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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-12-42

Proposal to amend CMM 07 (2024) Vessel Authorisation

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Meeting	Compliance Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting of the Parties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Document type	working paper <input type="checkbox"/> information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract: <p>Proposing an Amendment to Paragraph 1 of the CMM7(2024), to allow fishing vessels that are not on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, but operate within the Agreement Area, to catch, retain on board, tranship or land fishery resources in the Agreement Area³, provided that such resources constitute less than 50% of the total catch and that the capture is incidental and are fully documented in accordance with relevant reporting requirements. This amendment is in line with the recommendations from the Scientific Committee (SC8 Report, para 207), endorse by the 10th Meeting of the Parties (MoP).</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.

³ Until such time as the Meeting of the Parties adopts a framework governing research cruises in the Agreement Area, the Meeting of the Parties may authorise research vessels from a non-CCP to conduct a research cruise which may include limited fishing for fishery resources without being included on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels. The MoP may request any information it needs for considering the authorization of such research activities, and may apply any terms and conditions to authorized research activities it deems necessary.

Proposing and Amendment to Paragraph 3 of the CMM7(2024), to enhances administrative consistency, and ensures that all CCPs interpret the reporting process in a uniform manner. In doing so, it supports the integrity of the RAV and strengthens oversight of authorised fishing activities within the SIOFA Agreement Area.

Recommendations

R1: That the MoP12 to review and adopt the proposal.

CMM 07(2024)⁴

Conservation and Management Measure for Vessel Authorisation and Notification to Fish (Vessel Authorisation)

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

RECOGNISING that Article 6(1)(h) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (SIOFA or the Agreement) calls on the Meeting of the Parties to develop, *inter alia*, a system of verification to incorporate vessel monitoring and observation;

NOTING that Article 1(i) of the Agreement defines 'fishing vessel' as any vessel used or intended for fishing, including a mothership, any other vessel directly engaged in fishing operations, and any vessel engaged in transshipment;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the provisions of Article 11(2) of the Agreement which provides that no Contracting Party shall allow any fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag to be used for fishing in the SIOFA Area of Application (Agreement Area) unless it has been authorised to do so by the appropriate authority or authorities of that Contracting Party;

ADOPTS the following Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:

1. The Meeting of the Parties shall establish a SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels for fishing vessels authorised to fish in the Agreement Area. For the purpose of this CMM, fishing vessels that are not entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are deemed not Authorised to engage in targeted fishing activities for SIOFA resources within the Agreement Area. Notwithstanding the above, fishing vessels that are not on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, but operate within the Agreement Area under Authorisation from a different RFMO, to be are authorised to fish for catch, retain on board, tranship or land fishery resources in the Agreement Area⁵, provided that such resources constitute less than 50% of the total catch and that the capture is incidental and are fully documented in accordance with relevant reporting requirements.
2. Each Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party and Participating Fishing Entity (CCP) shall submit electronically to the Executive Secretary the following data for each of the vessels flying their flag that are authorised to operate in the Agreement Area. The vessels shall be entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels only if the following information has been submitted⁶:
 - a. name of vessel, registration number, previous names (if known), and port of registry;

⁴ CMM 07(2024) Vessel Authorisation supersedes CMM 07(2022) Vessel Authorisation

⁵ Until such time as the Meeting of the Parties adopts a framework governing research cruises in the Agreement Area, the Meeting of the Parties may authorise research vessels from a non-CCP to conduct a research cruise which may include limited fishing for fishery resources without being included on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels. The MoP may request any information it needs for considering the authorization of such research activities, and may apply any terms and conditions to authorized research activities it deems necessary.

⁶ The Secretariat shall provide advice to the relevant CCP within two business day after initially receiving information from the CCP, if the minimum information requirements have not been met. The relevant CCP shall promptly provide requested information or explanation to the Secretariat.

- b. previous flag (if any), using codes;
 - c. International Radio Call Sign (if any);
 - d. IMO Number (if required by IMO);
 - e. name and address of owner or owners;
 - f. type of vessel (using appropriate ISSCFV codes);
 - g. length and length type (e.g. LOA, LBP);
 - h. name and address of operator (manager) or operators (managers) (if any);
 - i. type of fishing method or methods (using appropriate ISSCFG codes);
 - j. gross tonnage (GT);
 - k. power of main engine or engines (kw);
 - l. Fish hold capacity (cubic metres);
 - m. Freezer type (if applicable);
 - n. Number of freezing units (if applicable);
 - o. Freezing capacity (if applicable);
 - p. Vessel communication types and numbers (e.g. INMARSAT A, B and C, VSAT numbers);
 - q. certified drawings or description of all fish holds;
 - r. the following Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) details:
 - i. Model and brand;
 - ii. ALC unique identifier;
 - iii. Service provider (e.g. INMARSAT/IRIDIUM/ARGOS); and
 - s. Good quality, high resolution digital images of the vessel of appropriate brightness and contrast, no older than 5 years old:
 - one digital image showing the starboard side of the vessel displaying its full overall length and complete structural features;
 - one digital image showing the port side of the vessel displaying its full overall length and complete structural features; and
 - one digital image of the stern taken directly from astern.
3. Each CCPs shall ensure that the data referred to in Paragraph 2 on the vessels flying their flag authorised to fish in the Agreement Area is kept up to date. Each CCPs shall inform the Executive Secretary, after the establishment in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, of any addition to, deletion from or modification of the Record at any time such changes occur. This includes any changes in regarding the vessel data, including authorisation status of current fishing vessels and any new vessels. Such notification shall be made, within 15 days of the change taking effect.~~after such modification.~~
4. The Executive Secretary shall maintain the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels. A summary of the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, except the information in paragraph 2. e, h, and p-r (inclusive), shall be made publicly available on the SIOFA website.
5. Each CCP shall:

- a. authorise the vessels flying their flag to operate in the Agreement Area only if they are able to fulfil in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the Agreement, and all relevant SIOFA CMMs;
 - b. take necessary measures to ensure that the vessels flying their flag comply with all relevant SIOFA CMMs;
 - c. take necessary measures to ensure that the vessels flying their flag that are on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorisation to fish and/or to undertake fishing related activities;
 - d. ensure that the vessels flying their flag on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels have no history of IUU fishing, or, if those vessels have such history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels, or that having taken into account all relevant facts, its vessels are not engaged in or associated with IUU fishing;
 - e. ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of its registered vessels on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are not engaged in or associated with fishing activities conducted in the Agreement Area by vessels not registered in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels; and
 - f. take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and/or operators of the vessels on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are citizens, residents or legal entities within its jurisdiction so that any enforcement or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.
6. Each CCP shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing and fishing related activities on fishery resources covered by the Agreement by vessels which are not registered in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels.
 7. Each CCP shall, as soon as practicable, notify the Secretariat of any evidence showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting vessels not registered on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels are operating in the Agreement Area.