



La Réunion, Wednesday 05 February 2025

SIOFA SC-CIRCULAR n° 2025-01

SUBJECT: Revised Provisional Annotated Agenda of the 10th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

Dear Heads of Delegation of the SIOFA Scientific Committee,

Dear Colleagues,

Please find attached the Revised Provisional Annotated Agenda for the Tenth Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC10), to be held at the marine station of the French Museum of Natural History, in Concarneau, France, from the 17th to the 26th of March 2025.

The Revised Provisional Annotated Agenda is an update of the Provisional Agenda circulated earlier by SC Circular 2024-21. One addition has been provided by EU relevant to the harmonisation of Toothfish management measures in the SIOFA area.

Note SC Circular 2024-18 that has more information regarding the meeting arrangements and venue. All documents relevant to SC10 are available on the SIOFA website at <https://siofa.org/meetings/SC10>

I would also like to remind you that meeting documents must be submitted via email to the SIOFA Secretariat (Science Officer, marco.milardi@siofa.org), by these dates:

- Working papers - **Saturday, 15 February 2025**
- Information papers - **Monday, 3 March 2025**

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

Sincerely yours,

Thierry CLOT

SIOFA Executive Secretary

Revised Provisional Annotated Agenda for the 10th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

Marine Station of the National History Museum, Concarneau, France

Chair: Mr Alistair Dunn

Vice-Chairs: Dr Pavarot Noranarttragoon, Dr Zhou Fang

1. Opening

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

The SC Chair will open the meeting and welcome delegations of the SIOFA SC, observers, and invited experts. The organisation of the meeting, chairing and local arrangements will be discussed. The Secretariat will introduce the meeting facilities and the other meeting arrangements.

2. Administrative arrangements

- 2.1. Adoption of the agenda
- 2.2. Confirmation of meeting documents
- 2.3. Appointment of rapporteurs
- 2.4. Scientific Committee meeting report arrangements

The Provisional Agenda for the Tenth Meeting of the SC was prepared and distributed in accordance with Rules of Procedure.

The SC 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 SC10. The SC may also appoint additional rapporteurs 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. Delegates comments on the report text will be included. The final draft report will then be checked and signed off by the SC Chair, and then be made available to participants for report adoption.

3. Fisheries Reports

3.1. Annual National Reports 2025

3.2. CCP annual National Fisheries Reports

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

3.3. Guidelines for the submission of National Reports

Review of the SIOFA Guidelines for submitting National Reports

3.4. Summary of SIOFA fisheries

3.5. Overview of SIOFA fisheries 2025

3.6. CCP fishery characterisations

3.7. Ecosystem and Fisheries Summaries 2025

*Presentation of the Overview of SIOFA fisheries, Ecosystem Summary, and Fisheries Summaries for the species not covered in Agenda Item 7 (i.e., hapuka (*Polyprion spp.*, HAU), wreckfish (*Polyprion americanus*, WRF) and hapuku wreckfish (*Polyprion oxygeneios*, WHA), and common mora (*Mora moro*, RIB)).*

4. Data Standards, Access and Dissemination

4.1. Annual catch and effort data submission

4.2. Lost gear reported under CMM 02(2023) Annex A

The Secretariat will provide an update on information submitted on lost gear against CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards) Annex A.

4.3. Exchange of scientific toothfish data with CCAMLR

4.4. Developments to the data section of the SIOFA website

4.5. 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.

4.6. Proposals for revisions to CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards)

Discussion of any proposals for revisions to CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards).

5. SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment

5.1. Review of the SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standard

SC-EXTRA2 recommended that SC10 review the SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standard

5.2. Review of new BFIA

The SC will review any new BFIA submitted by CCPs

6. SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management (PAM)

6.1. Development of the Precautionary Approach Framework

Project PAM-2024-01: Presentation of progress on the development of the SIOFA Precautionary Approach Framework including commentary from the PAM2024-01 expert reviewers

6.2. Development of biological reference points

Project PAM-2024-02: Presentation of progress on the development of the SIOFA Biological Reference Points including commentary from the PAM2024-02 expert reviewers

6.3. Joint MoP-SC Workshop on the Development of Harvest Strategies (WS2024-HSS) and SC Workshop to progress the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management Projects (WS2025-PAM)

The SC Chair will present the report of the Joint MoP-SC Workshop on the Development of Harvest Strategies (WS2024-HSS) and recommendations from MoP10, as well as the convener report of the SC Workshop to progress the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management Projects (WS2025-PAM)

6.4. Development of harvest strategies for Orange Roughy and Toothfish

Project PAM-2024-03: Presentation of progress on the development of SIOFA harvest strategies for ORY and TOT including commentary from the PAM2024-03 expert reviewers

6.5. Harmonisation of toothfish management measures across the SIOFA Area

The MoP has requested advice on an appropriate toothfish catch limit for the proposed Southern Indian Ridge management area as well as harmonisation of toothfish management measures across the SIOFA Area.

6.6. Other matters

Other matters for the development of the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management (PAM) projects, including harvest strategies and future workshops, workplan, projects, and joint MOP-SC workshops.

7. Stock assessments and advice

7.1. Orange roughy

7.1.1. Descriptive characterisation

7.1.2. Stock monitoring and data collection (including acoustics)

7.1.3. Stock assessment

7.1.4. Updates to the fisheries summary

*Project ORY-2023-01: Age and growth of orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*) (final report).*

*Project ORY-2023-02: Orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*) acoustics (final report).*

Presentation of the report on the ORY stock assessment (Project ORY-2024-01). Consideration of new information on stock status, stock monitoring, and assessment of ORY in the SIOFA Area and update the fisheries summary report for this species.

7.2. Alfonsino

- 7.2.1. Descriptive characterisation
- 7.2.2. Stock monitoring and data collection (including acoustics)
- 7.2.3. Stock assessment
- 7.2.4. Updates to the fisheries summary

Project ALF-2024-01: Presentation of the report of the Alfonsino Age protocol Development. Consideration of new information on stock status, stock monitoring, and assessment of ALF in the SIOFA Area and update the fisheries summary report for this species.

7.3. Toothfish

- 7.3.1. Descriptive characterisation
- 7.3.2. Stock monitoring and data collection
- 7.3.3. Stock assessment
- 7.3.4. Updates to the fisheries summary

*Project SER2022-TOP2: Stock structure of Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) (final report).*

Project TOT-2024-02: Presentation of the report of the Evaluation of the toothfish monitoring program based on tagging. Consideration of new information on stock status, stock monitoring, and assessment of TOT in the SIOFA Area and update the fisheries summary report for this species.

7.4. Oilfish

- 7.4.1. Descriptive characterisation
- 7.4.2. Stock monitoring and data collection
- 7.4.3. Stock assessment
- 7.4.4. Updates to the fisheries summary

Consideration of new information on stock status, stock monitoring, and assessment of oilfish in the SIOFA Area and update the fisheries summary report for these species.

7.5. Other species

- 7.5.1. Quantitative assessment of Portuguese Dogfish

Project DWS-2024-01: Development of a formal quantitative assessment of Portuguese dogfish catch and determination of the level of sustainable catch (a continuation of DWS-2023-01).

- 7.5.2. Lobster

The SC will consider the recommendations from SC-EXTRA2 and provide advice on VME indicator species thresholds and potential long-term management frameworks for the fishery

- 7.5.3. Other species
- 7.5.4. Updates to the fisheries summaries

Consideration of new information on stock status, stock monitoring, and assessment of other species in the SIOFA Area and update the fisheries summary report for these species.

8. Bycatch and incidental captures

8.1. Deepwater chondrichthyans

8.2. Review of progress against CMM 12(2024) (Sharks), including development of precautionary bycatch limits

8.3. Protocols and guidelines for mitigating impact of fishing gear

Project DWS-2024-02: Development of protocols and guidelines for fishing gear to mitigate the ongoing impact of SIOFA fisheries on vulnerable deepwater sharks, including the definitions of leader and wire and other leader types for longline gear, and the application of move-on rules for demersal longline and trawl fisheries to protect vulnerable deepwater sharks.

Project DWS-2023-02: Identification and trends in Deepwater Sharks, on a census of deep-sea sharks caught during one trip of a benthopelagic factory trawler to Walters Shoal and the SWIO Ridge in early 2024.

8.4. Development of a SIOFA skate tagging programme

Discussion on the development of the SIOFA skate tagging programme

8.5. IOTC bycatch

The Secretariat will report on IOTC bycatch of SIOFA species in the SIOFA Area

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

8.6.1. Observations of marine mammals interacting with fishing gear

The Secretariat will report on observations of marine mammals interacting with fishing gear

8.6.2. Seabird mitigation measures

Consideration of any proposals for seabird mitigation measures

8.7. Discards at sea

The MoP has requested the SC providing advice on the extent of discarding in SIOFA and the impacts of restrictions on this practice

9. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)

9.1. Report of VME encounters

The Secretariat will report on any notified VME encounters

9.2. VME data and the setting VME of encounter thresholds

Consideration of proposals for recording VME data and the setting VME of encounter thresholds including whether to record of VME taxa by line or line segment

9.3. Revisions of the list of VME taxa and to the VME taxa ID guides

Consideration of any proposals for the revision of the list of VME taxa and to the VME taxa ID guides

9.4. Register of SIOFA VME areas

Consideration of the register of notified SIOFA VME areas

9.5. Management options for preventing SAIs on VMEs

Consideration of any proposals for management options for preventing SAIs on VMEs

10. Marine protected areas

10.1. Monitoring protected areas

Project PAE2022-MPA1: Protocols to designate and evaluate MPAs in the SIOFA Area (final report)

10.2. Protected area designation

Conveners report from the Workshop on Report of the WS2024-PAD. MoP-11-29-Rev2 paper.

11. New and Exploratory Fisheries and Research cruises

11.1. New and exploratory fisheries

Consideration of any proposals for new and exploratory fisheries

11.2. Research cruises

Consideration of the Nansen research cruise sailing plan and any other proposals for new research cruises.

Reports from any research cruises undertaken in previous years

12. Scientific Observers

12.1. Observer Harmonisation

Project SEC2022-OBS1: Establish a framework for scientific observation of SIOFA fisheries (final report)

Presentation of the report of the Workshop on Scientific Observers forms (WS2024-OBS2)

Introduction to the FAO DSF workshop on SIOFA observer training

12.2. E-monitoring

13. Climate change

13.1. Observed and projected impacts of climate change

The SC will consider papers that report on projected impacts of climate change and the practices of other RFMOs

13.2. Scientific advice on the potential implications of climate change

The SC will consider advice on the potential implications of climate change on SIOFA fisheries

13.3. Climate change projects

The SC will consider proposal for projects that relate to climate change (MoP10 report, paragraph 159)

14. Cooperation with external bodies

14.1. FIRMS coordination and work

The Secretariat will report on the FIRMS project

14.2. FAO ABNJ DSF activities

The Secretariat will report on FAO ABNJ DSF activities

14.3. CCAMLR

The Secretariat will report on cooperation with CCAMLR

15. Future work

15.1. Progress of EU funded science projects

The Secretariat will report on progress of EU funded science projects

15.2. Management and coordination of SIOFA science projects

The Secretariat will report on progress of SIOFA science projects

15.3. The SIOFA Performance Review

Consideration of the SIOFA Performance Review

Capacity building

The Secretariat will report on options for facilitating and addressing the capacity building needs of CCP developing states

15.4. Implementation of Article 13 of the Agreement

As requested by the MoP, the SC will have a standing agenda item on the implementation of Article 13 of the Agreement

The Secretariat will report on a paper that outlines the existing mechanisms to provide support to developing States and other relevant information relating to Article 13

15.5. Scientific Committee workplan and budget

The SC will develop the SC workplan and budget.

15.6. The 2026 meeting of the Scientific Committee

The SC will propose the dates for SC11.

16. Other business

16.1. Elections of the SC chairperson and vice-chairperson

As the term of contract for the current SC Chair expires in June 2025, the SC will consider future Chairing arrangements and consider either electing a new Chair or proposing an extension to the current SC Chairs appointment. One of the Vice-Chairs first two-year term is coming to an end, and will need to be renewed for a further term or a new Vice-Chair needs to be elected.