



SIOFA | APSOI

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

Scientific Committee

La Réunion, Monday 24 November 2025

SC-CIRCULAR n° 2025-13

SUBJECT: SIOFA SC Workshop on the Development of E-Monitoring Standards (WS2026-EMS)

Dear Heads of Delegation of the Scientific Committee,

Dear Observers,

Dear Colleagues,

The SIOFA Scientific Committee, since its first meeting in 2016, has considered electronic monitoring (E-monitoring) as an important topic for discussion and development. In 2016, the SIOFA SC Operational Work Plan identified "Guidelines for evaluating and approving e-monitoring programs for scientific data collection" as a key research activity. Since then, the SIOFA SC has advanced on the understanding of E-monitoring with discussions and papers at both SIOFA SC meetings and SC Workshops.

To progress the arrangements for the Intersessional Workshop on the Development of E-Monitoring Standards (WS2026-EMS), the Chair of the Scientific Committee and the Convener have proposed an agenda, timetable, and working arrangements for the Workshop. (<https://siofa.org/meetings/ws2026-ems>)

Outcomes from the Workshop would be a Conveners report that would be considered by the Scientific Committee at SC11 in March 2026 .

Please find attached the draft Arrangements, Terms of Reference, Provisional Agenda and Timetable for WS2026-EMS, proposed to be held in a virtual format on **Wednesday 21 January 2026, from 08.00 UTC to 12.00 UTC**.

Please provide any responses on the proposed Terms of References, Provisional Agenda, the Timetable, and the Meeting Arrangements by the **5th of December 2025** to the SC Chair and the Secretariat (secretariat@siofa.org). Following any responses, I will circulate the final Terms of References, Agenda, and Meeting Arrangements.

Sincerely yours,

Alistair Dunn - SIOFA Scientific Committee Chair

SIOFA SC WORKSHOP - Development of E-Monitoring Standards

Proposed Agenda and Working Arrangements

1. Background

In 2025, the SC recommended that the MoP “consider adopting the IOTC e-monitoring standards (IOTC Resolution 23/08) for collecting scientific data on pelagic longline fisheries in SIOFA” (SC10 report, paragraph 541). SC10 further recommended that “the MoP task the SC to develop e-monitoring standards for gear types other than pelagic longlines, using the IOTC e-monitoring standards as a basis” (SC10 report, paragraph 542). The SC10 recommendations were noted by the MoP (MoP12 report, paragraphs 175 and 176) and the MoP also noted the SC's intention to hold a Workshop on the Development of E-Monitoring Standards in early 2026 in the SC workplan and budget MOP-12-08-Rev1 (MoP12 report, paragraph 194).

2. Objectives

The aim of the Workshop on the development of E-Monitoring Standards is:

1. To assess the outcomes of the FAO E-Monitoring and SIOFA's CCPs experiences on the E-Monitoring implementation for collecting scientific data.
2. To discuss how E-monitoring could be implemented across the range of fisheries managed by SIOFA taking into consideration various cost/effort trade-offs, particularly for developing countries.
3. To discuss other sampling and monitoring approaches.

3. Terms of Reference for the Workshop

The proposed Workshop arrangements are:

1. The Workshop will be open to all representatives of the SIOFA Scientific Committee, including Observers.
2. The workshop will be convened by Dr Sebastián Rodríguez Alfaro (EU).
3. The workshop will meet online via video conference (Zoom) on **Wednesday 21st January 2026 from 08.00 UTC to 12.00 UTC.**
4. A Convener's report of the Workshop will be compiled by the Workshop Convener and be presented at the 11th annual meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC11¹).

4. Provisional Agenda for the WS2026-EMS

1. Opening of the workshop (WS2026-EMS)
 - a. Welcome from the Workshop convener
 - b. Introduction of meeting participants
2. Administrative arrangements
 - a. Adoption of the meeting objectives and agenda
 - b. Appointment of rapporteurs

¹ SC 11 will be held in Fremantle, Australia, from 23 to 31 March 2026

- c. Workshop report arrangements
3. Introduction to E-Monitoring
 - a. Introduction of the existing documents in support of the specific Workshop objectives
 - b. FAO E-Monitoring – Deep Sea Project First phase and other developments
 - c. SIOFA’s CCPs experiences² in E-monitoring for collecting scientific data
4. E-monitoring considerations for fisheries managed by SIOFA³
 - a. Deep water demersal longlining (i.e., Patagonian toothfish, snappers, lutjanids, hapuka)
 - b. Deep water bottom and midwater trawling (i.e., orange roughy and alfonsino)
 - c. Shallow water bottom trawling (i.e., lizardfish and scads)
 - d. Shallow-water handlining (i.e., Carangoides spp., snappers, emperors and groupers)
 - e. Pelagic longlining (i.e., oilfish)
 - f. Jigging (i.e., squid)
5. Recommendations for SC11
6. Review of key report recommendations (as time allows) in plenary
7. Meeting close

5. Timetable

21 December 2025

In preparation for the workshop, the SIOFA Secretariat will distribute a background document gathering relevant discussions on E-Monitoring in SIOFA, for consideration by the Workshop.

14 January 2026

Deadline for the submission of Workshop papers.

Deadline for registration of participants to the Workshop (via mail to the SIOFA Secretariat Science Officer marco.milardi@siofa.org)

08.00–12.00 UTC on Wednesday 21 January 2026

Meeting of the Workshop (WS2026-EMS) via videoconference (Zoom).

4 February 2026

Distribution of draft convener’s report for review and finalisation for submission to SC11.

18 February 2026

Deadline for the submission of participant comments.

23 February 2026

Submission of WS2026-EMS Conveners Report (deadline for the submission of SC11 Working Papers).

² It would be beneficial if CCPs could provide a short summary about E-monitoring during the WS2026-EMS

³ As per Annex 1 – Established fisheries in the SIOFA Area of CMM-17 (2025)