



La Réunion, Tuesday 27 August 2024

## SC-CIRCULAR n° 2024-14

**SUBJECT: Second extraordinary meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC-EXTRA2)**

**Dear Heads of Delegation of the Scientific Committee,**

**Dear Colleagues,**

Following the request for an Extraordinary Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC-EXTRA2) laid out in SIOFA Circular 2024/25, and the consultation process held according to SIOFA Circular 2024/27, I would like to note that there was no consensus on the proposed date of Thursday 7 November 2024.

The SC-EXTRA2 will be to consider the updated Comoros Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment (BFIA), and the corresponding document will be provided as a public document to the meeting. The SC will provide recommendations and advice to the MoP as requested by the MoP (MoP11 Report, paragraph 288).

Comoros has responded that it does not agree with the proposed date and has requested that the meeting be held earlier.

As there was no consensus on the proposed date of 7 November 2024, I am writing to convey the request from Comoros that the SC-EXTRA2 meeting be held on Thursday 3 October 2024.

Comoros has asked me to note the following:

*The Union of Comoros recognizes that the September date proposed in Circular 2024/25 can be challenging for some members.*

*However, please consider that the fishing industry is very important for the development of our economy. Taking into account that the vessel is not allowed to operate since July 3, 2024, the operator of the vessel is suffering substantial financial losses and any potential delay might result in a closure of the project which would have a negative effect on the whole fishing industry of our country as well as to have a negative effect on us as a flag state.*

*Therefore, we would like to ask for a meeting of the Scientific Committee to be held at an earlier stage than proposed in Circular 2024/27, at the beginning of October. We would like to thank you for your understanding and good wisdom.*

Please submit any response to the request for the SC-EXTRA2 meeting to be held on Thursday 3 October 2024 to the SIOFA Science Officer ([marco.milardi@siofa.org](mailto:marco.milardi@siofa.org)), by 4 September 2024. Following the receipt of responses, I will consider these and advise the Scientific Committee on the next steps.

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

Sincerely yours,

Alistair Dunn - SIOFA Scientific Committee Chair