

SC-07-INFO-06

7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC7)

21-25 March 2022 (online)

**PROGRESS REPORT TO SC7 ON PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION AND  
MONITORING OF EU-FUNDED PROJECTS TO SUPPORT THE SIOFA WORK  
PLAN (Project SCM2021-01)**

*Relate to agenda item: 13.1*

Working paper

Info paper

Restricted

---

## **Abstract**

The report presents the status of all current and planned projects being undertaken under the funding Agreement with the EU. These projects include PAEWG- and SERAWG-related projects as well projects that are managed by other SIOFA groups. Progress on individual projects has generally been on schedule and monitoring and reporting is expected to be enhanced with the appointment of a SIOFA Scientific Officer at the SIOFA Secretariat.

---

---

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

1. That SC7 note the report

---

## Introduction:

The EU has agreed to a 2-year (2020-22) funding arrangement to enable SIOFA to commission a series of scientific studies to support the SIOFA/Scientific Committee's (SC) Work Plan (2021-23).

The EU funding arrangements are designed to deliver on five General Objectives and, within each general Objective, a number of specific objectives.

The General Objectives (GOs) are:

1. GO1: Support the assessment of the key target stocks (alfonsino, tooth fish and orange roughy).
2. GO2: Management of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs)
3. GO3: Management of other ecosystem components
4. GO4: Reinforcing the data collection, SIOFA data/base systems, and coding and data processes.
5. GO5: Making operational the Scientific Working Groups and Scientific Committee (SC) supporting and facilitating the external expertise needed for advancing on the SC multiannual Workplan.

These Objectives are designed to (a) provide the data and analysis to inform the effective management of the three key target stocks in the fishery, being alfonsino (*Beryx splendens*), toothfish (*Dissostichus spp*) and orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*), (b) to mitigate risks to vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and by-catch or impacted species and (c) Provide support to the SC's Working Groups and address the important issue of the integrity of SIOFA's fisheries databases.

## Progress to Date:

### Administration

The appointment of a Science Manager to oversee the implementation and monitoring of EU-funded projects (project SCM2021-01) was completed in February 2021 with the appointment of Dr. Gary Morgan.

In March 2021, the schedule and proposed projects and activities to achieve the aims of SCM2021-01 and the EU Funding Agreement were presented to SC6 and to intersessional working groups.

With the appointment in February 2022 of a SIOFA Scientific Officer at the SIOFA Secretariat, constructive discussions between the Scientific Officer and the consultant

Science Manager have been held with a view to clarify and co-ordinate the roles of the two positions.

These discussions will be ongoing with the aim of providing an enhanced project management and monitoring system to support the SC and the SIOFA Working groups.

## Projects

Progress in project development, implementation and monitoring of EU-funded projects during the period March 2021-February 2022 has included the following:

- Two projects related to the work of the SERAWG were developed, consultants selected, and work commenced. Both of these projects are ongoing
- Seven projects/sub projects related to the work of PAEWG were developed, consultants selected, and work commenced. These projects are ongoing.

In addition, six projects related to the work of SERAWG, and one project related to the SIOFA Secretariat/database work are scheduled to commence during 2022/23.

The details of these projects are provided in Annex 1.

## Monitoring

Each of the EU-funded projects have contractual requirements for regular progress reporting during the course of the project in addition to web-based meetings between SIOFA personnel (including the Chairs of the relevant WGs and the Science Manager) and the contractors. These web-based meetings have been ongoing rather than being confined to formal, scheduled meetings and have entailed two-way conversations regarding issues of contractual clarification and technical issues and obstacles.

In all cases to date, this process has been effective in dealing with any issues as they arise.

## Observations and Issues Arising

In general, the scheduling, preparation of consultancy Terms of Reference, assisting with recruitment and assessment of consultant candidates, and monitoring of projects went smoothly during the period February 2021 to February 2022.

However, during this period, changes were made to the way in which, and the responsibility for, the preparation of consultancy Terms of Reference for the SERAWG. No similar changes were made for PAEWG projects.

This has resulted in a parallel, dual system for the development of project Terms of Reference as well as for the responsibility for monitoring those projects.

It is therefore recommended that SIOFA develop a common protocol for the development of consultancy Terms of Reference and the subsequent monitoring of projects across all Working Groups.

#### Planning, implementation, and co-ordination of future EU-funded projects.

No changes are anticipated to the scheduling and implementation of projects that were submitted to SC6. The details of these projects are shown in Annex 1.

## Annex 1: Status of EU-funded projects.

Year	Project Code	Lead WG	Title	Date Final Report Due	Addresses EU Grant Objective	Report author	Project Status
2020/21	SCM2021-01	SC/SEC	Science Manager for EU projects	19-02-2022	GO5	Gary Morgan	In progress
2021/22	PAE2021-01b	PAEWG	Representative protected areas (ToR1)	30-04-2022	GO2	Boris LEROY, MNHN	In progress
2021/22	PAE2021-01c	PAEWG	Representative protected areas (ToR2)	05-01-2022	GO2	Boris LEROY, MNHN	In progress
2021/22	PAE2021-01d	PAEWG	Holistic framework for VMEs (ToR4)	30-11-2022	GO2	Boris LEROY, MNHN	In progress
2021/22	PAE2021-01e	PAEWG	Holistic framework for VMEs (ToR5)	30-11-2022	GO2	Boris LEROY, MNHN	In progress
2021/22	PAE2021-01f	PAEWG	Support work on benthic bioregionalization (underway) and (future) investigate possible habitat suitability modelling	30-11-2022	GO2	Boris LEROY, MNHN	In progress

Year	Project Code	Lead WG	Title	Date Final Report Due	Addresses EU Grant Objective	Report author	Project Status
2021/22	PAE2020-02b	PAEWG	VME mapping (year 2)	01-03-2022	GO2 + MoP6; MoP7	BOREA Laboratory (2021-2022)	Completed
2021/22	PAE2021-02	PAEWG	Updates to the ERA work - Considering seabirds & mammals	05-02-2022	GO3	Keith Reid (Ross Analytics)	In progress
2021/22	SER2021-03	SERAWG	Saya de Maya Bank Fisheries	29-01-2022	GO1.4	MRAG	In progress
2021/22	SER2021-02	SERAWG	ORY ageing + growth	29-01-2022	GO1.3	NIWA (in prep)	In progress
2021/22	SER2021-07	SERAWG	ERA Teleosts	31-01-2023	GO2.4		N/A
2022/23	SEC2022-01	SC/SEC	Develop Data Base system and analyses	31-01-2023	GO4		Not yet started
2022/23	SER2022-07	SERAWG	Alfonsino age validation	31-01-2023	GO1.3		Not yet started
2022/23	SER2022-08	SERAWG	Toothfish growth curve	31-01-2023	GO1.3		Not yet started
2022/23	SER2022-06	SERAWG	Alfonsino stock assessment	31-01-2023	GO1.1		Not yet started
2022/23	SER2022-02	SERAWG	Stock structure (ORH)	31-01-2023	GO1.2		Not yet started

<b>Year</b>	<b>Project Code</b>	<b>Lead WG</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date Final Report Due</b>	<b>Addresses EU Grant Objective</b>	<b>Report author</b>	<b>Project Status</b>
2022/23	SER2022-03	SERAWG	Stock structure (BYS)	31-01-2023	GO1.2		Not yet started
2022/23	SER2022-04	SERAWG	Stock structure (TOT)	31-01-2023	GO1.2		Not yet started