

1st Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific
Committee

21-14 March 2015, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle

SC-01 -05 (09) [Rev 1](#)

Proposed Guidelines for the Submission of National Reports

Relates to agenda item: 5

Working paper info paper

Secretariat

Abstract

~~In preparation for the first meeting of the SIOFA SC, Contracting Parties were asked to provide a National Report summarising catch and effort data for presentation to the SIOFA SC.~~ It is proposed that a National Report be provided annually to the SC, based on the template proposed. If adopted by the SC these guidelines would be attached as an appendix to the SC report in this paper to the Scientific Committee.

Recommendations *(working papers only)*

1. That the SC consider, modify as necessary, and adopt the proposed Guidelines for the Submission of National Reports.

GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL NATIONAL REPORTS TO THE SIOFA SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Purpose of annual national reports

Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities should submit national reports to the Scientific Committee (SC) on an annual basis before its annual meeting in order to keep the SC informed, in a concise format, of their fishing, research and management activities over the previous year.

Such annual reports would not replace data submissions under any CMM developed for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data; nor would it replace submission of detailed scientific papers.

- Catch and effort data would still be submitted to the SIOFA Secretariat in accordance with the any prescribed data submission standards and procedures.
- Detailed information or scientific analyses on aspects of fisheries would continue to be presented in specific scientific papers to SC meetings.

These SC may wish to review these guidelines periodically and update them as required to take into account new reporting requirements established under CMMs or other best practice standards.

It is proposed that national reports submitted to the SIOFA SC be made publicly available on the SIOFA website once available.

Proposed Template for the submission of National Reports

Annual national reports could include the following sections of specific relevance to the work of the Scientific Committee:

Description of fisheries

A general overview description of the fisheries of the flag state concerned over the previous five years, providing summarised information on:

- Fleet composition (number of vessels by gear type and size and how this has changed by year).
- Summary tables of effort (trawl fisheries - hours trawled, longline fisheries - number of hooks set, other gears-units appropriate to the gear) and total catches by year, gear-type, season and area (does this require clarification?).
- Brief description of significant changes and new developments in fisheries over the past year.

Catch, effort and CPUE summaries

Overall summary figures of trends in nominal effort, catch ([tonnes](#)) and CPUE in the SIOFA Area over the history of the fishery, including:

- Trends in nominal fishing effort by gear type over time.
- Trends in catch by species for the main target, bycatch, associated and depended species.¹
- Trends in nominal CPUE by gear type for the main species contributing to catches.

Fisheries data collection and research activities

Brief description of the fisheries data collection systems implemented, and the research and assessment activities conducted, including:

- Description of the statistical data collection systems in use, and how these have changed or been improved over the past year.
- Description of fisheries sampling programs or surveys conducted, scientific analyses and stock assessments undertaken, or other relevant research activities conducted.
- Information on other SIOFA-related research activities over the past year [and future research plans](#).

VME Thresholds

(for bottom fishing activity only)

- Describe threshold levels for encounters with VMEs and any move-on protocols
- For operations that exceeded the pre-determined VME threshold, provided details of the VME taxa observed including relative density, absolute density and number of taxa; and any action taken in respect of the relevant site.

Biological sampling and length/age composition of catches

- Overview summary of the coverage of biological and size-frequency sampling conducted.
- Simple summary table or figure showing length and [/or](#) age-frequency distribution of the target species by gear, and how this has changed over the past five years.

Description of data verification mechanisms

- Brief description of data verification mechanisms used. For example:
 - Position verification through VMS
 - Scientific observer programs to collect verification data on catch, effort, catch composition (target and non-target) discards and other details of fishing operations.
 - Vessel trip, landing and transshipment reports; and
 - Port sampling.

¹ A [table of relevant species should be reported by](#) scientific names [and associated common English name should be provided in an annex to report](#).

Summary of observer and port sampling programs

- Brief description of observer and port sampling programs conducted, and how these have changed or been improved over the past year.
- Information on coverage rates achieved by observer programs, or sampling coverage achieved by port sampling programs, over the past year.
- Information on the level of observer coverage focused on recording bycatch of seabirds, marine mammals, reptiles and other species of concern.
- Reporting of observed bycatch by species and fishery for all seabirds, marine mammals, reptiles and other species of concern.

Relevant social and economic information (not mandatory)

- Brief description of relevant social or economic information related to the fisheries.

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