

10th Meeting of the Parties (MoP10)
Mauritius, 3–7 July 2023

MOP-10-INFO-03

Report on Staff Resources and Secretariat Activities

SIOFA Secretariat

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Abstract	
In accordance with Rule 8.1 (f) and (g) of the SIOFA Rules of Procedure, this document provides an annual report prepared by the Secretariat on its staffing resources and activities from the period between MoP9 and MoP10.	

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

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Rev 1: Reference to a document has been corrected at page 14.

Introduction

In accordance with Rule 8.1 (f) and 8 (g) of the SIOFA Rules of Procedure, this document provides an annual report prepared by the Secretariat on its staffing resources and activities from the period between MoP9 and MoP10.

Updates to the Agreement

SIOFA's CCPs and signatories

The Contracting Parties to SIOFA are:

- Australia
- People's Republic of China
- Cook Islands
- European Union
- France (on behalf of its Overseas Territories)
- Japan
- The Republic of Korea
- Mauritius
- Seychelles
- Thailand

SIOFA's Participating Fishing Entity:

- Chinese Taipei

SIOFA's Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:

- The Union of Comoros
- India

Signatories to the Agreement:

- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Mozambique
- New Zealand

Observers :

- The United States of America
- The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
- The Joint Commission of the Mauritius-Seychelles Joint Management Area (JMA)
- The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO / ABNJ/ RSN / FIRMS)
- The Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)
- The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

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- The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)
- Deep-Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC)
- Southern Indian Ocean Deep-sea Fishers' Association (SIODFA)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

SIOFA Meeting of the Parties and subsidiary bodies chairpersons:

The Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Meeting of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies are outlined in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of SIOFA

Body	Chairpersons	Vice-Chairperson
Meeting of the Parties	Geereesha Topsy-Sonoo (07 July 2022- August 2022) Maubarak Boodhun (30 August 2022- 10 February 2023) Dhanandjay Kawol (since 27 March 2023)	Soobin Shim
Compliance Committee	Ichiro Nomura (ex vice-chair acting as chairperson since the chairperson resigned)	TBD
Scientific Committee	Alistair Dunn	Sebastian Rodriguez Alfaro

Secretariat Activities

The main duties of the Secretariat from MoP9 to MoP10 included:

- the realisation of the specific tasks required by the MoP9;
- the collection and processing of data;
- the preparation of data reports;
- the organisation of meetings;
- the maintenance of the SIOFA website;
- liaising with other organisations (such as other governmental or non-governmental organizations, FAO, etc.);
- the science related activities (detailed below);
- attending meetings of neighbouring RFMOs;
- the daily administration tasks (staff management, finance, and bookkeeping, etc.),

A detailed breakdown of activities concerning SIOFA's financial management can be found in the Financial Report (MoP-10-INFO-04).

Tasks required by MoP9:

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Ref. (para)	Task required	Comments
MoP9-55	The Meeting of the Parties (MoP) requested the Secretariat to contact Sri Lanka and encourage it to provide the relevant information	MoP-10-INFO-06
MoP9-84	the MoP requested the Secretariat to seek further information about the required steps for participation in the IMMA designation process and present the information to the SC8 meeting and the 10th Meeting of the Parties	SC-08-INFO-11
MoP9-114	Presentation of an updated footprint	SC-08-23-Rev1
MoP9-210	The MoP recommend to the Secretariat to continue to work with authorities from the host country to identify suitable new premises as soon as possible	Circular SIOFA 2023-01
MoP9-225	The Meeting of the Parties REQUESTED the Executive Secretary to consult with the United Nations Secretariat regarding United Nations practice in such cases and to provide advice to inform the Meeting of the Parties' intersessional discussions.	MoP-10-06
MoP9-244	The Meeting of the Parties AGREED to work intersessionally with the IOTC on a draft text and tasked the Secretariat to liaise with the IOTC Secretariat to this end	MoP-10-22

Data and information technology-related activities:

- Databases management and data-related activities
 - data submission processing (templates, emailing, checking, formatting, etc.)
 - Datasets database management
 - Updates to Catch & Effort databases (historical data and yearly data submission)
 - Updates to Observer database (historical data and yearly data submission)
 - Provision of data for the Scientific Committees papers, to external consultant for studies, for support to CCPs
 - Processing and analysis of data for reports and specific tasks
 - Maintenance of the entry-exit notifications database
- Support to meetings and workshops
 - Virtual meeting management (Zoom), registration and invitation
 - Documents preparation and management
 - Meeting attendance
- Website administration
 - Backups and Drupal updates
 - Structure and pages updates
 - Meetings addition and document uploads
 - Users' management
- IT activities
 - Secretariat computers setup, software installation
 - Software subscriptions and accounts management
 - Hardware and peripherals purchase advice.
 - SIOFA Email administration
 - Communication with IT providers

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Science-related activities:

Science projects coordination

Completed:

- SIOFA Bioregionalisation and VMEs Project (PAE-2021-01)
- SEC2022-SUM1 assistance with preparation of SC reports

Contracted:

- SEC2022-OBS1 Observer Framework Harmonization
- SER2022-TOP2 Toothfish spatial structure
- PAE2022-MPA1 Protocols to designate and evaluate MPAs
- SER2022-TOP1 toothfish stock structure
- SER2022-ORY1 orange roughy stock structure
- SER2022-BYS1 alfonsino stock structure
- SER2022-BYS2 alfonsino bomb radiocarbon

Scientific reports preparation

- SIOFA Fisheries Overview 2023
- SIOFA Ecosystem Summary 2023
- SIOFA Fishery Summary: orange roughy 2023
- SIOFA Fishery Summary drafts for 5 more species
- SIOFA bottom fisheries footprint
- SIOFA Availability of VME data
- SIOFA Fisheries within IMMA areas

Scientific Committee processes and meetings

SIOFA SC workplan reform, including prioritization

Assistance and support to the SC Chairs (e.g. Circulars, meetings etc.)

- Workshop the development of ecosystem and fisheries summaries (WS2022-SUM1)
- SIOFA Workshop on the development of VME management (WS2022-VME1)
- Joint Meeting of Parties and Scientific Committee Workshop on Harvest Strategy Pre-assessment of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) (WSHSPA-2023)
- Workshop on Deepwater Sharks in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Area (WSDWS-2023)
- 8th Annual meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC8)

Other tasks of the Science Officer

- EU grants applications and project preparation
- Scientific coordination with other RFMOs and international projects (e.g. the second phase of the FAO DSF Project)
- Follow and coordinate with other RFMOs scientific processes/meetings
- Liaison with scientific stakeholders

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- Support the Secretariat activities

Scientific Committee Circulars

A list of all Scientific Committee Circulars that were sent from MoP9-MoP10 is included in **Table 2**.

All SC Circulars are available on the SIOFA website at <http://apsoi.org/scientific-committee/sc-circulars>.

Table 2: SC Circulars sent from MoP9-MoP10

SC CIRCULAR No.	TITLE	Date
2022-18	Scientific Committee workplan	07/09/2022
2022-19	ToR for the Ecosystem and Fisheries Summaries WS	09/07/2022
2022-20	Workshop on the development of VME management (WS2022-VME1)	21/09/2022
2022-21	Confirmation of the workshop on the development of VME management (WS2022-VME1)	18/11/2022
2023-01	SC8 Invitation and working arrangements	02/01/2023
2023-02	SC8 Provisional Agenda	16/01/2023
2023-03	HSPA Workshop Provisional Agenda	16/01/2023
2023-04	Sharks Workshop Provisional Agenda	18/01/2023
2023-05	HSPA Workshop Revised Provisional Agenda	07/02/2023
2023-06	Sharks Workshop Revised Provisional Agenda	08/02/2023
2023-07	SC8 Revised Provisional Agenda	10/02/2023
2023-08	Sharks Workshop Taxa and Experts	13/02/2023
2023-09	Shark Workshop Data availability and extension	21/02/2023
2023-10	Working Papers	27/02/2023
2023-11	Tenerife-meeting-practicalities	06/03/2023
2023-12	SC8 WSHSPA WSDWS Meeting reports	07/04/2023
2023-13	SC8 Workplan Prioritization	14/04/2023
2023-14	Extraordinary meeting SC	14/04/2023
2023-15	Documents for SC-EXTRA1	02/05/2023
2023-16	Link and registrations for SC-EXTRA1	15/05/2023

Preparation of SIOFA Meetings

A. Virtual meetings

To facilitate communication and resolve some issues, the Secretariat held several internal meetings and with the Chairs virtually all along the year using ZOOM platform.

- A Chairs meeting has been organised with the MoP Chairperson, the CC Chairperson and SC Chairperson every month since the month of September 2022. All the chairs and vice-chairs

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are invited to this monthly meeting that allows the Secretariat to inform the Chairs about the works in progress, and to resolve any issue if necessary.

- An SC related meeting has been organised every two week with the SC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, to organise the various SC Tasks all along the years, manage the consultancies, prepare the Working groups and SC meeting, etc...
- A Secretariat internal meeting is organised weekly by the Executive Secretary, to allow each department to present their current activities and if they face difficulties. This meeting is also an opportunity to discuss Secretariat organisation.
- Two SIOFA SC workshops were organized in virtual format: the Workshop the development of ecosystem and fisheries summaries (WS2022-SUM1) and the SIOFA Workshop on the development of VME management (WS2022-VME1).

B. Hybrid meetings

(i) WSHSPA, WSDWS, and SC8

The Scientific Committee Workshop on Harvest Strategy Pre-Assessment (WSHSPA-2023), the Workshop on Deepwater Sharks (WSDWS-2023) and the Eighth Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA SC8) were held in a hybrid format at the Spanish Institute of Oceanography, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain with the financial support of EU, via an EU Agreement.

In preparation of the meetings, the Secretariat held weekly meetings with the Chairs of the SC, as well as with representatives of the local institutions and with a local event organizer to fine-tune the logistics of the meeting.

(ii) 7th Compliance Committee and 10th Meeting of the Parties

Following the decision that CC7 and MoP10 would be held physically in Balaclava, Mauritius, the Secretariat in straight collaboration with Mauritius authorities have prepared the necessary arrangements. This includes:

- Booking a meeting venue;
- Arranging discounted hotel rooms for meeting participants;
- Renting the necessary audio-visual equipment and associated services;
- Preparing the logistics to ensure that virtual attendees can fully participate in the meeting;
- Providing support to delegations organising their travel (Provision of letters for visas application);
- Official Information to the Mauritius Authority.

SIOFA IUU Vessel List

(i) IUU List Adopted during MoP9

The Secretariat ensured the publicity of the IUU vessel list, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality measures. As such, the SIOFA IUU Vessel List, which was adopted at the 9th Meeting of the Parties was published on the SIOFA website.

(ii) Draft IUU List

In line with CMM 2022/06, and on the basis of evidence received pursuant to paragraph 2 of CMM 2022/06, the Secretariat prepared the Draft SIOFA IUU Vessel List, which was transmitted with the current IUU Vessel List, and all supporting evidence to all CCPs and to Non-Contracting Parties with vessels on the list on the 28th of April 2023 (via Circular 2023/17).

The Secretariat requested that all comments related to the Draft IUU List be transmitted to the Secretariat by 24th May 2023. It was stated that all comments must be accompanied by verifiable evidence and other supporting information, showing that the vessels included on the Draft IUU vessel have neither operated in contravention of SIOFA CMMs nor had the possibility of engaging in fishing for fishery resources in the Agreement Area.

(iii) Cross-listing of IUU vessels from other organisations

Upon receipt of the final IUU vessel lists established by other organisations, the Secretariat circulated all information to CCPs for the purpose of amending the SIOFA IUU Vessel List during the intersessional period through Circulars, the details of which are as follows:

- Circular 2022/54 (updates to ICCAT IUU Vessel List): Transmitted on 05/12/2022. Resulted in the inclusion of the LUCAS,KIKI,LITTLESHA,MANGALA,NOVA,YONA,AVEMARIYA, and change of details for ZHI MING, XING HAI FEN.
- Circular 2023/17 (updating information of vessels): Transmitted on 27/04/2023. The vessel CHIN HAO No.66 was removed and its name was merged with the vessel SAGE. The previous names of the vessels EL SHADDAI and BAROON were added to the list .

Communication with Flag State authorities

The Secretariat contacted the Sri Lankan authorities regarding the vessels on the Draft IUU List. Full details of the communication have been made available in circular SIOFA 2023-18 info paper (with restricted access).

The owner of the EL SHADDAI has also contacted the Secretariat about the listing of the vessel. Exchanges are available in Circular 2023-18. The exchanges with South Africa authorities are available under MoP-10-INFO-07.

Attending meetings of other organisations

The Secretariat have also attended the meetings of other organisations, the details of which are outlined below in **Table 3**. Upcoming meetings have also been included.

Table 3: Meetings attended by the SIOFA Secretariat,

Meeting Title	Host Organisation	Dates	Format
RSN meeting Mozambique	FAO – Maputo	22-24/06/2022	In person
RSN9+COFI35 meeting	FAO	5-9/09/2022	Virtual
SPRFMO Scientific Committee meeting (SC10)	SPRFMO	26-30/09/2022	Virtual
SWIOFC Scientific Committee 11 annual meeting (SWIOFCSC11)	SWIOFC	29-30/09/2022	Virtual
CCAMLR 41 st Scientific Committee meeting (SC-CAMLR41)	CCAMLR	24-28/10/2022	Virtual
FAO DSF Guidelines Implementation review	FAO – Hosted by NEAFC, London	29/11-02/12/2022	In person
NPFC Scientific Committee 8 th annual meeting (SC08)	NPFC	16-20/12/2022	Virtual
FAO DSF Project II – Inception meeting	FAO – Rome	23-27/01/2023	In person
FAO-FIRMS Technical WG	FAO	01/03/2023	Virtual
FAO-FIRMS Technical WG	FAO	22-23/05/2023	Virtual
FAO-FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting	FAO	26-30/06/2023	Virtual
27 th IOTC Meeting	IOTC – Mauritius	08-12/05/2023	Virtual and In person
Third Special Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR-SM-III)	CCAMLR	19-23/06/2023	Virtual

Key topics relevant for SIOFA:

(ii) *FAO meeting on Indian Ocean cooperation (RSN)*

The Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) and the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division organized this meeting with the support of FAO Mozambique, and the Government of Mozambique. The meeting will gather regional fisheries bodies that

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work in the Indian Ocean, such as IOTC, CCSBT, RECOFI, SIOFA, IWC, BOBP-IGO, SWIOFC with the SWIOFC Secretariat.

Meeting aims and relevance for SIOFA:

- Promote collaboration and cooperation among RFBs in the Indian Ocean
- Aims to preliminarily identify areas for improved cooperation/coordination among regional fisheries bodies (RFBs), consistent with the FAO committee on Fisheries (COFI) recommendations.

It is worth noting that the costs of attending, including flights and accommodation, were covered by the host organisation.

The meeting produced a summary record of discussions (See MoP-10-INFO-06

(iii) RSN9 + COFI35 Meeting

The Ninth Meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN-9) brought together Secretariats of regional fishery bodies (RFBs) with diverse mandates from all geographic regions, including FAO and non-FAO regional fishery bodies.

RSN-9 took place immediately before and after the Thirty-fifth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI-35), which was held from 5 to 9 September 2022. As was the case with COFI, RSN-9 met in hybrid format, in person and virtually. These 3 days meeting allowed participants to exchange views and discuss global processes of particular relevance to RFBs. In addition, RSN-9 provided the opportunity to discuss the development and strengthening of RSN, which included the adoption of the RSN terms of reference and the subsequent amendment of the RSN rules of procedure, as well as a space for reflection on the outcomes of COFI 35 and their implications for regional fishery bodies.

(Full report is available on SIOFA Website in the information board and on the following link: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc4686en>)

(iv) 10th SPRFMO Scientific Committee meeting (SC10)

The SIOFA Science Officer attended virtually the Deepwater discussions under the 10th annual SPRFMO Scientific Committee meeting of 2022, with a focus on following the discussion of the Intersessional Working Group on bottom fishing management. In particular, the scientific and management merits of different levels of seafloor protection were discussed.

The SPRFMO Scientific Committee produced a [report of their meeting](#).

(v) 41st CCAMLR Scientific Committee meeting

The SIOFA Science Officer attended virtually the 41st CCAMLR Scientific Committee meeting (SC-CAMLR41). Attendance of virtual participants was limited to listening mode, and it served as a capacity building experience to see the work of CCAMLR and consider potential cross-boundary issues for future cooperation.

The CCAMLR Scientific Committee produced a [report of their meeting](#).

(vi) FAO DSF guidelines implementation review

This meeting was attended in person by the Science Officer in his role as an expert, and on behalf of SIOFA as an in-kind contribution to the FAO DSF project. The meeting focused on

how the DSF guidelines were implemented, mainly by RFMOs, with participants contributing to the editing of a draft review document initially prepared by FAO consultants. The main output of this meeting was the review document itself, which is not yet published and will be published by FAO in due time.

(vii) 7th NPFC Scientific Committee meeting

The SIOFA Science Officer attended virtually part of the 7th NPFC Scientific Committee annual meeting, due to the time zone challenges and other commitments. The main focus areas were the information on how the NPFC SC has been developing their VME mapping and bottom fishing management advice, as well as their development of species-specific fishery summaries.

NPFC does not publish a public report of their SC meetings.

(viii) FAO DSF Project II phase Inception meeting

The SIOFA Science Officer attended in person the FAO DSF Project II phase Inception meeting. The meeting focused on refining the project workplan, building the network across different participants, and on discussing the terms of reference for the project steering committee. The FAO produced a report for this meeting (MoP-10-INFO-07).

(ix) FAO FIRMS technical working group meetings

The SIOFA Science Officer attended virtually the FAO FIRMS technical working group meetings. These two meetings connect back to the general cooperation between SIOFA and FAO FIRMS. The first meeting of the TWG focused on the terminology used in FIRMS and how to standardize it for future use. The second meeting of the TWG focused instead on the standards used in the Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF).

FAO does not produce meeting reports from these meetings.

(x) 27th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)³

The 27th Session of the IOTC was attended virtually and physically by the Data Officer and the Compliance Officer. The meeting was held for 5 days in Mauritius, between the 8th to the 12th May 2023. The Commission adopted 8 CMMs, of which some might be of interest to the SIOFA, notably the following:

- *On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels* which updates the previous CMM related to Transshipments,
- *On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries* which updates the previous CMM related thereof. And,
- *On electronic monitoring standards for IOTC fisheries*, recalling that while the SIOFA recognizes the use of EM for implementation of observer programs, no adopted standard of implementation and performance has been considered yet by the Meeting of Parties.

³ Report of the 27th Session of the IOTC was not available for reference at the time of drafting this paper.

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A proposal for High-sea boarding and inspection scheme was also discussed at this session (continued discussion from previous session) and intended to encompass SIOFA inspection vessels.

The Secretariat had the intention to provide an update on the IOTC – SIOFA collaboration during the 27th Session, but the matter was not discussed at the meeting.

(xi) *Third Special Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR-SM-III)*

The SIOFA Science Officer will attend virtually the Special Meeting of CCAMLR. This meeting focuses on the establishment and assessment of CCAMLR marine protected areas (MPAs), a process that could be informative for the currently ongoing SIOFA PAE2022-MPA1 project,

SIOFA Circulars

The following Circulars were used to transmit information to SIOFA Official Contacts (**Table 5**). Circulars may be accessed through the internal communication section of the SIOFA website (<http://apsoi.org/internal-communication>). You must log in to access this section.

Table 4: List of all Circulars transmitted to SIOFA Official Contacts between MoP9 and MoP10.

CIRCULAR No.	SUBJECT	Date
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-37	Circulation of HSBI Authorised Vessels and Authorised Inspectors	01/07/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-38	MoP9 Adopted Report	11/07/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-39	SIOFA IUU Vessel list	13/07/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-40	Request for experts to share their experiences with implementing the FAO DSF Guidelines	19/07/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-41	Outcome of the SIOFA CMMs Editing process after MoP9	11/08/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-42	New Chairperson of the MoP and Performance review of SIOFA	30/08/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-43	Recruitment process for a SIOFA Compliance Officer	01/09/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-44	SIOFA Performance review process	19/09/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-45	Information letter on a transfer of quota in Del Cano Rise area	21/09/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-46	Cooperation between IOTC and SIOFA	28/09/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-47	Selection of a SIOFA Compliance Officer	15/10/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-48	Appointment of a Chairperson for the panel Performance Review of SIOFA	17/10/2022

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SIOFA Circular n° 2022-49	Questionnaire to stakeholders concerning the Performance Review of SIOFA	24/10/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-50	Information letter on a transfer of quota in Del Cano Rise area	08/11/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-51	Participation to the Performance Review of SIOFA	14/11/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-52	implementation of the Williams Ridge fishery in the 2022/2023 fishing season	24/11/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-53	Vacancy for the role of Vice-Chairperson of the Compliance Committee	28/11/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2022-54	Changes to the SIOFA cross-list of IUU vessels following updates from other organisations (Updates from IOTC and ICCAT IUU vessel list)	05/12/2022
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/01	Information notes on the new premises for the SIOFA Secretariat	10/01/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/02	Invitation to attend SIOFA's 7th Compliance Committee and 10th Meeting of the Parties	06/02/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/03	Note on CMM concerning incomplete Authorized Vessels information	13/02/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/04	Vacant Office of Chairperson	27/02/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/05	Template for the CCP Compliance Report (CCR)	28/02/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/06	Update on New premises for the SIOFA Secretariat	02/03/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/07	Exchange with IOTC, Official Letter referenced: 2023-02-22_2	06/03/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/08	Request for Observer Status from the Joint Commission of the Seychelles-Mauritius Joint Management Area	17/03/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/09	Proposed amendments to Point 7 of the IOTC-SIOFA Arrangement	20/03/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/10	Appointment of Dr.Dhanandjay Kawol as Chairperson of MOP10	27/03/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/11	Request for Observer Status from the New World Hope Organization (NWHO)	07/04/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/12	Access to Reports of SC8, WSHSPA-2023, and WSDWS-2023	07/04/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/13	Organisation of an extraordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC Extra1)	12/04/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/14	Voluntary Contribution Received from France (Overseas Territories) for Interpretation of CC7 and MoP10	17/04/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/15	Call for Applications for Financial Assistance to Participate in the 7th Meeting of the Compliance Committee, and the 10th Meeting of the Parties to the SIOFA	18/04/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/16	Call for External Audit - Terms of Reference attached for review	20/04/2023

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SIOFA Circular n° 2023/17	Changes to the SIOFA cross-list of IUU vessels following updates from other organisations	27/04/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/18	Draft IUU Vessels List	28/04/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/19	Panel Review Report	28/04/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/20	Provisional Agenda for the 10th Meeting of the Parties of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	28/04/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/21	Provisional Agenda for the 7th Meeting of the Compliance Committee of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	28/04/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/22	Draft Budget	03/05/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/24	Financial-Report-and-External-Auditor-report	31/05/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/25	Working Papers CC7 Availability	31/05/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/26	Communication-South-Africa-El-Shaddai	02/06/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/27	Working Papers MOP10 Availability	08/06/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/28	IUU-Vessel-List-Circulation-and-Additional-Information-Submission	13/06/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/29	Availability of the draft SIOFA Compliance Report	13/06/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/30	Reminder for submission of INFO Documents for CC7	13/06/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/31	Letter from JMA concerning Bottom Trawl Fishing on the Saya de Malha Bank	15/06/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/32	Reminder for submission of INFO Documents for MoP10	16/06/2023
SIOFA Circular n° 2023/33	Letter from Sri Lanka Regarding IMULA 1655 MTR	16/06/2023

Intersessional Decisions

(i) Intersessional Decisions between MoP9 and MoP10

No intersessional decisions were proposed between MoP9 and MoP10.

Secretariat Staff

The Secretariat staff currently consists of an Executive Secretary, a Data Officer (since January 2022), a Science Officer (since February 2022), a Compliance Officer (since February 2023) and an Intern (6-month term, since February 2023).

Recruitment of a SIOFA Compliance Officer

The 9th Meeting of the Parties agreed to recruit a Compliance Officer. The incumbent Compliance Officer started his role on the 1st of February 2023.

Intern Assistant to the Secretariat

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An Intern was recruited in January 2023 to support the Secretariat from February 2023 to August 2023.

Staff Management

With the end of Covid-19, it has been possible to attend in person to some meeting. An intern note concerning the process to travel and the process for the calculation of the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) has been transmitted to the Staff.

The Secretariat faced some issues in the application of the Staff regulation:

- a) The Secretariat did not obtain clarification from UN nor from FAO concerning the clarification required by the MoP9 on the process about separation from service. After an enquiry with some other RFMOs, a proposal is submitted for consideration by MoP 10. (MoP-10-06)
- b) Procedures are on-going for the newly recruited SIOFA staff to access the French social security system. Preliminary discussions indicate that some staff members may not be eligible to the French social security system, notably for the non-European citizen. Considering this, and in accordance with SIOFA Staff regulation 8, an international private insurance is being contracted by the Secretariat to provide cover for the staff.

These issues and proposed solutions are further described in the working paper MoP-10-06 prepared by the Secretariat.

New premises for the SIOFA Secretariat

As advised during MoP8, the SIOFA Secretariat has been working in collaboration with the French authorities regarding potential new premises for the SIOFA Secretariat.

In January 2023 a new building has been identified for their headquarters of the Secretariat in Le Port, Reunion Island, which corresponds to their needs in terms of office space but requires major renovation works to meet French standards. The French government has agreed to provide the building for use by the Secretariat free of charge and also offered a voluntary contribution of €175,000 to finance the renovation work. All CCPs have approved the project, and renovation is currently underway.

The works started on March 2023 and have been followed by the Executive Secretary. All the works are well engaged, and the Secretariat should move in its new premises by the end of July 2023.

Following the relocation of the Secretariat, the memorandum of understanding with the French Government relating to the provision of office accommodation and related services signed in 2016, need to be updated. A new MoU is submitted for consideration by the MoP under **MoP-10-25**.