

Ref.: 2023-01-16-1/SIOFA- SCC

La Reunion, Monday 16th January 2023

SC- CIRCULAR n° 2023-02

SUBJECT: Provisional Agenda for the Eight Scientific Committee of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).

Dear Heads of Delegation of the Scientific Committee,

Dear Colleagues

Please find attached the Provisional Agenda for the 8th Scientific Committee of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), scheduled from 22–31 March 2023, which will be held at

The Spanish Institute of Oceanography
C. Farola del Mar, n° 22, 38180 San Andrés,
Santa Cruz de Tenerife
Spain

If you have not already done so, you are invited to register the members of your delegation on the attached form, that you can also find on the SIOFA website <http://siofa.org/meetings/sc8/>.

According to the SIOFA Rules of Procedure Part V(10)(2) the Executive Secretary has prepared, in consultation with the Scientific Committee Chairperson, the attached provisional agenda.

Note that in accordance with the request of the MoP (MoP report 2022, paragraph 167), the 2023 discussions of the SERAWG and the PAEWG will not be separate meetings, but instead will be a part of a combined and extended meeting of the Scientific Committee.

CCPs may, at least 50 days before the date fixed for the opening of the meeting (i.e., by 31 January 2023), request the inclusion of supplementary items in this agenda. Such requests shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the proposed supplementary items (SIOFA Rules of Procedure Part V(10)(4)). The revised provisional agenda will be notified by 10 February 2023.

Any working papers that are proposals are required to be submitted to the Secretariat 30 days before the opening of the Scientific Committee, i.e., before 20 February 2023, and all other information documents by 08 March 2023. All documents for the meeting will be made available on the SIOFA website at <https://siofa.org/meetings/sc8>.

Sincerely yours,

Thierry Clot



SIOFA Executive Secretary

Provisional Agenda
For the 8th meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee – 22 to 31 March 2023

Held at the Spanish Institute of Oceanography – C. Farola del Mar, nº 22, 38180 San Andrés, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain

Chair: Mr Alistair Dunn

Vice-chair: Dr Sebastian Rodriguez Alfaro

1. Opening

- 1.1. Welcome from the Scientific Committee Chair
- 1.2. Introduction of participants
- 1.3. Introduction to the meeting facilities and meeting arrangements

The Chair of the Scientific Committee will open the meeting and welcome delegations of the SIOFA Committee, observers, and invited experts. The organisation of the meeting, chairing and local arrangements will be discussed. The Secretariat will introduce the meeting facilities, the on-line system, and the other meeting arrangements.

2. Administrative arrangements

- 2.1. Adoption of the agenda
 - 2.1.1. Confirmation of meeting documents
 - 2.1.2. Appointment of rapporteurs

The Provisional Agenda for the Eight meeting of the Scientific Committee was prepared and distributed in accordance with Rules of Procedure.

The Scientific Committee Chair will request the meeting adopt the agenda for the meeting, confirm the list of meeting documents, and appoint rapporteurs. Note that the Secretariat will supply a meeting rapporteur for all plenary sessions of SC8. The Scientific Committee Chair will also appoint a lead rapporteur from the SC delegations to assist the SIOFA rapporteur in developing the report text. Once an agenda item has been closed, the draft report text will be made available to the meeting participants for comment. The lead rapporteur will consult and incorporate the comments into report text for final circulation, and then be checked and signed off by the Scientific Committee Chair. The final report text will then be made available to participants for report adoption.

- 2.2. Scientific Committee Chairs report

The Scientific Committee Chair will report on intersessional activities undertaken since the Seventh meeting of the Scientific Committee.

3. Fisheries reports

- 3.1. National Reports

3.1.1. CCP annual National Reports

Presentation of National Reports by each CCP, followed by questions and discussion. CCPs should prepare a short presentation on their national Report for distribution and presentation during the meeting.

3.1.2. Guidelines for the submission of National Reports

Discussion of the SIOFA Guidelines for submitting National Reports.

3.2. Summary of SIOFA fisheries

3.2.1. Overview of SIOFA fisheries

3.2.2. CCP fishery characterisations

Summary of the draft overview of SIOFA fisheries, and presentation and discussion of the overview. Presentation and discussion of each CCP's submitted fishery characterisations.

3.3. Ecosystem and Fisheries Summaries

3.3.1. Report from the Intersessional Workshop the development of ecosystem and fisheries summaries (WS2022-SUM1)

A verbal summary from the Convenor of the Workshop the development of ecosystem and fisheries summaries (WS2022-SUM1).

3.3.2. Ecosystem Summary

Presentation and discussion of the draft Ecosystem Summary Report

3.3.3. Fisheries Summaries for toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*, TOP), alfoncino (*Beryx splendens*, BYS), orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*, ORY), oilfish (*Ruvettus pretiosus*, OIL, and *Lepidocybium flavobrunneum*, LEC), tarakihi (*Nemadactylus macropterus*, TAK), wreckfish (*Polyprion americanus*, WRF) and hapuku (*Polyprion oxygeneios*, WHA)

Presentation and discussion of the draft Fisheries Summaries Reports for the selected species.

3.4. Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

4. Bottom fishing footprint

4.1. Updates to the bottom fishing footprint

The Secretariat will provide an update on the bottom fishing footprint

4.2. Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

5. Data Access and Dissemination

5.1. Confidentiality of documents and data access

5.1.1. Classification system for Scientific Committee documents

5.1.2. Transparency and distribution of meeting documents

5.1.3. Definition of public domain data

In 2022, MoP9 considered the Scientific Committee requests on the transparency and distribution of meeting documents (MoP9 report, 2022, item 5.2.2) detailed in paper MoP-09-10. The Scientific Committee will review the discussion and consider the requests from the MoP given in paragraphs 121-129 of the MoP9 report.

5.2. Other data access and dissemination issues

5.2.1. Exchange of scientific toothfish data with CCAMLR

5.2.2. Developments to the data section of the SIOFA website

5.2.3. The SIOFA standard operating procedure for data use and data requests

The Secretariat will report on the outcomes of exchange of scientific toothfish data with CCAMLR, developments to the data section of the SIOFA website, and the SIOFA standard operating procedure for data use and data requests.

5.3. Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

6. Stock assessments and advice

6.1. Orange roughy

- 6.1.1. Descriptive characterisation
- 6.1.2. Stock monitoring and data collection
- 6.1.3. Stock assessment
- 6.1.4. Updates to the fisheries summary

The Scientific Committee will consider any new information on stock status, stock monitoring, and assessments for orange roughy in the SIOFA Area and update the fisheries summary report for this species.

6.2. Alfonsino

- 6.2.1. Descriptive characterisation
- 6.2.2. Stock monitoring and data collection
 - 6.2.2.1. Alfonsino acoustics
- 6.2.3. Stock assessment
- 6.2.4. Updates to the fisheries summary

The Scientific Committee will consider any new information on stock status, stock monitoring, and assessments for alfonsino in the SIOFA Area and update the fisheries summary report for this species.

6.3. Toothfish

- 6.3.1. Descriptive characterisation
- 6.3.2. Stock monitoring and data collection
- 6.3.3. Stock assessment
- 6.3.4. Updates to the fisheries summary

MoP8 noted the Scientific Committees intention to consider management arrangements for toothfish at SC8 (MoP report 2022, paragraph 151). The Scientific Committee will consider any new information on stock status, stock monitoring, and assessments for toothfish in the SIOFA Area, including management arrangements for toothfish and update the fisheries summary report for this species.

6.4. Oilfish

- 6.4.1. Descriptive characterisation
- 6.4.2. Stock monitoring and data collection
- 6.4.3. Stock assessment
- 6.4.4. Updates to the fisheries summary

The Scientific Committee will consider any new information on stock status, stock monitoring, and assessments for oilfish in the SIOFA Area and update the fisheries summary reports for these species.

6.5. Other species

- 6.5.1. Descriptive characterisation
- 6.5.2. Stock monitoring and data collection
- 6.5.3. Stock assessment
- 6.5.4. Updates to the fisheries summary

The Scientific Committee will consider any new information on stock status, stock monitoring, and assessments for other species in the SIOFA Area and update the relevant fisheries summary reports for these species.

6.6. Harvest strategies

- 6.6.1. Report of the Joint MoP-SC Harvest Strategies Workshop (WS2023-HSPA)
- 6.6.2. Development of harvest strategies

The Scientific Committee will consider the report from the Joint MoP-SC Harvest Strategies Workshop (WS2023-HSPA), and consider the development of harvest strategies

6.7. Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

7. Bycatch

7.1. Definition of bycatch

The Scientific Committee has developed interim definitions to prioritise species for work including primary, secondary and endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species. The Scientific Committee will review these definitions and provide advice on any further refinements to these definitions.

7.2. Deepwater chondrichthyans

- 7.2.1. Report of the Intersessional Workshop on Deepwater Sharks in SIOFA Area (WS2023-DWS)
- 7.2.2. Review of progress against CMM 2019-12 (Sharks), including development of precautionary bycatch limits

The Scientific Committee will consider the report from the Intersessional Workshop on Deepwater Sharks in SIOFA Area (WS2023-DWS), and review progress against CMM 2019-12 (Sharks).

7.3. Teleosts and other priority species

- 7.3.1. Updates on the teleosts Ecological Risk Assessment
- 7.3.2. Priority species for assessment

The Scientific Committee will review the progress on defining priority species for assessment, and the recommendations from SC7 and MoP9 on the teleosts Ecological Risk Assessment.

7.4. Seabirds, mammals, and bycatch of other species of concern

- 7.4.1. Report on observations of marine mammals interacting with fishing gear
- 7.4.2. Fishing in IMMA areas
- 7.4.3. Seabird mitigation measures
- 7.4.4. IOTC bycatch

The Scientific Committee will review the report on the observations of marine mammals interacting with fishing gear and fishing in IMMA areas, and consider how seabird mitigation measures may be progressed further

7.5. Advice to MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

8. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)

8.1. Report of the VME workshop (WS2022-VME1)

The Scientific Committee will consider the report from the SIOFA Workshop on the development of VME management (WS2022-VME1).

- 8.2. VME data and the setting VME of encounter thresholds
- 8.3. VME mapping project (PAE2021-02)
- 8.4. Revisions of the list of VME taxa

The Scientific Committee will consider proposals on VMEs.

8.5. Advice to MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

9. Data standards

9.1. Annual catch and effort data submission

The Secretariat will provide an update on information submitted by CCPs on catch and effort data

9.2. Observer framework harmonisation

9.3. E-monitoring

9.4. Lost gear reported under CMM 2021/02 Annex A

The Secretariat will provide an update on information submitted on lost gear against CMM 2021/02 Annex A

9.5. Proposals for revisions to CMM 2021/02 (Data Standards)

Discussion of any proposals for revisions to CMM 2021/02 (Data Standards).

9.6. Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

10. Cooperation with external bodies

10.1. FIRMS coordination and work

10.2. FAO ABNJ DSF activities

10.3. Report of the Monaco Exploration

Updates and discussions on SIOFA's cooperation with external bodies

10.4. Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

11. Future work

11.1. Progress of EU funded science projects

11.2. The SIOFA Performance Review

Consideration of the SIOFA Performance Review

11.3. Organisation of the Scientific Committee and its working groups

The Scientific Committee will discuss the organisation and structure of the Scientific Committee and its Working Groups.

11.4. Management and coordination of SIOFA science projects

The Secretariat will provide an update on information on SIOFA science projects

11.5. Scientific Committee workplan and budget

The Scientific Committee will develop the Scientific Committee workplan and budget

11.6. Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.

12. Other business

12.1. Elections of the Chair and vice-Chair of Scientific Committee and its Working Groups

12.2. Advice to the MoP

The Scientific Committee will advise the Meeting of Parties on matters of relevance.