

La Réunion, Monday 5 January 2026

SC-CIRCULAR n° 2026-01

SUBJECT: Provisional Annotated Agenda of the 11th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

Dear Heads of Delegation of the Scientific Committee,

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to transmit to you the Provisional Annotated Agenda for the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC11), to be held at the Esplanade Hotel, Freemantle, Australia, 23-30 March 2026.

The Provisional Annotated Agenda of SC11 is included as Annex of this Circular and is distributed in advance of the scheduled deadline (i.e., 60 days in advance of the meeting, in this case Thursday 22 January 2026), for your convenience.

The deadline for comments on the SC11 Provisional Annotated Agenda, to be addressed to the SIOFA Secretariat (Executive Secretary, thierry.clot@siofa.org and CC to the Science Officer, marco.milardi@siofa.org), remains on **Sunday 1 February 2026**, as originally scheduled.

I take this chance to remind you that more information regarding the meeting arrangements and venue were provided in SIOFA SC Circular 2025-14, and the meeting page on the SIOFA website at <https://siofa.org/meetings/SC11>

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

- Working papers - **Saturday 21 February 2026**
- Information papers - **Monday 9 March 2026**

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

Sincerely yours,

Thierry Clot

SIOFA Executive Secretary

Provisional Annotated Agenda for the 11th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

Freemantle, Australia

Chair: Mr Alistair Dunn

Vice-Chairs: Dr Zhou Fang, Ms Charlotte Chazeau

1. Opening

Welcome from the Scientific Committee Chair

Introduction of participants

Opening statements

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

Adoption of the agenda

Confirmation of meeting documents

Appointment of rapporteurs

Scientific Committee meeting report arrangements

The Provisional Agenda for the Eleventh 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 SC11. 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

Annual National Reports 2026

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.

Guidelines for the submission of National Reports

Review of the SIOFA Guidelines for submitting National Reports.

Summary of SIOFA fisheries

Overview of SIOFA fisheries 2026

CCP fishery characterisations

Ecosystem and Fisheries Summaries 2026

Presentation any new developments of the Ecosystem Summary, and Fisheries Summaries.

4. Data Standards, Access and Dissemination

Annual catch and effort data submission

Lost gear reported under CMM 02(2025) Annex A

The Secretariat will provide an update on information submitted on lost gear against CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) Annex A.

Exchange of scientific toothfish data with CCAMLR

The SIOFA standard operating procedure for data use and data requests

The Secretariat will report on the SIOFA standard operating procedure for data use and data requests, including revisions to the SIOFA database structure.

Discussion of the new data forms in CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards)

The SC will discuss the results of the new forms being trialled.

Proposals for revisions to CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards)

Discussion of any proposals for revisions to CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards).

5. SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment

SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standard

The SC will review the SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standard and a checklist for the evaluation of submitted BFIA proposals.

Review of new BFIA

The SC will review any new BFIA submitted by CCPs.

6. SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management (PAM)

Development of the Precautionary Approach Framework

Project PAM-2024-01: Presentation of the draft final report on the development of the SIOFA Precautionary Approach Framework including commentary from the PAM-2024-04 expert reviewers.

Development of biological reference points

Project PAM-2024-02: Presentation of the draft final report on the development of the SIOFA Biological Reference Points including commentary from the PAM-2024-04 expert reviewers.

Development of harvest strategies

Project PAM-2024-03: Presentation of the draft final report on the development of SIOFA harvest strategies including commentary from the PAM-2024-04 expert reviewers.

Joint MoP-SC Workshop on the Development of Harvest Strategies (WS2025-HSS) and SC Workshops to progress the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management Projects (WS2025-PAM, WS2025-PAM2, WS2025-PAM3)

The SC Chair will present the Conveners' report of the Joint MoP-SC Workshop on the Development of Harvest Strategies (WS2025-HSS) and recommendations from MoP12, as well as the Convener's report of the SC Workshops to progress the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management Projects (WS2025-PAM, WS2025-PAM2, WS2025-PAM3).

Other matters

Other matters including the elaboration of future SC work on the SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management, harvest strategies and future workshops, workplan, projects, and joint MOP-SC workshops.

7. Stock assessments and advice

Orange roughy

Descriptive characterisation

Stock monitoring and data collection (including acoustics)

Alfonsino

Descriptive characterisation

Stock monitoring and data collection (including ageing)

Project ALF-2024-01: Alfonsino age protocol development, presentation of the final report.

Project ALF-2025-01: Alfonsino age and growth, presentation of progress.

Outcomes of the trial acoustic surveys performed during the Nansen cruise 2025.

Historical catch and/or other data

Discussion of catch and/or other data about the Mauritius alfonsino midwater trawl fishery and advice on the inclusion of this fishery in CMM 17(2025) Annex 1 (MoP12 report, para 216).

Stock assessment

Development of the SC workplan for the assessment of alfonsino.

Toothfish

Descriptive characterisation

Stock monitoring and data collection

Project TOT-2024-02: Evaluation of the toothfish monitoring program based on tagging, presentation of progress.

Stock assessment

Presentation of toothfish trend analysis for Del Cano, South Indian Ridge and Williams Ridge.

Updates to the fisheries summary

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

Oilfish

Descriptive characterisation

Stock monitoring and data collection

Other species

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).

Lobster

Consideration of the lobster as new and exploratory fisheries will take place under agenda item 11.

Other species

8. Bycatch and incidental captures

Retained and discarded bycatch

Consideration by the SC on the retained and discarded bycatch species in the SIOFA Area (MoP12 Report, para 265).

Deepwater chondrichthyans

Review of progress against CMM 12(2025) (Sharks), including development of precautionary bycatch limits

Protocols and guidelines for mitigating impact of fishing gear

Consideration of the Convener's report of the SC workshop on the impact of using alternative trace types on the bycatch rate of sharks and target species (WS2025-DWS).

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, presentation of final report.

SIOFA skate tagging programme

Discussion on any further development of the SIOFA skate tagging programme, including recommendations on a skate tagging rate that is based on a level of observer coverage as high as opportunity allows (MoP12 report, para 150).

IOTC bycatch

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

Seabirds, mammals, and bycatch of other species of concern

Observations of marine mammals interacting with fishing gear

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

Observations of seabirds

The Secretariat will report on observations of seabirds around fishing operations.

9. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)

Report of VME encounters

The Secretariat will report on any notified VME encounters.

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 (SC10 Report para 424).

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.

Register of SIOFA VME areas

Consideration of the register of notified SIOFA VME areas.

Management options for preventing SAls on VMEs

Consideration of any proposals for management options for preventing SAls on VMEs.

10. Benthic Fisheries Closures CMM 18(2025) and marine protected areas

Monitoring Benthic Fisheries Closures and marine protected areas

Consideration of any new information on Benthic Fisheries Closures and marine protected areas, including CCP reports under paragraph 6 of CMM 18(2025).

Benthic Fisheries Closures and protected area designation

Consideration of any proposal for new Benthic Fisheries Closures and protected areas designation.

11. New and Exploratory Fisheries CMM 17(2025)

Proposal for new and exploratory fisheries

Consideration of any new historical data (e.g. on the Mauritian alfonso fishery).

Consideration of any proposals for new and exploratory fisheries.

Review existing new and exploratory fisheries

Consideration of any existing new and exploratory fisheries (e.g. lobster fishery).

12. Framework for research cruises and scientific research in the SIOFA Area

Research cruises

Consideration of the Conveners' report of the SC workshop on Window of Opportunity - Research Vessels in SIOFA (WS2025-ORS).

Consideration of any proposals for new research cruises.

Report of the R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen in the SIOFA Area 2025.

Reports from any other research cruises undertaken in previous years.

Consideration of any proposals for a framework for research cruises and scientific research in the SIOFA Area (MoP12 report, paragraph 233).

13. Scientific Observers

Observer data collection manual

Project OBS-2025-01: Development of a SIOFA scientific observer data collection manual.

E-monitoring

Consideration of the Convener's report of the SC workshop on the Development of E-Monitoring Standards (WS2026-EMS).

Development of e-monitoring standards for gear types other than pelagic longlines, using the IOTC e-monitoring standards as a basis (MoP12 report, para 175).

14. Climate change

Observed and projected impacts of climate change

Project CLI-2025-01: Assessment of SIOFA Species and Ecosystems for vulnerability to climate change impacts, presentation of draft final report.

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

Scientific advice on the potential implications of climate change

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

15. Cooperation with external bodies

FIRMS coordination and work

The Secretariat will report on the FIRMS project.

FAO ABNJ DSF activities

The Secretariat will report on FAO ABNJ DSF activities.

CCAMLR

The Secretariat will report on cooperation with CCAMLR.

16. Future work

Progress of externally funded science projects

The Secretariat will report on progress of externally funded science projects.

Management and coordination of SIOFA science projects

The Secretariat will report on progress of SIOFA funded science projects.

The CCPs will report on progress of internally funded science projects.

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.

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.

Scientific Committee workplan and budget

The SC will develop the SC workplan and budget, including a project for an updated cumulative SIOFA BFIA (MoP12 report, para 129).

The 2027 meeting of the Scientific Committee

The SC will propose the dates for SC12.

17. Other business

Secretariat staff

The Executive Secretary will notify of the renewal of the Science Officer contract and introduce the new Secretariat staff member.

Elections of the SC chairperson and vice-chairperson

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.