SIOFA INDEPENDENT AUDIT OF DATA SECURITY:
ACCESS, DISSEMINATION AND PRESENTATION OF DATA
Project Code: SEC2021-05

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Executive Summary

The importance of data in the SIOFA Secretariat requires information security processes that ensure data providers trust that the levels of protection afforded to their data are appropriate and effective. Shared documentation, that provide a common understanding and expectation of data management policies and practices, are central to this objective.

Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2016/3 provides an overarching structure for access and use of data and provides definitions of data confidentiality. However, the current definitions on data confidentiality in CMM 2016/3 restrict the delivery of fishery reporting as requested by the SIOFA MoP. The format for data presentation is use-case specific and requires clarity in the processes for data dissemination and use, that include the data owners and users, rather than pre-determined data aggregation formats.

A proposed work plan is presented that includes strategic objectives of SIOFA, that would require consideration and review by the MoP and the SC, and those that relate to internal work practices in the Secretariat. It is suggested that SIOFA should revise CMM 2016/3 to clarify data confidentiality, and agree standard operating procedures for data requests, data use and meeting documents. Proposals for both of these are provided.

The SIOFA Secretariat should transition from separate topic-based databases to a corporate data model with consistent documentation including data naming standards, data dictionary and change registries. It should also develop and document clear procedures for data dissemination for both database extracts and derived data products as well as the procedure to be followed when changes are required. Suggestions for how these proposals could be implemented are provided.

In addition to the outcomes of this data security audit it is recommended that SIOFA review its management of unstructured data and content management systems.