

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

21-14 March 2015, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle

SC-01-10 (01)

Review of Recommendation 15-01 - Interim Recommendation for
Deepwater Gillnets in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
Area

Relates to agenda item: 10

Working paper info paper

Secretariat

Abstract

The second Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA adopted an interim recommendation that deepwater gillnets not be used in the SIOFA Area. This recommendation expires on the last day of the 2016 annual session of the Meeting of the Parties (notionally scheduled for June 2016).

Recommendations *(working papers only)*

1. That the Scientific Committee review recommendation 15-01 and provide advice, as appropriate, to the Meeting of the Parties.

Recommendation 15.01

Interim Recommendation for Deepwater Gillnets¹ in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement Area

The Contracting Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;

RECOGNISING that the Agreement calls on the Contracting Parties, in giving effect to the objectives of the Agreement, to adopt conservation and management measures (CMMs) that ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Area, taking into account the need to conserve marine resources and to evaluate the impact of fishing on the fishery resources and on the marine environment, taking into account the environmental and oceanographic characteristics of the Area (Articles 2 and 6(1)(c & d));

FURTHER RECOGNISING Article 4(c) which calls on the Contracting Parties to apply the precautionary approach in accordance with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries and the Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of the 10 December 1982 relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migrating fish stocks, whereby the absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures and Article 4(e) which calls on Contracting Parties to minimise the harmful impacts that fishing activities may have on the marine environment.

MINDFUL of Article 16 of the Agreement that calls on the Contracting Parties to cooperate with other international fisheries and related organisations on issues of mutual interest;

NOTING Resolution 61/105, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at the 61st Plenary Meeting on 8 December 2006 and subsequent resolutions of UNGA that call on states and regional fisheries management organisations to regulate bottom fisheries and implement measures in accordance with the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management;

CONCERNED by the possible impact of deepwater gillnets on fishery resources and bycatch species and deep sea habitats, including the impact of lost and/or abandoned gillnets; with the intention to work towards a binding permanent measure on the basis of the best scientific information available.

HEREBY adopts the following interim recommendation measure in accordance with Articles 6 and 8 of the Agreement and in accordance with the relevant decisions of the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties:

1. Contracting Parties recommend that deep-water gillnets not be used in the SIOFA Area of Application.

¹ Deepwater gillnets' (trammel net, set nets, anchored nets, sink nets) are defined as strings of single, double or triple netting walls, held vertically, on or near the bottom, in which fish will gill, entangle or enmesh. Deepwater gillnets consist of single or, less commonly, double or triple netting mounted together on the same frame ropes. Several types of nets may be combined in one gear. These nets can be used either alone or, as is more usual, in large numbers placed in line ('fleets' of nets). The gear can be set, anchored to the bottom or left drifting, free or connected with the vessel.

2. This interim Recommendation will expire on the last day of the 2016 annual session of the Meeting of the Parties.

3. This interim Recommendation enters into force one month after its adoption by the Meeting of the Parties.

4. At the next Meeting of the Parties, Contracting Parties shall provide a report on the implementation of this Recommendation.