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6th Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific Committee

Room for improvement of data submission: some issues based on the FR-OT experience
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Abstract

This paper document summarizes the outstanding issues to address on the template for annual data submission under the requirements of CMM 2019/02.

Recommendations *(working papers only)*

1. Note that the issues and proposals reported in this document could improve data submission templates: cmm2019-02_para12_observer_data_LONGLINE_TEMPLATE.xlsx and cmm2019-02_para6_vessel_catch_and_effort_TEMPLATE.xlsx

2. Recommend to the SC to create an intersessional working group to discuss about the data submission templates and evaluation process to improve data quality.

1. Introduction

Data standards are keys to assist the Scientific Working Group to carry out its objectives to assessing the state of the fisheries within SIOFA's area, including the status of target and non-target species and the impact of fishing on the ecosystem. Data standards are also useful to identify gaps and evaluate data submission by CCPs.

The CMM2019-02 templates for annual data submission are used for the second year (succeeding the CMM 2017-02 and observer_data templates). In order to fully and correctly complete these templates and so to improve data quality, some outstanding issues and observation based on the FR-OT experience need to be addressed. In this document we also propose few modifications.

2. Scientific observer data

Issues and proposals to improve scientific observer data submission template '**cmm2019-02_para12_observer_data_LONGLINE_TEMPLATE.xlsx**':

Data Set - Observer data
For Longline fishing activities ONLY
LL gear sheet (Longline gear characteristics and details) **Branch Lines -** *The definition of « branch line » must be given* **Hooks** Type - *The definition of « hook type » must be given* Make - *The definition of « hook make » must be given*
Streamer sheet (Streamer details) **Number of streamer lines regularly set -** *Unit for « Streamer_line regularly set number » column must be given (mean, minimum or average of streamer line?)* **Method used to assess aerial extent-** *The definition of « Streamer_line method used to assess extent » column must be given* **Streamer and streamer line** *Unless a minimum or maximum value is explicitly requested, the unit of mitigation data must be explained (average or other)* *In some columns the terms « streamer line » and « streamer » are mixed creating confusion in the definition of the columns. Clarifications need to be made*
LL catch sheet (Catch details) **Retained, discarded or lost** *Specimen cut off the line can't be submitted as there are only columns for retained, discarded or lost at surface* *During longline observation, fishery observers can only report catch numbers by species. The protocol makes it impossible to weigh.*

Experts disagree on the taxonomy of certain species including Macrourus species (holotrachys, carinatus, ccamlr, whitsoni). For those species with an overlap of identification criteria it's very difficult to identify at sea with certainty

Incidental bycatch of seabirds, mammals turtles or 'other species of concern'
Incidental bycatch sheet (Incidental bycatch of seabird, mammals, turtles)   ***Life status***   Vigorous- *The definition of « Vigorous » must be given*   Alive- *The definition of « Alive » must be given*   Lethargic- *The definition of « Lethargic » must be given*   Injured- *The definition of « Injured » must be given*   Dead - *The definition of « Dead » must be given*   ***Fate-*** *The definition of the "number released" column must be given*
Biological Sampling
Bio sampling sheet   *The measurements of fish with a tag (column « tags_collected ») would be a duplicate of that noted in the "Tags" sheet. Further details are requested. We propose to only fulfill the "Tags" sheet to avoid these duplicates*
Interactions with Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)
VME sheet (VME organisms interactions)   ***Quantity estimates***   *Clarifications are requested on the definition of « quantity estimate » column.*   *If it corresponds to VME-indicator units (sum of total volume + total weight) we propose to change the column comment in order to be more precise.*   *If it is to note weight (Kg) <u>or</u> volume (m3) with no distinction, in this case we propose to add a column to separate weight and volume data.*   ***Code***   *Few discrepancies between the "codes help" sheet and the document « PAEWG-02-09 SIOFA VME taxa guide v.0.1.pdf » are noted. It is necessary to specify which document to refer to.*
Tag Recoveries
Tags sheet (Tags recoveries details)   *As combination of number and color does not create unique values, we propose to add a "wording" column*   *We propose to add a sheet for tag released information*

3. Vessel catch and effort data

Issues and proposals to improve scientific observer data submission template '**cmm2019-02_para6_vessel_catch_and_effort_TEMPLATE.xlsx**':

Vessel Catch and Effort Data
For Longline fishing activities ONLY
Vessels sheet *Details on "PERSON_NAME" column must be given*