



SIOFA | APSOI

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

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Ravenala Attitude Hotel, BalACLava, Mauritius

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CC-07-13

Proposal to amend CMM 2022/12 (Sharks)

Delegation of Australia

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| Abstract | <p>At the 8th Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC8), The SC considered the outcomes of the intersessional workshop on deepwater sharks in SIOFA area (WS2023-DWS).</p> <p>The SC noted in paragraph 229 of its advice: the high and increasing level of Portuguese dogfish (<i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i>) bycatch; that they constituted the second highest species of catch among all demersal fish in the SIOFA Area in 2022; that the annual catch of Portuguese dogfish in 2022 was the second highest on record; and that Portuguese dogfish accounted for 75% and 80% of total longline catch in Subarea 2 in 2022 and 2021, respectively.</p> <p>Further, the SC made a range of recommendations in paragraphs 230-235 of its report to improve the management of deepwater sharks and mitigate catches.</p> <p>The purpose of this proposal is to align CMM 2022/12 with recommendations from SC8 paragraphs 230-234 and to further strengthen mitigation measures for sharks. The proposed</p> |

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² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

amendments are, aligned with the objectives of the SIOFA Agreement, as well as relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions while attempting to not place undue burden on SIOFA vessels. The main changes to the proposal are :

- Consistent with SC8 paragraph 230 to ban the use of wire trace and require the use nylon trace on automatic longliners operating in sub-area 2.
- Consistent with SC8 paragraph 232, to implement a total allowable catch (TAC) for sub-area 2.
- Establish reporting requirements in sub-area 2 to allow for the implementation of the above TAC.
- Consistent with SC8 paragraph 234, encourage CCPs implementing move-on rules to increase the move on distance from 3nm to 5nm.
- Consistent with SC8 paragraph 250, update Annex 1 to reflect the results of the chondrichthyan ERA.

The reporting and TAC amendments are based on the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic and Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) management arrangements where possible. While Australia notes that SIOFA does not have comparable reporting procedures, the process is modified in a way that is workable for SIOFA.

Recommendations (for proposals and working papers only)

- The CC to consider the proposed amendments and advise the MoP.

CMM 2022/12³

Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks⁴ (Sharks)

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement:

RECALLING the relevant provisions of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, in particular Article 4;

CONSIDERING that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations to ensure the sustainability of shark stocks;

RECOGNIZING the need to improve the collection of species-specific data on catch, effort, discards, and trade as a basis for improving the conservation and management of shark stocks;

RECALLING that the FAO International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States to encourage full use of dead sharks, to facilitate improved species-specific catch and landings data and monitoring of shark catches and the identification and reporting of species-specific biological and trade data;

FURTHER RECALLING that United Nations General Assembly, adopted consensus Resolutions every year since 2007 (62/177, 63/112, 64/72, 65/38, 66/68, 67/79, 68/71, 69/109, 70/75 and 71/123), calling upon States to take immediate and concerted action to improve the implementation of and compliance with existing regional fisheries management organization or arrangement measures that regulate shark fisheries and incidental catch of sharks, in particular those measures which prohibit or restrict fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins, and, where necessary, to consider taking other measures, as appropriate, such as requiring that all sharks be landed with each fin naturally attached;

NOTING the high and increasing level of Portuguese dogfish (*Centroscymnus coelolepis*) bycatch: that they constituted the second highest species catch amongst all demersal fish in the SIOFA Area in 2022² that the annual catch of Portuguese dogfish in 2022 was the second highest on record: and that Portuguese dogfish accounted for 75% and 80% of the total longline catch in Subarea 2 in 2022 and 2021 respectively.

ADOPTS the following Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) in accordance with Article 4 and 6 of the Agreement:

1. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels of Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) and participating fishing entities (PFEs) to the Agreement (collectively CCPs), engaged in fishing operations in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area).
2. CCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag do not target any deep-sea shark species listed in Annex 1 within the Agreement Area, until the Scientific Committee defines and the Meeting of the Parties agrees on possible appropriate fishing mortality and harvest levels for any of these species.

³ CMM 2022/12 (Sharks) supersedes CMM 2019/12 (Sharks).

⁴ The term "sharks" refers to Chondrichthyes for the purposes of this CMM, as defined by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Commented [TT1]: SC 8-229

- ~~3.~~ CCPs shall prohibit the use of wire trace on all demersal longlines and shall ensure that demersal longline vessels flying their flag are required to use nylon traces. Trace is defined as the entire part of the branch line that connects the hook to the main line.
- ~~4.~~ Demersal longline fishing in subarea 2 shall be subjected to a total allowable catch (TAC) for Portuguese dogfish of 767.6t. The fishing season for this TAC is the calendar year.
- ~~5.~~ To facilitate the implementation of the TAC, those CCPs who have demersal longline vessels fishing in subarea 2 shall provide monthly reports of Portuguese dogfish catches to the Secretariat by the seventh day of the following month. Once 80% of the TAC (614t) has been taken, the Secretariat shall notify all CCPs that weekly reporting is required. Upon receiving such a notification from the Secretariat, those CCPs who have demersal longline vessels fishing in subarea 2 shall provide weekly reports to the Secretariat by close of business Monday for the preceding seven days.
- ~~6.~~ Once this TAC is reached the Secretariat shall notify all CCPs that subarea 2 is closed to demersal longline fishing. On receiving a notification from the Secretariat that subarea 2 is closed to demersal longline fishing, CCPs shall immediately prohibit their flagged demersal longline vessels from setting any further demersal longlines in subarea 2. Longlines that are already in the water are required to be retrieved.
- ~~7.~~ CCPs are encouraged to require their vessels to move at least five nautical miles from each fishing shot when sharks make up the majority of the catch.
- ~~3.8.~~ CCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag record and submit all reporting requirements as per CMM 2022/02 (Data Standards) for all deep-sea sharks to the lowest taxonomical level possible when engaged in fishing for fishery resources.
- ~~4.9.~~ By 2020 the Scientific Committee shall advise the Meeting of the Parties on the need to adopt any appropriate by-catch limits for relevant SIOFA deep sea shark species and fleets, including on scientific and data needs for underpinning the elaboration of such advice.
- ~~5.10.~~ CCPs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make all relevant fishing gears more selective to minimise deep sea shark by-catch and shall provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee.
- ~~6.11.~~ CCPs shall, where possible, conduct research to identify shark nursery areas in the Agreement Area and provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee.
- ~~7.12.~~ This CMM shall be reviewed every second year by the Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise.

ANNEX 1: List of “**high risk**” and “of concern” deep sea shark species for the purpose of this CMM⁵

| FAO code | English common name | French common name | Scientific name |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| APD | Smallbelly catshark | Holbiche artouca | <i>Apristurus indicus</i> |
| BZL | Narrowhead catshark | | <i>Bythaelurus tenuicephalus</i> |
| BZO | Bach’s catshark | | <i>Bythaelurus bachi</i> |
| CYO | Portuguese dogfish | Pailona commun | <i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i> |
| CYP | Longnose velvet dogfish | Pailona à long nez | <i>Centroselachus crepidater</i> |
| CYU | Plunket shark | Pailona austral | <i>Scymnodon plunketi</i> |
| DCA | Birdbeak dogfish | Squale savate | <i>Deania calceus</i> |
| ETP | Smooth lanternshark | Sagre nain | <i>Etmopterus pusillus</i> |
| EZT | Blue-eye lanternshark | | <i>Etmopterus viator</i> |
| EZU | Whitecheek lanternshark | | <i>Etmopterus alphas</i> |
| ETB | Blurred smooth lantern shark | | <i>Etmopterus bigelowi</i> |
| GUP | Gulper shark | Squale-chagrin commun | <i>Centrophorus granulosus</i> |
| GUQ | Leafscale gulper shark | Squale-chagrin de l'Atlantique | <i>Centrophorus squamosus</i> |
| CPU | Little gulper shark | Petit squale-chagrin | <i>Centrophorus uyato</i> |
| HCR | Pacific longnose chimaera | Chimère à nez rigide | <i>Harriotta raleighana</i> |
| HXC | Frilled shark | Requin lézard | <i>Chlamydoselachus anguineus</i> |
| HXN | Bigeyed sixgill shark | Requin-vache | <i>Hexanchus nakamurai</i> |
| LMO | Goblin shark | Requin lutin | <i>Mitsukurina owstoni</i> |
| QUK | Shortspine spurdog | Aiguillat épinette | <i>Squalus mitsukurii</i> |

⁵ As defined by SC-04 paragraph 159 and paper SC-04-19.

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|-----|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| SDQ | Longsnout dogfish | Squale-savate à long nez | <i>Deania quadrispinosa</i> |
| SDU | Arrowhead dogfish | Squale-savate lutin | <i>Deania profundorum</i> |
| SCK | Kitefin shark | Squale liche | <i>Dalatias licha</i> |
| SSQ | Velvet dogfish | | <i>Zameus squamulosus</i> |
| RZZ | Southern sleeper shark | | <i>Somniosus antarcticus</i> |
| ZZC | Dark-mouth chimaera | | <i>Chimaera buccanigella</i> |
| ZZD | Falkor chimaera | | <i>Chimaera didierae</i> |
| ZZE | Seafarer's ghost shark | | <i>Chimaera willwatchi</i> |
| N/A | | | <i>Bathyraja tunae</i> |
| N/A | Paddlenose chimaera | | <i>Rhinochimaera africana</i> |
| ZZE | Seafarer's ghost shark | | <i>Chimaera willwatchi</i> |