

SC-06-18

6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC6)

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(online)

2019 scientific observer data submission

*Relates to agenda item: 5.4*

Working paper ☒ Info paper ☐

## SIOFA Secretariat

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### Abstract

This document summarizes the scientific observer data submitted by CCPs to the Secretariat under the requirements of CMM 2019/02. Similar to the Catch and Effort data, scientific observer data were provided with a diverse quality range depending on the fisheries and the CCPs.

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### Recommendations *(proposals and working papers only)*

1. The Scientific Committee draws the attention of the MoP to the lack of scientific observer data submitted by Comoros, Mauritius, and Chinese Taipei.
  2. The Scientific Committee requests that the MoP consider mechanisms to ensure that all required scientific observer data are collected and submitted by CCPs, including for previous years where the data submitted was incomplete.
  3. CCPs to comment on their respective submission and provide information about any difficulties encountered and ways toward improving the data submission.
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## Introduction

The Scientific Committee (SC5) previously requested an update on the scientific observer database development status. An information paper was submitted to SC5 (ref. SC-05-02) that summarized the scientific observer database structure and the database update status in regards of the data that has been received from the CCPs at the Secretariat.

This report provides an update of paper SC-05-02 for data submitted by CCPs for their 2019 fishing year activities, and summarizes the scientific observer data submission for each CCP that was made by 31 May 2020 and includes the clarifications provided after this dates. The report also proves an assessment of the quality and potential compliance of the data submitted against the requirements of CMM 2019/02. It is recalled that submission of the scientific is mandatory, and must be provided together with the catch and effort data, and follow the requirements of CMM 2019/02 paragraph 15 and the data specifications provided in Annex B.

Annual catch summaries and Catch and Effort data submissions are not part of this report.






Three CCPs (China, Korea, and Seychelles) informed the Secretariat that they did not operate in 2019 in the Agreement Area and therefore are excluded from this summary.

The remaining CCPs received feedback from the Secretariat following their initial submission and have had the opportunity to respond to this assessment by the Secretariat.

## Method

The assessment of scientific observer data sets provided to the Secretariat under CMM 2018/02 used the colours and rating grid summarised in Table 1 below.

*Table 1: Compliance rating and colour coding of the submitted scientific observer data*

Compliance rate colour codes	
Fully compliant with the CMM 2019/02 (10)	
Compliant but accuracy can be improved (8-9)	
Not fully compliant, data still usable to do some SC works (6-7)	
Some information provided, but not enough to conduct proper SC work (1–5)	
No information provided, non-compliant (0)	

All data fields required in CMM 2019/02 have not been listed to avoid an overly complex and cumbersome report. The SIOFA Data Manager chose to group the data requirements into several categories listed in Table 2 below, to summarise the scientific observer data submissions for each CCP. Annex B of CMM 2019/02 gives the full requirements of the scientific observer data submission.

Table 2: Categories and descriptions of the submitted scientific observer data

Observer trip	information about the observer trip (observer details, trip dates and boarding)
Fishing operations	Detailed individual fishing operation information (completeness and accuracy), the fields depend on the gear.
Gear details	Provision of the specifications of the gear used for the fishing operation (trawls specifications, longlines specifications, hook specifications, streamer line, etc.)
Catch and bycatch	Provision of all species and weights (retained, discarded)
Incidental bycatch	details on incidental bycatch of seabirds, mammals, and other species of concerns
Biological sampling	Provision of species biological information: length frequency, individual size, weight, maturity, sex, etc.
Birds and mammal's interactions	Recording of abundance of birds and mammal during the fishing operation (setting and hauling) and with observed interaction with the gears.
Interaction with VME	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem interaction for each fishing operation, VME taxa observed and quantity, etc.

## Summary

The tables summarise the assessments of each CCPs submission of the scientific observer data.

## AUSTRALIA

One vessel (mixed longline / drop line) operated for a short trip in 2019.

Table 3: Summary of the scientific observer data submitted to the SIOFA secretariat by AUSTRALIA

Category	Data status and comments	
Observer trip	provided	10
Fishing operations	1 min accuracy, no information on number of hooks observed for bycatch	8
Gear details	several specifications provided but some are missing	7
Catch and bycatch	provided	10
Incidental bycatch	provided (no incidental bycatch reported)	10
Biological sampling	provided (Longline: 110 fish, Dropline: 4 fish)	10
Birds and mammal's interactions	0 interaction reported	10
Interaction with VME	provided as bycatch	10

## COMOROS

No observer data was submitted by Comoros for its fishing activities in 2019. Note that Comoros provided a daily catch log file as a part of their Catch and Effort data submission, corresponding to a single trip in October-November 2019.

Table 4: Summary of the scientific observer data submitted to the SIOFA secretariat by COMOROS

Category	Data status and comments	
Observer trip	no information provided	0
Fishing operations	no information provided	0
Gear details	no information provided	0
Catch and bycatch	no information provided	0
Incidental bycatch	no information provided	0
Biological sampling	no information provided	0
Birds and mammal's interactions	no information provided	0
Interaction with VME	no information provided	0

## COOK ISLANDS

Two trawlers were operating in the SIOFA area in 2019.

Table 5: Summary of the scientific observer data submitted to the SIOFA secretariat by the COOK ISLANDS

Category	Data status and comments	
Observer trip	provided	10
Fishing operations	on a 1-min grid resolution	8
Gear details	provided for 1 vessel only	5
Catch and bycatch	some bycatch grouped by day (not on a haul-by-haul basis)	8
Incidental bycatch	sharks	10
Biological sampling	over 25000 fish fully sampled (BYS, ORY)	10
Birds and mammal's interactions	no information for 1 vessel, species for the other	7
Interaction with VME	benthos bycatch, some FAO codes missing	9

## EUROPEAN UNION

One Spanish flagged longliner operated in the Area in 2019.

Table 6: Summary of the scientific observer data submitted to the SIOFA secretariat by the EUROPEAN UNION

Category	Data status and comments	
Observer trip	provided	10
Fishing operations	set/haul fully detailed	10
Gear details	provided	10
Catch and bycatch	provided	10
Incidental bycatch	missing in one dataset	7
Biological sampling	over 15000 fish sampled (ETM, TOP, CYO, RIB, etc.)	10
Birds and mammal's interactions	information provided	10
Interaction with VME	provided VME FAO code + photos taken	10

Note: Some templates have been translated into Spanish. The Secretariat requires the template to be provided in English.

## FRANCE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

Two trips and only 40 fishing operations were reported in the SIOFA area in 2019 by France Overseas Territories.

Table 7: Summary of the scientific observer data submitted to the SIOFA secretariat by FRANCE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

Category	Data status and comments	
Observer trip	provided	10
Fishing operations	set/haul fully detailed	10
Gear details	some line specifications are missing	8
Catch and bycatch	only fish number provided (no catch weight estimates)	7
Incidental bycatch	NIL reported	10
Biological sampling	475 fish sampled (TOP mainly)	10
Birds and mammal's interactions	NIL reported	10
Interaction with VME	provided	10

## JAPAN

Six observer trips onboard one trawler vessel.

Table 8: Summary of the scientific observer data submitted to the SIOFA secretariat by JAPAN

Category	Data status and comments	
Observer trip	provided	10
Fishing operations	provided, minute + 2 decimals accuracy	10
Gear details	trawl specifications provided	10
Catch and bycatch	provided, usage of <i>other</i> species (no FAO code provided)	7
Incidental bycatch	reported (sharks)	10
Biological sampling	over 20 000 fish measured (Alfonsino), only length frequency provided.	8
Birds and mammal's interactions	NIL reported	10
Interaction with VME	NIL interaction reported	10

## MAURITIUS

No observer data was provided by Mauritius to the Secretariat.

Table 9: Summary of the scientific observer data submitted to the SIOFA secretariat by MAURITIUS

Category	Data status and comments	
Observer trip	no information provided	0
Fishing operations	no information provided	0
Gear details	no information provided	0
Catch and bycatch	no information provided	0
Incidental bycatch	no information provided	0
Biological sampling	no information provided	0
Birds and mammal's interactions	no information provided	0
Interaction with VME	no information provided	0

## CHINESE TAIPEI

No observer data was provided by Chinese Taipei to the Secretariat.

Table 10: Summary of the scientific observer data submitted to the SIOFA secretariat by CHINESE TAIPEI

Category	Data status and comments	
Observer trip	no information provided	0
Fishing operations	no information provided	0
Gear details	no information provided	0
Catch and bycatch	no information provided	0
Incidental bycatch	no information provided	0
Biological sampling	no information provided	0
Birds and mammal's interactions	no information provided	0
Interaction with VME	no information provided	0

## THAILAND

Table 11: Summary of the scientific observer data submitted to the SIOFA secretariat by THAILAND

Category	Data status and comments	
Observer trip	Provided	10
Fishing operations	HL: on a day basis, not enough information TW: tow-by-tow, no birds warps strike monitored	8
Gear details	HL: hook numbers only (see note below this table) TW: fully provided	7
Catch and bycatch	HL: provided, several species provided at Genus or higher level TW: several FAO codes missing (e.g., Pterois spp), usage of trash fish	7
Incidental bycatch	reported	10
Biological sampling	about 29 000 fish measured, 4 000 weighted, no other parameters measured.	8
Birds and mammal's interactions	HL: NIL reported TW: reported as not applicable (?)	5
Interaction with VME	benthos bycatch and weight provided	10

Note: the number of hooks provided with handline sets is not plausible in regards of the catch weight produced. Several sets of 30 hooks caught over 5000 kg of fish each.

## All CCPs

Table 12: Summary of the observer data submissions

Data categories	AUS	COM	COK	EU	Fr-OT	JPN	MUS	CT	THA
Observer trip	10	0	10	10	10	10	0	0	10
Fishing operations	8	0	8	10	10	10	0	0	8
Gear details	7	0	5	10	8	10	0	0	7
Catch and bycatch	10	0	8	10	7	7	0	0	7
Incidental bycatch	10	0	10	7	10	10	0	0	10
Biological sampling	10	0	10	10	10	8	0	0	8
Birds and mammal's interactions	0	0	7	10	10	10	0	0	5
Interaction with VME	0	0	9	10	10	10	0	0	10



The scientific observer data submission improved in many areas. Unfortunately, three CCPs did not submit any data as required by CMM 2019-02 (Comoros, Mauritius, and Chinese Taipei).

CMM 2019-02 does not explicitly specify the data requirements for handline fisheries and pelagic longline fisheries. The Secretariat notes that the Meeting of Parties (MoP7) requested that Comoros and Thailand develop data submission requirements under CMM 2019-02 for handline fisheries, and Chinese Taipei develop data submission requirements under CMM 2019-02 for pelagic longline fisheries.

The Secretariat would also like to draw the attention of the Scientific Committee to potential loss of data for 2020. Data for the 2020 fishing activities are due to be reported in 2021. With the reduction and lack of scientific observer deployment on the Japanese and Cook Islands trawls vessels due to the logistical and flight restrictions caused by the COVID pandemic in 2020, submission of data for the 2020 fishing activities will be impacted.