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SIOFA Performance Review Recommendations

The SIOFA Secretariat

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Abstract	
<p>This working paper contains all the recommendations provided by the SIOFA Performance Review Panel, revised during the last meeting of the SIOFA MoP (MoP-11-02-Rev3 Report of the SIOFA performance review panel). This document was provided to the SC10, the CC9 and the MoP12 for updates and revisions. This document contains the evolutions considered by the SC10. A revision of the document shall be provided after consideration of CC9 recommendations for the MoP to consider all the actions taken since MoP11.</p> <p>Rev2 of the update includes input from the CC09 on recommendations related to the Compliance Committee's work.</p>	

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Recommendations
<p>The MoP and the CC to: Review and revise, as needed, the proposed timelines and confirm the current status of the Performance Review Recommendations.</p>

SIOFA Performance Review Recommendations

Introduction

This paper attempts to provide a simple and schematic summary of the Performance Review Panel Recommendations considered by the MoP¹⁰.

The paper uses tables, links and a “traffic light” colour system to rapidly visualize the status of the tasks assigned to the MoP, with the aim to identify tasks that warrant further attention from the MoP and the Secretariat. The following table provides an explanation of the colour coding system.

Recommendation ongoing	
Recommendation waiting for MoP’s action	
Recommendation completed by the Secretariat waiting for MoP’s action	
Recommendation not endorsed by MoP	

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1	The Panel recommends that the SIOFA SC is tasked with conferring high priority to the improvement of stock assessments in order to reduce uncertainty as a necessary basis for the adoption of harvest strategies. This task should be subject to a target timeline and include a process for an independent peer review of assessment methods and results.	H	<p>11. Regarding Recommendation Nr 1, the SC noted that it has made recommendations to the MoP on the development of harvest strategies and related data collection and stock assessment work at the Joint MoP-SC Harvest Strategies Workshop and at the SC8 meeting including the necessary steps and timelines for the stock assessments of the key SIOFA stocks.</p> <p>12. The SC recommended that the MoP consider Recommendation Nr 1 in conjunction with paragraphs 166–197 and Annex F (Medium-Term SC8 Workplan) of the SC8 Report.</p> <p>13. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 1 but recommended that the MoP note that it may be difficult to improve some stock assessments and reduce their uncertainty, because even though the catch and effort data collected are accurate, there may only be a limited amount of data available because of the small size of those fisheries. However, it is still possible to develop useful harvest strategies based on stock assessments with a higher level of uncertainty, provided adequate management procedures</p>		MoP endorses recommendation 1 as commented by the SC in particular difficulties of improving SA and reducing uncertainty	H	SC	Ongoing, ref timeline recommended	See ORY, TOT, ALF projects in the SC workplan. Note the new (2024-2025) assessment of ORY (SC-10-40). Note new assessment of toothfish biomass (SC-10-23).

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			are used to mitigate the risk and uncertainty. 14. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.						
2	The Panel recommends that SIOFA CCPs task the Scientific Committee with assessing the status of key shark stocks in the Area and that their status be kept under constant review over the coming years.	H	15. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 2 and noted that it has conducted discussions on assessing the status of key shark stocks in the SIOFA Area. 16. The SC recommended that the MoP consider Recommendation Nr 2 in conjunction with: a. the outcomes of the Intersessional Workshop on Deepwater Sharks in SIOFA Area, particularly the updated ecological risk assessment for deepwater chondrichthyan species (paper SC-08-29 Update on the ecological risk assessment of deepwater chondrichthyan species); b. paragraphs 224–257 of the SC8 Report, noting in particular the limited ability to conduct a stock assessment on shark species in the short-term, especially since the planned measures to reduce shark bycatch will result in less data being available; c. the shark-related scientific work in the Medium-Term SC8 Workplan (Annex F, SC8 Report). 17. The SC endorsed the		MoP supports this recommendation, work is already ongoing. Key shark stocks for assessment to be defined by SC.	H	SC	Ongoing	Task considered, ref SC9 report. Future SC meeting will need to define “key shark” species. Note the update in the shark ERA (SC-10-49).

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			high priority assigned to this recommendation.						
3	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs ensure that the fisheries summaries developed by the Scientific Committee contain clear information on the stock status of species caught in the SIOFA Area, and that this information is promptly made available to the general public.	M/L	18. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 3. The SC noted that stock status will be included in the fisheries summaries and will be reported to the MoP. The SC also noted that the fisheries summaries should be made available to the public (paragraph 129, SC8 Report) and that the continued development of the fisheries summaries is a priority in the Medium-Term SC Workplan (Annex F, SC8 Report). 19. The SC endorsed the medium/low priority assigned to the recommendation.		MoP endorses this recommendation, work is ongoing	M/L	SC / Secretariat	3 - 5 Years	See the fisheries summaries updated in 2025 (SC10 Report)
4	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs assess the use of the VME Guide by observers and take action to ensure its use as required, and also implement awareness programmes targeting observers.	M	20. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 4 and noted that work is ongoing to make this information available on the SIOFA website and that the SC has discussed developing the VME Guide further with additional species. 21. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses this recommendation	M	SC Secretariat for publication CCPs for implementation	3 - 5 Years	Note work on the SIOFA VME Classification Guide (SC-10-26). Publication has been made by the Secretariat on the website. https://siofa.org/sites/default/files/documents/cmm/SIOFA-VME-taxa-guide-2025.pdf

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5	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs finalise the protocol on VME and protected area designation and speed up the process of progressing the agreed protected areas from their interim nature and identify any further areas in need for protection.	H/M	22. Regarding Recommendation Nr 5, the SC endorsed the recommendation and noted that related work is underway as part of the "PAE2022-MPA1 Protocols to designate and evaluate MPAs" EU funded project, which focuses on the designation and assessment of marine protected areas, and whose outcomes are expected to be delivered at the end of 2023. 23. The SC endorsed the high/medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses this recommendation	H/M	SC MoP	1 - 3 Years	Completed, see SC10 Report on revised protocol and proposed BPAs
6	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider capacity building activities for developing States to undertake BFIA as per the SIOFA standards.	M	24. The SC noted that Recommendation Nr 6 should be considered in conjunction with Recommendation Nr 31. 25. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 6 but recommended to the MoP that broader capacity building, particularly data capture, data quality, and data reporting, rather than specifically to BFIA, would be of greater use to developing States. 26. Regarding the priority assigned to this recommendation, the SC considered it to be of a low priority if it only pertained to BFIA, but a high/medium priority if it pertained to broader capacity building that included data capture,		MoP endorses this recommendation	H/M H on data capacity building	SC / Secretariat	1 - 3 years	The Observers' harmonisation framework partially addresses the data capture and quality improvement (SEC2022-OBS1) The MoP tasked the Secretariat for developing a paper on options for facilitating and addressing Capacity Building needs of CCP development states for consideration at its next CC and MoP. The scope of the paper should encompass the broad range of areas as commented by the SC in relation to recommendation 6. See paper SC-10-24.

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			data quality, and data reporting.						
7	The Panel recommends either the deadlines for data submission under relevant CMMs or the schedule of the annual meeting of the Scientific Committee be revised to ensure the SC has the most recent data available ahead of its annual meeting.	H	<p>27. Regarding Recommendation Nr 7, the SC noted that it had discussed this issue and reached the conclusion that:</p> <p>a. the current data submission deadline is the only feasible deadline for CCPs, as it comes after the end of the fishing season and that obtaining, entering and checking the data before submission to SIOFA would not be possible at an earlier date. The SIOFA Secretariat noted that, once received, these data are entered into the SIOFA databases, checked and validated, and that final versions of these data are only available for analysis around September, which would be after the MoP.</p> <p>b. rescheduling of the SC to a later date would therefore also not be a feasible option, as there would not likely be enough time to hold the MoP meeting within the same year.</p> <p>28. The SC noted that it had previously discussed and requested the MoP to consider mechanisms to enable CCPs to submit data on a more frequent basis (e.g., monthly or quarterly reporting) where CCPs were</p>		<p>MoP agrees with the concerns expressed by SC.</p> <p>MoP does not endorse this recommendation</p> <p>The MoP would however consider mechanisms to enable CCPs to provide data on a more frequent basis.</p>				N/A

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			able to (paragraph 64, SC7 Report). 29. The SC noted that the annual national reports provide a mechanism for the SC to have a summary of the most recent data and “could be used to support more informed discussions at the SC meeting” (SC8 para 52). The SC further noted that when conducting stock assessments on long-lived fish, the long-term trend is more important than the terminal year, and not being able to use the most recent data in a stock assessment is therefore not a major issue. 30. The SC recommended that the MoP note that it disagreed with Recommendation Nr 7.						
--	Recommendation Nr 34 on the implementation of reporting requirements, specifically on the development of an IT-platform for the management of data and information submissions also apply to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							See recommendation 34

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8	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs task the Scientific Committee to develop a long-term strategic plan with identified priorities for its work and options for the use of independent consultants, academic institutions, private/public organisations and/or CCP expertise resources as feasible, taking into account funding requirements.	M	31. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 8. 32. The SC recommended that the MoP note that the SC is prepared to develop a long-term strategic plan with guidance from the MoP, and that a medium term plan had been prepared at SC8 for consideration by the MoP. 33. The SC recommended that the MoP hold a broader discussion on options for the use of independent consultants, academic institutions, private/public organisations and/or CCP expertise resources as feasible. 34. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP encourages SC to develop a long-term strategic plan. Topic will also be addressed at MoP10 under agenda item XX	M	SC	3 years	Completed. Note the SC workplan with priorities developed for up to 5 years
--	Recommendations nr 7, 10 and 46 concerning, respectively, the scheduling of SC meetings, the development of a framework for Scientific Advice and the management of human and funding resources for its work apply also to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							

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9	The Panel recommends CCPs to launch an exercise of consolidation of the various CMMs into a corpus of SIOFA rules and regulations, with the aim of codifying the applicable rules to make them clearer, easier to interpret and easier to control in terms of compliance. This exercise should identify existing gaps and possible contradictions, issues of interpretation in need of resolving, and a future structure of the corpus that allows the different actors on whom the various obligations fall (from SIOFA's own bodies, to CCP authorities, to fishers) to have a clear and user-friendly access to their applicable rules and discipline.	M	35. Regarding Recommendation Nr 9, the SC endorsed the need to identify existing gaps and possible contradictions, and issues of interpretation in need of resolving, but did not consider there to be a strong need to consolidate the various CMMs. 36. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation. 37. The SC recommended that the MoP consider changing the naming convention for the CMMs so that the CMM number precedes the year the CMM was updated, e.g., CMM 2020-01 would become CMM 01-2020.	82. Regarding Recommendation Nr 9, the Compliance Committee endorsed the recommendation to identify existing gaps and possible contradictions, and issues of interpretation in need of resolving, while noting that this is part of the ongoing work of the Compliance Committee. The Compliance Committee did not endorse the recommendation to consolidate the various CMMs into a corpus of SIOFA rules and regulations.	MoP does not endorse the recommendation to consolidate the various CMM into a corpus of SIOFA measures. The MoP noted that the CC is continuously revising the CMM. MoP adopts the renaming convention of the CMM.	M	CC / Secretariat	Ongoing Oct 2023 for CMMs renaming	A change to the CMM naming convention was adopted at MoP10, and this was implemented by the Secretariat in October 2023 MoP11 notes that the recommendation has been implemented.

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10	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs undertake the development of a framework for the provision of Scientific Advice that takes into account best international practices, whether or not combined with a framework for decision-making at managerial level in accordance with the Precautionary Approach. This could accompany or complement the already decided work line dedicated to the development of harvest strategies but would provide the basis for an urgent consideration of precautionary measures in the short term.	M	<p>38. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 10 and noted that, with the adoption of harvest strategies and defined management targets and risk thresholds, the SC would be able to develop more formal decision-making tools that would be useful for the MoP.</p> <p>39. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.</p> <p>40. The SC noted that the FAO DSF project is compiling information on how advice is requested and provided at different RFMOs as a way to share ideas and methods among RFMOs.</p> <p>41. The SC noted that it would also be useful to develop a template or agreed language for framing stock assessment or ecological advice to the MoP.</p>		MoP endorsed recommendation 10.	M	SC	1 - 3 years	Ongoing. See the SC workplan for proposed projects relating to the precautionary approach framework and harvest strategies (SIOFA-PAM)

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11	The Panel recommends SIOFA discusses with CCAMLR concrete options to co-manage toothfish stocks shared between the 2 organisations, and establishes either a prohibition of fishing for this resource outside established toothfish management units or revised the units as required so no activities escape the conservation measures established for this resource.	H	42. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 11 and noted that it is consistent with its discussions at SC8 (paragraphs 143–155, SC8 Report). 43. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorsed recommendation 11.	H	MoP	ongoing	SC has recommended the establishment of a new South Indian Ridge (SIR) management area with an associated catch limit (para 211 of the SC9 report) MoP11 noted that CMM15 was amended in 2023, to extend the scope of the application of provisions concerning observer coverage and toothfish tagging to the whole SIOFA area.
12	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs to urgently agree on precautionary measures regarding alfonso in light of the significant level of catches, second in the Area by weight, and of the fact that the stocks' biological complexity makes it challenging to adopt measures other than precautionary, at least in the short-to-medium term.	H	44. The SC disagreed with Recommendation Nr 12 and recommended that the MoP note that this recommendation was inconsistent with the previous alfonso stock assessment advice (SC-05-29 Age-Structured Production Model assessments of the Alfonso, and summarised in paragraphs 116–119 of the SC5 Report) and with the CPUE analyses conducted at SC8 (paragraph 130 and Figure 1, SC8 Report), which indicated that “the stock is fluctuating without trend in recent years”.		MoP does not endorse Recommendation 12. MoP noted the lack of management measures for Alfonso, and requests SC9 to propose potential management measures for Alfonso				N/A

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	Effort and catches should be constrained to the lowest possible levels.		45. The SC noted that it discussed planned and ongoing alfonsino-related scientific work at SC8 (paragraphs 131–140, SC8 Report).						
13	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs adopt precautionary measures for target stocks other than the three key stocks of toothfish, orange roughy and alfonsino.	H/M	46. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 13 and noted that it had discussed and recommended interim Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) for the key SIOFA stocks (paragraph 178, SC8 Report). 47. The SC endorsed the high/medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorsed recommendation 13	H/M	SC / MoP	ongoing	Note the development of harvest strategies for key stocks, and note the ERA and proposed updates for future meetings (SC workplan). Note the work on CPUE for oilfish and escolar. Note the catch limits on species not otherwise assessed based on the average catch of a reference period already adopted by the MoP.
14	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs engage in discussions towards a future regime for the allocation of fishing rights.	L			MoP endorsed recommendation 14	L	MoP	5 years	MoP11 had discussion on this topic under the SC agenda items. CKI proposed a paper on allocation framework for MoP12.
15	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs agree on a definition of new fisheries and discuss a regulatory framework for new and exploratory fisheries incorporating the highest standards derived from international best practices. The framework should	H/M	48. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 15 and noted that there had been previous work on this matter, although not in recent years. The SC noted that it had recommended an updated bottom fishing footprint to the MoP and recommended that the MoP consider the implications of the bottom fishing footprint once it is agreed, including how new fishing should be considered (paragraphs 95		MoP endorses recommendation 15 Work in ongoing	H/M	SC and MoP	1 - 3 years	Completed. A new CMM has been adopted MoP11 (CMM 17 (2024)).

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	make proper use of tools already developed by SIOFA such as the fishing footprint, BFIA's and VME mapping.		and 277, SC8 Report). 49. The SC endorsed the high/medium priority assigned to this recommendation.						
--	Recommendations nr 10, 12 and 13, above on the implementation of the Precautionary approach apply also for the purposes of the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							
16	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs to make every effort to progress from the current interim arrangements for bottom fishing to permanent rules, retaking discussions on this issue from the proposal tabled in 2019 or an updated version of it. Recommendation nr 9 above, on a corpus of SIOFA rules, applies also for the purposes of the issues at stake here.	H	50. The SC noted that, with the provision of BFIA's in the past years and of an updated footprint presented this year, the MoP could decide to move towards a more permanent management of bottom fishing. 51. The SC also noted its recommendation to the MoP noting that new fishing would need to be considered when the bottom fishing footprint is agreed (paragraph 95, SC8 Report).		MoP endorses recommendation 16 Work in ongoing	H	SC and MoP	1 - 3 years	MoP11 notes that SC9 provided some details on how to address new and exploratory fisheries. By adopting the bottom fishing footprint many provisions in the CMM 01 should not be interim anymore. A new CMM has been adopted by MoP11 (CMM 17 (2024)).

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17	The Panel recommends the MoP requests from the SC an evaluation of the frequency of VME encounters and of the compliance of fishing vessels with the reporting and move-on rule requirements.	H	52. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 17. 53. The SC recommended that the MoP consider this recommendation in conjunction with the outcomes of the VME workshop (paper SC-08-25), the analysis of available VME indicator taxa accidental captures data from the Observer and CatchEffort databases and their usability for setting VME encounter thresholds (paper SC-08-26) presented by the Secretariat at SC8, and the related discussions at SC8 (paragraphs 290-292, SC8 Report). 54. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses recommendation 17	H	CC and SC	1 - 3 years	See the SC workplan and the SC VME focused session at SC in 2025. CC08 noted that this work is ongoing. Note the revised guidelines for annual national reports 2025 recommending higher resolution of VME incidental captures reporting.
18	The Panel recommends that SIOFA CCPs expand their consideration of actions aiming at the conservation of biodiversity to fishing activities other than those using bottom gears, extending the concept of Impact Assessment to such activities as well.	M	55. Regarding Recommendation Nr 18, the SC agreed that fishing activities other than those using bottom gears may affect biodiversity and noted that it could include such considerations in its workplan if requested by the MoP.		MoP endorses recommendation 18	M	SC	3 - 5 years	Note the proposal of new observer logbooks for squid fishing from SC10.
19	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs to agree urgently on measures to reduce shark by-catches, in	H	56. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 19 and noted that it held extensive discussions on measures to reduce shark by-catch measures at SC8, including		MoP endorses recommendation 19	H	SC and MoP	1 - 3 years (work ongoing)	Note the projects in the SC workplan and discussions in the SC10 report

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	particular by implementing any mitigation measures that identified as effective by the 2023 specific workshop on sharks to take place under the aegis of the Scientific Committee, including precautionary catch limits for Portuguese dogfish. Recommendation nr 2 on the assessment of the status of shark stocks is also relevant for the issues discussed under this criterion.		the outcomes of the Interseasonal Workshop on Deepwater Sharks in SIOFA Area and the SC recommendations to the MoP (paragraphs 225–257, SC8 Report). 57. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.						
20	The Panel recommends the SC effectively use the focused agenda item on seabird by-catch, decided by SC 8 in 2023 for future sessions, to identify necessary by-catch mitigation measures, including in trawl fisheries, as originally proposed at the time CMM 13 was adopted. SIOFA's cooperation arrangements with ACAP, but also with	M/L	58. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 20 and noted that it plans to hold a focused agenda item on seabird data collection and bycatch mitigation measures at SC9 (paragraphs 265 and 268, SC8 Report). 59. The SC endorsed the medium/low priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses recommendation 20	M	SC and MoP	3 - 5 years	This is now a standing item of the SC agenda. Work has substantially progressed during SC10.

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	CCAMLR, should be strengthened including for the purposes of this work.								
21	The Panel recommends SIOFA carries out a review of the effect of effort limits applicable to relevant fleets to determine whether such limits constrain the fishing activity or not, and that a clear determination is made on the potential use of capacity or effort limits as a fishery management tool, especially with regard to fisheries conducted with gears other than bottom gears.	M	60. The SC noted Recommendation Nr 21 and that it could conduct the relevant analyses if requested by the MoP.		MoP endorses recommendation 21	M	SC and MoP	3 - 5 years	[The implementation of this recommendation has not started yet]
22	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider incorporating the principles of a flag State performance self-assessment into their compliance monitoring scheme, including by tasking the CC with reviewing the	H/M	61. Regarding Recommendation Nr 22, the SC noted that it reviews CCPs' annual national reports to obtain the most recent information fisheries data and to identify any potential new trends or scientifically relevant issues.	83. Regarding Recommendation Nr 22, the Compliance Committee noted that flag State performance self-assessment is already part of the CMS, and that the Secretariat identifies any potential compliance issues from the annual national	MoP endorses the recommendation and notes the comments of the CC and the SC that such assessments are already performed.	M	SC CC MoP	1 - 5 years (and ongoing)	Annual reports are reviewed annually at SC. The SIOFA CMS captures this recommendation

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	annual national reports submitted by CCPs and currently reviewed only by the SC.			reports and replies to compliance questionnaire and presents these to the Compliance Committee for its consideration.					
23	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider the adoption of binding application of the Port Inspection Scheme to all ports of every CCPs, without the condition to apply to those having areas of national jurisdiction adjacent to the Agreement Area.	H/M		84. Regarding Recommendation Nr 23, the Compliance Committee expressed its general support for reviewing the scope of the Port Inspection Scheme. 85. One CCP supported expanding the scope of the Port Inspection Scheme but not to "all ports of every CCP" as stated in the Panel's recommendation, and cautioned that any potential amendment to the current scheme should be carefully considered to avoid adding unnecessary burden on ports not adjacent to the Agreement Area. 86. Australia expressed its intention to prepare a proposal to amend CMM 2020/08 (Port Inspection), based on Recommendation Nr 23 and the views expressed by CCPs,	MoP agrees to review the scope of the PI scheme, and noted the recommendation by the CC	M	CC and MoP	1 - 3 years	CC notes the ongoing work led by Australia on the port inspection scope [MoP notes the ongoing work being led by Australia on the port inspection scope] [Australia to provide update on this work during CC09/MoP12 did not conduct any further work in the intersession in relation this work]

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				with the aim to present this proposal at CC8.					
24	The Panel recommends SIOFA adopts at least a minimum standard regarding inspection coverage of all fishing vessels carrying or landing resources of its competence which enter their ports.	H		87. Australia expressed its intention to consider Recommendation Nr 24 when preparing its aforementioned proposal to amend CMM 2020/08.	MoP agrees to consider minimum standards for PI coverage and noted the recommendations from the CC	M	CC and MoP	1 - 3 years	CC notes the ongoing work led by Australia on the port inspection scope [MoP notes the ongoing work being led by Australia on the port inspection scope] [Australia did not conduct any further work in the intersession in relation this work to provide update on this work during CC09/MoP12]
25	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs investigate possible landings or transshipments of SIOFA species at ports placed under the jurisdiction of non-CCPs, and if this is found to happen, initiate demarches with the relevant port States to request they become CCPs or cooperate with SIOFA as appropriate.	H		88. The Compliance Committee expressed its general support for Recommendation Nr 25. Some CCPs had different interpretations of the definition of “demarches” but agreed that, if possible landings or transshipments of SIOFA species are found to have occurred at ports placed under the jurisdiction of non-CCPs, the Secretariat should contact the relevant port States to request they become CCPs or cooperate with SIOFA as appropriate. 89. The Chairperson of the Review Panel	MoP endorses the recommendation, noting the comments of the CC	M/L	Secretariat CC MoP	3 - 5 years	The Secretariat sends annual invitations to coastal states to join the Agreement as CP or CNCP. The Secretariat reviews the inspections reports that are provided by other parties CC recommends that the Secretariat widens the scope of information it collects to conduct this analysis, including information already available from other organisations (e.g. FAO statistics) [The 8th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC08) requested the Secretariat to broaden the range of data sources used in the analysis of potential landings or transshipments of SIOFA species at ports under the jurisdiction of non-Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (non-CCPs)—including data held by external organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)—To this end, the Secretariat undertook consultations with the FAO as well as several relevant non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Despite these efforts, no suitable or verifiable port landing data were made available to the Secretariat during the reporting period. As a result, it was not possible to complete the analysis as requested by CC08.]

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				clarified that the key element of the investigation is the need to investigate possible landings or transshipments of SIOFA species at ports placed under the jurisdiction of non-CCPs.					
26	The Panel recommends and encourages SIOFA CCPs to continue their efforts to agree on a SIOFA VMS in order to verify vessels activity in the Agreement Area. The Panel also recommends that CCPs adopt rules for the submission VMS data until such scheme is adopted.	H/M	62. Regarding Recommendation Nr 26, the SC noted that the sharing of VMS data with the SC could be useful for enabling the verification fishing location data for its data checking procedures.	90. Regarding Recommendation Nr 26, the Compliance Committee endorsed the recommendation to continue efforts to agree on a SIOFA VMS and noted that this work is ongoing. 91. One CCP suggested that Recommendation Nr 26 should be assigned a priority of 'H' rather than 'H/M'. 92. Another CCP suggested that the second recommendation, to adopt rules for the submission of VMS data, should only be considered if and when a SIOFA VMS is agreed upon.	MoP endorses the recommendation, noting the statements of some CCPs that the rule of submission of VMS data, should only be considered if and when a SIOFA VMS is agreed upon	H	CC and MoP	1 - 3 years (ongoing)	MoP10 established the VMS WGs. The WGs met several times in the intersessional period. CC8 and MoP11 are reviewing the SSPs [SIOFA agreed on a VMS measure in 2023. Work is ongoing to operationalise the SIOFA VMS. To date, there have been six (6) VMS Working Groups that has addressed a number of issues such as: - Development of a SIOFA VMS SSPs - Hosting Options for the SIOFA VMS - Consideration of policy implications and CMM reviews required to support the operationalisation of the VMS - Drafting a terms of reference for the procurement of the SIOFA VMS
27	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs urgently seek to clarify the various issues of interpretation affecting the implementation of	H		93. The Compliance Committee did not express any views regarding Recommendation Nr 27.	MoP endorses the recommendation, and notes that there may not be a need to seek independent legal or tech advice	M	SC CC MoP	ongoing (3 - 5 years)	CMMs are reviewed by the MoP and its subsidiary bodies.

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	several MCS measures, in particular those related to CMM 06 on the IUU vessel list, CMM 07 on Vessel authorisation and CMM 14 on the HSBI procedures, including by seeking independent legal or technical advice if necessary.								
--	With regard to SIOFA's observer programme, and in general with regard to possible technical improvements for the standing measures, Recommendation nr 9 on a corpus of SIOFA CMMs applies also for the purposes of the issues assessed under this criterion	--							
28	The Panel recommends including in the agenda of the Compliance Committee a specific standing item on follow-up actions in the framework of the	H		94. The Compliance Committee endorsed Recommendation Nr 28 and noted that the review of follow-up actions is already part of its CMS framework.	MoP endorsed the recommendation, and noted the comments made by the CC.	H	CC	ongoing	The CC included a dedicated item on its annual agenda. A standing agenda item of the Compliance Committee

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	CMS for the previous year or years.								
29	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs agree on a review of CMM 11 on a Compliance Monitoring Scheme in order to facilitate its interpretation, taking into account the changes proposed by this Panel, including to the CCR template and the rules regarding follow up action on infringements identified in previous years.	H/M		95. The Compliance Committee noted Recommendation Nr 29 and that the review of CMM 2020/11 (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) is part of its ongoing work. The Compliance Committee agreed to consider the Review Panel's views as part of its CMS review process.	MoP endorsed the recommendation, and notes that work is ongoing.	H/M	CC MoP	1-3 years	A new template has been agreed by CC8. CC8 recognized the need for capacity building within CCPs' delegations on the usage of the new CCR template. This is envisaged to be undertaken within one month of the 2025 submission deadline. [An Informal Workshop on the SIOFA CCR Template (CCRTW)] was successfully completed in March 2025. Furthermore, the Secretariat developed the "Guidelines for Completing the New SIOFA CCPs Compliance Report Template" which complemented the workshop and is available to CCPs when completing their CCR]
30	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs task the Secretariat with an assignment as high priority for the Compliance Officer the strengthening of the Secretariat's technical capacity to examine, analyse and verify the data collected for the purposes of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme.	H/M		96. The Compliance Committee expressed agreement with Recommendation Nr 30.	MoP endorses this recommendation.	H	Secretariat (ES and CO)	ongoing work (continuous)	CC8 is following this recommendation. A Compliance Officer has been recruited in 2023. CC8 noted that additional activities to enhance the Secretariat capacity in relation to the Compliance Monitoring Scheme would evolve over time. [Ongoing]

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31	The Panel recommends that SIOFA CCPs task the Secretariat to assess the capacity building needed in order to improve implementation of their obligations by the CCPs, prioritizing the most urgent and providing options to ensure appropriate assistance is provided to CCPs which so require.	M	63. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 31 and noted that it should be considered in conjunction with Recommendation Nr 6. 64. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.	97. The Compliance Committee endorsed Recommendation Nr 31 and noted that the identification of capacity gaps is an essential part of an effective CMS.	MoP endorses this recommendation. And notes that capacity building was already discussed	H	Secretariat CC SC MoP	1 - 3 years	CC8 recognized the need for capacity building within CCPs' delegations, which in part could be addressed by the workshop on the usage of the new CCR template. See paper SC-10-24. [Capacity building options presented to CC09 through paper CC-09-15] Capacity building options presented to MoP12 through paper MoP-12-25
32	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs discuss the possible adoption of a new measure on a Catch Documentation Scheme, focusing, in particular, on CCAMLR's DCD, and explore options for its implementation. The Panel recommends SIOFA strengthens its cooperation with CCAMLR in this regard, including by requesting capacity building support for the Secretariat so that it can contribute to future	H/M		98. The Compliance Committee noted that Recommendation Nr 32 pertains to a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for toothfish, noted that all SIOFA CCPs fishing for toothfish are Members of CCAMLR, where there is already a CDS for toothfish, and are thus already required to document catches of toothfish in the SIOFA Area, and agreed that it is therefore not necessary to establish a SIOFA CDS for toothfish, rather, it is adequate to continue	MoP agrees with the recommendation made by the CC, and noted that it is therefore not necessary to establish a SIOFA CDS for toothfish, rather, it is adequate to continue its ongoing cooperation with CCAMLR	H	SC, CC and MoP	ongoing	Collaboration with CCAMLR is ongoing under the SIOFA-CCAMLR Arrangement.

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	joint work by the two organisations.			its ongoing cooperation with CCAMLR.					
33	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider the option of developing a SIOFA Reporting Manual to replace the present table of reporting requirements provided for in the organisation's website. Suggestions as to the structure and contents have been provided in our assessment under this criterion.	M	65. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 33 and supported improving communication around data collection, noting that the currently ongoing project on Harmonisation of Scientific Observer Programmes (Annex F, SC8 Report) would address some aspects of this recommendation. 66. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses the recommendation	M	Secretariat, CC, SC	3 years	Project SEC2022-OBS1 and the observer harmonisation workshops (WS2024-OBS and OBS2) have made recommendations for the consideration by SC10 on observer manuals and data reporting systems.
34	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider the option of establishing an IT-based data management platform taking into account the experience gained in the design and use of such platforms in other organisations, including in-built protocols for data verification, quality checks and the protection of	H	67. Regarding Recommendation Nr 34, the SC noted that it would welcome any systems and processes that would improve the quality of data and allow the SC to conduct verification and quality checks. 68. The SC further noted that it has discussed the protection of confidentiality of data in past SC meetings and that processes that would protect confidentiality would be in line with recommendations that the SC has made previously.		MoP endorses the recommendation. And request the Secretariat to prepare a paper describing implementation possibilities (to SC and MoP)	H	Secretariat, SC, CC	1 - 3 years	The Secretariat has an in-house IT-based platform for managing data, datasets (metadata), and the fisheries (C&E, observer, vessels) databases. This was not designed to have an interface from outside of the Secretariat. The Secretariat currently applies a range of data related procedures: data submission, data checks, data release and data backup

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	confidential data. A decision to explore this option should only be taken if CCPs accept and assume the need for investment on capacity building as required.								
35	The Panel recommends, in case SIOFA CCPs are not prepared to implement an IT data platform as per Recommendation nr 34, urgent action is taken to ensure appropriate data verification protocols and quality checks are established.	H	69. Regarding Recommendation Nr 35, the SC noted that data verification protocols and quality checks are already in place, but acknowledged that they could be enhanced.		The MoP notes the comments of the SC, and that the work is on-going	-		ongoing	The Secretariat notes that it currently has data check procedures for data submissions. Completed. The procedures have been presented to SC10 (paper SC-10-30) and are available on the SIOFA website (data section: https://siofa.org/Data/data-files).
36	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs agree to share data regarding the implementation of their fisheries control obligations and utilise such data in the framework of CMM 11's Compliance Monitoring Scheme in order to assess whether SIOFA's control-related measures are effectively implemented.	H/M		99. The Compliance Committee did not express any views regarding Recommendation Nr 36.	The MoP endorses the recommendation. The MoP noted that further work was necessary on the CMS process.	H/M	CC Secretariat	1 - 3 years	Partially implemented by the Compliance Assessment Process. It will further be reinforced with the new CCR template. [New CCR template to improve data collection in use]

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37	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider strengthening the use of intersessional decision procedures or inter-sessional working groups to facilitate the work of SIOFA as appropriate, in order to focus MoP discussions and make better use of the time available.	M/L	70. Regarding Recommendation Nr 37, the SC noted that it has trialled and recommended the continuation of a new combined SC meeting format, supplemented by workshops and focused agenda items (paragraph 337, SC8 Report).		MoP endorses the recommendation, and notes that Inter-Sessional decision process should be used only when exceptional	M / L	MoP	1-5 years	Ref MoP10 decision which address the recommendation.
38	The Panel encourages SIOFA CCPs to continue and if needed intensify dialogue on matters of concern to different CCPs, where consensus has not been achieved in order to find a common view which can be satisfactory to all CCPs. In particular, the Panel recommends to address bottom fishing activities in the Saya de Malha	M			MoP endorses the recommendation	M	MoP	ongoing	MoP11 notes that the issue of bottom fishing on Saya De Malha has been discussed at several MoPs without an agreed way forward. SIOFA and IOTC have been working on establishing a formal cooperation framework but are already cooperating on several matters (data, IUU fishing)

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	Bank, the scope of boarding and inspection procedures under CMM 14 and the issue of managing overlapping obligations for vessels arising from both SIOFA and neighbouring RFMOs, in particular the IOTC.								
39	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs continue to review, clarify and amend as appropriate the relevant data rules or provisions so that all CCPs as well as observers and the general public have better access to data and information for the purpose of discussion and decision-making.	M	71. The SC noted that it has held discussions on rules of data access and dissemination at SC8 (paragraphs 96–108 and 114–119 and Annex E, SC8 Report) and that the development of standardised reports such as fisheries summaries and ecosystem reports should also facilitate better access to data and information.		MoP endorses this recommendation, and notes that this work is ongoing	M	SC, CC and MoP	ongoing	Public data access is governed by CMM 03. CMM 03 is planned to be revised at CC9 and MoP12 (ref paper CC-09-19 and MoP-12-35) Work has been done to improve the access to the RAV information, with the addition of vessels details pages
40	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs task the Secretariat to review the documents and materials on the SIOFA website and make necessary tunings in accordance with	M			MoP supports the recommendation	M	Secretariat	ongoing	The Secretariat notes that the titles and abstracts of all SC restricted access documents have been made public on its website. In addition, versions of SC project reports (where appropriate) have also been made available publicly on the SIOFA website.

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	any new data rules on dissemination and any relevant decisions of the MoP.								
41	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs engage in discussion on the rules, standards and procedures regarding the granting of CNCP status, including the clarification of the requirements for admission or CNCPs status renewal, in order to ensure a consistent reviewing approach. The adoption of clear rules as well as an application template is also recommended, providing CNCP with general instructions on the required information, actions, and any other criterion.	M			MoP notes that the procedure for becoming CNCP is in the SIOFA RoP, and notes that further discussion would continue if necessary.	L	Secretariat MoP	ongoing	<p>To date, the MoP assesses the CNCP status at its annual meetings. The SIOFA RoP are currently used for this task.</p> <p>MoP recommends that CNCPs attend to the Compliance Committee meetings.</p>

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--	Recommendations nr 11, 20 and 32 on the strengthening of cooperation between SIOFA and CCAMLR also apply to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							
42	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider strengthening cooperation with the IOTC, SWIOFC, SEAFO, SPRFMO, and CCSBT, as appropriate.	H	72. Regarding Recommendation Nr 42, the SC noted that for some stocks in some areas, the scientific information and methods applied by these regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) may be relevant to SIOFA and cooperation with them would be beneficial.		MoP endorses this recommendation, the MoP notes that cooperation with CCAMLR and other bodies (eg FAO) is also necessary.	H	SC, CC, MoP Secretariat	ongoing	Secretariat has been working intersessionally to conclude the formalisation of cooperation between SIOFA and IOTC. The Secretariat has been working to formalize cooperation with IOC, however its endeavour has not been successful. The Secretariat participates in meetings remotely or in-person of neighbouring RFMOs and CCAMLR to the extent possible.
43	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs include a prerequisite in their consideration of CMM new or amended proposals the review of relevant measures adopted by neighbouring international organizations in order to promote a coherent approach and compatibility of fisheries management across RFMO boundaries.	M			MoP does not endorse the recommendation, and notes that SIOFA should develop its measures independently, especially if they are more effective than those of other RFMOs.				N/A

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44	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider setting up a section on the SIOFA website dedicated to SIOFA's implementation of Article 13 of the Agreement, presenting the assistance that may be provided individually or collectively by CCPs to meet the special requirement of CCP developing States including, in particular, the least developed among them, and small island developing States.	M	73. Regarding Recommendation Nr 44, the SC noted that it could be tasked with capacity building in scientific areas. The SC noted that the FAO DSF Project may also share objectives that are aligned with this recommendation.		MoP endorsed this recommendation, and notes the comments provided by the SC	M	SC, CC, MoP Secretariat	3 years	<p>The Secretariat notes that the SIOFA website is capable of supporting a dedicated section for the implementation of article 13 of the Agreement, and can be implemented once the content is advised by the MoP.</p> <p>CC8 recommends that the Secretariat develop a paper for CC9 to identify areas where developing states require technical assistance or otherwise in the implementation of obligations arising from the Agreement. This should include the identification of mechanisms to provide such assistance. The Secretariat should consult CCPs for the development of this paper.</p> <p>[Capacity building options presented to CC09 through paper CC-09-15]</p> <p>Capacity building options presented to MoP12 through paper MoP-12-25</p>
45	The Panel Recommends that SIOFA CCPs agree on a periodical review by the MoP of the organisation's implementation of Article 13 of the Agreement and encourage CCP developing States to proactively express their needs, challenges and special requirements affecting their	M/L			MoP endorses this recommendation, and notes that CCPs should report issues in regard to the implementation of article 13	L	MoP	ongoing	<p>Some financial support is provided to developing CCPs under article 13 of the Agreement for attendance to SIOFA meetings.</p> <p>No specific support from SIOFA is provided to developing States bordering the Area that are not CCPs unless they express the intention to join SIOFA in the coming year.</p> <p>The MoP will establish a standing agenda item relevant to Article 13 and tasked the Secretariat to provide a paper on this topic at its ordinary meetings.</p> <p>A paper on the implementation of Article 13 and the existing mechanisms is presented to the CC9 and the MoP12 through the documents CC-09-14 and MoP-12-24, respectively.</p>

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	contribution to SIOFA's work. The MoP may thereafter consider establishing a fund dedicated to these purposes or expanding the scope of the current one.								
--	Recommendations nr 6, 31 and 34 on various areas where capacity building assistance could be provided by SIOFA also apply to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							
46	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs urgently agree on a strategic financial planning for the medium term taking into account the costs incurred over recent years for the funding of the Scientific Committee work, and commit to a fairer sharing of these costs, including by contributing in kind CCP scientific resources.	H/M	74. Regarding Recommendation Nr 46, the SC noted that strategic financial planning for the medium-term would allow the SC to plan and prioritize its work and that the Medium-Term SC Workplan (Annex F, SC8 Report) contributes to the achievement of this recommendation.		MoP endorses this recommendation	H	CCPs MoP	1 - 3 years	At its annual meeting, the MoP adopts the budget for the coming year and considers the forecast budget for at least one additional year. The SC has extended its workplan and associated budget to cover a 3-year timeframe.

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47	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs discuss in depth the strategic plan presented by the Executive Secretary in 2022 but extend their discussions not just to the funding aspects of it, but also to its role. For this purpose, an analysis should be carried out of the Secretariat's degree of autonomy to identify areas where it could be allowed to operate in a more agile way.	M	75. Regarding Recommendation Nr 47, the SC noted that the creation of the Science Officer position and the appointment of Dr Marco Milardi has greatly enhanced the ability of the SC to advance its work programme.		MoP endorses this recommendation, MoP notes that it is part of an ongoing process, and notes that the addition of one SO and one CO enhanced the capacity of the Secretariat	M	SC, CC, MoP Secretariat	ongoing	Note the SC workplan CC8 notes that this recommendation is more relevant to the MoP. The role of the Secretariat is determined by the MoP, and the SIOFA RoP. The RoP relevant to the Secretariat have not changed.
48	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs work towards a clear agreement on the use of consultants – or not – for the offices of subsidiary body chairpersons. Were the decision taken to continue using the current contractual arrangements a robust evaluation of the workload and appropriate funding should be agreed, in order to ensure these	H	76. Regarding Recommendation Nr 48, the SC noted the decisions by the MoP to appoint Mr Alistair Dunn as an independent SC Chair and to extend his term, as well as SC8's recommendation that his term be further extended for two years (paragraphs 361– 363, SC8 Report). 77. The SC had no advice regarding Recommendations Nrs 14, 23–25, 27–30, 32, 36, 38, 40–41, 43, 45, and 49.		MoP has so far agreed to this arrangement, and also notes that further discussion on the workload and appropriate funding is necessary.	H	SC, CC, MoP	ongoing	CC8 notes that this recommendation is more relevant to the MoP. The SIOFA budget provides defined funding for the use of external consultants.

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	offices can be effectively and efficiently discharged.								
49	The Panel recommends that the term of office of the MoP Chairperson be extended to 2 years at least, to ensure continuity in proceedings.	M/L			The MoP notes this recommendation, and notes that further discussions are planned during the MoP10.				There is no record about this recommendation in MoP10 report To be potentially discussed by MoP11 (RoP)
0	As a general procedural consideration, the Panel recommends that SIOFA CCPs agree on a clear process for the follow-up of this Performance Review Including the following elements: 1. A formal decision on which Recommendations are accepted; 2. a plan for implementation with time targets; 3. a regular, periodical review of implementation of such accepted Recommendations; 4. a renewal of the Performance Review process within an				MoP will review the implementation of the 1st SIOFA performance review at MoP12.				N/A

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	appropriate time frame, which we would recommend could be 5 years from now, given the fact this Review is the first such process carried out by the organisation.								