



SIOFA SC Workshop on Scientific Observer Forms (WS2024-OBS2)

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WS2024-OBS2-01

Draft project description for project OBS-
2025-03 *Development of a SIOFA
scientific observer data collection manual*

The Workshop Convener

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Distribution	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	<p>This paper presents a draft project description for project OBS-2025-03 <i>Development of a SIOFA scientific observer data collection manual</i>, as originally proposed in SIOFA SC Circular 2024-11 and to be further discussed and refined during the WS2024-OBS2 Workshop.</p>

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Draft project description for project OBS-2025-03 Development of a SIOFA scientific observer data collection manual

Description: Develop a SIOFA Scientific Observer Manual for use by SIOFA Scientific Observers and CCPs

Objectives:

1. Development of detailed biological sampling requirements for primary and secondary species in all SIOFA fisheries.
2. Development of an Observer Manual that describes the detailed methods and processes that can be used by all Observers in SIOFA fisheries, including the following contents:
 - a. Introduction
 - b. SIOFA Scientific Observer roles and responsibilities
 - i. Definition of terms
 - ii. SIOFA regulations (CMMs)
 - iii. Overview of roles and responsibilities
 - c. General operational procedures
 - i. Units and formats
 - ii. Standard measurements
 - iii. Weights
 - iv. Sexing and maturity stages
 - v. Otolith collection and storage
 1. Removing otoliths
 2. Otolith storage
 - vi. Tagging and tag recaptures (toothfish and skates)
 - vii. Conversion factor tests
 - d. Target catch and by-catch species
 - i. Primary species definitions and species identification
 - ii. Secondary species definitions and species identification
 - iii. Primary and secondary species sampling requirements
 - e. Observations of marine mammals and seabirds
 - f. Interactions with fishing gear
 - g. Vulnerable marine ecosystems
 - h. Vessel requirements
 - i. Observer data collection and data submission requirements
 - j. Appendices
 - i. Appendix 1 – Identification guides
 - ii. Appendix 2 – Maps of the SIOFA Areas, Sub-areas, and relevant seamounts/seamount complexes
 - iii. Appendix 3 – Functions and tasks of Scientific Observers
 - iv. Appendix 4 – SIOFA Scientific Observer resources
 - v. Appendix 5 – Recommended lists of Scientific Observer safety gear

vi. Appendix 6 – Recommended lists of Scientific Observer sampling gear

Budget: 15,000 Euro

Funding source: MoP

Project outputs:

1. A summary report summarising the manual scope and objectives
2. A draft SIOFA scientific observer data collection manual

Lead: TBD