**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORKSHOP ON THE HARMONISATION OF SCIENTIFIC OBSERVERS’ PROGRAMMES (WHSOP) TO THE SIOFA SC7**

**On the Harmonisation of scientific observers’ programmes**

1. In establishing the harmonisation of SIOFA scientific observers’ programmes the WHSOP recommends that the SC:
	1. **Notes** that SIOFA CMM 2021/02 (data standards) is the basis for the information to be provided to the Secretariat in order to fulfil fisheries data collection and data reporting obligations.
	2. **Notes** that CCPs should have flexibility in collecting and managing SIOFA Scientific Observer data, as long as the necessary data (as required by CMM 2021/02) are collected and standardised in the required SIOFA format.
	3. **Notes** that consistency in the data quality provided by CCPs scientific observer programs for SIOFA is desirable.
	4. **Considers** developing a SIOFA code of conduct for CCPS for their scientific observers, taking into consideration the CCPs’ national administrative arrangements, prioritising observer tasks as required by CCPs’ national regulations, and aims to ensure independence of observers including avoiding any conflicts of interest.

**In order to make operational[[1]](#footnote-1) the harmonisation of scientific observers’ programmes the WHSOP:**

1. **Recommends** that the SC establish an interim Intersessional Technical Working Group on the Harmonisation of Scientific Observers’ Programmes (WG-HSOP) to evaluate and agreed on data collection forms and minimum standards on CCPs observer programs for scientific data collection, as required by para. 16 of SIOFA CMM 2021/02 (Data Standards).
2. **Requests** that the SC Chair and SC Vice Chair provide a draft proposal for the Terms of Reference for the WG-HSOP, the workplan for WG-HSOP, and any requirements for a technical consultant for consideration at SC7.
3. **Notes** that the proposed Workplan (Annex 1) would form the basis of the work for the interim WG-HSOP.
4. **Encourages** CCPs and participants in the WSHOP to contribute to the development of the draft proposal.
5. **Requests** that the SC Chair and SC Vice Chair provide a draft proposal to SC7 for a SIOFA code of conduct, including requirements for independence, managing conflicts of interest, and health and safety considerations for Scientific Observers.

**On Electronic Monitoring the WHSOP recommends that**

1. At the 2023 SC meeting, CCPs **present** a summary on the development of any electronic monitoring programs trialled by CCPs on vessels in the SIOFA Area for consideration by the WG-HSOP and SC.
2. Upon reviewing the abovementioned information, the 2023 SC **consider** contracting a consultant to conduct a broader review of developments related to electronic monitoring systems.

**The WHSOP makes the following general recommendations**

1. The WSHOP **requests** that the Secretariat develop a proposal for a toothfish tagging protocol for the SIOFA area, for consideration at SC7, that is consistent with tagging protocol used by CCAMLR, including the development of a webpage on the SIOFA website that provides the relevant information.
2. The WSHOP **notes** that this may be a useful item to include on the agenda at the upcoming Joint SIOFA-CCAMLR Workshop on the exchange of scientific toothfish data.
3. The WSHOP **requests** CCPs consider sharing relevant resources (e.g., prints, drawings, photographs, illustrations, digital pictures, videos, etc.) with the Secretariat for inclusion in the SIOFA toothfish tagging protocol and web pages.
4. The WSHOP **requests** that the SIOFA Secretariat set up a specific part of the SIOFA website for observer training materials, observer manuals, data templates, and other relevant information.

**Annex 1 Workplan on the harmonisation of scientific observers’ programmes**



1. SIOFA CMM 2021\_02 (Data Standards) Paragraph 16. “*By 2023, the Scientific Committee shall develop and adopt a template for the observer reports, and a template for an observer data collection form that may be used by observers in subsequent years*”. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)