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

9th Annual Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC9)

Bangkok, Thailand, 18–27 March 2024

SC-09-33

Convener Report of the Southern Indian
Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)
Scientific Committee Workshop on the
Harmonisation of Scientific Observers
(WS2024-OBS)

The SIOFA Secretariat

Document type	working paper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	<p>This paper presents the report of the SIOFA Scientific Committee Workshop on the Harmonisation of Scientific Observers (WS2024-OBS). This report was published on the corresponding meeting page on the SIOFA website (https://siofa.org/meetings/WS2024-OBS).</p>

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² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

The WS2024-OBS Workshop recommendations are summarized here for SC9 consideration:

- The Workshop considered that the observer logbook templates content might benefit from a closer review at SC9, and that the Scientific Committee could consider a focused session to address this review.
- The Workshop recommended that the Scientific Committee:
 1. identify those fields in the cruise report that are to be considered as essential and that should be transmitted to the SIOFA Secretariat to be included in the SIOFA database. Further considerations need to be made regarding the workload of the Secretariat and its ability to handle this data.
 2. discuss and identify the recipients and nature (voluntary/compulsory) of the observer cruise report, and the process by which the cruise report is electronically transmitted after being compiled.
 3. discuss the additional information that could be required to be recorded by observers.
 4. further consider the consistency and overlap between the observer and the vessel logbooks.
- The Workshop recommended that the Scientific Committee:
 1. consider the information that it realistically needs for its work and would need to be collected by Scientific Observers, and how to ensure that there would be the capacity to collect and process those data.
 2. consider revising observer data submission timelines, as the current data submission deadlines mean that these data only become available to the Scientific Committee with a one year delay.
 3. review the proposed CMM and the observer logbooks to ensure that they are aligned.
- The Workshop noted that SC8 did not identify specific observer-related topics on their medium-term workplan and recommended that the Scientific Committee consider including this in its future work plan.
- The Workshop considered the work in the SEC2022-OBS1 project to identify potential future work and recommended that the Scientific Committee further prioritizes the Scientific rather than the Structural list of projects for further discussion (see paragraph 46 of this report).
- The Workshop recommended that a prioritization and tentative timeline (e.g. a staged process) of the projects would be beneficial in drafting a mid-term plan for the Scientific Committee to address these issues. The Workshop further recommended that the timeline for these projects would be on the scale of 2 years.
- The Workshop recommended that the Scientific Committee note that it will be important to keep this process of development as iterative, with periodic checks and reassessment, including on the timeline, to optimize the outcomes given the available resources.
- The Workshop recommended that the Scientific Committee consider further work on developing an accreditation process for SIOFA.
- The Workshop recommended that the Scientific Committee should consider the requirements for observer coverage in all its fisheries, and also for exploratory fisheries once the Meeting of the Parties progresses this topic.

- The Workshop recommended that the Scientific Committee should develop a document describing how the observer program is structured and run.
- The Workshop recommended that the Scientific Committee should consider how the proposed data to be collected by observers will be used in fisheries assessment or other analyses relevant to the Scientific Committees work.
- The Workshop noted that a proposal for an Observer Code of Conduct would need to be progressed by a CCP to the Meeting of the Parties, and recommended the Scientific Committee to consider the drafts in WS2024-OBS-01 and SC-07-INFO-08 to aid the development of such a proposal.



Convener Report of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Workshop on the Harmonisation of Scientific Observers (WS2024-OBS)

Virtual

6-7 February 2024

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Agenda Item 1 - Introduction to the meeting

1.1 Administrative arrangements

1. The Workshop participants (Annex A) agreed that the Workshop would be convened by Dr Sebastián Rodríguez Alfaro (EU).
2. The Convener introduced the meeting arrangements, including the timeline of the Workshop Convener Report circulation and its submission to SC9 for further consideration ([Convener-Introduction-WS2024-OBS](#)). Given the timing of the Workshop immediately prior to the SC9, the Workshop noted that there was limited time for feedback from participants on the draft report. The Workshop agreed that a Convener's report would be developed, drawing on the proceedings of the Workshop, and highlighting recommendations that could be further considered by the SIOFA Scientific Committee.
3. The Convener welcomed the invited experts for this Workshop, Dr Keith Reid (Ross Analytics), Mr Victor Ngongo (Imvelo Blue Environmental Consulting) and Ms Melanie Williamson (Capricorn Marine Environmental).
4. The list of registered participants to the Workshop is included in Annex A.

1.1.1 Adoption of the Terms of Reference and Workshop Agenda

5. The Terms of Reference, as drafted and circulated in [SIOFA SC Circular-2023/18](#), were adopted (Annex B).
6. Changes to the Preliminary Agenda, as drafted and circulated in [SIOFA SC Circular-2023/18](#), were discussed on the floor and, as there were no comments, a revised Agenda was approved by the Workshop (Annex C).

1.1.2 Appointment of rapporteurs

7. The Workshop agreed to appoint Dr Marco Milardi (Science Officer, SIOFA Secretariat) as rapporteur of the meeting.

1.2 Summary of papers submitted to the meeting by delegations

8. The FR-OT delegation presented paper WS2024-OBS-06 on the Pecheker Database ([FR-OT-Pecheker-database-WS2024-OBS-06](#)). The scientific monitoring of the Southern Ocean French fishing industry is based on the use of the Pecheker database. Pecheker is dedicated to the digital curation of the data collected on field by scientific observers and which analysis allows the scientists of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle institution to provide guidelines and advice for the regulation of the fishing activity, the protection of the fish stocks and the protection of the marine ecosystems. The template of Pecheker has been developed to make the database adapted to the ecosystem-based management concept. Considering the global context of biodiversity erosion, this modern approach of management aims to take account of the environmental background of the fisheries to ensure their sustainable development. Completeness and high quality of the raw data is a key element for an ecosystem-based management database such as Pecheker. The authors presented the development of this database as a case study of fisheries data curation to be shared with the readers. The discussion about how to build a global fisheries information system based on a network of small databases including interoperability standards was agreed to be addressed at the SC9 meeting.
9. The Workshop noted WS2024-OBS-07 on Deep-Learning and WS2024-OBS-05 on Bendima, and took these as read.

Agenda Item 2 - SEC2022-OBS1 preliminary draft report

2.1 Overview of the report (summary of structure and contents)

10. Dr Reid, joint consultant with Mr Ngcongco for SIOFA project SEC2022-OBS1, introduced the overall structure the project ([SIOFA-SEC2022-OBS1-Introduction-WS2024-OBS](#)). This introduction included the Terms of Reference for the project, the practical operation of the project so far, including the interactions with the project Advisory Panel, an overview of the guiding principles and objectives of the project. A particular focus of the presentation was the draft CMM on observer requirements, included in paper WS2024-OBS-01, and the proposed observer program operation. Dr Reid also introduced the annexes of the report, including the logbook forms (WS2024-OBS-02), the instructions on how to compile them (WS2024-OBS-03) and the draft observer cruise report (WS2024-OBS-04). Finally, Dr Reid introduced proposals of potential future work for SIOFA on the observer harmonization, which could be divided into structural and scientific work.
11. The Workshop discussed the overall structure of the report as presented by Dr Reid. FAO requested a clarification on the type of observations carried out in SIOFA, and the Scientific Committee Chair clarified that SIOFA has exclusively scientific observations at sea, even if these can also be used for compliance purposes at the discretion of the SIOFA Compliance Committee. On this topic, SIOFA flagged that the Workshop could further consider the collaborative approach between the fishing vessel crew and the scientific observers in the collection and recording of the observer data, with the results possibly to be included in the observer instruction manual.

2.2 Introduction to the data forms (reporting requirements 1-2 of the project SEC2022-OBS1)

Observer Logbooks

12. Dr Reid provided an introduction to the observer logbooks created within project SEC2022-OBS1 ([SIOFA-Observer-logbooks-WS2024-OBS](#)), which were submitted to the workshop as WS2024-OBS-02. The different fishery-specific logbooks have been revised to make the data input easier and reduce typing errors. He noted that the identification of primary and secondary species in SIOFA fisheries undertaken at SC8 was extremely useful for this work.
13. The Workshop raised the question on how to link the observer and vessel supplied data, as the linkage between the two is currently not fully implemented in the SIOFA database. The Workshop discussed the Secretariat suggestion that there is a need for the observer to coordinate with the vessel skipper to use a common identifier for each fishing operation and noted that this is currently being implemented.
14. The Workshop requested Dr Reid highlight the most significant changes in the proposed logbook templates from the ones currently in use in SIOFA. Dr Reid provided a detailed example, using the logbook forms for trawls, to the Workshop.
15. The Workshop requested Dr Reid to revise the forms submitted in the project Final Report to highlight fields that were changed from the current requirements.
16. SIOFA asked a clarification on which vessel length (e.g. LOA) should be recorded by the observer, or how the start net shooting should be defined. CITEB also noted that there are several redundant fields for the vessel information like engine power, etc. and that this information should be delivered by the vessel rather than by the observer. Dr Reid further clarified that he agrees that there are several data fields that should not be recorded by the observers but would be best served by being reported by the vessel itself and that these reporting responsibilities should be clarified by SIOFA.
17. The Workshop asked a clarification on how observers would decide on the types of length measurements used in the biological sampling sheet (e.g. standard length or total length). Dr Reid clarified that he sees these kinds of specific requirements as needing to be clarified within the

proposed Observer Manual.

18. The Workshop asked whether it was foreseen to have subsampling information recorded in the forms, so that more detail could be available to analysis, for example to calculate soak time or other information required for standardizing CPUE. Dr Reid clarified that he sees this as another requirement that would be more appropriately included in the proposed Observer Manual.

Observer cruise reports

19. Dr Reid introduced the observer cruise reports created within project SEC2022-OBS1 (WS2024-OBS-04). These reports provide for the collection of ancillary information such as details of ETP species or the destination of scientific samples.
20. The Workshop asked for a clarification on the distribution of these ancillary data (and whether some of these should be included in the logbook instead) and also raised the question of how these data could be made available in the SIOFA database. The Data Officer clarified that the Secretariat normally does not receive these reports and are not in a paper format. He noted that these are not mandatory in the data submission and are submitted to the flag state instead. The Secretariat also noted that some of the CCPs have been submitting these types of data on a voluntary basis. SIODFA noted that these ancillary data may not be essential but would be interesting to collect and analyse. The Workshop clarified that some of the information collected in these reports may be confidential and would be best handled at the flag state level, but supported the option for these data to be submitted to the Secretariat.

2.3 Introduction to a proposed Scientific Observer regulation/CMM (reporting requirements 3-7 of the project SEC2022-OBS1)

21. Dr Reid provided an introduction to the proposed Scientific Observer regulations/CMM from project SEC2022-OBS1 (WS2024-OBS-01). This work included the development of potential CMM that would specify the data to be collected by Scientific Observers. Dr Reid clarified that that none of the changes proposed would reduce the current data collection requirements, and that the changes proposed aimed to clarifying the data required to be collected.
22. The Workshop requested that the consultants provide some more information on the background and reasoning of the changes proposed. Dr Reid clarified that the proposed changes stemmed from personal experience and aimed to provide a coherent framework for the operation of an observer scheme rather than an ad-hoc approach.
23. The Workshop noted that the proposed CMM would need iterative additional revision (e.g. on the catch composition, number of tags alive or dead at surface) to align the CMM with the proposed logbooks (e.g. weighted line). FR-OT offered to send comments on the logbooks, CMM and cruise report for inclusion in the Convener working paper to be submitted to SC9.
24. Ms Melanie Williams, invited expert, flagged that a lot of historical information is available and should not be lost. The Secretariat confirmed that these are facilities to include the submission of historical information in the SIOFA database when this information is submitted to the Secretariat while keeping the already submitted data.

2.4 Discussion of any other points arising from the presentations

25. The Workshop noted that fishing operators should be involved in the discussion of the observer logbook revision, especially when aligning the vessel and observer logbooks.
26. SIODFA expressed its appreciation for the work of the consultants on this project and noted that there are some additional considerations needed on the dropdown menus, the use of languages and form design to assist observers with different nationalities.
27. The Workshop requested the consultants consider identifying fields that were changed from the current requirements on the proposed forms in their final report

2.5 Key points for the Scientific Committee to consider

28. The Workshop considered that the observer logbook templates content might benefit from a closer review at SC9, and that the Scientific Committee could consider a focused session to address this review.
29. The Workshop recommended that the Convener report include a summary of Workshop comments on the project draft report as an Annex for the benefit of the project consultants.
30. The Workshop requested the Convener prepare a working paper collecting the inputs of the Workshop for further consideration by the Scientific Committee.
31. The Workshop recommended that the Scientific Committee
 - a. identify those fields in the cruise report that are to be considered as essential and that should be transmitted to the SIOFA Secretariat to be included in the SIOFA database. Further considerations need to be made regarding the workload of the Secretariat and its ability to handle this data.
 - b. discuss and identify the recipients and nature (voluntary/compulsory) of the observer cruise report, and the process by which the cruise report is electronically transmitted after being compiled.
 - c. discuss the additional information that could be required to be recorded by observers.
 - d. further consider the consistency and overlap between the observer and the vessel logbooks.
32. The Workshop recommended that the Scientific Committee
 - a. consider the information that it realistically needs for its work and would need to be collected by Scientific Observers, and how to ensure that there would be the capacity to collect and process those data.
 - b. consider revising observer data submission timelines, as the current data submission deadlines mean that these data only become available to the Scientific Committee with a one year delay.
 - c. review the proposed CMM and the observer logbooks to ensure that they are aligned.

Agenda Item 3 – Discussion of a potential future work program

3.1 Summary of the work program identified by SEC2022-OBS1

33. Dr Reid presented potential future work for the harmonization of the observer program (WS2024-OBS-01). This work was divided into:

Structural

- Specification of the mandatory data requirements from SIOFA fisheries in order to meet the objectives of the SIOFA Agreement and whether these data should be provided by vessels or by scientific observers.
- Specification of the definition of observer coverage and required levels of coverage in all SIOFA fisheries.
- Development of a CMM that creates the policy-level framework for a harmonised observer scheme in SIOFA.
- Development of vessel information reporting for SIOFA fisheries that can be used by all Observers in SIOFA fisheries.

Scientific

- Review and implement observer data collection using a standard set of Observer Logbooks and instructions in SIOFA fisheries.
- Development of data entry processing and quality assurance metrics to provide feedback to CCPs on data quality and performance.

- Development of detailed biological sampling requirements for primary and secondary species in all SIOFA fisheries.
 - Development of an Observer Manual that describes the detailed methods and processes that can be used by all Observers in SIOFA fisheries.
34. Dr Reid was asked by the Workshop to rank the proposed projects, to help guide the Scientific Committee discussions of the projects based on their priority. Dr Reid suggested that the review of the proposed Observer Logbooks templates might be most effectively lead by those CCPs that are active in the respective fisheries and that their recommendations could be grouped into those that are editorial suggestions and those that require clarification of data requirements. . He also suggested that the agreement on detailed sampling requirements for primary and secondary species would assist in the development of an Observer Manual.
35. The Workshop noted that some projects, especially the structural ones, would likely require input from the Meeting of the Parties, and suggested that the Scientific Committee may wish to develop the scientific aspects of the projects for consideration by the Mop. The Workshop noted that further discussion should take place at the SC9 and that it will be likely that follow-up projects will be needed to advance the future work programme following their consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.
36. The FAO welcomed the progress being made at this Workshop as many of the questions being addressed aligned with the objectives of the FAO Common Oceans Deep-Sea Fisheries (DSF) project. The FAO noted that the DSF included funding for scientific observer training and was targeted at ways to improve the recording of target and non-target catch and the collection of biological data. The FAO noted that, to the extent possible, this was being undertaken in an open and transparent manner with summary information being made publicly available.
37. Following its initial discussion at the Meeting of the Parties in 2023, the FAO noted that it looked forward to working with SIOFA and CCP scientific observer programs to identify opportunities to further develop the detailed content, delivery mechanisms and use of observer information to advance this important aspect of sustainable management of deep-sea fisheries.
38. Ms Melanie Williamson suggested that when developing future work particular attention should be given to training the observer with the purpose of ensuring that they are using FAO codes. The Scientific Committee Chair remarked that observer could use national codes, as long as these are then converted to FAO codes once the data are submitted to SIOFA. This should be further considered in future discussion and ultimately for inclusion in any observer manual to be developed in the future.

3.2 Summary of the work program identified by SC8

39. The Workshop noted that SC8 did not identify specific observer-related topics on their medium-term workplan and recommended that the Scientific Committee consider including this in its future work plan.

3.3 Requirements for observer coverage

40. Dr Reid summarized the work in project SEC2022-OBS1 to identify further requirements for observer coverage. Currently SIOFA only has a 100% coverage requirement for bottom trawl fisheries, while all other bottom fisheries have 20% coverage rate requirement other than demersal longline fisheries within protected areas or within toothfish management units, where it is 100%). He noted that there are no scientific observer coverage requirements for other fisheries in SIOFA and, based on the consideration that SIOFA fisheries are still substantially data-limited in nature the recommendation in WS2024-OBS-01 was that there be a 100% observer coverage for all SIOFA fisheries, to provide for the collection and analysis of scientific observer information.
41. The Workshop noted that the observer data is currently used to monitor the fisheries, including

stock assessments and sustainability, as well as for the wider assessment of fisheries impacts of fishing. The workshop further noted the importance of observer data in the development of harvest strategies.

42. The Workshop recalled that SIOFA Scientific Committee and Meeting of the Parties have previously discussed new and exploratory fisheries (i.e. fisheries occurring in new areas outside of the historical bottom fishing footprint) and that the need to develop an exploratory fisheries process had been identified by the Meeting of the Parties. It also noted that an agenda item on this topic was scheduled for discussion at SC9.
43. The Workshop supported the suggestions expressed by consultants (WS2024-OBS-01) in the SEC2022-OBS1 project on considering 100% observer coverage, as all fisheries in SIOFA currently lack the information on distribution, abundance and demography to allow an estimate of the potential yield of the target species or to evaluate the potential impacts on non-target and associated or dependent species, but recommended that the Scientific Committee could prioritize their consideration on those fisheries that currently had sparse information (e.g. the pelagic longline fisheries).
44. The Workshop considered the observer accreditation program recommended in WS2024-OBS-01, including the choice of the data quality assurance score. The Workshop noted that this specific value for a data quality assurance score was used as an example, and the choice of a final value would need to be considered with respect to the data considered and the information uses of the specific data. The Workshop supported development of a document describing how the observer program is structured and run be prepared by CCPs, based on the aspects listed in WS2024-OBS-01, and that this would assist in further work on developing an accreditation process for SIOFA.
45. The Workshop also noted that Electronic Monitoring (EM) could be used to complement observer-collected fishery operations and catch data. The Workshop noted that while no deep sea RFMO has yet adopted EM in their fisheries, the IOTC recently agreed on a CMM on EM standards (IOTC Res 23/08) and that the process for its adoption had lasted several years.
46. The Workshop welcomed the offer by the FAO to support any action in this direction through the DSF project that the SIOFA might consider appropriate.

3.4 Development of potential projects for the Scientific Committee to consider

47. The Workshop considered the work in the SEC2022-OBS1 project to identify potential future work and recommended that the Scientific Committee further prioritizes the Scientific rather than the Structural list of projects for further discussion (see paragraph 46 of this report).
48. The Workshop recommended that a prioritization and tentative timeline (e.g. a staged process) of the projects would be beneficial in drafting a mid-term plan for the Scientific Committee to address these issues. The Workshop further recommended that the timeline for these projects would be on the scale of 2 years.
49. The Workshop recommended that the Scientific Committee note that it will be important to keep this process of development as iterative, with periodic checks and reassessment, including on the timeline, to optimize the outcomes given the available resources.
50. The Workshop recommended that the Scientific Committee consider further work on developing an accreditation process for SIOFA.
51. The Workshop recommended that the Scientific Committee should consider the requirements for observer coverage in all its fisheries, and also for exploratory fisheries once the Meeting of the Parties progresses this topic.
52. The Workshop recommended that the Scientific Committee should develop a document describing how the observer program is structured and run.
53. The Workshop recommended that the Scientific Committee should consider how the proposed data to be collected by observers will be used in fisheries assessment or other analyses relevant to the

Scientific Committees work.

Agenda Item 4 – Other related items

4.1 Observer code of conduct (SC-07-INFO-08)

54. The Convener briefly introduced the work that was done in 2021-2022 on the Observer Code of Conduct (SC-07-INFO-08), which was also discussed in the Workshop on Harmonisation of Scientific Observers' Programmes (WHSOP). Paper SC-07-INFO-08 included an Annex that provided a draft Observer Code of Conduct.
55. Dr Reid summarized the work from project SEC2022-OBS1 on the draft Observer Code of Conduct, contained as an Annex of the CMM draft in paper WS2024-OBS-01. Dr Reid noted that this was a shortened version of that in SC-07-INFO-08, and focused on the operational components of draft in SC-07-INFO-08.
56. The Workshop noted that the draft proposed in WS2024-OBS-01 did not include provisions on the confidentiality of the data. Dr Reid noted that the confidentiality of all data was addressed in the minimum standards for CCP observer programmes in WS2024-OBS-01 but this provision could also be included in the relevant Annex to CMM .

4.2 Summary of key points from Agenda Item 4 for the Scientific Committee to further consider

57. The Workshop noted that a proposal for an Observer Code of Conduct would need to be progressed by a CCP to the Meeting of the Parties, and recommended the Scientific Committee to consider the drafts in WS2024-OBS-01 and SC-07-INFO-08 to aid the development of such a proposal.

Annex A – List of registered participants to the WS2024-OBS Workshop

Delegation	Title	First name	Last name	Position	Organisation
Australia	Mr	Trent	Timmiss	HoD	DAFF
Australia	Mr	Henry	Oak	Adviser	AFMA
Australia	Mr	Dominic	Oberle	Adviser	AFMA
China	Dr	Zhou	Fang	Alternate	Shanghai Ocean University
China	Dr	Jun	Yu	Alternate	Shanghai Ocean University
Cook Islands	Ms	Tiare-Renee	Nicholas	HoD	Ministry of Marine Resources
Cook Islands	Mr	Saiasi	Sarau	Alternate	Ministry of Marine Resources
Cook Islands	Mr	Steven	Brouwer	Alternate	Ministry of Marine Resources
Cook Islands	Ms	Bermy	Ariihee	Alternate	Ministry of Marine Resources
EU	Mr	Roberto	Sarralde Vizquete	HoD	Instituto Español de Oceanografía
France	Dr	Alexis	Martin	HoD	MNHN
France	Dr	Jules	Selles	SC Alternate	MNHN
France	Mr	Nicolas	Gasco	Expert	MNHN
France	Ms	Charlotte	Chazeau	Expert	MNHN
France	Ms	Marion	Kauffmann	Expert	MNHN
Japan	Dr	Takehiro	Okuda	HoD	Fisheries Resources Institute, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency
Japan	Dr	Midori	Hashimoto	Alternate	Fisheries Resources Institute, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency
Mauritius	Mr	Vikash	Munbodhe	Participant	Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping
Mauritius	Ms	Luvna	Caussy	Participant	Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping
Mauritius	Mr	Doorvanand	Kawol	Participant	Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping
Thailand	Mr	Weerapol	Thitipongtrakul	Thailand HoD	Department of Fisheries, Thailand
Thailand	Mr	Bunyarit	Permnak	Alternate	Department of Fisheries, Thailand
Thailand	Ms	Sawitre	Yawanopas	Alternate	Department of Fisheries, Thailand
Thailand	Mr	Nattawut	Aiemubolwan	Alternate	Department of Fisheries, Thailand
India	Dr	Rajapandian	Jeyabaskaran	HoD	Fishery Survey of India, Department of Fisheries
Observers SIODFA	Dr	Ross	Shotton	Exec. Sec.	SIODFA

SC-09-33 - Convener Report of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific Committee Workshop on the Harmonisation of Scientific Observers (WS2024-OBS)

Delegation	Title	First name	Last name	Position	Organisation
Observers SIODFA	Mr	Charles	Heaphy	President	SIODFA
Observers FAO	Mr	Anthony	Thompson	Consultant	FAO
Observers CITEB	Dr	Evgeny	Romanov	Observer	Centre Technique de Recherche et de Valorisation des Milieux Aquatiques (CITEB)
Invited experts	Dr	Keith	Reid	Director	Ross Analytics
Invited experts	Dr	Victor	Ngongo	Director	Imvelo Blue Environment Consulting
Invited experts	Ms	Melanie	Williamson	Director	Capricorn Marine Environmental
Convener	Dr	Sebastián	Rodriguez Alfaro	Convener	Marine Sciences
SIOFA SC Chair	Mr	Alistair	Dunn	Director	Ocean Environmental
SIOFA SC Vice Chair	Dr	Pavarot	Noranarttragoon	Senior expert	Marine Fisheries Research and Development Division Department of Fisheries, Thailand
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Thierry	Clot	Executive Secretary	SIOFA Secretariat
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Pierre	Peries	Data Officer	SIOFA Secretariat
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Johnny	Louys	Compliance Officer	SIOFA Secretariat
SIOFA Secretariat	Dr	Marco	Milardi	Science Officer	SIOFA Secretariat

Annex B – Terms of Reference for the WS2024-OBS Workshop

1. The workshop will be open to all representatives of the SIOFA Scientific Committee, including Observers.
2. The workshop will be convened by Dr Sebastian Rodriguez Alfaro (EU).
3. The workshop will meet online via video conference (Zoom) on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th of February 2024, from 07.30 UTC to 11.30 UTC.
4. A Convener's report of the workshop will be compiled by the Workshop Convener and be presented to the 9th annual meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC9).

Annex C – Agenda of the WS2024-OBS Workshop

- 1 Introduction to the meeting ([SC8 Report](#) and [SC-07-INFO-07](#))
 - 1.1 Administrative arrangements
 - 1.2 Summary of papers submitted to the meeting by delegations
- 2 Summary of the preliminary draft report from project SEC2022-OBS1
 - 2.1 Overview of the report (a summary of the structure and contents)
 - 2.2 Introduction to the data forms (reporting requirements 1-2 of the project SEC2022-OBS1)
 - 2.3 Introduction to a proposed Scientific Observer regulation/CMM (reporting requirements 3-7 of the project SEC2022-OBS1)
 - 2.4 Discussion of any other points arising from the presentations
 - 2.5 Identification of key points for the Scientific Committee to consider
- 3 Discussion of a potential future work program
 - 3.1 Summary of the work program identified by SEC2022-OBS1
 - 3.2 Summary of the work program identified by SC8
 - 3.3 Requirements for observer coverage
 - 3.4 Development of potential projects for the Scientific Committee to consider
- 4 Other related items
 - 4.1 Observer code of conduct ([SC-07-INFO-08](#))

Annex D – Summary of comments from the WS2024-OBS Workshop on the SEC2022-OBS1 Draft Report (Documents WS2024-OBS-01 through 04)

The Workshop requested that the Final Report includes:

1. Regarding the Observer Logbooks forms:
 - 1.1. Modified Data fields to be highlighted.
 - 1.2. Remove the data fields that should not be recorded by the observers but best served by the vessel itself.
 - 1.3. Identify those data fields that would need clarification in the observer instructions.
2. Regarding the Scientific Observer regulation/CMM – Annex C
 - 2.1. Clarifications on Items removed.
 - 2.2. Feasibility of the Detailed catch composition and biological sampling (tally period).
3. Regarding the Observer Code of Conduct
 - 3.1. The draft Observer Code of Conduct could include explicitly the provisions on the confidentiality of the data.