Editing Process as provided in MoP6 Report Annex J

2. INFORMATION ON VESSEL INSPECTED

Vessel's name and registration number	
Flag and port of registration	
International radio call sign	
Type of vessel (fishing)	

Tonnage (GRT or GT)	
Number of Crew	
Master's name	
Owner's name and address	

3. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY IN WHICH THE FISHING VESSEL WAS ENGAGED

Vessel Activity When Sighted:	Vessel Activity When Boarded:

Vessel Activity - (Steaming, setting gear, hauling gear, towing gear, stationary, transshipping, other (specify))

4. DETAILS OF INSPECTION

4. a Observations of the master and Authorised Inspector regarding the position of the vessel at time of boarding:

Adopted at MoP6. To be subjected to the SIOFA Technical Editing Process as provided in MoP6 Report Annex J

	Date (DD /MM/ YYYY)	Time UTC	Latitude		Longitude		Equipment used in determining position, <i>e.g.</i> GPS
			Deg.	Min.	Deg.	Min.	
Master							
Inspector							

4. b Type of fishing gear in current or recent use (e.g. bottom trawl, midwater travel, longlining, traps)	
4. c Target species	

5. CATCHES RETAINED ON BOARD FROM LOGBOOK

5. a Quantities recorded by the master

MoP6-PropXX

Adopted at MoP6. To be subjected to the SIOFA Technical Editing Process as provided in MoP6 Report Annex J

SPECIES (common name/scientific name/FAO 3-Alpha code)	DECLARED LIVE WEIGHT ON BOARD (kgs)	Where available, DECLARED PROCESSED WEIGHT ONBOARD (kgs)	PROCESSING Type	CONVERSION FACTOR (live weight / processed weight)
TOTAL				

MoP6-PropXX

Adopted at MoP6. To be subjected to the SIOFA Technical Editing Process as provided in MoP6 Report Annex J

5b. Quantities On Board Determined by the Inspector

SPECIES (common name/scientific name/FAO 3-Alpha code/)	CALCULATED LIVE WEIGHT ON BOARD (kgs)	CALCULATED PROCESSED WEIGHT ON BOARD (kgs)	PROCESSING TYPE	CONVERSION FACTOR⁶	DIFFERENCE (%)⁷	OBSERVATIONS
TOTAL						

⁶ Conversation Factor as provided by the Master in 5.a

⁷ Difference between the quantities on board as determined by the Authorised Inspector and the total quantities on board as compared by the master.

6. COMPLIANCE WITH CURRENT CMMs

6.a Current CMMs applicable, in the opinion of the Authorised Inspector, to this fishery:

Reference CMM /Paragraph	Summary Title
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11	
12	

6. b Authorised Inspector's opinion on whether or not the CMMs outlined in paragraph 6.a above were complied with.

NB: An entry of NO must be followed by a statement by the Authorised Inspector. The master may also make a statement but is not obliged to do so.

Reference CMM /Paragraph	Compliant (Yes/No)	Seals affixed (serial number)	Comments
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			

8.			
9.			
10.			

Evidence and/or samples collected from vessel

Evidence / Sample Type	Purpose	Number	Comments
<i>(example) - muscle tissue</i>	<i>DNA - species identification</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Master claims species is alfonsino</i>

6.c Authorised Inspector's Statement

7. COMPLETION OF INSPECTION

Date

Time of departure (UTC)

6.d Master's Statement

Name of Authorised Inspector in charge	Signature of Authorised Inspector in charge

Name of second Authorised Inspector	Signature of second Authorised Inspector

Acknowledgment and receipt of report:

I, the undersigned, Master of the vessel....., hereby confirm that a copy of this report has been delivered to me on this date. I acknowledge being informed about any alleged infringements and any seals to secure evidence that are listed in the table set out in paragraph 6.b above. My signature does not otherwise necessarily constitute acceptance of any part of the contents of this report.

Date and Time

Name of Master

Signature of Master

CMM 2019/12**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS¹****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement:**

RECALLING the relevant provisions of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, in particular Article 4;

CONSIDERING that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations to ensure the sustainability of shark stocks;

RECOGNIZING the need to improve the collection of species-specific data on catch, effort, discards, and trade as a basis for improving the conservation and management of shark stocks;

RECALLING that the FAO International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States to encourage full use of dead sharks, to facilitate improved species-specific catch and landings data and monitoring of shark catches and the identification and reporting of species-specific biological and trade data;

FURTHER RECALLING that United Nations General Assembly, adopted consensus Resolutions every year since 2007 (62/177, 63/112, 64/72, 65/38, 66/68, 67/79, 68/71, 69/109, 70/75 and 71/123), calling upon States to take immediate and concerted action to improve the implementation of and compliance with existing regional fisheries management organization or arrangement measures that regulate shark fisheries and incidental catch of sharks, in particular those measures which prohibit or restrict fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins, and, where necessary, to consider taking other measures, as appropriate, such as requiring that all sharks be landed with each fin naturally attached;

¹ The term “sharks” refers to Chondrichthyes for the purposes of this CMM, as defined by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

ADOPTS the following Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) in accordance with Article 4 and 6 of the Agreement:

1. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels of Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) and participating fishing entities (PFEs) to the Agreement (collectively CCPs), engaged in fishing operations in the SIOFA area.
2. CCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag do not target any deep-sea shark species listed in Annex 1 within the SIOFA area, until the SC defines and the MoP agrees on possible appropriate fishing mortality and harvest levels for any of these species.
3. CCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag record and submit all reporting requirements as per CMM 2018/02 for all deep-sea sharks to the lowest taxonomical level possible when caught in SIOFA fisheries.
4. By 2020 the Scientific Committee shall advise the MoP on the need to adopt any appropriate by-catch limits for relevant SIOFA deep sea shark species and fleets, including on scientific and data needs for underpinning the elaboration of such advice.
5. CCPs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make all relevant fishing gears more selective to minimise deep sea shark by-catch and shall provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee.
6. CCPs shall, where possible, conduct research to identify shark nursery areas in the Agreement Area and provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee.
7. This CMM shall be reviewed every second year by the Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee, unless the MoP decides otherwise. **Chondrichthyes (including shark)**

ANNEX 1: List of “high risk” and “of concern” deep sea shark species for the purpose of this CMM²

Scientific name	French common name	English common name	FAO code
<i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i>	Pailona commun	Portugese dogfish	CYO
<i>Deania calcea</i>	Squale savate	Birdbeak dogfish	DCA
<i>Centrophorus granulosus</i>	Requin chagrin	Gulper shark	GUP
<i>Dalatias licha</i>	squale liche	Kitefin shark	SCK
<i>Bythaelurus bachi</i>	requin chat de Bach	Bach's catshark	
<i>Chimaera buccanigella</i>	Chimère bouche-foncée	Dark-mouth chimaera	
<i>Chimaera didierae</i>	Chimère de Didier	The Falkor chimaera	
<i>Chimaera willwatchi</i>	Chimère du marin	Seafarer's ghostshark	
<i>Centroselachus crepidater</i>	Pailona à long nez	Longnose Velvet Dogfish	
<i>Scymnodon plunketi</i>	Pailona austral	Plunket shark	
<i>Zameus squamulosus</i>	Squale-grogneur à queue échançrée	Velvet dogfish	
<i>Etmopterus alphas</i>	Requin lanterne à joues blanches	Whitecheek lanternshark	
<i>Apristurus indicus</i>	Holbiche artouca	Smallbelly catshark	
<i>Harriotta raleighana</i>	Chimère a nez rigide	Bentnose rabbitfish	
<i>Bythaelurus tenuicephalus</i>	Requin chat à tête étroite	Narrowhead catshark	
<i>Chlamydoselachus anguineus</i>	Requin lézard	Frilled shark	
<i>Hexanchus nakamurai</i>	Requin gris	Bigeyed six-gill shark	
<i>Etmopterus pusillus</i>	Sagre nain	Smooth lanternshark	
<i>Somniosus antarcticus</i>	requin dormeur antarctique	Southern sleeper shark	
<i>Mitsukurina owstoni</i>	Requin lutin	Goblin shark	

² As defined by SC-04 paragraph 159 and paper SC-04-19.

CMM 2019/13**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON MITIGATION OF SEABIRDS BYCATCH IN IN DEMERSAL LONGLINES AND OTHER DEMERSAL FISHING GEARS FISHERIES MANAGED BY SIOFA****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement:**

RECALLING the relevant provisions of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, in particular Article 4 and 6;

CONSIDERING that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for Seabirds calls on States to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations to mitigate incidental by-catch of seabirds;

RECOGNISING the need to strengthen mechanisms to protect seabirds in the Southern Indian Ocean;

FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries concerning best practices to reduce incidental catch of seabirds in capture fisheries;

NOTING the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) has established best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures for trawl and demersal longline fisheries;

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Article 4 and 6 of the Agreement:**Application and geographic scope**

- 1) This CMM applies to all fishing vessels of Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCPS) and participating fishing entities (PFEs) to the Agreement (collectively CCPs), engaged in fishing operations in the SIOFA area, south of 25°S.

General provisions for demersal longliners and Other demersal fishing gears

- 2) Until such time that the SIOFA Scientific Committee has developed advice for the Meeting of Parties on the most appropriate response to mitigate and minimise incidental bycatch of seabirds by demersal fishing gears deployed in the SIOFA area, CCPs shall require any demersal longliners and other demersal fishing gears flying their flag and operating in this area to apply the following mitigation measures:
 - a. The location and level of lighting shall be arranged so as to minimise illumination directed out from the vessel, consistent with the safe operation of the vessel and the safety of the crew;
 - b. Information about birds colliding with the vessel, or caught by its gears will be recorded in accordance with CMM 2018/02 (Data collection);

- c. every effort should be made to ensure that birds captured alive during fishing operations are released alive and, for longlining, that hooks are removed without jeopardising the life of the bird concerned wherever possible.

Provisions applying to demersal longliners

- 3) Until such time that the SIOFA Scientific Committee has developed advice for the Meeting of Parties on the most appropriate response to mitigate and minimise incidental bycatch of seabirds by demersal fishing gears deployed in the SIOFA area, CCPs shall require any demersal longliners flying their flag and operating in this area to apply the following mitigation measures:
 - a. Any vessel catching a total of three (3) seabirds in a single season shall immediately change to night setting only (i.e. setting only during the hours of darkness between the times of nautical twilight)
 - b. vessels are encouraged to use white color lines, to increase visibility which decreases the bycatches of birds,
 - c. At least one bird scaring line (in accordance with Annex 2) shall be deployed when setting longlines and at least one bird exclusion device (in accordance with Annex 3) shall be used to prevent birds entering the hauling area, to the extent allowed by prevailing weather;
 - d. There shall be no discharging of offal or discards immediately prior to and during the deployment or retrieval of fishing gear
 - e. Fishing vessels using autoline systems shall add weights to the hookline or use integrated weight (IW) hooklines while deploying longlines. IW longlines of a minimum of 50 g/m or attachment to non-IW longlines of 5 kg weights at 50 to 60 m intervals are recommended;
 - f. Fishing vessels using the Spanish method of longline fishing shall release weights before line tension occurs; traditional weights (made by rocks or concrete) of at least 8.5 kg mass shall be used, spaced at intervals of no more than 40 m, or traditional weights of at least 6 kg mass shall be used, spaced at intervals of no more than 20 m, or solid steel weights of at least 5 kg mass shall be used, spaced at intervals of no more than 40 m;
 - g. Fishing vessels using the trotline system exclusively (not a mix of trotlines and the Spanish system within the same longline) shall deploy weights only at the distal end of the droppers in the trotline. Weights shall be traditional weights of at least 6 kg or solid steel weights of at least 5 kg.
 - h. Fishing vessels alternating between the use of the Spanish system and trotline method shall use: (i) for the Spanish system: line weighting shall conform to the provisions in paragraph 4(iii); (ii) for the trotline method: line weighting shall be either 8.5 kg traditional weights or 5 kg steel weights attached on the hook-end of all droppers in the trotline at no more than 80 m intervals;

- 4) For demersal longliners of less than 25 m, at least one of the following measures shall apply:
 - a. At least one bird scaring line (in accordance with Annex 2) shall be deployed when setting lines, and at least one bird exclusion device (BED; see specifications in Annex 3), shall be used to prevent birds entering the hauling area, to the extent allowed by prevailing weather;
 - b. Fishing vessels using autoline systems shall add weights to the hookline or use integrated weight (IW) hooklines while deploying longlines. IW longlines shall have a minimum of 50 g/m or a weights of a minimum of 5 kg attached to non-IW longlines at 50 to 60 m intervals.
 - c. iii: Lines shall be set only at night (i.e. during the hours of darkness between the times of nautical twilight). The exact times of nautical twilight are set forth in the Nautical almanac tables for the relevant latitude, local time and date.

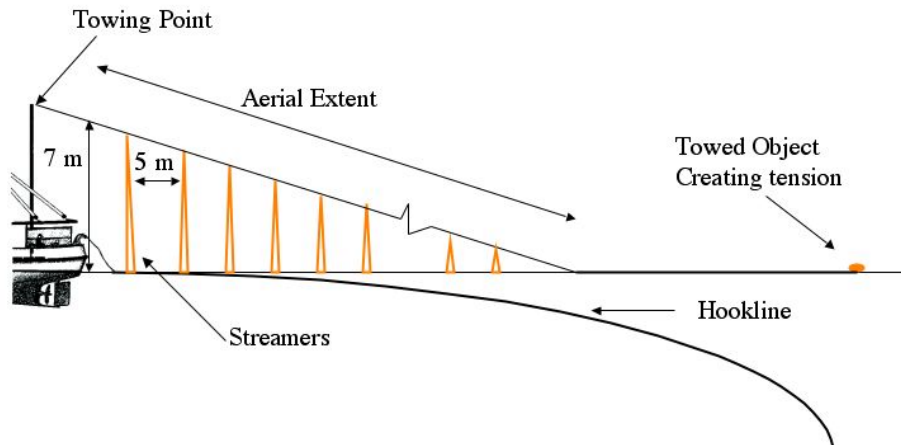
Other demersal fishing gears

- 5) In addition to the provisions in paragraph 2, CCP shall require any fishing vessel flying their flag and operating in the SIOFA area using demersal pots or traps to ensure the cleanliness of the traps and pots not to attract birds, and ensure that buoy lines shall not be left floating at the surface.

Final provisions

- 6) The Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee will review this CMM every four years, unless the MoP decides otherwise.

ANNEX 1: Specification of bird scaring line for longliners



1. The aerial extent of the bird scaring line, being that part of the line supporting the streamers, is the effective seabird deterrent component of a bird scaring line. Vessels are encouraged to optimise the aerial extent of the bird scaring line and ensure that it protects the hookline as far astern of the vessel as possible, even in crosswinds.
2. The bird scaring line shall be attached to either the port or starboard sides of the vessel.
3. The bird scaring line shall be a minimum of 150 m in length and include an object towed at the seaward end to create tension to maximise aerial coverage. The object towed should be maintained directly behind the attachment point to the vessel such that in crosswinds the aerial extent of the bird scaring line is over the hookline.
4. Branched streamers, each comprising two strands of a minimum of 3 mm diameter brightly coloured plastic tubing (or cord, shall be attached no more than 5 m apart commencing 5 m from the point of attachment of the bird scaring line to the vessel and thereafter along the aerial extent of the bird scaring line. Where tubing is used for the branched streamers, the tubing should be of a type that is manufactured to be protected from ultraviolet radiation.
5. Streamer length shall range between minimums of 6.5 m from the stern to 1 m for the seaward end. When a bird scaring line is fully deployed, the branched streamers shall be of sufficient length to reach the sea surface in the absence of wind and swell. Swivels or a similar device should be placed in the bird scaring line in such a way as to prevent streamers being twisted around the bird scaring line. Each branched streamer may also have a swivel or other device at its attachment point to the bird scaring line to prevent fouling of individual streamers.
6. A spare bird scaring line shall be carried and deployed in the event of loss or damage of a bird scaring line.

Longline Vessels \geq 25m in length

7. Each bird scaring line shall be suspended from a point a minimum of 7 m above the water at the stern of the point where the hookline enters the water.

Longline Vessels < 25 m in length

8. The bird scaring line shall be suspended from a point a minimum of 6 m above the water at the stern of the point where the hookline enters the water.

9. Streamers may be modified over the first 15 m to prevent tangling.

10. The bird scaring line should achieve an aerial extent of at least 75 m when setting at \geq 4 knots or 50 m is setting at speeds < 4 knots.

ANNEX 2: Specification of BEDs for demersal longliners

11. BEDs shall have the following operational characteristics:

- (i) deterrence of birds from flying directly into the area where the line is being hauled;
- (ii) prevention of birds that are sitting on the surface from swimming into the hauling bay area.



Stichting DeepSea Conservation Coalition

Statement by DSCC 2 July Toothfish

DSCC is a coalition of over 70 NGOs, and one of our members is ASOC, the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition, itself a coalition of over 30 NGOs interested in Antarctic environmental protection

They have asked me to convey this message.

ASOC was surprised and disappointed to hear that significant toothfish fishing has taken place on stocks shared with CCAMLR in the SIOFA area.

We have noted that the SIOFA SC meeting recommended that this MoP adopts measures restricting toothfish fishing levels in the William's Ridge and Del Cano to their 2016 levels. This is reflected in the proposal from Australia.

ASOC supports the SC's recommendation and urges SIOFA to adopt the Australian proposal at this meeting,

CCAMLR has expended considerable effort in managing toothfish fisheries after the IUU fishing crisis of the late 1990s and early 2000s. This has resulted in notable improvements, including measures to reduce fishing to more precautionary levels and measures to protect seabirds.

Other conservation measures, agreed by the consensus of all CCAMLR Members, prohibits directed toothfish fishing outside of EEZs in the CCAMLR areas adjacent to the SIOFA area.

7 of 9 SIOFA Parties are also Members or acceding states of CCAMLR. The Convention is very clear that Members are obligated not to undermine CCAMLR, and that the Commission must take note of any activities that affect the implementation of the objective of the CAMLR Convention (see Article IX, paragraph 5 and Article X). In addition, Article XI of CAMLR Convention emphasises the need for harmonised conservation measures for adjacent areas.

It is difficult to see how this fishing does not undermine CCAMLR's management of the toothfish fishery. It is very important that CCAMLR is not undermined due to regulatory or management gaps in neighboring organizations.

It is crucial that fishing takes place under strict, scientifically-based rules so that marine ecosystems remain healthy or can recover from overfishing.

We therefore believe it is essential to prevent further toothfish fishing in SIOFA until CCAMLR and SIOFA have agreed a harmonized regional approach to the toothfish populations in these areas.

Thank you Madam Chair



Stichting Deepsea Conservation Coalition

Statement by DSCC 3 July Bottom Fishing SWG 12:10 and Comment on Cook Islands Proposal

Thank you Madam Chair

UNGA [Resolution 61/105](#) (2006) (was very clear:

*83(d) To require members of the regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements to require vessels flying their flag to **cease bottom fishing activities in areas where, in the course of fishing operations, vulnerable marine ecosystems are encountered**, and to report the encounter so that appropriate measures can be adopted in respect of the relevant site;*

The UNGA resolutions have been consistent, and the latest resolution, UNGA resolution [73_125](#) in December 2018 repeated the need to improve effective implementation of thresholds and move-on rules:

*193 (c) To ensure that conservation and management measures adopted by States and regional fisheries organizations and arrangements are based on and updated on the basis of the best available scientific information, noting in **particular the need to improve effective implementation of thresholds and move-on rules**;*

It is critically important that the move-on rule requires vessels to stop when they encounter a VME. It is the job of the Scientific Committee to develop VME indicators

Madam Chair, the Cooks proposal would be at variance with both the UNGA resolutions and practice in any other RFMO.

Brief Supplemental Note

The Cook Islands have responded (and I paraphrase from my notes) that the Cook Islands vessels fish on highly defined trawling lanes. If they get off lanes, there is the potential to encounter VME. May be a current which pushes trawl off the lane slightly, and because bottom fishing is restricted to the lanes, and 99.3% of the lanes are affected, so it is precautionary.

In response, we note two points:

1. It is critical that all VME data are reported, not just triggers of encounter protocols. Only then will the Scientific Committee have information to give advice.
2. We also note that much VME taxa falls through the net, or are not caught at all, so if for example 50 kg of coral are brought up on 1 haul, far more (some reports say ten times or more) or more may have been destroyed. We note that the Cook Islands currently allow 400 kg of sponges. So one encounter of sponges will mean that far more sponges have been destroyed. Indisputably this would constitute an encounter with a VME, and fishing

should stop in the area and Scientific Committee should be advised so that they can advise measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on VMEs.

3. The encounter protocol should be precautionary and science based, based on the FAO Deep Sea Guidelines and UNGA resolutions.
4. The UNGA workshop is coming up in 2020 (next year). If the Cook Islands wishes to change the UNGA resolution guidelines, that is its opportunity to put its case.

Terms of Reference for the protected areas and ecosystems working group (PAEWG)

Objectives and background

Following the adoption of UNGA Resolution 61/105 in 2006, 64/72 in 2009 and 66/68 in 2013 on deep-sea fisheries, the management of bottom fisheries and protection of deep-sea ecosystems on the high seas has been a priority for the international community.

Measures to implement these UNGA Resolutions have been put in place by a number of States and through RFMOs, including those active in high seas bottom fisheries in the Southern Ocean, North East Atlantic, North West Atlantic and South East Atlantic Oceans.

UNGA Resolution 61/105 calls on high seas fishing nations and RFMOs to take urgent action to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) from destructive fishing practices. In particular, Resolution 61/105 calls on States to:

- Conduct impact assessments to determine whether bottom fishing activities would have significant adverse impacts on VMEs, and ensure effective management to prevent such impacts, or else prohibit the activity;
- Close areas of the high seas to bottom fishing where VMEs are known or likely to occur unless fishing in these areas can be managed to prevent significant adverse impacts to such ecosystems; and
- Establish and implement protocols requiring vessels to cease fishing in areas where an encounter with VMEs occurs and to report the encounter so that appropriate measures can be adopted in respect of the site.

An evaluation of the status of biotic components in an ecosystem assessment will depend upon an adequate understanding of the components. Further, a successful predictive ability will require a good understanding of current and past ecosystem dynamics and how they are likely to change in the future. An important adjunct to the ecosystem assessment process would be a continual review of the information required to understand the system sufficiently to make effective assessments. This review would include reappraisal of, *inter alia*, the taxa considered as key species within the dependent and harvested components, spatial and temporal aspects, and the most appropriate parameters to measure.

In accordance with Article 7(a) of CMM 2017-01 the SC will establish by no later than the close of its ordinary meeting in 2020 will recommend an appropriate SIOFA bottom fishing footprint.

Finally, in accordance with CMM 2017/01 paragraph 35, if 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 a likely to occur, based on the best available scientific information, it 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. In this context, SC2 was requested by MoP3 to provide standard protocols to assist the development of protected area designation (areas which should be closed to fishing) by no later than the close of the ordinary meeting of the SC in 2017.

The MoP4 adopted the standard protocol for future protected areas designation as recommended by the SC2 (Annex H, SC2 Report). The SC has recommended to the MoP5 that a revised protocol be adopted (Annex H Standard protocol for future protected areas, SC3 Report).

The main focus of the SS regarding ecosystem monitoring and management will be on the review of protected areas proposals, their management and the potential improvement of the protocol for protected areas designation. Under these Terms of Reference, participants will commit to involvement in the process. All of those guidelines will be consistent with the SC Terms of Reference, and so are not included here.

Terms of reference

1. The Scientific Committee's PAEWG tasks will include:
 - to pilot the VME habitat mapping work (annex I of the 4th SC Report) and the SIOFA area bio-regionalisation work (annex J of the 4th SC Report);
 - to review the protected areas proposals in SIOFA;
 - to provide advice on an ecosystem assessment combining information from dependent and harvested species and the environment;
 - to use this assessment to provide advice on management and/or research plans in the proposed and/or validated protected zones;
 - when a CCP proposes a modification of the protocol, to review of the usefulness and application of the SIOFA Standard protocol for protected areas designation; and
 - to formulate other relevant advice for the SC and Meeting of the Parties, as required.
2. Any CCP that wishes to propose a protected area is strongly encouraged to ask for guidance from the working group through intersessional exchanges by email.
3. The working group can conduct its work intersessionally.

Regarding protected area proposal(s):

4. The working group shall be provided with a CP/PFE's protected area proposal's project at least 30 days before the PAEWG meeting or, if no meeting is planned, 60 days before the SC meeting for discussion, to allow consultations on the proposal, initiated and summarised by the chair.
5. The PAEWG shall provide its conclusions, including minutes of its discussions and eventual proposals on the project after its meeting or, if there is none (only electronic exchanges), at least 30 days before the SC meeting. If there is no clear conclusions, the PAEWG can also advise for further debate during the SC.
6. The SC will submit its recommendations regarding the protected area proposals to the MoP.

Table 1: Adopted and forecast budgets for 2019, 2020 and 2021

	2019 Adopted	2020 ADOPTED	2021 Forecast
Item 1. Personnel Costs	EUR 258,333.03	EUR 285,575.53	EUR 299,996.66
1.1 Executive Secretary P5	127,966.07	125,852.03	136,196.98
1.2 Data Manager P3	55,646.58	60,562.86	61,963.54
1.3 Separation from service (current Executive Secretary)	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.4 Installation allowance (new Executive Secretary)	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.5 Rent subsidy	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00
1.6 Home leave	400.00	0.00	400.00
1.7 Child studying abroad leave	1,800.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
1.8 Single Parent/Child allowance	7,401.54	5,301.42	5,349.95
1.9 Spouse allowance	4,500.00	13,934.96	13,934.96
1.10 Education grant	9,157.50	19,980.00	19,980.00
1.11 Pension & health schemes	30,461.34	35,344.26	37,571.23
1.12 Staff development and training	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
1.13 Recruitment (flights & DSA for 3 ES candidates to be interviewed at MoP)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Item 2. Property, Plant and Equipment	EUR 4,800.00	EUR 6,553.94	EUR 6,553.94
2.1 Convention D'Herbergement charges	0.00	2,803.94	2,803.94
2.2 Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.3 Utilities - Includes electricity, water, gas	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.4 Office Equipment and furniture	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
2.5 Consumables - Stationary, printer ink, paper	2,200.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
2.6 Insurance	600.00	750.00	750.00
Item 3. Meeting Support - SC5 (5 days) & WGs (5 days)	EUR 19,865.10	EUR 34,702.35	EUR 34,702.35
3.1 Venue, catering	0.00	16,225.00	16,225.00
3.2 Secretariat travel and accomodation to meetings	12,407.10	0.00	0.00
3.3 Support costs (including professional rapporteur for all meetings)	7,458.00	13,448.35	13,448.35
3.4 SC Chairperson Travel and Accommodation	0.00	5,029.00	5,029.00
Item 4 Meeting Support - MoP7 (5 days) & CC4 (3 days)	EUR 26,598.00	EUR 56,850.07	EUR 56,850.07
4.1 Venue, catering	14,630.00	30,865.00	30,865.00
4.2 Secretariat flights, accommodation, allowances	6,512.00	0.00	0.00
4.3 Support costs (including professional rapporteur for both meetings)	5,456.00	12,616.07	12,616.07
4.4 MoP and CC Chairperson Travel and Accommodation	0.00	13,369.00	13,369.00
Item 5 Representation	EUR 10,000.00	EUR 10,000.00	EUR 10,000.00
5.1 Secretariat travel, notably for representation purposes	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Item 6 Administration of Article 13.4	EUR 9,647.00	EUR 9,482.00	EUR 9,482.00
6.1 Financial assistance to travel to meetings	9,647.00	9,482.00	9,482.00
6.2 Other activities	0.00	0.00	0.00
Item 7 Communications and IT	EUR 9,500.00	EUR 7,000.00	EUR 7,000.00
7.1 Website design and maitenance, printing, telephone and internet services	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
7.2 Database management and IT support	4,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Item 8 Financial Services	EUR 10,250.00	EUR 12,200.00	EUR 12,200.00
8.1 Accounts and record keeping	5,800.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
8.2 Audit	4,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
8.3 Bank Charges	450.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Item 9 Contracts for Specific Services	EUR 40,935.92	EUR 52,900.00	EUR 30,000.00
9.1 Research Activities	40,935.92	52,900.00	30,000.00
Item 10 Miscellaneous	EUR 2,500.00	EUR 5,000.00	EUR 5,000.00
10.1 Miscellaneous	2,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Sub-total	EUR 392,429.05	EUR 480,263.90	EUR 471,785.03
Emergency/contingency funds	EUR 9,811.48	EUR 12,007.35	EUR 11,795.38
CPs contribution (TOTAL less Funds held in reserve + contingencies)	EUR 402,240.52	EUR 492,271.25	EUR 483,579.40

CCPs contributions calculated using formula 30/30

Australia	~	23,485.97 EUR	23,071.29 EUR
Cook Islands	~	97,044.47 EUR	95,331.00 EUR
EU	~	92,893.49 EUR	91,253.31 EUR
France Overseas Territories	~	22,252.48 EUR	21,859.57 EUR
Japan	~	71,418.78 EUR	70,157.76 EUR
Korea	~	16,297.51 EUR	16,009.75 EUR
Mauritius	~	7,611.64 EUR	7,477.24 EUR
Seychelles	~	8,754.15 EUR	8,599.58 EUR
Chinese Taipei	~	98,399.35 EUR	96,661.95 EUR
Thailand	~	54,113.42 EUR	53,157.96 EUR

SC4 Revision of Activity Budgets - approved at MoP6				
Activity	2019 Remaining Budget	Revised at SC4		
T/S & length relationship for alfonsino (Univ. students) (MoP5 approved)	5,000	0		Work post SC by SEARWG suggests this work will not be required for planned assessment
Analysis of alfonsino acoustic data (MoP5 approved)	10,000	0		Work post SC by SEARWG suggests this work will not be required for planned assessment
Otolith reading, alfonsino and orange roughy (MoP5 approved)	16,000	0		
Genetics work to provide equipment for SNP analyses to postgrad student (MoP5 approved)	5,000	0		
Stock Assessment consultant alfonsino work (MoP5 approved)	23,000	0		
Risk assessment teleosts species caught on Saya de Malha bank (MoP5 approved)	9,000	0		
Review of observer coverage and data standards & template (MoP5 approved)	17,000	0	Priority	Notes
1. Alfonsino acoustic data additional work ref workplan		0	HIGH	1. CMM alfonsino stock assessment. Costing preliminary. Work post SC by SEARWG suggests this work will not be required for planned assessment
2. Development of T+L Reference points and Harvest strategies Year 1 (2 years total 30,000)		15,000	HIGH 15,000	2. MoP request
3. Teleosts risk assessment- Technical work to update analysis and input data to online ERA tool		0	HIGH 10,000	3. Cost effective to inform management on other teleosts species inc. SdMB
4. BFIA Trawl and Longline consultancy - [3 months trawl 2 months longline]	41,000	25,900	HIGH 66,900	4. CMM requirement
5. EMS Efficiency & Capacity - 20 days + Meeting presentation		0	Medium 15,000	5. Adopted guidelines - first proposal
6. VME habitat mapping (12 months + meeting participation)		0	HIGH 120,910	6. CMM requirement, assessment of SIA, contribute to protected Area protocol
7. Bio-regionalisation (12 months + meeting participation)		0	Medium/Low 24,182	7. Links to protocol for protected Areas - already started first steps. Full cost 120,910. 80% available via EU voluntary grant application. EURO 24,182 match funding required
8. EU Voluntary fund (60k limit) - match funding for additional work contributing to SC Work Plan		12,000		
<i>Total unspent</i>	€ 0	€ 52,900		
Balance to be requested from MoP6 =		€ 52,900		

SIOFA Technical Editing Process

- a) Within 20 days of the end of each Meeting of the Parties, the Secretariat will circulate any proposed corrections to new or amended Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) to all Official Contacts with tracked changes highlighting proposed corrections from the version as adopted at the Meeting of the Parties.
- b) Contracting Parties will be afforded 10 days following circulation of these proposed corrections in paragraph (a) to indicate whether they have an objection to any change to the Secretariat. If anyone Contracting Party objects to any proposed correction, the original text as agreed in the annual meeting will remain.
- c) The Secretariat will circulate the revised CMMs to all Official Contacts, along with a summary of any objections made in accordance with paragraph (b), no later than 40 days following the end of each Meeting of the Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that corrections should be limited to correcting formatting, typographical and reference errors. This could include updating the name or reference number of CMMs in the text.

The Meeting of the Parties also agreed that the Secretariat can only propose editorial corrections regarding the following items:

- a) The reference number for CMMs should be updated to reflect the year in which the CMM was last revised.
- b) Each CMM should clearly state whether it supersedes any other CMMs in a footnote on the title of the CMM (including where this occurs in relation to reference changes only).
- c) Each CMM should be given a standard short title. This short title should be included in brackets following any reference to a CMM in another CMM.
- d) Cross-references to CMMs should be updated (as necessary) following each Meeting of the Parties.
- e) Immediately before the preambular text, all CMMs should refer to the *“Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement”* rather than *“Contracting Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement.”*
- f) Treaty titles referred to in CMMs, including in the preamble, should be italicised.
- g) References to any Article in the Agreement should use a capital “A.”
- h) The opening words of preambular text should commence with capitalised and italicized letters. The final preambular paragraph (beginning with “adopts”) should also be in bold font.
- i) For consistency with Article 3 of the Agreement, the first reference to the Agreement Area should be referred to as follows: SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area).
- j) All references to ‘Contracting Party’ or “Contracting Parties” should be spelled out in full. References to cooperating non-Contracting Party/Parties, participating fishing entity/entities and cooperating non-participating fishing entity /entities may be abbreviated, or spelled out

in full consistent with this sub-paragraph. Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities, to be collectively abbreviated to CCPs.

- k) State should always be capitalised (but 'flag' or 'port' is not).
- l) Foreign or latine words (eg *mutatis mutandis* or *inter alia*) should always be italicised.
- m) Paragraphs numbered as *bis*, *ter* etc should be renumbered into ordinary numbering style, with all paragraph references updated accordingly.
- n) Text font shall be Cambria size 11
- o) Footnote text shall be Cambria size 10
- p) Paragraphs to be aligned 'left' and outline level 'body text'
- q) Subtitles, paragraphs and sub-paragraphs to follow the following standardised format

Subtitle in bold

1. Each numbered paragraph indentation shall be 'hanging' and '0.63 cm' with spacing 'After: 8cm' and 'single line spacing':
 - a. each alphabetic sub-paragraph shall have indentation 'left 1,27 cm', 'hanging', '0.63 cm', with spacing 'After: 0 cm' and 'single line spacing'.
 - i. each roman numeral sub-paragraph shall have 'left 2,25 cm', 'hanging', '0.32 cm', with spacing 'After: 0cm' and 'single line spacing'

The 6th Meeting of the Parties of SIOFA
Statement of Chinese Taipei
Mauritius, July 5, 2019

Ms Chair, Executive Secretary, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express our appreciation to Mauritius, the wonderful host of this meeting, and to the Secretariat led by the Executive Secretary for the necessary arrangements, which altogether have made the meeting as smooth as possible.

As one of the major fishing players in the world, we fully recognize our role in ensuring the sustainability of marine living resources. Bearing this mind, we have proactively participated in relevant regional fisheries management organizations, complied with their measures, and contribute to the works of those organizations.

In the Indian Ocean, while the measures adopted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission are voluntarily observed by our tuna longline fishing vessels, it is also important for us to join the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) and work with like-minded partners here to jointly conserve other fishery resources in this area.

IUU fishing severely undermines the collective efforts we have put, and we all share the same goal of combating IUU fishing. For this purpose, we have greatly strengthened our fisheries management measures, such as increasing inspection capacity, enhancing monitoring of our fleets, and taking actions in accordance with the PSMA.

However, the fight against IUU fishing takes global collaboration. The unilateral effort will never win such fight. Therefore, we urge for mutual cooperation among one another and we are more than happy to continuing working with you all in the future.

In addition, since this is the first time that we formally participate in the SIOFA meeting, which is a significant moment for us, I would like to reiterate our commitment to be bound by the Agreement and decisions of the Meeting of the Parties, to achieve the common goal of sustainability. And I

must thank everyone involved in the whole process for your guidance and patience in walking us through. It is our belief that, with our meaningful participation, we can contribute towards the objectives of the Agreement as well as the operation of this organization.

Chinese Taipei welcomes any new Party to join SIOFA. However, the participation of any new Party “shall not create, or result in, any effect of infringing upon the existing rights, and those established through recognized practice, of any” Parties or participating fishing entity. The new Party “is obligated to and shall” express its firm commitment to abiding by the terms of the SIOFA and complying with any conservation and management measures adopted.

Lastly, I would also like to thank you, Chair. It is under your leadership and excellent guidance that we have fruitful outcomes from this meeting.

Looking into the future, we still have many tasks ahead of us, and we look forward to collaborating with you all.

Thank you.