



**10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (MoP10)**

*Ravenala Attitude Hotel, Balaclava, Mauritius*

*03-07 July 2023*

**MoP-10-16**

**Report of the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the  
Scientific Committee (SC-EXTRA1) of the Southern  
Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)**

The SIOFA Secretariat on behalf of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

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<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The first extraordinary meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC-EXTRA1) was held 1 June 2023 through video conference using the ZOOM platform.</p> <p>The following paper contains the official report of the meeting, as adopted by correspondence after the meeting, and published on the meeting page of the SIOFA website on 6 June 2023.</p> <p>Recommendations contained in this paper are SC8 recommendations to the SIOFA MoP, as listed in the report.</p>

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### Recommendations

- 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.
- 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).
- 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 BFAs, would be of greater use to developing States.
- The SC recommended that the MoP **note** that it disagreed with Recommendation Nr 7.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- The SC disagreed with Recommendation Nr 12 and recommended that the MoP **note** that this recommendation was inconsistent with the previous alfonsino stock assessment advice (SC-05-29 Age-Structured Production Model assessments of the Alfonsino, 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”.
- 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).

- 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).



# Report of the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC-EXTRA1) of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Held by video conference using the ZOOM platform

1 June 2023

<b>Agenda item 1. Opening</b> .....	<b>7</b>
1.1. Welcome from the Scientific Committee Chair.....	7
1.2. Introduction of participants.....	7
<b>Agenda item 2. Administrative arrangements</b> .....	<b>7</b>
2.1. Adoption of the agenda.....	7
2.2 Confirmation of meeting documents.....	7
2.3. Appointment of rapporteurs.....	7
<b>Agenda item 3. SIOFA 1<sup>st</sup> Performance review report</b> .....	<b>7</b>
3.1. Introduction to the SIOFA 1 <sup>st</sup> Performance Review Report.....	7
3.2. Discussion of recommendations from the SIOFA 1 <sup>st</sup> Performance Review.....	7
3.3. Advice to the MoP.....	7
<b>Agenda item 4. Meeting close</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Annex A: List of Participants</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Annex B: Adopted Agenda</b> .....	<b>20</b>

**List of Annexes**

Annex A List of participants

Annex B Adopted agenda

## Agenda item 1. Opening

### 1.1. Welcome from the Scientific Committee Chair

1. The Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC), Mr. Alistair Dunn, gave opening remarks. He welcomed the participants and explained that the purpose of the meeting is for the SC to consider the report of the SIOFA 1<sup>st</sup> Performance Review and to provide advice to the Meeting of the Parties (MoP) on the Performance Review Panel's recommendations.

### 1.2. Introduction of participants

2. The list of meeting attendees is attached (**Annex A**).

## Agenda item 2. Administrative arrangements

### 2.1. Adoption of the agenda

3. The agenda was adopted as proposed (**Annex B**).

### 2.2 Confirmation of meeting documents

4. The SC Chair explained that only one paper had been submitted to the meeting, which was the Performance Review Panel's report (SC-EXTRA1-01).

### 2.3. Appointment of rapporteurs

5. Mr. Alexander Meyer (Urban Connections, Tokyo) was appointed to act as rapporteur, with assistance from delegates.
6. In this report, paragraphs with key recommendations and advice to the MoP have been highlighted in grey.

## Agenda item 3. SIOFA 1<sup>st</sup> Performance review report

### 3.1. Introduction to the SIOFA 1<sup>st</sup> Performance Review Report

7. The SC Chair introduced the report of the SIOFA 1<sup>st</sup> Performance Review (SC-EXTRA1-01).

### 3.2. Discussion of recommendations from the SIOFA 1<sup>st</sup> Performance Review

8. The SC reviewed the recommendations from the SIOFA 1<sup>st</sup> Performance Review.
9. The SC expressed its appreciation to the Performance Review Panel for conducting a comprehensive and fair review and providing clear recommendations with thorough explanations.
10. The SC noted that the Panel assigned a lower priority to some recommendations, not because they were of lower importance but because they concerned work that was already underway, and higher priority to important work that had not yet been started.

### 3.3. Advice to the MoP

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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

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.

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](#).

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 are used to mitigate the risk and uncertainty.
14. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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:
- 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);
  - 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;
  - the shark-related scientific work in the Medium-Term SC8 Workplan (Annex F, [SC8 Report](#)).
17. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
6	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider capacity building activities for developing States to undertake BFIs 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 BFIs, 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 BFIs, but a high/medium priority if it pertained to broader capacity building that included data capture, data quality, and data reporting.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority
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

27. Regarding Recommendation Nr 7, the SC noted that it had discussed this issue and reached the conclusion that:

- 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 Secretariate 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.
- 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.

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 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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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	M

provide the basis for an urgent consideration of precautionary measures in the short term.

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.
39. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.
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.
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
12	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs to urgently agree on precautionary measures regarding alfonsino 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. Effort and catches should be constrained to the lowest possible levels.	H

44. The SC disagreed with Recommendation Nr 12 and recommended that the MoP note that this recommendation was inconsistent with the previous alfonsino stock assessment advice (SC-05-29 Age-Structured Production Model assessments of the Alfonsino, 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”.
45. The SC noted that it discussed planned and ongoing alfonsino-related scientific work at SC8 (paragraphs 131–140, [SC8 Report](#)).

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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 make proper use of tools already developed by SIOFA such as the fishing footprint, BFAs and VME mapping.	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 and 277, [SC8 Report](#)).

49. The SC endorsed the high/medium priority assigned to this recommendation.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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 BFAs 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](#)).

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
19	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs to agree urgently on measures to reduce shark by-catches, in 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.	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 the outcomes of the Intersessional 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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority
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 CCAMLR, should be strengthened including for the purposes of this work.	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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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 annual national reports submitted by CCPs and currently reviewed only by the SC.	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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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 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.	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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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](#)).

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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	M



requirement of CCP developing States including, in particular, the least developed among them, and small island developing States.

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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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.

Nr	Recommendation	Priority (H/M/L)
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 offices can be effectively and efficiently discharged.	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.

#### Agenda item 4. Meeting close

78. The Executive Secretary, Mr Thierry Clot, thanked the SC for its cooperation and positive engagement.

79. The SC Chair thanked the Chairperson of the SIOFA Performance Review Panel, Ms Fuensanta Candela Castillo, for attending the meeting and making herself available for questions and clarifications.



80. The Chairperson of the SIOFA Performance Review Panel thanked the SC for its feedback and reiterated the importance of CCPs taking ownership over the recommendations and following up on them as appropriate.
81. The SC agreed to adopt the meeting report by correspondence.
82. The meeting was brought to a close at 10:56 a.m. UTC.

## Annex A: List of Participants

State/Entity/ Organisation	First name	Last name	Title	Position*	Organisation	Email
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MoP-10-16 – Report of the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC-EXTRA1) of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

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## **Annex B: Adopted Agenda**

### **1. Opening**

- 1.1. Welcome from the *Scientific Committee* Chair
- 1.2. Introduction of participants

### **2. Administrative arrangements**

- 2.1. Adoption of the agenda
- 2.2. Confirmation of meeting documents
- 2.3. Appointment of rapporteurs

### **3. SIOFA 1<sup>st</sup> Performance review report**

- 3.1. Introduction to the SIOFA 1st Performance Review Report
- 3.2. Discussion of recommendations from the SIOFA 1st Performance Review
- 3.3. Advice to the MoP

### **4. Meeting close**