

Provisional Agenda

4th Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific Committee

25-29 March 2019

National Research Institute of Fisheries Science, Yokohama,

Japan

Chair: Dr Ilona Stobutzki

The provisional agenda for the 4th meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC) has been developed to focus on the areas of work identified in SIOFA CMM 2018/01 and CMM 2018/02, Meetings of the Parties (MoP) and the Scientific Committee Operational Work Plan 2018-21 (SC3 Report Annex M) to meet the governance requirements set out in the Scientific Committee's terms of reference.

Registration will be open from 09:30 on the 25th March and the meeting will run 09:00 to 18:00 each day.

A Heads of Delegation meeting will be held on the 25th March 09:15 – 10:00.

NOTE: Prior to this meeting the following two SC Working Group meetings will convene;

- First Meeting of the Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Group (PAEWG1), 18-19 March
- First Meeting of the Stock and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group (SERAWG1), 20-22 March

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 Reports
- 2.3 Appointment of rapporteurs
- 2.4 Review of functions and terms of reference

3. Annual National Reports

In accordance with CMM 2018/02 para 9, each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall provide to the SC an annual National Report. Guidelines for the annual National Reports can be found on the SC page of the SIOFA website <https://www.apsoi.org/scientific-committee>.

3.1 Guidelines for the submission of Annual National Reports

Review of guidelines. Sub-areas for reporting catch and effort data, consideration of whether a separate sub-area to encompass Saya de Malha bank fisheries is needed.

A discussion on confidentiality issues within National Reports that are public documents and made available on the SIOFA website. Secretariat to present summary of potential confidentiality issues identified in previous National Reports.

4. Current and historical status of fishing activities

4.1 Historical Catch and Effort Data

In accordance with 2018/02 para 10, Contracting Parties Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall provide to the Secretariat, by 31 January 2018, historical catch, effort data and, if available, observer data for period 2000 to 2015 and any previous years where available. 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.

The SIOFA Data Manager to provide an update on the status of submissions for historical catch and effort data.

In accordance with SC Work Plan 2018-2021, report on progress for data sources identified with respect to orange roughy, alfonsino and species from the Saya de Malha Bank.

4.2 Spatial Extent of Historic Catch Data

In accordance with 2018/01 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.

In accordance with SC Work Plan 2018-2021 Secretariat to provide an update on the status of the spatial extent of historical fishing effort data.

4.3 Overview of SIOFA fisheries 2018

At SC3 it was noted that constraints around the lack of availability of the data required for SC work, in particular catch and effort information prevented a completed overview of SIOFA fisheries 2017 being achieved. To avoid similar situation at SC4 a draft overview report by the Secretariat was requested 30 days before the meeting.

The Data Manager to present the draft SIOFA Overview of Fisheries 2018.

5. Scientific data standards

5.1 SIOFA scientific database

The SIOFA Data Manager to provide an update on the SIOFA Scientific Database highlighting improvements since SC3.

5.2 Templates for data submission

MoP5 report (para 31) requested the Secretariat develop spreadsheet templates to guide data submissions in line with requirements of CMM 2018/02. Secretariat to provide an update.

5.3 Secure transfer of SIOFA confidential data

At SC3 SIOFA Database Manager was requested to investigate and implement protocols for the secure transfer of confidential data. Presentation of progress since SC3. Secretariat to present SIOFA Policy for Ensuring Data Confidentiality for SC4 consideration.

5.4 Annual data holdings report and data inventory

SC3 requested Secretariat to prepare an annual data holdings report including challenges and quality control process that had been identified with data submission for presentation at each SC meeting to assist the SC in its deliberations. SC Work Plan 2018-2021 provides for the provision of a data inventory for alfonsino and Patagonian toothfish.

Presentation of annual data holdings report and data inventory.

5.5 Observer coverage

In accordance with 2018/01 para 32, the SC shall review the observer coverage levels prescribed in paragraph 31 at its ordinary meeting in 2018 and provide advice to the MoP. SC3 para 90 includes the steps required for to progress this review at SC4.

5.6 Voluntary observer data

In accordance with 2018/02 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 2020. SC4 should be able to undertake a review if the data inventory and other steps described in SC3 Report, para 90, are completed prior to this meeting. In accordance with SC Work Plan 2018-2021 observer data inventory to be completed prior to SC4 and review of observer coverage levels undertaken at SC4.

5.7 Appropriate spatial resolution for the collection and reporting of data

In accordance with CMM 2018/02 para 5, the SC shall, by no later than the ordinary meeting of the SC in 2019, provide advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on an appropriate spatial resolution for the collection and reporting of data to facilitate effective stock assessment. Advice expected from SERAWG1.

5.8 Smart forms for collection of deepsea shark and benthos data

In accordance with SC Work Plan 2018-2021 Cook Islands to report on outcomes of trials.

6. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems

6.1 Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Group (PAEWG)

At SC3 the PAEWG TOR was developed and MoP5 agreed the establishment of this Working Group and that the PAEWG to be Chaired by France (Territories).

PAEWG Chairperson to present report from PAEWG1, addressing the following agenda items as appropriate.

6.1 VME mapping

In accordance with CMM 2018/01 para 5, the SC shall, by no later than SC 2017 provide advice and recommendations to the MoP on maps of where VMEs are known to occur, or likely to occur in the agreement area. Advice expected from PAEWG1.

6.2 VME indicator species and responses to VME encounters

In accordance with 2018/01 para 6, the SC shall, by no later than the close of the ordinary meeting in 2019 will develop and provide advice and recommendations to the MoP on;

- i. criteria for what constitutes evidence of an encounter with a VME, in particular threshold levels and indicator species; and*
- ii. the most appropriate response to a VME encounter, including inter alia closing particular areas to a particular gear type or types (also in accordance with SC Work Plan 2018-2021 SC4).*

MoP5 report (para 32) requested SC develop common thresholds for taxa indicators of VME presence and to identify taxa indicators of VMEs presence and define a common VME encounter protocol (para 40).

6.3 SIOFA Standard protocols for future protected areas designation

In accordance with 2018/01 para 6, the SC shall, by no later than the close of the ordinary meeting in 2019 will develop and provide advice and recommendations to the MoP on;

- i. the interim SIOFA Standard Protocol for Future Protected Areas Designation adopted by the Meeting of the Parties in 2018; and*
- ii. research and management plans, to be adopted at MoP6, for each of the protected areas listed in Annex 2*

The SC3 revised the SIOFA Standard protocol for future protected areas designation (Annexes H and I). The MoP5 (paras 40 & 91) requested SC to review the interim protocol for the designation of protected areas.

6.4 VME database

SC3 requested the Secretariat to consider how additional 'non-observer VME data' could be included in the SIOFA database. Secretariat to report on possible approaches.

6.5 Bottom Fishing Impact Assessments (BFIA)

In accordance with CMM 2018/01 para 15, the SC shall consider all BFIA received and provide advice to the MoP. At SC3 recommendations were made to move towards the cumulative impact assessment of all SIOFA fisheries, para 149 and 151. MoP5 supported the approach for Contracting parties fishing with the same gears to work together to progress cumulative gears. In accordance with SC Work Plan 2018-2021 relevant CP to progress cumulative impact assessments and SC to review these assessments

7. Stock assessment and ecological risk assessment

In accordance with CMM 2018/01 para 6, the SC shall, by no later than the close of the ordinary meeting in 2019 will develop and provide advice and recommendations to the MoP on;

- i. 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.*

Additionally, MoP5 Report requests;

- i. SC provide advice on the status of stocks in relation to MSY until specific reference points are adopted (MoP5 Report, para 51).*

Advice provided to take into account research activities identified in SC Work Plan 2018-2021 for each key targeted species as follows;

- 7.4.1 Orange Roughy*
- 7.4.2 Alfonsino*
- 7.4.3 Patagonian Toothfish*
- 7.4.4 Other teleost species*
- 7.4.5 Deepwater chondrichthyans*

7.1 Stock Assessment and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group (SERAWG)

At SC3 the SERAWG TOR was developed and MoP5 agreed to the establishment of this Working Group and that the SERAWG be Co-chaired by Japan and Australia.

SERAWG Co-chairpersons to present report from SERAWG1, addressing the following agenda items as appropriate.

- 7.1.1 SIOFA stock assessment framework*
Discussion on implementation

7.2 Alfonsino

In accordance with SC Work Plan 2018-2021, consideration of the scoping analysis, assessment of status of stocks, advice to MoP and forward work plan.

7.3 Patagonian toothfish

In accordance with SC Work Plan 2018-2021, consideration of the scoping analysis, assessment of status of stocks, advice to MoP and forward work plan.

7.4 Orange Roughy

In accordance with SC Work Plan 2018-2021, consideration of assessment of status of stocks, advice to MoP and forward work plan.

7.5 Deepwater chondrichthyans

In accordance with SC Work Plan 2018-2021, consideration of the ecological risk assessment, assessment of status of stocks, advice to MoP and forward work plan.

7.6 Saya de Malha Bank Fisheries

In accordance with SC Work Plan 2018-2021, consideration of the available assessments, assessment of status of stocks, advice to MoP and forward work plan.

7.7 Other teleosts

Consideration under *Progress on preliminary ERA for SIOFA teleosts*.

7.8 Harvest strategies

The MoP5 Report requests;

- i. *SC provide advice on candidate target (TRP) and limit reference points (LRP) for orange roughy, alfonsino and toothfish (MoP5 Report, para 52)*
- ii. *SC develop a framework and a work plan for the establishment of harvest strategies for key SIOFA stocks (MoP5 report, para 53)*

The MoP5 requested the SC to facilitate a scientists-fisheries manager dialogue dedicated to the key concepts of harvest strategies (MoP Report, para 53)

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

In accordance with paragraph 20 of CMM 2018/01 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 2018-2021

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

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Deep Seas Project update.

10.2 Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)

In accordance with MoP5 Report (para 118), SC to provide advice on scientific activities that could be conducted on straddling demersal stocks of the Saya de Malha bank.

10.3 The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

This collaboration was discussed in relation to the work plan for Patagonian toothfish and the del Carno Bank. SC3 requested CPs assist in the discussions with CCAMLR and work with the Secretariat and Chairperson to coordinate this.

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. Discussion will include the process for developing project cost estimates and terms of reference, noting the need to align with budget years.

12. Review and development of Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)

SC to consider reviews of CMMs and development of any new CMMs requiring input from the Scientific Committee.

12.1 Draft CMM on fishing research

EU's proposal for a CMM to regulate fisheries research in the Agreement Area was considered and discussed at SC3. SC3 recommended that a revised draft be provided taking into guidance and requests provided in SC3 Report para 289.

12.2 CMM 2018/01 Interim Management of Bottom Fishing

This CMM shall be reviewed no later than at the ordinary Meeting of the Parties in 2019. This review shall take into account, inter alia, the latest advice of the Scientific Committee, including advice on those matters listed in paragraphs 5 to 7 and appropriate catch levels for principal target species, in accordance with the objective described in paragraph 1 (CMM 2018/01, para 41).

12.2 CMM 2018/02 Data Standards

This CMM should be reviewed periodically by the Scientific Committee and the Meeting of the Parties, taking into account new information or data requirements as may be decided (CMM 2018/02, para 18).

13. SIOFA SC official contacts

The majority of SIOFA Contracting Parties do not identify/include in the SIOFA Official Contacts the SC HoD and/or SC representatives. To improve intersessional communication with SC representatives and enable progress of intersessional SC activities, SC4 is requested to consider a recommendation to MoP for the inclusion of SC HoD and representatives within the SIOFA List of Official contacts.

14. Advice to the Meeting of Parties

A consolidation of SC4 advise to the MoP

15. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

At SC4 it was agreed that both SC Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson were appointed for a 12-month extension. As such election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson needs to be reconsidered and agreed at SC4. The current Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson can be reappointed for 12 months in line with SIOFA Rules of Procedure.

16. Future meeting arrangements

The SC is asked to agree to (approximate) dates and location for the 5th meeting of the SIOFA SC.

17. Other business

18. Adoption of the meeting report

19. Close of meeting