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MoP-12-50

Draft Plan on the research cruise of China for 2025-2026 survey year

China

Meeting	Compliance Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting of the Parties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Document type	working paper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	<p>As a contracting party of SIOFA, China intends to make contributions to the scientific research for the SIOFA managed species and associated ecosystem and environment. This paper introduced the basic information for the research cruise to be carried out in 2025-2026 survey year. Based on both 2023 and 2024 high seas resource cruises, China will continue to conduct scientific surveys in the SIOFA area from October 2025 to March 2026 in the area of 9° S-10° N and 59° E-68° E. The purpose of the survey is to gain a preliminary understanding of the species composition and quantity distribution of swimming organisms, plankton, fish eggs, and juvenile fish in the surveyed waters; grasp the physical marine environmental characteristics of the surveyed waters; and analyse the components of the pelagic marine ecosystems in the surveyed waters.</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.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the MoP:

- understand the purpose and plan of China's research cruise in the high seas of the SIOFA area, which is to collect scientific data for the research of SIOFA species and its environment and marine ecosystems.
- note on the draft plan on the research cruise.

Draft Plan on the research cruise of China for 2025-2026 survey year

Introduction

According to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement states, the functions of the SC shall be to encourage and promote cooperation in scientific research in order to improve knowledge of the state of the fishery resources [ARTICLE 7 - SUBSIDIARY BODIES 1 (a) (ii)].

As a contracting party of SIOFA, China has always made commitment for the contribution to sustainable use of fishery resources on the high seas and conservation of associated ecosystem. Fishery independent survey is the key activity currently being undertaken by China in the SIOFA area.

The purposes of the survey are to:

- gain a preliminary understanding of the species composition and quantity distribution of swimming organisms, plankton, fish eggs, and juvenile fish in the surveyed waters
- gain the physical marine environmental characteristics of the surveyed waters
- analyse the composition of the pelagic marine ecosystems in the surveyed waters
- analyse the environmental drivers and resource status of the biomass fluctuations of major fishery species

Relevant background information

China has for the first time conducted a scientific research cruise in SIOFA area in the late of 2023, and also reported the survey in SC10. In MoP11, China presented the new plan of research cruise in 2024-2025(MoP-11-31), and has completed all the cruises in March 2025. The report of this cruise will be submitted in SC11.

Schedule to fish

China informs the MoP about the plan of scientific survey to undertake following subject:

(1) The survey content mainly includes:

- 1) investigation of pelagic fishery resources;
- 2) biotic environment investigation;
- 3) abiotic environmental investigation;
- 4) investigation of the impact of pollutants on marine life.

(2) The planned survey period is from October 2025 to March 2026, with approximately 130 survey stations arranged at equal intervals of $1 \times 1^\circ$. Survey area locates in the sea areas of 9° S- 10° N and 59° E- 68° E in the SIOFA Convention area (SIOFA subarea 8).

(3) The vessels have not been determined yet. For each vessel, it is expected to have a total capacity of 60 people.

(4) Each vessel should be equipped with three types of operations: pelagic trawl, squid jigging fishing and longline fishing.

Note on Appendix A

The draft work plan has been undergone an expert consultation and authorised by the fishery authority of China.

APPENDIX A

The research cruise of China
Draft work plan
(2025-2026 survey year)

Lead country

China will complete this research cruise.

Research vessel (preliminary)

The vessels planned for research cruise have not been determined yet. The following information and parameters are for both 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 research vessels:

The research vessels' names were Lanhai 101 and Lanhai 201 (Figure 1). These two vessel parameters are the same. The total length of the vessel is 84.50 meters, with a total tonnage of 2883 tons, a range of 10000 nautical miles, self-sustaining capacity of 60 days, wind resistance of 12 levels, economic speed of 12 knots, maximum speed of 15 knots, and a total capacity of 60 people . The main engine power is 2720 kilowatts. Each vessel has three types of operations: pelagic trawl, squid jigging fishing, and longline fishing.



Figure 1 Research vessel "Lanhai 101"

Both vessels are research vessels, belonging to Yellow China Sea Fisheries Research Institute (Lanhai 101) and East China Sea Fisheries Research Institute (Lanhai 201) respectively, Chinese Academy of Fishery Science.

Survey period

October 2025 to March 2026 (preliminary)

Survey location

Survey locations will be in the areas of 9° S-10° N and 59° E-68° E in the SIOFA Convention area (SIOFA subarea 8).

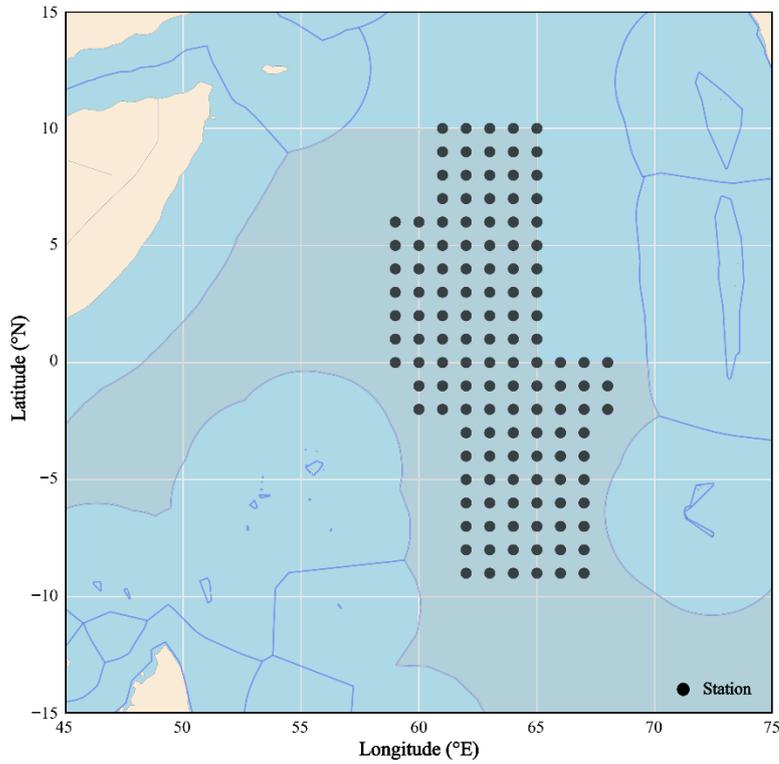


Figure 2 Sketch stations for the survey area in the SIOFA Area

Other issue

In the 2024 Annual National Report of China, it was mentioned that the China has carried out fishery investigation activities for the SIOFA area using these two scientific research vessels in 2023, and reported on this matter at the SC10 meeting. In SC10, we submitted the 2023-2024 research cruise report in detail, and will submit the 2024-2025 research cruise report in SC11. The main survey data in 2023 has been submitted to the secretariat at the end of May 2024 and the survey data for the 2024-2025 research cruise has been submitted before MoP11.