



10th Meeting of the Parties (MoP10)

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MoP-10-24

SIOFA Observer Status in the IMCS Network

SIOFA Secretariat

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Abstract	<p>This working paper requests the Parties of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) to consider and approve SIOFA's observer status in the IMCS Network. It highlights the potential benefits of SIOFA's engagement, such as enhanced collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and capacity development in the fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) community. The paper emphasizes SIOFA's active role in combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and aligning objectives with the IMCS Network, without imposing any financial or legal obligations. The Secretariat of SIOFA is also urged to provide necessary information and support for the consideration of SIOFA's observer status in the IMCS Network.</p>

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² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions as per SIOFA RoP 20.

Recommendations

- The MoP to consider SIOFA's observer status in the IMCS Network

SIOFA Observer Status in the IMCS Network

Recalling the objectives and principles of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) and its commitment to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the South Indian Ocean region,

Acknowledging the importance of fostering collaboration, cooperation, and coordination among fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) entities,

Recognizing the value of sharing knowledge and experiences to enhance responses to IUU fishing and strengthen MCS efforts,

Considering the invitation extended by the IMCS Network for SIOFA to become a member and participate as an observer in their meetings (contained in Annex),

Noting the successful initiatives undertaken by the IMCS Network, including the establishment of the Tuna Compliance Network and the Pan-Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network,

Further noting that the IMCS Network has been recognized as an inter-governmental organization (IGO) observer to the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and has participated as an invited IGO observer organization to the meetings of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC),

Recognizing the potential benefits of SIOFA's engagement as an observer in the IMCS Network, which would facilitate information exchange, collaboration, and cooperation with relevant stakeholders in the fisheries MCS community,

Requests the Parties to consider and approve SIOFA's membership and observer status in the IMCS Network, taking into account the following:

1. SIOFA's active role in promoting sustainable fisheries management and combating IUU fishing in the Southern Indian Ocean region;
2. The potential for enhanced collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and capacity development through SIOFA's participation in the IMCS Network;
3. The alignment of the IMCS Network's objectives with those of SIOFA, including the strengthening and enhancement of MCS efforts;
4. The opportunity for SIOFA to contribute its expertise and experiences in addressing IUU fishing to the benefit of the wider MCS community;
5. The absence of any financial or legal obligations associated with membership in the IMCS Network.

Further requests the Secretariat of SIOFA to communicate SIOFA's interest in becoming an observer to the IMCS Network to the appropriate authorities and to provide any necessary information or support to facilitate the consideration of this request.

Thierry Clot
Executive Secretary



Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
c/o DAAF
Bâtiment B
Parc de la Providence
97489 Saint-Denis Cedex
La Réunion

11 May 2023

Dear Mr Clot,

About the IMCS Network

The IMCS Network was established in 2001 to promote and facilitate communication, cooperation, coordination, and capacity development across the fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), compliance and enforcement community. The Network is an informal, voluntary organization that supports members from national, regional, and international fisheries agencies and organisations. The Network also includes observers from IGOs, NGOs and academic institutions that support the objective of the Network and that play a key role in strengthening and enhancing responses to IUU fishing and focusing collective MCS efforts.

The IMCS Network has over 80 members including several regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) and regional fisheries bodies (RFBs) including the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFCC), the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC).

In 2017, the IMCS Network supported the establishment of the Tuna Compliance Network (TCN) that includes members from all the five tuna RFMOs. The TCN has been very successful in promoting the exchange of information and communication between the five tuna RFMOs. Over recent years, the TCN has undertaken significant research to better understand compliance processes in the tuna RFMOs and to develop recommendations for their strengthening and enhancement. The success of the TCN led to the establishment of the Pan-Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network (PPFCN) in 2021. The PPFCN will facilitate informal communication, collaboration, and cooperation between the secretariats of RFMOs that have overlapping jurisdictions in the Pacific Ocean region. The Network

hopes to establish other relevant networks in the coming years.

This year, the IMCS Network, in partnership with the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) will co-host the 7th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop in Halifax, Nova Scotia from 31 July to 04 August. The Workshop will bring together the global fisheries MCS, compliance and enforcement community to discuss key issues and share ideas and lessons learned.

IMCS Membership

The IMCS Network invites SIOFA to consider becoming a member of IMCS Network and it is our hope that this will strengthen our engagement in the region including with countries that are part of both organisations. This will provide opportunities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing to enhance responses to illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and to focus collective MCS efforts. We would like to reiterate that membership to the IMCS Network is voluntary and there are no financial or legal obligations associated with membership. We would welcome the opportunity to provide any information that they may be required to support the consideration of IMCS Network membership.

SIOFA Observer

The IMCS Network has an interest in matters relevant to the implementation of SIOFA and as such would like to request to participate as an Observer in the meetings of Parties and its subsidiary bodies in accordance with Article 14(4) of the Agreement NPFC Convention and Rule 18(1)(f) of the Rules of Procedure. The IMCS Network is registered as an Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO) under FAO and holds this precedence with other organizations.

The IMCS Network was recently approved as an IGO observer to NPFC, SPRFMO and WCPFC and has participated as an invited IGO observer organization to the meetings of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and NEAFC. We would welcome the opportunity to provide Parties with any information that they may require to support their consideration of this request.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Director, Mr. Mark Young directly at myoung@imcsnet.org for further information.

Sincerely,



Mr. Gary Orr
Chair, IMCS Network