PAEWG-03-01

Provisional Agenda for the Third Meeting of the Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Group (PAEWG3)

Mix of correspondence and videoconference

1–4 March 2021

Videoconference 1 and 2 March from 6:00 to 9:00 am (UTC)
Adoption of the report (4 March) by videoconference from 6:00 to 9:00 am (UTC) and e-mail
Note: An extra videoconference will be possible on 3 March from 6:00 to 9:00 am (UTC) if required to complete the online discussions

Co-Chairs: Dr Patrice Pruvost and Vacant

Red: High priority, must be treated in session, by correspondence and video conference
Black: Urgent, may be treated in session or by correspondence depending on time
Grey: Will be not be addressed this year due to the reduced format and postponed to 2022

1. Opening

- 1.1 Opening statement from the Chair
- 1.2 Introduction of participants
- 1.3 PAEWG Chair and co-Chair

2. Administrative arrangements

- 2.1 Adoption of the agenda
- 2.2 Confirmation of meeting documents
- 2.3 Appointment of rapporteurs
- 2.4 Review of the PAEWG functions and terms of reference
- 2.5 Advice to the Scientific Committee

3. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)

- 3.1 VME taxa list
- 3.2 VME encounter thresholds (WG report)
- 3.3 VME mapping (ongoing consultancy from BOREA Laboratory, Biology of Aquatic Organisms and Ecosystems)
- 3.4 Advice to the Scientific Committee

4. Bottom Fishing Impact Assessments (BFIA)

- 4.1 Trawl cumulative BFIA. Report of consultancy (Project PAE2020-01).
- 4.2 Longline cumulative BFIA. Report of consultancy (Project PAE2020-01).
- 4.3 Advice to the Scientific Committee

5. Protocols for interim Protected Areas and review the protected areas proposal in SIOFA.

6. Advice on management and/or research plans in the proposed and/or validated protected zones

7. **SIOFA Fishing footprint**

7.1 Options for methods and objectives

Consideration of the MoP7 request to prepare a paper outlining the options for different methodologies of different gear types and objectives as well as options for addressing the pending technical issues and associated consequences/trade-offs to facilitate discussions of the MoP8

7.2 Recommendations for Scientific Committee

8. Consideration of PAEWG work plan and resource requirements

8.1 Work plan to realise the General Objectives relating to the 2020 EU Grant

8.1.1 Report of the consultancy to coordinate, plan, and assist implementation of science consultancies to support the SIOFA scientific working plan (Project SCM2021-01)

8.2 Reinforcing the data collection, SIOFA data/bases systems, coding and data processes

8.3 Review and update of the Scientific Committee workplan

8.4 Advice to the Scientific Committee

9. **Other business**

10. **Future Meeting Arrangements**

11. **Adoption of the meeting report**

12. Close of meeting

Provisional Schedule for the third protected area and ecosystem Working group (PAEWG3) 01–04 March 2021

Chair: Mr Patrice Pruvost

Session time (UTC)	Mon 01 March 2021	Tues 02 March 2021	Wed 03 March 2021	Thurs 04 March 2021
5:30–6:00	Participants to join online and verify connections and communications with the SIOFA Secretariat			
6:00–6:30	1. Welcome and opening. 2. Administrative arrangements 2.1 Adoption of the agenda (via email and 2-minute presentations) 2.2 Confirmation of meeting documents (via email and 2-minute presentations) 3. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) 3.1 VME taxa list (via email and 5-minutes presentations) 3.2 VME encounter thresholds (WG report) (via e-group and 15-minutes discussions)	4.2 Longline cumulative BFIA. Report of consultancy report (Project PAE2020-01) 4.3 Advice to the Scientific Committee	*Note: An extra videoconference will be available on 3 March from 6:00 to 9:00 am (UTC) if required to complete the online discussions*	11. Adoption of the meeting report
6:30–7:00	3.3 VME mapping (ongoing consultancy)	7. SIOFA Fishing footprint, (via email and 30-minutes discussions) 7.1 Options for methods and objectives Consideration of the MoP7 request to prepare a paper outlining the options for different methodologies of different gear types and objectives as well as options for addressing the pending technical issues and associated consequences/trade-offs to facilitate discussions of the MoP8		11. Adoption of the meeting report
7:00–7:30	3.4 Advice to the Scientific Committee	7.2 Recommendations for Scientific Committee		11. Adoption of the meeting report
7:30–8:00				
8:00–8:30	4 4. Bottom Fishing Impact Assessments (BFIA) 4.1 Trawl cumulative BFIA. Report of consultancy report (Project PAE2020-01).	8. Consideration of PAEWG work plan and resource requirements 8.1 Work plan to realise the General Objectives relating to the 2020 EU Grant. 8.2 Report of the consultancy to coordinate, plan, and assist implementation of science consultancies to support the SIOFA scientific working plan (Project SCM2021-01)		11. Adoption of the meeting report 12. Close of meeting
8:30–9:00	4.2 Longline cumulative BFIA. Report of consultancy report (Project PAE2020-01).	8.4 Advice to the Scientific Committee 9. Other business 10. Future Meeting Arrangements		

** Times are approximate and may vary depending on discussions during the meeting.*

UE GRANT AGREEMENT (Extracted from ANNEX 1)

2020–2022 Support to SIOFA Scientific Work on key stocks, ecosystems, and data

The SIOFA relies on a strong scientific basis for decision-making, and therefore the grant requested focuses on 5 General Objectives of scientific basis:

General Objective 1 (GO1): Support the assessment of the key target stocks (alfonsino, tooth fish and orange roughy);

- Specific Objective 1: Working towards improving the stock assessment of alfonsino.
  According to the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC) future stock assessments for alfonsino should consider: potentially using tow-by-tow data, developing data catalogues to understand variables for effective standardisation work, improving future abundance estimation by applying acoustic data, conducting research towards better estimating *M*, clarifying time-area coverage, the complex behaviour of alfonsino, etc. A feasibility study of the cost-benefit of collecting acoustic data could be conducted.
  Data Poor Stock management approaches should be also explored.
- Specific Objective 2: Supporting toothfish related research.
- Specific Objective 3: Addressing the main tasks related to orange roughy in the work plan concerning the stock structure, age frequency, target strength and data collection protocol.
- Specific Objective 4: Saya de Malha bank fisheries.

Actions and implementation
- Stock structure studies (orange roughy, alfonsino, toothfish)
- Additional otolith collection and ageing - growth equation for all species ages
- Better stock assessment and usage of acoustic survey data
- Biologically appropriate catch limits for Patagonian Toothfish in Del Cano Rise and Williams Ridge
- Saya de Malha bank fisheries

Expected results and their use
The scientific assessment of the fishery resources, taking into account the environmental and oceanographic characteristics of the Area, will provide scientific advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties for the formulation of measures regarding the sustainable management of fishing activities. Better and more robust stocks assessment are the main expected result of this General Objective.

General Objective 2 (G02): Management of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs);

- Specific Objective 5: the definition and implementation of robust methodologies for the mapping and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, and
- Specific Objective 6: the mitigation of possible impacts on associated and dependent species.
- Specific Objective 7: Investigate possible habitat suitability modelling.
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Actions and implementation
- Investigation of a holistic framework for assessing and preventing SAIs on VMEs

- Support work on benthic bioregionalization (underway) and (future) investigate possible habitat suitability modelling
- Investigation of representative protected areas (relevant to the bioregionalization work)
- Updates to the ERA work - update the teleosts ERAs with better and more recent input data

Expected results and their use
This General Objective will result in the development of the understanding of the impact of fishing on the marine environment. In particular, encouraging and promoting scientific cooperation in scientific research in order to improve knowledge on VMEs. The outcomes will be used as a basis for the recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties for the formulation of conservation and management measures regarding the protection of VMEs.

General Objective 3 (G03): Management of others ecosystem components.

- Specific Objective 8: Defining interactions with seabirds, mammals, bycatch species, etc.

Actions and implementation
- Updates to the ERA work - Considering seabirds, mammals, by catch species, etc.

Expected results and their use
The gaps in knowledge in the SIOFA Area extend to several taxa and to large parts of the shelf and deep-sea ecosystems. Concerned by the dependent species such as marine mammals, seabirds, by catch species or other species of concern, the expected result of this General Objective will be to define and diminish the interactions by analysing other ecosystem components distributions with fisheries managed by SIOFA. The outcomes will be used as a basis for the recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties for the formulation of science-based Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

General Objective 4 (G04): Reinforcing the data collection, SIOFA data/base systems, and coding and data processes.

Expected results and their use
Time series of fishing effort, catch, etc are already part of the SIOFA Database. However, the adequacy of these data can be evaluated only in the context of the purposes for which they are used and currently there are strong limitations both for the Secretariat and final users. The expected result is to make operational and reinforce the accessibility of the database to users, the coverage or completeness, and also credibility of the data collection process and the internal management process that uses the data including the time-consuming compilation and filing of raw data.

General Objective 5 (G05): Making operational the Scientific Working Groups and Scientific Committee (SC) supporting and facilitating the external expertise needed for advancing on the SC multiannual Workplan.

Actions and implementation
- External expert(s) in support of the activities of the PAEWG
- External expert(s) in support of the activities of the SERAWG
- External expert(s) in support of the activities of the SC

Expected results and their use
Appropriate external knowledge undertaken by independent expert(s) will help to assure the highest quality and the scientific standards review (of any kind) as part of the SIOFA scientific process. The

expected result is assuring that the best available science is available and in use in support of management measures in SIOFA. Dissemination of results is assured as meeting reports (Scientific Committee and its Working Groups) will gather the outcomes of each specific objective. It is also expected that the broader research community will benefit from this research through publications in specialised fisheries and marine environment scientific journals showing the outcomes of these General Objectives.