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Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
Accord relatif aux Pêches dans le Sud de l'Océan Indien

9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)

Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025

MoP-12-39

Proposal for a new CMM for an interim SIOFA allocation framework

Delegation of the Cook Islands

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
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Abstract	
<p>MOP11 endorsed the development of a SIOFA allocation framework and welcomed the offer from the Cook Islands to develop a paper to advance this work. Accordingly, this proposal outlines an interim allocation framework for SIOFA fisheries. It provides allocation criteria for the Meeting of the Parties to use when distributing participatory rights to CCPs.</p> <p>The proposal responds to the various directions and discussions from the Meeting of the Parties and the Scientific Committee calling for the establishment of an allocation framework for SIOFA fisheries. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- SC9 recognising the need for allocation of catch and effort limits;	

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² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

- SC10 noting the value in considering potential flexibility in the setting of total allowable catches, including potential approaches to overage, underage, carryovers, multi-year limits and transferability;
- MOP10 endorsing the 2nd SIOFA Performance Review recommendation 14 that 'SIOFA CCPs engage in discussions towards a future regime for the allocation of fishing rights'.
- MOP11 endorsing the 2nd Workshop on Harvest Strategy Development recommendation that the MOP 'develop a framework for deciding allocations based on catch history, among other factors, and to advance this work in parallel with the development of harvest strategies'.

The allocation framework outlined in this proposal is 'interim' in the sense that it shall only apply until the MOP has adopted a harvest strategy for a particular SIOFA fishery that includes mechanisms for quota allocation (paragraph 4). It provides fair and transparent criteria for the MOP to apply, consistent with the SIOFA Agreement.

This proposal responds to the specific direction of the MOP. It also seeks to ensure that the MOP applies effective, sustainable and fair criteria for participation in SIOFA fisheries within areas of beyond national jurisdiction.

The Cook Islands welcomes open and constructive engagement from CCPs during CC9 and MOP12.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CC9 to recommend that MOP12 adopt the proposed CMM.• MOP12 adopt the proposed CMM.

CMM XX (2025)

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE (CMM) FOR AN INTERIM SIOFA ALLOCATION FRAMEWORK

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;

RECOGNISING that Article 6(1)(k) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) requires the Meeting of the Parties to establish the criteria for, and rules governing, participation in fishing.

FURTHER RECOGNISING that Article 6(2) of the Agreement provides that the Meeting of the Parties, 'in determining criteria for participation in fishing, including allocation of total allowable catch or total level of fishing effort, the Contracting Parties shall take into account, inter alia, international principles such as those contained in the 1995 Agreement'.

NOTING that Article 6(3) of the Agreement provides that Contracting Parties, in determining criteria for participation in fishing, including associated catch or effort allocations, may designate annual quota allocations or fishing effort limitations for Contracting Parties, allocate catch quantities for exploration and scientific research, and set aside fishing opportunities for non-Contracting Parties to this Agreement, if necessary.

NOTING that the 9th Scientific Committee recognised the need for allocation of catch and effort limits and the 10th Scientific Committee discussed the value in considering potential flexibility in the setting of total allowable catches, including potential approaches to overage, underage, carryovers, multi-year limits and transferability between CCPs.

RECALLING that the 11th Meeting of the Parties endorsed the recommendation of the 2nd Workshop on Harvest Strategy Development to 'develop a framework for deciding allocations based on catch history, among other factors, and to advance this work in parallel with the development of harvest strategies'.

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Articles 4 and 6 of the Agreement:

Objective

1. The objective of this CMM is to establish an interim allocation framework for SIOFA fisheries through specifying criteria for distributing participatory rights to Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties and Participating Fishing Entities (CCPs).

Application

2. The allocation criteria outlined in this CMM shall apply to all established SIOFA fisheries.
3. This CMM shall not apply to SIOFA fisheries with adopted harvest strategies that include mechanisms for quota allocation.
4. This CMM shall not impact in any way the total allowable catch for any SIOFA fishery set by the Meeting of the Parties.

5. This CMM shall not prejudice the rights of any new SIOFA Party³ entrant to a SIOFA fishery.

Allocation criteria

6. When allocating rights for SIOFA Parties for any SIOFA fishery, the Meeting of the Parties shall use the following criteria:
 - a. Historical catch in the Agreement Area reported to the SIOFA Secretariat and caught in accordance with the SIOFA Agreement and any SIOFA CMMs, including all data reporting requirements;
 - b. Compliance with the SIOFA Agreement and any SIOFA CMMs;
 - c. The fisheries development aspirations and interests of developing States, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States; and
 - d. Contribution to the conservation and management of fishery resources, including the provision of accurate data and effective monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement.
7. Following consideration of the criteria outlined in paragraph 6, the Meeting of the Parties shall determine allocation rights for SIOFA Parties for any SIOFA fishery as follows:
 - a. Allocations may be set for an annual or multi-year period;
 - b. Allocation for each SIOFA Party shall be based on a proportional historical catch in accordance with paragraph 6(a);
 - c. Subject to paragraph 6(c), reserve 5% of the total catch allocation collectively for SIOFA Party or Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCP) seeking to be new entrants to that fishery; and
 - d. For any new and exploratory fisheries (as specified in CMM-17⁴ (2024)) that are subsequently recognised as established fisheries, the Meeting of the Parties shall consider reserving a proportion greater than 5% of the total catch allocation for new SIOFA Party entrants into that fishery.
8. When considering the annual participatory rights, including any allocation rights, for CNCPs, the Meeting of Parties shall use the criteria in paragraphs 6 and 7 and any other considerations it deems appropriate.

Catch Management

9. Once the Meeting of the Parties has allocated rights for a SIOFA fishery, CCPs may transfer all or part of their allocation in any specified year to another CCP by mutual agreement. Any transfer of allocation shall be without prejudice to future agreements on the allocation of fishing rights.
10. For each SIOFA fishery with allocated rights, the Meeting of the Parties should establish additional rules for:
 - a. the management of overages, underages and carryovers of a CCP's allocation; and

³ SIOFA Party refers to a SIOFA Contracting Party or Participating Fishing Entity.

⁴ Or its replacement measure.

- b. data collection and reporting for catch arrangements falling under paragraphs 9 and 10(a).

Review

- 11. The Scientific Committee and the Meeting of the Parties shall review this CMM every 3 years.