



SIOFA | APSOI

Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
Accord relatif aux Pêches dans le Sud de l'Océan Indien

Scientific Committee

La Réunion, Thursday 19 December 2024

SC-CIRCULAR n° 2024-20

SUBJECT: Confirmation of the Scientific Committee Workshop to progress the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management Projects (WS2025-PAM)

Dear Heads of Delegation of the Scientific Committee,

Dear Colleagues,

I'd like to extend my thanks to all the CCPs that have provided feedback on SC-Circular 2024-19, which proposed draft Arrangements, Provisional Agenda and Timetable for the Scientific Committee Workshop to progress the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management Projects (WS2025-PAM).

The SC Chairs have considered the feedback, especially the overlap with the important Chinese new year holidays, and decided to postpone the meeting to allow for a wider participation.

The WS2025-PAM is thus proposed to be held in virtual format in **on Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 February 2025 from 08.00 UTC to 11.30 UTC.**

The final Arrangements, Provisional Agenda and Timetable are attached to this Circular, and a meeting page has been created at <https://siofa.org/meetings/WS2025-PAM>.

I would like to highlight to you that **19 January 2024** is the deadline for submission of any papers to the workshop and also for registration of participants to the workshop.

Sincerely yours,

Alistair Dunn - SIOFA Scientific Committee Chair

Working arrangements for the Workshop SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management Projects (WS2025-PAM)

Introduction

The SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management (SIOFA-PAM) program will further enhance the scientific advice of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC) for the SIOFA Meeting of the Parties (MoP), in particular, towards ensuring the sustainable management of fish stocks and the environmental impacts associated with fishing.

The SIOFA-PAM program has three main projects that focus on the development of a framework to ensure sustainable management of fish stocks and managing the environmental impacts associated with fishing activities within the SIOFA Area. The projects aim to guide, inform, and enhance resource protection and to improve sustainable resource management measures, especially in the context of information-limited fisheries. A fourth project provides for expert review and advice across the three main projects.

These projects are due to complete their work and present their findings to the 2026 meeting of the Scientific Committee. The Terms of Reference for the projects (available at <https://siofa.org/science/sc-works>) and summary presentations for each three main projects will be circulated prior to the workshop.

The projects for SIOFA-PAM are:

PAM-2024-01: Develop the SIOFA Precautionary Approach Framework. This project involves establishing a framework for high, medium, and lower information stocks to apply the precautionary approach within the SIOFA Area. This framework will provide guidelines and principles to help ensure that fisheries management decisions are made in a precautionary manner using the best scientific evidence available, consistent with the Objectives (Article 2) and General Principles (Article 4) of the SIOFA Agreement (SIOFA, 2006).

PAM-2024-02: Determine Biological Reference Points (BRPs) for key SIOFA fish stocks. This project focuses on developing and scientifically evaluating BRPs for the key fish stocks within the SIOFA Area, based on the best available scientific data and methods.

PAM-2024-03: Develop harvest strategies for key SIOFA fish stocks. Building upon previous workshops and ongoing efforts by the SC and MoP, this project aims to develop formal harvest strategies for key fish stocks.

PAM-2024-04: Expert Review Panel for the Development of the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management. Provide external expert review and advice to the project teams and SIOFA for the work and outcomes of the three main projects.

Workshop Arrangements

The proposed workshop arrangements are:

1. The workshop is open to all representatives of the Scientific Committee and SIOFA Scientific Committee Observers.
2. The workshop will be convened by Mr Alistair Dunn – SIOFA SC Chair.
3. The workshop will meet online via video conference (Zoom) **on Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 February 2025 from 08.00 UTC to 11.30 UTC.**

4. A Convener's report of the workshop will be compiled by the Workshop Convener, circulated for comment to the Workshop participants, and then presented to the 2025 meeting of the Scientific Committee.

Workshop Terms of Reference

The proposed Terms of Reference for WS2025-PAM are:

1. Review the proposed methods and project plans for the three main SIOFA-PAM projects (PAM2024-01, PAM2024-02, and PAM2024-03)
2. Determine the timeline for future workshops of the Scientific Committee and potential joint meetings of the Scientific Committee and the Meeting of the Parties (MoP) in 2025 and 2026.
3. Provide to the 2025 meeting of the Scientific Committee the project plans, including development of any required associated projects and recommendations for future meetings or workshops.

Provisional Agenda

1. Opening
 - a. Welcome from Convenor
 - b. Introduction of meeting participants
 - c. Introduction of the SIOFA-PAM project consultants
2. Administrative arrangements
 - a. Adoption of agenda
 - b. Confirmation of meeting documents
 - c. Workshop report arrangements
3. Background to the SIOFA-PAM projects
4. SIOFA-PAM project methods and project plans
 - a. PAM2024-01: Development of the SIOFA Precautionary Approach Framework
 - b. PAM2024-02: Determination of Biological Reference Points (BRPs) for key SIOFA fish stocks
 - c. PAM2024-03: Development of Harvest Strategies for key SIOFA fish stocks
 - d. Expert reviewer commentary
2. Discussion of the SIOFA-PAM projects
 - a. Recommendations for the proposed SIOFA-PAM methods
 - b. Recommendations for the proposed SIOFA-PAM project plans and timelines
 - c. Recommendations for future SIOFA-PAM Scientific Committee workshops
 - d. Recommendations for potential joint meetings of the Scientific Committee and the Meeting of the Parties (MoP).
 - e. Development of any required associated Scientific Committee projects
3. Other business related to the development of the SIOFA precautionary approach and management
4. Conveners report
 - a. Review of report recommendations in plenary (with comments on the Conveners report via email)
5. Meeting close

Timetable

19 January 2024

Deadline for submission of any papers to the workshop.

19 January 2024

Deadline for registration of participants to the workshop.

3-4 February 2025

Workshop meetings take place virtually between 08.00 UTC to 11.30 UTC. A short break will be scheduled at about 09.30 UTC.

7 February 2025

Distribution of draft Workshop Conveners Report for comments by participants.

13 February 2025

Deadline for comments on the draft Workshop Conveners Report

15 February 2025

Final Workshop Conveners Report submitted to SC10.