



SIOFA | APSOI

Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
Accord relatif aux Pêches dans le Sud de l'Océan Indien

SC-08-INFO-05

8th Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC8)

Tenerife, Spain, 22-31 March 2023

SC-08-INFO-05

SIOFA contribution to FAO FIRMS activities

The SIOFA Secretariat

Document type	working paper <input type="checkbox"/> information paper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	<p>The Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS, http://firms.fao.org) was started in 2014 and draws together international organizations and regional fishery bodies (RFBs) aiming to provide access to a wide range of high-quality information on the global monitoring and management of fishery marine resources.</p> <p>In 2020, as mandated by the MoP, the SIOFA Executive Secretary has signed a partnership arrangement with FAO for cooperation in the development and maintenance of FIRMS.</p> <p>This paper provides key updates on the advancement of the SIOFA/FAO-FIRMS cooperation that occurred in 2022.</p>

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Background

The Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS, <http://firms.fao.org>) was started in 2014 and draws together international organizations and regional fishery bodies (RFBs) aiming to provide access to a wide range of high-quality information on the global monitoring and management of fishery marine resources.

At its 4th meeting, the SIOFA SC considered a proposal by FAO ([SC-04-11](#)) to join the FIRMS (as a Partnership Arrangement or as a Collaborative Arrangement). The SC decided to support this proposal (para 186 of the [SC4 Report](#)), which was later ratified by MoP6 (para 174 of the [MoP6 Report](#)).

In 2020, as mandated by the MoP, the SIOFA Executive Secretary has signed a partnership arrangement with FAO for cooperation in the development and maintenance of FIRMS.

Aims

This paper aims to provide key updates on the advancement of the SIOFA/FAO-FIRMS cooperation that occurred in 2022.

SIOFA/FAO-FIRMS cooperation

On mandate of the Executive Secretary, the SIOFA Science Officer engaged with FIRMS starting in September 2022, with the purpose of creating a series of factsheets for the SIOFA area.

FIRMS structures factsheets in two categories: Marine Resources factsheets, and Fisheries factsheets. These deal with the species/taxa being fished, and the fisheries targeting them, respectively. A summary

After a short workshop with FIRMS providing guidance on the navigation and structure of the factsheets, the Science Officer compiled the information available and already published (e.g. utilising the [Overview of SIOFA Fisheries 2022](#)). This information was verified internally (e.g. by the Data Officer) prior to submission to firms.

The information submitted was utilised by FIRMS to produce a first draft of the factsheets, which were then circulate to the SIOFA SC Heads of Delegation for any comments that they might have.

The Secretariat collected comments submitted by the SC HoDs and proceeded to a second round of internal checks before providing further feedback to FIRMS.

Finally, a total of 13 marine resources and 9 fisheries SIOFA – FIRMS fact sheets were published on the FIRMS website in February 2023. The whole set of factsheets can be accessed at <http://firms.fao.org/firms/search/institution/siofa/en>. FIRMS also offers a map view of the resources and fisheries: <https://firms.fao.org/firms/stocks-fisheries-map-viewer>, where the Indian Ocean can be selected. SIOFA subareas will be displayed over the fact sheets maps soon.

SIOFA-FIRMS Marine Resources factsheets

- Alfonsino - Southern Indian Ocean <http://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/13931/en>
- Black cardinal fish - Southern Indian Ocean <http://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/13937/en>
- Bluenose Warehou - Southern Indian Ocean <http://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/13930/en>
- Deep water sharks - Southern Indian Ocean <http://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/13929/en>
- Hapuka - Southern Indian Ocean <http://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/13933/en>
- Oilfish - Southern Indian Ocean <http://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/13932/en>
- Orange roughy - Southern Indian Ocean <http://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/13928/en>
- Oreos - Southern Indian Ocean <http://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/13927/en>
- Patagonian toothfish - Southern Indian Ocean <http://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/13926/en>
- Pelagic armourhead - Southern Indian Ocean <http://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/13925/en>
- Saurids - Tropical Indian Ocean <http://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/13935/en>
- Scads - Tropical Indian Ocean <http://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/13934/en>
- Violet warehou - Southern Indian Ocean <http://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/13936/en>

SIOFA-FIRMS Fisheries factsheets

- SIOFA high seas fisheries <http://firms.fao.org/firms/fishery/1089/en>
- Bottom trawl orange roughy fishery - SIOFA waters <http://firms.fao.org/firms/fishery/1091/en>
- Bottom trawl saurida and scads fishery - Saya de Malha Bank (SIOFA subarea 8) <http://firms.fao.org/firms/fishery/1093/en>
- Deepwater gillnet/longline sharks fishery - SIOFA subarea 2 <http://firms.fao.org/firms/fishery/1096/en>
- Deepwater hooks and lines snappers, lutjanids and hapuka fishery - SIOFA waters <http://firms.fao.org/firms/fishery/1095/en>
- Demersal longline Patagonian toothfish fishery - SIOFA subareas 3b, 7 <http://firms.fao.org/firms/fishery/1090/en>
- Midwater trawl alfonsino fishery - SIOFA waters <http://firms.fao.org/firms/fishery/1092/en>
- Pelagic longline oilfish fishery - SIOFA waters <http://firms.fao.org/firms/fishery/1097/en>
- Shallow-water hooks and lines snappers, emperors and groupers fishery - Saya de Malha Bank (SIOFA subarea 8) <http://firms.fao.org/firms/fishery/1094/en>

In the next GRSF refresh (Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries), unique identifiers will be assigned to the SIOFA records.

FIRMS website renewal is in progress including its move to https protocol. In case of malfunctions, please browse the FIRMS website with Firefox (for this transition phase only).

In the coming years, the SIOFA Secretariat will continue to engage with FAO-FIRMS to update the time series as publication of fisheries report progress, on an annual basis, and more in general improve the quality of the data transmitted and its presentation.

Acknowledgements

The SIOFA Secretariat wishes to kindly acknowledge the useful and constructive cooperation with the FAO—FIRMS team, in particular Marc Taconet, Aureliano Gentile and Bracken VanNiekerk.