

SC-03-12[1]

3rd Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific
Committee
20-24 March 2018, Saint Denis, La Reunion

EU's Draft CMM on Fishing Research

Relates to agenda item: 12

Working paper Info paper

SIOFA Secretariat

Abstract

At MoP4 the EU presented a draft proposal for a CMM on fishing research in the Agreement Area. Owing to a lack of consensus expressed by the parties on the proposal, and a lack of time to discuss it in full, the EU agreed to defer the proposal and lead intersessional discussions for further development.

To assist this process, and 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.

Recommendations

1. SC consider the EU's draft CMM on Fishing Research as attached in Annex I
 2. SC provides advice and recommendations in relation to the development of this EU proposal whilst considering questions and requests list in MoP para 41, as attached in Annex II
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CMM 2017/xx

Conservation and Management Measure for Research vessels in the Agreement Area

Contracting Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement:

[Preambles]

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

Definitions

1 The following definition applies to this CMM:

“Research Vessel” means a vessel permanently used for research, or a vessel normally used for fishing activities or fisheries support activity that is being used for fisheries research for the period defined in the research plan referred to in paragraph 2.

Vessels conducting fishing research

2. No less than seven days prior to the commencement of a research period, the flag Contracting Party (CP), cooperating non-Contracting Party (CNCP) and Participating Fishing Entity (PFE) shall:
 - (a) notify the Secretariat by electronic means of any research vessel it has authorised to conduct fishing research in the Agreement Area; and
 - (b) provide to the Secretariat a fishing research plan for any research vessel flying its flag it has authorised to conduct research, including the purpose, location and, the dates during which the vessel will be engaged as a research vessel.
3. For vessels engaged in research, the flag CP, CNCP or PFE shall immediately notify the Secretariat upon termination of fishing research and submit a copy of the research data to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall ensure that SIOFA policy and procedures on confidentiality of data of CMM 2016/03 are followed for all research data submitted.
4. Each flag CP, CNCP or PFE shall notify the Secretariat not less than seven days before the effective date of any changes to the fishing research plan, and shall ensure that the master of the research vessel shall maintain a record of the changes on board

5. Each flag CP, CNCP or PFE shall ensure that masters of research vessels shall at all times keep on board a copy of the fishing research plan in one of the official SIOFA languages.
6. Each flag CP, CNCP or PFE shall ensure that research vessels shall not conduct commercial fishing during the research plan period.
7. Each flag CP, CNCP or PFE shall ensure that masters of research vessels shall keep a stowage plan, updated daily, showing the location of the different species by FAO 3 Alpha code in the holds as well as the quantities of such species on board in kilograms product weight, labelled in accordance with paragraph 8 of CMM 2017/xx CMM for Control of fishing activities in the Agreement Area. The stowage plan shall be kept on board until the vessel has been unloaded completely.
8. Following notification in accordance with paragraph 2 (a) of this CMM, the Secretariat shall without delay post the names of all vessels on the SIOFA website, including with such posting any supporting documents provided by the flag CP, CNCP or PFE, including the fishing research plan and any subsequent modifications.
9. Unless otherwise provided, vessels flying the flag of a CP, CNCP or PFE that are conducting fishing research shall not be restricted by SIOFA conservation measures pertaining to the harvesting of fish in the Agreement Area but may be subject to sea inspections pursuant to paragraph 1 of CMM 2017/xx for a Sea Inspection Scheme in the Agreement Area.

Request from MoP4 as provided in MoP4 Report.

40. The Meeting of the Parties requested that the Scientific Committee provides advice and recommendations in relation to the development of the EU's proposal for a CMM to regulate fisheries research in the Agreement Area that was briefly discussed at the 2017 Meeting of the Parties. The objective is to ensure that an appropriate system to regulate yet encourage fisheries research is adopted in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement which specifies that parties shall 'develop rules for the collection of scientific data' and 'promote and coordinate research activities'.
41. In particular, advice and recommendations should consider:
- a. the definition of 'fisheries research' and 'research activities carried out by commercial fishing vessels' which should and can be considered under such a SIOFA management system;
 - b. the type and extent of data which are collected from the Agreement Area during fisheries research activities, which should reasonably be required for submission to SIOFA, to ensure that the needs of the Scientific Committee are met, whilst the principles and regulations concerning data ownership and confidentiality are respected;
 - c. the particular provisions within existing CMMs from which it is reasonable for research vessels to be exempted;
 - d. the recommendations contained in the FAO deep sea guidelines for conducting high seas fisheries research for deep sea fisheries; and
 - e. the appropriate consultation and approval processes to be adopted within SIOFA, in particular the role of the Scientific Committee.