



8th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC8) and 11th Meeting of the Parties (MoP11)

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MoP-11-INFO-13 Rev1

SIODFA Data Archive

The Southwest Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA)

Meeting	Compliance Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting of the Parties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Document type	working paper <input type="checkbox"/> information paper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	<p>SIODFA offers to provide a copy of its data archive of documents and information to SIOFA. The SIODFA data archive contains historical operational and scientific information on SIODFA related activities in the SIOFA Area, much of which document's fishery and operational activities prior to the creation of SIOFA.</p> <p>In order to fully use the information in the SIODFA data archive, the MoP may wish to request the SIOFA Secretariat index and create a meta-data catalogue of the information available in the SIODFA data archive.</p> <p>The development of an index and meta-data catalogue would likely require additional funding for the SIOFA Secretariat to undertake this task. This is estimated to entail a dedicated activity of about 4 weeks fulltime work.</p>

¹ 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).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

1. Introduction

The SIODFA data archive covers information and data relating to SIODFA activities in the SIOFA Area for the period 1999 to date. It constitutes over two Gigabytes of information that includes 1040 folders, 6000 individual documents and data files, and image files. A small number of reports are available in hard copy only and would, if required, need to be digitised.

SIODFA proposed making the data archive available to SIOFA at the recent meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC9 report, paragraph 423), and the Scientific Committee recommended that the MoP consider this offer and task the SC to consider how to utilise this information. The SC also suggested that a first step could be to catalogue the information, including identifying any data that are confidential (SC9 report, paragraph 426).

This archive contains valuable historical information covering:

- (i) discussions of meetings relating to the formation of SIOFA,
- (ii) data on vessel (n=87) participation in the fisheries prior to the commencement of SIOFA,
- (iii) a catalogue of known bathymetric features (n=348) that have been fished or are believed to be suitable habitat for deepwater fishes,
- (iv) SIODFA meeting reports (n=60) covering most aspects of the fisheries operations,
- (v) travel reports (n=27) covering a range of relevant non-SIOFA meetings,
- (vi) SIODFA presentations (n=17) describing their activities,
- (vii) SIODFA Internal Technical Reports that are not currently available in the public domain,
- (viii) vessel Scientific Observer reports from prior to the start of the SIOFA Observer programme,
- (ix) a large number of data files covering most aspects of fishing industry operations within the SIOFA Area that are unlikely to be available elsewhere, and
- (x) images of historical SWIO vessels and vessel operations.

A summary of the data in the SIODFA data archive is given as Annex A.

2. Data index and meta-data catalogue

Transfer of a copy of the data archive would require indexing and creating a meta-data catalogue of the information to enable decisions on the value and potential use of the information it contains.

This would include:

- i. Determining that the respective file information has value and is worth preserving and making available to SIOFA and its scientific work program.
- ii. Developing an appropriate index and meta-data catalogue of the information.
- iii. Assigning an appropriate indicator of the level of confidentiality for each document (most documents are likely to be suitable for public access, but there is likely to be some data that should have restricted access due to commercial confidentiality).
- iv. Describe and present the data archive index and meta-data catalogue to the Scientific Committee and MoP for evaluation and determination of future access.

Terms of Reference for this project are presented as Annex B.

3. Funding

The development of an index and meta-data catalogue to report to the Scientific Committee and MoP would require additional funding for the SIOFA Secretariat to undertake this task. This is likely to entail a dedicated activity of about 4 weeks fulltime work.

Annex A: Summary of the SIODFA Data Archive Contents

Meetings Relevant the Formation of SIOFA

- Sixty meetings, average length of reports – 40 pages
- 17 Travel reports

Vessel Data

- Name, call sign, flag, IMO Number, year of operation starting in 1990. Provisionally 87 listings.

Known Bathymetric Features

- Name (often various spellings and some multiple identifications), area, latitude & longitude, depth name of operator if their vessels are known to have fished the feature. This may provide additional information where there are gaps in current SIOFA data record.

SIODFA Presentations

- 17 presentations

SIODFA Technical Reports

- A substantial number of reports covering fisheries, socio-economics, population dynamics, etc. relating to SIODFA fisheries and their activities.

Pre-SIOFA Observer Reports

- 25 early government and industry observer reports: some in hard copy only and need digitising.

Miscellaneous

- About 5000 miscellaneous files to be assessed and saved/discarded and/or otherwise noted.

Annex B: TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR) FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE SIODFA DATA/INFORMATION ARCHIVES

1. INTRODUCTION

The negotiations for the formation of SIOFA began in 1999 and culminated in the signing of an agreement in 2006. The Agreement entered into force in 2012 and the Scientific Committee began its meetings in 2016. The operations of the Agreement have been constrained by difficulties in acquiring information relating to the early period of the fisheries for which the Agreement now has the mandate for management and conservation. SIODFA began activities in 2006 and its Executive Director was involved in preparatory meetings for the Agreement and technical meetings to consider future [possible resource management issues from 2000. During this time data and information archives began and continue to date though this activity declined from the start of management activities by the Agreement.

2. BACKGROUND

The Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association started in 2006 in response to developments at the United Nations that lead to resolution 61/105, "Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

The post-Soviet development of the deepwater fisheries in the SIOFA area began in 1999 and in the first one-to-two years attracted a large and diverse fleet. During these initial years there was little to no organized collection of data or information on the performance of the fishery. However, efforts were made to collect to secure information when it was possible and thus on an *ad hoc* opportunistic basis, often by direct request to industry.

During the period 2000 – 2006 numerous preparatory meetings were undertaken in support of forming a regional organization responsible for management and conservation of high seas fisheries in what was to become the responsibility of SIOFA. Certain reports from attending the preparatory meetings have been secured that may be of historical interest and aid in understanding policy and operational positions regarding the development of SIOFA.

SIODFA believe that their archives of this information are of interest and value and note that the opportunity to secure this information for SIOFA is available but will require agreement and support by SIOFA.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCES

3.1 Tasks to be Addressed

The ToR for an activity to review historical files of SIODFA and create databases containing this information are described below. This work should be conducted in consultation with the SIOFA Secretariat and a SIOFA project manager.

- The Contractor should collate, review, edit and catalogue the information available in the archives of the SIODFA secretariat, data that are available on fishing activity in the SIOFA area that are in the archives held by their secretariat prior to the commencement of SIOFA, biological information that has been acquired and supplements that held in the SIOFA databases.

BOX 1

TYPES OF INFORMATION TO BE ACQUIRED AND COMPILED BY THE CONTRACTOR

Catalogue information, expected to consist of the following:

- i. Discussions of meetings relating to the formation of SIOFA,
- ii. Data on vessel (n=87) participation in the fisheries prior to the commencement of SIOFA,
- iii. Catalogue of known bathymetric features (n=348) that have been fished or are believed to be suitable habitat for deepwater fishes,
- iv. SIODFA meeting reports (n=60) covering most aspects of the fisheries operations,
- v. Travel reports (n=27) covering a range of relevant non-SIOFA meetings,
- vi. SIODFA presentations (n=17) describing their activities,
- vii. SIODFA Internal Technical Reports that are not currently available in the public domain,
- viii. Vessel Scientific Observer reports from prior to the start of the SIOFA Observer programme,
- ix. Data files covering most aspects of fishing industry operations within the SIOFA Area that are unlikely to be available elsewhere, and
- x. Images of historical SWIO vessels and vessel operations.

This information is summarized in Annex A.

3.2 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The data to be acquired are those in the SIODFA data archives primarily held by the SIODFA Executive Secretary. These will include information often deemed to be confidential. In these cases, to the extent possible, the original source will be contacted to determine how they would like the data to be disposed. If the original source cannot be contacted, this information should be stored in a separate location for discussion with the SIOFA secretariat to determine an appropriate course of action.

3.3 SUBMISSION OF THE INFORMATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY

When sources of data agree to the acquisition of data, subject to the information/data not being made public without their prior approval, the data/information shall be so classified and be archived following SIOFA procedures for confidential information.

4. REPORTING

The Contractor shall provide his reports to the SIOFA Secretariat for evaluation and comment. The Contractor shall respond to any comments and make a final report incorporating comments and/or requests (revisions, additional works, etc.) made by the SC.

5. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

6.

The Contractor should have relevant experience on scoping study of fisheries and Bottom Fisheries. Applicants should submit a proposal that contains the following items:

- A current CV that summarises the applicant(s) relevant background and related experience (maximum 2 pages);
- A brief proposal outlining the proposed methods and analyses, including a description of how the objectives of the ToRs will be achieved;
- Any proposed exclusions to the intellectual property clause and how these will be treated;
- The proposed consultancy price (including all consultant expenses and project related costs), noting that the budget for this work is a maximum of ??????€;
- Identification of any project risks and associated mitigation and management required to successfully complete the project;
- A statement that identifies any perceived, potential, or actual conflicts of interest of the applicant(s)
- Any additional information the applicant(s) wish to submit.

6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Persons falling into the following categories may not normally be considered for SIOFA consultancy:

- (i). any person designated as a designated representative or alternate representative of a CCP to the Meeting of Parties (MOP) as per Rule 3.1 of the Rules of Procedure, and to the SC and any other subsidiary bodies of the MOP, as per Rule 21.3 of the Rules of Procedure;
- (ii). any person fulfilling the function of Chair or ViceChair of the MOP or Chair or Vice-Chair of a SIOFA subsidiary body or working group;
- (iii). any person acting as a member of a delegation involved in the SIOFA decision-making process resulting in recommendations and/or approval for the SIOFA work requiring the engagement of a consultant; and
- (iv). individuals who were SIOFA Secretariat staff members at the time when the recommendations and/or approval for the SIOFA works were adopted or who are members of immediate family (e.g., spouse or partner, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, or sister) of any Secretariat staff member or of the persons identified in 4 (i), (ii), and (ii)

The Announcement of the Call for the contractor will be placed in the SIOFA home page on XXXXXX and will be circulated to all Cooperating and Contacting Parties (CCPs). The application must be submitted to Thierry Clot, Executive Secretary, Thierry.clot@siofa.org, by XXXXXXXX (1 pm UTC time).

7. WORK PLAN AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Table 1 describes the work plan and the payment schedule shall follow SIOFA guidelines. The Contractor shall follow this work plan. *The total work should not exceed two months* though the calendar time to undertake this period of work may exceed this period. The Consultant shall

implement the ToR (Annex B, TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR) FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE SIODFA DATA/INFORMATION ARCHIVES) and submit the draft report for presentation to the 2025 Scientific Committee.

Table 1
Work Plan

Activity	Undertaken in Week	Comment
Summary workplan based on proposal to undertake archive review as proposed in ToR	1	
Review of consultant's proposal	1 - 2	Secretariat to evaluate proposal and review (by e-mail) adequacy with members of the SC of proposed work. Requests for modification to ToR presented to consultant and final workplan agree upon.
Consultant to summarize existing information following general structure given in Box 1, types of information to be acquired and compiled by the contractor	3	This would involve a first scan of relevant folders/files to confirm contents and relevance.
Consultant to agree with secretariat on desired structure of database with Secretariat	3	Secretariat will provide to consultant a required structure by which the data should be archived.
Consultant to proceed with review, structuring, cataloguing of information following general structure outlined in Box 1 and as modified by discussions with Secretariat.	3 - 7	The bulk of the work to be undertaken will be in the programme line.
Consultant to respond to comments of Secretariat following their receipt. Submission of final report.	8	Restructuring of some information elements may be proposed and should be accommodated to the extent possible.

The SC will review the report ToR – Annex B, TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE SIODFA DATA/INFORMATION ARCHIVES and make comments and/or request (revisions, additional works, etc. - 1 week). The Consultant shall submit the final report as defined by the ToR – see Annex) incorporating the SC's comments and/or requests for consideration within the required time frame for SC10.

8. EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF THE CANDIDATE.

The consultant should have:

- Access to, and familiarity with relevant files

- Close knowledge of the history of the deepwater fisheries of the SIOFA fisheries, and markets
- Close knowledge of the methods involved in the fisheries; ability to be in contact with relevant people in the case of need for clarification of points/information
- In depth familiarity with the functioning of SIOFA and the evolution of its business over its existence, including participation in Agreement meetings and
- An understanding as to how the information could be used.

9. CONTACT PERSONS

SIOFA Secretariat (administrative matters) Thierry Clot, SIOFA Executive Secretary
(thierry.clot@siofa.org)

Project Manager (technical matters) – to be named.