



La Réunion, Friday 8th November 2024

SIOFA SC-CIRCULAR n° 2024-18

SUBJECT: Invitation to the 10th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee and meeting arrangements

Dear Heads of Delegation of the SIOFA Scientific Committee,

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf Mr. Alistair Dunn, Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, I would like to invite you to the Tenth Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC10), to be held in Concarneau, France, from the 17th to the 26th of March 2025. Annex A of this circular details the meeting arrangements for SC10.

SC10 will be hosted by the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture of France (Overseas Territories), and received on the premises of the national Museum of natural history at the following address:

Concarneau Marine Station

Place de la Croix,

29900 Concarneau

France

For more information regarding the meeting venue, please refer to the attached travel note (Annex B) and the meeting page <https://siofa.org/meetings/sc10>.

I would like to note that the meetings will be held in-person at the meeting venue. We will have a very limited Zoom facility available for project consultants to present their work, but otherwise virtual attendance may not be available. We are investigating providing an informal 'listen-in' option for Delegations for the plenary sessions, similar to the arrangements for SC9. However, this would not be always available and would not permit those using the facility to participate in the meeting. I will update you if this is able to be arranged.

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

Sincerely yours,

Thierry Clot

SIOFA Executive Secretary

ANNEX A: Arrangements for the 10th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

1 MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

1.1 Meeting dates

The meeting dates for 10th Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC10) will be **17–26 March 2025** (MoP11 2024, paragraph 311).

1.2 Meeting venue

The 10th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee will be hosted by the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture from France (Overseas Territories), and the meeting venue will be in Concarneau at the Marine Station of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (France).

1.3 Meeting times

The meeting sessions will run from 09:00–17:30 local time, during weekdays.

Depending on the agenda and time permitting, breaks will be:

- Morning tea: 10:30–11:00
- Lunch: 12:30-14:00
- Afternoon tea: 15:30-16:00

In-person registration and the distribution of the meeting package for participants will commence at 08:00 on the first day of the meeting.

1.4 Meeting registration

All delegates are requested to register their attendance to these meetings as soon as possible and no later than **Friday 14 February 2025** by completing the registration form provided on the SC10 webpage (<https://siofa.org/meetings/SC10>) and emailing it to the SIOFA Secretariat secretariat@siofa.org (and please copy to the Science Officer, marco.milardi@siofa.org).

2 CIRCULATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Provisional Agenda for the meeting will be circulated at least 60 days in advance of each meeting (i.e., by the 16th of January 2025).

The deadline for providing changes and comments on the SC10 Provisional Agenda is on **Saturday 25th of January 2025, and should be directed** to the SIOFA Secretariat secretariat@siofa.org (and please copy to the Science Officer, marco.milardi@siofa.org).

3 SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

All meeting papers submitted to 10th Meeting of the Scientific Committee must use the document template available at the following link: (<https://siofa.org/meetings/sc10>), document SC-10-ADM-02.

Members of the Scientific Committee can submit working papers and information papers to the Scientific Committee for consideration.

Meeting documents must be submitted via email to the SIOFA Secretariat secretariat@siofa.org (and please copy to the Science Officer, marco.milardi@siofa.org) before the following dates:

- **Saturday 15 February 2025** Deadline for submission of SC10 working papers.
- **Monday 3 March 2025** Deadline for submission of SC10 information papers.

3.1 National Reports

In accordance with CMM 02 (2023) for Data Standards, SIOFA Parties shall provide to the Scientific Committee a National Report **at least 30 days** prior of the commencement of the meeting. Please note that the Scientific Committee has requested that these reports be compiled in accordance with the guidelines developed by the SIOFA Secretariat.

The guidelines for National Reports are submitted as an information paper to SC10 (SC-10-INFO-01).

National Reports should be submitted to the Secretariat no later than Saturday 15 February 2025.

3.2 Working papers

Working papers include proposals and papers for which the Scientific Committee will be asked to make recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties.

Working papers should be submitted with information on the specific agenda item the paper has been prepared for, clear recommendations for the Scientific Committee's consideration, and a one paragraph abstract for inclusion in the meeting report. Delegates should be prepared to present their working papers to the meeting.

Working papers should be submitted to the Secretariat no later than Saturday 15 February 2025.

3.3 Information papers

Information papers are of relevant general interest to an agenda item and may not require presentation in plenary. While every endeavour will be made, please note that some of these papers may be considered as read and not discussed during the meetings depending on the time available to complete the SC10 agenda.

Observers may submit Information papers to the SIOFA Secretariat secretariat@siofa.org (and please copy to the Science Officer, marco.milardi@siofa.org) for consideration by the Scientific Committee.

Information papers should be submitted with advice on the specific agenda item the paper has been prepared for and a one paragraph abstract for inclusion in the meeting report. Delegates should indicate if they wish to present the information paper to the plenary.

Information papers should be submitted to the Secretariat no later than Monday 3 March 2025.

3.4 Confidentiality and transparency

Delegates are requested to identify any papers being submitted which contain data subject to confidentiality (ref CMM 03(2016) that necessitate restricted access. **By default, all documents submitted which have not been identified as restricted will be made available on the publicly accessible part of the SIOFA website.** Please note that restricted papers should not be circulated to parties that are not participating in the meeting.

Also note that, following the recommendations of SC8 (SC8 report paragraph 106), the abstracts of all restricted papers will be made available on the public website for the meeting.

3.5 Access to meeting documents

Documents for the meeting will be provided on the SC10 meeting page on the SIOFA website at <https://siofa.org/meetings/sc10>

Individual usernames and passwords must be used to access restricted documents on the SC10 page. Login details may be requested to the SIOFA Data Officer (pierre.peries@siofa.org).

To access restricted documents, registered meeting participants and SIOFA official contacts, must first login with their credentials, then access the meeting page as normal. Restricted documents will then be visible to those who have permissions.

3.6 Scientific Committee Terms of Reference

A copy of the Scientific Committee Terms of Reference can be found on the SIOFA website:

<https://siofa.org/about-siofa/basic-documents/tor/sc-tor>

4 CONTACTS

Please direct all questions and correspondence to secretariat@siofa.org if you have any questions or require further information.

The contacts for the SIOFA Secretariat staff are:

For science or technical aspects:

- Marco Milardi, Science Officer (marco.milardi@siofa.org). Phone number: +262 693 404010
- Pierre Peries, Data Officer (pierre.peries@siofa.org). Phone number: +262 692 376395

For administrative or logistical issues:

- Thierry Clot, Executive Secretary (thierry.clot@siofa.org). Phone number: + 262 693 444 495
- Solène Avignon, Local Contact - Concarneau marine station
solene.avignon@mnhn.fr Phone number / WhatsApp : +33(0)2 98 50 42 81

ANNEX B: Travel note for the 10th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

1. Meetings dates and venue

The 10th Scientific Committee of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement is scheduled to take place from March 17 to March 26, 2025.

Station Marine de Concarneau
Place de la Croix, 29900 Concarneau
BP225 – France

<https://goo.gl/maps/9k76zxivGt82>

2. Getting to the meeting venue

Participants are asked to arrange their own travel and accommodation and cover the expenses incurred. For more detailed information, please refer to Appendix 1.

Car Rental

Another option is to rent a car and drive from Paris to Concarneau, which takes about six hours.

3. Hospitality (breaks)

1. A coffee break accompanied by pastries is scheduled for mid-morning, followed by another break in the mid-afternoon.
2. A lunch is offered each working day by the French authorities.
3. A gala dinner hosted by the French authorities is scheduled to take place during SC10.

4. Accommodations

A comprehensive list of available accommodations can be found in Appendix 1.

5. International travel modalities

Health and travels restrictions, sanitary measures

As of now, France does not impose any specific COVID-19 entry requirements. However, travellers are encouraged to remain informed about any potential travel restrictions or health guidelines by consulting their travel agency or referring to official government resources. France is renowned for its high-quality medical facilities; however, the availability of English-speaking staff may vary, especially in more rural areas.

Visa

Citizens of countries within the Schengen Area do not require a visa to enter France for business purposes. For citizens of other countries, please check whether you need a visa to come to France on <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en/web/france-visas/visa-wizard>

If you do, it is your responsibility to make the necessary arrangements at least three months in advance, by presenting your letter of invitation to the consular office of your choice.

We advise you to carefully review the specific entry requirements relevant to your nationality and ensure that all required documentation is in order prior to your trip, particularly insurance, accommodation addresses and contact information, etc.

In accordance with Article 17 of Decree 1499 of 26 October 2017 (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000035920257>), the French government facilitates the entry, stay and exit of SIOFA experts.

Visas, when required, are issued free of charge and as soon as possible, on presentation of a document certifying that the applicant belongs to one of the categories mentioned in this paragraph.

If you need and have not received a personal invitation letter, please contact the Secretariat by the 1ST of December 2024, giving the following details [Last name/First Name/Passport n°/Sex/Nationality/Date of birth/Place of birth/Place of issue/Date of issue/Date of expiry/Email address/Phone number/Visa processing location (planned)].

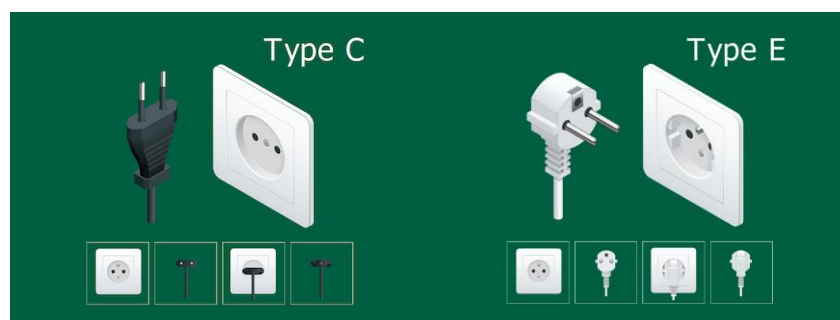
6. General Information on France

Emergency numbers

To reach the police in France, dial "112" or "17" from any location, with no need for an area code. For emergency medical assistance, dial "15", your location will be automatically identified.

Electricity

In France, the electrical plug and socket type is Type C and Type E. Ensure that your devices are compatible with the voltage and frequency used in France to avoid damage. Many modern electronic devices (like phone chargers) are dual voltage and can handle both 110V and 230V.



Currency

The currency of France is the Euro (EUR). Current approximate exchange rates are: 1 EUR = 1.12 USD

ATMs, referred to as “distributeur automatique de billets” in French, are conveniently located at airports and throughout major cities and towns in France. Most bank branches feature ATMs either inside or outside, typically marked by a prominent sign that reads “retrait”, the French term for “withdrawal.” Additionally, ATMs can be found at post offices. The four major banks in France, along with the post office, provide online ATM locators that allow users to easily find the nearest ATM.

While credit and debit cards are broadly accepted in France's major cities, there may be instances when cash payments are the only option. It is advisable to carry some cash to accommodate such situations.

Climate

In March, Concarneau experiences mild weather, with daytime temperatures typically ranging from 10°C to 13°C (50°F to 55°F), while nighttime lows can drop to approximately 5°C (41°F). This month is characterized by frequent rainfall, with average precipitation around 70 mm, resulting in light rain being a common occurrence.

Clothes

As mentioned above, the weather in Brittany can be quite wet, and you may have the opportunity to go out to sea during your stay, so please bring appropriate clothing.

Time

France adheres to Central European Time (CET), which is one hour ahead of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC+1). Please be advised that the meeting will be held in the CET time zone. For those of you planning to stay in France after SC10, it's important to know that the switch to summertime in 2025 in France will take place on Sunday 30 March 2025, when the time will be UTC+2.

Language

The national and official language of France is French. Many locals, particularly in smaller towns, may not speak English. Additionally, in Brittany, a regional language called “le Breton” is still spoken, reflecting the region's rich cultural heritage.

Geography and culture

Concarneau is located in the Brittany region, in a department called le Finistère. This department of northwestern France is known for its stunning coastline and rich cultural heritage. The name "Finistère" translates to "the end of the earth," aptly describing its dramatic cliffs and beautiful beaches that seem to stretch into the horizon. The region is characterized by charming towns, its picturesque medieval architecture and vibrant arts scene, and Concarneau, known for its well-preserved fortified town and fishing port.

Le Finistère is also home to unique traditions, including traditional Breton music and dance, and a culinary scene that features delicious seafood and regional specialties like crêpes and galettes.

Driving

In France, people drive on the right-hand side of the road. As a foreigner, it's essential to have an International Driving Permit (IDP) in addition to your valid driver's license from your home country to drive or rent a car. It's important to obtain the IDP before arriving in France, as you cannot apply for one while in the country. Additionally, be aware of local driving regulations, such as speed limits and traffic signs, which may differ from those in your home country.

Appendix 1



STATION MARINE
CONCARNEAU

Concarneau Marine Station Practical details

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the Concarneau Marine Station.

The Concarneau Marine Station is one of the 13 sites that belong to the Museum national d'Histoire naturelle and it is also the oldest Marine Station still in activity in the world. It is dedicated to research, teaching, expertise, dissemination of knowledge and collection management.

<http://www.stationmarinedeconcarneau.fr/en>

Concarneau is a small coastal town in southern Brittany, located at the very tip of the Région Bretagne. It was, once upon a time, a major sardine and tuna fishing port. Concarneau has dramatically transformed over the years to become a very attractive touristic town. Concarneau was initially restricted to a small Island surrounded by strong fortified walls built during the 1300's. The original town has survived until today and constitutes what now is called the « Ville Close ».

Concarneau is also famous for being the entry port to the Glénan archipelago, worth visiting too, only a few nautical miles offshore.

Venue address

<https://goo.gl/maps/9k76zxivGt82>

Station Marine de Concarneau
Place de la Croix, 29900 Concarneau
BP225 – France

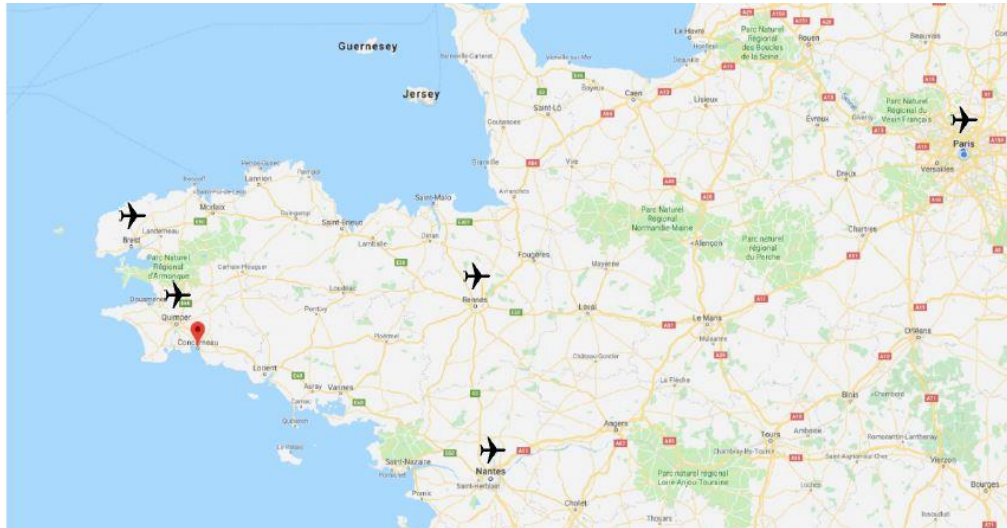
Contact us: Solène Avignon

+33(0)2 98 50 42 81 -

solene.avignon@mnhn.fr



How to get there?



From Quimper airport (Pluguffan) to Concarneau (about 40 min)

<https://www.quimper.aeroport.bzh/>

STEP 1 Quimper airport (Pluguffan) to Quimper Bus station

- For arrivals of Orly flights: take the shuttle at 10h45 or 15h15 to reach the bus station at the Quimper train station. It's necessary to book the day before, before 17:00 by phone (+33 (0)2 98 95 97 92) or by mail (agencequb@keolis.com)
1€50

For other arrivals, you will find solutions here: <https://www.qub.fr/>

- Or a taxi:
<https://www.taxi-quimper.fr/>
Tél. +33 (0)2 98 90 21 21
20 € - 30 €

STEP 2 Quimper Bus station to Concarneau

- Take the bus n° 43 (40 min) and stop at « Concarneau-port ». There are lots of buses between 06:30 and 19:30 (<https://www.ete-busetcars.fr/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2024/07/1206340-L43-7-volets-hiv24-DOUBLE.pdf>)
2€50

Alternative solution Quimper airport to Concarneau by taxi (45 min)
<https://www.taxi-quimper.fr> Tél. +33 (0)2 98 90 21 21
50 € - 85 €

From Paris airports to Concarneau (4h30 minimum)

You have to reach the Montparnasse Railway Station which serves the trains to Brittany

<https://www.ratp.fr/en>

STEP 1 a Orly airport to Montparnasse Railway Station

- Take the OrlyBus to Place Denfert Rochereau
And the métro line 6 from Denfert Rochereau to Montparnasse-Bienvenüe
60-70 minutes travelling time
12 €

STEP 1 b Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport to Montparnasse Railway Station

- Take RER B from the airport to Denfert Rochereau station
And the subway line 6 to Montparnasse-Bienvenüe
45-60 minutes travelling time
12 €

STEP 2 a Montparnasse railway station to Quimper railway station

- SNCF: <https://www.sncf-connect.com/en-en/> Around 4h travelling time
50 € - 100 €

Followed by Quimper Bus station (located right next to Quimper railway station) to Concarneau

- Take the bus n° 43 (40 min) and stop at « Concarneau-port ». There are lots of buses between 06:30 and 19:30 (<https://www.ete-busetcars.fr/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2024/07/1206340-L43-7-volets-hiv24-DOUBLE.pdf>)

STEP 2 b Montparnasse railway station to Rosporden railway station

Some trains, not all of them, from Paris to Quimper, stop at « Rosporden ».
This train station is closer to Concarneau than Quimper.

- Take the bus n°4 (Coralie bus) or n°52075/52077 (BreizhGo) (20 min) and stop at « Concarneau-port ».
There are lots of buses of buses between 07:25 and 19:45.
<http://mobibreizh.bzh/en/>
1 - 2,50€

You may find it is more convenient to flight to Brest or to Nantes...

There are indeed more flights to Brest and Nantes than to Quimper. We will be glad to help should you need more information.

Travelling by train from Paris to Quimper or Rosporden

<https://www.sncf-connect.com/en-en/>

SNCF is the French national railway system and you need to book your train tickets using their web site. TGV trains have to be booked in advance.

You may want to search for trains to Rosporden or Quimper in order to find the best travel solution according to your schedule.

Travelling from Quimper or Rosporden to Concarneau

<http://mobibreizh.bzh/en/>

Link to Brittany transportation systems where you can get bus schedules from Quimper or Rosporden to Concarneau.

Where to sleep?

- **Less than 100 € per night**

BRIT HOTEL DES HALLES *** (5 minutes walk)

2 rue Charles Linement, 29900 Concarneau, France
+33 (0)2 98 97 11 41 – contact@hoteldeshalles.com
<https://www.hoteldeshalles.com>

LES GRANDS VOYAGEURS ** (4 minutes walk)

9 place Jean Jaurès, 29900 Concarneau, France
+33 (0)2 98 97 08 06 – lesgrandsvoyageurs29@gmail.com
<https://www.hotel-concarneau.com/>

HOTEL DE FRANCE ET D'EUROPE *** (10 minutes walk)

9 avenue de la Gare, 29900 Concarneau, France
+33(0)2 98 97 00 64 - contact@hotel-france-europe.com
<https://www.hotel-france-europe.com/>

LES OCEANIDES ** (13 minutes walk)

3 rue du Lin, 29900 Concarneau, France
+33 (0)2 98 97 08 61 – contact@lesoceanides.com
<https://www.lesoceanides.com/>

HOTEL DU PORT ** (7 minutes walk)

11bis avenue Pierre Guéguin, 29900 Concarneau, France
+33 (0)2 98 97 31 52 – contact@hotelduport-concarneau29.com
<https://www.hotelduport-concarneau29.com/>

HOTEL MODERN (12 minutes walk)

5 rue du Lin, 29900 Concarneau, France
+33(0)2 98 97 03 36
<https://hotel-modern-concarneau.booked.net/>

TY ELEANA (5 minutes walk)

30 rue Jean Bart, 29900 Concarneau, France
+33(0)2 98 59 05 50 – chambresdhotels@tyeleana.fr
<https://www.tyeleana.fr/>

TY LIREU (9 minutes walk)

16 boulevard Bougainville, 29900 Concarneau, France

+33(0)2 98 97 35 81 - +33(0)6 84 14 56 78

https://www.chambres-hotes.fr/chambres-hotes_ty-lireu_concarneau_34123.htm

- **More than 100 € per night**

BRIT HOTEL DE L'OCEAN *** (20 minutes walk)

2 rue des Sables Blancs, 29900 Concarneau, France

+33(0)2 98 50 53 50 – concarneau@brithotel.fr

<https://concarneau.brithotel.fr>

RESORT RESIDENCE THALASSO CONCARNEAU **** (25 minutes walk)

36 rue des Sables Blancs, 29900 Concarneau, France

+33(0)2 98 10 90 54 - resort.concarneau@hmc-hotels.com

<https://www.thalasso-resort-concarneau.com/fr/>

LES SABLES BLANCS **** (27 minutes walk)

45 rue des Sables Blancs, 29900 Concarneau

+33(0)2 98 50 10 12 – contact@hotel-les-sables-blancs.com

<https://www.hotel-les-sables-blancs.com/fr/>

LE KER MOR *** (26 minutes walk)

37 rue des Sables Blancs, 29900 Concarneau, France

+33(0)2 98 97 02 96 – contact@hotel-kermor.com

<https://www.hotel-kermor.com/>

VILLA DES SABLES (13 minutes walk)

12 boulevard Alfred Guillou, 29900 Concarneau, France

+33(0)6 59 04 22 87 – lavilladessablesconcarneau@gmail.com

<https://villadessables.fr/>

LES SUITES DE BOUGAINVILLE (10 minutes walk)

25bis rue Amiral Courbet, 29900 Concarneau, France

+33(0)6 81 02 63 33 – meros@domainedemeros.com

<https://www.domaine-de-meros.com/les-suites-de-bougainville-concarneau/>

- **And also...**

IBIS BUDGET (50 minutes walk, bus lines connect the Marine Station and the hotel:

<https://www.coralie-cca.fr/>)

Rue Colguen, 29900 Concarneau, France

+33(0)8 92 68 09 32 – H5080@accor.com

<http://www.hotelibisbudgetconcarneau.com/>

YOUTH HOSTEL (<1 minute walk, in front of the Marine Station

Quai de la croix, 29900 Concarneau, France

+33(0)2 98 97 03 47 – concarneau@aj-finistere.org