

La Réunion, Wednesday 18 January 2023

SC- CIRCULAR n° 2023-04

SUBJECT: Workshop on deepwater sharks in the SIOFA Area

Dear Heads of Delegation of the Scientific Committee,

Dear Colleagues

In order to address the level of deepwater shark bycatch occurring in the Agreement Area, particularly in Sub-Area 2, it is important that the Scientific Committee (SC) conducts a scientific assessment of the levels of bycatch, and the characteristics of the fisheries where this occurs.

In 2022, the SC recommended a workshop to provide an assessment of the stock status of the deepwater shark species caught in SIOFA fisheries and discuss potential measures to reduce shark bycatch further (SC7 Report, 2022, paragraph 177).

The SC also recommended that the workshop investigate potential shark bycatch mitigation measures considering all fishing methods across the whole SIOFA Area; consider as a priority the key areas and methods for which sharks are caught; review the list of species of concern in CMM 2019/12 (Sharks) with respect to sharks; and develop identification guides to assist the recording of species by the vessel crew and observers (SC7 Report, 2022, paragraph 158). The Meeting of Parties endorsed the SCs recommendation for a workshop on deepwater sharks (MoP Report, 2022, paragraph 87).

To progress the arrangements for the workshop, the SC noted that it is important to have access to all CCPs' shark bycatch data (SC7 Report, 2022, paragraph 159). The SC recommended that a data call be made in preparation for the shark-related workshop to gather available data (SC7 Report, 2022, paragraph 160).

The outcome from the workshop will be a report submitted for consideration by the Scientific Committee at SC8 in March 2023.

The Workshop on Deepwater Sharks in the SIOFA Area will be held in a hybrid format at the Instituto Español de Oceanografía (<http://www.ieo.es/es>):

Spanish Institute of Oceanography

C. Farola del Mar, n° 22

38180 San Andrés

Santa Cruz de Tenerife

SPAIN

I note that the meetings will be held in-person at the meeting venue, but that virtual attendance is also possible. For more information regarding the SC8 meeting and the venue please refer to the meeting arrangements in SC-Circular-2023/01 and the SIOFA website <http://www.siofa.org/meetings>.

Dr Sebastián Rodríguez Alfaro has offered to convene the Workshop on deepwater sharks in the SIOFA Area, and he has proposed the attached provisional agenda, timetable, and working arrangements for the Workshop.

I invite all SC Heads of Delegation to provide any suggestions or comments on the proposed meeting objectives, provisional agenda, timetable, potential experts, and working arrangements for the Workshop on Deepwater Sharks in the SIOFA Area as detailed below. Please provide any comments to the Science Officer (marco.milardi@siofa.org) you may have on these by 29 January 2023.

I also invite Delegations to register participants as soon as possible through the registration form attached to this email, and available at the Workshop meeting page (<https://siofa.org/meetings/wsdws-2023>) to ease practical arrangements by the Secretariat.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

The Scientific Committee Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AD' followed by a horizontal flourish.

Alistair DUNN

WORKSHOP ON DEEPWATER SHARKS IN THE SIOFA AREA (WS2022-DWS)

Provisional Agenda and Working Arrangements

Meeting Code: WS2023-DWS

1. Proposed Objectives

To provide to the Eighth Meeting of the Scientific Committee of SIOFA (SC8):

1. An assessment of the stock status of deepwater shark species caught in the SIOFA Area
2. Recommendations on deepwater sharks Management Measures, particularly on shark bycatch mitigation measures
3. A review of the list of species of concern in CMM 2022/12 (Sharks)
4. An identification guide to assist the recording of deepwater shark species by the vessel crew and Scientific Observers

2. Proposed Agenda

1. Opening of the workshop on deepwater sharks in the SIOFA Area
2. Administrative arrangements
 - 2.1. Adoption of the workshop objectives and agenda
 - 2.2. Appointment of rapporteurs and facilitators
3. Assessment of the stock status of the deepwater shark species involved in SIOFA fisheries
 - 3.1. Review of available data
 - 3.2. Approaches to determine the stock status of deepwater sharks
 - 3.3. Development of a risk assessment framework (e.g., Productivity Susceptibility Analysis (PSA))
4. Potential Management options
 - 4.1. Deepwater shark bycatch mitigation measures, including potential gear modifications and other mitigation measures
 - 4.2. Potential management measures
 - 4.3. Consideration of interim measures
5. Species of concern in CMM 2022/12 (Sharks)
 - 5.1. Review and update of the list of species of concern in CMM 2022/12 (Sharks)
6. Shark identification
 - 6.1. Deepwater shark identification guides and potential SIOFA identification guide
7. Recommendations to the Scientific Committee

3. Working arrangements

Proposed working arrangements:

1. The workshop be held from 20-21 March 2023 and be open to all Members of the Scientific Committee, including Observers to the Scientific Committee.
2. The workshop will be held in-person at the meeting venue with hybrid participation. See SIOFA [SC- CIRCULAR n° 2023-01](#) for practical details for the meetings.
3. The workshop be convened by Dr Sebastián Rodríguez Alfaro.
4. Two external experts will be invited by the Convener to participate in the workshop. We invite delegations to propose potential experts to the Convener for consideration.

5. That a data call be made to obtain data that may not be currently held by the SIOFA Secretariat.
6. That the CCPs fine scale catch-effort and Scientific Observer data held by SIOFA be made available via the process described in Annex 2, according to CMM 2016/03 (Data confidentiality).
7. That aggregated data be made available to workshop participants via the process described in Annex 2, according to CMM 2016/03 (Data confidentiality).
8. The workshop report be prepared by the Convener. This report will be circulated for comment by participating delegates, before being submitted to SC8. The report will consist of the list of papers presented, summarise the key outcomes of discussions, and record the workshop recommendations.
9. The report from the workshop be presented to SC8.

4. Proposed Timetable

1. 18 January 2023
Circulation of the Provisional Agenda for the Workshop on Deepwater Sharks in the SIOFA Area.
2. 29 January 2023
The Convener submits a data request to the Secretariat, who then circulate the request to relevant CCPs.
Delegations to provide comments on the provisional agenda and propose potential experts to the Science Officer (marco.milardi@siofa.org) for consideration.
3. 08 February 2023
Circulation of the revised Provisional Agenda for the Workshop on Deepwater Sharks in the SIOFA Area.
4. 18 February 2023
Deadline for submission of working papers. These must be submitted to the Science Officer marco.milardi@siofa.org and to the Secretariat secretariat@siofa.org.
5. 20 February 2023
Deadline for the submission of additional data that may be relevant to the Workshop. Data submitted after 20 February 2023 cannot be processed and will not be considered at the Workshop.
6. 27 February 2023
Following checks by the Secretariat, the collated fine-scale dataset will be made available as restricted data to interested workshop participants upon request for them to undertake and subsequently present relevant analyses to the workshop (See Annex 2).
7. 06 March 2023
Deadline for submission of information papers. These must be submitted to the Science Officer marco.milardi@siofa.org and to the Secretariat secretariat@siofa.org.
The aggregated data set will be made available as a restricted document for the Workshop participants (see Annex 2).
8. 09:00 UTC on 20 March 2023
1st day Meeting of the hybrid workshop.
9. 09:00 UTC on 21 March 2023
2nd day Meeting of the hybrid workshop.
10. 24 March 2023
Draft convener's report to participants for review.
11. 30 March 2023

Final convener's report submitted to SC8 for consideration by the Scientific Committee.

5. Provisional Workshop Schedule

UTC	SESSION 1 20 March 2023	SESSION 2 21 March 2023
08:00 - 09:00	Registration	Registration
09:00 - 09:30	1. Opening of the workshop 2. Administrative arrangements 2.1. Adoption of workshop objectives and agenda 2.2. Appointment of rapporteurs and facilitators	Summary of Session 1 4. Potential Management options (continuation)
09:30 - 10:00	3. Assessment of the stock status of the deepwater shark species involved in SIOFA fisheries 3.1. Review of available data 3.2. Approaches to determine the stock status of deepwater sharks 3.3. Development of a risk assessment framework (e.g., Productivity Susceptibility Analysis (PSA))	
10:00 - 10:30		
10:30 - 11:00	COFFEE BREAK	
11:00 - 11:30	3. Assessment of the stock status of the deepwater shark species involved in SIOFA fisheries (continuation)	5. Species of concern in CMM 2022/12 (Sharks) 5.1. Review and update of the list of species of concern in CMM 2022/12 (Sharks)
11:30 - 12:00		
12:00 - 12:30		6. Deepwater sharks' identification guide 6.1. Deepwater shark identification guides and potential SIOFA identification guide
12:30 - 14:00	LUNCH	
14:00 - 14:30	3. Assessment of the stock status of the deepwater shark species involved in SIOFA fisheries (continuation)	7. Recommendations to the Scientific Committee
14:30 - 15:00		
15:00 - 15:30		
15:30 - 16:00	COFFEE BREAK	
16:00 - 16:30	4. Potential Management options 4.1. Deepwater shark bycatch mitigation measures, including potential gear modifications and other mitigation measures 4.2. Potential management measures 4.3. Consideration of interim measures	7. Recommendations to the Scientific Committee (continuation)
16:30 - 17:00		
17:00 - 17:30		

ANNEX 1 Data call for the SIOFA Workshop on deepwater sharks in the SIOFA Area

1. Scope of the data call

Data previously submitted to the SIOFA Secretariat in response to annual data submission processes do not need to be re-submitted again unless they were revised.

Catches and bycatches, discards, sample and biological information, effort, survey data, and any other potential additional data that has not been already provided to the SIOFA Secretariat should be provided to the SIOFA Secretariat for all elasmobranchs caught in the SIOFA Convention Area.

Data format: New data submitted may be in any well described format.

Geographical and Temporal scope: SIOFA Convention Area (2000 – 2021). New data submitted should be disaggregated, when possible, to the finest-scale data available.

The data submitted will be held at the Secretariat and released to Workshop participants for the purpose of submitting analyses to the Workshop, if they request it and if this request is approved by the CCPs owning the data.

2. Rationale

This data call is in support of the work to be made during the SIOFA Workshop on deepwater sharks. The expected end products of the workshop will be:

- an assessment of the stock status of the shark species involved in the SIOFA fisheries.
- possible appropriate fishing mortality and harvest levels for any of these species and
- potential measures to reduce shark bycatch further.

3. CMM framework

This data call follows CMM 2016/03 Conservation and Management Measure for Data Confidentiality and Procedures for access and use of data (Data Confidentiality) and CMM 2022/02 Conservation and Management Measure for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data relating to fishing activities in the Agreement Area (Data Standards) particularly:

- Para 2e) CMM 2016/03 *“Finer-scale data including catch and effort, length-frequency and observer data will be made available to the Scientific Committee and any of its working groups, on a confidential basis, to undertake its work”*.
- Para 4 CMM 2016/03 *“Data submitted to the Scientific Committee and any of its working groups will be retained by the Secretariat or made available for other analyses only with the permission of the flag State that submitted the data”*.
- Para 11 CMM 2022/02 *“Where possible, CCPs are encouraged to provide relevant, reliable historical data for species caught in waters under their national jurisdiction where such information would assist in understanding the status of the stocks and the impacts of fishing on all target species, non-target and associated and dependent species and the marine environment within the Agreement Area”*.

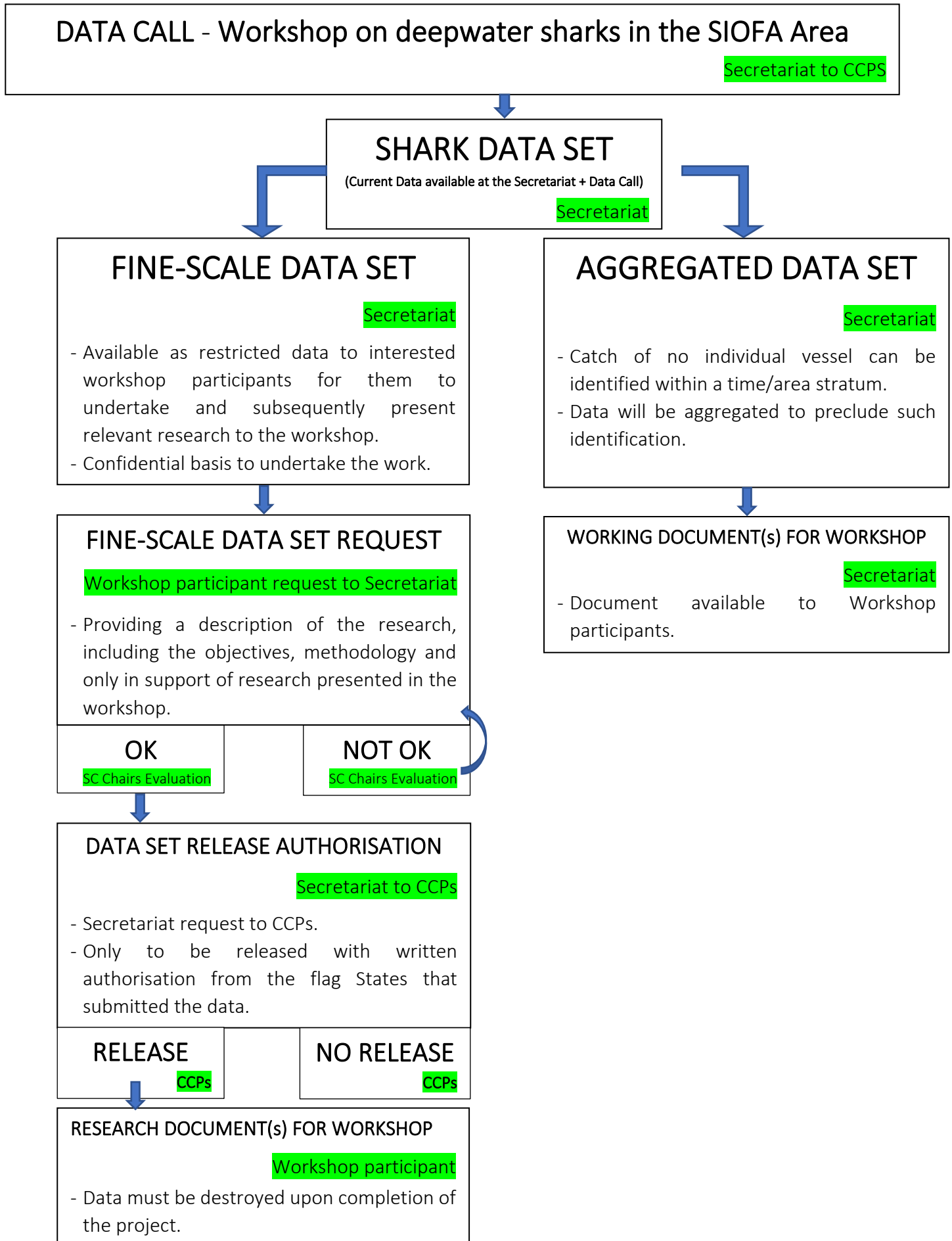
This data call follows the principles of data confidentiality applying to all members of the Scientific Committee and any of its working groups as per Para 5 CMM 2016/03.

4. Deadline

The deadline to submit the data is 20 February 2023. Data submitted after this date cannot be processed and will not be considered at the Workshop.

5. Contact information

Send all data submissions (and questions concerning the format of data submissions) to: secretariat@siofa.org



¹ According to CMM 2016/03 Conservation and Management Measure for Data Confidentiality and Procedures for access and use of data (Data Confidentiality)