

Saint-Denis on March 1st, 2021

To: Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties  
Scientific Committee representative and SIOFA Observers  
SIOFA SC6 meeting participants,

### OFFICIAL

Dear Colleagues,

In this email, as Chairperson of the SIOFA SC, I am *formally opening* the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SIOFA SC (SC6). As you are aware due to the exceptional circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic the SC6, and associated working groups, are being held through remote processes in 2021. I am opening the SC6, so that forums can begin to progress some agenda items.

#### *Agenda*

The agenda for the SC6 was provided for comment through email and the latest version (SC-06-03 Provisional Agenda revised) provides the proposed agenda and tentative schedule. Formally *I propose we adopt this agenda*, if any CPP does not agree to adopt this agenda please respond by 15<sup>th</sup> March, otherwise nil responses will be taken as agreement.

#### *SC6 Forums*

As I said I am opening the meeting today to enable the SC6 Forum to be opened. The forums are the process we are using to progress several agenda items before the video conferences. Our rapporteur will assist us to summarise forum discussions, where necessary for inclusion in the report.

As identified in the agenda there are several forum topics,

#### **Agenda item 3, Annual National Reports**

Is now open for participants to ask questions of clarification of the reports, the forum will close to questions on 9 March. And then the relevant CCP will respond to the questions by 17 March.

#### **Agenda item 4 – Current and historical status of fishing activities**

Is now open for participants to ask questions or provide comments on the paper SC-06-13 Japan's comments on footprint and scientific research.

#### **Agenda item 5, Scientific Data Standards**

Is now open to discuss and ask questions on the Secretariat's papers (below) and/or on the proposals from Chinese Taipei and France (OT).

The topic will close to questions on 9 March. The Secretariat, the relevant CCPs will respond to the questions by 17 March.

Documents:

SC-06-17 2019 Catch and effort data submission

SC-06-18 2019 Observers data submission

SC-06-07 Revision of CMM 2019-02 data standards

SC-06-08 Proposal from Chinese Taipei to include pelagic longline for CMM 2019-02 on Data Standards

SC-06-16 Improvement of data submission

### **Agenda item 6 – Report of the 3rd Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Group**

This agenda item has been split into three topics to discuss on the report of Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Groups. This report will be available by 8 March.

### **Agenda item 7- Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Stock and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group**

This agenda item has been split into three topics to discuss on the report of Stock and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Groups. This report will be available by 15 March.

### **Agenda item 7.5 - Technical work to inform reference point and harvest strategy development**

Is now open, to provide comments or ask questions on the SC-06-24 SIOFA harvest strategy report. Participants to enter any comments or questions by 9 March.

### **Agenda item 7.6 – Ecological Risk Assessment**

Is now open, to provide comments or ask questions on the following papers

SC-06-info-03 A preview of an account of Deepwater Sharks

SC-06-Info-04 Southern Oceans Deep-sea Elasmobranch Exploration Project

### **Agenda item 10 – Review and Development of Conservation and Management Measures**

Is now open, to provide comments or ask questions concerning the future review and development of draft Conservation and Management Measures on fishing research and exploratory fisheries. Participants to enter any comments or questions by 15 March.

### **Agenda item 11 – Cooperation with other RFMOs and International bodies**

Is now open to exchange updates and discussion on the collaboration with ABNJ DSP – FIRMS-CCAMLR – ACAP. This topic will be closed to questions on 9 March. The Secretariat and/or the relevant organisation will respond to the questions by 17 March.

### **Agenda item 12 – Scientific Committee Work Plan**

Is now open to discuss and ask questions on the SC06 Info 06 EU Grant Actions description. The topic will be closed to questions on 9 March. The Secretariat will respond to the questions by 17 March.

### **Agenda item 13 – Scientific Committee workplan and budget 2021-2023**

This topic is to discuss on the SC06 update Research Activities. This topic is not yet open, it will be open after the PAEWG3 and SERAWG3.

### *Video-conferences*

As you are aware online video conferences will be used for the SC6.

Our next virtual Scientific meetings will take place on the following dates:

-3rd Protected Area Ecosystem Working Group: Monday 1 March, Tuesday 2 March, Wednesday 3 March (to be confirmed the day before) and Thursday 4 March.

-3rd Stock and Ecological Risk Assessments: Monday 8 March, Tuesday 9 March and Thursday 11 March.

- SC6: from Monday 22nd to Friday 26th March.

All The VC will last 3 hours per day from 6:00 UTC to 9:00 UTC, with a half-hour break in the middle.

The video sessions will take place via the Zoom platform and the links will be provided to each registered participants by email a few day before the meeting start.

### *Rapporteur*

Alex Meyer will be assisting us with the rapporteur. For the video conferences he will assist by preparing a daily draft report after each session for circulation.

He will also assist during the report adoption on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

### *Papers*

The Secretariat is working to update the SC6 website on a daily basis, all papers are uploaded on the SC6 page.

The Secretariat has also produced a paper SC06-04 which lists the agenda items and the corresponding papers.

### *Participants*

You can find the current list of participants on the meeting page of the SIOFA website.

I draw your attention on the fact that it will not be possible to register any new participant once the meetings are started

If you are aware of a colleague who planned to be registered and is not listed, please coordinate with your HoD and ensure their registration is provided to the Secretariat so the list is correct.

I look forward to working with you all during SC6.

Sincerely

SIOFA SC Chairperson

Alistair DUNN