

Provisional Agenda

3rd Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific Committee

20-24 March 2018, Best Western Hotel, 2 rue Doret, 97461, Saint Denis, La Réunion

Meeting Room – Bourbon 1

Chair: Dr Ilona Stobutzki

The provisional agenda for the 3rd meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee has been developed to focus on the areas of work identified in SIOFA CMM 2017/01 and CMM 2017/02, the SC Work Plan 2016-19 (SC2 Report Annex M) and previous Ordinary Meetings Meeting of SIOFA to meet the governance requirements set out in the SC's terms of reference.

Registration will be open from 08:00 and the meeting will start 09:00 on the 20th March.

A Heads of Delegation meeting will be held on the 20th March 08:00 – 08:45.

NOTE: Prior to this meeting the **SIOFA Stock Assessment Working Group** will convene 15-18 March 2018 at the same location in meeting room Papangue.

1. Opening

- 1.2 Opening statement from the Chair
- 1.2 Introduction of participants

2. Administrative arrangements

- 2.1 Adoption of the Agenda
- 2.2 Confirmation of meeting documents
- 2.3 Appointment of rapporteurs
- 2.4 Review of functions and terms of reference

3. Annual National Reports

In accordance with paragraph 8 of CMM2017/02 each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall provide to the SC an annual National Report. Guidelines for the annual National Reports can be found at Annex F SC3 Report. In addition, in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2016/01 and Annex 1 thereof, each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall report in their National Report any VME encounter above the thresholds established under paragraph 11 of CMM 2016/01 to the SC including action taken in respect of the relevant site.

4. Current and historical status of fishing activities

4.1 Submission and consideration of historical catch and effort data

In accordance with CMM 2017/02 paragraph 9, Contracting Parties Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall provide to the Secretariat, by 31 January 2017, historical catch, effort and, if available, observer data for period 2000 to 2015 and any previous years, where available. Any unverified data submitted to be updated with verified data before 31 January 2018. Any State or fishing entity that becomes a party to the Agreement, CNCP or PFE after date of CMM adoption shall provide this data within 12 months of becoming Party to the Agreement, or becoming a CNCP or PFE.

4.2 Spatial extent of historic fishing effort data

In accordance with 2017/01 para 13, Contracting Parties Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall, at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the ordinary meeting of the SC in 2018, submit to the Secretariat relevant data on the spatial extent of its historical bottom fishing effort in the Agreement Area and any other data considered useful in developing the SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment (BFIA).

4.3 Overview of SIOFA fisheries 2017

Preparation of an overview based on the National Reports and data submissions.

5. Scientific data standards

5.1 SIOFA scientific database

Update from the secretariat on progress.

5.1.1 Exchange of SIOFA data

Discussion on data exchange protocols.

5.2 Observer coverage

In accordance with 2017/01 para 32, the SC shall review the observer coverage levels prescribed in para 31 at its ordinary meeting in 2018 and provide advice to the MoP.

5.3 Voluntary observer data

In accordance with 2017/02 para 13, Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall endeavour, for all observed trips, to collect data in accordance with the relevant sections of Annex B. All observer data collected shall be reported to the Secretariat by 31 May each year for the previous calendar year. Annex B will be reviewed by the SC at its ordinary meeting in 2018 based on the observer data provided.

6. Vulnerable marine ecosystems

6.1 Maps of where VMEs are known to occur, or likely to occur, in the agreement area

In accordance with 2017/01 para 5, The SC shall, by no later than the close of the ordinary meeting in 2017, and thereafter whenever a substantial change to the fishery has occurred or new data has otherwise been provided to the SC warranting changes, develop and provide advice and recommendations to the MoP on maps of where VMEs are known to occur, or likely to occur in the Agreement Area.

Update on progress on maps of VME encounter/indicator data (secretariat in collaboration with ABNJ project)

6.2 Bottom Fishing Impact Assessments (BFIA)

Review of submitted BFIA in line with CMM 2017/01. Any Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE that authorises or is seeking to authorise any vessel flying its flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area, shall in accordance with CMM 2017/01 para 14, at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the ordinary meeting of the SC in 2018, submit to the Secretariat a Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment for its individual bottom fishing activities.

The SC shall consider all BFIA received at its ordinary meeting in 2018 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 Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE in the Agreement Area; and

(b) whether each BFIA meets an appropriate standard in light of international standards and the SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standard (BFIAS), where applicable.

6.3 SIOFA Standard protocols for future protected areas designation

The MoP4 adopted the standard protocol for future protected areas designation as recommended by the SC2 (Annex H, SC2 Report) The MoP noted the planned work, led by Australia, to assess the Benthic Protected Areas. The MoP requested that the SC consider that there are various management measures possible.

6.3.1 SIOFA Protected areas working group

The standard protocol includes the creation of a dedicated working group within SIOFA SC to analyse the information and prepare a report to be considered by SIOFA SC meeting (at least 30 days before the meeting).

Review of administrative arrangements and work undertaken to date.

6.3.2 Proposed protected areas

Review of any proposed protected areas using the criteria in the standard protocol (Annex H SC2 Report).

6.3.3 SIOFA standard protocol for future protected areas designation

As per the standard protocol, the SC will review the draft criteria for recommending protected areas after the first submission of a working paper proposing a protected area recommendation. The criteria will be revised accordingly and agreed as criteria for recommending protected areas.

7. Stock assessment

7.1 Stock assessment working group (SAWG)

Outcomes from the SAWG meeting, including progress as per CMM 2017/01 para 6, which states that the SC shall, by no later than the close of the ordinary meeting of the SC in 2019,.. develop and provide advice and recommendations to the MoP on 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.

7.1.1 Orange Roughy

7.1.2 Alfonsino

7.1.3 Patagonian Toothfish

7.1.4 Other Species

7.2 Ecological risk assessment working group (ERAWG)

Outcomes from the ERAWG and related process as per CMM 2017/01 para 6.

7.2.1 Deepwater Chondrichthyans

Presentation and review of ecological risk assessment work.

8. Proposals to bottom fish in the Agreement Area in a manner at variance with established measures

In accordance with paragraph 20 of CMM 2017/01 a Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE seeking to authorise any vessel flying its flag shall submit to the SC, at least 30 days prior to an ordinary meeting of the SC, a proposal to undertake that activity or activities.

9. Scientific impact assessments

In accordance with SIOFA SC Operational Work Plan 2016-2019

9.1 Demersal gillnet operations

In accordance with CMM 2016/05 para 2, Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs recommend that deepwater gillnets not be used in the Agreement Area by any vessel flying the flag of a Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE until such time as the Meeting of the Parties has received a recommendation from the SC.

10. Cooperation with other RFMOs and international bodies

10.1 FAO ABNJ Deep Sea project update

10.2 Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)

10.3 Draft arrangement between SIOFA and CCAMLR to enhance the conservation and rational use of stocks and species of interest to both parties.

10.4 Collaboration with CCAMLR on stock assessment and tagging

11. Scientific Committee Work Plan

11.1 Long term research plan

Review and update if required

11.2 2017 – 2019 operational work plan and budget

Review and update if required. Discussion on potential projects and collaboration. Discussion on the science budget to provide advice to the Meeting of the Parties.

12. Advice to the Meeting of Parties

12.1 Draft CMM on fishing research

In accordance with MoP4 report paras 39-41, SC is requested to provide advice and recommendations in relation to the development of the EU's proposal for a CMM to regulate fisheries research in the Agreement Area, with particular regard to the questions listed in para 41.

13. Future meeting arrangements

The SC is asked to agree to (approximate) dates and location for the 4th meeting of the SIOFA SC.

14. Other business

15. Adoption of the meeting report

16. Close of meeting