



**8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC8) and 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (MoP11)**

*Seoul, Republic of Korea, 26–28 June 2024 and 01-05 July 2024*

**MoP-11-43**

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# Information notes on Planned Secretariat Meeting Attendance for 2025

The SIOFA Secretariat

<b>Meeting</b>	Compliance Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting of the Parties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Distribution</b>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>In accordance with Article 16 of the SIOFA Agreement, the Secretariat actively engages in collaborative meetings with other RFMOs and fisheries management entities. Depending on what is being discussed at the meeting, the Secretariat may assist to this meeting in person or virtually.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

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

# Information notes on Planned Secretariat Meeting Attendance for 2025

According to Article 16 of the SIOFA Agreement: “The Contracting Parties, acting jointly under this Agreement, shall cooperate closely with other international fisheries and related organizations in matters of mutual interest, in particular with the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission and any other regional fisheries management organization with competence over high seas waters adjacent to the Area.”

As a result, the SIOFA Secretariat regularly participates in meetings held by other RFMOs or fisheries management institutions.

Based on the issues raised at the meeting, the Secretariat will assign the most qualified staff member to attend.

## 1. On-site Participation Meetings Planned for 2025:

### January

- *FAO Deep Sea Fisheries Project Steering Committee Meeting (14-16 January)*. The 2<sup>nd</sup> DSF Project Steering Committee meeting will be held in Rome. SIOFA is a partner of the project, with a substantial amount of co-financing. The Science Officer, who is in charge of this task, should attend this meeting in person [2500€]<sup>(1)</sup>.

### February

- *Honiara Summit* (status of SDG 14.4 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”) (24-27 February 2025). The meeting aims to convene the Executive Secretaries of various RFMOs, making it essential for the SIOFA Executive Secretary to attend (4500€)<sup>(1)</sup>

### March

- 10<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee of SIOFA (*Covered by SIOFA budget item 3.2*)

### April

*IOTC CoC and Commission* (April 2025): The strong linkage between SIOFA and IOTC, along with ongoing efforts to reach an agreement, necessitates the presence of a Secretariat member (Compliance Officer) at IOTC’s meetings. Furthermore, given that the meeting is **scheduled to occur in La Réunion**, accessibility for a SIOFA member will be notably convenient (200€)<sup>(1)</sup>.

### June

- 9<sup>th</sup> Compliance Committee of SIOFA (dates TBC) [Mauritius] (*Covered by SIOFA budget item 4.2*)

### July

- 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties of SIOFA (dates TBC) [Mauritius] (*Covered by SIOFA budget item 4.2*)

## September

- *IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch* (September 2025, TBC)

SIOFA and IOTC are both competent for the same maritime area. While a formal cooperation agreement is being discussed between the two organisations, it is advised that a member of the Secretariat (preferably the Science Officer) participates in person to the *IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch* to enhance the coordination between IOTC and SIOFA Scientific Committees on assessing the captures of the respective fisheries (2700€)<sup>(1)</sup>.

## November

- *IOTC Working-party on Data collection and statistic* (Nov 2025 TBC)

SIOFA and IOTC have to treat some common species as targeted fishing or bycatches.

Until a formal cooperation agreement is reached between the two organisations, it is essential that a member of the Secretariat (preferably the Data Officer) can participate in person to the *IOTC Working-party on Data collection and statistic* to report to the MoP any issue. (2700€)<sup>(1)</sup>

## 2. Remote Participation Meetings Planned for 2025:

- *CCAMLR SC and/or Commission 2025* (Oct 2025? TBC) (if in person 4800€): If possible, the meeting should be attended virtually, given the absence of significant matters pertaining to SIOFA. However, should the agenda include topics relevant to SIOFA, the employee most aligned with the agenda will be required to attend in person.
- *SEAFO SC, CoC and Commission* (End of November 2025) (not planned in the 2025 budget, if in person 2700€): If remote participation is available, it is preferable to utilize it. Otherwise, a member of the Secretariat will attend in person. Given that SIOFA and SEAFO share common species, such as toothfish, it is important for SIOFA to be represented at this meeting.
- *SPRFMO*: Remote participation should be considered if available. Otherwise, a member of the Secretariat will need to attend in person. Since SIOFA and SPRFMO share common species, it is important for SIOFA to participate at least to SC meeting.
- *SWIOFC* (TBC): In the event of a hybrid meeting, remote attendance should be prioritized. As mentioned in article 16 of the SIOFA agreement, it is important to collaborate with the SWIOFC and therefore to attend its meetings.

## 3. Other Participation Meetings Planned for 2025:

The Secretariat receives regular invitations to attend meetings, with travel expenses and accommodation covered. In 2023, the Secretariat participated in three such meetings, two held in India and one in Kenya. Those meetings are usually organized by the FAO.

If the expenses are not covered, the participation will preferably be remotely or if no possible will depend on the budget available for 2025 in terms of representation.

<sup>(1)</sup> Cost estimated (Travel and accommodation).