



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

*Ravenala Attitude Hotel, Balaclava, Mauritius*

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**MoP-10-23**

# Proposed Collaboration Between SIOFA and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

SIOFA Secretariat

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<b>Abstract</b>	<p>During the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Compliance Committee, the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) presented a letter of Intent to the SIOFA, through the Executive Secretary, proposing cooperation between the SIOFA and the IOC through the Ecofish Program. It was noted that through such cooperation, the IOC may be able to provide technical and financial assistance to support the work of the SIOFA. While the Compliance Committee welcomed the intention expressed by the IOC and noted the potential benefits, some CCPs were of the views that further considerations and discussions might be required with regards to any collaborations in the area of enforcement.</p> <p>Following this, the Secretariat begun engagements with the IOC in the intersessional period to further discussions on the proposed collaborations between the two organizations.</p>

**Recommendations.**

- Note the progress made to establish collaborations between the SIOFA and the IOC, including the potential areas of interest.
- Provide direction to the Secretariat with regards to the proposed Collaboration

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<sup>2</sup> Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.



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### Background

During the 6th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC06), the IOC presented a letter of Intent to the SIOFA, through the Executive Secretary, proposing cooperation between the SIOFA and the IOC through the Ecofish Program. It was noted that through such cooperation, the IOC may be able to provide technical and financial assistance to support the work of the SIOFA. While the Compliance Committee welcomed the intention expressed by the IOC and noted the potential benefits, some CCPs were of the views that further considerations and discussions might be required with regards to any collaborations in the area of enforcement.

During the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the SIOFA (MoP09), the IOC shared their strategic plan with the Secretariat which was subsequently shared with the MoP09.

Following the conclusion of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties, the Secretariat begun engagement with the IOC to further discussions on the potential collaborations between the two organization.

### Update on progress made in the Intersessional Period

The SIOFA Secretariat was invited to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Enlarged Regional Coordination Unit (eRCU) for the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Plan (PRSP), which was held in Sainte Clothide, La Reunion on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2023.

During the meeting, the eRCU expressed strong interest in collaboration with the SIOFA, notably in the following fields:

- Scientific research and information exchange
- Support for capacity building and technical assistance on implementation of SIOFA conservation and management measures
- Collaboration in Surveillance programs
- Collaborations in observer programs
- Collaborations in implementation of Port State Measures, including exchange of port inspection data.

With the eRCU expressing their areas of interest, the IOC with the support of the SIOFA Secretariat was tasked with drawing a draft proposal that shall guide discussions between the IOC and the MoP on the potential collaborations between the two Organizations.

Following the 11<sup>th</sup> eRCU, the Secretariat engaged with the IOC Secretariat to begin work on the draft proposal before the next MoP. Unfortunately, all efforts to engage with the IOC was not successful.

Despite the initial setbacks, we remain determined to foster a spirit of cooperation and explore potential avenues for collaboration with the IOC. The Secretariat has been actively engaging with the IOC, taking proactive steps to solicit their involvement. For instance, a proposal was made for a meeting in Mauritius, where the relevant Project Coordinators of the Ecofish and the Compliance Officer could meet with the IOC during their Annual Session. Although these efforts did not yield the desired outcome, we remain hopeful and committed to further exploring the possibilities of collaboration.

Moving forward, our focus continues to be on identifying shared interests, such as implementing effective port state measures and a robust VMS system. We believe that by emphasizing these areas

of common concern, we can lay the groundwork for future cooperation with the IOC. While progress may have been limited thus far, we are resolute in our determination to continue pursuing opportunities for partnership and working towards our mutual goals. Together, we can make significant strides in addressing the challenges and promoting sustainable practices in our respective domains.