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SIOFA-PAM Projects: Timeline and Consultation Opportunities

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Abstract	
This paper briefly outlines the key project dates and deliverables for the SIOFA-PAM project (funded by the EU), along with potential timelines for workshops and consultation with the SC and MoP between SC10 and the scheduled end of the project consultancies in April 2026.	

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PAM Projects: Timeline and Consultation Opportunities

1. Introduction

In 2024, SIOFA contracted consultants to undertake a program of work to support the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management (SIOFA-PAM) Project, funded by the European Union.

The consultants were engaged according to the SIOFA Consultants Recruitment Procedure in late 2024. In early 2025, the SIOFA Scientific Committee held a workshop (WS2025-PAM) to consider the Consultants' proposed approach and methods in their respective SIOFA-PAM projects (see SC-10-48, the Convener's Report of the Workshop to progress the Precautionary Approach and Management Projects (WS2025-PAM)).

At the WS2025-PAM Workshop, the Expert reviewers noted that documenting the potential timeline for the consultancies, with a focus on the consultation opportunities with SC Members, would be valuable for the Scientific Committee when discussing the projects at SC10.

This paper briefly outlines the key project dates and deliverables, along with potential timelines for workshops and consultation with the SC and MoP between SC10 and the scheduled end of the project consultancies in April 2026.

2. SIOFA-PAM Project Overview

The SIOFA-PAM project will further enhance the scientific advice of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC) for the SIOFA Meeting of the Parties (MoP), in particular towards ensuring the sustainable management of fish stocks and the environmental impacts associated with fishing. The SIOFA-PAM project has three main components, which focus on development of a framework to ensure the sustainable management of fish stocks and managing the environmental impacts associated with fishing activities within the SIOFA Area. These aim to guide, inform, and enhance resource protection and to improve sustainable resource management measures, especially in the context of the information-limited fisheries. A fourth component provides for expert review and advice across the three main components.

The four specific components are:

- PAM-2024-01: Develop the SIOFA Precautionary Approach Framework. This component involves establishing a framework for high, medium, and lower information stocks to apply the precautionary approach within the SIOFA Area. This framework will provide guidelines and principles to help ensure that fisheries management decisions are made in a precautionary manner using the best scientific evidence available, consistent with the Objectives (Article 2) and General Principles (Article 4) of the SIOFA Agreement (SIOFA, 2006).

- PAM-2024-02: Determine Biological Reference Points (BRPs) for key SIOFA fish stocks. This component focuses on developing and scientifically evaluating BRPs for the key fish stocks within the SIOFA Area, based on the best available scientific data and methods.
- PAM-2024-03: Develop harvest strategies for key SIOFA fish stocks. Building upon previous workshops and ongoing efforts by the SC and MoP, this component aims to develop formal harvest strategies for key fish stocks.
- PAM-2024-04: Expert Review Panel for the Development of the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management. Provide external expert review and advice to the project teams and SIOFA for the work and outcomes of the three main projects.

3. Timeline

From the SIOFA-PAM project Terms of References, the Consultants are required to:

- Participate in two SIOFA-PAM Workshops
- Present on progress to SIOFA SC-10 (2025)
- Submit draft final reports by December 2025
- Present draft final reports to SC-11 (2026)
- Submit final reports following SC-11 (2026).

The consultants will also meet periodically with the PAM Project Advisory Panel to monitor progress and ensure consistency between project outputs.

4. Consultation

There are dedicated consultation opportunities at SC10 and SC11. However, as the project only started in late 2024, there is limited substantive progress to review at SC 10. Written consultation and a second SC Workshop will provide the best opportunities for SC Members to engage in the consultants' work.

Figure 1 shows an indicative timeline with tentative consultation times. Specifically, the consultants are aiming to have well-developed drafts for PAM-2024-01 and PAM-2024-02 ready for an SC Workshop following MoP12. PAM-2024-03 would start developing following this workshop, informed by progress on PAM-2024-01 and PAM-2024-02.

Following discussion of the final reports at SC11, the SC may also wish to consider any additional workshops that may be required between the SC and the MoP prior to the MoP13 meeting in 2026.

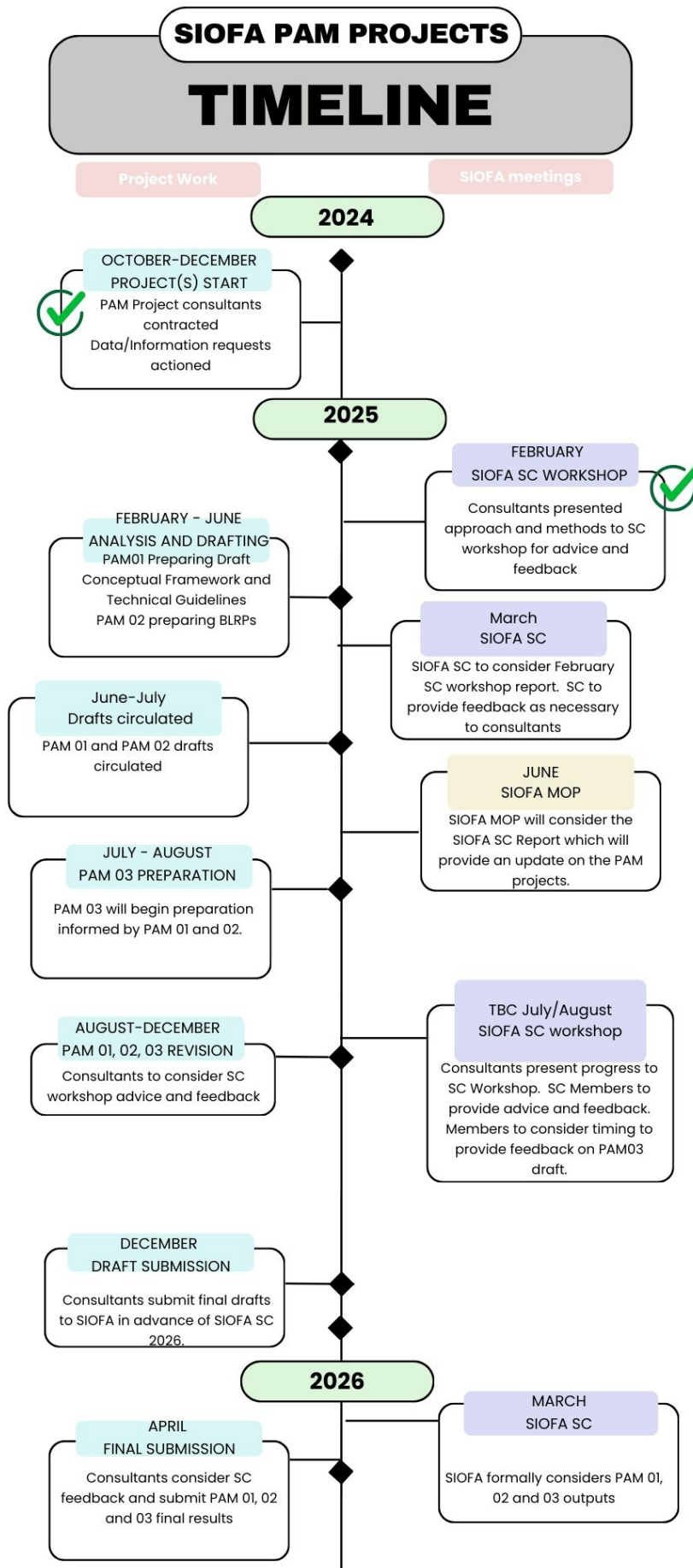


Figure 1: Flow diagram of the potential timeline for the PAM projects (PAM2024-01, PAM2024-02, PAM2024-03, and PAM2024-04).