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WS2024-PAD-03

History of Marine Protected Area Discussions in SIOFA

The Workshop Convener

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Abstract	<p>This paper summarises and provides references to the consideration of Marine Protected Area discussions at the SIOFA Meeting of Parties and advice from the SIOFA Scientific Committee since 2013. The paper summarises discussions and/or outcomes of each meeting as well as document and paragraph references for the relevant meeting reports.</p>

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History of Marine Protected Area Discussions in SIOFA

Introduction

This document summarises the historical consideration of MPA issues at the SIOFA Meeting of Parties and Scientific Committee since 2013. It is ordered by year and topic with references to relevant meeting records included in the 2nd column. The third column contains a summary of the discussion or decision made and the final column is the reference (if any) to the relevant paper.

AGENDA ITEM	PARAS	ADVICE/DECISION	PAPER
2013 MoP1			
5(a) UNGA Fisheries Resolution 61/105 (including subsequent measures) on VMEs and bottom fisheries	50 - 51	Agreed to consider giving effect to UNGA Resolutions 61/105 (2006), 64/72 (2009) and 66/68 (2011) prior to next MoP.	Presentation by Australia
	52 59	CI agreed to draft and circulate intersessionally proposals for temporary bottom fishing measures, including the SIODFA BPA areas.	
5(d) Treatment of SIODFA voluntary closures	58	SIODFA called for SIODFA voluntary closures of a network of benthic protected areas (BPAs) to be formally closed to deepwater trawling by SIOFA.	
		SIODFA outlined their 2006 adoption of over 300 000 km ² of voluntary closures in the SIOFA Area Southern Indian Ocean to conserve biodiversity and fishery resources in the Area.	<i>App D6. Opening Statement by the Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association</i>

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2015 MoP2			
5 Proposed CMMs	26 - 27	Australia, the EU, Japan and the Republic of Korea indicated willingness to work intersessionally to develop a CMM on VMEs. CPs agreed to endeavour to limit the deep-sea trawl fishing effort to recent historical levels until the 2016 annual session of the MoP.	
	28	SIODFA circulated a draft CMM on BPAs (in margins) and expressed concern on failure of SIOFA to adopt this proposal (Appendix Q)	App Q. MoP2 Report
2016 SC1			
3: Scientific Committee Work Plan	10 – 13 Annex F	Agreed workplan based on direction from MoP, which included priority theme of advice on VMEs.	
7: VMEs	43-44	Update on FAO ABNJ Deep Sea Project.	SC-01-INFO-07
	45-47	Ci presented work that supported delineation of potential BPAs and habitat assessment.	SC-01-INFO-17
	48-52	SC considered role of habitat suitability models (CI, DSCC, SIODFA, SC).	SC-01-INFO-20
	53 – 62	Discussed development of CMM on bottom fishing including BFIA, Footprints, VME protection, mapping and impact management and stock assessments based on proposal from Australia (Aus, SIODFA, SC) and agreed to intersessional work to development BFIA Standards.	(SC-01-07 (01) (02) SC-01-INFO-25 6 Annex L

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	Annex L BFIA Standards		
	63 – 67 114	Considered SIODFA/CI BPA proposal and recommended MoP close SIODFA BPAs (with reservation on Del Cano rise- south Indian ridge).	SC-01-INFO-26 SC-01-INFO-15 Table 3 Annex M
	68	Agreed to develop standards for the identification of future areas for protection or spatial management and included this in its 2016-2018 Operational Work Plan.	
	69- 72 115-117	Discussed proposal to constrain deep-sea trawl fishery (CI) as a means to limit fishing effort and provided options to MoP.	SC-01-INFO-27 SC-01-07 (01), SC-01-07 (02), SC-01-INFO 26, SC-01-27)
	73-74 118-119	FAO introduced FAO VME portal and database. FAO offered assistance to SIOFA through ABNJ Project.	
2016 MoP3			
6(a): CMM for the management of bottom fishing in the SIOFA Area	16-18	Agreed to progress the development of a SIOFA-wide bottom fishing impact assessment and bottom fishing footprint, and this commitment was reflected in the CMM.	Aus – Draft CMM
11: Discussion/adoption of Conservation and Management Measures	46 Annex M	Adopted CMM 2016/01 for the management of bottom fishing in the SIOFA Area.	Annex M

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5: Report of SC	Annex G	Endorsed SC workplan which included advice on VMEs as priority theme.	Annex G
2017 SC2			
Item 6.1 - VME Mapping of VMEs	54-59	Discussed available data and techniques for identifying where VMEs are known to occur. Noted that sparseness of data, and uncertainties in modelling approaches. Noted SIODFA data. Requested that the Secretariat create maps using the georeferenced data (referred to in paragraph 57).	SC-02-06 (02)
	60-62	SC requested that the Secretariat create VME maps using the georeferenced data, work with FAO AB and that Parties provide data available from surveys etc.	
Item 6.2 Standard Protocol for future protected area designation (SPFPAD)	63- 70 Annex H	Recommended MoP adopt standard protocols for future protected area designation (Annex H).	SC-01 Info-15 Annex H
Item 6.3 BFIAS	71-76 127	Refined proposal for SIOFA BFIAS and recommended its adoption by MoP.	SC-02-06 (01) CMM 2016/01
2017 MoP4			
Item 5 Report of SC	9	SC Chair reported on recommendations for on production of VME maps, SIOFA BFIAS and standard protocols for future protected area designation.	
	9i(iii) And Annex AA	The Cook Islands enquired if the Benthic Protected Areas should be closed until the review of these against the protocol of these was completed. The Scientific Committee Chairperson noted that the Scientific Committee had not been asked to provide advice on this question, but noted that the First Meeting of 3 the Scientific	Annex AA

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		<p>Committee (SC1) recommended the Meeting of the Parties to consider closing the Benthic Protected Areas</p> <p>CI reminded MoP of that 13 voluntary BPAs recognised by Australia, CI, Japan SIODFA fishing vessels.</p>	
	12b	<p>Adopted the standard protocol for future protected areas designation as recommended by the Scientific Committee.</p> <p>Requested that the Scientific Committee consider that there are various management measures possible.</p> <p>And Noted the planned work, led by Australia, to assess the Benthic Protected Areas.</p>	Annex H, SC2 Report
	12c	<p>Adopted the SIOFA BFIAS</p> <p>And agreed that FROT) would lead intersessional work on the development of a definition of ‘new fisheries’ for the purpose of the BFIAS.</p>	Annex I, SC2 Report
2018 SC3			
6 VMEs	94-100	Welcomed FROT efforts to develop a data acquisition protocol for benthos bycatch.	SC-03-06(02)
6.1 Maps	102-114	Discussed progress on maps of where VMES are known to occur, including use of FAO VME database, VME data submissions, and agreed on the need for common definition of ‘VME’ concept, a common data collection protocol and to means to share VME location data.	
6.2 BFIA	115 - 150	Noted challenges to providing an assessment of cumulative impact of fisheries due to differences in data and approaches in BFIAS. Discussed benefits of a specific	SC-03-06.2(01-03) Japan

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		<p>research framework to collect and analyse potential VME areas and benthos. Considered different interpretations of risk and impact. Recommended MoP consider uniformity of requirements for the Standard, noting that current differences made it difficult to assess cumulative impact, which was the purpose, but that progress could be made for particular gears/fisheries.</p>	<p>SC-03-06.2(04-05) CI SC-03-06.2 (06) Thailand SC-03-06.2 (07-08) AUS 03-06.2 (09) EU 03-06.2 (10) FROT Annex F BFIA gap analysis Annex G Summary of CP BFIA presentations</p>
6.3 SPFPAD	152	Reminded SC that SIOFA Standard Protocol was adopted at SC-02 and MoP4 in 2017.	Annex H SC2 Report
	153-163 166 – 187	<p>In absence of recommended dedicated WG, SC agreed to test protocol and discuss proposals against criteria.</p> <p>Concerns raised wrt proposed protected areas included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There may be a need to consider proposals against the spatial extent of fishing to assess the likely level of impact in these areas and evaluate the level to which some of these areas are considered as pristine or disturbed • In the absence of perfect information, how does the precautionary approach apply when evaluating against the protocol • Protected areas may need to be representative of the entire SIOFA area, in order to build an appropriate network of protected areas. Some areas (e.g. west) may be over-represented in the current set of proposals while other areas (e.g. north and east) may be underrepresented. 	<p>SC-03-INFO-06 East Broken Ridge (SC-03-06.3.2(01)) Atlantis Bank (SC-03-06.3.2(02)) Banana (SC-03-06.3.2(03)) Bridle (SC-03-06.3.2(04)) Coral (SC-03-06.3.2(05))</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of the definition of VMEs would assist in the assessment of proposals for protected areas • The protocol does not specify the level of evidence required in proposals, and further clarification of this, including the level of quantitative evidence required, should be provided • A lack of data should not be used as a reason to postpone the SC discussion of the proposals • The timeframe for designation and review of protected areas could be considered based on the evidence available and the level of certainty around this information • Temporary closures or other interim measures may help reduce risk to suspected or known VMEs until better information becomes available • The protocol considers individual areas but that it was important to consider these areas in terms of broader networks of protected areas • The citing of publicly available references in support of closed areas should be regarded as adequate evidence. IUCN noted that peer-reviewed data should be regarded as sufficient evidence, but where peer-reviewed info is not available then the detailed data should be provided by the proponent/s • Fine scale data on the distribution of VMEs should ideally be provided in support of proposed protected areas • Regarding Del Cano Rise, it was noted that collaboration with CCAMLR was required in terms of the species that are moving from CCAMLR to the SIOFA area, and that this information could be lost if this area was closed. <p>Accepted amendments to assist evaluation:</p>	<p>Del Cano Rise (SC-03-06.3.2(06))</p> <p>Fools Flat (SC-03-06.3.2(07))</p> <p>Gulden Draak (SC-03-06.3.2(08))</p> <p>Mid Indian Ridge (SC-03-06.3.2(09))</p> <p>Middle of What (MoW) (SC-03-06.3.2(10))</p> <p>Rusky (SC-03-06.3.2(11))</p> <p>Walters Shoal (SC-03-06.3.2(12))</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • references in proposals be provided to the SIOFA secretariat, made available to those evaluating proposals and also archived with the secretariat. • fishing effort and footprint information be provided by secretariat (if not included in a proposal). • Additional detail in the number and details of any VMEs or VME encounters referenced in a proposal and whether a threshold was triggered be provided, and, where feasible, provided to the Secretariat to assist with the task of VME mapping <p>Recommended adoption of Atlantis Band, Coral Feature, Fool’s Flat, MOW, Walter’s Shoal with suggestions for additional information to be included.</p>	
	<p>164-165</p> <p>188 - 191</p>	<p>Adopted the revised Standard protocol and recommended MoP adopt.</p> <p>SC reviewed the evaluation criteria, and considered the review period for designated areas, and requested the MoP to define the objectives to be included in the SIOFA Standard protocol for future protected areas designation.</p>	<p>Annex H, I</p> <p>SC-03-06.3(01)</p>
2018 MoP5			
4 Report of SC3	32	MoP requested SC to develop common thresholds for taxa indicators of VME presence and definitions of ‘VMEs’.	
	33	agreed that CPs fishing with same gears should work together in preparing their BFIA’s to progress understanding of cumulative assessment.	
	34 – 30	MoP adopted SIOFA protocol for designation of protected areas as an interim protocol but requested SC to review use and application of the criteria and provide a ranking and key, and to identify taxa indicators of VMEs presence and define a common VME encounter protocol.	Annex K

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4 Report of SC3 & 8.1	4: 41-46 8.1:79-94	<p>Aus proposed amendment to CMM 2017/01 interim management of bottom fishing to implement SC advice on 5 biodiversity rich protected areas.</p> <p>EU expressed various concerns wrt the specific BPA proposals</p> <p>MoP had a ‘robust’ discussion on merits of proposals.</p> <p>MoP agreed to interim protection of Annex 2 areas, closing these features to trawling and 100% observer coverage for other gears.</p> <p>Requested PAEWG (FROT) to develop management plans by 2019. Agreed SC should review interim protocol. Agreed to review Annex 2 when new protocol was adopted.</p> <p>MoP adopted amendments to CMM2017/01 (relating to Annex 2 areas).</p>	<p>MoP5-INFO-03</p> <p>MoP5-Prop06</p> <p>SC-03-06(07)</p> <p>Annex P</p> <p>Annex Q – IUCN</p> <p>Annex R - DSCC</p>
	95	Agreed WG (Aus) to review CMM2017/01 for other improvements, particularly wrt cumulative impact assessment, shared footprint and VME indicator taxa thresholds.	
2019 SC4			
6.1 Protected Areas and Ecosystems WG Report	92 - 95	<p>Considered the Report of PAEWG1 discussions and advice</p> <p>Noted collaboration with FAO Deep Sea project.</p>	<p>SC-04-30</p> <p>PAEWG-01-07 - 16</p>
6.2 VME mapping	96-101	Agreed to work plan for development of maps where VMES are known to/likely to occur (using predictive modelling) of habitat suitability by SC5, using VME indicator taxa list (Annex J).	<p>PAEWG-01-15</p> <p>Annex I</p> <p>Annex J</p>

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6.3 VME indicator species and responses to VME encounters	102-104	<p>Recommended that the MoP adopt the VME Indicator taxa list for use in the SIOFA Area (Annex J).</p> <p>Recommended catch/recovery of 10 or more VME-indicator units in single line segment as trigger threshold for LL</p> <p>Could not agree on consistent thresholds for trawl gears.</p>	Annex J
6.4 SPFPAD	113 - 114	<p>In considering advice to MoP on interim SPFPAD:</p> <p>Discussed spatial and biophysical analysis of the SIOFA area (FROT) as a background to complement the SPFPAD.</p>	MoP5 Report, Annex K PAEWG-01-12 PAEWG-01-13
	115-116	<p>Revised SPFPAD, agreed criteria have no particular ranking of importance, and recommended MoP adopt revised protocol.</p>	Annex L
	117 - 123	<p>Recommended MoP adopt R&MPs for the Atlantis Bank, Coral, Fools Flat, Middle of What and Walters Shoal protected areas.</p> <p>Recommended that any fishing related or research activity planned in a protected area requires a research plan for review by PAEWG and SC, and that ‘non-destructive’ monitoring be required within protected areas.</p>	SC-04-136.5 SC-04-15 – 18 Annexes M-Q PAEWG-01-14
6.5 VME database	124	Data Manager provided an updated on how additional ‘non-observer VME data’ could be included in the database.	
6.6 BFIA	129	Reaffirmed that BFIA shall be updated when substantial change occurs in fishery	
2019 MoP6			

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4 Report of SC	39	Adopted VME taxa list	Annex J
	41-43	Requested SC progress work on trawl gear encounter thresholds Requested Secretariat to provide a summary of info provided by CCPs on conversion of volume units of benthic bycatch	
SPFPAD	44-46	Discussed revision of SPFPAD. Concerns raised about lack of clarity on overarching objectives served by protocol (whether it extends beyond identification, mapping and protection of VMEs) and different understandings of the process. Noted the Interim protocol will continue to apply	Annex L of SC4 MoP6-INFO07
	47-48	Differing views expressed on revised R&MPs, with suggestion to revisit as bottom fishing measure was strengthened .	
12.10 Prevention of impacts on VMEs	137	Discussed proposed CMM for the Prevention of Significant Adverse Impacts on VMEs in the Agreement Area. Elements of proposal was suited for inclusion in CMM 2018/01 and combined with other relevant proposals presented in MoP6 - Prop21_Rev3, which became the CMM 2019/01.	MoP6-Prop16.
2020 SC5			
6.2 VME indicator species and responses to VME encounters	71-79	SC noted existing threshold value for trawls should be maintained and requested PAEWG to develop a workplan to progress work on encounter thresholds and report to SC6	MoP6 Report, para 11bi
6.5.2 Cumulative BFIA	95-104	SC required to provide advice on likely cumulative impacts by 2018. Reviewed PAEWG discussions. Requested PAEWG to develop a workplan to progress this work	PAEWG2 Report

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		and report to SC6 (including consultancy to undertake cumulative trawl and longline BFIA's).	
2020 MoP7			
5 Report of SC 45-54	52.f	Noted some CCPs emphasised the importance of CCP bottom fishing impact assessments meeting the BFIA's, and recalled paragraph 75 of the MoP6 report which asks CCPs to address gaps in their BFIA's to meet the BFIA's	MoP-0-7-18 MoP-07-31
2021 SC6			
6 Advice arising from report of PAEWG Report	89	Recommended adoption of draft VME taxa list Agreed further investigation was needed to adapt it from CCAMLR list.	PAEWG3 Report Annex D
	90	Requested PAEWG to work intersessionally on review of VME encounter thresholds used by other organisations, and Recommended a consultant to assist	
	91	Work progressing (consultant) on mapping bioregions based on VME indicator taxa distribution data.	
	92	Ongoing work on trawl and LL cumulative BFIA consultancy and made several recommendations relating to inclusion of additional data.	
2021 MoP8			
7 Report of SC	99	Agreed that draft VME taxa list be distributed to fishing authorities and on-board	PAEWG3 Rep Annex D

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		Requested SC to update and revised the VME taxa list in CMM2020/01 for MoP9,	
	100 124 126	Noted PAEWG will work intersessionally to review thresholds or process to agree thresholds, adopted by other RFMO. Requested SC submit proposal to MoP9 on how to conduct a review on how to develop better thresholds for VMEs.	SPRFMO-SC6-DW09 MoP-08-INFO-06
	101	Endorsed ongoing work on trawl and LL cumulative BFIA consultancy.	
8 Interim bottom fishing measures Saya de Malha Bank	137-147	Requested SC to conduct further studies of the ecology of the Saya de Malha Bank and the potential impact of bottom trawling fisheries on its ecosystem, as part of the planned study of the Saya de Malha Bank in the Scientific Committee workplan.	MoP-08-INFO-08 MoP-08-INFO-09
2022 SC7			
Saya de Mahla Bank	72	<p>Requested MoP note</p> <p>that, in order to better understand the bottom trawl fisheries interactions with VME species, SIOFA should prioritise efforts to document species and fisheries effort distributions more precisely both historically and in future. This would serve to improve confidence in the assessment of impacts from ongoing fisheries and allow for evidence-based management decision-making and the formulation and implementation of appropriate management actions if required.</p> <p>the need to foster engagement and improve cooperation between SIOFA and key contracting and non-contracting parties.</p> <p>the need to improve the understanding of key elements of the ongoing fishing operations e.g., gear use, target species and CPUE, to underpin informed decision making and effective management actions.</p>	

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9.2 Review of thresholds	186-188 193	Recommended that MoP note PAEWG was unable to progress this work intersessionally, but that it will be included in 2023 workplan.	SC-07-INFO-01
9.3 Advice arising from report of PAEWG Report 9.4 Advice to MoP	190 194	Recommended MoP note recs arising from mapping consultancy , including data scarcity in area requires urgent research exploration in ABNJ, that taxonomic level of observer data is too broad for biodiversity analysis, that interpretation of maps be considered with caution and that only when various limitations are resolved can maps be used for conservation planning. Ramiro-Sánchez, B. and Leroy, B. (2022). SIOFA Bioregionalisation and VME project. (https://siofa.org/sites/default/files/files/VMEMapping_FullReport.pdf) Recommended the potential value of compiling a VME image database	PAE2020-02
10 BFIA and BPAs 10.3 Advice to MoP	195-198 199	On trawl and LL cumulative BFIA, Recommended MoP note: that VME characteristics... be discussed, and values agreed that population status of a range of VME indicator taxa be calculated once spatial distribution maps are available that all future fishing effort continue to be recorded on a haul-by-haul basis, including start and end positions, distance trawled, trawl width and longline length. That the SC has requested PAEWG advice on how to consolidate the advice derived from the different BFIA's submitted to the PAEWG and work on VME mapping / bio-regionalisation.	
2022 MoP9			
5 Report of SC7	75-81	NOTED paragraph 172 of the SC7 report regarding Saya de Malha Bank.	

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Sata de Mahla Bank			
	94	The Meeting of the Parties NOTED paragraph 193 of the SC7 report regarding vulnerable marine ecosystem (VME) encounter thresholds.	
	95	ENDORSED the recommendations in paragraph 194 of the SC7 report regarding VME mapping consultancy.	
	96	NOTED paragraph 199 of the SC7 report regarding the trawl and longline cumulative bottom fishing impact assessment (BFIA).	
5.4 SC workplan	162	Endorsed SC workplan.	MoP-09-11-rev1
	164	DSCC suggested greater priority be given to VME work.	
2023 SC8			
8 VMEs	276	Recommended MoP	WS2022-VME1
8.1 Report of VME workshop 274-289	277	consider various VME management options compiled in table (Annex L), while noting table was only to demonstrate potential options and likely time for SC to provide advice on each option.	Annex L
	283		Annex N
	284	note exploratory fishing both inside and outside current fishing footprint should provide info on VMEs and environmental data	
	287		
	288	that presence/absence data for all VME taxa be recorded in logbooks	
	289	that trial collection of photographs of all sessile invertebrate occurrences be added to data required to be collected by SO	

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		<p>consider revising CMM 2022/02 (Data Standards) to ensure live/dead status of corals be reported</p> <p>provide advice to SC on direction on likely management options for preventing significant adverse impacts (given that move-on rules are one of a range of potential management approaches to provide VME protection)</p> <p>review CMM 2020/01 or 2022/02 to ensure vessel reported VEM indicator taxa captures and observer data reports are consistent.</p>	
8.2 VME data and setting of encounter thresholds	290- 292	SC requested Science Officer to generate updated cumulative catch curves for sponges and corals, separately by gear, for 5 year periods or two periods – before the encounter threshold was set and since.	SC-08-26-Rev1
8.3. VME mapping project (PAE2021-02)	293-303	<p>Received draft report from BOREA re ‘Bioregionalization and management of VMEs’, which is testing various habitat suitability models in predicting benthic species diversity and distribution. SC noted only biodiversity model based on S-SDMs should be considered, and application of the definition of hotspot to S-SDMs be considered for use in future conservation planning.</p> <p>SC noted critical under-sampling prevents calibration of adequate diversity models, and that it may be useful to foster sampling campaigns in Area.</p> <p>Final report will be presented to SC9.</p>	SC—08-30
8.4 Revisions of VME taxa list	304	SC endorsed typographical corrections	Annex K
2023 MoP10			

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6 SC8 and Report	108	Requested clarification from SC Chair on why proposed move-on rule was different trigger level to that of CCAMLR	
	109	The MoP NOTED the recommendation in paragraph 247 of the SC8 report and considered the application of a potential 5 nm move-on rule for limiting bycatch of skates. In relation to the trigger threshold, the MoP AGREED that the same trigger threshold as in CCAMLR Conservation Measure 33-03, i.e., 1 tonne of skates in any one haul or set, should be applied.	
	124 174-175	Adopted amendments to CMM 2020/01 as per the recommendation in para 287 of the SC8 report	MoP-10-18 Annex K
	137	The MoP NOTED the recommendation in paragraph 276 and 288 of the SC8 report regarding potential management options for providing protection for vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), and discussed the table of different VME management options available, as summarized in Annex L of the SC8 report. The MoP REQUESTED the SC to discuss management options for preventing SAIs on VMEs with a focus on the precautionary approach, spatial management measures, move-on rules, and identifying risks for determining appropriate measures.	
	138	ENDORSED the recommendation in paragraph 277 of the SC8 report that proposals for exploratory fishing both inside and outside of the current fishing footprint should provide information on VMEs and environmental data	
	139	NOTED the recommendation in paragraph 283 of the SC8 report that presence/absence data for all VME taxa should be recorded in the vessel logbooks (in addition to the observer data) as a first step to collect all information on VME	

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		taxa encountered by fishing vessels, specifically, the recording of VME taxa at the finest taxonomic level possible and the quantity caught, including zero catches	
	140	NOTED the recommendation in paragraph 284 of the SC8 report and encouraged CCPs to conduct trial collections of photographs of all sessile invertebrate occurrences (one picture per occurrence in each haul) by their Scientific Observers for a 3-year trial period, for consideration by the SC after the trial period.	
	141 176-177	The MoP adopted proposed amendments to CMM 2022/02 (Data Standards) to improve VME bycatch information and recording by the crew in Annex A and by the observers in Annex B. 177.	MoP-10-20 rev1 Annex L
	142	Re request for consideration of revisions to either CMM 2020/01 (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing) or CMM 2022/02 (Data Standards REQUESTED the SC to provide further advice on potential management options for resolving the issue, specifically what potential amendments would be required to CMM 2020/01 or to CMM 2022/02.	
2024 SC9			
9 VMEs	295-198	Discussed VME encounter thresholds and agreed to focused session at SC10	SC-09-25,
	299	DSCC proposed further action to protect VMES.	SC-09-INFO-09
	300-302	Discussed Final Report on bioregionalisation and management of VMES and agreed to discuss techniques for improved mapping and recording of VMES as part of a focused session on VMES at SC10.	PAE2021-02 SC-09-27
	303-305	Agreed to hold further discussions on management options for preventing SAIs on VMES as part of a focused session on VMES at SC10.	MoP10 Report, para 137

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9 VMEs	305-306	Recommended that the MoP note that it intended to hold discussions on options for recording of VME taxa by line or line segment at a focused session at SC10.	
	307	Agreed to discuss potential revision to the list of VME taxa, including the potential inclusion of seagrass and rhodoliths, as part of a focused session on VME at SC10.	
10 MPAs	308-310	Recommended that the MoP consider whether it would be appropriate to forward any SIOFA spatial management measures to the CBD world database on MPAs and OECMs or take any other related conservation measures	SC-09-INFO-16
	311-321	<p>Discussed progressing the development of work to designate and evaluate marine protected areas</p> <p>Discussed final report on protocols to designate and evaluate marine protected areas (MPAs) in the SIOFA Area and suggested the final report should include an evaluation of the SIOFA interim protocol for the designation of protected areas against the protocols considered by the consultant.</p> <p>Considered IUCN MPA guidelines and FAO Code of Conduct and Deep-sea guidelines noted the need to consider the outcomes of the final report together with the SC's other work related to BPAs and MPAs in a comprehensive and cohesive manner A noted that the evaluation of the SIOFA interim protocol could be considered at the proposed MPA workshop.</p>	<p>SC-09-INFO-27</p> <p>Annex O</p> <p>SC-09-INFO-19</p>
2024 MoP11			
5 SC Report - Proposed SC MPA workshop		The CI proposal for the adoption of BPAs was deferred to SC-MPA Workshop, November 2024 and SC 10	MoP-22-29