



SIOFA | APSOI

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

Report of the 10th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC) of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Savoy Resort & Spa Seychelles, Beau Vallon, Seychelles

1–3 July 2026

Agenda item 1 – Opening of the session	5
1.1 Opening statements	5
Agenda item 2 – Administrative arrangements	5
2.1 Adoption of the agenda	5
2.2 Confirmation of meeting documents	5
2.3 Appointment of rapporteur.....	6
Agenda item 3 – SIOFA Compliance Monitoring Scheme.....	6
3.1 Consideration of the Draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR) and adoption of the Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (pSCR)	6
3.2 Review of Recommendations from the Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR) adopted by the 12 th Meeting of the Parties.....	8
Agenda item 4 – New or Amended Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).....	9
4.1 Recommendations from the Scientific Committee	9
4.2 Proposals for amendments to Conservation and Management Measures	10
4.3 Proposals for new Conservation and Management Measures	14
4.4 Discussion on the application of current CMMs	17
Agenda item 5 – Listing of IUU Vessels	17
5.1 Draft IUU Vessel List	17
5.2 Current SIOFA IUU Vessel List	17
Agenda item 6 – Monitoring, Control and Surveillance	18
6.1 Port inspection reports (CMM 08(2020) Port Inspection).....	18
6.2 Sighting of Vessels without Nationality (CMM 04(2016) Vessels without Nationality) and vessels flagged to Non-CCPs (CMM 09(2022) Control)	18
6.3 Review of Catches of Portuguese dogfish in Subarea 2 (CMM 12(2025) Sharks).....	18
6.4 Register of Authorised Vessels (CMM 07(2025) Vessel Authorisation)	19
6.5 Entry/Exit reports (CMM 10(2023) Monitoring)	19
6.6 At sea Transfer and Transshipment reports (CMM 10(2023) Monitoring)	19
Agenda item 7 – Operationalisation of the SIOFA VMS	19
7.1 Update of Workplan & Progress Toward Operationalization of the SIOFA VMS.....	19
7.2 Potential Amendments to SIOFA CMMs and the Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS.....	20
Agenda item 8 – Review of the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) 20	
Agenda item 9 – Implementation of Article 13 of the Agreement.....	21
Agenda item 10 – Capacity Building	21
Agenda item 11 – The SIOFA Performance Review.....	22
Agenda item 12 – Election of a Chair and Vice Chair for the Compliance Committee	22
Agenda item 13 – Any other business	23
Agenda item 14 – Adoption of the CC report	23
Agenda item 15 – Close of the meeting	23

List of Annexes

Annex A	List of registered participants
Annex B	Agenda
Annex C	List of meeting documents
Annex D	Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report
Annex E	China's proposal to amend CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring)
Annex F	Mauritius' proposal to amend CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme)
Annex G	Mauritius' proposal for an alternate method for collecting data required by paragraph 12 of CMM 02(2025) on Data Standards
Annex H	Australia's proposal to amend CMM 15(2025) (Management of Demersal Stocks)
Annex I	The EU's proposal to amend CMM 15(2025) (Management of Demersal Stocks)
Annex J	Japan's proposal to amend Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries)
Annex K	Mauritius' proposal to amend Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries)
Annex L	China's proposal for a new CMM for Fishery Independent Research Cruise in the SIOFA Area
Annex M	The Cook Islands' proposal for a new CMM for a SIOFA Allocation Framework
Annex N	The EU's Proposal for a New CMM for Research Cruise by Research Vessel in the SIOFA Area
Annex O	The EU's proposal for a new CMM for Scientific Research by Fishing Vessel in the SIOFA Area
Annex P	France (OT)'s proposal for a new CMM on promoting the objectives of SIOFA through cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement
Annex Q	Potential Amendments to SIOFA CMMs and the Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS
Annex R	Options to facilitate and address the capacity needs of CCP Developing States

Annex S Implementation plan for the SIOFA Performance Review Panel
recommendations

Agenda item 1 – Opening of the session

1.1 Opening statements

1. The Compliance Committee (CC) Chairperson, Mrs Meera Koonjul (Mauritius), opened the meeting at 09:00 am. The meeting was held at the Savoy Resort & Spa Seychelles, Beau Vallon, Seychelles.
2. The Chairperson welcomed all delegates and thanked them for their attendance. She congratulated Seychelles on 50 years of independence and thanked the government and authorities of Seychelles for their hospitality and for hosting the meeting. The Chairperson also expressed her gratitude to delegations for their contributions and dedication to the work of the CC and her thanks to the Secretariat for its hard work preparing for the meeting. The Chairperson also highlighted the full agenda, noting that it reflected the growing maturity of the CC and the scale of its work, and looked forward to productive discussions.
3. Seychelles welcomed all participants to CC10 and to Seychelles and expressed its wish for fruitful discussions and a pleasant meeting.
4. The Executive Secretary, Mr Thierry Clot, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Secretariat. He expressed his deep gratitude to the government and authorities of Seychelles and his congratulations on the 50th anniversary of Seychelles' independence. The Executive Secretary stated that the Secretariat has worked hard to ensure all documents and logistical arrangements are in order for the meeting and that the Secretariat looks forward to supporting the CC in its work.
5. The Chairperson opened the floor for delegation introductions. The list of participants is available in **Annex A**.
6. The Chairperson noted that Korea could not attend the meeting in person and was observing the discussions online.
7. The Chairperson welcomed the Observers attending the meeting in person and online. Comoros attended in person and India participated remotely as Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs). The Joint Commission of the Seychelles-Mauritius Joint Management Area (JMA), Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) and the Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA) attended in person. The Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC), the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), and the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) attended remotely.

Agenda item 2 – Administrative arrangements

2.1 Adoption of the agenda

8. The CC reviewed the provisional agenda (CC-10-ADM-03).
9. The CC adopted the agenda (**Annex B**).

2.2 Confirmation of meeting documents

10. The Compliance Officer, Mr Johnny Louys, explained that one paper, CC-10-32, a proposal from France (Overseas Territories (OT)) for a new CMM related to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), had been submitted late.
11. France (OT) explained that the proposal had been submitted late due to internal consultations and that it was based on a proposal that was also discussed and adopted at

the annual session of the IOTC, which took place a short time before CC10.

12. Chinese Taipei did not object to accepting the paper but cautioned against deviating from SIOFA's Rules of Procedure and setting a precedent for accepting the late submission of meeting documents.
13. The CC agreed to accept paper CC-10-32, despite its late submission, noting that it relates to the important matter of the BBNJ Agreement.
14. China requested that information paper CC-10-INFO-02 not be included or considered in any discussions at CC10 or MoP13 as the paper concerned alleged activities by light-seining vessels flagged to China that are operating in the northwest Indian Ocean, outside the area of jurisdiction and regulatory scope of the Agreement.
15. The European Union (EU) acknowledged that the alleged activities took place outside the SIOFA Agreement area. However, the EU noted that the alleged activities target squid, that there is no evidence indicating that such squid are not part of the same stock as the squid in the SIOFA Agreement area, and that this matter is therefore of interest to SIOFA. The EU also noted that, at China's suggestion, SIOFA has previously discussed the potential extension of the SIOFA Area to cover the northwest Indian Ocean and squid fisheries. The EU informed the CC that this matter was also raised at the IOTC, where China offered to investigate the matter and share the results of its investigation with the IOTC. The EU stated that it could accept China's request to not discuss CC-10-INFO-02 at SIOFA, provided China would share the results of its investigation of the matter with SIOFA as well.
16. China emphasised that it is essential to respect the SIOFA Agreement and its Rules of Procedure, and confine discussions to matters within SIOFA's mandate. Accordingly, China is not mandated to engage in reporting to SIOFA on any investigation relating to matters outside its area of competence. China attaches great importance to the conservation, management and long-term sustainable use of fishery resources, and strictly requires its distant-water fishing fleet to comply with the CMMs adopted by the relevant regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs). Should there be any relevant investigation findings, the Chinese government will share such information through the appropriate channels.
17. The EU reiterated that this is a matter of interest to SIOFA as the squid targeted in the alleged activities may be part of a straddling stock with the squid in the SIOFA Area, as was noted by the SC11 (paragraph 299, SC11 Report). The EU therefore considered SIOFA to be one of the appropriate channels for reporting the findings of the Chinese government's investigation.
18. The CC agreed that it would not discuss CC-10-INFO-02.
19. The list of meeting documents is presented in CC-10-ADM-04-Rev1 (**Annex C**).

2.3 Appointment of rapporteur

20. The CC agreed to appoint Mr Alexander Meyer (Urban Connections, Tokyo) as rapporteur.

Agenda item 3 – SIOFA Compliance Monitoring Scheme

3.1 Consideration of the Draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR) and adoption of the Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (pSCR)

21. The Compliance Officer presented the draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR) outlined in CC-10-01. He explained that two CCPs submitted their CCP Compliance Reports (CCRs) after the established deadline of 7 May 2026 and that two CCPs did not provide comments on their respective sections of the dSCR. He noted that although commenting on the draft report is voluntary, such input is an important part of the review process, as

it enables the Secretariat to consider additional information, clarifications, and corrections prior to finalising the dSCR.

22. The CC reviewed the dSCR and assigned the compliance status and relevant follow-up actions in accordance with the provisions of Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) as described in CC-10-01.
23. During its review, the CC held substantive discussions on a number of matters as described below.
24. Regarding the status of the Cook Islands' compliance with paragraph 15 of CMM 02(2025) and CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards), the Cook Islands accepted the proposed compliance status and the CC agreed to apply a status of "non-compliant".
25. Regarding the status of the Cook Islands' compliance with paragraph 12 of CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme), the Cook Islands accepted the proposed compliance status and the CC agreed to apply a status of "non-compliant".
26. Regarding the status of the Cook Islands' compliance with paragraphs 3, 4, 6, 8, and 9 of CMM 18(2025) (Benthic Fishery Closures), the Cook Islands provided additional information explaining that it ensures that these obligations are implemented through its specific and targeted high-seas authorisation conditions. The CC agreed to apply statuses of "compliant".
27. Regarding the status of the EU's compliance with paragraph 8 of CMM 18(2025) (Benthic Fishery Closures), the EU accepted the proposed compliance status and confirmed that the vessel did not report prior to entering and exiting a BFC from the entry into force of the CMM in 2025. The EU explained that the vessel transmits its position every hour, it can be followed and monitored, it had low levels of catches in Magneto, Coral, and Walter Shoal in October–December 2025, and that this reporting issue has been solved, with the first report in 2026 already sent to the SIOFA Secretariat. The CC agreed to apply a status of "non-compliant".
28. Regarding the status of France OT's compliance with paragraph 8 of CMM 18(2025) (Benthic Fishery Closures), France OT accepted the proposed compliance status and explained that it was late in implementing this obligation and has since issued a reminder to all of its vessels operating in the applicable areas. The CC agreed to apply a status of "non-compliant".
29. Regarding the status of Japan's compliance with paragraph 9 of CMM 02(2025) and CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards), Japan accepted the proposed compliance status and the CC agreed to apply a status of "non-compliant".
30. Regarding the status of Mauritius' compliance with paragraph 10 of CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring), Mauritius provided additional information demonstrating that it is implementing the obligations of this paragraph through its domestic regulations. The CC agreed to apply a status of "compliant".
31. Regarding the status of Seychelles' compliance with paragraphs 6 and 7 of CMM 02(2025) and CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards), Seychelles accepted the proposed compliance statuses and provided some additional explanation. Seychelles explained that its two industrial longline vessels only started operating in the SIOFA Area in 2024 and that Seychelles is still adapting to the different data reporting protocols and requirements under SIOFA. Seychelles suggested that the current SIOFA data standards require highly detailed, set-by-set information, which is appropriate for bottom longlines, but not necessarily for pelagic longline operations. Nevertheless, Seychelles is working to adapt its logbooks to the SIOFA data standards. The CC agreed to apply statuses of "non-compliant".

32. Regarding the status of Seychelles' compliance with paragraphs 12, 14, 15, 19 of CMM 02(2025) and CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards), and paragraph 11 of CMM 09(2022) (Control), Seychelles accepted the proposed compliance statuses and provided some additional explanation. Seychelles explained that it has difficulty deploying human observers on its two industrial longline vessels and is working with industry to implement an electronic monitoring system (EMS), hopefully by early 2027. The CC agreed to apply a status of "non-compliant" for Seychelles' compliance with paragraph 14 of CMM 02(2025) and CMM 02(2023) and "critically non-compliant" for its compliance with paragraphs 12, 15, and 19 of CMM 02(2025) and CMM 02(2023) and paragraph 11 of CMM 09(2022).
33. Japan requested Seychelles to submit the details of its EMS plans to the SC for the SC's evaluation and advice.
34. France (OT) pointed out that CMM 02(2025) may need to be amended to enable the use of EMS for fulfilling observer obligations and believed that the CMM, as currently written, could be read as requiring these obligations to be fulfilled specifically by human observers.
35. Regarding the status of Seychelles' compliance with paragraph 10 of CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring), Seychelles provided additional information demonstrating that it is implementing the obligations of this paragraph through its domestic regulations. The CC agreed to apply a status of "compliant".
36. Regarding the status of Comoros' compliance with paragraphs 21, 23, 28, 30 and 32 of CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring), Comoros accepted the proposed compliance statuses and informed the CC that it will take necessary measures to amend its domestic regulations and ensure that they are aligned with the obligations under the SIOFA CMMs. The CC agreed to assign statuses of "critically non-compliant".
37. The Chairperson encouraged Comoros to seek assistance from the Secretariat as necessary for ensuring alignment between its domestic regulations and the SIOFA CMMs.
38. Regarding the status of India's compliance with paragraph 12 of CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme), India accepted the proposed compliance status and explained that the delay of one day in submitting its report was due to administrative reasons. The CC agreed to assign a status of "non-compliant".
39. France (OT) pointed out that for some items, CCPs were unsure whether to assign a compliance status or indicate that a provision is "not applicable". France (OT) suggested that the CCR template could be reviewed and the wording for some items could be revised and clarified in order to avoid such uncertainty and ambiguity.
40. **The CC adopted the provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (pSCR) outlined in CC-10-18 (Annex D) and agreed to forward it to the Meeting of the Parties (MoP) for its consideration.**

3.2 Review of Recommendations from the Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR) adopted by the 12th Meeting of the Parties

41. The Compliance Officer explained that pursuant to paragraph 5 of CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) the CC and the MoP are required to review any other recommendations made by the MoP in the previous years' Final Compliance Reports. The Compliance Officer presented CC-10-09, which provided a review of recommendations of MoP12 on the Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR).
42. The CC reviewed and updated the status of the implementation of the recommendations from MoP12, as described in CC-10-09.
43. **The CC recommended that the MoP note the status of the implementation of the recommendations from MoP12 outlined in CC-10-09.**

44. The CC suggested that under “Status of Implementation”, when a CCP has provided feedback, a summary of the details of the feedback received from the CCP should be provided. The CC tasked the Secretariat to include this information when preparing future versions of this paper.

Agenda item 4 – New or Amended Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)

4.1 Recommendations from the Scientific Committee

45. The SC Vice Chairperson, Dr Zhou Fang (China), presented a summary of the SC11 report and the recommendations from SC11 that were relevant to the CC (CC-10-05-Rev1).
46. The CC discussed paragraph 75 of the SC11 report regarding the SC’s request for clarification on the scope of the application of paragraph 6 of CMM 18(2025) and whether paragraph 6 of CMM 18(2025) (BFCs) regarding the reporting requirements for vessels engaging in fishing within a BFC applied to all fisheries or only bottom fisheries. The EU expressed the view that, as paragraph 2 of the CMM states it applies to all bottom fishing vessels, paragraph 6 also applies only to bottom fishing vessels. Several other CCPs were of the view that paragraph 6 was intended specifically to capture all other vessels that are not bottom fishing vessels so as to ensure that any such vessels fishing in the vicinity of a BFC are monitored and taken into account in the BFC evaluation process, as some of the BFCs include features that are important not only to benthic species but to the broader ecosystem.
47. **The CC noted that there are some potential ambiguities in the current wording of CMM 18(2025) (BFCs) and recommended that the MoP discuss the scope of the application of paragraph 6 further at MoP13.**
48. The CC noted that a number of SC recommendations concerned proposals for amended or new CMMs and discussed these under agenda items 4.2 and 4.3, respectively.
49. The CC noted paragraph 209 of the SC11 report and the SC’s definition and description of benthopelagic trawls. **The CC noted that introducing a new definition for benthopelagic trawls may have ramifications for CCPs interpreting the applicability of CMMs and recommended that the MoP provide clarity as to which CMMs apply to benthopelagic trawls, should it adopt this new definition.**
50. The CC tasked the Secretariat to prepare a document assessing the implications of this potential new definition on existing CMMs and provide it for further consideration by the CC and MoP.
51. Japan commented on paragraphs 213 and 216 and the SC’s recommendations that the MoP reclassify any mid-water trawl using the agreed algorithm (Annex I, SC11 Report) where benthopelagic trawl gears are flown close to the seabed, typically between 6-50 metres, and do not have sustained seabed contact but infrequent unintended seabed contact can occur (Annex H, SC11 Report), and that the MoP prohibit the conducting of benthopelagic trawls in the SIOFA BFCs as this gear may occasionally contact the sea bottom. Japan stated that it supports the recommendation to prohibit the conducting of benthopelagic trawls in BFCs in principle based on the precautionary approach until such a time that the SC advises otherwise.
52. Australia commented on paragraph 445 of the SC11 report and the SC’s request for clarification from the MoP on the overall objectives of the SIOFA EM programme, including whether the data could also be used for compliance purposes. Australia pointed out that a number of different RFMOs have agreed or are developing EM standards and the objectives can vary slightly. Australia shared its own experience from the IOTC, where

EM is mainly used as a data collection tool for improving the quality of data collected but there should be no constraints on the CCP and their decision whether to also use EM for compliance purposes.

53. The Cook Islands noted that in the original version of CC-10-05, two recommendations from the SC11 report had been omitted in the summary, as they were not highlighted as recommendations in the SC11 report, and requested the Secretariat to take steps to prevent such an occurrence in the future.
54. The CC noted a lack of clarity around the intended role of the CC in reviewing the SC's recommendations. The CC further noted that most of the SC's recommendations were phrased as being addressed at the MoP and that while some of these recommendations were relevant to the CC, this was not clearly indicated in their wording. The CC agreed that going forward, it should focus its discussions on the SC recommendations that are of interest to the CC. The CC requested that the SC and the Secretariat facilitate this by specifically mentioning the CC when formulating recommendations if they are of relevance to the CC and by highlighting these recommendations when presenting the SC's recommendations at meetings of the CC.
55. The CC recommended that for these recommendations, in future SC reports, they should begin with "The SC recommended to the MoP and the CC..."

4.2 Proposals for amendments to Conservation and Management Measures

56. The CC noted paragraph 124 of the SC11 Report. **The CC endorsed the SC's recommendation that the MoP adopt the draft amendments to CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) (Annex D, SC11 Report).**
57. The CC noted paragraph 265 of the SC11 report. **The CC endorsed the SC's recommendation that the MoP adopt a modified version of Annex A (Vessel Catch and Effort Data) in CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) to include the number of species retained and discarded among the data that shall be collected, so that overlap statistics can be calculated (Annex D, SC11 Report).**
58. China presented CC-10-20, which proposed amendments to CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring). China explained that when conducting fisheries survey cruises in the SIOFA Area, it has had to submit repeated notifications of entry into or exit from the Agreement Area to the Secretariat due to survey station design and cruise routing requirements. China noted that this increases the compliance burden on CCPs and also adds to the Secretariat's workload. China explained that its proposed amendments aimed to streamline the reporting regime for research vessels entering and exiting the Agreement Area and enhance operational efficiency for scientific surveys, while upholding compliance with mandatory reporting obligations.
59. The Cook Islands expressed its general support for the proposal, while pointing out that an amendment to paragraph 5 to include research vessels would be needed. If that was included, the Cook Islands could be flexible on the loosening of requirements for entry and exit reporting for research vessels.
60. The EU and France (OT) stated that they could not support the current proposal due to conflicts with CMM 16(2025) (Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)). They also considered it necessary to distinguish between research vessels and fishing vessels that also conduct scientific activities.
61. Australia and Japan suggested that the use of VMS for automatic entry and exit notification could reduce the burden of entry/exit reporting on research vessels. Japan also suggested that China should share information about the area of its planned

- research activities, which would help other CCPs understand the operational realities and burdens China may face.
62. China noted that the discussions on the use of VMS for entry and exit notifications under agenda item 7.2 may have implications for its proposal. China expressed its intention to revisit its proposal at MoP13 based on the outcomes of the discussions under agenda item 7.2.
 63. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex E) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP13.**
 64. Mauritius presented CC-10-24, which proposed amendments to CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) to include “minor non-compliant” as a compliance status in the table under Annex 1 Compliance Categories, based on the recommendation made by MoP11 on the Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR) and reviewed by CC9 and MoP12.
 65. Several CCPs expressed their general support for the overall intention behind the proposal and expressed their interest in working with Mauritius in the margins to further refine the language of the proposal. But generally, CCPs suggested that “minor non-compliance” should be limited to issues like late submissions.
 66. Seychelles suggested that an alternative option to “minor non-compliant” could be “partially compliant”.
 67. China suggested that repeated minor non-compliances should qualify as non-compliance.
 68. Chinese Taipei suggested that the status of “minor non-compliant” should only be applied to administrative procedures and not to any matters of substantive fisheries management.
 69. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex F) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP13.**
 70. Mauritius presented CC-10-29, which proposed an alternate method for collecting data required by paragraph 12 of CMM 02(2025) on Data Standards that allow the Mauritius semi-industrial fishery to be exempted from the requirement to embark observers on board. Mauritius explained that it had made the proposal in light of the working conditions and limited space available on board its vessels operating on SIOFA Subarea 8 (Saya de Malha bank) and had submitted the proposal to SC11 for the SC’s review. Mauritius further explained that the SC requested it to submit a proposal detailing the current data collection system and future data collection plan, including indicative timeframes, addressing the observer data collection requirement for handlines on Mauritian semi-industrial vessels, to MoP13 and SC12, for further consideration and that the SC noted that this plan should effectively collect data independently from vessel reporting from all fields currently required under paragraph 12 of CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) for this fishery.
 71. Several CCPs expressed understanding for the challenges for Mauritius to deploy human observers.
 72. The Cook Islands reiterated the SC advice that Mauritius add coverage targets for its port sampling plans, including number of trips covered and the portion of catch to be covered.
 73. Japan pointed out the need to carefully examine any exemption of Mauritius from the obligations of CMM 02(2025) and believed that care should be taken to avoid setting a precedent that weakens the effectiveness of CMMs. Japan suggested Mauritius’ implementation of CMM 02(2025) should be subject to annual review by the SC.
 74. The CC noted the need for the SC to review Mauritius’ plans for the use of EM, and requested that Mauritius share these plans, including further details about the EM pilot,

- including timelines and specifications, with SC12 for review by the SC.
75. The EU noted that SIOFA has not yet developed EMS standards for the fisheries operated by Mauritian semi-industrial vessels and suggested that Mauritius could help drive the development of such standards.
 76. Mauritius pointed out that it is new to the use of EMS and suggested that it would need to be guided by an SC framework on how EMS can be used for data collection, including appropriate methodologies.
 77. Seychelles pointed out that it has also experienced difficulties submitting data to SIOFA as it has vessels registered to both SIOFA and the IOTC and the two organisations require data submissions in different formats, with SIOFA requiring finer-scale data. Seychelles suggested that the SC could review SIOFA's data standards from the perspective of the identifying minimum requirements for types of data and resolutions (e.g. in IOTC the resolution for pelagic longliners is 5°x5°) for conducting adequate stock assessment work without placing undue burden on CCPs.
 78. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex G) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP13.**
 79. Australia presented CC-10-22, which proposed amendments to CMM 15(2025) (Management of Demersal Stocks) to implement recommendations from SC11, implement an outstanding recommendation from SC10 to establish the South Indian Ridge (SIR) Management Area, establish a catch sharing arrangement for SIR, and remove an obsolete paragraph. The amendments aim to:
 - a. set catch limits for the Williams Ridge (WR) and Del Cano Rise (DCR) Management Areas,
 - b. establish the proposed SIR Management Area with a catch limit and catch-sharing arrangement,
 - c. clarify the line spacing requirements for longlines,
 - d. modify paragraph 14 regarding the achievement and reporting of tag overlap statistics,
 - e. remove paragraph 44.
 80. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex H) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP13.**
 81. The EU presented CC-10-26, which proposed amendments to CMM 15(2025) (Management of Demersal Stocks) to implement recommendations from SC 10 and SC11 in relation to the management of toothfish, orange roughy and alfonsino. The amendments aim to:
 - a. establish the SIR Management Area with the TAC recommended by the SC11,
 - b. establish an allocation mechanism for the SIR Management Area,
 - c. increase the TAC in the DCR Management Area as recommended by the SC11,
 - d. amend the management system in the WR Management Area to retain the catch limit while removing the "effort" management system as a first step to implement paragraph 255 of the SC11 report,
 - e. set up a catch limit for orange roughy as recommended by SC10,
 - f. and set up a catch limit for alfonsino as recommended by SC10.
 82. Japan pointed out that under the EU's proposal, Japan would lose the opportunity to participate in the fisheries in the DCR and SIR Management Areas.
 83. The Cook Islands noted that there were similarities between the proposals from Australia and the EU and encouraged them to collaborate on a joint proposal. The Cook Islands noted that the EU proposal also introduced new paragraphs with catch limits for alfonsino

and orange roughy. The Cook Islands stated that it could not support their inclusion until a definite allocation framework is in place or specific allocations for these fisheries are agreed, as there would otherwise be a risk of causing a race to fish.

84. Mauritius and Seychelles echoed the concerns raised by the Cook Islands about establishing catch limits for alfonsino and orange roughy. Mauritius pointed out that there are also no mechanisms of continuous control and reporting for alfonsino, making it difficult to implement a catch limit. It also suggested that a more appropriate timing for discussing a catch limit for alfonsino would be after the stock assessment planned for 2027.
85. France (OT) expressed its support for the establishment of catch limits for alfonsino and orange roughy, in line with several recommendations of the SC.
86. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex I) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP13.**
87. Japan presented CC-10-23, which proposed amendments to Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) to implement the recommendations by the SC11. The amendments aim to:
 - a. better reflect which gears are operated by which CCPs for each targeted-species/fisheries,
 - b. enable the incorporation of other commercially valuable species that have been taken by CCPs but are not currently listed,
 - c. reflect more detailed information about which areas are fished,
 - d. and update information about participants in established fisheries.
88. Chinese Taipei requested that more detailed area information about its oilfish fisheries be included in the proposal.
89. Japan presented a revised paper with more detailed area information about Chinese Taipei's oilfish fisheries (CC-10-23-Rev1).
90. Some CCPs pointed out that any proposed amendments to the table of established fisheries must first be reviewed by the SC as per past practices.
91. Chinese Taipei pointed out that it has submitted this information to the SC in its annual reports.
92. Mauritius expressed its reservations regarding the inclusion of benthopelagic trawl in the table of established fisheries, pointing out that this is a new definition, that the details need to be more carefully reviewed, and that further discussion is needed on the management implications, including whether or not the gear contacts the bottom and a bottom fishing impact assessment would be needed.
93. Japan noted that SC11 discussed the definition of benthopelagic trawl and acknowledged that further discussion of the management of benthopelagic trawl fisheries and the implications for CMMs is needed but believed that such discussion should be kept separate from discussions of the table of established fisheries.
94. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex J) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP13.**
95. Mauritius presented CC-10-25, which proposed amendments to Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) to include Mauritius' alfonsino mid-water trawl fishery in the table of established SIOFA fisheries based on the recommendation of MoP12 and the advice of SC11. Mauritius noted that this amendment was also taken into account in Japan's proposal.
96. The Cook Islands expressed its preference to move forward with Japan's proposal on CMM 17(2025) as it is more closely aligned with the discussions at SC11. Mauritius agreed

to discuss with Japan as long as the Mauritius amendments are considered.

97. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex K) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP13.**

4.3 Proposals for new Conservation and Management Measures

98. China presented CC-10-19, which proposed a new CMM for Fishery Independent Research Cruise in the SIOFA Area. China explained that the CMM is intended to establish a clear and comprehensive framework to govern fishery independent research cruise activities and builds on discussions that were initiated by the EU proposal (MoP-12-48-Rev1) submitted at MoP12, and were further elaborated during the Scientific Committee Workshop WS2025 - ORS: Window of Opportunity – Research Vessels in SIOFA and SC11.
99. The EU suggested that provisions regarding the role of the CC should also be included in such a CMM.
100. The Cook Islands noted that the EU had also submitted a proposal for a new CMM on research cruises by research vessels (CC-10-27). The Cook Islands expressed its general support for both proposals, while expressing its slight preference for the EU proposal as it enables more explicit control by the SC and the MoP. The Cook Islands expressed its hope that SIOFA could adopt such a CMM this year.
101. Australia appreciated the Chinese and EU proposals and encouraged the two CCPs to collaborate on a joint proposal.
102. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex L) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP13.**
103. The Cook Islands presented CC-10-21, which proposed a new CMM for a SIOFA Allocation Framework based on the direction of the MoP and the discussions of the CC and the SC. The Cook Islands explained that it had presented the proposal to CC9 and MoP12 and had subsequently incorporated CCP feedback from those meetings, as well as ongoing intersessional consultations. Such feedback includes, for example, language to ensure that this measure does not conflict any other CMM in force, provisions for new entrants and ensuring certainty and transparency in the process for SIOFA CCPs, and provisions outlining the scope of proportional historical catch as an allocation criterion. Overall, the proposal seeks to ensure that the MOP applies effective, sustainable and fair criteria for allocating catch and effort in SIOFA fisheries within areas beyond national jurisdiction, and to ensure that the rights of all SIOFA CCPs are respected, while providing for the legitimate rights and aspirations of developing coastal States, particularly small island developing States (SIDS), in the development of sustainable fisheries.
104. Several CCPs offered initial comments on the proposal. While generally supportive, a number of CCPs pointed out that more substantive discussions would need to take place at the MoP.
105. Australia expressed general comfort with the proposal while pointing out the need to carefully review the provisions to avoid unintended consequences, particularly with regard to the use of proportional historical catch. Australia emphasised that the purpose of the inclusion of catch history is not to legitimise unsustainable catch, but to recognise the legitimate participation in a fishery and this should be reflected in the text.
106. The EU wondered whether an overall allocation framework is necessary in SIOFA and whether a stock-by-stock allocation may be more appropriate as SIOFA does not have many priority stocks.
107. Chinese Taipei raised questions about the exclusion of CNCPs from allocation rights in paragraph 1, the background behind the 6% figure for the reserve for new entrants in paragraph 5, and the prohibition of the transfer of quotas by new entrants within the first

three years in paragraph 11. The Cook Islands explained that the provision in paragraph 1 had been introduced based on feedback from a CCP at MoP12. Regarding the 6% figure, the Cook Islands explained that it was an attempt to find a balance between CCPs calling for a higher figure than was tabled in 2025, and the fact some fisheries may be close to fully subscribed. The Cook Islands clarified that the figure was tentative and was in square brackets to reflect that, but it noted that it would be willing to work on wording that could be more generalised. Regarding paragraph 11, the Cook Islands explained that this was introduced based on feedback from CCPs indicating their preference to avoid paper quotas, whereby new entrants receive a quota and immediately transfer it away, instead of utilising it.

108. China suggested that as this would be a general framework for all species, it may be more appropriate not to set a specific percentage for the reserve for new entrants.
109. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex M) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP13.**
110. The EU presented CC-10-27, which proposed a new CMM for Research Cruise by Research Vessel in the SIOFA Area. The EU explained that this version of the proposal builds on previous versions submitted to the MoP12 and SC11 and is intended to continue discussions on the establishment of a framework for considering research cruises by research vessels in the SIOFA Area. Research cruises have been conducted already in the SIOFA area by CCPs and non-CCPs. The EU also noted that if SIOFA adopts a CMM for research cruises, it may become necessary to amend CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) to clearly identify data derived from research cruises and its data access arrangements.
111. The Cook Islands suggested that the new CMM would need to be brought into alignment with paragraph 1 of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).
112. In response to a request for clarification from Australia, the EU confirmed that the current proposal did not require research vessels to carry an observer onboard or to be equipped with a VMS.
113. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex N) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP13.**
114. The EU presented CC-10-28, which proposed a new CMM for Scientific Research by Fishing Vessel in the SIOFA Area. The EU explained that this version of the proposal builds on previous versions submitted to the MoP12 and SC11 and is intended to continue discussions on the establishment of a framework for considering scientific research by fishing vessels in the SIOFA Area.
115. The Cook Islands expressed concern that the proposed CMM would hinder observers from undertaking their duties. The Cook Islands did not consider it necessary to propose a research plan for ongoing observer activities or for vessels conducting scientific work such as acoustic surveys which are undertaken as a normal part of the fishing operations. The Cook Islands noted that if the intent of this proposal was aimed at unique fishing trips where the vessel is deviating from normal operations or testing alternative gears, then that should be clarified in the proposed measure.
116. Seychelles noted the usefulness of a CMM specifically for scientific research by fishing vessels given that some developing countries do not necessarily have dedicated or suitable research vessels.
117. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex O) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP13.**
118. France (OT) presented CC-10-32, which proposed a new CMM on promoting the objectives of SIOFA through cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement (the Agreement under

the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction). France (OT) explained that the BBNJ Agreement entered into force on the 17 January 2026 and that the proposed CMM is intended to facilitate the consideration of RFMOs' competences, objectives, knowledge and governance within the BBNJ decision-making process. France (OT) further explained that the IOTC, based on a proposal by the Maldives, adopted a resolution pursuing identical goals at its 2026 annual session, and that the proposed CMM presents a similar approach in its wording, in order to establish a coherent framework within the RFMOs of the Indian Ocean. France (OT) raised the question of which format would be most adequate for this proposal, and which would not necessarily be a CMM. France (OT) wished to explore whether other instruments of international law might be considered by the CC.

119. Several CCPs expressed general support for the proposal, in light of the importance and timeliness of discussing the BBNJ Agreement at SIOFA. Some CCPs were supportive but questioned whether a CMM would be the right format, or whether a less legally binding format may be more appropriate. One suggestion was for an MoP Decision instead, but France (OT) expressed its preference for a different instrument, as a Decision would not be very visible to those outside SIOFA.
120. The Executive Secretary informed the CC that under the Agreement, the MoP has two binding instruments available: CMMs under Article 6(1)(d), and decisions of general application under Article 8. Both are equally binding once adopted. There is currently no standing non-binding instrument, such as a Resolution, under the Agreement. A preliminary review of other RFMOs shows a range of practices and the IOTC's Resolution is, to the Secretariat's knowledge, the only example of a dedicated binding instrument on BBNJ cooperation. The Executive Secretary also noted a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding or Arrangement may also fit the kind of institutional cooperation proposed. SIOFA has precedent for this approach, such as its Arrangements with Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) or the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS). The Executive Secretary suggested the CC and the MoP could consider whether it would be appropriate to proceed within SIOFA's existing instruments or whether this points to a broader gap in the Rules of Procedure, which may be worth exploring. The Secretariat will look at alternative processes and aim to present these during MoP13.
121. France (OT) mentioned that SIOFA has an existing resolution on the Agreement Between the Government of the French Republic and the Secretariat of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement concerning the Headquarters of the Secretariat and its Privileges and Immunities in French Territory and therefore asked the Secretariat whether this tool could be replicated.
122. Chinese Taipei welcomed the proposal, while noting that it places a lot of responsibility on the Secretariat. Chinese Taipei questioned whether the Secretariat had sufficient capacity to carry out all these tasks and also whether SIOFA had sufficient budget for the proposed activities.
123. The Executive Secretary noted that paragraph 4(g) of the proposal creates a standing set of functions, paragraph 8(c) adds BBNJ as a standing MoP agenda item, paragraph 7 requires periodic reporting, and paragraphs 2(b) and 4 envisage participation in BBNJ Conference of the Parties and subsidiary meetings, which carry travel and participation costs that are currently not provided for. He also pointed out that the Secretariat's

current staffing capacity and budget are already fully committed to delivering its existing work programme and that any new obligations would need to be weighed against the current work programme. The Executive Secretary also invited the CC and the MoP to provide guidance on the Secretariat's mandate when participating in BBNJ meetings and how it should engage in said process.

124. **The CC agreed that the proposal (Annex P) requires further discussion and recommended that the MoP develop the proposal further at MoP13.**

4.4 Discussion on the application of current CMMs

125. The EU informed the CC that when it was filling out its CCR, it was unsure whether the obligation under paragraph 14 of CMM 1(2025) (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing) concerned reporting of all interactions with vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) or only those where the VME encounter threshold was exceeded.
126. The Secretariat clarified that the obligation only concerned the reporting of interactions where the VME encounter threshold was exceeded.
127. The EU noted that it has been reporting all interactions with VMEs, regardless of whether the encounter threshold was exceeded, in its annual reports to the SC. The EU suggested that the MoP could consider asking the advice of the SC on whether the reporting of all interactions with VMEs in the annual report, even if the encounter threshold is not exceeded, would be useful. If so, the SC could recommend that the MoP request all CCPs to report such information in their annual reports going forward.
128. **The CC noted that the SC last reviewed the encounter thresholds in 2023 and recommended that the MoP task the SC to prioritise such a review in its workplan.**

Agenda item 5 – Listing of IUU Vessels

5.1 Draft IUU Vessel List

129. The Compliance Officer presented CC-10-02, which provided information regarding the draft illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) vessel list. He explained that the Secretariat did not receive any information about any vessels that are presumed to have engaged in IUU fishing activities.
130. **The CC noted that no vessels had been proposed for inclusion on the draft SIOFA IUU vessel list.**

5.2 Current SIOFA IUU Vessel List

131. The Compliance Officer presented CC-10-04-Rev1, which provided information regarding the current SIOFA IUU Vessel List. He explained that the list was updated intersessionally to include updates from the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC; Intersessional Cross Listing Procedure through Circular N° 2025-22), as well as SPRFMO and the IOTC (Intersessional Cross Listing Procedure through Circular N° 2026-06). Furthermore, he explained that the Secretariat did not receive any request to remove any vessels listed by SIOFA on the current SIOFA IUU Vessel List for consideration by the CC and the MoP. In addition, he explained that the Secretariat received comments from one CCP regarding changes in the IUU vessel lists of other RFMOs that have not been reflected for the vessels on the current SIOFA IUU Vessel List that have been cross-listed from other RFMOs. Based on this information, the following changes to the current SIOFA IUU Vessel List are proposed:
- Update the flag of *FREEDOM 7* from CAMEROON to UNKNOWN
 - Delist the vessel *FU HSIANG FA*, as it was removed from the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) IUU Vessel List in 2024.

- c. Provide additional details about *HE LI 1 HAO* based on the IOTC IUU vessel list (originating RFMO), namely IMO N°: 8524492; previous vessel name: *SINAR ABADI 69*.
 - d. Provide additional details about *OCEAN STAR N°2*: International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) IUU vessel list (originating RFMO), namely IMO N°: 8665193.
 - e. Provide additional details about *TA FU 1*: ICCAT IUU vessel list (originating RFMO), namely IMO N°: 9259070.
132. **The CC recommended that the MoP update the details for *FREEDOM 7*, *HE LI 1 HAO*, *OCEAN STAR N°2*, and *TA FU 1* on the current SIOFA IUU Vessel List based on changes to the IUU vessel lists of other RFMOs, as described in CC-10-04-Rev1.**
133. **The CC recommended that the MoP remove *FU HSIANG FA* from the current SIOFA IUU Vessel List based on the vessel's removal from the GFCM IUU Vessel List in 2024.**
134. **The CC recommended that these changes be made with immediate effect after adoption by the MoP.**

Agenda item 6 – Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

6.1 Port inspection reports (CMM 08(2020) Port Inspection)

135. The Compliance Officer presented a summary of port inspection reports received by the Secretariat pursuant to CMM 08(2020) (Port Inspection) as described in CC-10-03-Rev1. A total of 55 inspection reports were submitted to the Secretariat in 2025, with 23 reports from SIOFA CCPs and 32 reports from non-CCPs. These inspection reports were received through various channels, including the FAO Global Information Exchange System (GIES), the IOTC's electronic Port State Measures (ePSM) platform, and direct submissions via email to the Secretariat.
136. **The CC noted the summary of port inspection reports provided in CC-10-03-Rev1.**

6.2 Sighting of Vessels without Nationality (CMM 04(2016) Vessels without Nationality) and vessels flagged to Non-CCPs (CMM 09(2022) Control)

137. The Compliance Officer presented a summary of reports of sightings of vessels without nationality (CMM 04(2016) (Vessels without Nationality)) and vessels flagged to non-CCPs (CMM 09(2022) (Control)) as described in CC-10-03-Rev1. No reports of sightings of vessels without nationality or vessels flagged to non-CCPs in the Agreement Area were provided to the Secretariat in 2025.
138. **The CC noted the summary of reports of sightings of vessels without nationality and vessels flagged to non-CCPs provided in CC-10-03-Rev1.**

6.3 Review of Catches of Portuguese dogfish in Subarea 2 (CMM 12(2025) Sharks)

139. The Compliance Officer presented a review of catches of Portuguese dogfish in Subarea 2 as described in CC-10-03-Rev1. For 2025, the Secretariat received 11 monthly reports of catches of Portuguese dogfish from one CCP, which indicated catches of Portuguese dogfish for the months of February, March and October to December. The reported catch for 2025 was 513.473t, representing 70% of the established catch limit. All reports but one were submitted within the provided deadline. The Secretariat was of the view that there were no compliance issues with the monthly report submitted after the deadline, as the concerned report reported null catches, and the CMM imposes reporting requirements only in instances where there were actual catches of Portuguese dogfish.
140. **The CC noted the review of catches of Portuguese dogfish in Subarea 2 provided in CC-10-03-Rev1.**

6.4 Register of Authorised Vessels (CMM 07(2025) Vessel Authorisation)

141. The Data Officer, Mr Pierre Périès, presented an update on the status of the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels (RAV). As of the end of 2025, 94 vessels were registered on the SIOFA RAV, as described in CC-10-03-Rev1.
142. **The CC noted the summary of the status of the SIOFA RAV provided in CC-10-03-Rev1.**

6.5 Entry/Exit reports (CMM 10(2023) Monitoring)

143. The Data Officer presented the entry/exit notifications summary report, as described in CC-10-03-Rev1. A total of 1478 entry-exit notifications were received at the Secretariat from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. 11 notifications were provided late, after the 24-hour period of delay.
144. **The CC noted the entry/exit notifications summary report provided in CC-10-03-Rev1.**

6.6 At sea Transfer and Transshipment reports (CMM 10(2023) Monitoring)

145. The Data Officer presented a report of CCPs' at sea transfers and transshipments, as described in CC-10-03-Rev1. For 2025, the Secretariat received notifications for 302 at sea transfers from the Cook Islands, 16 at sea transshipments and 6 at sea transfers from Japan, 1 at sea transshipment from Seychelles, 329 at sea transshipments and 186 at sea transfers from Chinese Taipei, and 7 at sea transfers from Thailand.
146. The Cook Islands explained that its at sea transfers are from its bunker vessel.
147. **The CC noted the report of CCPs' at sea transfers and transshipments provided in CC-10-03-Rev1.**

Agenda item 7 – Operationalisation of the SIOFA VMS

7.1 Update of Workplan & Progress Toward Operationalization of the SIOFA VMS

148. On behalf of the Chairperson of the SIOFA VMS Working Group (VMS-WG), Ms Fiona Harford, the Compliance Officer presented CC-10-10, which provided an update on the progress made by the VMS WG since MoP12. The VMS WG held four intersessional meetings, which resulted in the following conclusions: adoption of the Pilot Phase for the SIOFA VMS, completion of work related to the consideration of the use of the SIOFA VMS for the submission of entry and exit notifications, and review of CMM 16(2025) (VMS) in relation to possible amendments to the NAF messages data elements in Annex 2 of the CMM and Annex 1 of the SIOFA VMS standards, specifications and procedures (SSPs). Following the recommendations put forward by the Selection Panel for the SIOFA VMS, the Secretariat completed the procurement process for the SIOFA VMS, which resulted in the awarding of a contract to Collecte Localisation Satellites (CLS) as the provider of Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) VMS services to SIOFA for a period of thirty-six (36) months, commencing in January 2026. CLS has undertaken the set-up of the SIOFA VMS and provided training to SIOFA staff in the use and administration of the system. The Pilot Phase for the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System was also completed and the detailed outcomes are described in CC-10-INFO-01. Based on the outcomes of the pilot phase, the VMS is considered to be operationally ready for its entry into operation, subject to endorsement of the CC and the MoP, and automated entry and exit reporting under the SIOFA VMS is considered to be technically feasible, under certain conditions. In addition, the Secretariat successfully completed a second scoping mission concerning the VMS of other RFMOs, this time with the SPRFMO Secretariat.
149. **The CC noted the progress made by the VMS WG towards the operationalisation of the SIOFA VMS.**
150. **The CC recommended that the MoP agree on the entry into operation of the SIOFA**

VMS.

151. The CC thanked Ms Fiona Harford for her hard work and leadership as the VMS WG Chairperson, the Secretariat for its diligent efforts to support the work to establish and enter the SIOFA VMS into operation, and CCPs for their constructive input and engagement.

7.2 Potential Amendments to SIOFA CMMs and the Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS

152. On behalf of the VMS WG Chair, the Compliance Officer presented CC-10-11, which provided potential amendments to CMMs and the SIOFA SSPs to support the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS as discussed by the VMS WG. He explained that the VMS WG had proposed replacing paragraph 15 of CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring) with new provisions and the deletion of Annex I of CMM 10(2023) to facilitate the use of the SIOFA VMS for the submission of entry and exit notifications, and that it had also proposed potential amendments to the NAF messages data elements in Annex 2 of CMM 16(2025) (VMS) and Annex 1 of the SIOFA VMS SSPs. He also informed the CC that during the VMS WG's discussions, one CCP had proposed deleting the entry ('ENT') and exit ('EXI') data reporting elements from NAF messages but that these were inconsistent with the recommendations and conclusions formulated by the VMS WG in paper VMSWG-09-01 on the use of the VMS for the automation of entry and exit reporting.
153. The CC considered the proposal by Chinese Taipei to delete the entry ('ENT') and exit ('EXI') data reporting elements from NAF messages in Table 1 of Annex 2 to CMM 16(2025) and Annex 1 to the SSPs. The CCP that had made the suggestion explained that it had encountered technical issues whereby the entry and exit notifications could not be smoothly transmit notifications through its VMS. The CCP stated it needed to retain the option to send entry and exit notifications by email. To address the technical issues it faces, the CCP proposed some further amendments to paragraph 15bis of CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring) and the addition of a footnote to the table of NAF messages data elements in Annex 2 of CMM 16(2025) (VMS) and Annex 1 of the SIOFA VMS SSPs.
154. The CC endorsed the additional proposed amendments and the Compliance Officer presented a revised paper that incorporated these additions (CC-10-11-Rev1).
155. The CC reviewed and revised the paper further (CC-10-11-Rev2).
156. **The CC recommended that the MoP adopt the potential amendments to CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring), CMM 16(2025) (VMS), and the SIOFA SSPs to support the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS as described in Annex Q.**

Agenda item 8 – Review of the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs)

157. The CC acknowledged that Comoros had written to the Secretariat on 4 May 2026 to apply to retain its CNCP status (CC-10-08).
158. **The CC recommended that the MoP determine that Comoros qualifies to retain its CNCP status.**
159. The CC encouraged Comoros to amend its domestic regulations to enhance their alignment with the SIOFA CMMs, particularly CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring), in time for CC11 and MoP13.
160. Comoros thanked the CC for supporting its application for renewal of its CNCP status and reiterated its intention to ensure compliance with the SIOFA CMMs and the Agreement as soon as possible.
161. The CC acknowledged that India had written to the Secretariat on 24 April 2026 to apply

to retain its CNCP status (CC-10-08).

162. **The CC recommended that the MoP determine that India qualifies to retain its CNCP status.**

163. The CC reiterated its encouragement for India to attend future meetings of the CC in person.

Agenda item 9 – Implementation of Article 13 of the Agreement

164. The Executive Secretary provided an update on the implementation of Article 13 in 2025–2026. In response to a request from the Cook Islands for capacity building and support regarding the management and processing of its data, with an emphasis on Microsoft Access Database and SIOFA data checking procedures, the Data Officer conducted training with four officers of the Ministry of Marine Resources from 15 to 23 November 2025 in Avarua. As for CP and non-CCP developing States, while SIOFA does not currently have a formal capacity building framework for them, it provides financial assistance to support their participation in SIOFA meetings. The Secretariat also reaches out to neighbouring coastal States every year to encourage their participation and accession to the Agreement and offers financial assistance to facilitate that as well. In 2026, the Secretariat has provided financial assistance to support participation by developing States in SC11 and MoP13.

165. The Cook Islands thanked the Secretariat and the Data Officer in particular for their capacity building assistance. The Cook Islands welcomed this assistance as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) and explained that it has a small administration and that such assistance supports its effective participation in SIOFA processes.

Agenda item 10 – Capacity Building

166. The Executive Secretary presented CC-10-07 which outlined options to facilitate and address the capacity needs of CCP developing States. He explained that MoP11 had tasked the Secretariat to identify capacity building needs of developing States and provide options for addressing these needs. Through a first round of consultations with CCPs, the Secretariat developed a paper and submitted it to MoP12 for discussion. In order to efficiently implement the options and address the needs for capacity building, MoP12 tasked the Secretariat to correspond with the relevant CCPs again to seek their input on their preferences among the proposed options in MoP-12-25-Rev2 and to submit an updated paper, with CCPs' input, for review to SC11, CC10, and MoP13. The Executive Secretary suggested that it could be useful to engage a consultant to develop a capacity building action plan to 1) define criteria of vulnerability indices to gauge the eligibility for assistance; 2) establish a timeline of the priority actions to be done starting from January 2027; 3) determine the budget necessary for the in-person workshops; and 4) consult stakeholders to organise training and workshops virtually or in-person.

167. The CC reviewed the potential options for addressing capacity needs and provided further comments (CC-10-07-Rev1).

168. In response to a request for clarification, the Executive Secretary explained that the task of consolidating the different capacity building requests from CCPs and identifying areas of common need or higher priority is envisioned to be conducted by the consultancy.

169. The CC expressed general support for the recruitment of a consultant to prepare a Capacity Building Action Plan, noting the importance of SIOFA having a mechanism for building the capacity of all CCPs and supporting their ability to fully implement the SIOFA CMMs.

170. The CC suggested that the consultancy should be funded by voluntary contributions,

noting that one potential source could be the Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Programme (SWIOP).

171. Regarding the scope of the consultancy, the EU suggested that determining the eligibility for capacity building assistance may not be necessary as this has already been discussed and determined by the MoP.
172. Pew reminded the CC that it has developed a new capacity self-assessment tool (CSAT), the details of which are available in MoP-13-INFO-13. Pew explained that the tool is designed for use by CCPs internally to highlight areas of capacity need and suggested that the tool could be used to augment the list of capacity building needs identified in CC-10-07. Pew also informed the CC that it has funds available to support the utilisation of the CSAT.
173. The CC tasked the Secretariat to work with Pew to identify how the CSAT could be incorporated into SIOFA's capacity building work.
174. **The CC recommended that the MoP consider the CC's input on potential options for addressing capacity needs related to compliance and straddling themes (Annex R).**
175. **The CC recommended that the MoP endorse the recruitment of a consultant to prepare a Capacity Building Action Plan, which will be assessed during SC12, CC11 and presented for adoption to MoP14.**
176. **The CC recommended that the MoP seek voluntary contributions to fund the consultancy to prepare a Capacity Building Action Plan.**

Agenda item 11 – The SIOFA Performance Review

177. The Executive Secretary presented CC-10-06, which provided a summary of the status of the implementation of the recommendations proposed by the SIOFA Performance Review Panel in 2023 and adopted by MoP10. The summary was updated at MoP12, with input from the SC and the CC. Further updates have been proposed by SC11. The Executive Secretary highlighted the recommendations relevant to the CC and invited the CC to provide further comments as appropriate.
178. The CC reviewed and endorsed the implementation plan (**Annex S**).
179. **The CC recommended that the MoP note the CC's input and the current status of the plan adopted at MoP12 for the implementation of the SIOFA Performance Review Panel recommendations as detailed in Annex S.**
180. The Executive Secretary also highlighted that the first Performance Review Report recommended that another Performance Review process be held within an appropriate time frame, such as 5 years from the first iteration.
181. The CC considered this recommendation. Some CCPs offered initial comments, while noting that further discussions would need to take place at the MoP. Some CCPs supported the conducting of a second Performance Review and suggested a timeline in which a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Performance Review could be adopted at MoP14, the Performance Review would be conducted in 2027–2028, and the results would be submitted to MoP15. The EU supported conducting a second Performance Review but expressed reservations about the proposed 5-year timeline. This CCP noted that there is still substantive work to do to address the recommendations from the first Performance Review and suggested that the MoP should not begin drafting a ToR until the recommendations from the first Performance Review have been addressed, so that progress on those recommendations can be fully taken into account in the drafting of the ToR.

Agenda item 12 – Election of a Chair and Vice Chair for the Compliance

Committee

182. The CC noted that the Chairperson, Mrs Meera Koonjul (Mauritius), and the Vice Chairperson, Mr Patrick Sachs (Australia), will have completed their two-year terms at the end of CC10.
183. **The CC agreed to re-elect Mrs Meera Koonjul to serve as the CC Chairperson for another two-year term.**
184. **The CC agreed to re-elect Mr Patrick Sachs to serve as the CC Vice Chairperson for another two-year term.**

Agenda item 13 – Any other business

185. The EU noted that SIOFA has matured as an organisation, many CC processes have become firmly established and are running smoothly, and the CC's review of recommendations from the SC is expected to become more streamlined and focused going forward.
186. The EU also suggested that the review of proposals for amended or new CMMs could be streamlined and that proposals that do not have compliance aspects, such as the proposal for a new CMM for a SIOFA allocation framework, need not be reviewed by the CC and should be reviewed by the MoP.
187. The CC acknowledged that it may not be necessary for it to have substantive discussions about CMM proposals that have no compliance aspects, but believed that such CMM proposals could still be presented at the CC.
188. The CC noted that there has been a blurring of the division of functions between the CC and the MoP and that this may need to be reviewed and potentially clarified.
189. The Executive Secretary pointed out that any substantive change to the functions of the CC may require amendments to the CC's ToR.
190. **The CC recommended that the MoP consider reducing the default duration of CC meetings from three days to two days.**

Agenda item 14 – Adoption of the CC report

191. The report of the 10th meeting of the SIOFA CC was adopted.

Agenda item 15 – Close of the meeting

192. The CC thanked the Chairperson for her excellent leadership.
193. The CC also thanked the rapporteur and the Secretariat for organising and conducting the CC meeting.
194. The Chairperson thanked the Executive Secretary, the Compliance Officer, and all other members of the Secretariat, as well as the CC participants, the rapporteur, and the technicians for their support.
195. The Chairperson closed the meeting at 11:35 a.m., 3 July 2026.

10th Meeting of Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the parties to SIOFA

Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026

CC-10-ADM-06

List of registered participants (CC10)

SIOFA.Secretariat

Meeting	Compliance Committee ☒ Meeting of the Parties ☐
Document type	Administrative Paper ☒ Proposal or Working Paper ☐ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ☒ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	
This document presents the list of the participants who have been registered to attend the 10 th Meeting of the Compliance Committee.	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

List of Registered Participants (CC10)

Delegation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Role	Mode
Chairperson					
	Mrs	Meera	Koonjul	CC Chairperson	In-person
Contracting Parties, Participating Fishing Entities and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties (CCPs)					
Australia	Mr	Patrick	Sachs	Head of Delegation	in person
Australia	Ms	Heather	Johnston	Alternate	in person
Australia	Mr	Trent	Timmis	advisor	remote
Australia	Mr	Daniel	Wright	advisor	remote
Australia	Ms	Stacey	Antunovich	advisor	remote
Australia	Mr	Nazmul	Alam	advisor	remote
Australia	Mr	David	Power	advisor	remote
Australia	Mr	Fraser	McEachan	advisor	remote
Australia	Mr	Andrew	Field	advisor	remote
Australia	Ms	Selina	Stoute	advisor	remote
Australia	Ms	Rachel	Downes	advisor	remote
Australia	Mr	Eric	Appleyard	advisor	remote
Australia	Mr	Rhys	Arangio	advisor	remote
Australia	Ms	Danait	Ghebrezgabheir	advisor	remote
China	Dr	Jie	Lu	Head of Delegation	in person

Delegation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Role	Mode
China	Mr	Ming	Zhao	Alternate	remote
China	Mr	Yujian	Zhao	Advisor	remote
China	Ms	Shimin	Liu	Advisor	remote
China	Ms	Tinglin	Li	Advisor	in person
China	Mr	Ce	Liu	Advisor	remote
China	Mr	Chong	Sun	Advisor	remote
China	Dr	Zhou	Fang	Advisor	in person
China	Mr	Jun	Yu	Advisor	in person
China	Dr	Jiaqi	Wang	Advisor	in person
China	Dr	Yue	Jin	Advisor	remote
China	Dr	Heng	Zhang	Advisor	remote
China	Dr	Yongchuang	Shi	Advisor	remote
China	Dr	Guoqing	Zhao	Advisor	remote
Cook Islands	Mr	Lualua	Tua-Trood	Head of Delegation	in person
Cook Islands	Mr	Stephen	Brouwer	Alternate	in person
Cook Islands	Mr	Vivian	Fernandes	Delegate	remote
European Union	Ms	Laura	Marot	Head of Delegation	in person
European Union	Ms	Olivia	Van Havre	Alternate	in person
European Union	Mr	Stijn	Billiet	Advisor	in person
European Union	Ms	Sifra	Blokuis	Advisor	remote

Delegation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Role	Mode
European Union	Ms	Margarita	Mancebo Robledo	Advisor	remote
European Union	Mr	Luis	Belmonte González	Advisor	in person
European Union	Mr	Jonathan	Vila Graña	Advisor	remote
European Union	Ms	Teresa	Molina Schmid	Advisor	remote
European Union	Ms	Elodie	Seznec	Advisor	in person
European Union	Mr	Joost	Pompert	Advisor	remote
France OT	Ms	Adèle	Moisan	Head of Delegation	in person
France OT	Ms	Juliette	Haziza	Alternate	remote
France OT	Ms	Charlotte	Chazeau	Atlernate to the scientific HoD	remote
France OT	Mr	Alexis	Martin	Scientific HoD	remote
France OT	Ms	Anaïd	Panossian	Member of the Delegation	remote
Japan	Mr	Taisuke	Iwano	Head of Delegation	in person
Japan	Mr	Fumiya	Takahashi	Alternate	in person
Japan	Mr	Hideki	Moronuki	Advisor	remote
Japan	Mr	Takeshi	Shibata	Advisor	remote
Japan	Dr	Takehiro	Okuda	Advisor	remote
Japan	Mr	Hyoue	Suzuki	Advisor	remote
Japan	Mr	Koji	Batori	Advisor	remote
Japan	Ms	Yasuko	Kyo	Advisor	remote
Japan	Mr	Hidefumi	Yatomi	Advisor	remote

Delegation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Role	Mode
Japan	Ms	Shiho	Morimoto	Advisor	remote
Republic of Korea	Ms	Soomin	Kim	Advisor	remote
Mauritius	Mrs	Meera	Koonjul	CC Chair	in person
Mauritius	Mr	Doorvanand	Kawol	Alternate	in person
Seychelles	Mr	Vincent	Lucas	Head of Delegation	in person
Seychelles	Mrs	Julie	Bibi	Alternate	in person
Seychelles	Ms	Elisa	Radegonde	Expert	remote
Seychelles	Ms	Stephanie	Radegonde	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Mr	Roddy	Allisop	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Mrs	Karyss	Belle	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Mr	Daniel	Bristol	Expert	remote
Seychelles	Ms	Danielle	Jupiter	Expert	remote
Seychelles	Ms	Nathanielle	Morel	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Mr	Howard	Tan	Expert	remote
Seychelles	Mr	Roy	Clarisse	Expert	remote
Seychelles	Mr	Alain	De Comarmond	Expert	in person
Chinese Taipei	Ms	I-Lu	Lai	Head of Delegation	in person
Chinese Taipei	Mr	Wei-Chen	Hung	Alternate	in person
Chinese Taipei	Ms	Wen-Ning	Chang	Adviser	in person

Delegation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Role	Mode
Chinese Taipei	Mr	Po-Hsiang	Liao	Adviser	in person
Chinese Taipei	Ms	Chia-Ti	Li	Delegate	in person
Chinese Taipei	Ms	Chia-Jung	Wang	Delegate	in person
Chinese Taipei	Ms	Ching-Han	Huang	Delegate	in person
Thailand	Mr	Prathet	Sorrak	Head of Delegation	in person
Thailand	Mr	Udomsin	Auksonphaob	Alternate	in person
Thailand	Mr	Thanakrit	Chanthaphat	Alternate	in person
Thailand	Mr	Pavarot	Noranarttragoon	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mrs	Lukhana	Boonsongsrikul	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mr	Puritat	Watcharasin	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Jaruwan	Songphatkaew	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mr	Weerapol	Thitipongtrakul	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Supranee	Chatthong	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Jidapa	Setthatham	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mr	Prasit	Luesrithawornsin	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Kanyarat	Woraprayoth	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Praphayapath	Thonroshrapee	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mr	Woramate	Chatinakrob	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Supanaree	Boonsri	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mr	Titipat	Tongdonkruang	Adviser	remote

Delegation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Role	Mode
Comoros	Mr	Mohamed	Ali Mohamed	Head of Delegation	in person
India	Dr	K. Mohammed	Koya		remote
India	Dr	Sijo P.	Varghese		remote
India	Dr	Sanjay	Pandey		remote
India	Dr	Nitin	Verma		remote
Observers					
Observer PEW	Dr	Glen	Holmes	Head of Delegation	in person
Observer PEW	Ms	Laura	Eeles	Alternate	remote
Observer SIODFA	Mr	Charles	Heaphy	Head of Delegation	in person
Observers IOTC	Mr	Gerard	Domingue	Head of Delegation	in person
Observers SEAFO	Mrs	Lizette	Voges	Head of Delegation	remote
Observers SPRFMO	Mr	Bernard	Vigga	Observer	remote
Observers SPRFMO	Mr	Andy	Wright	Observer	remote
Observers SPRFMO	Ms	Susana	Delgado Suárez	Observer	remote
Observer DSCC	Dr	Lynda (Lyn)	Goldsworthy	Head of Delegation	remote
Observer DSCC	Mr	Barry	Weeber	Alternate	remote
Observers EJF	Mr	Dominic	Thomson	Head of Delegation	remote
Observers JMA	Mr	Phillippe	Michaud	Head of Delegation	in person
Observers SWIOFC	Mr	Jon	Lansley	Head of Delegation	remote

Delegation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Role	Mode
Secretariat and support					
SIOFA Chairperson	Ms	Anaïd	Panossian	MoP Chairperson	in person
Rapporteur	Mr	Alex	Meyer	Rapporteur	in person
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Thierry	Clot	Executive Secretary	in person
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Pierre	Peries	Data Officer	in person
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Johnny	Louys	Compliance Officer	in person
SIOFA Secretariat	Dr	Marco	Milardi	Science Officer	in person
SIOFA Secretariat	Ms	Hansa	Gennoo	ICT Expert	in person
SIOFA Secretariat	Ms	Eleonore	Guglielmi-Talamon	Intern Assistant	in person

**10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)***Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026***CC-10-ADM-03**

Agenda

of the 10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10)

CC Chairperson and Executive Secretary

Meeting	Compliance Committee ☒ Meeting of the Parties ☐
Document type	Administrative Paper ☒ Proposal or Working Paper ☐ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ☒ Restricted ¹ ☐ Confidential ² ☐
Abstract	
According to Rule 10 of the SIOFA RoP, the Executive Secretary has prepared a Provisional Agenda in consultation with the CC Chairperson, which is circulated by the Secretariat. CCPs are invited to comment on it and include new items to it.	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions as per SIOFA Rule 20 of the RoP.

Provisional Agenda of the 10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10)

1. Opening of the session

1.1. Opening statements

2. Administrative arrangements

2.1. Adoption of the agenda

2.2. Confirmation of meeting documents

2.3. Appointment of rapporteur

3. SIOFA Compliance Monitoring Scheme

Standing agenda item. In accordance with CMM 11 (2020) Compliance Monitoring Scheme, the CC shall consider the Draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR) and adopt a Provisional Compliance Report (pSCR), which shall be forwarded to the Meeting of the Parties for its consideration.

3.1. Consideration of the Draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR) and adoption of the Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (pSCR)

3.2. Review of Recommendations from the Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR) adopted by the 12th Meeting of the Parties

4. New or Amended Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)

Standing agenda item to allow the development of recommendations to the MoP on new or amended CMMs

4.1. Recommendations from the Scientific Committee

4.2. Proposals for Amendments to Conservation and Management Measures

4.3. Proposals for new Conservation and Management Measures

4.4. [Discussion on the application of current CMMs]

5. Listing of IUU Vessels

5.1. Draft IUU Vessel List

Standing agenda item. In accordance with paras 12 (a), 13 and 14 of CMM 06 (2024), the CC shall

- *Consider the Draft IUU Vessel List and include relevant vessels on a Provisional IUU Vessel List, and submit it to the MoP for approval*
- *Remove vessels on the Draft IUU Vessel List pursuant to para 14 of CMM 06 (2024).*

5.2. Current SIOFA IUU Vessel List

Standing agenda item. In accordance with paras 12 (b) of CMM 06 (2024), the CC shall consider the current SIOFA IUU Vessel List and recommend to the MoP which vessels, if any, should be removed from it

6. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

- 6.1. Port inspection reports (CMM 08 (2020) Port Inspection)
- 6.2. Sighting of Vessels without Nationality (CMM 04 (2016) Vessels without Nationality) and vessels flagged to Non-CCPs (CMM 09 (2022) Control)
- 6.3. Review of Catches of Portuguese dogfish in Subarea 2. (CMM 12(2025) Sharks)
- 6.4. Register of Authorised Vessels (CMM 07 (2025) Vessel Authorisation)
- 6.5. Entry/Exit reports (CMM 10(2023) Monitoring)
- 6.6. At sea Transfer and Transhipment reports (CMM 10(2023) Monitoring)

7. Operationalisation of the SIOFA VMS

- 7.1. Update of Workplan & Progress Toward Operationalization of the SIOFA VMS
- 7.2. Potential Amendments to SIOFA CMMs and the Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS

8. Review of the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs)

Standing agenda item. The Compliance Committee will provide technical/compliance advice to inform the MoP decision on renewing/granting CNCP status (in accordance with Rule 17.8 of the Rules of Procedure)

9. Implementation of Article 13 of the Agreement

10. Capacity Building

The Secretariat will report on options for facilitating and addressing the capacity-building needs of developing States' CCPs

11. The SIOFA Performance Review

Update on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the SIOFA Performance Review, related to the Compliance Committee

12. Election of a Chair and Vice Chair for the Compliance Committee

13. Any other business

14. Adoption of the Compliance Committee report

15. Close of the meeting

CC-10-ADM-04 - List of Meeting Documents_Rev1

Document Number	Document Title	Agenda Item	Other Notes
-----------------	----------------	-------------	-------------

Admin Papers

CC-10-ADM-01	Registration Form	None	
CC-10-ADM-02	Template for Meeting Documents	None	
CC-10-ADM-03	Provisional Agenda of the 10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10)	2.1	
CC-10-ADM-04-Rev1	List of Meeting Documents (This Paper)	2.2	
CC-10-ADM-05	Tentative Meeting Schedule		

Working Papers & Proposals

CC-10-01	Draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR)	3.1	Restricted
CC-10-02	Draft SIOFA IUU Vessels List	5.1	
CC-10-03_Rev1	Monitoring Control and Surveillance	6	Restricted
CC-10-04_Rev1	Current SIOFA IUU Vessel List (Rev1)	5.2	
CC-10-05_Rev1	Recommendations from the Scientific Committee	4.1	
CC-10-06	SIOFA Performance Review Recommendations	11	
CC-10-07	Review of the options to facilitate and address the capacity building need of CCP developing States including Article 13	10	
CC-10-08	Review of the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs)	8	
CC-10-09	Review of Recommendations from the Final SIOFA Compliance Reports (fSCR) adopted by the Meeting of the Parties	3.2	
CC-10-10	Update of Workplan & Progress Toward Operationalization of the SIOFA VMS	7.1	
CC-10-11_Rev2	Potential Amendments to SIOFA CMMs and the Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS	7.2	
CC-10-19	China Proposal for a New CMM for Fishery Independent Research Cruise	4.3	
CC-10-20	China Proposal to amend CMM 10 (2023) Monitoring	4.2	
CC-10-21	Cook Islands proposal for a new CMM for a SIOFA Allocation Framework	4.3	
CC-10-22	Australia Proposal to amend CMM 15(2025) Management of Demersal Stocks	4.2	
CC-10-23_Rev1	Japan Proposal to amend CMM 17(2025) New and Exploratory Fisheries	4.2	

Document Number	Document Title	Agenda Item	Other Notes
CC-10-24	Mauritius Proposal to amend CMM 11(2020) Compliance Monitoring Scheme	4.2	
CC-10-25	Mauritius Proposal to amend CMM 17(2025) New and Exploratory Fisheries	4.2	
CC-10-26	EU Proposal to amend CMM 15(2025) Management of Demersal Stocks	4.2	
CC-10-27	EU Proposal for a New CMM for Research Cruise by Research Vessel	4.3	
CC-10-28	EU proposal for a New CMM for Scientific Research by Fishing Vessel	4.3	
CC-10-29	MUS Proposal for an alternate method to collect data required by paragraph 12 of CMM 02 (2025) on Data Standards in order to exclude Mauritius semi-industrial fishery to embark observers on board	4.2	
CC-10-32	Proposal for a new CMM on promoting the objectives of SIOFA through cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement	4.3	Late Submission [18/06/2026]

Info Papers

CC-10-INFO-01	Outcome of the Pilot Phase for the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System	7.1	
CC-10-INFO-02	EJF vessel briefing: Chinese-flagged light seiner vessels operating in the Northwest Indian Ocean		

**10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)***Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026***CC-10-18 / MoP-13-18**

Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report

Assessment Period 1 January – 31 December 2025, inclusive
SIOFA Secretariat

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ✓ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ☐ Restricted ¹ ✓ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	
In accordance with the Conservation and Management Measure for the Establishment of a Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMM 11(2020)), the 10th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC10) has adopted a Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (pSCR) for the consideration of the 13th Meeting of the Parties to the SIOFA. For this year's compliance assessment, the Secretariat received CCPs' Compliance Reports (CCRs) from all CCPs. However, two CCPs submitted their CCRs after the established deadline of 7 May 2026. To facilitate the work of the Meeting of the Parties, the pSCR is preceded by a consolidated summary of potential compliance issues identified by the Secretariat and the compliance committee. The Secretariat has also included an Excel version of the pSCR on the meeting page to facilitate reference by CCPs and the Meeting of the Parties in their consideration of the pSCR.	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

- **Consider** the pSCR and **adopt** a final SIOFA Compliance Report
- Make any other relevant recommendations as necessary

Summary of Potential Compliance Issues

Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (Assessment Period 1 January – 31 December 2025, inclusive)

CCP	Table	CMM	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2024 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2025 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Provisional Compliance Status (2025 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Cook Islands (the)	Table 3	CMM 02 (2025) & CMM 02 (2023) (Data Standards)	15. CCPs shall, for all observed trips, collect observer data in accordance with the relevant sections of Annex B. All observer data collected by CCPs shall be reported to the Secretariat by 31 May each year for the previous calendar year.	Compliant	Compliant	Potential Compliance Issue: the catch data reported by observers have been aggregated by day for 2 trips, haul-by-haul data has not been provided.		Non-Compliant	No Follow up
Cook Islands (the)	Table 11	CMM 11 (2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme)	12. Each CCP shall prepare a CCP Compliance Report on the basis of the template referred to in paragraph 10 which shall include a preliminary self-assessment of its compliance status for each assessed obligation, using Annex I as a reference, and return it to the Secretariat no later than 60 days before the commencement of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties. Each CCP shall ensure their CCR includes information relevant to the implementation of each obligation assessed for compliance.	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Potential compliance issue - Compliance Report was submitted on 14 May 2025 after the deadline (1 May 2025)		Non-Compliant	No Follow up
European Union	Table 17	CMM 18 (2025) (Benthic Fishery Closures)	8. Until such time that CCPs' flagged vessels automatically report VMS position reports in accordance with CMM 16, the Master of any CCP's flagged vessel transiting through a BFC shall report to the Secretariat and its flag CCP 4 hours prior to entering and exiting a BFC.	New CMM	Not Applicable	EU vessel (Ibsa Quinto) engages in bottom fishing in the Agreement Area, CMM may be applicable to it.	The vessel did not report prior to entering and exiting a BFC in 2025. The vessel transmits its position every hour and it can be followed and monitored. The vessel in this period (October-December) had low levels of catches in Magneto and Coral and Walter Shoal. This reporting issue has been solved, with a first report in 2026 already sent by the master of the vessel to the SIOFA Secretariat.	Non-Compliant	No Follow up
France (OT)	Table 17	CMM 18 (2025) (Benthic Fishery Closures)	8. Until such time that CCPs' flagged vessels automatically report VMS position reports in accordance with CMM 16, the Master of any CCP's flagged vessel transiting through a BFC shall report to the Secretariat and its flag CCP 4 hours prior to entering and exiting a BFC.	New CMM	Compliant	FT -OT has indicated that the CMM does not apply to them, while providing a preliminary self-assessment. FR-OT engages in bottom fishing in the Agreement Area, CMM may be applicable to it.. As such, this CMM may be applicable to FR-OT. SEC: FR (OT) reports transits by vessels in BFCs, however, no reports were submitted to the Secretariat from the date of entry into force of CMM to 31 Dec 2025	FR-OT recognises an error when indicating that the CMM does not apply. The CMM is applicable et FR-OT has incidentally provided compliance status.	Non-Compliant	No Follow up

CCP	Table	CMM	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2024 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2025 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Provisional Compliance Status (2025 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Japan	Table 3	CMM 02 (2025) & CMM 02 (2023) (Data Standards)	9. Following the entry into force of this CMM, CCPs shall provide to the Scientific Committee, at least 30 days prior to the commencement of each ordinary meeting, an annual National Report of their fishing, research and management activities in accordance with the following: b. For all reports thereafter: the National Report shall include details of activities of the previous calendar year; and c. In either case, the National Report shall take into account the guidelines prepared by the Scientific Committee for the preparation of such reports	Compliant	Compliant	In 2025 Japan submitted their Annual Report 1 day late (this is reflected in the annual report cover page). Note that the SC considered the Annual Report nonetheless.	Japan notes that the submission was 1 day late and accordingly revises the compliance status to "Non-Compliant."	Non-Compliant	No Follow up
Seychelles	Table 3	CMM 02 (2025) & CMM 02 (2023) (Data Standards)	6. CCPs shall report to the Secretariat, by 31 May each year, the data collected under paragraphs 4 and 5 for the previous calendar year, in accordance with the format prescribed in the corresponding annexes.	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Data was provided 2 days late	Seychelles acknowledges that the required data submission was submitted two days after the deadline due to internal administrative delays. Measures are being implemented to strengthen internal coordination and clearly designate responsible officers for future submissions, ensuring timely compliance with reporting deadlines.	Non-Compliant	To improve internal processes to meet reporting obligations
Seychelles	Table 3	CMM 02 (2025) & CMM 02 (2023) (Data Standards)	7. CCPs shall provide to the Secretariat, by 31 May each year, annual catch summaries for all species/groups caught in the Agreement Area during the previous calendar year. The catch summaries shall include the following information: a. Calendar year (e.g. 2015), b. FAO statistical area (e.g. FAO87), c. Species/group name (common name and scientific name), d. Species/group code (FAO3-alpha code 19, EG ORY) (if available), e. Annual catch total - tonnes raised to 'live' weight	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Data was provided 2 days late	Seychelles notes the two-day delay in the submission of annual catch summaries. The reporting process has since been reviewed internally, and updated procedures are being established to improve coordination between relevant units and prevent a recurrence of delayed submissions.	Non-Compliant	To improve internal processes to meet reporting obligations
Seychelles	Table 3	CMM 02 (2025) & CMM 02 (2023) (Data Standards)	12. All CCPs shall implement national scientific observer programs to collect from activities undertaken by vessels flying their flag.	Critically Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant		Seychelles acknowledges that observer coverage on industrial longline vessels remains a major compliance challenge. The country is prioritising the operational implementation of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) on vessels listed on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV) as an alternative monitoring mechanism, while also working towards meeting the minimum observer coverage requirements applicable under related RFMO obligations.	Critically Non-Compliant	EMS program development still ongoing. Timeline for implementation early 2027. Seychelles to share progress in next Scientific Committee. CC note that CMM 02 may need to be modified to include EMS.

CCP	Table	CMM	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2024 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2025 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Provisional Compliance Status (2025 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Seychelles	Table 3	CMM 02 (2025) & CMM 02 (2023) (Data Standards)	14. CCPs shall, through their National Report, provide to the Scientific Committee an annual observer programme implementation report which should include summary sections covering: observer training, program design and coverage, type of data collected, and any problems encountered during the previous calendar year.	Compliant	Non-Compliant		Seychelles recognises that the absence of an operational observer programme has affected the submission of observer programme implementation reports. Efforts are underway to operationalise EMS implementation and strengthen monitoring frameworks, which will support future reporting obligations under this requirement.	Non-Compliant	EMS program development still ongoing. Timeline for implementation early 2027. Seychelles to share progress in next Scientific Committee. CC note that CMM 02 may need to be modified to include EMS.
Seychelles	Table 3	CMM 02 (2025) & CMM 02 (2023) (Data Standards)	15. CCPs shall, for all observed trips, collect observer data in accordance with the relevant sections of Annex B. All observer data collected by CCPs shall be reported to the Secretariat by 31 May each year for the previous calendar year.	Critically Non-Compliant		Potential Compliance issue: No observer program	Seychelles recognises that the absence of an operational observer programme has affected the submission of observer programme implementation reports. Efforts are underway to operationalise EMS implementation and strengthen monitoring frameworks, which will support future reporting obligations under this requirement.	Critically Non-Compliant	EMS program development still ongoing. Timeline for implementation early 2027. Seychelles to share progress in next Scientific Committee. CC note that CMM 02 may need to be modified to include EMS.
Seychelles	Table 3	CMM 02 (2025) & CMM 02 (2023) (Data Standards)	19. CCPs shall report all data required to be reported by this measure to the Secretariat in accordance with the formats described in this CMM, including its annexes.	Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant		Seychelles acknowledges the challenges in meeting all reporting requirements under the measure, particularly the detailed reporting format for pelagic longline fisheries. In response, the national logbook system has recently been revised to better align with SIOFA reporting requirements, and internal procedures are being strengthened to improve future compliance and reporting consistency.	Critically Non-Compliant	Internal processes are ongoing to improve logbook requirements, noting the challenges of the requirement under the CMM and potential incompatibilities of the requirements and the fishing practice.

CCP	Table	CMM	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2024 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2025 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Provisional Compliance Status (2025 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Seychelles	Table 9	CMM 09 (2022) (Control)	11. Without prejudice to other requirements in specific CMMs, each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall ensure that the scientific observers carried by vessels flying its flag operating in the Agreement Area are qualified and authorised to perform their tasks and record any requested data.	Critically Non-Compliant	Compliant	Potential compliance Issue: Seychelles indicated that they do not have an observer program for vessels authorised to operate in SIOFA.	Seychelles recognises that the absence of an operational observer programme has affected the submission of observer programme implementation reports. Efforts are underway to operationalise EMS implementation and strengthen monitoring frameworks, which will support future reporting obligations under this requirement.	Critically Non-Compliant	EMS program development still ongoing. Timeline for implementation early 2027. Seychelles to share progress in next Scientific Committee. CC note that CMM 02 may need to be modified to include EMS.
Comoros	Table 10	CMM 10 (2023) (Monitoring)	21. Each CCP shall ensure, for each vessel flying its flag undertaking an at sea transfer operation of fuel, crew, gear or any other supplies, either as an unloading or receiving vessel, where one or both vessels has been involved or intends to undertake fishing for fishery resources in the Agreement Area during that trip, that: a. the vessel notifies its competent authority at least 24 hours in advance of the planned transfer. b. the notifications include the relevant information available regarding the transfer in accordance with Transfer Notification Annex V. c. the competent authority transmits the notification to the Secretariat without delay. d. the vessel notifies all of the operational details to its competent authority, as specified in Transfer Declaration Annex VI, within 24 hours following the transfer.	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Measure submitted relates to transshipment at sea. Obligation relates to transfers at sea.	Comoros Fisheries Code prohibits transshipments at sea.	Critically Non-Compliant	Comoros to take necessary to update the domestic measures, and engage with the Secretariat to improve their implementation of this obligation.
Comoros	Table 10	CMM 10 (2023) (Monitoring)	23. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag involved in a transshipment or transfer at sea shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received in accordance with paragraphs 20 and 21	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Measure submitted relates to transshipment at sea. Obligation relates to transfers at sea.	Comoros Fisheries Code prohibits transshipments at sea.	Critically Non-Compliant	Comoros to take necessary to update the domestic measures, and engage with the Secretariat to improve their implementation of this obligation.

CCP	Table	CMM	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2024 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2025 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Provisional Compliance Status (2025 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Comoros	Table 10	CMM 10 (2023) (Monitoring)	28. For each transshipment of fishery resources in port, the competent authority of the CCP of the unloading vessel shall notify, at least 24 hours in advance, the [information contained in paragraph 28 of this CMM] to the competent authority of the port State and to the competent authority of the receiving vessel.	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Comoros has indicated that measures have not been updated since last assessment. Measures available to the Secretariat was deemed not sufficient to implmenet this obligation domestically. Comoros to submit measures(if any) to support self assessment of compliant. SEC: Submitted measure does not fully implement measure (submission of prior notification to the Port State)	Any vessel willing to transfer fishery resourses in port shall notify the competent authority of the Union of Comoros at least 24 hours in advance. No fishing vessel listed in SIOFA list of authorised vessels were conducting transhipment of fishery resourses to refrigerated cargo vessels or other fishing vessels in port in 2025	Critically Non-Compliant	Comoros to take necessary to update the domestic measures, and engage with the Secretariat to improve their implementation of this obligation.
Comoros	Table 10	CMM 10 (2023) (Monitoring)	30. The CCP of the unloading vessel shall require that the vessel submits a Transshipment Declaration in accordance with the format set out in Annex IV to its competent authority, and that of the port State within 24 hours of the transshipment, and also provides a copy to the receiving vessel.	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Comoros has indicated that measures have not been updated since last assessment. Measures available to the Secretariat was deemed not sufficient to implmenet this obligation domestically. Comoros to submit measures(if any) to support self assessment of compliant. SEC: Submitted measure partially implements measure (submission of transhipment declaration to the Port State not implemented)	Any vessel willing to transfer fishery resourses in port shall notify the competent authority of the Union of Comoros at least 24 hours in advance. No fishing vessel listed in SIOFA list of authorised vessels were conducting transhipment of fishery resourses to refrigerated cargo vessels or other fishing vessels in port in 2025	Critically Non-Compliant	Comoros to take necessary to update the domestic measures, and engage with the Secretariat to improve their implementation of this obligation.
Comoros	Table 10	CMM 10 (2023) (Monitoring)	32. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag involved in the transshipment in port shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received in accordance with paragraphs 28 to 31 and take appropriate follow-up action in the event of discrepancies in the data reported by the masters of the unloading or receiving vessels or in the event of possible noncompliance with SIOFA CMMs.	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Comoros has indicated that measures have not been updated since last assessment. Measures available to the Secretariat was deemed not sufficient to implmenet this obligation domestically. Comoros to submit measures(if any) to support self assessment of compliant. SEC: Submitted measure does not fully implement measure (verification of data)	Any vessel willing to transfer fishery resourses in port shall notify the competent authority of the Union of Comoros at least 24 hours in advance. No fishing vessel listed in SIOFA list of authorised vessels were conducting transhipment of fishery resourses to refrigerated cargo vessels or other fishing vessels in port in 2025	Critically Non-Compliant	Comoros to take necessary to update the domestic measures, and engage with the Secretariat to improve their implementation of this obligation.
India	Table 11	CMM 11 (2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme)	12. Each CCP shall prepare a CCP Compliance Report on the basis of the template referred to in paragraph 10 which shall include a preliminary self-assessment of its compliance status for each assessed obligation, using Annex I as a reference, and return it to the Secretariat no later than 60 days before the commencement of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties. Each CCP shall ensure their CCR includes information relevant to the implementation of each obligation assessed for compliance.	Compliant	Compliant	Potential Compliance Issue: India submitted its completed CCR past the deadline date of 1 May 2025. [CCR ssubmitted 2 May 2025]	The one-day delay in submitting the completed CCR was due to pressing administrative requirements.	Non-Compliant	No Follow up

10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)

Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026

CC-10-20 / MoP-13-20

Proposal Amendment of CMM 10 (2023) Monitoring

Delegation of China

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ✓ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	
Effective monitoring of fishing activities is essential for strengthening conservation, management and compliance in the SIOFA Area. The current CMM 10 (2023) Monitoring provides a framework for fishing logbooks, vessel monitoring systems (VMS), entry-exit reporting, and oversight of transshipments and transfers at sea and in ports. China has conducted three fisheries survey cruises in the SIOFA Area in the past four years. In practice, repeated notifications of entry into or exit from the Agreement Area have to be submitted to the Secretariat due to survey station design and cruise routing requirements. This has not only increased the compliance burden on the Contracting Party but also added unnecessary administrative workload for the Secretariat. To streamline the reporting regime for research vessels entering and exiting the Agreement Area and enhance operational efficiency, China proposed appropriate amendments to CMM 10 (2023). The proposed revisions will uphold compliance with mandatory reporting obligations while facilitating the efficient conduct of scientific surveys. China also welcomes valuable comments and suggestions from all parties on this amendment proposal.	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

- CC10 **recommend** that MOP13 adopt the amendment of this CMM.
- MoP13 **adopt** the amendment of this CMM

CMM 10(2023)³**Conservation and Management Measure for the Monitoring of Fisheries in the Agreement Area (Monitoring)****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;**

RECALLING Article 6(1)(h) of the Agreement calls of the Meeting of the Parties to develop rules and procedures for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities in order to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the Meeting of the Parties including, where appropriate, a system of verification incorporating vessel monitoring and observation;

MINDFUL of Article 18(3)(e) of the *Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA)* which outlines the duties of the flag State are to take measures to ensure recording and timely reporting of vessel position, catch of target and non-target species, fishing effort and other relevant fisheries data;

NOTING Article 18(3)(f) and (h) of UNFSA relating to the regulation of transshipment on the high seas;

BEARING IN MIND that transshipment at sea is a common global practice, but that unregulated and unreported transshipment of catches of fishery resources, in particular on the high seas, contributes to distorted reporting of catches of such stocks and supports illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area);

NOTING the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment endorsed by the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at its thirty-fifth session from 5 to 9 September 2022, which seek to assist States, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), and other intergovernmental organizations by providing standards for developing their policies and regulations that govern transshipment, with a view to integrating these in their regulatory frameworks;

ADOPTS the following Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:

Scope

1. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels of Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities to the Agreement (CCP), engaged in fishing operations in the SIOFA Area of Application (Agreement Area) for fishery resources as defined in Article 1(f) of the Agreement.

Information on fishing activities

2. Each CCP shall ensure that its vessels maintain either an electronic fishing logbook or a bound fishing logbook containing the information relevant for their compliance with the data collection and submission requirements of CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) with consecutively numbered pages.
3. Each CCP shall ensure:
 - a. that vessels flying its flag submit the fishing logbook data within 30 days of the completion

³ CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring) supersedes CMM 2018/10 (Monitoring). Obsolete references have been updated by 2025 technical edits.

of a fishing trip in the Agreement Area to its competent authority;

- b. data referred to in sub-paragraph a. are submitted in accordance with CMM 02(2025) and maintained in accordance with CMM 03(2025) (Data Confidentiality); and
- c. the quantities of catch recorded on vessels flying its flag correspond to the quantities of catch kept on board.

4. Each CCP shall cooperate with any reasonable request from other CCPs for any information contained in the fishing logbooks from the preceding 12 months for the purposes of control.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

5. Each CCP shall ensure that all fishing vessels flying its flag that are operating in the Agreement Area are fitted with an operational automatic location communicator (ALC) unit reporting back to its competent authority.
6. CCPs shall ensure that ALC units on vessels flying their flag remain operational at all times while in the Agreement Area.
7. CCPs shall develop, implement and improve systems to maintain a record of all vessel position information reported through VMS and logbooks, in relation to vessels flying their flags while these vessels are in the Agreement Area, such that this information may be used to document vessel activity in the Agreement Area, and to validate fishing position information provided by those vessels.
8. CCPs are encouraged to share VMS data where it is requested from another CCP in support of patrol or surveillance activities. Each CCP shall not use any information received in accordance with this paragraph for other purposes.
9. CCPs shall ensure that:

VMS position reports are transmitted at least once every 2 hours from each fishing vessel flying their flag and included in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, while operating in the Agreement Area;

- a. under normal satellite navigation operating conditions, positions derived from the data reported shall be accurate to within 100m;
- b. VMS position reports include at least the following information:

Category	Data	Remarks
Vessel information	Static unique	For example, FAO 3 alpha or 2 alpha, country code
		followed by national vessel registration number
Activity detail	Latitude	Position latitude (decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)
	Longitude	Position longitude (decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)

Category	Data	Remarks
Message	Date	Position date (UTC)
	Time	Position time (UTC)
	Speed	Vessel speed at time of position (knots)
	Course	Vessel course at time of position (degrees)

- c. its vessels do not enter the Agreement Area and commence operations with a defective ALC.

10. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the ALC fitted on board a vessel:

- a. the device shall be repaired or replaced within a month. After this period, the vessel shall not be authorised to begin a new trip with a defective ALC. If the trip is lasting more than one month, the repair or the replacement shall take place as soon as practicable after the vessel enters a port. If the ALC has not been repaired or replaced within 90 days, the CCP shall order the vessel to cease fishing, stow all fishing gear and return immediately to port in order to undertake repairs. The vessel shall not be authorised to begin a new trip without a ALC having been repaired or replaced;
- b. the master of the fishing vessel shall manually communicate to its Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC), at least every four hours, reports by other means of communication (such as email, facsimile, telex, telephone message or radio). Such reports must include, *inter alia*, information required in paragraph 8 b; and
- c. no transshipments at sea shall be authorized and initiated unless and until the reporting requirements and procedures established in sub-paragraph b are complied with.

11. Each CCP shall ensure that the ALCs fitted on board vessels flying its flag are tamper resistant, that is, are of a type and configuration that prevent the input or output of false positions, and that they are not capable of being over-ridden, whether manually, electronically or otherwise. To this end, the ALC must:

- a. be located within a sealed unit; and
- b. be protected by official seals (or mechanisms) of a type that will indicate whether the unit has been accessed or tampered with.

12. Each flag CCP shall ensure that any VMS reports and messages transmitted to the Secretariat shall be in accordance with the data exchange format of CMM 02(2025) Annex C.

13. VMS reports transmitted pursuant to paragraph 12 shall not be treated as “public domain data” for the purposes of CMM 03(2025). The procedures for the safeguarding of records described in CMM 03(2025) shall similarly apply to all VMS data held by the Secretariat.

14. In order to cost-effectively and continuously monitor the movements of fishing vessels authorised by CCPs to fish in the Agreement Area and to, *inter alia*, support the implementation of SIOFA CMMs, the Meeting of the Parties shall at the latest by its ordinary meeting in 2020 develop specifications and proposed rules and procedures for the establishment of a SIOFA VMS for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.

Entry- Exit reports

15. CCPs shall require their vessels or relevant authorities to notify the Secretariat, by email or other

means of communication, within 24 hours, in the format provided in Annex I, of each entry to or exit from the Agreement Area of vessels authorised to fish for species managed by SIOFA flying its flag, in accordance with CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).

15.16. For fishing vessels conducting research cruises authorised by the relevant CCPs or MoP, notification shall only be submitted once upon their first entry into and final exit from the SIOFA Agreement Area. Where updated provisions apply to new research cruises, reporting shall be carried out in accordance with the latest CMM.

Monitoring of at sea transshipments and transfers

16.17. For the purpose of this CMM, transshipment means the unloading of all or any fishery resources, including fishery products, on board a fishing vessel onto another vessel, without the fish being recorded as landed, as defined in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment.

17.18. Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag only undertake transshipments at sea of fishery resources if they have prior authorization from their competent authority.

18.19. Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag only undertake transshipments at sea of fishery resources, with other vessels included on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels.

19.20. Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag do not undertake transshipments at sea of fishery resources with vessels included in the IUU vessel lists established by CCAMLR or any regional fisheries management organization.

20.21. Each CCP shall ensure, for each vessel flying its flag undertaking an at sea transshipment operation, that:

- a. the vessel notifies its competent authority at least 7 days in advance of a 14-day period during which the at sea transshipment is scheduled to occur.
- b. the vessel notifies its competent authority 24 hours in advance of the estimated time during which the at sea transshipment will occur.
- c. the notifications referred to in sub-paragraphs a. and b include the relevant information available regarding the at sea transshipment in accordance with Transshipment Notification Annex II.
- d. its competent authority transmits the notifications referred to in sub-paragraphs a. and b. to the Secretariat within 7 days.
- e. an impartial and qualified observer is deployed on board every receiving vessel to monitor the transshipment.
Electronic monitoring can be implemented as an alternative or to complement the deployment of human observers. CCPs that elect to use the electronic monitoring shall ensure that all relevant aspects are monitored effectively.
- f. the observer assigned to their vessel collect and record the information of each transshipment operation as indicated in the Transshipment Logsheet in Annex III.
- g. the master of the vessel provides the observer on board full access to all operational areas of the vessel necessary to complete their duties, including the fish holds, production areas, crew, nets or other gear, equipment, and any documents related with the catch retained onboard.
- h. the observer referred to sub-paragraphs e and f. provides a copy of the information collected as indicated in the Transshipment Logsheet to the competent authority of the observed vessel.

- i. its competent authority submits the observer data referred to in sub-paragraph f. to the Secretariat, no later than 15 days from debarkation of the observer.
- j. the vessel notifies all of the operational details to its competent authority, using the Transshipment Declaration in Annex IV, within 24 hours following the transshipment.
- k. its competent authority transmits the Transshipment Declaration referred to in sub- paragraph j. to the Secretariat within 30 days.
- l. where its competent authority authorizes the vessel operator to transmit the Transshipment Declaration referred to in sub-paragraph j. directly to the Secretariat, the vessel operator directs any requests for clarifications from the Secretariat to its competent authority.

21.22. Each CCP shall ensure, for each vessel flying its flag undertaking an at sea transfer operation of fuel, crew, gear or any other supplies, either as an unloading or receiving vessel, where one or both vessels has been involved or intends to undertake fishing for fishery resources in the Agreement Area during that trip, that:

- a. the vessel notifies its competent authority at least 24 hours in advance of the planned transfer.
- b. the notifications include the relevant information available regarding the transfer in accordance with Transfer Notification Annex V.
- c. the competent authority transmits the notification to the Secretariat without delay.
- d. the vessel notifies all of the operational details to its competent authority, as specified in Transfer Declaration Annex VI, within 24 hours following the transfer.

22.23. The Secretariat shall make all information provided under paragraphs 20 and 21 available on the secure section of the SIOFA website as soon as possible.

23.24. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag involved in a transshipment or transfer at sea shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received in accordance with paragraphs 20 and 21 and take appropriate follow-up action in the event that an observer reports discrepancies in the data reported by the masters of the unloading or receiving vessels or in the event of possible non-compliance with SIOFA CMMs, including coordination with the Port State where the receiving vessel is to unload, if it considers that an inspection of the unload is necessary.

24.25. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag that receives fishery resources at sea from more than one unloading vessel shall ensure that such receiving vessel:

- a. stores the fishery resources and related documentation from each unloading vessel separately, allowing to distinguish from which unloading vessel each part of the fishery resources on board comes, including through the use of canvas or nets to separate fishery resources on board and/or appropriate labelling for boxes.
- b. maintains an up-to-date stowage plan and other documents showing the location and quantities of species received from each unloading vessel and retains these on board until the vessel has been unloaded completely.
- c. makes available the information referred to in sub-paragraph b. to its competent authority and to the relevant port State when required.

25.26. Nothing in this measure shall prevent vessels from undertaking transshipments or transfers at sea in cases of force majeure or distress, in which case those vessels shall report their transshipment or transfer activities to their competent authorities and the Secretariat, as

appropriate, in accordance with the relevant procedures and templates established in paragraphs 20 and 21, after the transshipment or transfer has been completed, including information on the circumstances giving rise to the force majeure or distress.

Monitoring of transshipments in ports

~~26.27.~~ Each CCP shall ensure that a vessel flying its flag that is carrying fishery resources shall only transship in a port if it has prior authorisation from its competent authority and the port State.

~~27.28.~~ Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag do not undertake transshipments in port of fishery resources with vessels included in the IUU vessel lists established by CCAMLR or any regional fisheries management organization.

~~28.29.~~ For each transshipment of fishery resources in port, the competent authority of the CCP of the unloading vessel shall notify, at least 24 hours in advance, the following information to the competent authority of the port State and to the competent authority of the receiving vessel:

- a. the date, time and port of transshipment;
- b. the name and flag of the unloading transshipping vessel;
- c. the name and flag of the receiving vessel;
- d. the weight of fishery resources (Kg) by species (FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name) to be transshipped.-

~~29.30.~~ Where applicable, the competent authority of a CCP of a receiving vessel shall inform the competent authority of the port State of the quantities of fishery resources on board the vessel 24 hours before the transshipment and again 24 hours after the transshipment.

~~30.31.~~ The CCP of the unloading vessel shall require that the vessel submits a Transshipment Declaration in accordance with the format set out in Annex IV to its competent authority, and that of the port State within 24 hours of the transshipment, and also provides a copy to the receiving vessel.

~~31.32.~~ Where applicable, the competent authority of the CCP of a receiving vessel shall, 48 hours before alanding of the transshipped fishery resources, submit a copy of the received Transshipment Declaration to the competent authority of the port State where the landing takes place.

~~32.33.~~ Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag involved in the transshipment in port shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received in accordance with paragraphs 28 to 31 and take appropriate follow-up action in the event of discrepancies in the data reported by the masters of the unloading or receiving vessels or in the event of possible non-compliance with SIOFA CMMs.

Reporting of transshipments and at sea transfers

~~33.34.~~ As part of its CCP Compliance Report under paragraph 12 of CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme), each CCP shall provide annually the following information, as applicable, to the Secretariat for consideration by the Compliance Committee in relation to each transshipment and at sea transfer by vessels flying its flag that took place during the previous calendar year in accordance with paragraphs 16 to 32:

- a. date, time and location of transshipment or transfer in accordance with the specifications in CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards);
- b. names of vessels, flags and registration number/call sign of the transshipping vessel or transferring vessels;

- c. tonnage of any fishery resources, including species/group name (FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name) transshipped;
- d. type and description of transfers; and
- e. any other relevant information.

~~34.~~35. The Secretariat shall report annually on the implementation of this CMM. As regards transshipments and at sea transfers, the report shall include information, aggregated at CCP level, about the number of events, locations, quantities of fishery resources (by species, product form and catch area) transshipped and transferred, which shall be made publicly available on the SIOFA website.

~~35.~~36. This CMM shall enter into force on 1 January 2024.

ANNEX I

REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSEL ENTRY AND EXIT NOTIFICATIONS

Information required	Remarks:
Vessel name	<i>Name of the vessel</i>
Vessel flag CCP	<i>CCP where the vessel is registered (3-alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	<i>IMO number of the vessel</i>
Registration number	<i>External registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Entry or exit	<i>“ENTRY” or “EXIT”; free text message</i>
Latitude	<i>Position at the time of transmission (decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)</i>
Longitude	<i>Position at the time of transmission (decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)</i>
Date	<i>UTC date of transmission from the vessel (YYYY-MON-DDT)</i>
Time	<i>UTC time of transmission from the vessel (hh:mm)</i>
Activity in the Agreement Area (intended activity on entry OR activity carried out prior to exit)	<i>Fishing (FAO 3-alpha species code of targeted species), transiting, transshipping or transferring</i>
Observer on board	<i>“YES” or “NO”</i>
Heading (optional)	<i>Vessel heading when entering OR exiting the area (from 0° to 359°)</i>

ANNEX II

SIOFA TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA PRIOR NOTIFICATION

The following information shall be provided to the competent authority/ies of the unloading and receiving vessels 7 days in advance of a 14 day window, and again 24 hours in advance of a transshipment at sea.

I. DETAILS OF THE NOTIFYING VESSEL	
Notifying vessel is UNLOADING / RECEIVING vessel (strike out as appropriate)	
II. DETAILS OF THE UNLOADING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Vessel flag CCP	<i>CCP where the vessel is registered (3–alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	
Registration number	<i>External registration number if available, or national registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel owner and/or company information	<i>Name, complete address, email, phone number</i>
Vessel contact information (name, address, email and phone number)	<i>Master name, nationality, address, email, phone number</i>
III. DETAILS OF THE RECEIVING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	<i>Name of the vessel</i> Name of the vessel
Vessel flag CCP	<i>CCP where the vessel is registered (3–alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	<i>IMO number of the vessel</i>
Registration number	<i>External registration number if available, or national registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel owner / company information	<i>Last name, name / complete address / email / fax/phone number</i>
Vessel contact information	<i>Master name / nationality / address / email / fax/phone number</i>
IV. DETAILS OF TRANSSHIPMENT	
Transshipment authorisation identifier, if any	<i>Transshipment authorisation identifier, if assigned</i>
Transshipment authorisation issued by	<i>Name and email of the competent authority</i>
Transshipment authorisation validity period	<i>Start and end date UTC of the transshipment authorisation (YYYY-MON-DDT)-(YYYY-MON-DDT)</i>
Estimated date of transshipment	<i>Predicted date UTC when the master intends to conduct the transshipment (YYYY-MON-DDT)</i>
Estimated start time of transshipment	<i>Predicted time UTC when the master intends to start the transshipment (hh:mm)</i>

Estimated end time of transshipment	<i>Predicted time UTC for the ending of transshipment (hh:mm)</i>
Estimated location of transshipment	<i>Estimated position where the master intends to conduct the transshipment expressed as latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees</i>
<i>Fishery resources to be transshipped</i>	
Quantities to be transshipped - Species - Catch area - Weight - Product form	<i>FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name RFMO/A /geographical location / FAO Statistical Area Weight in Kilograms Preservation type and presentation type</i>
Number of units	<i>Boxes / packages</i>
Net weight of a unit	<i>Weight in Kilogram</i>

ANNEX III

SIOFA TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA LOGSHEET

The following information shall be provided by the observer to the competent authority of the vessel

I. DETAILS OF THE OBSERVER	
Observer onboard the UNLOADING / RECEIVING vessel (strike out as appropriate)	
Observer name	
Observer nationality	
Observer competent authority	name, address, email and phone number
II. DETAILS OF THE UNLOADING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	<i>External registration number if available, or national registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel flag CCP	<i>CCP where the vessel is registered (3-alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
III. DETAILS OF THE RECEIVING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	<i>External registration number if available, or national registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel flag CCP	<i>CCP where the vessel is registered (3-alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
IV. DETAILS OF TRANSSHIPMENT	
Transshipment authorisation identifier, if any	
Transshipment authorisation issued by	<i>name and email of competent authority</i>
Transshipment authorisation validity period	<i>Start and end date UTC of the transshipment authorisation (YYYY-MON-DDT)-(YYYY-MON-DDT)</i>

Date of transshipment	<i>Date UTC when the transshipment was conducted (YYYY-MON-DDT)</i>
Start time of transshipment- (UTC)	<i>Time UTC when the transshipment started (hh:mm)</i>
End time of transshipment	<i>Time UTC when the transshipment ended (hh:mm)</i>
Location of transshipment	<i>Position where the transshipment was conducted, expressed as latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees</i>
<i>Fishery resources transshipped</i>	
- Species - Catch area - Weight - Product form	<i>FAO 3-alpha species code/groupcode/scientific name</i> <i>RFMO/A /geographical location / FAO Statistical Area</i> <i>Weight in Kilograms</i> <i>Preservation type and presentation type</i>
Number of units	<i>Boxes / packages</i>
Net weight of a unit	<i>Weight in Kilogram</i>
V. SIGNATURE	
Observer's name and signature	
Remarks or observations, if any	

ANNEX IV

SIOFA TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA/ IN PORT DECLARATION

In port <u>Y/N</u> (strike out as appropriate)		Name of port _____		Port State _____	
At Sea <u>Y/N</u> (strike out as appropriate)		Latitude/Longitude _____		(expressed in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)	
Declaring vessel is UNLOADING or RECEIVING Vessel (strike out as appropriate)					
Name of declaring vessel:			Name of other vessel:		
IMO number of declaring vessel:			IMO number of other vessel:		
Radio Call sign of declaring vessel:			Radio Call sign of other vessel:		
External identification of declaring vessel:			External identification of other vessel:		
Flag CCP of declaring vessel:-			Flag of other vessel:		
Transshipment authorization identifier:					
Transshipment authorisation issued by (name and email of competent authority):					
Start of transshipment operation		day/month/year		from (time: hour/minutes, UTC)	
End of transshipment operation		day/month/year		to (time: hour/minutes, UTC)	
Declaring master's name & nationality:		Signature:		Date:	
TRANSSHIPPED FISHERY RESSOURCES					
Species (FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name and catch area(s)/RFMO/geographical location/FAO Statistical Area)	<u>Product form (preservation & presentation) 1:</u> _____		<u>Product form (preservation & presentation) 2:</u> _____		<u>Product form (preservation & presentation) 3:</u> _____
	No units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	No. units:	Weight per unit:

TOTAL										

FISHERY RESSOURCES REMAINING ON BOARD AFTER TRANSSHIPMENT										
Species (FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name and catch area(s)/RFMO/geographical location/FAO Statistical Area)	Product form (preservation & presentation) 1:			Product form (preservation & presentation) 2:			Product form (preservation & presentation) 3:			TOTAL Weight (Kg)
	No units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	No. units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	No. units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	
TOTAL										

ANNEX V

SIOFA TRANSFER AT SEA NOTIFICATION

The following Information shall be provided to the competent authority of the declaring vessel 24 hours in advance of a transfer at sea.

I. DETAILS OF THE DECLARING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel flag CCP	<i>CCP where the vessel is registered (3-alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
II. DETAILS OF THE OTHER VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	<i>External registration number if available, or national registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel flag	<i>Vessel flag (3-alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
III. DETAILS OF TRANSFER	
Estimated date of transfer	<i>Predicted date UTC when the master intends to conduct the transfer (YYYY-MON-DDT)</i>
Estimated time of transfer	<i>Predicted time UTC when the master intends to conduct the transshipment (hh:mm)</i>
Estimated location of transfer	<i>Estimated position where the master intends to conduct the transfer expressed as latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees</i>

Type and quantity received_ - fuel - crew - gear - supplies - other	<i>Liters</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Kilograms, tonnes, units</i>
Type and quantity unloaded - fuel - crew - gear - supplies - other	<i>Liters</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Kilograms, tonnes, units</i>
<i>IV. SIGNATURE</i>	
Name of master	

ANNEX VI

SIOFA TRANSFER AT SEA DECLARATION

The following Information shall be provided to the competent authority of the declaring vessel within 24 hours following a transfer at sea.

I. DETAILS OF THE DECLARING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	<i>External registration number if available, or national registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel flag CCP	<i>CCP where the vessel is registered (3-alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
II. DETAILS OF THE OTHER VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	<i>External registration number if available, or national registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel flag	<i>Vessel flag (3-alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
III. DETAILS OF TRANSFER	
Date of transfer	<i>Date UTC when transfer was conducted (YYYY-MON-DDT)</i>
Time of transfer	<i>Time UTC when the transfer was conducted (hh:mm)</i>
Location of transfer	<i>Position where the transfer was conducted, expressed as latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees</i>

Type and quantity received - fuel - crew - gear - supplies - other	<i>Liters</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Kilograms, tonnes, units</i>
Type and quantity unloaded - fuel - crew - gear - supplies - other	<i>Liters</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Kilograms, tonnes, units</i>
IV. SIGNATURE	
Name of master	



10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)

Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026

CC-10-24 / MoP-13-24

Proposal to amend CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme)

Delegation of Mauritius

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ✓ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	
Mauritius is proposing to amend CMM 11(2020) following the recommendation of the 11th Meeting of the Parties (MoP11) on the Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR) reviewed by the ninth Compliance Committee (CC09) and MoP12, to include minor non-compliant at annex 1 of the table of Compliance Categories (first column).	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

- For CC10 to **review** the proposal and propose it for adoption to MoP13
- For MoP13 to **review** and **adopt** the proposal

CMM 11(2020)³**Conservation and Management Measure for the Establishment of a Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Compliance Monitoring Scheme
(Compliance Monitoring Scheme)****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;**

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (the Agreement), in particular Article 10;

Noting their responsibilities under international law to effectively exercise jurisdiction and control over vessels flying their flag and their nationals;

Recognising the importance of introducing a robust compliance review mechanism by which the compliance of each Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party, participating fishing entity and cooperating non-participating fishing entity is examined in depth annually;

Committed to introducing fair and transparent procedures which promote and support improved implementation of and compliance with the Agreement and CMMs;

Adopts the following CMM in accordance with Articles 6 and 7 (2) of the Agreement:

Purpose

1. This CMM establishes the SIOFA Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS).
2. The purpose of the SIOFA CMS is to ensure that Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties, participating fishing entities and cooperating non-participating fishing entities (collectively CCPs) implement and comply with obligations arising under the Agreement and all CMMs adopted by the Meeting of the Parties, and to provide a mechanism to monitor and improve implementation of and compliance with these obligations. Specifically, the CMS is designed to:
 - a. Monitor and assess implementation and compliance by CCPs with their obligations under the Agreement and CMMs;
 - b. Improve compliance of CCPs with SIOFA obligations and ensure the Meeting of the Parties fulfils its functions and supports the objectives of the Agreement.
 - c. Identify areas in which technical assistance or capacity building may be needed to assist CCPs to achieve compliance with their obligations;
 - d. Identify and resolve aspects of CMMs which may require improvement or amendment to facilitate or advance their implementation and compliance;
 - e. Respond to non-compliance and minor non-compliance through preventative and/or remedial options, taking account of the cause of the non-compliance and minor non-compliance, the severity of non-compliance and minor non-compliance, the frequency of non-compliance and minor non-compliance and any consequences of non-compliance and minor non-compliance; and in cases of persistent non-compliance and minor non-compliance, take other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to promote and achieve compliance with the Agreement and SIOFA CMMs;
 - f. Ensure the adequate implementation of recommendations on compliance matters made by the Meeting of the Parties including in relation to follow-up actions.

³ CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) supersedes CMM 2018/11 (Compliance Monitoring Scheme).

Scope and Application

3. This CMS shall apply to all obligations arising under the Agreement and CMMs adopted. The Meeting of the Parties may decide to adapt the application of the CMS, including to extend it to any other rules, procedures or decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.
4. At each ordinary meeting, with the assistance of the Compliance Committee, the Meeting of the Parties will verify CCPs' implementation of and compliance with their obligations arising under the Agreement, SIOFA CMMs and any other instrument as may be decided by the Meeting of the Parties pursuant to paragraph 3.
5. The Meeting of the Parties and the Compliance Committee shall also review any other recommendations made by the Meeting of the Parties in previous years' Final Compliance Reports in order to verify how those recommendations have been implemented by the concerned CCPs, the Compliance Committee or the Meeting of the Parties, as applicable, including in relation to follow-up actions.

Assessment and Response to potential non-compliance

6. The Meeting of the Parties shall take a graduated response to non-compliance and minor-non-compliance, taking into account the type, severity, degree and cause of the non-compliance and minor-non-compliance in question.
7. The Meeting of the Parties will apply Annex I to assign a compliance status and determine any follow-up actions to non-compliance and minor non-compliance, including any remedial or corrective actions needed.
8. Notwithstanding the above, the CMS will not prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of any CCP to enforce its national laws or to take more stringent measures in accordance with its national laws, consistent with its international obligations.

Compliance Assessment Period

9. The Compliance Assessment Period shall be the period from 1 January – 31 December of the preceding year, both dates inclusive.

Compliance Assessment Procedure

CCP's Compliance Report (CCR)

10. The Secretariat shall have the function of developing and maintaining a CCR template which shall be reviewed annually, taking into account new and amended CMMs or obligations and the requirements of Articles 10(2) and 11(3)(c) of the Agreement.
11. At least 120 days before the commencement of each ordinary Meeting of the Parties, the Secretariat shall circulate the CCR template.
12. Each CCP shall prepare a CCP Compliance Report ⁴on the basis of the template referred to in paragraph 10 which shall include a preliminary self-assessment of its compliance status for each assessed obligation, using Annex I as a reference, and return it to the Secretariat no later than 60

⁴ For the avoidance of doubt, the submission of a complete CCP Compliance Report will be taken to satisfy the obligation to provide an implementation report in Article 10 (2) of the Agreement.

days before the commencement of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties. Each CCP shall ensure their CCR includes information relevant to the implementation of each obligation assessed for compliance.

Draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR)

13. Prior to each annual meeting of the Meeting of the Parties, the Secretariat shall prepare a Draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR) on the basis of information received from CCPs, including CCRs, reports of transshipments and transfers, port inspection reports, high seas boarding and inspection reports, data collection programs (such as catch/effort data, observer data, VMS data) and any other suitably documented information or reports regarding implementation and compliance during the relevant Compliance Assessment Period.
14. The dSCR shall be prepared in a way that facilitates monitoring and evaluation of compliance, and shall identify possible compliance issues.
15. The Secretariat shall provide to each CCP its respective section of the dSCR no later than 45 days before the commencement of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties.
16. Each CCP shall have the opportunity to comment on its respective section of the dSCR no later than 30 days before the ordinary Meeting of the Parties. This information may, as appropriate:
 - a. incorporate any additional information the CCP considers necessary (which may include, but is not limited to, any relevant documentary or photographic evidence);
 - b. provide clarifications and advise of any amendments or corrections that the CCP considers should be made to the information initially provided by that CCP;
 - c. identify causes of the identified compliance issues, including any technical impediments to compliance;
 - d. identify any action that has been taken to address the non-compliance and minor non-compliance and any further action the CCP intends to take;
 - e. revise the preliminary self-assessment of its compliance status using Annex I as a reference; and
 - f. identify any technical assistance or capacity building the CCP considers is needed to assist the CCP in complying with the relevant obligations.
17. The Secretariat shall complete the dSCR, which shall: include all information, clarification and comments provide by CCPs received in accordance with paragraph 16, identify any potential compliance issues and requirements for further information necessary to undertake an assessment of compliance, and propose a provisional compliance status.
18. The Secretariat shall circulate the dSCR to all CCPs no later than 20 days prior to the ordinary Meeting of the Parties and make it available on the secure section of the SIOFA website. Where no preliminary compliance status is provided by the CCP in accordance with paragraph 16(e), the Secretariat shall populate the dSCR in respect of that CCP using Annex I as a reference.

Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (pSCR)

19. The Compliance Committee shall consider the dSCR at its ordinary meeting and any additional information received prior to the Compliance Committee meeting from CCPs. During the course of the Compliance Committee meeting, each CCP shall have the opportunity to comment on its respective section of the dSCR. The Compliance Committee may take into account information received from observers, including non-governmental organisations and other organisations concerned with matters relevant to the implementation of the Agreement.

20. On the basis of the information available to it, the Compliance Committee shall adopt a Provisional Compliance Report (pSCR). The pSCR shall be based on the template at Annex II and include:
- An agreed provisional compliance status for each CCP in respect of each obligation assessed;
 - Any follow-up action taken, or proposed to be taken, by the relevant CCP;
 - Technical impediments to compliance;
 - Any ambiguities identified in a CMM that result in compliance assessment difficulties and, if possible, proposals to address them;
 - Other barriers to implementation or compliance, including capacity issues and how these may be addressed;
 - Where appropriate, proposals to amend or improve existing CMMs to address implementation and compliance difficulties encountered by CCPs;
 - Any priority obligations to be monitored and reviewed, or additional obligations to be included within the scope of the CMS; and
 - Recommendations for any other follow-up action by the Meeting of the Parties, as appropriate taking into account the guidance set out in Annex I.

21. The pSCR shall be forwarded to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration at its ordinary meeting.

Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR)

22. The Meeting of the Parties shall consider the pSCR and any comments from CCPs on their respective sections of the pSCR. The Meeting of the Parties shall adopt by consensus a Final Compliance Report (fSCR) at its ordinary meeting in accordance with Article 8 of the Agreement and Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure. The fSCR shall be based on the template at Annex III and shall include:
- A final compliance status in respect of each compliance issue identified in the pSCR and any response/follow-up action needed, based on the criteria set out in Annex I;
 - Any follow-up action taken, or proposed to be taken, by the CCP;
 - Any technical impediments to compliance, including any ambiguities in the measure
 - Any specific proposal for addressing any capacity issue identified in the Final Compliance Report;
 - Where amendments to existing CMMs have been recommended in the pSCR, the outcome of the Meeting of Parties' consideration of such recommendations;
 - Where any additional obligations to be included within the scope of the CMS to be monitored and reviewed, have been recommended in the Provisional Compliance Report, the outcome of the Meeting of Parties' consideration of such recommendations; and
 - The fSCR shall also document the Meeting of the Parties' response to any recommendation for further consideration made in the pSCR.

General Provisions

23. The preparation, distribution and discussion of compliance information arising from the CMS shall be subject to the relevant applicable SIOFA rules and procedures regarding the use of information and transparency. Therefore:
- The Implementation Report, Draft Compliance Report and Provisional Compliance Report shall not be considered to be "public domain data."

- b. Notwithstanding subparagraph (a), the Draft Compliance Report and Provisional Compliance Reports shall be discussed in open sessions of the Compliance Committee and the Meeting of the Parties respectively unless a decision is taken in accordance with Rules 20(1) of the Rules of Procedure to hold that discussion, or part thereof, in closed session.
 - c. The Final Compliance Report shall be annexed to the report of the relevant ordinary Meeting of the Parties.
24. In accordance with Article 8 of the Agreement and Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure, the compliance assessment of each CCP shall be decided by consensus. The pSCR and/or fSCR as appropriate shall reflect the decision of the Compliance Committee and/or the Meeting of the Parties, as applicable, and the different views expressed by CCPs during discussions of those reports.
25. Nothing in this CMM shall prejudice or affect the application of the decision-making articles contained in Article 8 of the Agreement.
26. Notwithstanding paragraph 25, CCPs commit themselves to the cooperative and equitable resolution of any issues which may arise under this CMS.
27. The Secretariat shall, prior to the 2019 ordinary Meeting of the Parties:
- a. prepare a table outlining all of the obligations contained in the Agreement and SIOFA CMMs with which CCPs must comply. This table shall outline the information available to the Secretariat through CMMs and any other reporting requirements that can be used to assess compliance, and identify any areas where additional information would be required to adequately assess compliance for the purposes of this CMS; and
 - b. Prepare a web-based form which is capable of being populated with relevant information submitted by the CCP in the previous Compliance Assessment Period for review and amendment, as necessary, in subsequent years.

Review

28. The Meeting of the Parties shall review this CMM and its effectiveness at latest at its ordinary meeting in 2021.

Annex I**Compliance Categories**

1. For the purposes of this CMM, “Compliance Status” refers to a CCP’s compliance with an obligation contained in the Agreement or a SIOFA CMM. ‘Criteria’ provides guidance to CCPs, the Compliance Committee and the Meeting of the Parties on how to determine which Compliance Status should be assigned in respect of a given compliance issue. ‘Follow up action/Response’ sets out possible actions or responses that may be proposed or recommended to be taken in respect of a compliance issue. Such actions and responses shall take account of the relevant CCP’s responses and corrective actions to address any compliance issues identified.
2. Remedial or corrective actions that may be considered as part of follow up actions could include:
 - a. Reviewing or clarifying issues, which could include requesting additional information to resolve an information gap, clarifying existing information, specifying a question where further information is needed or seeking an explanation of the compliance issue within a given timeframe.
 - b. Requesting that the relevant CCP cease the non-compliant and minor non-compliant conduct, in general or specific terms, and providing a clear deadline by which time compliance is to be achieved and information demonstrating compliance provided to the Meeting of the Parties.
 - c. Cooperation and capacity building to address non-compliance and minor non-compliance where a State may not have the capacity to ensure compliance with SIOFA measures.
 - d. Institutional responses to provide an effective deterrent for non-compliance and minor non-compliance, including, for example or limiting access to fisheries resources until the issue is addressed and resolved to the satisfaction of the Meeting of the Parties. Such recommendations shall take account of the relevant CCP’s responses

Compliance Status	Criteria	Follow up action / Response
Compliant	This compliance rating may be used where, following review, it is determined that there is no compliance issue with respect to the relevant obligation, including meeting-related deadlines, all requested information has been submitted in the appropriate formats and/or having investigated and appropriately addressed any alleged violations.	No further action required.
Minor non-compliant	<u>This compliance rating may be used for cases such as:</u> a) <u>Information or data has been submitted or reported in a way that is incomplete, incorrect, wrongly formatted or is otherwise insufficient. This could also refer to inadequate responses to the CCR which compromise the effectiveness of the CMS</u> b) <u>a CCP has submitted reports (CCR, PIR, Entry/Exit reports, etc) within 24 hours after the expected deadline</u> c) a CCP has submitted other relevant reports (PIR, Entry/Exit reports, etc) within 24 hours after the expected deadline d) <u>a CCP has failed to implement, monitor or ensure compliance with some but not all obligations specified in that CMM</u>	<u>The Compliance Committee and the Meeting of Parties may make the necessary recommendation on any action that may be required to respond to and rectify minor non-compliance, and/or improve implementation of relevant obligations. The Meeting of Parties may also consider technical assistance or capacity building that may be required. The CCP shall report on follow-up actions taken in advance of the next ordinary Meeting of Parties. The relevant CCP shall commit to addressing the identified issue for the next compliance assessment period.</u>
Non-compliant	This compliance rating may be used for cases such as: a) Information or data has been submitted or reported in a way that is incomplete, incorrect, wrongly formatted or is otherwise insufficient. This could also refer to inadequate responses to the CCR which compromise the effectiveness of the CMS; b) <u>Failure to meet reporting or submission within 24 hours after expected</u> deadlines; c) Failure to meet a SIOFA obligation, including implementation deadlines, which does not fall into the category of 'critically non-compliant'. d) Other actions or omissions that constitute an infringement of relevant obligations;	Determine if the relevant CCP has already taken appropriate action and/or if action is required. If necessary, the Meeting of the Parties may make a recommendation on any action that may be required to respond to and rectify non-compliance, and/or improve implementation of relevant obligations. The Meeting of the Parties may also consider technical assistance or capacity building may be required. The CCP shall report on follow-up actions taken in advance of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties. The relevant CCP shall commit to addressing the identified issue for the next compliance assessment period.
Critically non-compliant	This compliance rating may be used for cases such as: a) Engaging in fishing in any areas closed to fishing by the Meeting of the Parties; b) Repeated rating of non-compliant with the same obligation for the second consecutive year; c) Failure to comply with previous CMS recommendations adopted by the Meeting of the Parties for two or more consecutively assessed years; d) Repeated non-compliance with an obligation	The Meeting of the Parties identifies remedial or follow-up actions to address instances of seriously non-compliance taking into account paragraph 2 of this Annex. The CCP shall report on follow-up actions taken to in advance of the next ordinary meeting of the Compliance Committee or Meeting of the Parties as appropriate.

Compliance Status	Criteria	Follow up action / Response
	for two or more consecutively assessed years; e) Exceeding the catch or effort limits established pursuant to paragraph 10(1) of CMM 01(2024), or any other catch or effort limits established by the Meeting of the Parties; f) Failure to provide its annual CCR required by Article 10(2) of the Agreement or the National Report required by paragraph 9 of CMM 02(2025).	
Not assessed	This compliance rating may be used for cases where there is ambiguity in the relevant obligation, or that there is a technical impediment to compliance.	Meeting of the Parties to review relevant obligation, clarify the obligation and, if necessary, amend relevant provisions.
No compliance status assigned	This compliance rating may be used for cases of emergency relating to the safety of a ship and those on board, or safety of life at sea, which resulted in the a compliance issue.	No further action required.

Template for the Provisional Compliance Report

1. Compliance Assessment Period: *[year]*
2. CMMs assessed in accordance with this CMM: *[All CMMs currently in force]*
3. Proposals to amend or improve existing CMMs
 - a. (example) CMM XX(20XX)
4. Priority obligations to be monitored and reviewed
 - a. (List, if applicable)
5. Additional obligations to be included within the scope of the CMS:
 - a. (List, if applicable)

Compliance Committee Assessment

[CMM XX(20XX) name of conservation and management measure]

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	20XX-20YY [previous year] compliance status	Current 20YY-20ZZ assessment ⁵ and Supporting info	Current 20YY-20ZZ status [rating] [category]	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken

⁴ Including nature of the infringement, any action taken by the CCP, identified barriers to implementation, such as capacity issues, technical impediments to compliance

Annex III

Template for the Final Compliance Report

1. Compliance Assessment Period: *[year]*
2. CMMs assessed in accordance with this CMM: *[All CMMs currently in force]*
3. Technical impediments to compliance identified
 - a. (List, if applicable)
4. Amendments to existing CMMs
 - a. (example) CMM XX(20XX)
5. Priority obligations to be monitored and reviewed
 - a. (List, if applicable)
6. Additional obligations to be included within the scope of the CMS:
 - a. (List, if applicable)
7. Response to the Compliance Committee's assessment
8. Specific proposals for addressing capacity issues

[CMM XX(20XX) name of conservation and management measure]

CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, CMM, summary description)	20XX-20YY [previous year] compliance status	Current 20YY-20ZZ assessment ⁶ and Supporting info	Current 20YY-20ZZ status [rating] [category]	Follow up responsive or corrective action to be undertaken

⁴ Including nature of the infringement, any action taken by the CCP, identified barriers to implementation, such as capacity issues, technical impediments to compliance

10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)

Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026

CC-10-29 [Rev1](#) / MoP-13-29

A proposal for an alternate method to collect data required by paragraph 12 of CMM 02 (2025) on Data Standards in order to exclude Mauritius semi-industrial fishery to embark observers on board

Delegation of Mauritius

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ✓ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	
At the SC11 (para 127), Mauritius made a proposal for an alternate method to collect data required by paragraph 12 of CMM 02 (2025) on Data Standards in order to exclude the Mauritius semi-industrial fishery to embark observers on board taking into consideration the working conditions and limited space available on board the vessels operating on the sub-area 8 (Saya de Malha bank). The SC11 reviewed the proposal and recommended as follows (para 132): Mauritius was requested to submit a proposal detailing the current data collection system and future data collection plan, including indicative timeframes, addressing the observer data collection requirement for handlines on Mauritian semi-industrial vessels, to MoP13 and SC12, for consideration. The SC noted that this plan should effectively collect data independently from vessel reporting from all fields currently required under paragraph 12 of CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) for this fishery	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

- The MoP13 to **review** the proposal made by Mauritius
- The MoP13 to **request** the SC12 to review the proposal and make any further recommendations

A proposal for an alternate method to collect data required by paragraph 12 of CMM 02 (2025) on Data Standards in order to exclude Mauritius semi-industrial fishery to embark observers on board

Introduction

Mauritius presented at SC11, a proposal for an alternate method to collect the data required by paragraph 12 of CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards), in order to exclude Mauritius semi-industrial fisheries to embark observers on board. The semi-industrial fisheries are characterised by fishing on the Saya de Malha Bank (SIOFA Sub Area 8), by vessels measuring 12 m to less than 24 m.

Mauritius considers that the requirement to embark scientific observers on semi-industrial vessels operating on the Saya de Malha Bank is challenging due to the following reasons:

Operational Constraints

The vessels operating in the semi-industrial shallow water and deepwater snapper/grouper fisheries are relatively small (12–23 m LOA) and are not designed to accommodate additional personnel beyond the required crew complement.

- All crew members sleep within a single shared cabin.
- Sleeping bunks are available for declared crew size only.
- No additional working or sampling space exists onboard.
- Deck space is limited and fully utilised for fishing operations and gear handling.
- There is no dedicated working desk space available for observers.

Figures 1-3 illustrate the limited space and conditions of semi-industrial fishing vessels.



Figure 1: Unloading activities of Mauritian semi-industrial fishing vessels



Figure 2: Deck area of Mauritian semi-industrial fishing vessel



Figure 3: Living area in Mauritian semi-industrial fishing vessels

Current Monitoring Measures and Data Collection

To ensure compliance with SIOFA Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs), the following monitoring and data collection measures are implemented by officers of the Port State Control Unit and the Albion Fisheries Research Centre:

- Full monitoring of all semi-industrial vessels landing their catch at port by Fisheries Protection Officers;
- Continuous monitoring of all vessels through the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS);
- Daily reporting of catch and operational data through the Electronic Reporting System (ERS)/Paper logbook, including catch details, fishing coordinates, and number of fishermen involved;
- Prohibition of all transshipment activities at sea and in port;
- Landing of all catches at a single authorised port (Port Louis);
- Sampling of catches conducted upon unloading of fishing vessels at port.

Conclusion

Given the selective nature of the fishing gear and the absence of complex interactions (e.g. seabed contact, high-risk bycatch species, or vulnerable marine ecosystems), the ecological and environmental impact of these fisheries is considered low.

Mauritius considers that port-based and logbook monitoring measures provide data of equivalent reliability to onboard observer coverage for this specific fishery.

As an alternate method to collect data (e.g incidental bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles; VME interactions), Mauritius could implement the EMS to complement the observation and recording of information from fishing vessels while during fishing campaigns. However, prior to embark in an EMS Mauritius has to carry out a feasibility study in terms of cost implications. This project can be implemented on a pilot basis and may be applied to all the fishing vessels that are not capable to embark observers on-board, but taking into consideration the financial implications that will be needed to operate this system.

The SC11 noted that it is probably challenging to deploy human observers on these vessels in the short-term and recommended that Mauritius pursue alternative at-sea data collection methods to provide data on discards and potential ETP interactions.

The SC11 requested Mauritius to submit a proposal detailing the current data collection system and future data collection plan, including indicative timeframes, addressing the observer data collection requirement for handlines on Mauritian semi-industrial vessels, to MoP13 and SC12, for consideration. The SC noted that this plan should effectively collect data independently from vessel reporting from all fields currently required under paragraph 12 of CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) for this fishery.

With regard to the time frame for the implementation of the EMS, Mauritius proposes that this method of data collection may be put in place not in the near future and provisions could be made after a period of five years as it depends largely on the funding mechanisms, efficient planning, technical knowhow and legal framework.

Mauritius also affirms that all the obligations in particular the CMM 02(2025) will be fully observed.

Mauritius is therefore submitting the current data collection systems as well as future data collection plan, addressing the observer data requirements for handlines on Mauritian semi-industrial vessels for consideration by the MoP13.

Observer data requirements as per CMM 02 (2025) – Current data collection systems and future plans, Mauritius

Observer data requirement in accordance with CMM 02 (2025)	Data details	Currently being collected	Can be collected in the immediate future	Remarks from Mauritius
Vessel details and information	All vessel details (name, call sign, etc)	✓		Available. The Ministry Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries has details of all registered fishing vessels
Line details	Line type		✓	Information can be collected from fishing vessel prior to departure for fishing trips
	Usage period start		✓	Information can be collected from master of fishing vessels
	Usage period end		✓	Information can be collected from master of fishing vessels
	Main line material		✓	Information can be collected from fishing vessel prior to departure for fishing trips
	Main line diameter		✓	Information can be collected from fishing vessel prior to departure for fishing trips
	main line integral weight		✓	Information can be collected from fishing vessel prior to departure for fishing trips
	Hook type		✓	Information can be collected from fishing vessel prior to departure for fishing trips
	Hook manufacturer		✓	Information may be collected from fishing operators (imported or locally made)
	Hook model name		✓	Information may be collected from fishing operators (imported or locally made)
	Hook size		✓	Information can be collected from fishing vessel prior to departure for fishing trips
	Hook total length		✓	Information can be collected from fishing vessel prior to departure for fishing trips
	Hook Shank		✓	Information can be collected from fishing vessel prior to departure for fishing trips
	Hook Gape		✓	Information can be collected from fishing vessel prior to departure for fishing trips
	Hook usual setting position		✓	Information can be collected from master of fishing vessels
	Hook off bottom		✓	Information can be collected from master of fishing vessels
Bycatch mitigation gear	Number of streamer lines regularly set			To be advised by the SC12
	Streamer line position			To be advised by the SC12
	Streamer line length			To be advised by the SC12
	Streamer minimum length			To be advised by the SC12

	Streamer maximum length			To be advised by the SC12
	Streamer line height above water			To be advised by the SC12
	Line distance between streamers			To be advised by the SC12
	Number of streamers			To be advised by the SC12
	Streamer design			To be advised by the SC12
	Aerial extent of streamer line			To be advised by the SC12
	Streamer line method used to assess extent			To be advised by the SC12
	Streamer material			To be advised by the SC12
	Streamer diameter			To be advised by the SC12
	Streamer colours			To be advised by the SC12
	Streamer line position over bait entry point			To be advised by the SC12
	Distance from stern to bait entry point			To be advised by the SC12
	Towed object			To be advised by the SC12
	Horizontal distance from bait entry point to streamer line			To be advised by the SC12
Line operation	Set type	✓		Available (Commercial)
	Main line length		✓	Information can be collected from fishing vessel prior to departure for fishing trips
	No of hooks per line			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	% hook baited			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	No of fishermen	✓		Collected prior to the issue departure clearance by the Port State Control Unit. The total number fishermen and crew complement on-board are verified the PSCU and other concerned authorities like customs and Mauritius Port Authority)
	No. of line lifts per fisherman			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Bait species	✓		Information can be collected from fishing vessel prior to departure for fishing trips
	Bait size			Information can be collected from fishing vessel prior to departure for fishing trips
	Bait proportion		✓	Information can be collected from fishing vessel prior to departure for fishing trips
	Bait entry position			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Deck light used during setting	n/a	n/a	n/a fishing is carried out during daytime only
	Start and end LAT	✓		Available in logbook (handline operational are daily). Vessel position are confirmed by VMS and ERS
	Start and end LONG	✓		Available in logbook (handline operational are daily). Vessel position are confirmed by VMS and ERS

	Depth	✓		Available from logbooks
	Operation observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Estimated percentage of operation observed for fish/invertebrate bycatches			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Hooks lost Number			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
Catch details	Species FAO Code	✓		Attributed
	Species Scientific Name	✓		Derived from logbook data. (Logbook data verified against landed catch upon unloading, by the Mauritius PSCU)
	Live weight retained	✓		Obtained from logbooks (Logbook data verified against landed catch upon unloading, by Mauritius PSCU)
	Number retained		✓	Number of fish is not recorded. However, through sampling observation, the total number retained can be estimated.
	Live weight discarded			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Number discarded			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Nb of fish lost at surface			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Nb of fish cut-off (if possible)			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
Incidental bycatch (marine mammals, sea birds, reptiles or other species of concern)	Presence			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Species Scientific name			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Species FAO code			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Number caught			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Number released			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Released status			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	No. sampled			
	Nb female			No. of female cannot be identified visually in some species
	Nb male			No. of male cannot be identified visually in some species
	Nb unknown			
	Circumstances of bycatch			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
VME taxa and other benthos	Presence			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Taxa scientific name			May be deduced from EMS data
	Taxa FAO code			
	taxa is VME?			

	photo reference			
	Quantity estimate			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Quantity unit			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Sample taken for ID			
	Status (Live or dead for corals)			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
Biological sampling	Species FAO code	✓		Derived from port sampling data
	Length	✓		Collected from port sampling. 50% of all the trips carried out in a year, around 175-200 will be sampled per sampling exercise.
	Length type	✓		Collected from port sampling.
	Weight	✓		Collected from port sampling. 50% of all the trips carried out in a year, around 175-200 will be sampled per sampling exercise. A 10% coverage of the total catch for sampling exercises will be undertaken
	Sex			Information may be obtained by performing biological sampling in the laboratory
	Maturity			Information may be obtained by performing biological sampling in the laboratory
	Otolith collected			Otolith collection may be carried out in the laboratory
	Seabird species			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	FAO code			
	Estimated No.			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
Sea birds observation (abundance estimation)	Seabird species			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	FAO code			
	Estimated No.			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
Marine mammals abundance observation	Presence			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Species			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	FAO Code			
	Estimated numbers			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
Bird bands observation	Date and time of observation			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Latitude			
	Longitude			
	Species			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
Bird interaction with vessel and collisions	Date and time of observation			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Latitude			
	Longitude			

(Excluding fishing gear)	Species			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Number of birds			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Bird state			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Vessel activity			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Type of interaction			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Description of the interaction			Information may be obtained when EMS will be implemented
	Fog			
	Wind speed			
	Wind bearing			
	Sea state			
	Vessel lighting			
Tags recovery	Species			Given that the species is not migratory, tagging exercises are not recommended
	Tag Type			
	Tag Colour			
	Tag number			
	Tag wording			
	Length of animal			
	Length type			
	Sex			
Tags released	Species code			Given that the species is not migratory, tagging exercises are not recommended
	Length			
	Length type			
	Sex			
	Tag Type			
	Tag colour			
	Tag Number			
	Tag wording			
	Animal Status at release			
	Release date			
	Release time			
	Release Lat			
	Release Long			



10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)

Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026

CC-10-22 / MoP-12-22

Proposal to amend CMM15 (2025) Management of Demersal Stocks

Delegation of Australia

Meeting	Compliance Committee ☐ Meeting of the Parties ☒
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ☒ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ☒ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	
Australia's proposed amendments to CMM15 (2025) implement the recommendations from the 11th Annual Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC) and the outstanding recommendation of SC10, establish a catch sharing arrangement for South Indian Ridge and removes an obsolete paragraph. The proposed amendments, as recommended by SC11 are: - For the 2026-27 season the catch limits be set at 112 t for the Williams Ridge (WR) Management Area (SC11 paragraph 255); 52.8 t for the Del Cano Rise (DCR) Management Area (SC11 paragraph 266); and 66.7 t for the proposed South Indian Ridge (SIR) Management Area (SC11 paragraph 271). - Following the request from MoP for SC advice on paragraph 21 of CMM15(2025), that MoP adopt a modified version of paragraph 21 as follows "Longlines shall not exceed 3000 hooks per line. Each vessel shall ensure that longlines are set at a minimum distance of 3 nautical miles from any other longlines previously set by the same vessel during the ongoing fishing trip" (SC 11 paragraph 263).	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

- That MoP adopt a modified version of paragraph 14 “... A minimum overlap statistic of at least 60% shall apply for tag release, once 30 or more *Dissostichus* spp. specimens have been caught. However, members are encouraged to achieve an overlap of 80%. Members with vessels achieving an overlap between 60 and 80% shall report to the SC for review, in order to better understand the factors causing the lower tag overlap statistic.” (SC11 paragraph 264).

The proposal also establishes the SIR management area, as recommended by the SC (SC10 - paragraph 264 and SC9 - paragraph 211).

Australia has proposed a catch sharing arrangement for the SIR Management Area, similar to the approach used for DCR (equal share between CCPs with reported catch with a reference period of up to 2026).

Additionally, in reviewing the measure we have proposed to remove paragraph 44, which we understand as being obsolete given the grid cell effort management system.

Recommendations
• For MoP13 to review and adopt the proposal

CMM 15(~~2025~~2026)³**Conservation and Management Measure for the Management of Demersal Stocks in the Agreement Area (Management of Demersal Stocks)****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;**

RECOGNISING that Article 4(a) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) calls on the Contracting Parties, in giving effect to the duty to cooperate, to adopt measures on the basis of the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation of fishery resources, taking into account the sustainable use of such resources and implementing an ecosystem approach to their management;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 4(c), (e) and (f) of the Agreement which call on the Contracting Parties to apply the precautionary approach and the principles that fishing practices and management measures shall take due account of the need to minimise the harmful impact that fishing activities may have on the marine environment and that biodiversity in the marine environment shall be protected;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 6(1)(d) and (e) of the Agreement which provide that the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt conservation and management measures (CMMs) necessary for ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishery resources, taking into account the need to protect marine biodiversity, based on the best scientific evidence available and adopt generally recommended international minimum standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations;

MINDFUL of Article 16 of the Agreement that calls on Contracting Parties, acting jointly under the Agreement, to cooperate closely with other international fisheries and related organisations in matters of mutual interest;

COMMITTED to ensuring that bottom fishing undertaken in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) is consistent with the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and the protection of the marine environment;

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:**Objective**

1. The objective of this CMM is to promote the sustainable management of deep-sea fisheries resources in the Agreement Area, including target fish stocks and non-target species.

General provisions

2. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party, participating fishing entity or cooperating non-participating fishing entity (collectively CCPs) to the Agreement engaging or intending to engage in bottom fishing in the Agreement Area.

Status of Stocks

3. The Scientific Committee shall provide annual reports, based on the best available science, on the status of the demersal fisheries resources targeted in the Agreement Area, relative to available and/or relevant reference points. The reports shall include, where possible, projections of stock status over a period no less than 20 years, with 5 years steps, relative to a

³ CMM 15(~~2025~~2026) (Management of Demersal Stocks) supersedes CMM 15(~~2024~~2025) (Management of Demersal Stocks).

range of fishing mortality. -In addition to the annual report on stock status, the Scientific Committee will provide management advice relative to available and/or relevant reference points.

Orange Roughy:

Fishing season

4. For the purposes of this CMM, the fishing season for *Hoplostethus atlanticus* in the Agreement area shall be defined as the period from 1st January to 31 December both dates inclusive.

Stock assessment

5. The orange roughy stocks shall be the subject of a full stock assessment to be assessed every three to five years. In the interim period available information on ORY stocks shall be presented annually.
6. The SC shall provide a summary of future data needs to improve assessment accuracy, as well as provide a summary to MoP-7 on progress against the ORY workplan.

Toothfish:

7. For the purpose of this fishery, the target species are *Dissostichus mawsoni* and *Dissostichus eleginoides*, defined as *Dissostichus* spp. The Toothfish management areas are defined in Annex VIII.

The objectives of this section are to:

- a. ensure collaborative and complementary arrangements are in place for *Dissostichus* spp. between SIOFA and the Commission for the Conservation of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR); and
 - b. ensure that fishing mortality of *Dissostichus* spp. on William's Ridge in the Agreement Area⁴, ~~and~~ Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge do not cause biologically sustainable catch levels to be exceeded, taking into account population links.
8. The catch limits for *Dissostichus* spp. on Del Cano Rise ~~and, South Indian Ridge~~, and ~~the research catch limit for *Dissostichus* spp. on~~ William's Ridge as specified in paragraphs 17, 18 and 323 shall apply until:
 - a. the Meeting of the Parties has adopted a biologically appropriate catch limit for the populations of *Dissostichus* spp. occurring in the SIOFA portion of Williams Ridge, ~~and~~ Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge and other appropriate management measures which are comparable in effectiveness to those in force in CCAMLR taking into account the advice and recommendations of the SIOFA Scientific Committee and
 - b. the Meeting of the Parties has adopted appropriate bycatch mitigation measures, including measures to minimize the incidental catch of seabirds which are comparable in effectiveness to those in force in CCAMLR consistent with the advice provided by the Scientific Committee.
 9. The Scientific Committee shall continue providing advice and recommendations on:
 - a. a biologically appropriate catch limit for the populations of *Dissostichus* spp. occurring in the SIOFA portion of Williams Ridge ~~and, Del Cano Rise~~ and South Indian Ridge;

⁴ The portion of Williams Ridge in the Agreement Area is bounded by the area 80E to 85E and 52S to 55S.

- b. appropriate bycatch mitigation measures, including for benthic bycatch and seabirds; and
 - c. any other matter that the Scientific Committee determines as relevant or necessary for the sustainable management of the *Dissostichus* spp. populations.
10. In formulating its advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties in respect of this CMM, the SIOFA Scientific Committee shall take full account of relevant CCAMLR Scientific Committee material.
 11. CCPs with an interest in this stock shall cooperate to ensure scientific collaboration between CCAMLR and SIOFA to ensure long-term sustainable management for *Dissostichus* spp. stocks which takes due account of relevant rights and responsibilities under international law, and which does not undermine the conservation status of the stock.

General Provisions

12. Fishing with demersal longlines shall be prohibited in depths shallower than 500m. in order to protect benthic communities and juvenile *Dissostichus* spp.
13. Each vessel participating in the fishery shall have at least one scientific observer on board throughout all fishing activities within the fishing period. The observer shall have a target of observing 25% of hooks hauled per line over the duration of the fishing deployment.
14. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels to tag and release *Dissostichus* spp. specimens at a rate of at least 5 fish per tonne of green weight caught. A minimum overlap statistic of at least 60% shall apply for tag release, once 30 or more *Dissostichus* spp. specimens have been caught. CCPs are encouraged to achieve an overlap statistic of 80%. CCPs with vessels achieving an overlap statistic between 60 and 80% shall report to the SC for review, in order to better understand the factors causing the lower tag overlap statistic.
15. For toothfish fisheries, the season is defined as the period from 1 December to 30 November (both dates inclusive).
16. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. to report VMS data automatically to their FMC at least every hour.

Management measures for toothfish in the Del Cano Rise Area and South Indian Ridge Area

Effort/catch and operational limits

17. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in the Del Cano Rise area do not exceed ~~44~~52.8 tonnes. Without prejudice to any future sharing arrangement of the catch opportunities, this catch shall be equally shared between those CCPs which have historical catches declared to SIOFA up to 2016 in the Del Cano Rise area. Any overcatch by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.
18. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in the South Indian Ridge Management Area do not exceed 66.7 tonnes. Without prejudice to any future sharing arrangements of the catch opportunities, this catch shall be equally shared between CCPs which have reported catch from South Indian Ridge prior to 2026. Any overcatch by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.
- ~~18.~~19. A CCP may transfer to another CCP all or part of its annual catch limit established under paragraphs 17 and 18, provided that the total catch of the two CCPs concerned does not exceed their combined limits. All such transfers shall be notified to the Secretariat within one week and communicated by the Secretariat to all CCPs.

~~19.20.~~ CCPs shall send ~~monthly-weekly~~ reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat, using the template at Annex I. As soon as 90% of the catch limit is reached, the Secretariat shall notify the CCPs of the closure of the fishery.

~~20.21.~~ CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat daily on start and end points of set longlines, using the template at Annex II.

~~21.22. Longlines shall not exceed 3000 hooks per line. Each vessel shall ensure that longlines are set at a minimum distance of 3 nautical miles from any other longlines previously set by the same vessel during the ongoing fishing trip. Longlines shall not exceed 3000 hooks per line and shall be set at minimum 3 nautical miles from each other.~~⁵

By-catch limits

~~22.23.~~ Toothfish caught by vessels not targeting *Dissostichus* spp. shall not exceed 0.5 t per season of *Dissostichus* spp.

~~23.24.~~ Should a vessel fishing for species other than *Dissostichus* spp. reach the *Dissostichus* spp. limit of 0.5 tonnes, the Del Cano area shall be closed for this vessel for that season.

Mitigation of depredation

~~24.25.~~ To reduce likelihood of depredation, vessels are encouraged to not haul longlines in the presence of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) and are discouraged from hauling longlines in presence of any odontocete (toothed) whales.

~~25.26.~~ Should killer whales arrive during hauling operations, the vessels are encouraged to cease hauling, tie off the longline with a buoy, and move on. The vessel may only retrieve the tied-off line once the killer whales are no longer near the line.

~~26.27.~~ To further reduce potential for depredation, vessels are encouraged to set lines at depths exceeding 1000 m.

Scientific committee

~~27.28.~~ In 2020 the SC shall make recommendations in order to build an area wide habitat model, a spatial and temporal CPUE analysis, an estimate and map of local abundancies and a local population assessment. It shall further advise on any necessary improvements to data collection in order to reduce future assessment uncertainty.

~~28.29.~~ The SC shall also address the issues related to depredation.

Review

~~29.30.~~ The provisions above shall be reviewed annually until a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCAMLR is established. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking collaboratively the stock assessments and agreeing in coherent, fair and scientifically sound conservation and management measures for the *Dissostichus* spp. that are shared by the two organisations.

Management & research measures for toothfish in Williams Ridge [FAO Subarea 57.4]

Area and purpose

~~30.31.~~ For the purpose of this fishery, Williams Ridge is defined as the area set out in Annex VIII, and divided into a 15'x15' grid for spatial management. This grid is in place to address the

⁵For the purpose of this measure lines by the same vessel on the same trip must be 3nm from each other.

risk of localised depletion and ensure representative data collection throughout the SIOFA part of Williams Ridge.

Data collection for fisheries research

~~31.32.~~ Representative data and samples of length, weight, sex, maturity stage, gonad weight and otoliths shall be collected to contribute to the work of the Scientific Committee, and in particular to contribute to assessing the risk to localised depletion.

Effort/catch and operational limits

~~32.33.~~ Total annual ~~research~~ catches in this area shall not exceed ~~140-112~~ tonnes. Any excess in a given year shall be deducted from that CCP from the following year.

~~33.34.~~ CCPs shall ensure their vessels send daily reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat using the template at Annex III and inform the Secretariat daily on start and end points of set longlines, using the template at Annex IV. As soon as 90% of the catch limit is reached, the Secretariat shall notify all CCPs and CCPs shall ensure there is no further fishing effort by their fishing vessels for the remainder of the season.

~~34.35.~~ Only one fishing vessel at a time can fish for *Dissostichus* spp. in a given grid cell. A grid cell shall be closed to fishing by other vessels while a line is being set or hauled by a vessel, and while a line has been set by a vessel and has not been hauled.⁶

~~35.36.~~ CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat at least 72hrs prior to entering the Williams Ridge area with information on the intended grid cells the vessel intends to fish using the entry notification at Annex V. The Secretariat will inform the vessel within 60 hours of the notification whether the nominated grid cells have already been fished.

~~36.37.~~ CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels shall not fish in a grid cell before having received confirmation from the Secretariat that two lines have not already been set in that grid cell during that season.

~~37.38.~~ Where two or more fishing vessels notify that they are entering Williams Ridge, the Secretariat shall immediately notify these fishing vessels that daily reporting requirements in paragraphs ~~389~~ and ~~3940~~ apply.

~~38.39.~~ CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat as soon as they enter a grid cell to fish for *Dissostichus* spp., using the entry notification template at Annex V. Outside Secretariat business hours, an advance notification process will apply. The Secretariat shall inform the vessel as soon as possible⁷ of the number of lines that have been set in that grid cell during that season and whether it is currently being fished by another vessel, using the template at Annex VI. Where the Secretariat receives notifications from multiple fishing vessels for a given grid cell, the Secretariat will respond to the notifications in the order that they were received.

~~39.40.~~ CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels shall not fish in a grid cell before having received confirmation from the Secretariat that two lines have not already been set in that grid cell during that season and that it is not currently being fished by another fishing vessel,

⁶ For the avoidance of doubt, a vessel that ceases hauling a line in a grid cell in order to mitigate depredation in accordance with paragraphs ~~46-47~~ and ~~47-48~~ is still fishing in that grid cell until it hauls the line.

⁷ In accordance with any arrangements agreed ahead of each fishing season between the CCPs with fishing vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. in Williams Ridge and the Chair of the MoP in consultation with the Secretariat. The arrangements could include procedures and expected timeframes for the Secretariat's response to prevent unreasonable operational disruption to fishing outside Secretariat business hours. Once agreed, the Secretariat should circulate the arrangements to all CCPs before the beginning of the season.

however a fishing vessel entering a grid cell to haul a line and to set a second line may haul the first line (but not set the second line) before receiving the confirmation.

~~40.41.~~ CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat as soon as they exit the grid cell specified in paragraph ~~3536~~ or ~~3839~~ and that they inform the Secretariat of the number of lines they have set and/or hauled in that grid cell, if any, using the exit notification template at Annex VII.

~~41.42.~~ Longlines shall not exceed 6250 hooks per line and shall not be set across grid cells.

~~42.43.~~ CCPs shall ensure that no more than two lines in total are set per grid for the duration of the fishing season of *Dissostichus* spp.

~~43.44.~~ Once two lines have been set in a given grid cell, it shall be closed to fishing for the remainder of that fishing season.

~~44.~~ ~~CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. in Williams Ridge to apply a break of a minimum of 30 days between consecutive fishing trips to Williams Ridge.~~

By-catch limits

45. Toothfish caught by vessels not targeting *Dissostichus* spp. shall not exceed 0.5 tonnes per season.
46. Should a vessel fishing for species other than *Dissostichus* spp. reach the *Dissostichus* spp. limit of 0.5 tonnes, the Williams Ridge area shall be closed for this vessel for that season.

Mitigation of depredation

47. To reduce likelihood of depredation, vessels are encouraged not to haul longlines in the presence of sperm whales (*Physetes catodon*) and are discouraged from hauling longlines in presence of any odontocete (toothed) whales.
48. Should sperm whales arrive during hauling operations, the vessels are encouraged to cease hauling, tie off the longline with a buoy, and move on. The vessel may only retrieve the tied-off line once the sperm whales are no longer near the line.

Review

49. The level of fishing on Williams Ridge shall be reviewed annually. This CMM may be reviewed annually until a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCAMLR is established. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking collaboratively the stock assessments and agreeing in coherent, fair and scientifically sound conservation and management measures for the *Dissostichus* spp. that are shared by the two organisations.

Management plan for Alfonsino:

Season

50. For the purpose of fishery for *Beryx splendens* in SIOFA area the season is defined as the period from 1 January to 31 December both dates inclusive.

Stock assessment

51. The MoP requests that the SC assess the *Beryx splendens* stocks in 2027 at the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee (if the SC, in 2026, determines that suitable data exist to undertake that assessment). In addition, the SC is requested to provide advice on a regular assessment schedule for future years.

52. The Scientific Committee shall provide clear advice and guidance on any necessary changes to data collection in order to reduce future assessment uncertainty.

Application

53. The catch limit provided for in paragraphs 17 ~~and 18 and 33 of this CMM~~ shall apply from 1 December ~~2024~~2026.

Annex I - Template for CCPs to use for weekly/monthly catch reports to the Secretariat when fishing on the Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge areas (paragraph 1920).

CCPs shall send weekly/monthly reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat. This report shall be sent to SIOFA Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org).

Vessel name

Vessel flag

Area

(circle or underline correct area)

DEL CANO RISE

WILLIAMS RIDGE

SOUTH INDIAN
RIDGE
~~OTHER~~

Year

Month/Week

Catch live weight (Kg)

Catch Pieces

Annex II - Template for CCPs to use for daily longline reporting to the Secretariat when fishing on the Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge areas (paragraph 2021).

CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org) daily on start and end point of set longlines, and shall use the following template:

Vessel name

Vessel flag

Set Start Date

Set Start Time

Set Start Longitude

Set Start Latitude

Set Start Depth

Set End Date

Set End Time

Set End Longitude

Set End Latitude

Set End Depth

Number of hooks

set

Annex III - Template for CCPs to use for daily catch reports to the Secretariat when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 3334).

CCPs shall send daily catch reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org).

Vessel name

Vessel flag

Area

(circle or underline correct area)

DEL CANO RISE

WILLIAMS RIDGE

SOUTH INDIAN
RIDGE~~OTHER~~

Month

Day

Catch live weight (Kg)

Catch Pieces

Annex IV - Template for CCPs to use for daily longline reporting to the Secretariat when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 3334).

CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org) daily on start and end point of set longlines, and shall use the following template:

Vessel name		Vessel flag	
Set Start Date		Set Start Time	
Set Start Longitude		Set Start Latitude	
Set Start Depth			
Set End Date		Set End Time	
Set End Longitude		Set End Latitude	
Set End Depth			
Grid Cell* (e.g. C8)			
Number of hooks set			

*Williams Ridge Area grid cells:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	lat.			
1																								
2																								
3																					53 S			
4																								
5																								
6																								
7																					54 S			
8																								
9																								
10																					55 S			
long.	80 E				81 E				82 E				83 E				84 E				85 E			

Annex V – Template for vessel entry notification when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 35-36 and 3839).

[Vessel name] hereby notifies its entry into grid cell [Number] at [Date: Time (UTC)] to fish for toothfish.

I [Name of Captain] confirm that the [vessel name] will not commence fishing until receipt of confirmation from the Secretariat that two lines have not already been set in this cell during this fishing season and that the cell is not currently being fished by another vessel.

Annex VI – Template for Secretariat confirmation in response to vessel entry notifications when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 3839).

The Secretariat acknowledges receipt of your notification of entry into [grid cell number] to fish for toothfish and advises that:

1. [number of lines] have been set in this cell during this fishing season, and
2. this cell [is/is not] currently being fished by another vessel.

Annex VII – Template for vessel exit notification when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 4041).

[Vessel name] hereby notifies its exit from grid cell [Number] at [Date:Time (UTC)]. I [Name of Captain] inform you that the [vessel name] has (choose 1 option from the list below):

1. set 1 line
2. set 2 lines
3. hauled 1 line
4. hauled 2 lines
5. hauled 1 line and set 1 line

Annex VIII – Toothfish Management Areas

The Management areas for Toothfish are defined as follow;

Del Cano Rise

The Del Cano area is;

- (i) north of 45°00' S, and
- (ii) south of 44°00' S when west of 44°09' E, and
- (iii) south of 43°30' S when east of 44°09' E, and
- (iv) between the adjacent EEZs to the east and west

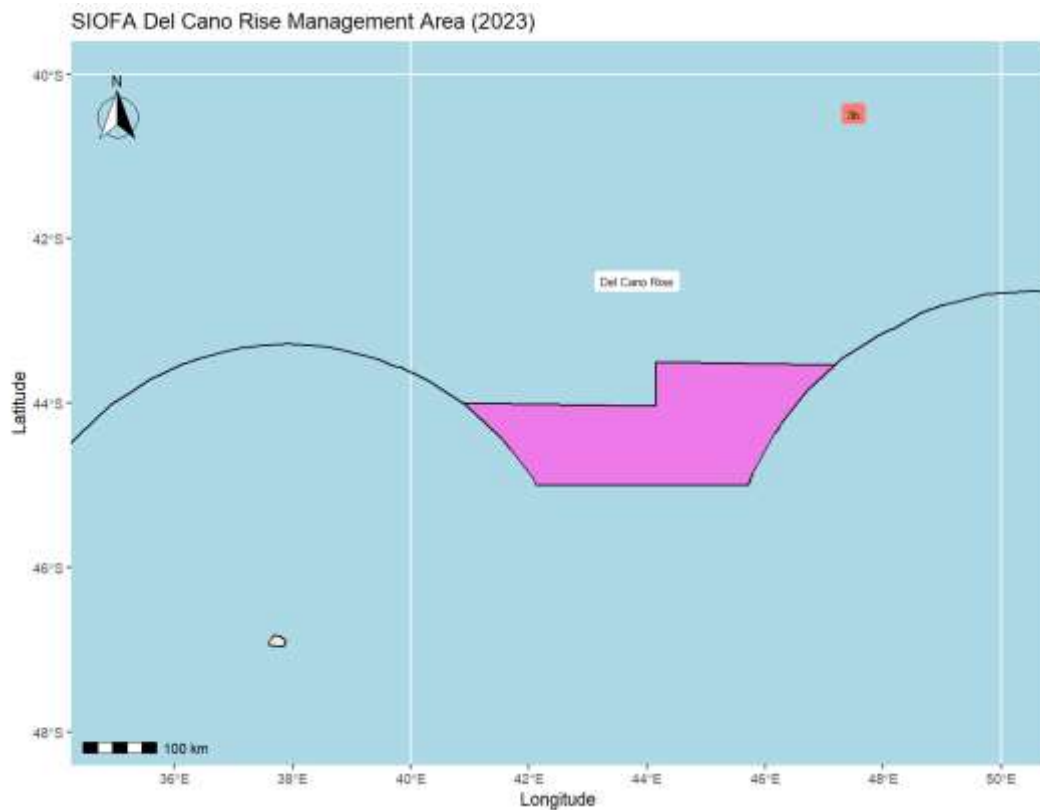


Figure A: Boundaries of the extended Del Cano Rise management area.

South Indian Ridge

The South Indian Ridge is defined as within the box bounded by the following points:

Latitude	Longitude
40°00' S	43°30' E
44°00' S	43°30' E
44°00' S	40°55' E
43°47.2' S	40°30' E
40°00' S	40°30' E

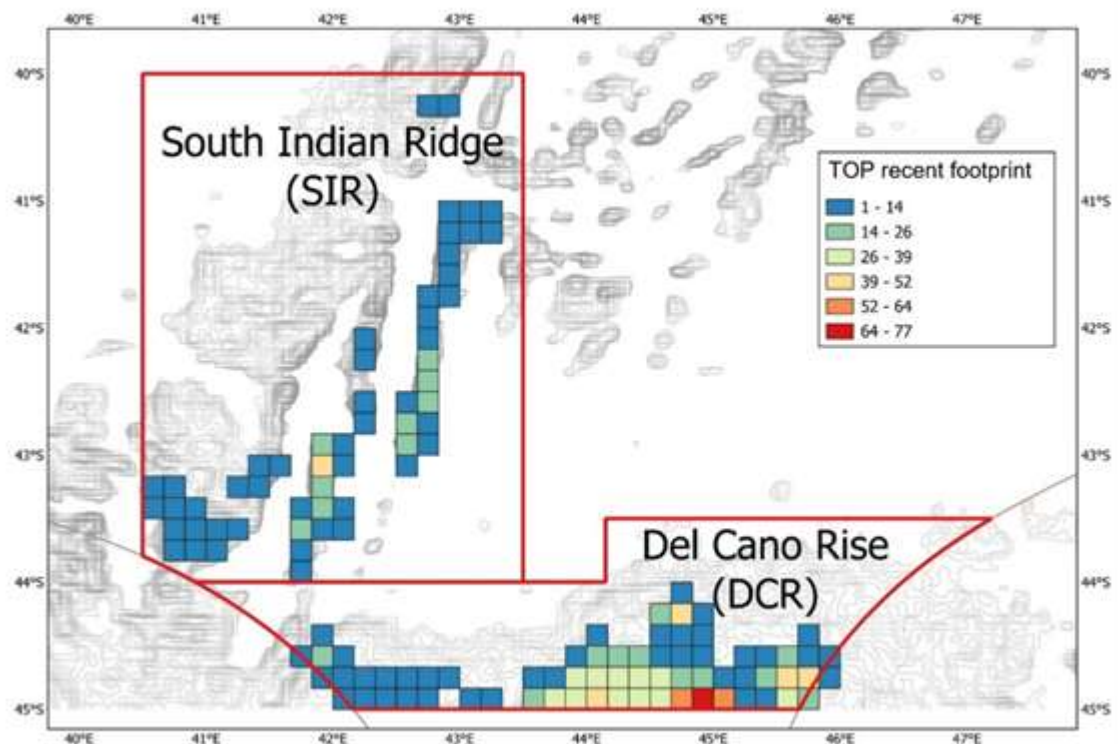
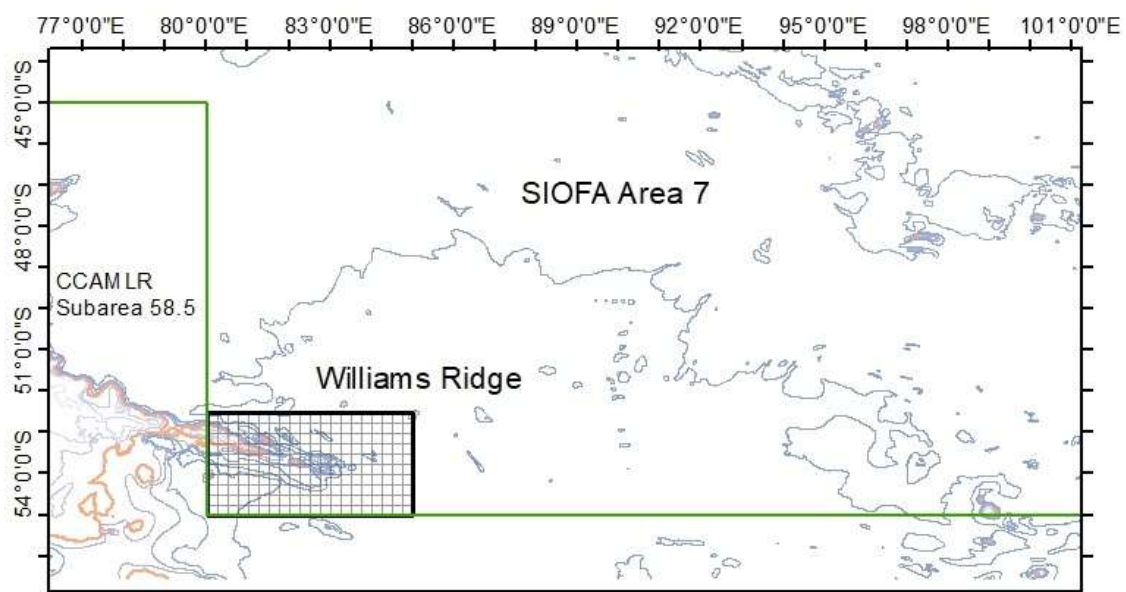


Figure B: Boundaries of the Del Cano Rise and the South Indian Ridge -areas (2024).

Williams Ridge

The Williams Ridge is defined as within the box bounded by the following points:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	-52.5	80.0
2	-55	80.0
3	-55	85.0
4	-52.5	85.0



| Figure CB The boundary of Williams ridge and the 15' cells.

**10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)***Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026***CC-10-26 / MoP-10-26**

Proposal to amend CMM15 (2025) Conservation and Management Measure for the Management of Demersal Stocks in the Agreement Area (Management of Demersal Stocks)

Delegation of the European Union

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ✓ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	
The EU is proposing to amend CMM15 (2025) to take into account the recommendation of the 10th and 11th Scientific Committees as regard the management of toothfish, orange Roughy and al-fonsino. The EU is proposing the creation of the South Indian Ridge management area and the establishment of a TAC, as per paragraphs 268 and 271 of the SC11 report. Considering that creating a TAC without allocating catch limit to CCP does not allow to respect a TAC, the EU is also proposing an allocation mechanism of this TAC. In addition, the EU is also proposing to increase the TAC in Del Cano as recommended, as per paragraph 266 of the SC11 report.	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Finally, the EU is also proposing to amend the management system in William's Ridge, to retain the catch limit while removing the "effort" management system, which has been posing disproportionate limitation for some fleets. This would be the first step to implement paragraph 255 of the SC11 report.

On orange roughy, the EU is proposing to set up a catch limit as per paragraph 224 of the SC10 report.

On alfonsino, the EU is proposing to set up a catch limit as per paragraph 241 of the SC10 report.

Recommendations

- **Adopt** the amendments presented

CMM 15(202~~65~~)¹

Conservation and Management Measure for the Management of Demersal Stocks in the Agreement Area (Management of Demersal Stocks)

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;

RECOGNISING that Article 4(a) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) calls on the Contracting Parties, in giving effect to the duty to cooperate, to adopt measures on the basis of the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation of fishery resources, taking into account the sustainable use of such resources and implementing an ecosystem approach to their management;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 4(c), (e) and (f) of the Agreement which call on the Contracting Parties to apply the precautionary approach and the principles that fishing practices and management measures shall take due account of the need to minimise the harmful impact that fishing activities may have on the marine environment and that biodiversity in the marine environment shall be protected;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 6(1)(d) and (e) of the Agreement which provide that the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt conservation and management measures (CMMs) necessary for ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishery resources, taking into account the need to protect marine biodiversity, based on the best scientific evidence available and adopt generally recommended international minimum standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations;

MINDFUL of Article 16 of the Agreement that calls on Contracting Parties, acting jointly under the Agreement, to cooperate closely with other international fisheries and related organisations in matters of mutual interest;

COMMITTED to ensuring that bottom fishing undertaken in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) is consistent with the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and the protection of the marine environment;

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:

Objective

1. The objective of this CMM is to promote the sustainable management of deep-sea fisheries resources in the Agreement Area, including target fish stocks and non-target species.

General provisions

2. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party, participating fishing entity or cooperating non-participating fishing entity (collectively CCPs) to the Agreement engaging or intending to engage in bottom fishing in the Agreement Area.

Status of Stocks

3. The Scientific Committee shall provide annual reports, based on the best available science, on the status of the demersal fisheries resources targeted in the Agreement Area, relative to available and/or relevant reference points. The reports shall include, where possible,

¹ CMM 15(202~~65~~) (Management of Demersal Stocks) supersedes CMM 15(202~~54~~) (Management of Demersal Stocks).

projections of stock status over a period no less than 20 years, with 5 years steps, relative to a range of fishing mortality. In addition to the annual report on stock status, the Scientific Committee will provide management advice relative to available and/or relevant reference points.

Orange Roughy:

Fishing season

4. For the purposes of this CMM, the fishing season for *Hoplostethus atlanticus* in the Agreement area shall be defined as the period from 1st January to 31 December both dates inclusive.

Stock assessment

5. The orange roughy stocks shall be the subject of a full stock assessment to be assessed every three to five years. In the interim period available information on ORY stocks shall be presented annually.
6. The SC shall provide a summary of future data needs to improve assessment accuracy, as well as provide a summary to MoP-7 on progress against the ORY workplan.

Catch and operational limits

7. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Hoplostethus atlanticus* in the SIOFA area do not exceed 1010.75 tonnes, consistent with the average catch from 2015-2020 for the SIOFA Area (which includes catch outside the assessment areas).

Toothfish:

8. For the purpose of this fishery, the target species are *Dissostichus mawsoni* and *Dissostichus eleginoides*, defined as *Dissostichus* spp. The Toothfish management areas are defined in Annex VIII.

The objectives of this section are to:

- a. ensure collaborative and complementary arrangements are in place for *Dissostichus* spp. between SIOFA and the Commission for the Conservation of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR); and
 - b. ensure that fishing mortality of *Dissostichus* spp. on William's Ridge in the Agreement Area², ~~and~~ Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge do not cause biologically sustainable catch levels to be exceeded, taking into account population links.
9. The catch limit for *Dissostichus* spp. on Del Cano Rise, South Indian Ridge, and ~~research catch limit for *Dissostichus* spp. on~~ William's Ridge as specified in paragraphs ~~187, 19~~ and ~~342~~ shall apply until:
 - a. the Meeting of the Parties has adopted a biologically appropriate catch limit for the populations of *Dissostichus* spp. occurring in the SIOFA portion of Williams Ridge and Del Cano Rise and other appropriate management measures which are

² The portion of Williams Ridge in the Agreement Area is bounded by the area 80E to 85E and 52S to 55S.

comparable in effectiveness to those in force in CCAMLR taking into account the advice and recommendations of the SIOFA Scientific Committee and

- b. the Meeting of the Parties has adopted appropriate bycatch mitigation measures, including measures to minimize the incidental catch of seabirds which are comparable in effectiveness to those in force in CCAMLR consistent with the advice provided by the Scientific Committee.

10. The Scientific Committee shall continue providing advice and recommendations on:

- a. a biologically appropriate and updated catch limit for the populations of *Dissostichus* spp. occurring in the SIOFA portion of Williams Ridge, ~~and~~ Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge;
- b. appropriate and updated bycatch mitigation measures, including for benthic bycatch and seabirds; ~~and~~
- b.c. updated technical measures for the different areas where *Dissostichus* spp. is harvested; and
- d. any other matter that the Scientific Committee determines as relevant or necessary for the sustainable management of the *Dissostichus* spp. populations.

11. In formulating its advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties in respect of this CMM, the SIOFA Scientific Committee shall take full account of relevant CCAMLR Scientific Committee material.

12. CCPs with an interest in this stock shall cooperate to ensure scientific collaboration between CCAMLR and SIOFA to ensure long-term sustainable management for *Dissostichus* spp. stocks which takes due account of relevant rights and responsibilities under international law, and which does not undermine the conservation status of the stock.

General Provisions

13. Fishing with demersal longlines shall be prohibited in depths shallower than 500m. in order to protect benthic communities and juvenile *Dissostichus* spp.

14. In derogation of paragraph 37b of CMM01. Each vessel participating in the toothfish fishery shall have at least one scientific observer on board throughout all fishing activities within the fishing period. The observer shall ~~have a target of~~ observeing at least 25% of hooks hauled per line over the duration of the fishing deployment.

15. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels to tag and release *Dissostichus* spp. specimens at a rate of at least 5 fish per tonne of green weight caught. A minimum overlap statistic of at least 60% shall apply for tag release, once 30 or more *Dissostichus* spp. specimens have been caught. However, members are encouraged to achieve an overlap of 80%. Members with vessels achieving an overlap between 60 and 80% shall report to the SC for review, in order to better understand the factors causing the lower tag overlap statistic.

16. For toothfish fisheries, the season is defined as the period from 1 December to 30 November (both dates inclusive).

17. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. to report VMS data automatically to their FMC at least every hour.

Management measures for toothfish in the Del Cano Area

Effort/catch and operational limits

18. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in the Del Cano Rise area do not exceed ~~44~~52.8 tonnes. Without prejudice to any future sharing arrangement of the catch opportunities, this catch shall be equally shared between those CCPs which have historical catches declared to SIOFA ~~for the period 2020-2024 up to 2016~~ in the Del Cano Rise area. Any overcatch by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.
19. A CCP may transfer to another CCP all or part of its annual catch limit established under paragraph ~~18~~7, provided that the total catch of the two CCPs concerned does not exceed their combined limits. All such transfers shall be notified to the Secretariat within one week and communicated by the Secretariat to all CCPs.
20. CCPs shall send monthly reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat, using the template at Annex I. As soon as 90% of the catch limit is reached, the Secretariat shall notify the CCPs of the closure of the fishery.
21. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat daily on start and end points of set longlines, using the template at Annex II.
22. Longlines shall not exceed 3000 hooks per line, ~~and shall be set at minimum 3 nautical miles from each other.~~³ Each vessel shall ensure that longlines are set at a minimum distance of 3 nautical miles from any other longlines previously set by the same vessel during the ongoing fishing trip.

By-catch limits

23. Toothfish caught by vessels not targeting *Dissostichus* spp. shall not exceed 0.5 t per season of *Dissostichus* spp.
24. Should a vessel fishing for species other than *Dissostichus* spp. reach the *Dissostichus* spp. limit of 0.5 tonnes, the Del Cano area shall be closed for this vessel for that season.

Mitigation of depredation

25. To reduce likelihood of depredation, vessels are encouraged to not haul longlines in the presence of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) and are discouraged from hauling longlines in presence of any other odontocete (toothed) whales.
26. Should killer whales arrive during hauling operations, the vessels are encouraged to cease hauling, tie off the longline with a buoy, and move on. The vessel may only retrieve the tied-off line once the killer whales are no longer near the line.
27. To further reduce potential for depredation, vessels are encouraged to set lines at depths exceeding 1000 m.

Scientific committee

³ ~~For the purpose of this measure lines by the same vessel on the same trip must be 3nm from each other.~~

28. In 2020, the SC shall make recommendations in order to build an area wide habitat model, a spatial and temporal CPUE analysis, an estimate and map of local abundancies and a local population assessment. It shall further advise on any necessary improvements to data collection in order to reduce future assessment uncertainty.

29. The SC shall also address the issues related to depredation.

Review

30. The provisions above shall be reviewed annually until a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCAMLR is established. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking collaboratively the stock assessments and agreeing in coherent, fair and scientifically sound conservation and management measures for the *Dissostichus* spp. that are shared by the two organisations.

Management measures for toothfish in the South Indian Ridge Area

Effort/catch and operational limits

31. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in the South Indian Ridge area do not exceed 66.7 tonnes. Without prejudice to any future sharing arrangement of the catch opportunities, in particular any future framework for deciding allocations based on catch history, among other factors, this catch shall be shared proportionally between those CCPs which have catches declared to SIOFA for the period 2020-2024 in the South Indian Ridge area. Any excess by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.

32. A CCP may transfer to another CCP all or part of its annual catch limit established under paragraph 31, provided that the total catch of the two CCPs concerned does not exceed their combined limits. All such transfers shall be notified to the Secretariat within one week and communicated by the Secretariat to all CCPs.

33. CCPs shall send monthly reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat, using the template at Annex I.

34. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat daily on start and end points of set longlines, using the template at Annex II.

By-catch limits

35. Toothfish caught by vessels not targeting *Dissostichus* spp. shall not exceed 0.5 t per season of *Dissostichus* spp.

36. Should a vessel fishing for species other than *Dissostichus* spp. reach the *Dissostichus* spp. limit of 0.5 tonnes, the South Indian Ridge area shall be closed for this vessel for that season.

Mitigation of depredation

37. To reduce likelihood of depredation, vessels are encouraged to not haul longlines in the presence of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) and are discouraged from hauling longlines in presence of any other odontocete (toothed) whales.

38. Should killer whales arrive during hauling operations, the vessels are encouraged to cease hauling, tie off the longline with a buoy, and move on. The vessel may only retrieve the tied-off line once the killer whales are no longer near the line.

Review

39. The provisions above shall be reviewed annually until a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCAMLR is established. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking collaboratively the stock assessments and agreeing in coherent, fair and scientifically sound conservation and management measures for the *Dissostichus* spp. that are shared by the two organisations.

Management measures for toothfish in Williams Ridge [FAO Subarea 57.4]

Area and purpose

37.40. For the purpose of this fishery, Williams Ridge is defined as the area set out in Annex VIII, and divided into a 15'x15' grid for spatial management. This grid is in place to address the risk of localised depletion and ensure representative data collection throughout the SIOFA part of Williams Ridge.

Data collection for fisheries research

38.41. Representative data and samples of length, weight, sex, maturity stage, gonad weight and otoliths shall be collected to contribute to the work of the Scientific Committee, and in particular to contribute to assessing the risk to localised depletion.

Effort/catch and operational limits

39.42. Total annual ~~research~~ catches in this area shall not exceed 1 ~~1240~~ tonnes. Any excess in a given year shall be deducted from that CCP from the following year.

40.43. CCPs shall ensure their vessels send daily reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat using the template at Annex III and inform the Secretariat daily on start and end points of set longlines, using the template at Annex IV. As soon as 90% of the catch limit is reached, the Secretariat shall notify all CCPs and CCPs shall ensure there is no further fishing effort by their fishing vessels for the remainder of the season.

41. Only one fishing vessel at a time can fish for *Dissostichus* spp. in a given grid cell. A grid cell shall be closed to fishing by other vessels while a line is being set or hauled by a vessel, and while a line has been set by a vessel and has not been hauled.⁴

42. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat at least 72hrs prior to entering the Williams Ridge area with information on the intended grid cells the vessel

⁴ For the avoidance of doubt, a vessel that ceases hauling a line in a grid cell in order to mitigate depredation in accordance with paragraphs 46 and 47 is still fishing in that grid cell until it hauls the line. ⁵ In accordance with any arrangements agreed ahead of each fishing season between the CCPs with fishing vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. in Williams Ridge and the Chair of the MoP in consultation with the Secretariat. The arrangements could include procedures and expected timeframes for the Secretariat's response to prevent unreasonable operational disruption to fishing outside Secretariat business hours. Once agreed, the Secretariat should circulate the arrangements to all CCPs before the beginning of the season.

~~intends to fish using the entry notification at Annex V. The Secretariat will inform the vessel within 60 hours of the notification whether the nominated grid cells have already been fished.~~

~~43. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels shall not fish in a grid cell before having received confirmation from the Secretariat that two lines have not already been set in that grid cell during that season.~~

~~44. Where two or more fishing vessels notify that they are entering Williams Ridge, the Secretariat shall immediately notify these fishing vessels that daily reporting requirements in paragraphs 38 and 39 apply.~~

~~45. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat as soon as they enter a grid cell to fish for *Dissostichus* spp., using the entry notification template at Annex V. Outside Secretariat business hours, an advance notification process will apply. The Secretariat shall inform the vessel as soon as possible⁵ of the number of lines that have been set in that grid cell during that season and whether it is currently being fished by another vessel, using the template at Annex VI. Where the Secretariat receives notifications from multiple fishing vessels for a given grid cell, the Secretariat will respond to the notifications in the order that they were received.~~

~~46. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels shall not fish in a grid cell before having received confirmation from the Secretariat that two lines have not already been set in that grid cell during that season and that it is not currently being fished by another fishing vessel, however a fishing vessel entering a grid cell to haul a line and to set a second line may haul the first line (but not set the second line) before receiving the confirmation.~~

~~47. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat as soon as they exit the grid cell specified in paragraph 35 or 38 and that they inform the Secretariat of the number of lines they have set and/or hauled in that grid cell, if any, using the exit notification template at Annex VII.~~

~~48. Longlines shall not exceed 6250 hooks per line and shall not be set across grid cells.~~

~~49. CCPs shall ensure that no more than two lines in total are set per grid for the duration of the fishing season of *Dissostichus* spp.~~

~~50. Once two lines have been set in a given grid cell, it shall be closed to fishing for the remainder of that fishing season.~~

~~51.~~^{44.} CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. in Williams Ridge to apply a break of a minimum of 30 days between consecutive fishing trips to Williams Ridge.

By-catch limits

~~52.~~^{45.} Toothfish caught by vessels not targeting *Dissostichus* spp. shall not exceed 0.5 tonnes per season.

~~53.~~^{46.} Should a vessel fishing for species other than *Dissostichus* spp. reach the *Dissostichus* spp. limit of 0.5 tonnes, the Williams Ridge area shall be closed for this vessel for that season.

Mitigation of depredation

~~54.47.~~ To reduce likelihood of depredation, vessels are encouraged not to haul longlines in the presence of sperm whales (*Physetes catodon*) and are discouraged from hauling longlines in presence of any other odontocete (toothed) whales.

~~55.48.~~ Should sperm whales arrive during hauling operations, the vessels are encouraged to cease hauling, tie off the longline with a buoy, and move on. The vessel may only retrieve the tied-off line once the sperm whales are no longer near the line.

Review

~~56.49.~~ The level of fishing on Williams Ridge shall be reviewed annually. This CMM may be reviewed annually until a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCAMLR is established. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking collaboratively the stock assessments and agreeing in coherent, fair and scientifically sound conservation and management measures for the *Dissostichus* spp. that are shared by the two organisations.

Management plan for Alfonsino:

Season

~~57.50.~~ For the purpose of fishery for *Beryx splendens* in SIOFA area the season is defined as the period from 1 January to 31 December both dates inclusive.

Stock assessment

~~58.51.~~ The MoP requests that the SC assess the *Beryx splendens* stocks in 2027 at the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee (if the SC, in 2026, determines that suitable data exist to undertake that assessment). In addition, the SC is requested to provide advice on a regular assessment schedule for future years.

~~59.52.~~ The Scientific Committee shall provide clear advice and guidance on any necessary changes to data collection in order to reduce future assessment uncertainty.

Catch and operational limits

~~60.53.~~ CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Beryx splendens* in the SIOFA area do not exceed 3698.2 tonnes consistent with the average (mean) catch of the 5 year period 2018–2022.

Application

~~61.54.~~ The catch limit provided for in paragraphs 187, 19 and 34 of this CMM shall apply from 1 December 20274.

Annex I - Template for CCPs to use for monthly catch reports to the Secretariat when fishing on the Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge areas (paragraph 219).

CCPs shall send monthly reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat. This report shall be sent to SIOFA Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org).

Vessel name		Vessel flag					
Area (circle or underline correct area)	<table><tr><td>DEL CANO RISE</td><td>WILLIAMS RIDGE</td><td><u>SOUTH INDIAN RIDGE</u></td><td>OTHER</td></tr></table>			DEL CANO RISE	WILLIAMS RIDGE	<u>SOUTH INDIAN RIDGE</u>	OTHER
DEL CANO RISE	WILLIAMS RIDGE	<u>SOUTH INDIAN RIDGE</u>	OTHER				
Year		Month					
Catch live weight (Kg)		Catch Pieces					

Annex II - Template for CCPs to use for daily longline reporting to the Secretariat when fishing on the Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge areas (paragraphs 18 and 31-20).

CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org) daily on start and end point of set longlines, and shall use the following template:

Vessel name		Vessel flag	
Set Start Date		Set Start Time	
Set Start Longitude		Set Start Latitude	
Set Start Depth			
Set End Date		Set End Time	
Set End Longitude		Set End Latitude	
Set End Depth			
Number of hooks set			

Annex III - Template for CCPs to use for daily catch reports to the Secretariat when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 3~~53~~).

CCPs shall send daily catch reports of their *Dissostichus* spp. catches to the Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org).

Vessel name		Vessel flag	
-------------	----------------------	-------------	----------------------

Area (circle or underline correct area)	DEL CANO RISE WILLIAMS RIDGE OTHER
--	---

Month		Day	
-------	----------------------	-----	----------------------

Catch live weight (Kg)		Catch Pieces	
------------------------	----------------------	--------------	----------------------

Annex IV - Template for CCPs to use for daily longline reporting to the Secretariat when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 33).

CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat (mcs@siofa.org) daily on start and end point of set longlines, and shall use the following template:

Vessel name		Vessel flag	
Set Start Date		Set Start Time	
Set Start Longitude		Set Start Latitude	
Set Start Depth			
Set End Date		Set End Time	
Set End Longitude		Set End Latitude	
Set End Depth			
Grid Cell* (e.g. G8)			
Number of hooks set			

~~*Williams Ridge Area grid cells:~~

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	lat.
1																					
2																					
3																					53 S
4																					
5																					
6																					
7																					54 S
8																					
9																					
10																					55 S
long.	80 E				81 E				82 E				83 E				84 E			85 E	

~~Annex V – Template for vessel entry notification when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 35 and 38).~~

~~[Vessel name] hereby notifies its entry into grid cell [Number] at [Date: Time (UTC)] to fish for toothfish.~~

~~I [Name of Captain] confirm that the [vessel name] will not commence fishing until receipt of confirmation from the Secretariat that two lines have not already been set in this cell during this fishing season and that the cell is not currently being fished by another vessel.~~

~~Annex VI—Template for Secretariat confirmation in response to vessel entry notifications when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 38).~~

~~The Secretariat acknowledges receipt of your notification of entry into [grid cell number] to fish for toothfish and advises that:~~

- ~~1. [number of lines] have been set in this cell during this fishing season, and~~
- ~~2. this cell [is/is not] currently being fished by another vessel.~~

Annex VII—Template for vessel exit notification when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 40).

[Vessel name] hereby notifies its exit from grid cell [Number] at [Date:Time (UTC)]. I [Name of Captain] inform you that the [vessel name] has (choose 1 option from the list below):

1. ~~set 1 line~~
2. ~~set 2 lines~~
3. ~~hauled 1 line~~
4. ~~hauled 2 lines~~
5. ~~hauled 1 line and set 1 line~~

Annex VIII – Toothfish Management Areas

The Management areas for Toothfish are defined as follow;

Del Cano Rise

The Del Cano area is;

- (i) north of 45°00' S, and
- (ii) south of 44°00' S when west of 44°09' E, and
- (iii) south of 43°30' S when east of 44°09' E, and
- (iv) between the adjacent EEZs to the east and west

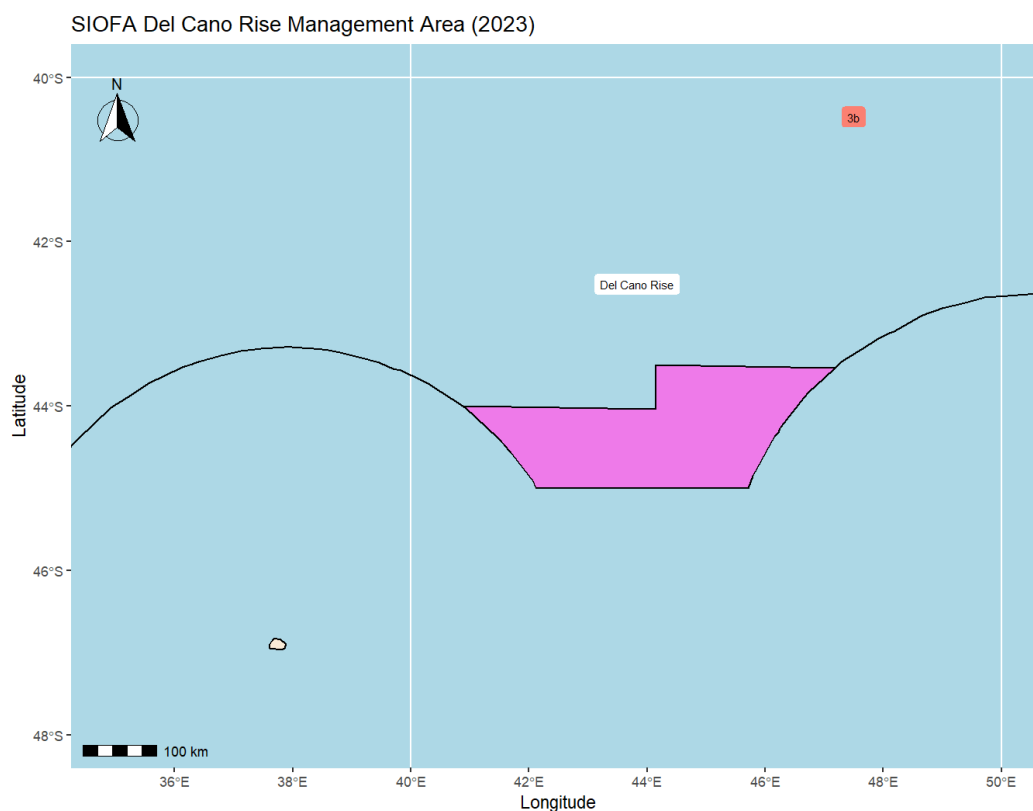


Figure A. Boundaries of the extended Del Cano Rise management area

South Indian Ridge

The South Indian Ridge is defined as within the box bounded by the following points:

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
<u>40°00' S</u>	<u>43°30' E</u>
<u>44°00' S</u>	<u>43°30' E</u>
<u>44°00' S</u>	<u>40°55' E</u>
<u>43°47.2' S</u>	<u>40°30' E</u>
<u>40°00' S</u>	<u>40°30' E</u>

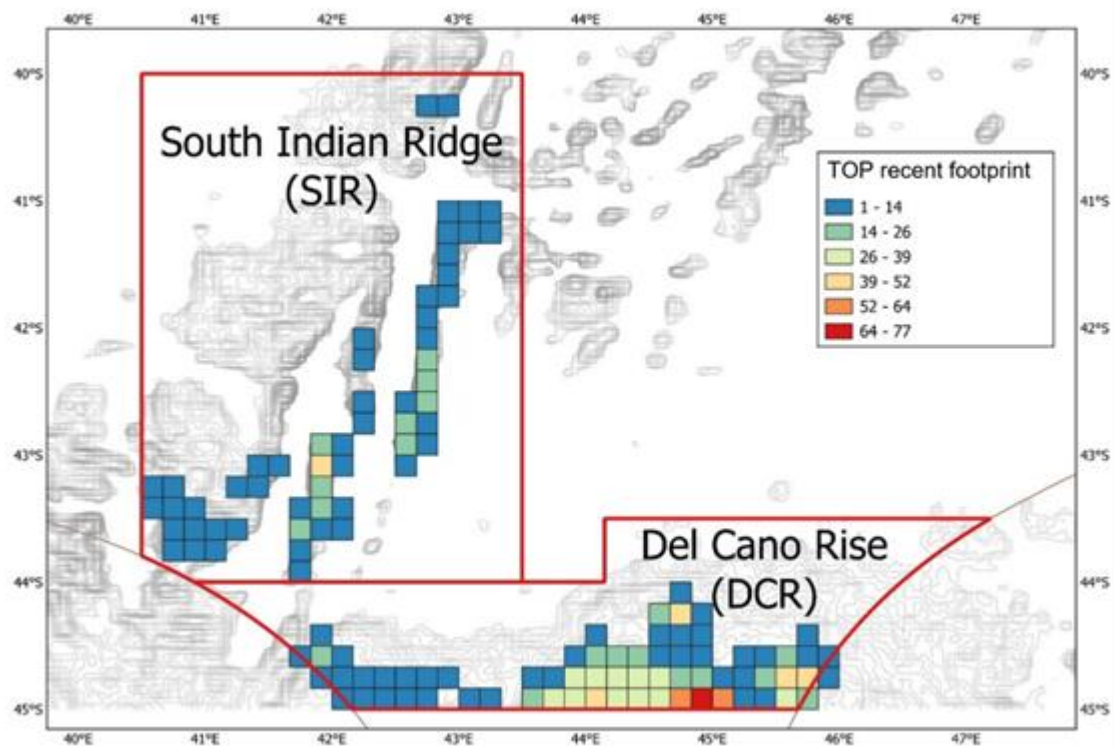


Figure A: Boundaries of the Del Cano Rise and the South Indian Ridge areas (2024).

Williams Ridge

The Williams Ridge is defined as within the box bounded by the following points:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	-52.5	80.0
2	-55	80.0
3	-55	85.0
4	-52.5	85.0

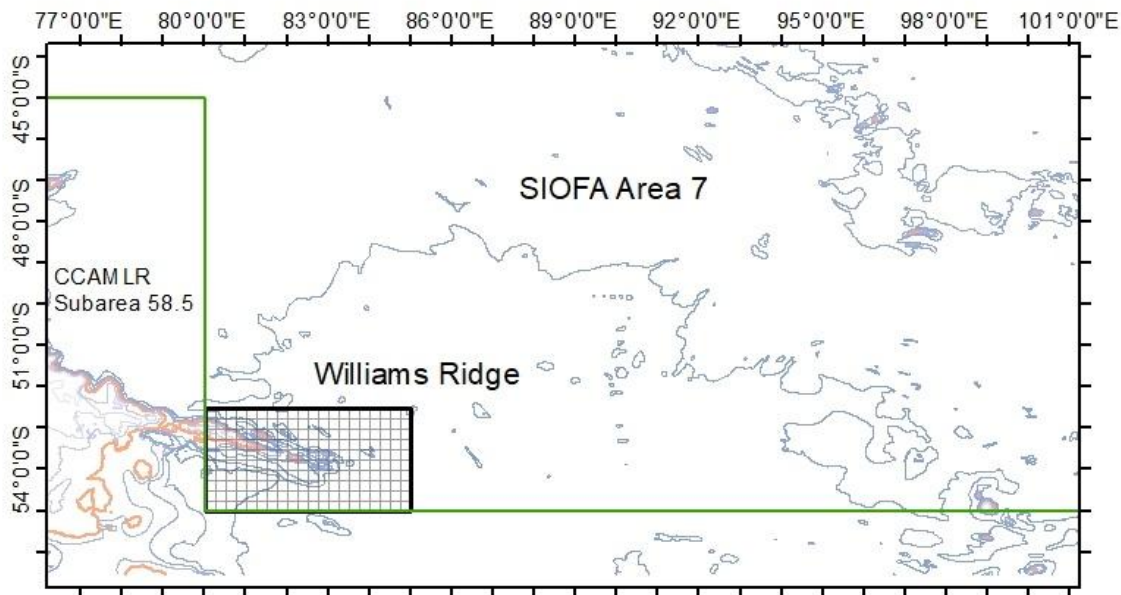


Figure B The boundary of Williams ridge and the 15' cells.

10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)

Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026

CC-10-23 / MoP-13-23-Rev1

Proposal to amend Annex 1 of CMM17(2015) New and Exploratory Fisheries

Delegation of Japan

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ✓ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ☐ Closed session document ☐
Abstract	
Established fisheries in SIOFA are described in the table in Annex 1 of CMM 17(2024) (New and Exploratory Fisheries), which sets out multiple components such as species, gear, participant, and area. The current table may be read as if species were the primary organising element, with the other components presented as attributes of each listed species. However, Japan considers the gear component to be the most important factor in describing established fisheries, as differences in gear result in different impacts on target species, ecologically related species, and VMEs. Noting this point, at MoP12, Japan suggested that the SC review Annex 1 of CMM 17 and provide its advice to the MoP. Japan further suggested that the review should consider: (1) whether a different structure — for example, one oriented by gear — would be more appropriate; and (2) how to accommodate other primary species (paras. 230–231 of the SIOFA MoP12 Report). In line with this suggestion, Japan proposed revisions to Annex 1 for further discussion at SC11. The purpose of these revisions was to restructure the table so that it better reflects a gear-oriented approach, rather than the current species-based structure as well as to better capture other commercially valuable species that have been taken by CCPs but are not currently listed by including a footnote enabling the incorporation of such species into Annex 1. Given these suggestions, the SC11 agreed to maintain a targeted-species/fisheries-oriented table, while making it clearer which gears are operated by which CCPs for each targeted-species/fisheries. The SC held further discussions on this proposal together with other proposed changes to Annex 1 of CMM 17. The SC developed draft amendments to Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and	

Exploratory Fisheries) (Annex M of the SIOFA SC11 Report) based on the proposed amendments in SC-11-50 and SC-11-60, as well as discussions under other agenda items, and recommended that the MoP13 adopt the draft amendments (paras. 383–394 of the SIOFA SC11 Report).

Japan therefore proposes to have further discussion to adopt revised Annex1 of CMM17 at MoP13, based on the recommendation by the SC11, and based on the Annex M of the SIOFA SC11 Report.

Rev 1 reflects changes (highlighted in yellow) to the Area column of Oilfish fishery based on the input by PFE Chinese Taipei.

Recommendations

- For CC10 to review the proposal and propose it for adoption to MoP13.
- For MoP13 to review and adopt the proposal.

Proposal to amend Annex 1 of CMM17(2015), New and Exploratory Fisheries

Background

Established fisheries in SIOFA are described in the table in Annex 1 of CMM 17(2024) (New and Exploratory Fisheries), which sets out multiple components such as species, gear, participant, and area. The current table may be read as if species were the primary organising element, with the other components presented as attributes of each listed species. However, Japan considers the gear component to be the most important factor in describing established fisheries, as differences in gear result in different impacts on target species, ecologically related species, and VMEs.

Noting this point, at MoP12, Japan suggested that the SC review Annex 1 of CMM 17 and provide its advice to the MoP. Japan further suggested that the review should consider: (1) whether a different structure — for example, one oriented by gear — would be more appropriate; and (2) how to accommodate other primary species (paras. 230–231 of the SIOFA MoP12 Report). In line with this suggestion, Japan proposed revisions to Annex 1 for further discussion at SC11. The purpose of these revisions was to restructure the table so that it better reflected a gear-oriented approach, rather than the current species-based structure. In addition, because a gear-oriented table is better suited to capturing other commercially valuable species that have been taken by CCPs but are not currently listed, Japan proposed to include a footnote enabling the incorporation of such species into Annex 1.

The SC11 developed draft amendments to Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) (Annex M of the SIOFA SC11 Report) based on the proposed amendments in SC-11-50 and SC-11-60, as well as discussions under other agenda items and recommended that the MoP adopt the draft amendments (paras. 383–394 of the SIOFA SC11 Report).

Proposals

Japan proposes to have further discussion to adopt revised Annex1 of CMM17 at MoP13, based on the recommendation by the SC11.

The purpose of these revisions is, as discussed and agreed in SC11, to restructure the table so that it better reflects which gears are operated by which CCPs for each targeted-species/fisheries. In addition, because a gear-oriented table is better suited to capturing other commercially valuable species that have been taken by CCPs but are not currently listed, SC11 agreed to include a footnote enabling the incorporation of such species into Annex 1, provided that they are historically recorded as part of the normal fishing operations.

The proposed draft amendments is directly brought from the Annex M of the SIOFA SC11 Report, which SC11 recommends for adoption by MoP13.

Japan therefore requests CC11 to review the proposal and propose it for adoption to MoP13, and MoP13 to review and adopt the proposal.

Annex 1 – Established fisheries in the SIOFA Area¹

Targeted species ² / fisheries ³	Fishing gear ⁴	Area	Participants
Patagonian toothfish	Traps (deep water >200m)	Designated bottom fishing footprints of Australia, EU (Spain), Japan, and France (Overseas Territories). SIOFA sub-areas 3b and 7	Australia, EU (Spain), France (Overseas Territories), Japan, Korea
	Set longline (deep water >200m)	Designated bottom fishing footprints of Australia, EU (Spain), Japan, and France (Overseas Territories). SIOFA sub-areas 3b and 7	Australia, EU (Spain), France (Overseas Territories), Japan, Korea
Orange roughy	Bottom trawl	Designated bottom fishing footprints of Australia, Cook Islands, Japan. Underwater topographic features in SIOFA sub-areas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6.	Australia, Cook Islands, Japan, China, Mauritius
Alfonsino	Midwater trawl	Designated fishing footprints of Australia, Cook Islands and Japan. Underwater topographic features in SIOFA sub-areas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6.	Australia, Cook Islands, Japan, Korea, Mauritius
	Benthopelagic trawl	Designated fishing footprints of Australia, Cook Islands and Japan. Underwater topographic features in SIOFA sub-areas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6.	Australia, Cook Islands, Japan, Korea, Mauritius
	Bottom trawl	Designated bottom fishing footprints of Australia, Cook Islands, Japan. Underwater topographic features in SIOFA sub-areas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6.	Australia, Cook Islands
Brushtooth lizardfish and scads	Single boat otter board trawl	Designated bottom fishing footprint of Thailand.	Thailand
	Paired trawls Trawl (nei)	Designated bottom fishing footprint of Thailand.	Thailand
Shallow-water (<200m) , Carangoides spp., snappers,	Bottom trawl (shallow water <200m)	Designated bottom fishing footprint of Thailand. SIOFA sub-area 8 (mainly Saya de Malha Bank)	EU (France), Mauritius, Thailand, Comoros

¹ Annex 1 may be updated by the Meeting of the Parties upon the advice of the Scientific Committee concerning historical catch data and/or other information submitted by CCPs regarding their targeted fisheries.

² As per the endorsed definition adopted by MoP10 (MoP10 Report Para 130).

³ [For each listed participant, an established fishery may include other primary and secondary species taken with the listed gear, provided that such species have been historically recorded as part of the normal fishing operations.](#)

⁴ [See FAO Fishing Gear Descriptions.](#)

Targeted species ² / fisheries ³	Fishing gear ⁴	Area	Participants
emperors and groupers	Traps (<u>shallow water <200m</u>)	Designated <u>bottom</u> fishing footprint of Thailand. SIOFA sub-area 8 (mainly Saya de Malha Bank)	EU (France), Mauritius, Thailand, Comoros
	Set longline (<u>shallow water <200m</u>)	Designated fishing footprint of Thailand. SIOFA sub-area 8 (mainly Saya de Malha Bank)	EU (France), Mauritius, Thailand , Comoros
	Hook and line (handlines) (<u>shallow water <200m</u>)	Designated fishing footprint of Thailand. SIOFA sub-area 8 (mainly Saya de Malha Bank)	EU (France), Mauritius, Thailand, Comoros
Deep-water (>200m) sSnappers, lutjanids and hapuka	Set longline (<u>deep water >200m</u>)	Designated <u>bottom</u> fishing footprints of the EU (Spain) and Australia. SIOFA Subareas 2, 3a, 3b and 4.	Australia, China, EU (Spain)
	Dropline (<u>deep water >200m</u>)	Designated <u>bottom</u> fishing footprints of the EU (Spain) and Australia. SIOFA Subareas 2, 3a, 3b and 4.	Australia, China, EU (Spain)
Oilfish	Pelagic longline, dropline	SIOFA Subareas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 <u>SIOFA Subareas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8</u> Southwest Indian Ocean	Chinese Taipei, Seychelles
Squid	Light seining, Squid Jigging	Designated fishing footprint of China. SIOFA Subareas 1, 4, 7 and 8	China
	Squid jigging	Designated fishing footprint of China. SIOFA Subareas <u>1,4,7 and 8</u> Area	China

10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)

Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026

CC-13-25 / MoP-13-25

Proposal to amend CMM17 (2024) New and Exploratory Fisheries

Delegation of Mauritius

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ✓ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	Mauritius is proposing to amend the CMM17(2025) On New and Exploratory Fisheries following the recommendation of the MoP 12 (para. 216) and advice of the SC10 (para 387 & 388) to include Mauritius' alfonsino mid-water trawl fishery in the table of established SIOFA fisheries in Annex 1 of CMM17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries).

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations
• For CC10 to review the proposal and propose it for adoption to MoP13 • For MoP13 to review and adopt the proposal

- For CC10 to **review** the proposal and propose it for adoption to MoP13
- For MoP13 to **review** and **adopt** the proposal

CMM 17(2025)
Conservation and Management Measure for New and Exploratory Fisheries in the Agreement Area (New and Exploratory Fisheries)

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;

RECALLING Article 4(a) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) which calls on the Contracting Parties, in giving effect to the duty to cooperate, to adopt measures on the basis of the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation of fishery resources, taking into account the sustainable use of such resources and implementing an ecosystem approach to their management;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 4(c), (d), (e) and (f) of the Agreement which call on the Contracting Parties to apply the precautionary approach and the principles that measures shall be taken to ensure that the level of fishing activity is commensurate with the sustainable use of the fishery resources, that fishing practices and management measures shall take due account of the need to minimise the harmful impact that fishing activities may have on the marine environment, and that biodiversity in the marine environment shall be protected;

FURTHER RECOGNISING Articles 6(1)(d) and (e) of the Agreement which provide that the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt conservation and management measures (CMMs) necessary for ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishery resources, taking into account the need to protect marine biodiversity, based on the best scientific evidence available and adopt generally recommended international minimum standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations;

MINDFUL of Article 16 of the Agreement that calls on Contracting Parties, acting jointly under the Agreement, to cooperate closely with other international fisheries and related organisations in matters of mutual interest;

COMMITTED to ensuring that bottom fishing undertaken in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) is consistent with the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and the protection of the marine environment;

NOTING the requirements in CMM 01(2025) on the Management of Bottom Fishing in the Agreement Area which place a number of obligations on Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities who intend to authorise their flagged vessels to engage in any bottom fishing in the Agreement Area;

AGREEING that new and exploratory fisheries should not be permitted to expand faster than the acquisition of information necessary to ensure that the fishery can and will be developed in accordance with the principles set out in Article 4 of the Agreement;

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Articles 4 and 6 of the Agreement:

Objective

1. The objective of this CMM is to govern the undertaking and management of new and exploratory fisheries in the Agreement Area based on the precautionary approach. In particular, this CMM is intended to ensure that sufficient information is available to evaluate the long term potential of new and exploratory fisheries, to assist the formulation of management advice, to evaluate and minimize the possible impacts on target stocks, non-target, and associated and dependent species, to ensure new and exploratory fishery resources are developed on a precautionary and gradual basis, and to promote the sustainable management of new and exploratory fisheries.

General provisions and definitions

2. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party, participating fishing entity or cooperating non-participating fishing entity (collectively CCPs) to the Agreement engaging or intending to engage in any fishing

activity that falls within the scope of new and exploratory fisheries, as defined in this CMM, in the Agreement Area³.

3. For the purpose of this CMM, a fishery is a 'new and exploratory fisheries' if
 - a. it is a bottom fishing activity, as defined in paragraph 3.b. of CMM 01(2025), conducted outside the SIOFA bottom fishing footprint, as defined in paragraph [3.c.] of CMM 01(2025); or
 - b. it is a bottom fishing activity, as defined in paragraph 3.c. of CMM 01(2025), conducted within the SIOFA bottom fishing footprint, as defined in paragraph 3.c. of CMM 01(2025), with a particular gear type or technique not used before in that fishery in that area as set out in Annex 1; or
 - c. it uses a gear type to target fishery resources in the Area that is not listed in [Annex 1]; or
 - d. fishing in that fishery has not been undertaken in the Area in the previous ten years pursuant to this CMM; or
 - e. fishing in that fishery has been undertaken in the Area in the previous nine years pursuant to this CMM and the Meeting of the Parties has not decided to either close or manage the fishery as an established fishery.
4. New and exploratory fisheries shall not be approved for a target species in areas and with gear used in an existing new and exploratory fishery, unless coordinated with the CCP undertaking an existing new and exploratory fishery.

Requirements for new and exploratory fisheries

5. Any CCP seeking to authorize any vessel flying its flag to fish in new and exploratory fisheries shall prepare and submit, at least 35 days prior to the commencement of the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee, a Fishery Operations Plan (FOP) for the fishing season(s) concerned for review and endorsement by the Scientific Committee. The FOP shall be developed using the template in Annex 2 and shall include the following information, to the extent it is available:
 - a. a description of the proposed new and exploratory fishery, including the vessel to be used, area, target species, proposed methods of fishing, proposed maximum catch/effort limits and any distribution of that catch limit among areas or species;
 - b. explicit target and limit and/or threshold reference points and a mechanism to adjust any proposed catch limit;
 - c. specification and full description of the types of fishing gear to be used, including any modifications to gear intended to mitigate the effects of the proposed fishing on non-target and associated or dependent species or the marine ecosystem in which the fishery occurs;
 - d. the intended time period covered by the FOP, up to a maximum period of three years;
 - e. any biological information on the target species from accepted research such as distribution, abundance, demographic data including genetics, longevity and maturity, and information on stock identity;

³ This CMM shall not apply to research cruises.

- f. details of non-target and associated or dependent species and the marine ecosystem in which the fishery occurs, the extent to which these would be likely to be affected by the proposed fishing activity and any measures that will be taken to mitigate these effects;
 - g. the anticipated cumulative impacts of all fishing activity in the area of the proposed new and exploratory fishery if applicable;
 - h. information from other fisheries in the region or similar fisheries elsewhere that may assist in the evaluation of the proposed fishery's potential yield, to the extent that the CCP is able to provide this information;
 - i. if the proposed fishing activity is bottom fishing, as defined in paragraph 3.b. of CMM 01(2025), the assessment of the impact of the proposed fishing activity, prepared pursuant to the SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standard (BFIAS), as defined in paragraph 3.e. of CMM 01(2025); and
 - j. where the target species is also managed by an adjacent Regional Fisheries Management Organisation or similar organisation, a description of that neighbouring fishery sufficient to allow the Scientific Committee to formulate its advice and recommendations in accordance with paragraph 8.
6. The FOP submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 shall be accompanied by a Data Collection and Analysis Plan (DCAP) for the proposed fishery identifying the data needed and any operational research actions needed to obtain data from the proposed fishery to enable an assessment of the stock, the feasibility of establishing a fishery and the impact of the proposed fishing activities on non-target, associated or dependent species and the marine ecosystem in which the fishery occurs. The DCAP shall require, as appropriate:
- a. a description of the catch, effort and related biological, ecological and environmental data required to undertake the evaluations described in paragraph 20;
 - b. the date(s) by which the data must be provided to the Secretariat;
 - c. a plan for directing fishing effort to allow for the acquisition of relevant data to evaluate the fishery potential and the ecological relationships among harvested, non-target, and associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impacts;
 - d. a plan for the acquisition of any other research data obtained by fishing vessels, including activities that may require the cooperative activities of scientific observers and the vessel, as may be required by the Scientific Committee to evaluate the fishery potential and the ecological relationships among harvested, non-target, and associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impacts;
 - e. an evaluation of the time scales involved in determining the responses of harvested, dependent and related populations to fishing activities; and
 - f. details on the analyses that will be used to evaluate population trends, key biological parameters, and to assess sustainability and the fishery impacts.

Assessment of proposed new and exploratory fisheries by the Scientific Committee

7. At its ordinary meeting, the Scientific Committee shall consider any FOPs and their associated DCAPs submitted pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 respectively and any other relevant information.

8. The Scientific Committee shall review the FOP and its associated DCAP, and the data and reports from relevant ongoing or completed new and exploratory fisheries, and provide advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on the following, as appropriate:
 - a. Management strategies or plans for fishery resources;
 - b. Reference points, including precautionary reference points as described in Annex II of the 1995 Agreement;
 - c. An appropriate precautionary catch limit and appropriate time period for operation;
 - d. the cumulative impacts of all fishing activities in the area of the proposed fishery;
 - e. the impact of the proposed fishing on the marine ecosystem;
 - f. the sufficiency of information available to inform the level of precaution required and the degree of certainty with which the Scientific Committee's advice is provided;
 - g. the degree to which the approach outlined in the FOP is likely to ensure the proposed fishery is developed consistently with its nature as a new and exploratory fishery, and consistently with the objectives of Article 2 and the general principles of Article 4 of the Agreement; and
 - h. in respect of a FOP that proposes any bottom fishing activity, advice and recommendations in accordance with the requirements of the SIOFA BFIAS.
9. The Scientific Committee shall review annually as appropriate the FOPs and their associated DCAPs for each new and exploratory fishery approved by the Meeting of the Parties.

Assessment of proposed new and exploratory fisheries by the Compliance Committee

10. At its ordinary meeting, the Compliance Committee shall consider any FOPs submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 and any advice of the Scientific Committee thereon as well as an associated draft CMM prepared by the proposing CCP in respect of the new and exploratory fishery and provide advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on appropriate management arrangements, including in the light of CMM 01(2025) and CMM 15(2025), if applicable.

Assessment of proposed new and exploratory fisheries by the Meeting of the Parties

11. At its ordinary meeting, the Meeting of the Parties shall consider any FOPs submitted pursuant to paragraph 5, any advice or recommendations provided by the Scientific Committee and Compliance Committee pursuant to paragraphs 7-9 and paragraph 10 respectively, any applicable obligations under CMM 01(2025) and CMM 15(2025) in respect of the proposed fishing activity, and any specific draft CMM proposed in respect of the fishery.
12. The Meeting of the Parties shall take a decision as to whether to approve the proposed new and exploratory fishery in accordance with the FOP and DCAP, and shall designate a time period for operation, up to a maximum period of three years. If the Meeting of the Parties approves the proposed new and exploratory fishery, it shall adopt a CMM in respect of the fishery which shall include objectives, reference points, a precautionary catch limit and any other management measures the Meeting of the Parties deems appropriate.
13. The Meeting of the Parties may amend a FOP, as necessary, prior to approving the new and exploratory fishery.

14. Once a FOP and its associated CMM expires, a CCP may prepare and submit a new FOP in accordance with paragraph 5.

Conduct of new and exploratory fisheries

15. CCPs shall not permit fishing vessels flying their flag to participate in new and exploratory fisheries without prior approval from the Meeting of the Parties.
16. CCPs shall ensure that any fishing vessel flying their flag only participates in a new and exploratory fishery in accordance with the FOP reviewed by the Scientific Committee and approved by the Meeting of the Parties.
17. CCPs shall ensure that vessels flying their flag that engage in new and exploratory fisheries that have been authorised by the Meeting of the Parties carry on board one or more scientific observers for the duration of the activity to collect data in accordance with the DCAP, and to assist in collecting biological and other relevant data, as appropriate.
18. CCPs shall ensure that where their flagged vessels participate in a new and exploratory fishery, the data required by the DCAP is provided to the Scientific Committee. CCPs whose vessels participate in a new and exploratory fishery shall be prohibited from participating in that fishery if the data specified in the DCAP has not been submitted to the Scientific Committee for the most recent season in which the fishing occurred, until the relevant data has been submitted to the Scientific Committee and it has had the opportunity to review that data.
19. Notwithstanding paragraph 5.a., CCPs shall be entitled to authorize participation in a new and exploratory fishery by a vessel flying their flag not identified in the FOP if the vessel specified in the FOP is prevented from fishing on account of legitimate operational or force majeure reasons and a replacement vessel of similar capability and capacity is proposed pursuant to this paragraph. In such circumstances, the CCP concerned shall immediately inform the Secretariat thereof and provide:
 - a. full details of the intended replacement vessel(s);
 - b. a comprehensive account of the reasons for the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence; and
 - c. specifications and a full description of the types of fishing gear to be used by the replacement vessel.

The Secretariat shall immediately circulate this information to all CCPs.

Reclassification of new and exploratory fisheries

20. The Meeting of the Parties may take a decision to manage the fishery as an established fishery if it is satisfied that sufficient information is available concerning a new and exploratory fishery:
 - a. to evaluate the distribution, abundance and demography of the target and primary species to inform an estimate of the fishery's potential yield; and
 - b. to review the fishery's potential impacts on non-target and associated or dependent species, including endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species and bycatch, and on the marine ecosystem in which the fishery occurs, including vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs); and

- c. to allow the Scientific Committee to formulate and provide advice to the Meeting of the Parties on appropriate management arrangements including harvest catch levels, effort levels, and fishing gear, where appropriate.

Review

- 21. This CMM shall be reviewed no later than at the ordinary Meeting of the Parties in 2028. The review shall take into account, inter alia, international best practices and the most recent advice of the Scientific Committee on new and exploratory fisheries.

Annex 1 – Established fisheries in the SIOFA Area⁴

Targeted ⁵ species/fisheries	Fishing gear	Participants	Area
Patagonian toothfish	Set longlines, traps	Australia, EU (Spain), France (Overseas Territories), Japan, Korea	Designated fishing footprints of Australia, EU (Spain), Japan, and France (Overseas Territories). SIOFA sub-areas 3b and 7
Orange roughy	Bottom trawl	Australia, Cook Islands, Japan, China, Mauritius	Designated fishing footprints of Australia, Cook Islands, Japan. Underwater topographic features in SIOFA sub-areas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6.
Alfonsino	Midwater trawl	Australia, Cook Islands, Japan, Korea, <u>Mauritius</u>	Designated fishing footprints of Australia, Cook Islands and Japan. Underwater topographic features in SIOFA sub-areas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6.
Brushtooth lizardfish and scads	Trawl (nei), single boat otter board trawl	Thailand	Designated fishing footprint of Thailand.
Shallow-water (<200m), Carangoides spp., snappers, emperors and groupers	Set longline, hook and line (handlines), bottom trawl, traps	EU (France), Mauritius, Thailand, Comoros	Designated fishing footprint of Thailand. SIOFA sub-area 8 (mainly Saya de Malha Bank)
Deep water (>200m) snappers, lutjanids, hapuka	Set longline, dropline	Australia, China, EU (Spain)	Designated fishing footprints of the EU (Spain) and Australia. SIOFA Subareas 2, 3a, 3b and 4.
Oilfish	Pelagic longline, dropline	Chinese Taipei, Seychelles	Southwest Indian Ocean
Squid	Light Seining, Squid Jigging	China	Designated fishing footprint of China. SIOFA Subareas 1, 4, 7 and 8.

⁴ Annex 1 may be updated by the Meeting of the Parties upon the advice of the Scientific Committee concerning historical catch data and/or other information submitted by CCPs regarding their targeted fisheries.

⁵ As per the endorsed definition adopted by MoP10 (MoP10 Report Para 130).

Annex 2 – SIOFA Fishery Operations Plan Template

Paragraph 5 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) requires any CCP seeking to permit a vessel flying its flag to engage in new and exploratory fisheries to prepare and submit, using this template, at least 35 days prior to the commencement of the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee, a Fishery Operations Plan (FOP) for the fishing season(s) concerned for review by the Scientific Committee.

Complete the following table:

CCP	
Area	
Target Species	
Proposed Methods of Fishing	
Proposed Maximum Catch / Effort Limit	
Expected Period of Operation (max. 3 years)	
Submission date	

1. Introduction

Provide an overarching description of the purpose of the new and exploratory fishery, including area, target species, proposed methods of fishing, proposed maximum catch limits and any apportionment of that catch limit among areas or species.

2. Operator details, proposed activities in the management areas and target species**2.1 Authorized vessel(s)**

Specify which vessel(s) will carry out the new and exploratory fishery.

2.2 Scientific personnel

Describe the personnel that will be involved in data analysis and provide a brief summary of their experience and abilities. Provide information on the independent observers and observer providers.

2.3 Official flag CCP contact

Provide official contacts for the management, science, observer and data aspects of the new and exploratory fishery.

2.4 Vessel authorisation and licensing

Provide details on the flag CCP's legal requirements for authorising new and exploratory fisheries, information about the fishing authorisation or licence issued to the vessel(s) that will conduct the fishery.

2.5 Areas of interest

Describe the area of operation, including the area boundaries, map(s) and depth of gear.

2.6 Target species

Specify the primary target species' scientific name and common name and provide information on what is known about the biology and distribution of the species.

2.7 Non-target, associated and dependent species

Specify anticipated bycatch species and details of the intended fate of this bycatch (e.g., retained, discarded). Provide details of any flag CCP rules for retention or handling practices and how these are enforced (e.g., code of practice or legal requirements).

3. Methods

3.1 The marine environment

Describe the environment that the fishery will occur in such as coral reefs, seagrass beds, shallow flats, seamounts, pelagic waters etc. Provide bathymetry and information on broad scale oceanography if known for that area.

3.2 Operational details

Specify where, when and how will the operation occur. Specify the areas of interest and how many trips per year are intended.

3.3 New and exploratory fishing gear used

Provide details of the gear. This should be as detailed as possible and include images of the gear and gear setup in the water.

4. Landing

Specify how, where and how often the fishery product(s) will be unloaded from the vessel. Specify where any processing of the fishery product will occur and what are the intended markets.

5. Management reference points and biomass calculations and catch/effort limits

Provide details on the target species, catch/effort limits and/or threshold reference points, why these were chosen and how the stock will be assessed against them. Describe and provide details on the total allowable catch and/or effort, specifying how this was chosen and how it will be split between areas.

6. Planned trips in the management area(s)

Specify how many trips are planned in each year and in each management area. Provide details of the number of fishing events per trip. If this FOP is a revision of a previous FOP, explain how and why it has changed from the previous one.

7. Monitoring of vessel and fishing activities

7.1 Vessel monitoring and control

Describe how the vessel will be monitored, which authorities it will report to and how often, including the frequency of VMS position reports. Specify any entry / exit notification requirements for the SIOFA Area and/or bordering EEZs/RFMOs that the vessel will need to comply with.

7.2 Observer coverage

Describe the required level of observer coverage? Explain what the observers will be expected to monitor and sample and how they will monitor catch, bycatch, SSI interactions and VME encounters.

8. Data collection and analysis plan (DCAP)

Provide details of the data sheets/e-logs proposed, submission of data to SIOFA, and descriptions of the sampling methodology proposed. Include vessel activity, set and haul logs, biological data collection and storage, SSI (catch and sightings) and VME data collections. Include details on any tagging or planned genetic analyses.

Describe the proposed analyses and intended outcomes and detail the ordinary meetings of the Scientific Committee at which annual updates (meta data of what was observed and quantity of data collected) and detailed reporting will be presented.

9. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem indicators (if applicable)

Provide details of the flag CCP's requirements concerning the collection and handling of VME material. Describe the protocols for handling VMEs encounters and any other information of how VMEs interactions will be monitored.

10. Risk assessment⁶

10.1 Teleost/cephalopod/crustacean bycatch

Specify which species are likely to be caught on the gear, and which species are likely to be retained and discarded. Describe the likely nature of any interactions, and the potential condition of these species on landing.

CCP-X Exploratory Fishery for ZZ Risk Summary Table – Teleost/cephalopod/crustacean bycatch

Species	Spatial overlap	Catchability	Risk of mortality
Pelagic teleosts e.g., sp1, sp2	High	High	Low if not retained
Benthic teleosts e.g., sp3	High	Medium	Species dependant low to high
Squid	Medium	High	Low
Mitigation			
Describe any mitigation or codes of practice or binding rules			
Risk if released after mitigation			
Pelagic teleosts - low			
Suprabenthic teleosts - low			
Squid - low			

10.2 Elasmobranch bycatch

Specify what species are likely to be caught on the gear, and which species are likely to be retained and discarded. Describe the likely nature of any interactions.

CCP-X Exploratory Fishery for ZZ Risk Summary Table – Elasmobranch bycatch

Species	Spatial overlap	Catchability	Risk of mortality
Pelagic sharks e.g., sp1, sp2	High	High	Low if not retained
Benthic sharks e.g., sp3	High	Medium	Species dependant low to high
Species z	Medium	High	Low
Mitigation			
Describe any mitigation or codes of practice or binding rules			
Risk if released after mitigation			
Pelagic sharks - low			
Benthic sharks - low			
Species Z - low			

10.3 Seabirds

Specify what species are likely to be caught on the gear and which species are likely to be seen around the vessel(s). Describe the likely nature of any interactions.

CCP-X Exploratory Fishery for ZZ Risk Summary Table – Seabird bycatch

Species	Spatial overlap	Catchability	Risk of mortality
Albatross sp x	Medium	Low	Low
Cormorant sp y	Low	Low	Low
Penguins sp z	Low	Low	Low
Petrels, prions and shearwaters	Medium-high	Low	Medium-Low
Mitigation			

⁶ The tables in this section should be completed using coloured cells with the following coding: High (red), Medium (Yellow), Low (Green), unknown (purple). Add and remove rows as applicable.

Describe any mitigation or codes of practice or binding rules
Risk after mitigation
Albatross sp x - low
Cormorants sp y - low
Penguins sp z - low
Petrels, prions and shearwaters - low

10.4 Marine mammals and turtles

Specify what species are likely to be caught on the gear and which species are likely to be seen around the vessel(s). Describe the likely nature of any interactions.

CCP-X Exploratory Fishery for ZZ Risk Summary Table – Marine mammals and turtle bycatch

Species	Spatial overlap	Catchability	Risk of mortality
Whales	High	Low	Low
Dolphins	High	Low	Low
Seals, sealions and elephant seals	Medium	Low	Low
Turtles	Medium	Low	Low
Mitigation			
Describe any mitigation or codes of practice or binding rules			
Risk after mitigation			
Whales - Low			
Dolphins - Low			
Seals, sealions and elephant seals - Low			
Turtles - Low			

10.5 VME impacts

Specify what species are likely to be caught damaged by the gear. Describe the likely nature of any impacts.

CCP-X Exploratory Fishery for ZZ Risk Summary Table – VME interactions

Species	Spatial overlap	Catchability	Risk of mortality
VME indicator taxa spx	Unknown	Low but damage under bottom contact high	Medium
Mitigation			
Describe any mitigation or codes of practice or binding rules			
Risk after mitigation			
VME indicator species - Low			

11. References

Appendix A - Vessel details

Appendix B - Observer tasks and sampling instructions


SIOFA | APSOI

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

10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)
Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026
CC-10-19 / MoP-13-19

Proposal for New CMM for Fishery Independent Research Cruise

Delegation of China

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Working paper ✓ Information paper ☐
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	Fishery independent research cruises play a critical role in supporting the conservation and management of fishery resources in the SIOFA area. While some CCPs and third parties have already conducted research cruises in the Area, SIOFA currently lacks a clear and comprehensive framework to govern fishery independent research cruise activities. Discussions on this issue were initiated by the European Union in Working Paper (MoP-12-48-Rev1) submitted at MoP12 in 2025, and were further elaborated during the Scientific Committee Workshop WS2025-ORS: Window of Opportunity – Research Vessels in SIOFA. During the deliberations on the proposed framework at SC11, some CCPs expressed fundamental divergences concerning the definitions of “research cruises” and “scientific research”. China is of the view that these two terms should be addressed and defined separately to avoid unnecessary ambiguity, improve clarity, and enhance management efficiency. Therefore, having taken into account the relevant proposals by the European Union and CCAMLR Conservation Measure 24-01 (2023), China has developed this CMM. The primary purpose of developing this CMM is to strengthen the effective management of research cruises, prevent

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

activities conducted under the pretext of scientific research from being used for commercial fishing, and at the same time encourage genuine scientific research by providing appropriate facilitation. China supports further development of this working paper and welcomes comments from CCPs' constructive intersessional engagement among CCPs, with a view to adopting a new CMM at the forthcoming MoP.

Recommendations

- CC10 recommend that MOP13 adopt the proposed CMM.
- MoP13 adopt the proposed CMM

New CMM XX(2026)
Fishery Independent Research Cruise in the SIOFA Area

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;

RECALLING that Article 6(1) (b) of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (the Agreement) calls on the Meeting of the Parties to promote and, as appropriate, coordinate research activities as required on the fishery resources and on straddling stocks occurring in waters under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Area, including discarded catch and the impact of fishing on the marine environment;

FURTHER RECALLING that Article 10(1)(c) set out the duties relevant to the collection and exchange of scientific, technical and statistical data for Contracting Parties;

RECOGNISING the importance of developing comprehensive arrangements for relevant scientific research to assist the Scientific Committee in performing its functions as outlined in Article 7 of the Agreement;

NOTING the right to conduct marine scientific research as set out in Articles 238–240 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

NOTING the recommendation by the Ninth meeting of the Scientific Committee, and endorsed by the Eleventh Meeting of the Parties, to develop a specific “research cruise CMM” that is separate from the process that is proposed for exploratory fisheries.

FURTHER NOTING that the Meeting of Parties has adopted policies and procedures for the maintenance of data standards CMM 02(2025) and data confidentiality (CMM 03(2025));

RECOGNISING the need for a clear framework to govern research cruises that ensures data collection while minimizing administrative burdens for non-commercial activities

ADOPTS the following conservation and management measure (CMM) in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:

Objective

1. The objective of the “Fishery Independent Research Cruise CMM” is to govern the undertaking of dedicated and fisheries-related scientific research in the SIOFA Area and to set out a clear framework and consistent approaches for research cruises.
2. The specific “Fishery Independent Research Cruise CMM” is separated from the process adopted for exploratory fisheries (CMM 17(2025)) according to the decision made by MoP11.

Application

3. This CMM should apply to all Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs), participating fishing entities (PFEs) and any third party engaged in fishing operations for dedicated scientific research purposes in the SIOFA Area to all gears for any fishery falling under SIOFA's competence.

Terminology

4. For the purpose of this CMM, "Fishery independent research cruise (FIRC)" is defined as single or multiple trips conducted by a dedicated research vessel (RV), actively engaged in any scientific research under the scope of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC), where the sale of commercial catch is not the primary objective of the trip.
5. For the purpose of this CMM, "research vessel" means a purpose-build and equipped vessel, permanently dedicated and used for research at sea. Any fishing vessel that has been converted for scientific purposes is also allowed to operate after undergoing evaluation by the SC.

Classification of Fishery Independent Research Cruise and Activities

6. Any CCPs or third-party planning to conduct non-bottom fishing for research purposes,
 - (a) if taking less than 30 tonnes during the whole trip(s), shall notify the Secretariat before 30 days of conducting the Research Cruise, and the Secretariat will notify all CCPs immediately. Research Vessels to which the provisions of paragraph 5 above apply, shall be exempt from conservation measures relating to mesh size regulations, prohibition of types of gear, closed areas, fishing seasons and size limits, and reporting system requirements (Annex I).
 - (b) if taking more than 30 tonnes during the whole trip(s), shall clearly define the approximate total catch and the corresponding main fish species to ensure the rationality of fishing production.
7. Any CCPs or third-party planning to conduct bottom fishing for research purposes,
 - (a) shall provide a detail Research Cruise Plan (RCP) to the Scientific Committee (SC). The SC should evaluate the RCP based on the scientific needs, including minimise the harmful impact of each FIRC on benthic ecosystem. Based on the submitted RCP and any advice provided by any CCPs, the SC will provide advice to the MoP where the review process will be concluded. Until the review process is complete, the planned Research Cruise shall not proceed (Annex II).
 - (b) RCP shall be no longer than three years and shall be reported in accordance with the Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment Standardisation guidelines (BFIAS) adopted by the Scientific Committee.

(c) who intend to conduct FIRC in Benthic Fishery Closures (BFCs) in the Agreement Area, shall:

1. Align their RCP with the research and monitoring plan for the BFCs listed in Table 1 of CMM 18 (2025).

2. Elaborate in their RCP on the potential harmful impact that such activities may have on the BFCs and how to minimise them.

(d) who intend to conduct FIRC in areas where VMEs are known to occur, or likely to occur in the Agreement Area shall

3. Elaborate in their RCP on the potential harmful impact that such activities may have on the VMEs and how to minimise them.

4. The encounter movement scheme for VMEs shall be clearly defined and elaborated in the RCP

(c) When the review process in paragraph 6(a) is complete, the MoP shall make a decision based on the advice by the SC, all applicable requirements and any exemptions pursuant to the relevant CMM, should also be considered by the MoP.

Catch Allocation

8. Catches taken by any vessel during the implementation of FIRC shall be counted against the quota allocated to the flag CCP for each species taken, if it has catch limitation.
9. If a FIRC is conducted by any third party, the allocation of quotas for the species to be caught in the FIRC shall be discussed by SC and subject to deliberation and decision by the Meeting of the Parties (MoP).

Data collection and submission

10. Data submitted to SIOFA may only be used by the Scientific Committee to support its work within the SIOFA mandate. Any other use shall require prior approval from the data owner.
11. Pending the adoption of the relevant CMM governing scientific survey data, any scientific results derived from submitted data and published by or on behalf of the Scientific Committee shall be presented solely in aggregated form, excluding confidential information pertaining to individual vessels or flag States, in accordance with CMM 03 (2025). Any other use shall require prior authorization from the data owner.
12. The data collected during the research cruise regarding the scope of the SC activity are submitted to the Secretariat within 12 months of the end of the cruise.

Miscellaneous

13. All research vessels (RVs) commissioned by any CCPs or third party shall be registered in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV). Except for matters exempted under this CMM, such vessels shall also comply with the applicable provisions of all other SIOFA Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).
14. A RV shall not conduct fishing activities inconsistent with its RCP.
15. The results of the research cruise are to be reported to the subsequent meeting of the SC following the submission of the data.
16. No subsequent FIRC will be permitted by the organisation undertaking the cruise unless the data emanating from the cruise and a final detailed research cruise report is submitted to the SIOFA Secretariat.
17. Research cruise operators shall, according to actual circumstances (e.g., funding sources, survey content), endeavour to offer participation opportunities in the cruises to scientists from other CCPs for the early career development or the provision of relevant professional expertise. In the meantime, the capacity-building needs of developing States and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) shall be fully considered.
18. In addition to CMMs relevant to bottom fisheries, appropriate exemptions from certain CMMs should be granted to facilitate scientific cruises to the greatest extent possible, so as to encourage scientific surveys within the SIOFA Area.

Scientific Committee

19. For the bottom fishing research purposes:
 - (a) The SC should prioritise those RCP tasks that (i) cannot easily be undertaken by fishing vessel during their normal operations; or (ii) have a solid international cooperation foundation.
 - (b) The SC would need to consider the objectives of any proposed FIRC and evaluate whether the importance of research activities is greater than their impact on resources in the SIOFA Area.
20. For the non-bottom fishing research purposes:
 - (c) The SC shall evaluate the fishery independent research cruise results and make further recommendations to meet the needs of its work plan.
21. The Scientific Committee may request updated reports on the outcomes of RCPs and amend them as necessary.

22. The Scientific Committee shall provide recommendations and advice on RCPs to the MoP.

Meeting of the Parties

23. The Meeting of the Parties, taking into account the recommendations and advice of the Scientific Committee, shall decide whether to authorise RCPs.
24. The Meeting of the Parties may consider cost-effective ways to fund relevant RCPs in the SIOFA Area.

Review

25. The CMM shall be reviewed no later than three years of its implementation. The review shall also take into account the latest advice of the Scientific Committee on previous or ongoing FIRC in the SIOFA Area.

Annex 1 Short Notification for Fishery Independent Research Cruise (FIRC)**Applicable to:** Non-bottom (pelagic) fishery research cruises with **total catch ≤30 tonnes**

No.	Item	Details
1	Notifying Party	Name, contact person, contact details
2	Research Vessel Info	Vessel name, port of registry, registration number, call sign, vessel type (dedicated research vessel / converted fishing vessel)
3	Cruise Basic Info	Estimated entry/exit dates of SIOFA Area, operating area (lat/long range)
4	Gear Type	Pelagic trawl, longline, purse seine, etc. (non-bottom gear)
5	Core Research Purpose	Brief description (resource survey, ecological monitoring, data collection, etc.)
6	Estimated Catch	Estimated total catch, corresponding main fish species
7	Compliance Commitment	No commercial fishing; catch not for commercial sale; operate strictly in line with this notification
8	Data Submission	Submit scientific data to Secretariat within 12 months after cruise; publish aggregated results (no confidential info)
9	Notification Date	Signature, date

Annex 2 Detailed Research Cruise Plan (RCP) Application Form for Fishery Independent Research Cruise (FIRC)

Applicable to: ① Bottom fishery research cruises; ② Non-bottom fishery research cruises with **total catch ≥30 tonnes**

Module	No.	Item	Requirements
Basic Information	1	Applicant Information	Full name, principal investigator, contact email, address
	2	Research Vessel Information	Vessel name, registration number, vessel type (dedicated research vessel / converted fishing vessel), overall length/tonnage, positioning equipment
	3	Cruise Schedule	Operation period (max 3 years), entry/exit dates, precise operating lat/long
Core Research Content	4	Research Purpose	Clear scientific objective; confirm non-commercial fishing
	5	Survey Type	☐ Bottom Fishery Research ☐ Non-bottom Fishery Research
Gear & Operation	6	Gear Type	Bottom trawl, bottom longline, bottom pot, etc. (mandatory for bottom fishery); pelagic gear (mandatory for non-bottom)
Catch Confirmation	7	Catch Plan	Specify total catch & main species; justify the rationality of catch volume
Bottom Fishery Special Requirements	8	Benthic Ecosystem Protection	Impact assessment in accordance with <i>Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment Standardisation (BFIAS)</i>
	9	Operation in BFCs	Align with research & monitoring plan in Table 1 of CMM 18(2025) if operating in Benthic Fishery Closures (BFCs)
	10	VME Requirements	Describe potential harmful impacts & mitigation measures; define VME encounter protocol if operating in known/likely VME areas
Data & Reporting	11	Data Submission	Submit scientific data to Secretariat within 12 months after cruise; publish aggregated results (no confidential info)

Module	No.	Item	Requirements
	12	Research Report	Submit detailed cruise report to Scientific Committee
Compliance Commitment	13	Management Commitment	Operate only per approved RCP; catch counted against flag Party quota; vessel listed in SIOFA RAV
Approval	14	Scientific Committee Evaluation	Scientific necessity, ecological impact, recommendations
	15	MoP Decision	Approve / Approve with revision / Reject
	16	Application Date	Signature, stamp, date

**10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)***Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026***CC-10-21 / MoP-13-21**

Proposal for a new CMM for a SIOFA Allocation Framework

Delegation of the Cook Islands

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ✓ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ☐ Closed session document ☐
Abstract	
This proposal outlines a new CMM for a SIOFA allocation framework. This proposal responds to the various directions and discussions from the Meeting of the Parties, the Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee calling for the establishment of an allocation framework for SIOFA fisheries. This includes: - SC9 recognising the need for allocation of catch and effort limits; - SC10 noting the value in considering potential flexibility in the setting of total allowable catches, including potential approaches to overage, underage, carryovers, multi-year limits and transferability; - MOP10 endorsing the 2nd SIOFA Performance Review recommendation 14 that 'SIOFA CCPs engage in discussions towards a future regime for the allocation of fishing rights'. - MOP11 endorsing the 2nd Workshop on Harvest Strategy Development recommendation that the MOP 'develop a framework for deciding allocations based on catch history, among other factors, and to advance this work in parallel with the development of harvest strategies'. - MOP12 considering a draft allocation framework and noting the continued interest among CCPs for the development of a SIOFA allocation framework and agreeing to continue to discuss this matter at MoP13. - CC9 and MOP12 considered a draft proposal for a new CMM for a SIOFA allocation framework. This provided CCPs the opportunity to provide feedback and input regarding the content and development of a SIOFA allocation framework.	

The Cook Islands has incorporated CCP feedback from CC9 and MOP12 into this proposal. In addition, the Cook Islands has incorporated subsequent CCP feedback received during ongoing intersessional consultations. For example:

- Para 2: Including language to ensure that this measure does not conflict any other CMM in force. This would prevent any potential conflict with any CMM specifying harvest strategy mechanisms for quota allocation.
- Paras 5 and 6: Providing provisions for new entrants and ensuring certainty and transparency in the process for SIOFA Contracting Parties and Participating Fishing Entities.
- Para 7(a): Outlining the scope of proportional historical catch as an allocation criterion consistent with CCP feedback. The timeframes are aligned to reporting year dates and cover:
 - i) Historical catch prior to the SIOFA Agreement entering into force (1 January 2013)
 - ii) Historical catch from the start of the SIOFA Agreement until end of current reporting year (31 December 2025)
 - iii) Historical catch that is recorded by CCPs after the date the CMM enters into force.

The proposal seeks to ensure that the MOP applies effective, sustainable and fair criteria for allocating catch and effort in SIOFA fisheries within areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Noting that some SIOFA CMMs already include allocation specifications, the development and adoption of the proposed allocation criteria would provide an essential allocation framework prior to any MOP agreements on allocation mechanisms in CMMs. These allocation criteria would not supersede any existing allocations but would be applied in any future reallocation.

The proposal seeks to ensure that the rights of all SIOFA CCPs are respected, while providing for the legitimate rights and aspirations of developing coastal States, particularly small island developing States (SIDS), in the development of sustainable fisheries.

The Cook Islands has consulted with CCPs in 2026 regarding this proposal and invites all CCPs to continue constructive engagement in the development and potential adoption of this proposal.

Recommendations

- CC10 to **recommend** that MOP13 adopt the proposed CMM.
- MOP13 **adopt** the proposed CMM.

CMM XX (2026)**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE (CMM) FOR A SIOFA ALLOCATION FRAMEWORK****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;**

RECOGNISING that Article 6(1)(k) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) requires the Meeting of the Parties to establish the criteria for, and rules governing, participation in fishing.

FURTHER RECOGNISING that Article 6(2) of the Agreement provides that the Meeting of the Parties, 'in determining criteria for participation in fishing, including allocation of total allowable catch or total level of fishing effort, the Contracting Parties shall take into account, inter alia, international principles such as those contained in the 1995 Agreement'.

ACKNOWLEDGING that Article 5(b) of the 1995 Agreement provides that States shall ensure that it adopts measures that 'are based on the best scientific evidence available and are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including the special requirements of developing States, and taking into account fishing patterns, the interdependence of stocks and any generally recommended international minimum standards, whether subregional, regional or global'.

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that Article 10(b) of the 1995 Agreement provides that one of the functions of regional fisheries management organisations is for States to 'agree, as appropriate, on participatory rights such as allocations of allowable catch or levels of fishing effort'.

UNDERLINING that Article 13 of the Agreement canvasses the requirements of Contracting Parties to fully recognise the special requirements of developing States and to cooperate in providing assistance to developing States.

RECOGNISING that the preamble of the Agreement highlights that cooperation between coastal States and all other States, organizations and fishing entities having an interest in the fishery resources of the Southern Indian Ocean is vital to ensure compatible conservation and management measures, and that this cooperation will contribute to the realization of a just and equitable economic order in the interests of all humankind, and in particular the special interests and needs of developing States, in particular the least-developed among them and small island developing States.

NOTING that Article 6(3) of the Agreement provides that Contracting Parties, in determining criteria for participation in fishing, including associated catch or effort allocations, may designate annual quota allocations or fishing effort limitations for Contracting Parties, allocate catch quantities for exploration and scientific research, and set aside fishing opportunities for non-Contracting Parties to this Agreement, if necessary.

NOTING that the 9th Scientific Committee recognised the need for allocation of catch and effort limits and the 10th Scientific Committee discussed the value in incorporating flexibility in the setting of total allowable catches, including potential approaches to overage, underage, carryovers, multi-year limits and transferability between CCPs.

RECALLING that the 11th Meeting of the Parties endorsed the recommendation of the 2nd Workshop on Harvest Strategy Development to 'develop a framework for deciding allocations based on catch history, among other factors, and to advance this work in parallel with the development of harvest strategies'.

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Articles 4 and 6 of the Agreement:**Objective**

1. The objective of this CMM is to establish an allocation framework for SIOFA fisheries through specifying criteria for the allocation of catch or effort to SIOFA Parties¹.

Application

2. The Meeting of the Parties (MOP) shall apply the allocation framework outlined in this CMM when allocating catch or effort to SIOFA Parties for established SIOFA fisheries with an adopted total allowable catch or total allowable effort on a species or stock basis, without prejudice to any CMMs currently in force, or their replacement measures, with an existing allocation framework.
3. This CMM shall not impact in any way the total allowable catch or total allowable effort for any SIOFA fishery set by the MOP.
4. This CMM shall not prejudice the rights of any existing SIOFA Party to a SIOFA fishery.

Allocation mechanisms

5. The MOP shall use the following mechanisms for allocating catch or effort to SIOFA Parties for any SIOFA fishery:
 - a. The MOP shall apply the allocation criteria in paragraph 7 when allocating catch or effort.
 - b. The MOP may set allocations for an annual or multi-year period.
 - c. Regarding new entrants:
 - i. Subject to paragraph 5(d), for any agreed allocation period, the MOP shall reserve [6%] of the total allocation collectively for existing SIOFA Parties seeking to be new entrants to that fishery¹. However, no new entrant shall receive a higher percentage than an existing participant.
 - ii. The MOP may allocate less than [6%] of the total allocation for individual existing SIOFA Parties who wish to enter a SIOFA fishery.
 - iii. When the MOP is allocating catch or effort for SIOFA Parties, if the MOP has not approved any new entrants, the [6%] reserved allocation shall be reallocated to existing participants in the same proportion as the remaining allocation.
 - d. For any new and exploratory fisheries (as specified in CMM-17² (2025) or its replacement measure) that are subsequently recognised as established fisheries, for any agreed allocation period, the MOP shall consider reserving a proportion greater than [6%] of the total allocation for additional SIOFA Party entrants into that fishery.
6. The MOP shall only allocate catch or effort to SIOFA Parties. CNCPs seeking any allocation for a fishery shall first become a SIOFA Party in accordance with the Agreement.

¹ SIOFA Party refers to a SIOFA Contracting Party or Participating Fishing Entity.

Allocation criteria

7. The MOP shall apply the following criteria when allocating catch or effort to SIOFA Parties for any SIOFA fishery:
 - a. Proportional historical catch in the Agreement Area:
 - i. caught prior to 1 January 2013 and reported by the flag State to the SIOFA Secretariat by 31 May 2026.
 - ii. caught between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2025 and reported by the SIOFA Party to the SIOFA Secretariat by MOP13 and caught in accordance with the Agreement and any applicable SIOFA CMMs, including all data reporting requirements.
 - iii. caught after 1 January 2026 and reported by the SIOFA Party to the SIOFA Secretariat and caught in accordance with the Agreement and any applicable SIOFA CMMs, including all data reporting requirements.
 - b. SIOFA Parties' degree of compliance with the Agreement and any SIOFA CMMs;
 - c. The fisheries interests of coastal States adjacent to the Agreement Area; and
 - d. The fisheries development aspirations and interests of:
 - i. coastal developing States; and
 - ii. small island developing States.
8. When allocating catch or effort to SIOFA Parties for any SIOFA fishery, the MOP may also consider contributions to fisheries science and the conservation and management of SIOFA fishery resources, including the provision of accurate data and effective monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement regarding SIOFA fishery resources.

Catch Management

9. Once the MOP has allocated catch or effort for a SIOFA fishery, SIOFA Parties may transfer all or part of their allocation in any specified year to another SIOFA Party by mutual agreement.
10. For any transfer of allocation:
 - a. The transferring SIOFA Party shall notify the Secretariat prior to any transfer, who shall notify CCPs;
 - b. Any transfer shall be without prejudice to future agreements on the allocation of catch or effort; and
 - c. Any transfer shall be attributed to the transferring SIOFA Party as part of its catch history.
11. New entrants to a SIOFA fishery may not transfer their allocation for a SIOFA fishery within the first 3 years of being approved as a new entrant. However, if a new entrant has not used any of its allocation in the first 3 years of being approved as a new entrant, its allocation will be forfeited and reallocated to existing participants in the same proportion as the remaining allocation.
12. For each SIOFA fishery with agreed allocation of catch or effort, the MOP shall establish additional rules for:
 - a. the management of overages, underages and carryovers of a SIOFA Party's allocation; and

- b. data collection and reporting for catch arrangements falling under paragraphs 9, 10 and 12(a).

**10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)***Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026***CC-10-27 / MoP-10-27**

Proposal

New CMM for Research Cruise by Research Vessel

Delegation of the European Union

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ✓ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	
Research cruises have been conducted already in the SIOFA area by CCPs and non-CCPs. However, the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement has not developed a framework providing how research cruises should be considered. To address that loophole, the European Union submits this working paper that builds on our working papers presented to MoP12 in 2025 (MoP-12-48-Rev1) and to SC11 in 2026 (SC-11-56-Rev1). The main objective of this Working Paper is to continue the discussion on such a framework for research cruises in the SIOFA Area at MoP13, acknowledging that if SIOFA adopts a CMM for research cruises, it may become necessary to amend CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) to clearly identify data derived from research cruises and its data access arrangements. The EU welcomes comments from CCPs towards the adoption of a new CMM at MoP13.	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

- **Consider** the working paper and submit comments and language suggestions

New CMM 19(2026)
Research Cruise by Research Vessel in the SIOFA Area

RECALLING that Article 6(1) (b) of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (the Agreement) calls on the Meeting of the Parties to promote and, as appropriate, coordinate research activities as required on the fishery resources and on straddling stocks occurring in waters under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Area, including discarded catch and the impact of fishing on the marine environment;

FURTHER RECALLING that Article 10(1)(c) set out the duties relevant to the collection and exchange of scientific, technical and statistical data for Contracting Parties;

NOTING Part XIII, Section 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which recognises the right of States and competent international organisations to conduct marine scientific research, subject to the rights and duties of other States under the Convention, calling for the promotion and facilitation of marine scientific research and providing that such research shall be conducted for peaceful purposes, using appropriate scientific methods and means, without unjustifiable interference with other legitimate uses of the sea, and in compliance with relevant regulations for the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

NOTING the importance of collecting independent fishery data and cost-effective fishery-dependent data for the purposes of ensuring scientific stock assessment and implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management;

NOTING the recommendation by the Ninth meeting of the Scientific Committee, and endorsed by the Eleventh Meeting of the Parties, to develop a specific “research cruise CMM” that is separate from the process that is proposed for exploratory fisheries.

NOTING the recommendation by the Eleventh meeting of the Scientific Committee to continue the efforts to establish a CMM for research cruises and to set out the process for approving research cruises by vessels flagged to CCPs and the data submission requirements for those cruises, and another process for approving research cruises by vessels flagged to non-CCPs and the data submission requirements for those cruises.

FURTHER NOTING that the Meeting of Parties has adopted policies and procedures for the maintenance of data standards CMM 02(2025) and data confidentiality (CMM 03(2025));

ADOPTS the following conservation and management measure (CMM) in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:

Objective

1. The objective of the “Research Cruise by Research Vessel CMM” is to govern the undertaking of fisheries-related scientific research by research vessels in the SIOFA Area and to set out a clear framework and consistent approaches for research cruises.

2. The specific “Research Cruise by Research Vessel CMM” is separated from the “Scientific Research by Fishing Vessel CMM” and from the process adopted for exploratory fisheries (CMM 17(2025)) ensuring that all three activities are appropriately sanctioned prior to the activity being undertaken and subsequently reported.

Application

3. This CMM shall apply to all Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs), participating fishing entities (PFEs) and any third party engaged in a research cruise in the SIOFA Area to all gears for any fishery falling under SIOFA’s competence.

Terminology

4. For the purpose of this CMM, “research cruises” are defined as single/multi-part trips conducted by a dedicated research vessel (RV), actively engaged in any research under the scope of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC)³, where the sale of commercial catch is not the objective of the trip.
5. For the purpose of this CMM, “research vessel” means a purpose-built and equipped vessel, permanently dedicated and used for research at sea.

Specific provisions for research cruises

Vessel Register

6. Any research vessel, regardless of the flag, conducting a research cruise authorised under this CMM in the SIOFA Area, shall be registered on the SIOFA Record of authorised vessels (RAV) in accordance with CMM 07(2025) prior to commencing the authorised research cruise, and shall comply with the relevant provisions of this CMM and other applicable SIOFA CMMs.

Research Cruise Plan

7. All research cruises, regardless of the RV flag, require SIOFA authorisation on the basis of a Research Cruise Plan (RCP).
8. A RV shall not conduct fishing activities inconsistent with its RCP.
9. Any RCP shall contain at a minimum the following key elements:
 - a. Administrative
 - b. Scientific purpose - Objectives
 - c. Spatial and temporal research design
 - d. Methods and gears

³ SIOFA Agreement Article 7.

- e. Data collection and sampling protocols
- f. Data management
- g. Analysis plan
- h. Ecosystem and precautionary safeguard
- i. Compliance and observer arrangements
- j. Catch handling and sample disposition
- k. Reporting and deliverables
- l. Annexes: Maps, sampling stations, gear diagrams...

The Research Cruise Plan should underline where RV provide an added scientific value that would not be achieved otherwise.

10. RCPs shall be submitted to the Secretariat no later than 30 days before the annual meeting of the Scientific Committee.
11. A RCP is submitted to the SIOFA SC for assessment and advice prior to consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.
12. The data collected during the research cruise regarding the scope of the SC activity are submitted to the Secretariat within 12 months of the end of the cruise. Data should be collected and exchanged ensuring that data is collected in sufficient detail as to facilitate its evaluation by the SC, while the underlying data should be submitted at the lowest operational level at which the observations were made.
13. The results of the research cruise are to be reported to the next meeting of the SC following the submission of data.
14. No subsequent research cruise will be permitted by the organisation undertaking the cruise unless the data emanating from the cruise and a final detailed research cruise report is submitted to the SIOFA Secretariat.
15. The SC will evaluate the research cruise report to assess the outcomes and to refine future operations.
16. Proponents should encourage participation from other CCPs scientists to join in the research cruise as early career development or to provide relevant expertise.
17. Where a research cruise is to be undertaken by a vessel flagged to a non-CCP, the RCP shall identify the responsible entity for ensuring compliance with this CMM.

Specific provisions for data collected in the context of a research cruise

18. Data made available shall be used only for the purpose of research within the scope of the Scientific Committee.
19. Any publication of scientific results should be in an aggregated format without any confidential information regarding individual vessels or flag States as per CMM 03(2025).

Minimising the harmful impacts of research cruises

20. Contracting Parties who intend to conduct research cruises in Benthic Fishery Closures (BFCs) in the Agreement Area, shall:
 - a. Align their Research Cruise Plan with the research and monitoring plan for the BFCs listed in Table 1 of CMM 18 (2025).
 - b. Elaborate in their RCP on the potential harmful impact that such activities may have on the BFCs and how to minimise them.
21. Contracting Parties who intend to conduct research cruises in areas where VMEs are known to occur, or likely to occur in the Agreement Area shall:
 - a. Elaborate in their RCP on the potential harmful impact that such activities may have on the VMEs and how to minimise them including the encounter protocol.

Scientific Committee

22. The Scientific Committee will comprehensively review the RCP assessing the scientific goals, technical requirements, logistics, operational constraints and safety protocols.
23. The SC would also need to consider whether the objectives of any proposed research cruise address the objectives of the SC and the Meeting of the Parties.
24. The SC should prioritise those RCP tasks that:
 - a. cannot easily be undertaken by fishing vessel during their normal operations.
 - b. have a solid international cooperation foundation.
25. At its annual meeting, the SC shall consider any new RCP submitted, and any other relevant information.
26. The SC at each annual meeting shall review available data and reports from ongoing or ended RCPs, in view to enabling an assessment of the stocks covered by these plans, the feasibility and appropriateness of establishing a fishery and the impact of fishing activities on non-target, associated or dependent species and the marine ecosystem in which these plans apply.
27. The SC would need to consider the objectives of any proposed research and evaluate whether the importance of research activities is greater than their impact on resources in the SIOFA Area.

28. The SC may request updated reports on the outcomes of SRPs and RCPs and amend the SRPs and RCPs as necessary.

29. The SC shall provide recommendations and advice on RCPs to the Meeting of the Parties.

Compliance Committee

30. The Compliance Committee shall review the compliance elements of the RCPs against the provisions of all SIOFA CMMs and provide advice to the Meeting of the Parties.

31. For research cruises involving vessels flagged to non-CCPs, the Compliance Committee shall review the RCP ensuring compliance with this CMM.

Meeting of the Parties

32. The Meeting of the Parties, taking into account the recommendations and advice of the Scientific Committee and, where relevant, the Compliance Committee, shall decide whether to authorise RCPs.

33. Once the Meeting of the Parties authorise the RCP, this will be shared with relevant international fisheries agreements, organisations and arrangements scientific/technical committees.

34. The Meeting of the Parties may consider cost-effective ways to fund relevant RCPs in the SIOFA Area.

Secretariat

Notification of Research Vessel Activity

35. Following authorisation of a RCP by the Meeting of the Parties, the responsible Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties, participating fishing entities or any third party authorised to conduct a research cruise in the SIOFA Area, shall notify the Secretariat no later than 30 days before the research vessel commences the authorised research activity, using the form in Annex 3: Notification of Research Vessel Activity in the SIOFA Area.

36. The Secretariat shall circulate such notification to all CCPs.

Research cruises inventory

37. The Secretariat shall keep a research cruises outcome inventory, including placing it on the SIOFA website, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements.

Review

38. The CMM shall be reviewed no later than two years of the start of its implementation. The review shall also take into account the latest advice of the Scientific Committee on previous or ongoing research activities in the SIOFA Area.

Annex 1 – Research Cruise Plan (RCP) Template

Paragraph 7 of CMM 19(2026) (Research Cruise) requires all research cruises, regardless of the RV flag SIOFA authorisation on the basis of a Research Cruise Plan (RCP) and paragraph 9 requires that any RCP shall contain a minimum of key elements:

- a. Administrative
 - Lead organisations/countries
 - Research vessel
 - Dates
 - Sailing
 - Location of work
 - Previous research work in the SIOFA Area
- b. Scientific purpose – Objectives
- c. Spatial and temporal research design
- d. Methods and gears
- e. Data collection and sampling protocols
- f. Data management
- g. Analysis plan
- h. Ecosystem and precautionary safeguard
- i. Compliance and observer arrangements
- j. Catch handling and sample disposition
- k. Reporting and deliverables
- l. Annexes: Maps, sampling stations, gear diagrams...

Annex 2 – Scientific Committee RCP Assessment checklist

Paragraph 22 of CMM 19(2026) (Research Cruise) requires the Scientific Committee to comprehensively review the RCP. The SC should review the RCP based, as a minimum, on the following criterion to assure consistency between proposals.

Criteria	Core question
Relevance	Does the cruise address SC/MoP priorities?
Necessity	Why can this not be done through existing fishery-dependent data?
Design adequacy	Are survey design, sample size and methods robust enough?
Risk proportionality	Are the potential impacts justified by the expected scientific value?
Data Usability	Will the outputs feed stock assessment, BFIA, ecosystem assessment, VME work, or monitoring?
International cooperation	Are collaborative efforts considered in the RCP?
Capacity building	Are other CCP scientists able to participate meaningfully?
Catch (if any) adequacy	Is catch limited proportional to scientific needs?
Analysis and reporting	Is there a clear analysis and reporting plan?

Annex 3 - Notification of Research Vessel Activity in the SIOFA Area

Notification of research vessel activity in accordance with paragraph 35 of SIOFA CM-19(2026)

Information required	Remarks:
Vessel name	<i>Name of vessel</i>

Vessel flag	<i>Flag where the vessel is registered (3-alpha country code)</i>
Vessel type	<i>Vessel research capabilities</i>
IMO number	<i>IMO number of the vessel</i>
Purpose of research	<i>As per the Research Cruise Plan authorised by MoP</i>
Name of research institute or authority responsible for planning and coordinating the research	Name of the responsible research institute or authority
Location in which research is to be carried out	<i>Specify where in the SIOFA Agreement Area as per the Research Cruise Plan authorised by MoP</i>
Estimated dates of entering and leaving SIOFA Convention Area	<i>Date using the format YYYY-MM-DD</i>

**10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)***Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026***CC-10-28 / MoP-10-28**

Proposal

New CMM for Scientific Research by Fishing Vessel

Delegation of the European Union

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ✓ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	
Scientific research is considered in the SIOFA Agreement in Articles 1 (Definitions), Article 6 (Functions of the meeting of the parties), 7 (Subsidiary bodies), and 13 (Special requirements of developing States). However, the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement has not developed a framework providing how scientific research should be considered. To address that loophole, the European Union submits this working paper that builds on our working papers presented to MoP12 in 2025 (MoP-12-48-Rev1) and to SC11 in 2026 (SC-11-56-Rev1). The main objective of this Working Paper is to continue the discussion on such a framework for scientific research in the SIOFA Area at MoP13. The EU welcomes comments from CCPs towards the adoption of a new CMM at MoP13.	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

- Consider the working paper and submit comments and language suggestions

New CMM 20(2026)
Scientific Research by Fishing Vessel in the SIOFA Area

RECALLING that Article 6(1) (b) of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (the Agreement) calls on the Meeting of the Parties to promote and, as appropriate, coordinate research activities as required on the fishery resources and on straddling stocks occurring in waters under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Area, including discarded catch and the impact of fishing on the marine environment;

FURTHER RECALLING that Article 10(1)(c) set out the duties relevant to the collection and exchange of scientific, technical and statistical data for Contracting Parties;

RECOGNISING the importance of developing comprehensive arrangements for relevant scientific research to assist the Scientific Committee in performing its functions as outlined in Article 7 of the Agreement;

NOTING Part XIII, Section 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which recognises the right of States and competent international organisations to conduct marine scientific research, subject to the rights and duties of other States under the Convention, calling for the promotion and facilitation of marine scientific research and providing that such research shall be conducted for peaceful purposes, using appropriate scientific methods and means, without unjustifiable interference with other legitimate uses of the sea, and in compliance with relevant regulations for the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

NOTING the importance of collecting independent fishery data and cost-effective fishery-dependent data for the purposes of ensuring scientific stock assessment and implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management;

NOTING the recommendation by the Eleventh meeting of the Scientific Committee to continue the efforts to establish a CMM for research cruises and scientific research.

FURTHER NOTING that the Meeting of Parties has adopted policies and procedures for the maintenance of data standards CMM 02(2025) and data confidentiality (CMM 03(2025));

ADOPTS the following conservation and management measure (CMM) in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:

Objective

1. The objective of the “Scientific Research by Fishing Vessel CMM” is to establish an operational framework for the undertaking of fisheries-related scientific research by fishing vessels in the SIOFA Area and consistent procedures for scientific research.
2. The specific “Scientific Research by Fishing Vessel CMM” is separated from the “Research Cruise by Research Vessel CMM” and from the process adopted for exploratory fisheries (CMM 17(2025)) ensuring that all three activities are

appropriately sanctioned prior to the activity being undertaken and subsequently reported.

Application

3. This CMM shall apply to all Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) and participating fishing entities (PFEs) that propose to conduct fishing operations using fishing vessels for scientific research purposes in the SIOFA Area for any fishery or fisheries resources falling under SIOFA's competence.
4. Only CCPs, CNCs and PFEs can conduct scientific research in the SIOFA area for fisheries falling under SIOFA's competence. Scientific institutions, universities, technical experts or other third parties may participate in such research only under the responsibility of the relevant Contracting Party, CNC or PFE and in accordance with the authorised Scientific Research Plan.

Terminology

5. For the purposes of this CMM "scientific research by fishing vessel" is defined as:
 - a) Fishing vessel (FV) based scientific activities collecting environmental data under the scope of a Scientific Research Plan (SRP) that includes information gathering without extraction of marine living resources;
 - b) Fishing vessel conducting fishing³ and collecting data from marine living resources for scientific purposes in established fisheries under the scope of an SRP.
6. For the purposes of this CMM "Scientific Research Plan" means a plan submitted by a Contracting Party, CNC or PFE describing the objectives, methods, area, duration, fishing vessel(s), expected catches, data to be collected, reporting arrangements, and mitigation measures for fisheries-related scientific research in the SIOFA Area.

Specific provisions for scientific research and associated catches

7. Any Contracting Party, CNC, PFE planning to use a fishing vessel or vessels for scientific research purposes as defined in paragraph 5, shall:
 - a. Provide the draft Scientific Research Plan no less than thirty days in advance of the opening of the Scientific Committee meeting.
 - b. The Scientific Research Plan shall contain at a minimum the following information:
 - i. Lead Contracting Party, CNC or PFE
 - ii. Fishing vessel identification,

³ SIOFA Agreement Article 1g.

- iii. Purpose,
 - iv. Objectives,
 - v. Summary of scientific methods or procedures,
 - vi. Location and dates of the scientific research,
 - vii. Data submission of all data collected and analysed,
 - viii. Name and position of the lead investigator,
 - ix. Whether any catches retained on board will be marketed,
 - x. Total estimated scientific research catch of the targeted species,
 - xi. Presence of a CCP observer or other relevant and qualified expert who has completed training in accordance with national scientific observer programs,
 - xii. Information on when the research results will be presented to the Scientific Committee, and a plan for dissemination of scientific outputs,
 - xiii. Where relevant, indication that the scientific research constitutes non-recurrent new scientific research,
 - xiv. Capacity building aspects of the Scientific Research Plan,
 - xv. Estimated budget,
 - xvi. Funding source,
 - xvii. Identification of relevant CMMs being applied during planned scientific research.
- c. Notify the SIOFA Secretariat at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the scientific research.
 - d. Ensure that its fishing vessel keep on board a copy of the Scientific Research Plan.

Associated catches

- 8. Catches taken by any vessel during the implementation of a scientific research shall be:
 - a. Counted against the quota/catch limit allocated to the flag CCP for each species taken for species with quota/allocation.
 - b. Counted against the relevant SIOFA limit for species with a MoP catch limit but no allocation.
 - c. Counted against the MoP authorised research catch limit based on SC advice.
- 9. Catches taken during the implementation of a scientific research shall not exceed the amount recommended by the Scientific Committee and adopted by the MoP per season.
- 10. Should a scientific research catch exceed the catch limit adopted by the MoP:

- a. The vessel/flag CCP shall notify the Secretariat immediately, cease scientific research fishing operations unless otherwise authorised, and the matter shall be reviewed by the Compliance Committee.
 - b. The excess shall be counted against the allocation to the vessel's flag Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE.
11. Catches of SIOFA fisheries resources taken during the implementation of a notified scientific research activity will be recorded and reported as per CMM 02(2025).

Specific provisions for data collected in the context of scientific research

12. Data collected under an authorised SRP shall be submitted and used only for the purpose of research within the scope of the Scientific Committee mandate subject to confidentiality rules.
13. Any publication of scientific results should be in an aggregated format without any confidential information regarding individual vessels or flag States as per CMM 03(2025).

Minimising the harmful impacts of scientific research

14. Contracting Parties who intend to conduct scientific research in Benthic Fishery Closures (BFCs) in the Agreement Area, shall:
- a. Align their Scientific Research Plan with the research and monitoring plan for the BFCs listed in Table 1 of CMM 18 (2025).
 - b. Elaborate in their SRP on the potential harmful impact that such activities may have on the BFCs and how to minimise them.
15. Contracting Parties who intend to conduct Scientific Research in areas where VMEs are known to occur, or likely to occur in the Agreement Area shall:
- a. Elaborate in their SRP on the potential harmful impact that such activities may have on the VMEs and how to minimise them including the expected spatial footprint, VME indicator encounter protocols, and cumulative impact considerations.

Scientific Committee

16. The Scientific Committee shall develop a template for the SIOFA Scientific Research Plan (SRP) in accordance with the guidelines at Annex 1.
17. At its annual meeting, the SC shall consider any new SRP submitted, and any other relevant information.

18. The SC at each annual meeting shall review available data and reports from ongoing or ended SRPs, in view to enabling an assessment of the stocks covered by these plans, the feasibility and appropriateness of establishing a fishery and the impact of fishing activities on non-target, associated or dependent species and the marine ecosystem in which these plans apply.
19. The SC would need to consider the objectives of any proposed research and evaluate whether the importance of scientific research activities justifies their impact on resources and ecosystems in the SIOFA Area.
20. The SC may request updated reports on the outcomes of SRPs and recommend amendments to the SRPs as necessary.
21. The SC shall provide recommendations on the scientific merit of the SRP, considering that scientific research activities as well as fisheries management can be implemented differently and meaningfully under this framework.
22. The SC shall provide recommendations and advice on SRPs to the Meeting of the Parties.

Compliance Committee

23. The Compliance Committee shall review the compliance elements of the SRPs against the provisions of all SIOFA CMMs and provide advice to the Meeting of the Parties.
24. Following completion of an authorised SRP, the Compliance Committee shall review whether the authorised activity was consistently implemented as per the applicable SIOFA CMMs.

Meeting of the Parties

25. The Meeting of the Parties, taking into account the recommendations and advice of the Scientific Committee and, where relevant, the Compliance Committee, shall decide whether to authorise SRPs.
26. Once the Meeting of the Parties authorise the SRP, a public summary may be shared, as appropriate with relevant international fisheries agreements, organisations and arrangements scientific/technical committees.
27. The Meeting of the Parties may consider cost-effective ways to fund relevant SRPs in the SIOFA Area.

Secretariat

28. The Secretariat shall post in the SIOFA vessel registry website and annually update the names of those fishing vessels authorised to carry out scientific research, including in such posting a public version summary of the Scientific Research Plan.

Review

29. When an SRP expires, any Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE may submit a new SRP to the Scientific Committee in accordance with the SRP submission procedure.
30. The CMM shall be reviewed no later than two years after the date of its entry into force. The review shall also take into account the latest advice of the Scientific Committee on previous or ongoing scientific research activities in the SIOFA Area.

Annex 1 - Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of Scientific Research Plan (SRP)

For each field below, the submitting Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE should provide sufficient detail to enable the Scientific Committee to assess the scientific merit of the proposed Scientific Research Plan, and to enable the Compliance Committee to review the compliance-related elements of the proposed Scientific Research Plan.

1. Lead Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE

Include the Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE responsible for submitting and implementing the SRP.

2. Fishing vessel identification

E.g. name, external registration number, International Maritime Organization (IMO) ship identification number, international radio call sign and other markings, main dimensions.

3. Purpose

Include a concise statement explaining why the research is being proposed, highlighting why the scientific research is relevant to SIOFA scientific advice and linkages with management questions if any.

4. Objectives

List the specific objectives of the scientific research in measurable terms.

5. Summary of scientific methods or procedures

Describe the scientific research design (sampling methods/design, gear configuration, fishing or non-extractive activities, biological sampling, tagging, acoustic/camera work, environmental sampling, analytical methods, quality-control procedures, etc).

6. Location and dates of the scientific research

Provide the Area/Subarea(s) and proposed area coordinates and depth ranges. Benthic Fishery Closures or VME-relevant areas where applicable, and planned start and end dates. Explain the scientific reason for the chosen area and season.

7. Data submission of all data collected and analysed

Specify which raw data, processed data, or metadata will be submitted, in what format, to whom, and by when. Specify Data ownership, access and confidential category.

8. Name and position of the lead investigator

Identify the scientific lead responsible for the design, implementation, analysis and reporting of the research including institutional affiliation, the flag CCP/CNCP/PFE, vessel operator and any participating scientific institutions.

9. Whether any catches retained on board will be marketed

Indicate whether any retained catch will be marketed, landed for scientific purposes, discarded, donated or otherwise disposed of.

10. Total estimated scientific research catch of the targeted species

Provide estimated catch by targeted species, preferably by area, gear, set/haul and trip/season. The estimate should be justified by the proposed objectives and should distinguish between expected retained catch, discarded catch, bycatch and any incidental mortality associated with the scientific research.

11. Presence of a CCP observer or other relevant and qualified expert who has completed training in accordance with national scientific observer programs

Specify whether a scientific observer, national observer, trained/qualified expert will be on board describing their role, responsibilities, reporting duties, and whether observer coverage will be full or partial.

12. Information on when the research results will be presented to the Scientific Committee, and a plan for dissemination of scientific outputs

Provide a reporting schedule, including expected dates for preliminary results, final reports, data submission and presentation to the Scientific Committee. The dissemination plan should indicate, subject to confidentiality rules, the type of expected outputs from the scientific research.

13. Where relevant, indication that the scientific research constitutes non-recurrent new scientific research

Indicate whether the activity is a one-off, non-recurrent scientific activity. If the research is new or non-recurrent, explain why it is needed, why existing data are insufficient, and whether it could lead to future recurring scientific research.

14. Capacity building aspects of the Scientific Research Plan

Describe any opportunities for training, participation, technology transfer, data access, joint analysis or involvement of scientists from developing States, CCPs, CNCPs or PFEs.

15. Estimated budget

Provide an estimated budget for the scientific research activity sufficient enough as to demonstrate feasibility.

16. Funding source

Identify the source or sources of funding, including if SIOFA funding is requested.

17. Identification of relevant CMMs being applied during planned scientific research.

List all SIOFA CMMs relevant to the proposed scientific research activity. The SRP should explain how each relevant CMM will be complied with, and identify any specific authorisation or derogation requested from the MoP.



10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)

Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026

CC-10-32 / MoP-13-32

Proposal for a new CMM on promoting the objectives of SIOFA through cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement

France Overseas Territories

Meeting	Compliance Committee ☐ Meeting of the Parties ☒
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ☒ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ☒ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	
This proposal aims at promoting the objectives of SIOFA through cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement which entered into force on the 17th of January 2026. Its purpose is to facilitate the consideration of RFMO's competences, objectives, knowledge and governance within the BBNJ decision-making process. During its annual session 2026, the IOTC has adopted a resolution (26/XX) pursuing identical goals. This CMM presents a similar approach in wording, in order to establish a coherent framework within the RFMO's of the Indian Ocean. France-OT welcomes comments from CCPs on this proposal and its best way of implementation in SIOFA.	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations
• The MoP to consider the proposal • The MoP to adopt the proposal

CMM 26/XX on promoting the objectives of SIOFA through cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement (the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction)

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;

RECOGNISING the adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) on 19 June 2023 and its entry into force on 17 January 2026;

RECALLING that the BBNJ Agreement “shall be interpreted and applied in a manner that does not undermine relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies and that promotes coherence and coordination with those instruments, frameworks and bodies” (Article 5(2) BBNJ Agreement);

FURTHER RECALLING that Parties of the BBNJ Agreement shall be guided by a set of principles and approaches set out in Article 2 and 4 of the Agreement;

RECOGNISING that Parties of the BBNJ Agreement “shall cooperate under the BBNJ Agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including through strengthening and enhancing cooperation with and promoting cooperation among relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies in the achievement of the objectives of” the BBNJ Agreement (Article 8(1) BBNJ Agreement);

RECALLING that the Conference of the Parties of the BBNJ Agreement has the competence to take decisions on the establishment of area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, and related measures in areas beyond national jurisdiction (Article 22(1)(a) BBNJ Agreement);

FURTHER RECALLING that the Conference of the Parties of the BBNJ Agreement “may take decisions on measures compatible with those adopted by relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies, in cooperation and coordination with those instruments, frameworks and bodies” (Article 22(1)(b) BBNJ Agreement);

FURTHER RECALLING that the Conference of the Parties of the BBNJ Agreement “may, where proposed measures are within the competences of other global, regional, subregional or sectoral bodies, make recommendations to Parties to this Agreement and to global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies to promote the adoption of relevant measures through such instruments, frameworks and bodies, in accordance with their respective mandates” (Article 22(1)(c) BBNJ Agreement);

NOTING that, in relation to decisions concerning area-based management tools under the BBNJ Agreement, the Conference of the Parties of the BBNJ Agreement “shall respect the competences

of, and not undermine, relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies” (Article 22(2) BBNJ Agreement);

EMPHASISING that the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement is the relevant regional and sectoral body with the competence to adopt binding conservation and management measures for SIOFA’s species;

NOTING that engagement of the SIOFA with the BBNJ Agreement is important to ensure that SIOFA effectively achieves its objectives;

NOTING that Part V and Annex II of the BBNJ Agreement provide for capacity-building and transfer of marine technology initiatives, which may include “increasing cooperative links between regional institutions, for example, North-South and South-South collaboration and collaboration among [...] regional fisheries management organizations” and “the establishment or strengthening of the institutional capacities of relevant national and regional organizations and institutions”;

***ADOPTS*, in accordance with Article 4 and 6 of the Agreement, the following:**

Terminology

1. For the purpose of this CMM:

- (a) “CCPs” means Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, as well as Participating Fishing Entities, to the Agreement.
- (b) “SIOFA Species” means all species of fish listed in paragraph (f) of Article 1 of the Agreement.
- (c) “BBNJ Agreement” means the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction adopted on 19 June 2023.
- (d) “BBNJ COP” means the Conference of the Parties of the BBNJ Agreement.
- (e) “BBNJ Secretariat” means the Secretariat of the BBNJ Agreement COP, pursuant to Article 50 of the BBNJ Agreement.
- (f) “BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism” means the Clearing-House Mechanism pursuant to Article 51 of the BBNJ Agreement.
- (g) “BBNJ Scientific and Technical Body” means the Scientific and Technical Body established under Article 49 of the BBNJ Agreement.
- (h) “Area-based management tool” or “ABMT” means a tool, including a marine protected area, for a geographically defined area through which one or several sectors or activities are managed with the aim of achieving particular conservation and sustainable use objectives in accordance with the BBNJ Agreement as defined by Article 1(1) of the BBNJ Agreement.
- (i) “Marine protected area” means a geographically defined marine area that is designated and managed to achieve specific long-term biological diversity conservation objectives and may allow, where appropriate, sustainable use provided it is consistent with the conservation objectives as defined by Article 1(9) of the BBNJ Agreement.
- (j) “Environmental impact assessment” means a process to identify and evaluate the

potential impacts of an activity to inform decision-making.

- (k) “EEZ” means the Exclusive Economic Zone as defined in Article 55 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- (l) “RFMO” means a regional fisheries management organization.
- (m) “RFB” means a regional fisheries body as defined by the FAO.³

Participation of CCPs in the BBNJ Agreement

2. CCPs are encouraged to:

- (a) ratify, approve, accept or accede to the BBNJ Agreement (where they have not already done so);
- (b) participate in the meetings of the BBNJ COP, future BBNJ COPs and relevant meetings of its subsidiary bodies and improve coordination mechanisms within the SIOFA area of competence with a view to ensure that the perspectives of SIOFA are reflected in the discussions and work of the BBNJ COP and its subsidiary bodies, where appropriate;
- (c) engage with other CCPs and interested Parties to the BBNJ Agreement in relation to the development of proposals for ABMTs within the SIOFA area of competence;
- (d) respond to invitations to consult on specific proposals for ABMTs as well as on other elements of the BBNJ Agreement which are relevant to SIOFA;
- (e) under the guidance of the Meeting of the Parties, consult, through their competent authorities responsible for fisheries matters, with relevant SIOFA bodies and other CCPs, when developing specific proposals under the BBNJ Agreement with potential implications for fisheries managed by SIOFA.
- (f) access and use the BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism, subject to its operating terms, to provide and retrieve data and information relevant to the conservation and management of SIOFA species, as appropriate.

3. In implementing paragraph 2 of this CMM, CCPs are encouraged to ensure, through their competent authorities responsible for fisheries matters and, if they so choose, through other relevant authorities, that the competence, processes, timeline and work of SIOFA is duly taken into account in the framework of the BBNJ Agreement, where appropriate, and are encouraged to explore all possible ways in which the Meeting of the Parties could take an active role in the discussions concerning the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement, including through cooperation with other RFMOs and RFBs.

Tasks of the Secretariat

4. Noting the ongoing and future work to prepare a decision on arrangements to enhance cooperation and coordination between the BBNJ Agreement and relevant legal instruments, frameworks, and global, regional, subregional, and sectoral bodies, and subject to the outcomes of the first meeting of the BBNJ COP, the SIOFA Executive Secretary shall, as appropriate, establish a mechanism, including formal communication channels, with the BBNJ Secretariat:

³ See <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/rfb>: “mechanisms through which parties to international fishery agreements or arrangements collaborate on conserving, managing, and developing fisheries.”

- (a) identify and collect information and data relevant to the work of SIOFA from the BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism, including on suitable opportunities for capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology;
- (b) submit to, as appropriate and subject to its operating terms, the BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism, with the consent of the Meeting of the Parties, requests for suitable capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology and opportunities with respect thereto, including research collaboration and training opportunities, information on sources and availability of technological information and data for the transfer of marine technology, opportunities for facilitated access to marine technology and the availability of funding;
- (c) in submitting requests for capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology pursuant to Article 13 of the Agreement, the SIOFA Executive Secretary shall give due consideration, where applicable under the mandate of the SIOFA and consistent with the Agreement and Rules of Procedure, to the needs of developing CCPs, including coastal developing States and Small Island Developing States, including those requiring support for scientific participation, data systems, monitoring, control and surveillance, and engagement in BBNJ-related processes.
- (d) receive invitations to provide information to the BBNJ COP on the implementation of measures that SIOFA has adopted to achieve the objectives of ABMTs, subject to the modalities for the operation of the Clearing-House Mechanism;
- (e) provide and disseminate information on SIOFA conservation and management measures and, with the consent of the Meeting of the Parties and subject to confidentiality requirements, on monitoring, control and surveillance tools that could be of relevance in monitoring and ensuring compliance with ABMTs, through the BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism;
- (f) receive notifications and invitations from the BBNJ Secretariat to participate in the consultation and assessment of proposals for ABMTs in the SIOFA area of competence under Article 20(2)(b) BBNJ Agreement and emergency measures under Article 24(2) BBNJ Agreement;
- (g) participate, with a mandate adopted by the Meeting of the Parties, in the consultation and assessment of proposals for ABMTs referred to in subparagraph (f);
- (h) receive recommendations to adopt ABMTs and other relevant measures within the competence of the SIOFA from the BBNJ COP under Article 22(1)(c) BBNJ Agreement and communicate the Meeting of the Parties' position on such recommendations;
- (i) monitor and provide periodic updates to CCPs on compliance mechanisms regarding ABMTs established in the framework of the BBNJ Agreement that might have implications for SIOFA conservation and management measures;
- (j) monitor and provide timely information to the SIOFA Scientific Committee on any Environmental Impact Assessment developed under Part IV of the BBNJ Agreement that might have implications for SIOFA conservation and management measures;
- (k) in collaboration with the SIOFA Scientific Committee and with the approval of the Meeting of the Parties, provide input to the BBNJ Scientific and Technical Body regarding scientific work of the SIOFA relevant to the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement;
- (l) facilitate engagement with the SIOFA Scientific Committee and its subsidiary bodies to

ensure that measures and processes under the BBNJ Agreement consider potential impacts on SIOFA Species and incorporate appropriate scientific input;

- (m) contribute, with approval of the Meeting of the Parties, to any joint programme of work developed in the framework of the BBNJ Agreement in support of cooperation activities with relevant sectoral bodies.

5. The SIOFA Executive Secretary shall, as appropriate, coordinate with the Secretariats of other RFMOs and RFBs on matters related to the BBNJ Agreement to promote coherence and avoid duplication, taking into account existing practices of other RFMOs and the cooperation arrangements under the BBNJ Agreement.

6. The SIOFA Executive Secretary shall, as appropriate, notify CCPs of:

- (a) any relevant and suitable opportunities for capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology identified pursuant to Article 13 of the Agreement;
- (b) any relevant developments regarding proposals for ABMTs in the SIOFA area of competence, including decisions of the BBNJ COP;
- (c) any notification and invitation received from the BBNJ Secretariat concerning a consultation and assessment under paragraph 4 of this CMM;
- (d) any recommendations of the BBNJ COP under paragraph 4 hereinabove.

7. The SIOFA Executive Secretary will periodically submit information papers containing all relevant updates concerning paragraphs 4 to 6 of this CMM to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration.

Role of the Meeting of the Parties

8. At its annual Sessions, the Meeting of the Parties shall:

- (a) hold discussions and take positions, as appropriate, regarding relevant proposals for ABMTs under Article 21(2)(b) BBNJ Agreement and emergency measures under Article 24(2) BBNJ Agreement;
- (b) hold discussions and take positions, as appropriate, regarding recommendations from the BBNJ COP under Article 22(1)(c) BBNJ Agreement to adopt ABMTs and other relevant measures within the competence of the SIOFA, if any;
- (c) provide the SIOFA Executive Secretary, on a case-by-case basis and as appropriate, with mandates and instructions for relevant matters under paragraph 4 of this CMM;
- (d) the BBNJ Agreement shall be a standing agenda item at the annual Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, which shall review progress on cooperation with other RFMOs and RFBs.

Scientific work and recommendations

9. CCPs shall endeavour to undertake research on conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity and ecosystems in the high seas of the SIOFA area of competence, in particular with respect to threatened and endangered species and those vulnerable to fisheries under the competence of the SIOFA.

10. CCPs shall make the results of any research pursuant to paragraph 9 of this CMM available to the SIOFA Scientific Committee.

11. The SIOFA Scientific Committee shall make use of relevant information as published through the BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism and shall support the Secretariat in the timely implementation of relevant provisions under paragraph 4 of this CMM.

Final provisions

12. The Meeting of the Parties shall review this CMM at its annual Sessions, with a more comprehensive review after 5 years to assess the legal implications, potential financial and administrative burden and the risk of duplication with existing SIOFA processes.

**10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)***Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026***CC-10-11 / MoP-13-11 [Rev2](#)**

Potential Amendments to SIOFA CMMs and the Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS

The Chairperson of the SIOFA VMS Working Group

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ✓ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	This paper presents the potential amendment to SIOFA CMMs and the SSPs for the SIOFA VMS, to ensure policy alignment between these CMMs and Policies, and the operational and technical aspect of the SIOFA VMS ahead of its anticipated entry into operation. Rev 1 and Rev 2 consider comments from CC10. Rev 1 changes are in Track Changes, Rev2 changes are in Track Changes and highlighted in yellow.

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

- That the Compliance Committee **note** the potential amendments and **recommends** their adoption by the Meeting of the Parties (MoP);
- That the Compliance Committee **consider** the proposal of one CCP to delete the entry ('ENT') and exit ('EXI') data reporting elements from NAF messages in Table 1 of Annex 2 to CMM 16 (2025) and Annex 1 to the SSPs, and **advise** the MoP as appropriate;
- That the MoP **consider** these amendments, together with the recommendations of the Compliance Committee, and **endorse** them as appropriate;

Consideration of the use of the SIOFA VMS for the submission of entry and exit notifications

Following up on the discussions from the 12th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA, the SIOFA VMS Working Group assessed the feasibility of automating entry and exit notifications within the SIOFA Agreement Area using the forthcoming SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). The SIOFA VMS Working Group reviewed current reporting obligations under CMM 10 (2023) on Monitoring³ and assessed the extent to which VMS-based transmissions could satisfy these requirements. The analysis examined the possible technical pathways and outlined the policy, operational, and data-related considerations associated with each.

The SIOFA VMS Working Group noted that the increasing volume of vessel entry and exit notifications within the SIOFA Agreement Area is placing growing administrative pressure on both CCPs and the Secretariat. Under current requirements, notifications are submitted manually via email and subsequently entered into databases, creating inefficiencies and error risks. As fleet sizes and reporting obligations expand, there is a clear need for a more streamlined and scalable approach to managing these notifications.

The introduction of the SIOFA VMS presents an opportunity to automate the submission of entry and exit notifications. Such an approach would enable vessels or authorities to transmit required information directly through VMS, reducing reliance on manual processes. While technical options exist to support this, some limitations remain regarding data transmission capabilities and the handling of certain information fields.

Therefore, the SIOFA VMS Working Group suggested several solutions to allow these notifications to be sent automatically through VMS, which include:

- Making the use of VMS for entry and exit reporting mandatory.
- Replacing redundant data fields required by CMM 10 (2023) on Monitoring with the Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), as defined in CMM 16 (2025) on Vessel Monitoring System.⁴ These data fields would automatically be associated with the vessel by the SIOFA VMS.
- Discontinuing reporting of the data field “activity in the Agreement Area”, except in cases where a vessel needs to provide its entry/exit reports via manual reporting, for example, in the event of an ALC malfunction.
- Reporting of observers onboard shall be transmitted by email and be limited to instances where an observer is present onboard a vessel when it enters the Agreement Area, thereby reducing the frequency of reporting.

To enable an automated system, the SIOFA VMS Working Group noted that the MoP must first ensure that the Agreement and existing CMMs permit the use of VMS for entry/exit reporting. The SIOFA VMS Working Group noted that while the phrase “...or other means of communication...” in paragraph 15 of CMM 10 (2023) on Monitoring is ultimately subject to the interpretation of the MoP, it may reasonably be construed as including VMS as an acceptable means of submitting the notification in an automated manner. However, it may nevertheless be useful to explicitly refer to the use of VMS for entry/exit reporting, so as to provide clarity and reassurance to CCPs that

³ Conservation and Management Measure for the Monitoring of Fisheries in the Agreement Area (CMM 10 (2023) on Monitoring)

⁴ Conservation and Management Measure for the establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System (CMM 16 (2025) on Vessel Monitoring System)

automated transmissions generated through VMS are formally recognised as an acceptable means of fulfilling entry and exit notification obligations. As such, the SIOFA VMS Working Group recommended that paragraph 15 of CMM 10 (2023) on Monitoring be replaced by the following provisions:

“15. Each CCP shall monitor the entry to and exit from the Agreement Area of fishing vessels flying its flag, and their activities while in the Agreement Area.

15bis. Each CCP shall require its fishing vessels or relevant authorities to notify the Secretariat of each entry to or exit from the Agreement Area of vessels authorised to fish for species managed by SIOFA flying their flag, through a specific entry and exit notification by means of VMS reporting or by email, in accordance with the requirements of CMM 16 (2025) (Vessel Monitoring System).

15tris. In the event of a malfunctioning of the ALC on board a fishing vessel preventing the entry and exit notification by means of VMS reporting required under paragraph 15bis, the flag CCP shall require its fishing vessels or relevant authorities to provide the notification to the Secretariat, within 24 hours of the vessel’s entry into or exit from the Agreement Area, via a manual report transmitted by email. The manual report shall include information on the activity of the vessel in the Agreement Area.

15quater. If a fishing vessel enters the Agreement Area with an observer on board, the flag CCP of the vessel shall require the vessel or its relevant authorities to notify the Secretariat by email, within 24 hours of the vessel’s entry into the Agreement Area, of the presence of an observer on board the vessel.”

In addition, the SIOFA VMS Working Group recommended that Annex I to CMM 10 (2023) be deleted. However, the 10th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC10) agreed to maintain this annex to accommodate the new changes it has proposed.

Furthermore, the CC10 recommended that a footnote be added to Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025) on Vessel Monitoring System, and Annex 1 of the SIOFA VMS SSPs on the column of the type of message Data Element reading “ENT and EXI shall be submitted in accordance with paragraph 15 bis. of CMM 10 (2023)”. The data formats would be replaced by those required under CMM 16 (2025).

The proposed changes are set out in Annex 1 to this document, which contains the amendments to paragraph 15 of CMM 10 (2023) on Monitoring, the updates to Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025) on the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), and the revisions to Annex 1 to the SIOFA VMS SSPs.

More detailed information about the SIOFA VMS Working Group discussions on this topic is available on the meeting pages of the 8th,⁵ 9th,⁶ and 10th⁷ Meetings of the SIOFA VMS Working Group.

⁵ <https://siofa.org/meetings/vmswg08>

⁶ <https://siofa.org/meetings/VMSWG09>

⁷ <https://siofa.org/meetings/cc/10th-meeting-siofa-vms-working-group-vmswg10>

Possible Amendments to the NAF Messages Data Elements in Annex 2 Of CMM 16 (2025) On Vessel Monitoring System and Annex 1 of the SIOFA VMS SSPs

At its 10th Meeting, the SIOFA VMS Working Group noted that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) number is not currently included in *Table 1: NAF message data elements* of Annex 2 to CMM 16 (2025). This is notwithstanding that CMM 16 (2025) recognises the IMO number as a Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI) for vessels transmitting VMS position reports via their FMC pursuant to paragraph 6(a) of the CMM. A similar omission is also observed in the Standards, Specifications, and Procedures for the SIOFA VMS (SSPs). As such the SIOFA VMS Working Group tasked the Secretariat to draft a discussion paper for it to consider prior to the 10th Meeting of the Compliance Committee and the 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA, which was reviewed by the SIOFA VMS Working Group via correspondence.

Further to that consultation via correspondence, the SIOFA VMS Working Group recommended a number of amendments to Table 1 of Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025) and Annex 1 of the SSPs and sought to clarify the applicability of the use of IMO Number in the NAF Messages Data Elements. The outcomes of those discussions are set out in *Discussion Paper on Possible Amendments to the NAF Messages Data Elements in Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025), on Vessel Monitoring System, and Annex 1 of the SIOFA VMS SSPs*, available for reference on the SIOFA Website.⁸

[Annex 1](#) to this paper includes the proposed Amendments to the NAF Messages Data Elements in Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025) on Vessel Monitoring System and Annex 1 of the SIOFA VMS SSPs.

As part of the consultation process for this paper, one CCP proposed deleting the entry ('ENT') and exit ('EXI') data reporting elements from NAF messages in Table 1 of Annex 2 to CMM 16 (2025) and Annex 1 to the SSPs. The proposed deletion has not been reflected in the amendments, as they are inconsistent with the recommendations and conclusions formulated by the SIOFA VMS Working Group in paper [VMSWG-09-01](#) on the use of the VMS for the automation of entry and exit reporting, which is also discussed in the previous section of this paper. Noting this, the SIOFA VMS WG further recommends that the Compliance Committee and the Meeting of the Parties consider the deletion proposed by one CCP of the entry ('ENT') and exit ('EXI') data reporting elements from NAF messages in Table 1 of Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025) and Annex 1 of the SSPs.

⁸ <https://siofa.org/media/2825>.

~~Annex 1 Possible Amendments to the NAF Messages Data Elements in Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025) on Vessel Monitoring System and Annex 1 of the SIOFA VMS SSPs.~~

~~This Annex presents the proposed amendments to the NAF message data elements in CMM 16 (2025) and the SSPs, as agreed by the SIOFA VMS Working Group. The proposed changes aim to clarify the inclusion and designation of key data elements, ensuring consistency across all measures and policy documents, and effectively addressing the gap identified above.~~

~~The amended table below shall replace Table 1 in Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025) and the table in Annex 1 of the SSPs, reflecting the changes agreed by the SIOFA VMS WG.~~

~~In addition, minor changes are proposed to the introductory text that accompanies these tables. Furthermore, the footnote (*) in Annex 1 of the SSPs would become redundant and should therefore be removed.~~

~~CMM 16 (2025)~~

~~Annex 2-~~

~~Data formats for transmission of VMS position reports~~

~~A. North Atlantic Format (NAF)-~~

~~1. ——— VMS position reports sent in NAF format shall be transmitted using one of the following application layers (secured connection):-~~

~~i. Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS);-~~

~~ii. File Transfer Protocol (FTP) with Transport Layer Security (TLS) (FTPS);-~~

~~iii. Email-~~

~~2. ——— VMS position reports sent in NAF format shall contain, at minimum, the mandatory data elements in Table 1.-~~

~~Table 1: NAF message data elements~~

Data Element	Field Code	Definition	Contents
Start Record	SR	Defines the start of the message structure.	No Data
Address	AD	Indicates the destination. Provider and Secretariat to define code for SIOFA VMS	3-Alpha code
From	FR	3-alpha code describing the country which FMG is submitting the report.	3-Alpha code
Sequence Number	SQ	Message Sequence Number	0-999999
<u>IMO Number</u>	<u>IM</u>	<u>IMO ship identification number</u> ^{M³}	<u>IMO ship identification number (</u>
Internal Reference Number*	IR	Unique Number attributed by the flag state	3-Alpha code. 0-999999999
	TM		POS=position report, MAN=manual report;
Type of Message		Letter code of the type of message	ENT=entry report;
			EXT=exit report
Radio Call Sign (IRCS)	RC	Vessel detail: international radio call sign of the vessel ⁴	IRCS
Latitude (decimal)	LF	Latitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	+(-)DD.ddd
Longitude (decimal)	LG	Longitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	+(-)DD.ddd
Vessel Speed	SP	Speed of the vessel	Knots * 10
Vessel Course	GO	Heading of the vessel in degrees	1-360
Flag State	FS	State of registration of the vessel	3-Alpha code
Date	DA	Date of reported event	YYYYMMDD
Time	TI	Time of reported event	HHMM
End of Record	ER	Indicates the end of the message/report	No Data

³ Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of this CMM and with paragraph 2.d. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).

~~⁴Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of this CMM and with paragraph 2.c. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).~~

~~***~~

~~Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS~~

~~Annex 1: Description of the North Atlantic Format (NAF)~~

~~Data Elements of NAF Messages~~

~~VMS position reports sent in All NAF Messages format sent to the SIOFA VMS shall contain, at minimum, the mandatory information required in data elements in the following table: paragraph 1.f) of CMM 16 (2025). The general structure and data elements are as below~~

Data Element	Field Code	Definition	Contents
Start Record	SR	Defines the start of the message structure.	No Data
Address	AD	Indicates the destination. Provider and Secretariat to define code for SIOFA VMS	3-Alpha code
From	FR	3-alpha code describing the country which FMG is submitting the report.	3-Alpha code
Sequence Number	SQ	Message Sequence Number	0-999999
<u>IMO Number</u>	<u>IM</u>	<u>IMO ship identification number</u>	<u>IMO ship identification number</u>
Internal Reference Number*	IR	Unique Number attributed by the flag state	3-Alpha code. 0-999999999
	TM		POS=position report, MAN=manual report;
Type of Message		Letter code of the type of message	ENT=entry report;
			EXT=exit report
Radio Call Sign (IRCS)	RC	Vessel detail: international radio call sign of the vessel	IRCS
Latitude (decimal)	LF	Latitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	+(-)DD.ddd
Longitude (decimal)	LG	Longitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	+(-)DD.ddd
Vessel Speed	SP	Speed of the vessel	Knots*10
Vessel Course	GO	Heading of the vessel in degrees	1-360
Flag State	FS	State of registration of the vessel	3-Alpha code
Date	DA	Date of reported event	YYYYMMDD
Time	TI	Time of reported event	HHMM
End of Record	ER	Indicates the end of the message/report	No Data

*Submission of IR is optional

³<https://www.naf-format.org/index.htm>

~~⁴Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of CMM 16 (2025) and with paragraph 2.d. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).~~

~~⁵Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of this CMM and with paragraph 2.c. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).~~

Structure of the position report

Each data transmission shall be structured as follows:

- ~~• double slash (//) and the characters 'SR' indicate the start of a message,~~
- ~~• a double slash (//) and field code indicate the start of a data element,~~
- ~~• a single slash (/) separates the field code and the data,~~
- ~~• pairs of data are separated by space,~~
- ~~• the characters 'ER' and a double slash (//) indicate the end of a record.~~

Annex 1: Proposed changes to relevant CMMs to incorporate the Potential Amendments

CMM 10(2023)¹

Conservation and Management Measure for the Monitoring of Fisheries in the Agreement Area (Monitoring)

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;

RECALLING Article 6(1)(h) of the Agreement calls of the Meeting of the Parties to develop rules and procedures for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities in order to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the Meeting of the Parties including, where appropriate, a system of verification incorporating vessel monitoring and observation;

MINDFUL of Article 18(3)(e) of the *Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA)* which outlines the duties of the flag State are to take measures to ensure recording and timely reporting of vessel position, catch of target and non-target species, fishing effort and other relevant fisheries data;

NOTING Article 18(3)(f) and (h) of UNFSA relating to the regulation of transshipment on the high seas;

BEARING IN MIND that transshipment at sea is a common global practice, but that unregulated and unreported transshipment of catches of fishery resources, in particular on the high seas, contributes to distorted reporting of catches of such stocks and supports illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area);

NOTING the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment endorsed by the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at its thirty-fifth session from 5 to 9 September 2022, which seek to assist States, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), and other intergovernmental organizations by providing standards for developing their policies and regulations that govern transshipment, with a view to integrating these in their regulatory frameworks;

ADOPTS the following Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:

Scope

1. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels of Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities to the Agreement (CCP), engaged in fishing operations in the SIOFA Area of Application (Agreement Area) for fishery resources as defined in Article 1(f) of the Agreement.

Information on fishing activities

2. Each CCP shall ensure that its vessels maintain either an electronic fishing logbook or a bound fishing logbook containing the information relevant for their compliance with the data collection and submission requirements of CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) with consecutively numbered pages.
3. Each CCP shall ensure:
 - a. that vessels flying its flag submit the fishing logbook data within 30 days of the completion

¹ CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring) supersedes CMM 2018/10 (Monitoring). Obsolete references have been updated by 2025 technical edits.

of a fishing trip in the Agreement Area to its competent authority;

- b. data referred to in sub-paragraph a. are submitted in accordance with CMM 02(2025) and maintained in accordance with CMM 03(2025) (Data Confidentiality); and
 - c. the quantities of catch recorded on vessels flying its flag correspond to the quantities of catch kept on board.
4. Each CCP shall cooperate with any reasonable request from other CCPs for any information contained in the fishing logbooks from the preceding 12 months for the purposes of control.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

5. Each CCP shall ensure that all fishing vessels flying its flag that are operating in the Agreement Area are fitted with an operational automatic location communicator (ALC) unit reporting back to its competent authority.
6. CCPs shall ensure that ALC units on vessels flying their flag remain operational at all times while in the Agreement Area.
7. CCPs shall develop, implement and improve systems to maintain a record of all vessel position information reported through VMS and logbooks, in relation to vessels flying their flags while these vessels are in the Agreement Area, such that this information may be used to document vessel activity in the Agreement Area, and to validate fishing position information provided by those vessels.
8. CCPs are encouraged to share VMS data where it is requested from another CCP in support of patrol or surveillance activities. Each CCP shall not use any information received in accordance with this paragraph for other purposes.
9. CCPs shall ensure that:

VMS position reports are transmitted at least once every 2 hours from each fishing vessel flying their flag and included in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels, while operating in the Agreement Area;

- a. under normal satellite navigation operating conditions, positions derived from the data reported shall be accurate to within 100m;
- b. VMS position reports include at least the following information:

Category	Data	Remarks
Vessel information	Static unique	For example, FAO 3 alpha or 2 alpha, country code
		followed by national vessel registration number
Activity detail	Latitude	Position latitude (decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)
	Longitude	Position longitude (decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)

Category	Data	Remarks
Message	Date	Position date (UTC)
	Time	Position time (UTC)
	Speed	Vessel speed at time of position (knots)
	Course	Vessel course at time of position (degrees)

- c. its vessels do not enter the Agreement Area and commence operations with a defective ALC.

10. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the ALC fitted on board a vessel:

- a. the device shall be repaired or replaced within a month. After this period, the vessel shall not be authorised to begin a new trip with a defective ALC. If the trip is lasting more than one month, the repair or the replacement shall take place as soon as practicable after the vessel enters a port. If the ALC has not been repaired or replaced within 90 days, the CCP shall order the vessel to cease fishing, stow all fishing gear and return immediately to port in order to undertake repairs. The vessel shall not be authorised to begin a new trip without a ALC having been repaired or replaced;
- b. the master of the fishing vessel shall manually communicate to its Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC), at least every four hours, reports by other means of communication (such as email, facsimile, telex, telephone message or radio). Such reports must include, *inter alia*, information required in paragraph 8 b; and
- c. no transshipments at sea shall be authorized and initiated unless and until the reporting requirements and procedures established in sub-paragraph b are complied with.

11. Each CCP shall ensure that the ALCs fitted on board vessels flying its flag are tamper resistant, that is, are of a type and configuration that prevent the input or output of false positions, and that they are not capable of being over-ridden, whether manually, electronically or otherwise. To this end, the ALC must:

- a. be located within a sealed unit; and
- b. be protected by official seals (or mechanisms) of a type that will indicate whether the unit has been accessed or tampered with.

12. Each flag CCP shall ensure that any VMS reports and messages transmitted to the Secretariat shall be in accordance with the data exchange format of CMM 02(2025) Annex C.

13. VMS reports transmitted pursuant to paragraph 12 shall not be treated as “public domain data” for the purposes of CMM 03(2025). The procedures for the safeguarding of records described in CMM 03(2025) shall similarly apply to all VMS data held by the Secretariat.

14. In order to cost-effectively and continuously monitor the movements of fishing vessels authorised by CCPs to fish in the Agreement Area and to, *inter alia*, support the implementation of SIOFA CMMs, the Meeting of the Parties shall at the latest by its ordinary meeting in 2020 develop specifications and proposed rules and procedures for the establishment of a SIOFA VMS for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.

Entry- Exit reports

15. Each CCP shall monitor the entry to and exit from the Agreement Area of fishing vessels flying its

flag, and their activities while in the Agreement Area.

15bis. Each CCP shall require its fishing vessels or relevant authorities to notify the Secretariat of each entry to or exit from the Agreement Area of vessels authorised to fish for species managed by SIOFA flying their flag, through a specific entry and exit notification by means of VMS reporting or by email, in accordance with the requirements of CMM 16 (2025) (Vessel Monitoring System), or by email, in the format provided in Annex 1.

15tris. In the event of a malfunctioning of the ALC on board a fishing vessel preventing the entry and exit notification by means of VMS reporting required under paragraph 15bis, the flag CCP shall require its fishing vessels or relevant authorities to provide the notification to the Secretariat, within 24 hours of the vessel's entry into or exit from the Agreement Area, via a manual report transmitted by email. The manual report shall include information on the activity of the vessel in the Agreement Area.

15. 15quater. If a fishing vessel enters the Agreement Area with an observer on board, the flag CCP of the vessel shall require the vessel or its relevant authorities to notify the Secretariat by email, within 24 hours of the vessel's entry into the Agreement Area, of the presence of an observer on board the vessel. CCPs shall require their vessels or relevant authorities to notify the Secretariat, by email or other means of communication, within 24 hours, in the format provided in Annex I, of each entry to or exit from the Agreement Area of vessels authorised to fish for species managed by SIOFA flying its flag, in accordance with CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).

Monitoring of at sea transshipments and transfers

16. For the purpose of this CMM, transshipment means the unloading of all or any fishery resources, including fishery products, on board a fishing vessel onto another vessel, without the fish being recorded as landed, as defined in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment.
17. Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag only undertake transshipments at sea of fishery resources if they have prior authorization from their competent authority.
18. Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag only undertake transshipments at sea of fishery resources, with other vessels included on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels.
19. Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag do not undertake transshipments at sea of fishery resources with vessels included in the IUU vessel lists established by CCAMLR or any regional fisheries management organization.
20. Each CCP shall ensure, for each vessel flying its flag undertaking an at sea transshipment operation, that:
 - a. the vessel notifies its competent authority at least 7 days in advance of a 14-day period during which the at sea transshipment is scheduled to occur.
 - b. the vessel notifies its competent authority 24 hours in advance of the estimated time during which the at sea transshipment will occur.
 - c. the notifications referred to in sub-paragraphs a. and b include the relevant information available regarding the at sea transshipment in accordance with Transshipment Notification Annex II.
 - d. its competent authority transmits the notifications referred to in sub-paragraphs a. and b. to the Secretariat within 7 days.
 - e. an impartial and qualified observer is deployed on board every receiving vessel to monitor the transshipment.

Electronic monitoring can be implemented as an alternative or to complement the

deployment of human observers. CCPs that elect to use the electronic monitoring shall ensure that all relevant aspects are monitored effectively.

- f. the observer assigned to their vessel collect and record the information of each transshipment operation as indicated in the Transshipment Logsheet in Annex III.
- g. the master of the vessel provides the observer on board full access to all operational areas of the vessel necessary to complete their duties, including the fish holds, production areas, crew, nets or other gear, equipment, and any documents related with the catch retained onboard.
- h. the observer referred to sub-paragraphs e and f. provides a copy of the information collected as indicated in the Transshipment Logsheet to the competent authority of the observed vessel.
- i. its competent authority submits the observer data referred to in sub-paragraph f. to the Secretariat, no later than 15 days from debarkation of the observer.
- j. the vessel notifies all of the operational details to its competent authority, using the Transshipment Declaration in Annex IV, within 24 hours following the transshipment.
- k. its competent authority transmits the Transshipment Declaration referred to in sub-paragraph j. to the Secretariat within 30 days.
- l. where its competent authority authorizes the vessel operator to transmit the Transshipment Declaration referred to in sub-paragraph j. directly to the Secretariat, the vessel operator directs any requests for clarifications from the Secretariat to its competent authority.

21. Each CCP shall ensure, for each vessel flying its flag undertaking an at sea transfer operation of fuel, crew, gear or any other supplies, either as an unloading or receiving vessel, where one or both vessels has been involved or intends to undertake fishing for fishery resources in the Agreement Area during that trip, that:
 - a. the vessel notifies its competent authority at least 24 hours in advance of the planned transfer.
 - b. the notifications include the relevant information available regarding the transfer in accordance with Transfer Notification Annex V.
 - c. the competent authority transmits the notification to the Secretariat without delay.
 - d. the vessel notifies all of the operational details to its competent authority, as specified in Transfer Declaration Annex VI, within 24 hours following the transfer.
22. The Secretariat shall make all information provided under paragraphs 20 and 21 available on the secure section of the SIOFA website as soon as possible.
23. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag involved in a transshipment or transfer at sea shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received in accordance with paragraphs 20 and 21 and take appropriate follow-up action in the event that an observer reports discrepancies in the data reported by the masters of the unloading or receiving vessels or in the event of possible non-compliance with SIOFA CMMs, including coordination with the Port State where the receiving vessel is to unload, if it considers that an inspection of the unload is necessary.
24. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag that receives fishery resources at sea from more than one unloading vessel shall ensure that such receiving vessel:

- a. stores the fishery resources and related documentation from each unloading vessel separately, allowing to distinguish from which unloading vessel each part of the fishery resources on board comes, including through the use of canvas or nets to separate fishery resources on board and/or appropriate labelling for boxes.
 - b. maintains an up-to-date stowage plan and other documents showing the location and quantities of species received from each unloading vessel and retains these on board until the vessel has been unloaded completely.
 - c. makes available the information referred to in sub-paragraph b. to its competent authority and to the relevant port State when required.
25. Nothing in this measure shall prevent vessels from undertaking transshipments or transfers at sea in cases of force majeure or distress, in which case those vessels shall report their transshipment or transfer activities to their competent authorities and the Secretariat, as appropriate, in accordance with the relevant procedures and templates established in paragraphs 20 and 21, after the transshipment or transfer has been completed, including information on the circumstances giving rise to the force majeure or distress.

Monitoring of transshipments in ports

26. Each CCP shall ensure that a vessel flying its flag that is carrying fishery resources shall only transship in a port if it has prior authorisation from its competent authority and the port State.
27. Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag do not undertake transshipments in port of fishery resources with vessels included in the IUU vessel lists established by CCAMLR or any regional fisheries management organization.
28. For each transshipment of fishery resources in port, the competent authority of the CCP of the unloading vessel shall notify, at least 24 hours in advance, the following information to the competent authority of the port State and to the competent authority of the receiving vessel:
- a. the date, time and port of transshipment;
 - b. the name and flag of the unloading transshipping vessel;
 - c. the name and flag of the receiving vessel;
 - d. the weight of fishery resources (Kg) by species (FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name) to be transshipped.-
29. Where applicable, the competent authority of a CCP of a receiving vessel shall inform the competent authority of the port State of the quantities of fishery resources on board the vessel 24 hours before the transshipment and again 24 hours after the transshipment.
30. The CCP of the unloading vessel shall require that the vessel submits a Transshipment Declaration in accordance with the format set out in Annex IV to its competent authority, and that of the port State within 24 hours of the transshipment, and also provides a copy to the receiving vessel.
31. Where applicable, the competent authority of the CCP of a receiving vessel shall, 48 hours before a landing of the transshipped fishery resources, submit a copy of the received Transshipment Declaration to the competent authority of the port State where the landing takes place.
32. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag involved in the transshipment in port shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received in accordance with paragraphs 28 to 31 and take appropriate follow-up action in the event of discrepancies in the data reported by the masters of the unloading or receiving vessels or in the event of possible non-compliance with SIOFA CMMs.

Reporting of transshipments and at sea transfers

33. As part of its CCP Compliance Report under paragraph 12 of CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme), each CCP shall provide annually the following information, as applicable, to the Secretariat for consideration by the Compliance Committee in relation to each transshipment and at sea transfer by vessels flying its flag that took place during the previous calendar year in accordance with paragraphs 16 to 32:
 - a. date, time and location of transshipment or transfer in accordance with the specifications in CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards);
 - b. names of vessels, flags and registration number/call sign of the transshipping vessel or transferring vessels;
 - c. tonnage of any fishery resources, including species/group name (FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name) transshipped;
 - d. type and description of transfers; and
 - e. any other relevant information.
34. The Secretariat shall report annually on the implementation of this CMM. As regards transshipments and at sea transfers, the report shall include information, aggregated at CCP level, about the number of events, locations, quantities of fishery resources (by species, product form and catch area) transshipped and transferred, which shall be made publicly available on the SIOFA website.
35. This CMM shall enter into force on 1 January 2024.

ANNEX I

REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSEL ENTRY AND EXIT NOTIFICATIONS BY EMAIL

Information required	Remarks:
Vessel name	<i>Name of the vessel</i>
Vessel flag CCP	<i>CCP where the vessel is registered (3-alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	<i>IMO number of the vessel</i>
Registration number	<i>External registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Entry or exit	<i>“ENTRY” or “EXIT”; free text message</i>
Latitude	<i>Position at the time of transmission (decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)</i>
Longitude	<i>Position at the time of transmission (decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)</i>
Date	<i>UTC date of transmission from the vessel (YYYY-MON-DDT)</i>
Time	<i>UTC time of transmission from the vessel (hh:mm)</i>
Activity in the Agreement Area (intended activity on entry OR activity carried out prior to exit)	<i>Fishing (FAO 3-alpha species code of targeted species), transiting, transshipping or transferring</i>
Observer on board	<i>“YES” or “NO”</i>
Heading (optional)	<i>Vessel heading when entering OR exiting the area (from 0° to 359°)</i>

ANNEX II

SIOFA TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA PRIOR NOTIFICATION

The following information shall be provided to the competent authority/ies of the unloading and receiving vessels 7 days in advance of a 14 day window, and again 24 hours in advance of a transshipment at sea.

I. DETAILS OF THE NOTIFYING VESSEL	
Notifying vessel is UNLOADING / RECEIVING vessel (strike out as appropriate)	
II. DETAILS OF THE UNLOADING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Vessel flag CCP	<i>CCP where the vessel is registered (3–alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	
Registration number	<i>External registration number if available, or national registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel owner and/or company information	<i>Name, complete address, email, phone number</i>
Vessel contact information (name, address, email and phone number)	<i>Master name, nationality, address, email, phone number</i>
III. DETAILS OF THE RECEIVING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	<i>Name of the vessel</i> Name of the vessel
Vessel flag CCP	<i>CCP where the vessel is registered (3–alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	<i>IMO number of the vessel</i>
Registration number	<i>External registration number if available, or national registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel owner / company information	<i>Last name, name / complete address / email / fax/phone number</i>
Vessel contact information	<i>Master name / nationality / address / email / fax/phone number</i>
IV. DETAILS OF TRANSSHIPMENT	
Transshipment authorisation identifier, if any	<i>Transshipment authorisation identifier, if assigned</i>
Transshipment authorisation issued by	<i>Name and email of the competent authority</i>
Transshipment authorisation validity period	<i>Start and end date UTC of the transshipment authorisation (YYYY-MON-DDT)-(YYYY-MON-DDT)</i>
Estimated date of transshipment	<i>Predicted date UTC when the master intends to conduct the transshipment (YYYY-MON-DDT)</i>
Estimated start time of transshipment	<i>Predicted time UTC when the master intends to start the transshipment (hh:mm)</i>

Estimated end time of transshipment	<i>Predicted time UTC for the ending of transshipment (hh:mm)</i>
Estimated location of transshipment	<i>Estimated position where the master intends to conduct the transshipment expressed as latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees</i>
<i>Fishery resources to be transshipped</i>	
Quantities to be transshipped - Species - Catch area - Weight - Product form	<i>FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name</i> <i>RFMO/A /geographical location / FAO Statistical Area</i> <i>Weight in Kilograms</i> <i>Preservation type and presentation type</i>
Number of units	<i>Boxes / packages</i>
Net weight of a unit	<i>Weight in Kilogram</i>

ANNEX III SIOFA TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA LOGSHEET

The following information shall be provided by the observer to the competent authority of the vessel

I. DETAILS OF THE OBSERVER	
Observer onboard the UNLOADING / RECEIVING vessel (strike out as appropriate)	
Observer name	
Observer nationality	
Observer competent authority	name, address, email and phone number
II. DETAILS OF THE UNLOADING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	<i>External registration number if available, or national registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel flag CCP	<i>CCP where the vessel is registered (3–alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
III. DETAILS OF THE RECEIVING FISHING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	<i>External registration number if available, or national registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel flag CCP	<i>CCP where the vessel is registered (3–alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
IV. DETAILS OF TRANSSHIPMENT	
Transshipment authorisation identifier, if any	
Transshipment authorisation issued by	<i>name and email of competent authority</i>
Transshipment authorisation validity period	<i>Start and end date UTC of the transshipment authorisation (YYYY-MON-DDT)-(YYYY-MON-DDT)</i>

Date of transshipment	<i>Date UTC when the transshipment was conducted (YYYY-MON-DDT)</i>
Start time of transshipment- (UTC)	<i>Time UTC when the transshipment started (hh:mm)</i>
End time of transshipment	<i>Time UTC when the transshipment ended (hh:mm)</i>
Location of transshipment	<i>Position where the transshipment was conducted, expressed as latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees</i>
<i>Fishery resources transshipped</i>	
- Species - Catch area - Weight - Product form	<i>FAO 3-alpha species code/groupcode/scientific name</i> <i>RFMO/A /geographical location / FAO Statistical Area</i> <i>Weight in Kilograms</i> <i>Preservation type and presentation type</i>
Number of units	<i>Boxes / packages</i>
Net weight of a unit	<i>Weight in Kilogram</i>
V. SIGNATURE	
Observer's name and signature	
Remarks or observations, if any	

ANNEX IV

SIOFA TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA/ IN PORT DECLARATION

In port <u>Y/N</u> (strike out as appropriate)		Name of port _____		Port State _____						
At Sea <u>Y/N</u> (strike out as appropriate)		Latitude/Longitude _____		(expressed in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees)						
Declaring vessel is UNLOADING or RECEIVING Vessel (strike out as appropriate)										
Name of declaring vessel:			Name of other vessel:							
IMO number of declaring vessel:			IMO number of other vessel:							
Radio Call sign of declaring vessel:			Radio Call sign of other vessel:							
External identification of declaring vessel:			External identification of other vessel:							
Flag CCP of declaring vessel:-			Flag of other vessel:							
Transshipment authorization identifier:										
Transshipment authorisation issued by (name and email of competent authority):										
Start of transshipment operation		day/month/year		from (time: hour/minutes, UTC)						
End of transshipment operation		day/month/year		to (time: hour/minutes, UTC)						
Declaring master's name & nationality:		Signature:		Date:						
TRANSSHIPPED FISHERY RESSOURCES										
Species (FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name and catch area(s)/RFMO/geographical location/FAO Statistical Area)	<u>Product form (preservation & presentation) 1:</u> _____			<u>Product form (preservation & presentation) 2:</u> _____			<u>Product form (preservation & presentation) 3:</u> _____			TOTAL Weight (Kg)
	No units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	No. units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	No. units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	

TOTAL										

FISHERY RESSOURCES REMAINING ON BOARD AFTER TRANSSHIPMENT										
Species (FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name and catch area(s)/RFMO/geographical location/FAO Statistical Area)	Product form (preservation & presentation) 1:			Product form (preservation & presentation) 2:			Product form (preservation & presentation) 3:			TOTAL Weight (Kg)
	No units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	No. units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	No. units:	Weight per unit:	Total weight:	
TOTAL										

ANNEX V

SIOFA TRANSFER AT SEA NOTIFICATION

The following Information shall be provided to the competent authority of the declaring vessel 24 hours in advance of a transfer at sea.

I. DETAILS OF THE DECLARING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel flag CCP	<i>CCP where the vessel is registered (3-alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
II. DETAILS OF THE OTHER VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	<i>External registration number if available, or national registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel flag	<i>Vessel flag (3-alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
III. DETAILS OF TRANSFER	
Estimated date of transfer	<i>Predicted date UTC when the master intends to conduct the transfer (YYYY-MON-DDT)</i>
Estimated time of transfer	<i>Predicted time UTC when the master intends to conduct the transshipment (hh:mm)</i>
Estimated location of transfer	<i>Estimated position where the master intends to conduct the transfer expressed as latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees</i>

Type and quantity received_ - fuel - crew - gear - supplies - other	<i>Liters</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Kilograms, tonnes, units</i>
Type and quantity unloaded - fuel - crew - gear - supplies - other	<i>Liters</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Kilograms, tonnes, units</i>
IV. SIGNATURE	
Name of master	

ANNEX VI

SIOFA TRANSFER AT SEA DECLARATION

The following Information shall be provided to the competent authority of the declaring vessel within 24 hours following a transfer at sea.

I. DETAILS OF THE DECLARING VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	<i>External registration number if available, or national registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel flag CCP	<i>CCP where the vessel is registered (3-alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
II. DETAILS OF THE OTHER VESSEL	
Name of vessel	
Registration number	<i>External registration number if available, or national registration number</i>
Radio call sign	<i>International radio call sign of the vessel</i>
Vessel flag	<i>Vessel flag (3-alpha country code)</i>
IMO number	
Master's name and nationality	
III. DETAILS OF TRANSFER	
Date of transfer	<i>Date UTC when transfer was conducted (YYYY-MON-DDT)</i>
Time of transfer	<i>Time UTC when the transfer was conducted (hh:mm)</i>
Location of transfer	<i>Position where the transfer was conducted, expressed as latitude/longitude in decimal degrees, to the nearest 0.01 degrees</i>

Type and quantity received - fuel - crew - gear - supplies - other	<i>Liters</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Kilograms, tonnes, units</i>
Type and quantity unloaded - fuel - crew - gear - supplies - other	<i>Liters</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Number</i> <i>Kilograms, tonnes, units</i>
IV. SIGNATURE	
Name of master	

CMM 16(2025)¹**Conservation and Management Measure for the establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System (Vessel Monitoring System)****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement:**

RECALLING Article 6(1)(h) of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) which requires the Meeting of the Parties to develop rules and procedures for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities in order to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the Meeting of the Parties including, where appropriate, a system of verification incorporating vessel monitoring and observation of vessels operating in the Agreement Area;

MINDFUL of Article 18(3) of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) which outlines the duties of the flag State, including to take measures to ensure recording and timely reporting of vessel position, catch of target and non-target species, fishing effort and other relevant fisheries data, and to ensure the monitoring, control and surveillance of vessels, their fishing operations and related activities by, inter alia, the development and implementation of vessel monitoring systems;

FURTHER MINDFUL of the importance of international cooperation in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, in particular through the exchange of information and effective monitoring, control and surveillance;

RECALLING paragraph 14 of the SIOFA Conservation and management measure for the Monitoring of Fisheries in the Agreement Area (CMM 10(2023)) to develop specifications and propose rules and procedures for the establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System;

MINDFUL of the key principles upon which the vessel monitoring system should be based, including the confidentiality and security of information handled by the system, and its efficiency, cost-effectiveness and flexibility;

***ADOPTS* the following Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) in accordance with Articles 4 and 6 of the Agreement:**

Definitions

1. The following definitions shall apply to this CMM:
 - a) "Automatic location communicator" (ALC) means a satellite-based on-board device that is capable of continuously, automatically and independently of any intervention of the vessel, transmitting VMS position reports;
 - b) "Fisheries monitoring centre" (FMC) means the authority or agency of a Flag CCP responsible for managing the VMS for its flagged fishing vessels;
 - c) "Vessel Monitoring System" (VMS) means a satellite-based monitoring system which, at regular intervals, provides VMS position reports;
 - d) "SIOFA VMS" means the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System established under this CMM;
 - e) "Manual reporting" means the transmission via alternative means of the position reporting of a fishing vessel when an ALC fails to transmit VMS position reports;
 - f) VMS position reports shall include at least the following data, which shall be considered confidential (i.e. non-public domain data):

- i. the fishing vessel's unique vessel identifier²;
- ii. the current geographical position (latitude and longitude) of the vessel;
- iii. the date and time (UTC) of the fixing of the position of the vessel;
- iv. the vessel's speed; and
- v. the vessel's course.

Objective

- 2. The main objective of the SIOFA VMS is to monitor in an automatic, continuous and cost-effective manner the movements and activity of fishing vessels operating in the Agreement Area to ensure compliance with SIOFA CMMs.

Application

- 3. The SIOFA VMS shall apply to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party or participating fishing entity (CCP) that are entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels and operating in the Agreement Area, as defined in Article 3 of the Agreement.

Nature and specifications of the SIOFA VMS

- 4. The SIOFA VMS shall be administered by the SIOFA Secretariat under the guidance of the Meeting of the Parties.
- 5. Each CCP shall ensure that all fishing vessels flying their flag entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels and operating in the Agreement Area are fitted with an operational ALC that complies with the minimum standards for ALCs described in Annex 1.
- 6. Each CCP shall ensure that all fishing vessels flying their flag referred to in paragraph 3 report VMS position reports automatically while they are operating in the Agreement Area either:
 - a) to the SIOFA VMS via their FMC; or
 - b) simultaneously to both the SIOFA VMS and their FMC.
- 7. CCPs that choose to report under option (a) of paragraph 6 shall automatically forward VMS position reports to the SIOFA VMS without delay but not later than one hour after receipt.
- 8. CCPs shall ensure that VMS position reports are reported automatically³ by each of their vessels while operating in the Agreement Area:
 - a) at least once every hour as provided for in paragraph 15 of CMM 15(2025) (Management of Demersal Stocks), and;

² The unique vessel identifier shall be the ALC Unique Identifier or, for vessels reporting pursuant to paragraph 6 a) of this Measure, the vessel's International Radio Call Sign (IRCS) or International Maritime Organisation (IMO) number.

³ In the event that the connection between the ALC and the satellite is temporarily unavailable, the data referred to in paragraph 1(f) of this Measure shall still be collected but shall instead be transmitted as soon as the satellite connection becomes available again.

- b) at least once every two hours in other circumstances.
9. VMS position reports, sent pursuant to paragraph 6. a. shall be transmitted to the SIOFA VMS using one of the data formats in Annex 2.
 10. Each CCP shall ensure that their FMC can automatically receive and, for those CCPs whose vessels transmit VMS position reports in accordance with paragraph 6 a), transmit VMS position reports from ALCs. Each CCP shall provide backup and recovery procedures in case of system failures.
 11. Each CCP shall provide the Secretariat with the name, address, email, and telephone number(s) of its FMC and shall designate a VMS Point of Contact for the purposes of any communication regarding the SIOFA VMS ("VMS Point of Contact"). Each CCP shall notify the Secretariat of any changes to these details within 30 days after such changes take effect and the Secretariat shall promptly notify this information to the other CCPs and make it available on the non-public area of the SIOFA website.
 12. Each CCP shall ensure that in vessels flying their flag:
 - a) the ALC is not tampered with in any way;
 - b) VMS position reports are not altered in any way;
 - c) the antenna or antennae are connected to the ALC and not obstructed in any way;
 - d) the power supply of the ALC is not interrupted in any way;
 - e) the ALC is not removed from the vessel except for the purpose set out in paragraph 15; and
 - f) the satellite navigation decoder and transmitter are fully integrated and housed in the same tamper-proof physical enclosure.

Procedure for manual reporting

13. In the event of non-reception of four consecutive, expected programmed VMS position reports by the SIOFA VMS, the Secretariat shall notify the CCP whose flag the vessel is flying. The Flag CCP shall immediately notify the vessel Master and direct the Master to provide it with manual reports every four hours of the vessel's position in accordance with the reporting frequency under paragraph 8. The Flag CCP shall ensure that this manual reporting is transmitted to the Secretariat, either by the flag CCP or by the fishing vessel, with a clear distinction between reports that are manual and those that are automatic.
14. The Flag CCP shall ensure that the manual reports include at least the information referred to in paragraph 1(f)(i), (ii) and (iii). If automatic reporting to the SIOFA VMS has not been re-established within 60 days of the commencement of manual reporting, the Flag CCP shall order the vessel to cease fishing, stow all fishing gear and return immediately to port in order to undertake repairs or replacement.
15. Following a technical failure or non-functioning of the ALC, the Flag CCP shall ensure that the fishing vessel only leaves port once the ALC fitted on board is fully functioning to the satisfaction of the competent authorities of the Flag CCP. By derogation, the Flag

CCP may authorise the fishing vessel to leave port with a non-functioning satellite-tracking device for its repair or replacement.

16. The Flag CCP shall ensure that the vessel recommences fishing in the Agreement Area only when the ALC has been confirmed as operational by its FMC. Four consecutive, programmed VMS position reports must have been received by the FMC to confirm that the ALC is fully operational.
17. Notwithstanding paragraphs 13 to 16, where the Flag CCP confirms that the ALC on board the vessel is functioning normally, but the SIOFA VMS is not receiving the vessel's VMS position reports, the Secretariat shall immediately take steps to resolve any technical or other issue that is preventing the SIOFA VMS from receiving the VMS position reports. If the VMS position reports cannot be retrieved by the SIOFA VMS after the issue has been resolved, the Flag CCP shall send these VMS position reports to the Secretariat via manual reporting and provide the Secretariat with any assistance as may be necessary.

Measures to prevent tampering with ALCs

18. Each CCP shall ensure that the ALCs fitted on board vessels flying their flag are tamper resistant, that is, are of a type of and configuration that prevent the input or output of false positions, and that they are not capable of being over-ridden, whether manually, electronically or otherwise, in accordance with the minimum standards for ALCs set out in Annex 1.
19. Each CCP shall prohibit vessels flying their flag to destroy, damage, switch off, render inoperative or otherwise interfere with the ALC.
20. In the event that a CCP or the Secretariat obtains information that indicates an ALC on board a fishing vessel operating in the Agreement Area does not meet the requirements of Annex 1 or there is evidence that the ALC has been tampered with, it shall immediately notify the Secretariat, and the fishing vessel's Flag CCP which shall:
 - a) investigate the suspected breach of this measure as soon as possible; and
 - b) depending on the outcome of the investigation, if necessary suspend the vessel from fishing until an ALC that meets the specifications outlined in Annex 1 is operational on board the vessel; and
 - c) communicate actions taken to the Meeting of the Parties, including the outcome of the investigation within 30 days of its completion.
21. Nothing in this measure shall prevent a CCP from applying additional or more stringent measures to prevent tampering of ALCs on board vessels flying its flag.

Use and release of VMS position reports

22. All requests for access to VMS position reports must be made to the Secretariat by a VMS Point of Contact by electronic means using the appropriate template⁴ at least 5 working

⁴ The template shall be developed by the Secretariat and submitted to the Compliance Committee and the Meeting of the Parties for consideration.

days in advance of the intended use, except for the purposes of paragraph 23 c), and in accordance with the procedures set out in paragraphs 24 to 29.

23. Upon request of a CCP, the Secretariat shall only provide VMS position reports without the permission of the Flag CCP for the exclusive purposes of:

- a) planning for active surveillance operations and/or boarding and inspection at sea within 72 hours of the expected start of the operations in the Agreement Area;
- b) active surveillance operations and/or boarding and inspection at sea in the Agreement Area;
- c) supporting search and rescue activities undertaken by a competent Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) subject to the terms of an Arrangement between the Secretariat and the competent MRCC. Such Arrangement shall be reported to the Meeting of the Parties.

24. For the purpose of implementing paragraph 23 a) and b):

- a) Boarding and inspection at sea shall be undertaken in accordance with CMM 14(2021) (High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures), including its paragraph 7;
- b) each CCP shall only make available VMS position reports relevant to the planned or active surveillance operations and/or boarding and inspection at sea in the Agreement Area to the requesting CCP's inspectors and any other government officials for whom it is deemed necessary to access the reports;
- c) CCPs shall ensure that such inspectors and government officials keep the VMS position reports confidential and only use the reports for the purposes described in paragraph 23 a) and b);
- d) CCPs shall be allowed to retain VMS position reports provided by the Secretariat for the purposes described in paragraph 23 a) and b) until 72 hours after the time that the active operation has concluded. Except in the circumstances outlined in paragraph 24 e), CCPs shall submit a written confirmation to the Secretariat of the deletion of the VMS position reports immediately after the 72 hours' period;
- e) CCPs' inspectors and government officials authorities shall be allowed to retain VMS position reports provided by the Secretariat for the purposes described in paragraph 23 a) and b) for longer than the periods specified in paragraph 24 d) only if it is part of an investigation, judicial or administrative proceeding of an alleged violation of the provisions of the Agreement, any CMMs or decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties. CCPs shall inform the Secretariat of the purposes and expected timing of the additional period of retention before the expiration of the initial period and the Secretariat shall promptly notify the concerned Flag CCP of the additional period. CCPs shall submit a written confirmation to the Secretariat of the deletion of the VMS position reports as soon as the purposes have been achieved or immediately after the additional period of retention has expired, whichever is earlier.

25. For the purpose of paragraph 23 a), CCPs requesting VMS position reports shall provide the Secretariat the geographic area of the planned surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity. In this case, the Secretariat shall provide the most recent available VMS position reports for the notified geographic area at a specified point in time no more than 72 hours prior to the commencement of each surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity. In the event that the planned surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity does not proceed, the CCP shall notify the Secretariat, delete the VMS position reports, and confirm their deletion to the Secretariat in writing, without delay. Regardless of whether the planned surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity were conducted or not, the Secretariat shall notify the Flag CCP that the VMS position reports were provided to the CCP no later than 7 days after the VMS position report provision, and, if applicable, that they have received confirmation that the reports have been deleted.
26. For the purpose of paragraph 23 b), the Secretariat shall provide VMS position reports from the previous 10 days, for vessels detected during the active surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity by a CCP, and VMS position reports for all vessels within 300 n miles of the surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity location. The Secretariat shall provide regular updates of VMS position reports to the CCP for the duration of the active surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity. CCPs conducting the active surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity shall provide the Secretariat and the VMS Point of Contact of the Flag CCP with a report including the name of the vessel or aircraft on active surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity. This information shall be made available without undue delay after the surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activities are complete. The Secretariat shall notify the Flag CCP that the VMS position reports were provided to the CCP no later than 7 days after the active surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity has ended, and, if applicable, that they have received confirmation that the reports have been deleted.
27. For the purpose of paragraph 23 c), upon the request of a CCP, the Secretariat shall provide VMS position reports without the permission of the Flag CCP for the purposes of supporting search and rescue activities undertaken by a competent MRCC subject to the arrangement between the Secretariat and the competent MRCC, including in relation to the provision of VMS position reports to the requesting CCP, and the protection and deletion of those reports.
28. Other than the purposes set out in paragraph 23, the Secretariat shall only provide VMS position reports to a requesting CCP or to the SIOFA Scientific Committee and its Working Groups where the VMS position reports relate to vessels flagged to CCPs that have provided prior written consent through their VMS Point of Contact for the reports to be shared. Such VMS position reports shall be deleted as soon as they have served their intended purpose, and the deletion of the reports shall be confirmed to the Secretariat in writing without delay.
29. CCPs may request VMS position reports for their own flagged vessels from the Secretariat.

Closed areas and interim protected areas

30. If VMS position reports received by the Secretariat indicate the presence of a fishing vessel in a closed area, or of a fishing vessel excluding those using line and trap methods in an interim protected area, as defined in CMM 18(2025) (Benthic Fishery Closures), the Secretariat shall notify the Flag CCP. The Flag CCP shall investigate the matter and provide an explanation within 5 working days to the Secretariat. The explanation shall be provided by the Secretariat to the Compliance Committee for consideration at its next annual meeting.

Data security and confidentiality

31. All CCPs, the Secretariat, the SIOFA Scientific Committee and its Working Groups, and any SIOFA VMS service provider shall ensure the secure and confidential treatment of VMS data in their respective electronic data processing facilities in accordance with the requirements of CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards), CMM 03(2025) (Data Confidentiality) and Annex 3, in particular where the processing involves transmission over a network, including by using secure internet protocols to ensure secure communications and taking all necessary measures to protect VMS data against accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure or access, and against all unauthorised forms of processing.

Entry into operation

32. The SIOFA VMS shall enter into operation at a date to be determined by the Meeting of the Parties.
33. Upon entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS, paragraphs 5 to 14 of CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring) shall be superseded and replaced by this CMM.

Review

34. Following the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS, the Secretariat shall report annually to the Meeting of the Parties on the implementation of, and compliance with, this CMM, including on the performance of the SIOFA VMS service provider.
35. After two years of implementation of the SIOFA VMS, the Meeting of the Parties shall conduct a review of this CMM and consider improving it as appropriate.

Annex 1***Minimum standards for Automatic Location Communicators (ALCs) used in the SIOFA VMS***

1. The Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) shall continuously, automatically and independently of any intervention by the fishing vessel, communicate VMS position reports referred to in paragraph 1(f) of this CMM.
2. The position reports referred to in paragraph 1(f) shall be obtained from a satellite-based positioning system.
3. ALCs fitted to fishing vessels must be capable of transmitting the position reports referred to in paragraph 1(f) recorded at least every fifteen minutes.
4. ALCs fitted to fishing vessels must be tamper-proof so as to preserve the security and integrity of the position reports referred to in paragraph 1(f).
5. Storage of information within the ALC must be safe, secure and integrated within a single unit under normal operating conditions.
6. It must not be reasonably possible for unauthorised persons to alter any of the VMS position reports stored in the ALC, including the frequency of position reporting to the FMC.
7. Any features built into the ALC or terminal software to assist with servicing shall not allow unauthorised access to any areas of the ALC that could potentially compromise the operation of the VMS.
8. ALCs shall be installed on fishing vessels in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and applicable standards.
9. Under normal satellite navigation operating conditions, positions derived from the data forwarded must be accurate to within 100 metres ($2 \times \text{Distance Root Mean Squared}$; 2DRMS) i.e., 99 per cent of the positions must be within this range.
10. The satellite navigation decoder and transmitter shall be fully integrated and housed in the same tamper-proof physical enclosure.

Annex 2
Data formats for transmission of VMS position reports

A. North Atlantic Format (NAF)

1. VMS position reports sent in NAF format shall be transmitted using one of the following application layers (secured connection):
 - (i) Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS);
 - (ii) File Transfer Protocol (FTP) with Transport Layer Security (TLS) (FTPS);
 - (iii) Email.
2. VMS position reports sent in NAF format shall contain, at minimum, the [mandatory](#) data elements in Table 1.

Table 1: NAF message data elements

Data Element	Field Code	Definition	Mandatory / Optional	Contents
Start Record	SR	Defines the start of the message structure.	M	No Data
Address	AD	Indicates the destination. Provider and Secretariat to define code for SIOFA VMS	M	3-Alpha code
From	FR	3-alpha code describing the country which FMC is submitting the report.	M	3-Alpha code
Sequence Number	SQ	Message Sequence Number	M	0-999999
IMO Number	IM	IMO ship identification number	M ⁵	IMO ship identification number
Internal Reference Number*	IR	Unique Number attributed by the flag state	O	3-Alpha code. 0-999999999
Type of Message ⁶	TM	Letter code of the type of message	M	POS = position report, MAN = manual report, ENT = entry report, EXI = exit report
Radio Call Sign (IRCS)	RC	Vessel detail: international radio call sign of the vessel	M ⁷	IRCS
Latitude (decimal)	LT	Latitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	M	+(-)DD.ddd
Longitude (decimal)	LG	Longitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	M	+(-)DD.ddd
Vessel Speed	SP	Speed of the vessel	M	Knots * 10

⁵ Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of this CMM and with paragraph 2.d. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).

⁶ ENT and EXI shall be submitted in accordance with [paragraph 15bis. of CMM 10 \(2023\)](#)

⁷ Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of this CMM and with paragraph 2.c. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).

Vessel Course	CO	Heading of the vessel in degrees	M	1-360
Flag State	FS	State of registration of the vessel	M	3-Alpha code
Date	DA	Date of reported event	M	YYYYMMDD
Time	TI	Time of reported event	M	HHMM
End of Record	ER	Indicates the end of the message/report		No Data

3. VMS position reports sent in NAF format shall be structured as follows:

- (i) double slash (//) and the characters 'SR' indicate the start of a message;
- (ii) a double slash (//) and field code indicate the start of a data element;
- (iii) a single slash (/) separates the field code and the data;
- (iv) pairs of data are separated by a space;
- (v) the characters 'ER' and a double slash (//) indicate the end of a record.

B. Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX)

1. VMS position reports sent in UN/FLUX format shall contain, at minimum, the mandatory data elements in Table 2.

Table 2: UN/FLUX data elements

Data Element	Mandatory/ optional	Comments
Addressee	M	Message detail — Addressee Alpha-3 country code Note: Part of the FLUX TL envelope
From	M	Message detail — Sender Alpha-3 country code
Unique message identifier	M	UUID according to RFC 4122 defined by IETF
Date and time of transmission	M	Date and time when the message was created in UTC, using the format YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss[.000000]Z ⁸
Flag State	M	Message detail – Flag of flag State, Alpha-3 country code
Type of message	M	Message detail – Type of message The following codes are to be used: ENTRY: first position recorded after entering the fishing zone) EXIT: first message recorded after leaving the fishing zone POS: positions transmitted while being in the fishing zone MANUAL: position transmitted manually

⁸ YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less than 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less than 10; T= the letter T to indicate the part of the time section; H24= hours of the day expressed with 2 digits using the 24-hour notation; M=minutes expressed as 2 digits; SS=seconds expressed as 2 digits; [.000000]= optionally fractions of seconds may be included, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (i.e. UTC).

Radio call sign	M	Vessel detail – Vessel international radio call sign (IRCS)
CCP internal reference number	O	Vessel detail – Unique CCP vessel identifier
Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI)	O	Vessel detail – IMO number
External registration number	O	Vessel detail – Number on side of vessel
Latitude	M	Vessel position detail – Position in degrees and decimal degrees DD.ddd (WGS-84) Positive coordinates for positions north of the Equator; Negative coordinates for positions south of the Equator.
Longitude	M	Vessel position detail – Position in degrees and decimals DD.ddd (WGS-84) Positive coordinates east of the Greenwich meridian; Negative coordinates west of the Greenwich meridian.
Course	M	Vessel course 360° scale
Speed	M	Vessel speed in knots
Date and time	M	Vessel position detail – date and time of recording of the position in UTC, using the format YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss[.000000]Z ⁹

⁹ YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less than 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less than 10; T= the letter T to indicate the part of the time section; H24= hours of the day expressed with 2 digits using the 24-hour notation; Ml=minutes expressed as 2 digits; SS=seconds expressed as 2 digits; [.000000]= optionally fractions of seconds may be included, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (ie. UTC)

Annex 3
Data Confidentiality and Security Provisions

1. The following security measures shall be mandatory for the SIOFA VMS:
 - a. System Access Control: The Secretariat shall ensure that the system can withstand break-in attempts from unauthorised persons.
 - b. Authenticity and data access control: The Secretariat shall limit access of Secretariat staff to the data necessary for them to carry out their tasks via a flexible user identification and password mechanism.
 - c. Communication Security: VMS position reports shall be securely communicated.
 - d. Data Security: All VMS data received by the Secretariat shall be securely stored for a predetermined time and shall not be tampered with.
 - e. Security Procedures: The Secretariat shall implement an Information System Security Policy adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to ensure proper access to the system (hardware and software), system administration and maintenance, backup and general usage of the system.
2. The SIOFA VMS shall have the following mandatory access control features:
 - a. Stringent password and authentication system, attributed to each designated user. The user shall only have access to functions and data that they are designated to have access to.
 - b. All access to physical computer systems shall be controlled by the Secretariat.
 - c. The system shall automatically record all events for analysis and detection of potential security breaches.
 - d. Time-based access control: Access to the system can be specified in terms of times-of-day and days of the week that each user is allowed to log into the system.
 - e. Terminal access control: the system shall specify for each workstation which user(s) is/are allowed to access it.
3. Communication between CCPs, the SIOFA VMS Service Provider, and the Secretariat shall use secure internet protocols. The exchange of VMS position reports may also require the use of digital certificates that correctly identify and validate the party submitting the VMS position reports.
4. The Secretariat shall only provide VMS position reports to the email address specified by the requesting entity at the time the data is requested.
5. The Secretariat shall periodically review access to and the logs of the SIOFA VMS software and ensure the proper maintenance of system security.

Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS

SIOFA | APSOI

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



Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

13 Rue de Marseille

97420 Le Port

La Réunion

secretariat@siofa.org

<http://www.siofa.org>

Contents

Background	2
1. Purpose	3
2. Application	3
3. General Provisions	3
4. Methods to ensure ALCs comply with SIOFA Standards	4
5. Rules for Polling and Programming for Vessels Reporting to the Secretariat in accordance with Paragraph 6 b).	45
6. Responsibilities of the Secretariat.....	6
7. Data format for data transmission	7
8. Data Confidentiality and Security Provisions	8
Annex 1: Description of the North Atlantic Format (NAF)	10
Annex 2: Description of the Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange, (UN/FLUX)	12

Background

Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) are satellite-based monitoring systems that enable flag States and regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) to track and monitor the activities of fishing vessels in a defined geographical area through the transmission of position data by fishing vessels at regular intervals. They are a cornerstone of monitoring control and surveillance (MCS) programmes at national and international levels and a key instrument in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Article 6(1)(h) of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) requires SIOFA to develop rules and procedures for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities to ensure compliance with SIOFA conservation and management measures (CMM), including a system of verification incorporating vessel monitoring and observation of vessels operating in the SIOFA Area. [CMM 10 \(2025\) \(Monitoring\)](#) also requires SIOFA to develop specifications and propose rules and procedures for establishing a SIOFA VMS. While flag Contracting Parties, Participating Fishing Entities and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (collectively: CCPs) are required to track and monitor their vessels' activities using VMS, SIOFA does not currently operate a VMS system. In this respect, it is behind other RFMOs that have installed and operate a VMS.

To close this gap, the 10th Meeting of the Parties to the SIOFA (MoP10) adopted [CMM 16 \(2025\) \(Vessel Monitoring System\)](#) setting out the framework of the SIOFA VMS covering all critical aspects, including the scope of application, definitions, nature and specifications of the VMS, prevention of tampering and actions in case of suspected breach, use and release of VMS data requiring / not requiring the consent of CCPs, closed and interim protected areas, as well as data security and confidentiality. However, this framework needs to be further completed through the development of Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) as required by paragraph 9 of CMM 16 (2025) prior to the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS.

Following intersessional work by the VMS-WG, the 11th Meeting of the Parties adopted these SSPs, and the 12th Meeting of the Parties revised them.

The SSPs assume that Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) will be treated similarly as CPs and PFEs, recalling that CNCs do not currently contribute to the budget, which may be impacted by the implementation of the SIOFA VMS.

For the purpose of this document, all terms used shall have the same meaning as those in CMM 16 (2025) unless otherwise specified.

1. Purpose

1. The purpose of these Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) is to complement measures established under CMM 16 (2025) so as to achieve the objectives of the CMM, which are to monitor in an automatic, continuous and cost-effective manner the movements and activity of fishing vessels operating in the Agreement Area to ensure compliance with SIOFA Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

2. Application

2. These SSPs shall apply to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party, Participating Fishing Entity or Cooperating non-Contracting Party (collectively CCPs), that are entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV) and operating within the Agreement Area (Area), as defined in Article 3 of the Agreement.
3. These SSPs do not prejudice the right of CCPs to apply additional or more stringent measures to vessels flying their flag.

3. General Provisions

4. For the purposes of these SSPs, the term “VMS data” shall refer to all data associated with the SIOFA VMS, including VMS position reports and Automatic location communicator (ALC) details.
5. CCPs shall:
 - a. For vessels entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels (RAV) prior to the entry into force of CMM 16 (2025), provide ALC details specified in paragraph 6 for each vessel registered on the SIOFA RAV by 31 December 2025 at the latest.
 - b. For vessels to be entered onto the SIOFA RAV after the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS, provide ALC details specified in paragraph 6 at the time of the submission of information required by [CMM 07 \(2025\) \(Vessel Authorization\)](#).¹
6. CCPs shall provide the following ALC details:
 - a. Model and Brand
 - b. ALC Unique Identifier
 - c. Service Provider (Inmarsat/Iridium/ARGOS etc.)
7. For the purposes of CMM 16 (2025), the term Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI) shall have the following meaning:
 - a) For CCPs transmitting VMS position reports pursuant to paragraph 6 a), of CMM 16 (2025) the UVI shall be the International Radio Call Sign (IRCS), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Number or the ALC Unique Identifier.
 - b) For CCPs transmitting VMS position reports pursuant to paragraph 6 b) of CMM 16 (2025) the UVI shall be the ALC Unique Identifier.

¹ Conservation and Management Measure for Vessel Authorisation and Notification to Fish.

4. Methods to ensure ALCs comply with SIOFA Standards

Explanatory Notes

Paragraph 12 of CMM 16 (2025) sets out the general standards by which ALCs are expected to be installed and operated. Paragraphs 18 and 19 expand on the requirements to have tamper-proof ALCs while also prohibiting the tampering of ALCs. The minimum standards for ALCs are further described in Annex 1 of CMM 16 (2025).

This section of the SSPs provides for the possibility of the MoP adopting a list of approved ALCs and clarifies that it is the responsibility of flag CCPs to ensure that ALCs installed on their vessels comply with SIOFA specifications and standards.

8. The MoP may adopt a list of approved ALCs to be used by vessels entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels (RAV), taking into account lists approved by existing regional and subregional VMS programs and by CCPs.
9. CCPs shall be responsible for ensuring that the ALCs on board vessels flying their flag and entered onto the SIOFA RAV meet the specifications and standards set out in paragraph 12 and Annex 1 of CMM 16 (2025). To this end, CCPs are encouraged to conduct periodic audits of a representative sample of ALCs. Any findings shall be reported as part of CCPs' annual compliance assessment reporting under paragraph 12 of CMM 11 (2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme).

5. Rules for Polling and Programming for Vessels Reporting to the Secretariat in accordance with Paragraph 6 b)

Explanatory Notes

Paragraph 6 b) of CMM 16 (2025) allows for simultaneously reporting VMS position reports automatically to the Secretariat. In this regard, there may be a need to interact with the ALCs to program its automatic reporting and to change its reporting frequency based on location (programming) and also to "query" an unscheduled position report (polling). It should be noted that while CMM 16 (2025) does not provide for polling of ALCs, it may be required during diagnosis when the good reception of position reports cannot be achieved. Other cases may be to stop the reporting temporarily or indefinitely based on scenarios, such as the deletion of the vessels from the SIOFA RAV, repairs, flagging and decommissioning of fishing vessels.

As such, these SSPs suggest procedures for the same.

10. CCPs shall ensure that the ALCs on board of vessels flying their flag are configured to comply with paragraph 8 of CMM 16 (2025) and, where applicable, shall send programming commands.

11. CCPs which opt for simultaneous reporting under paragraph 6. b) of CMM 16 (2025) shall ensure that their ALC service provider is capable of providing simultaneous reporting to multiple destinations (receivers) and shall bear the cost for reporting to their FMC and to the Secretariat as well as for programming command sending. The Secretariat (SIOFA VMS) shall receive the "simultaneously reporting" in accordance with the protocol provided by the CCP's service provider.

6. Responsibilities of the Secretariat

Explanatory Notes

These SSPs set out the responsibilities of the Secretariat in administering the SIOFA VMS.

12. The Secretariat shall:

- a. ensure that data, once received by the SIOFA VMS, are not altered, manipulated, copied or interfered with in any way, and that the data is only used in accordance with CMM 03 (2025), and with any such additional data security and confidentiality rules adopted by the Meeting of Parties for the purposes of the SIOFA VMS.
- b. provide a stable, reliable, fully maintained and supported SIOFA VMS that is in compliance with CMM 03 (2025), and any additional data security and confidentiality rules adopted by the Meeting of Parties.
- c. utilise the SIOFA VMS in a manner consistent with the Agreement, CMMs and these SSPs.
- d. compile and report annually to the MoP, through the Compliance Committee, an overview of potential issues identified by vessel and flag with regard to their compliance with CMM 2016 (2025) and these SSPs.
- e. monitor and report annually to the Compliance Committee on the implementation and performance of the SIOFA VMS and its application and, as necessary, make recommendations for improvements or modifications to the system and these SSPs established to support it.

7. Data format for data transmission

Explanatory Notes

Paragraph 6 a) of CMM 16 (2025) allows CCPs to choose to report VMS positions automatically to the Secretariat via their FMC. However, these provisions do not provide for the data format and standards that will allow these transfers to take place.

There are at least two globally accepted data formats for data exchange of fisheries information. These are the North Atlantic Format (NAF) and the Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX). NAF is recognised as an older format with some limitations, therefore there are ongoing efforts to improve NAF or develop new standards for the exchange of fisheries information altogether.

UN/FLUX is one such proposed standard that has already gained recognition by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), with more states and regional organisations adopting its use for VMS data exchange, among others. The most significant advantage of UN/FLUX over NAF is its ability to cater to other data types, such as inspection reports, catch and effort reporting, etc. However, the uptake of UN/FLUX is still relatively low, and implementation may present challenges to the Secretariat and CCPs.

Noting the above, the SSPs recognise the two data formats and provide standards to enable CCPs to exchange data using those formats.

13. VMS position reports sent to the SIOFA VMS in accordance with paragraph 6 a) of CMM 16 (2025) shall be transferred using the following data formats;
 - a. The North Atlantic Format (NAF) (Annex 1)
 - or
 - b. Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX) (Annex 2)
14. VMS position reports sent using NAF shall follow the structure of NAF messages provided in Annex 1, and shall be transferred using one of the following application layers (secured connection):
 - a. Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS)
 - b. File Transfer Protocol (FTP) with Transport Layer Security (TLS) (FTPS)
 - c. Email
15. VMS position reports sent using FLUX shall adhere to the specifications of the Flux P1000-1 (General Principles) and Flux P1000-7 (Vessel Position Domain), as described in Annex 2.²

² <https://unece.org/trade/uncefact/unflux>

8. Data Confidentiality and Security Provisions

Explanatory Notes

These SSPs covers the Confidentiality and Security procedures required to ensure the secure and confidential treatment of VMS data being exchanged between CCPs and the Secretariat.

16. CCPs and the Secretariat shall only use VMS data for the purposes specified in CMM 16 (2025).
17. The Secretariat shall maintain a database of the ALC details attributed to all vessels entered onto the SIOFA RAV. ALC details shall be confidential data (i.e. non public domain data) but shall be provided to CCPs' VMS points of contact upon request pursuant to paragraphs 23 to 28 of CMM 16 (2025).
18. The Secretariat shall only provide VMS position reports to the contact point designated pursuant to Paragraph 11 of CMM 16 (2025).
19. CCPs shall immediately delete VMS position reports received for the purposes set out in paragraph 28 of CMM 16 (2025) once the VMS position reports have served their intended purpose, and confirm their deletion to the Secretariat in writing without delay.
20. CCPs, the Secretariat, the SIOFA Scientific Committee and its Working Groups, and any SIOFA VMS service provider shall take all necessary measures to protect VMS data against accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure or access, and against all unauthorised forms of processing.
21. The following security measures shall be mandatory for the SIOFA VMS:
 - a. System Access Control: The Secretariat shall ensure that the system can withstand break-in attempts from unauthorised persons.
 - b. Authenticity and data access control: The Secretariat shall ensure that the system is able to limit access of Secretariat staff only to the data necessary for them to carry out their tasks via a flexible user identification and password mechanism.
 - c. Communication Security: VMS position reports shall be securely communicated.
 - d. Data Security: All VMS data received by the Secretariat shall be securely stored for a predetermined time and shall not be tampered with.
 - e. Security Procedures: The Secretariat shall implement an Information System Security Policy adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to ensure proper access to the system (hardware and software), system administration and maintenance, backup and general usage of the system.
22. The system shall have the following mandatory access control features:
 - a. Stringent password and authentication system, attributed to each designated user. The user shall only have access to functions and data that they are designated to have access to;
 - b. All access to physical computer systems shall be controlled by the Secretariat;

- c. The system shall automatically record all events for analysis and detection of potential security breaches;
 - d. Time-based access control: Access to the system can be specified in terms of times-of-day and days of the week that each user is allowed to log into the system;
 - e. Terminal access control: the system shall specify for each workstation which user(s) are allowed to access it.
23. Communication between CCPs, the SIOFA VMS Service Provider, and the Secretariat shall use secure internet protocols. The exchange of VMS position reports may also require the use of digital certificates that correctly identify and validate the party submitting the VMS position reports.
24. The Secretariat shall periodically review access to and the logs of the VMS software and ensure the proper maintenance of system security.

Annex 1: Description of the North Atlantic Format (NAF)³

Data Elements of NAF Messages

VMS position reports sent in ~~All NAF Messages-format sent to the SIOFA VMS~~ shall contain, at minimum, mandatory data elements in the following table: the information required in paragraph 1.f) of CMM 16 (2025). The general structure and data elements are as below

Data Element	Field Code	Definition	Mandatory / Optional	Contents
Start Record	SR	Defines the start of the message structure.	<u>M</u>	No Data
Address	AD	Indicates the destination. Provider and Secretariat to define code for SIOFA VMS	<u>M</u>	3-Alpha code
From	FR	3-alpha code describing the country which FMC is submitting the report.	<u>M</u>	3-Alpha code
Sequence Number	SQ	Message Sequence Number	<u>M</u>	0-999999
<u>IMO Number</u>	<u>IM</u>	<u>IMO ship identification number</u>	<u>M⁴</u>	<u>IMO ship identification number</u>
Internal Reference Number [*]	IR	Unique Number attributed by the flag state	<u>O</u>	3-Alpha code. 0-999999999
Type of Message ⁵	TM	Letter code of the type of message	<u>M</u>	POS = position report, MAN = manual report, ENT = entry report, EXI = exit report
Radio Call Sign (IRCS)	RC	Vessel detail: international radio call sign of the vessel	<u>M⁶</u>	IRCS
Latitude (decimal)	LT	Latitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	<u>M</u>	+(-)DD.ddd
Longitude (decimal)	LG	Longitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	<u>M</u>	+(-)DD.ddd
Vessel Speed	SP	Speed of the vessel	<u>M</u>	Knots * 10
Vessel Course	CO	Heading of the vessel in degrees	<u>M</u>	1-360
Flag State	FS	State of registration of the vessel.	<u>M</u>	3-Alpha code

³ <https://www.naf-format.org/index.htm>

^{*} Submission of IR is optional

⁴ Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of CMM 16 (2025) and with paragraph 2.d. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).

⁵ ENT and EXI shall be submitted in accordance with **paragraph 15 bis. of CMM 10 (2023)**

⁶ Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of this CMM and with paragraph 2.c. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).

Date	DA	Date of reported event	M	YYYYMMDD
Time	TI	Time of reported event	M	HHMM
End of Record	ER	Indicates the end of the message/report	M	No Data

Structure of the position report

Each data transmission shall be structured as follows:

- double slash (//) and the characters 'SR' indicate the start of a message,
- a double slash (//) and field code indicate the start of a data element,
- a single slash (/) separates the field code and the data,
- pairs of data are separated by space,
- the characters 'ER' and a double slash (//) indicate the end of a record.

Annex 2: Description of the Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX)

2 I: UN/FLUX format : mandatory data to be transmitted in position reports

Data	Mandatory/optional	Comments
Addressee	M	Message detail — Addressee Alpha-3 country code Note: Part of the FLUX TL envelope
From	M	Message detail — Sender Alpha-3 country code
Unique message identifier	M	UUID according to RFC 4122 defined by IETF
Date and time of transmission	M	Date and time when the message was created in UTC, using the format YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss[.000000]Z ⁷
Flag State	M	Message detail – Flag of flag State, Alpha-3 country code
Type of message	M	Message detail – Type of message The following codes are to be used: ENTRY: first position recorded after entering the fishing zone) EXIT: first message recorded after leaving the fishing zone POS: positions transmitted while being in the fishing zone) MANUAL: position transmitted manually
Radio call sign	M	Vessel detail – Vessel international radio call sign (IRCS)
CCP internal reference number	O	Vessel detail – Unique CCP vessel identifier
Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI)	O	Vessel detail – IMO number

⁷ YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less than 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less than 10; T= the letter T to indicate the part of the time section; H24= hours of the day expressed with 2 digits using the 24-hour notation; MI=minutes expressed as 2 digits; SS=seconds expressed as 2 digits; [.000000]= optionally fractions of seconds may be included, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (i.e. UTC)

External registration number	O	Vessel detail – Number on side of vessel
Latitude	M	Vessel position detail – Position in degrees and decimal degrees DD.ddd (WGS-84) Positive coordinates for positions north of the Equator; Negative coordinates for positions south of the Equator.
Longitude	M	Vessel position detail – Position in degrees and decimals DD.ddd (WGS-84) Positive coordinates east of the Greenwich meridian; Negative coordinates west of the Greenwich meridian.
Course	M	Vessel course 360° scale
Speed	M	Vessel speed in knots
Date and time	M	Vessel position detail – date and time of recording of the position in UTC, using the format YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss[.000000]Z ⁸

⁸ YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less than 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less than 10; T= the letter T to indicate the part of the time section; H24= hours of the day expressed with 2 digits using the 24-hour notation; MI=minutes expressed as 2 digits; SS=seconds expressed as 2 digits; [.000000]= optionally fractions of seconds may be included, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (ie. UTC)

2.II FLUX Vessel Position Implementation Document

1. INTRODUCTION

This document aims to describe the implementation of Vessel Position in the context of the SIOFA VMS. Submissions of reports will be done through the FLUX Transportation Layer.

2. REFERENCES

UN/CEFACT P1000 FLUX Standard v1.0 ²:

- FLUX BRS: P1000 – 1; General principles (version 2.1).
- FLUX BRS: P1000 – 7; Vessel Position domain (version 2.0).

UN/CEFACT FLUXVesselPositionMessage_4p0.xsd

3. SCOPE

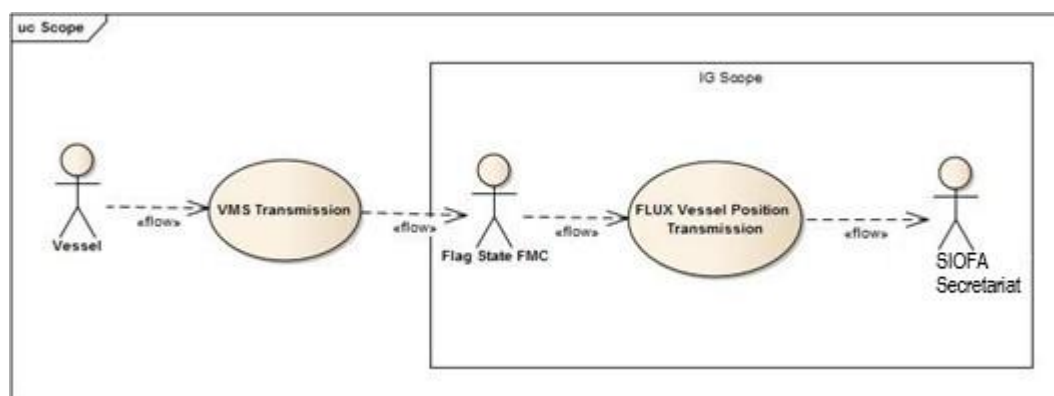


Figure 1: Implementing Guide Scope diagram

As shown on Figure 1, even if the message is provided by a Vessel, the scope of this document is limited to the transmission from a Flag CCP FMC, which has received the Vessel Position message, coming in most cases from aa ALC to the SIOFA Secretariat.

4. PROCEDURES

4.1. General principles

The following activity diagram describes the normal procedure defined for the submission of every Vessel Position Messages sent between the FMC of a Flag CCP to the SIOFA Secretariat:

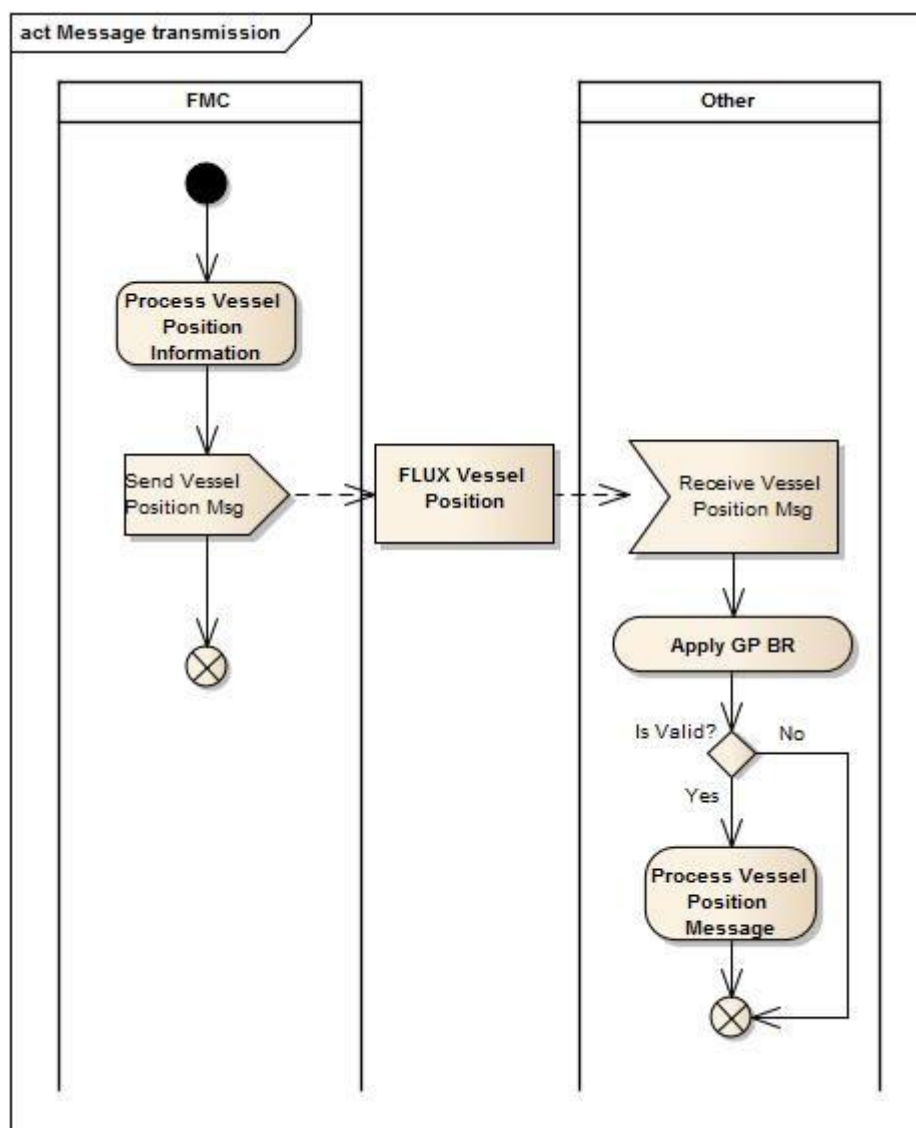


Figure 2: Message Transmission activity diagram

As shown in the diagram, Apply General Principles (GP) Business Rules (BR) is a validation process which does:

1. XML Validation level: Based on the definition in the XSD, the parser validates the structure and cardinality as well as compliance for mandatory elements of the XML provided.⁹

⁹ In general, only XSD element are defined as mandatory. Element attributes and facets remain optional.

Note: Comparing XML vs. XSD defined by the namespace can make the parser generating error having technical information when the basic information requested by General Principles is not correct.

2. Business Rules Validation level: a Business Rules Engine validates the content of XML according to the General Principles Business Rules definition.¹⁰

¹⁰ Some specific business rules of this domain can withdraw or overwrite the definition of FLUX General Principles

5. DATA MODEL (XSD) IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the Vessel Position Data Model applies the following general constraints at the level of XSD Element attributes:

- (1) For Code & Identifier DataType: *listID* or *schemeID* attribute must be provided if it is not specifically defined in the definition of the element;
- (2) For DateTime DataType: only *udt:DateTime* (of type *xsd:dateTime*) choice is used. The date and time must be expressed in UTC, unless explicitly mentioned otherwise. The format shall be *YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss[.000000]Z*;¹¹

The following diagram describes the Vessel Position Data Model used for the implementation of transmission of *VesselPositionMessage*:

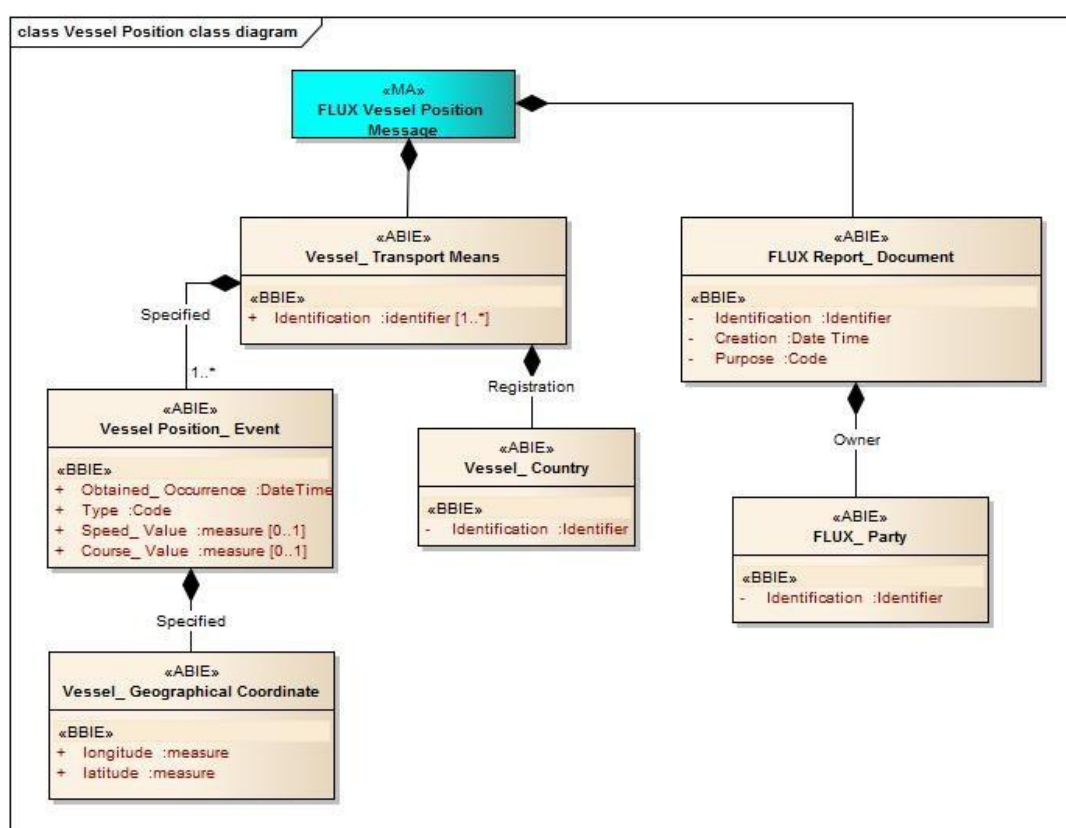


Figure 3: Vessel Position Message Data Model

¹¹ YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less than 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less than 10; T= the letter T to indicate the part of the time section; H24= hours of the day expressed with 2 digits using the 24-hour notation; M=minutes expressed as 2 digits; SS=seconds expressed as 2 digits; [.000000]= optionally fractions of seconds may be included up to 6 digits, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (ie. UTC)

The table below describes for each fields defined in the Data Model (XSD) the values that can be used:

Entity/Field Name	DataType	Cardinality		Description	Remarks
		Min	Max		
FLUX Report_Document		1	1	The document details for this FLUX vessel position message.	FLUX General Principles Entity
Identification	Identifier	1	1	The unique identification of the FLUX vessel position message	A UUID as defined in the RFC 4122
Creation	DateTime	1	1	The date, time, date time of the creation of the FLUX vessel position message.	A UTC date time. Must be according to the definition provided in 6(2)
Purpose	Code	1	1	The code specifying the purpose of this FLUX report document, such as original, cancellation or replace.	Attribute <i>listID</i> = FLUX_GP_PURPOSE Reference: EDIFACT Code List 1225 (qDT UN02000125 - Message Function_Code). <u>Restriction:</u> only value 9 is used in this context.
Owner. FLUX_Party	Assoc.	1	1	Entity used to provide information on an individual, a group, or a body having a role in a Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange (FLUX) business function. Party has a legal connotation in a business transaction.	FLUX General Principles Entity
Identification	Identifier	1	1	An identifier of this FLUX party.	Attribute <i>listID</i> = TERRITORY alpha-3 code of the country owning this report. e.g.: SWE

Entity/Field Name	DataType	Cardinality		Description	Remarks
		Min	Max		
Vessel_ Transport Means		1	1	Entity used to provide the identification and characteristic information of a ship or boat.	
Identification	Identifier	1	*	An identifier for this transport means vessel UVI, as defined by the SIOFA VMS SSPs,	Attribute <i>schemeID</i> must be provided with a value from list = FLUX_VESSEL_ID_TY PE
Registration. Vessel_ Country	Assoc.	1	1	The country of registration of this transport means vessel.	
Identification	Identifier	1	1	The identifier for this vessel country.	Use Code Countries code list in MDR. <i>listID</i> = TERRITORY alpha-3 code of the country where the vessel is registered (flag state).
Specified. Vessel	Assoc.	1	*	The general information of the VMS message.	More than one position can be provided.

Entity/Field Name	DataType	Cardinality		Description	Remarks
		Min	Max		
Position_ Event					
Obtained_ Occurrence	DateTime	1	1	The date and time when the position of the vessel was taken by the vessel's navigation equipment.	The UTC date time when the position was obtained by the vessel navigation equipment, transmitted by the VMS system on-board of the vessel. Must be according to the definition provided in 6(2)
Type	Code	1	1	The code specifying the type of vessel position event.	Attribute <i>listID</i> must be provided with a value from <i>list</i> = FLUX_VESSEL_POSITION_T Y PE Example of values are: "ENTRY","EXIT","POS","MANUAL".
Speed_ Value	Measure	0	1	The measure of speed of the vessel for this vessel position event.	Mandatory. In knots. Maximum 2 significant decimals. Optional in case the following conditions are all met: - TypeCode= EXIT - Message addressed to Third party or RFMO - The element is defined as optional in the agreement with the Third Party or RFMO
Course_ Value	Measure	0	1	The measure of course of the vessel for this vessel position event.	Mandatory. In degrees and decimal degrees. Maximum 2 significant decimals.

					Optional in case the following conditions are all met: - TypeCode= EXIT - Message addressed to
--	--	--	--	--	--

Entity/Field Name	DataType	Cardinality		Description	Remarks
		Min	Max		
					Third party or RFMO - The element is defined as optional in the agreement with the Third Party or RFMO
Specified. Vessel_Geographical Coordinate	Assoc.	1	1	The latitude and longitude of a specified place, by which a vessel's relative situation on the globe is known. The height above the sea level constitutes a third coordinate.	Geographical Coordinates Position of the vessel transmitted by the VMS system at Obtained DateTime. Altitude and System information are not used in context of this implementation.
Latitude	Measure	1	1	The measure of the latitude as an angular distance north or south from the Equator meridian to the meridian of a specific place for this vessel geographical coordinate.	Coordinate expressed in WGS84, decimal degree notation, using a precision of at least 3 and maximum 6 decimal positions. Positive coordinate refers to North of equator. Negative coordinate refers to South.
Longitude	Measure	1	1	The measure of the longitude as an angular distance east or west from the Greenwich meridian to the meridian of a specific place for this vessel geographical coordinate.	Coordinate expressed in WGS84, decimal degree notation, using a precision of at least 3 and maximum 6 decimal positions. Positive coordinate refers to East of Greenwich meridian. Negative coordinate refers to West.

6. XML EXAMPLES

```

<rsm:FLUXVesselPositionMessage
  xsi:schemaLocation="urn:un:unece:uncefact:data:standard:FLUXVesselPositionMessage:4
  FLUXVesselPositionMessage_4p0.xsd" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
  xmlns:rsm="urn:un:unece:uncefact:data:standard:FLUXVesselPositionMessage:4"
  xmlns:ram="urn:un:unece:uncefact:data:standard:ReusableAggregateBusinessInformationEntity:18"
  xmlns:udt="urn:un:unece:uncefact:data:standard:UnqualifiedDataType:18">
  <rsm:FLUXReportDocument>
    <ram:ID> c133b211-0b0e-4358-893c-7afb5437bd61</ram:ID>
    <ram:CreationDateTime>
      <udt:DateTime>2001-12-17T09:30:47.0Z</udt:DateTime>
    </ram:CreationDateTime>
    <ram:PurposeCode>9</ram:PurposeCode>
    <ram:OwnerFLUXParty>
      <ram:ID>SWE</ram:ID>
    </ram:OwnerFLUXParty>
  </rsm:FLUXReportDocument>

  <rsm:VesselTransportMeans>
    <ram:ID schemeID="CFR">SWE000007880</ram:ID>
    <ram:ID schemeID="EXT_MARKING">S-381</ram:ID>
    <ram:ID schemeID="IRCS">EI6207</ram:ID>
    <ram:RegistrationVesselCountry>
      <ram:ID>SWE</ram:ID>
    </ram:RegistrationVesselCountry>

    <ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>
      <ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
        <udt:DateTime>2001-12-17T09:30:47.0Z</udt:DateTime>
      </ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
      <ram:TypeCode>POS</ram:TypeCode>
      <ram:SpeedValueMeasure>8.3</ram:SpeedValueMeasure>
      <ram:CourseValueMeasure>50</ram:CourseValueMeasure>
      <ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
        <ram:LatitudeMeasure>50.563</ram:LatitudeMeasure>
        <ram:LongitudeMeasure>009.252</ram:LongitudeMeasure>
      </ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
    </ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>
  </rsm:VesselTransportMeans>
</rsm:FLUXVesselPositionMessage>

```

```

<rsm:FLUXVesselPositionMessage
xsi:schemaLocation="urn:un:unece:unefact:data:standard:FLUXVesselPositionMessage:4
FLUXVesselPositionMessage_4p0.xsd" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
xmlns:rsm="urn:un:unece:unefact:data:standard:FLUXVesselPositionMessage:4"
xmlns:ram="urn:un:unece:unefact:data:standard:ReusableAggregateBusinessInformationEntity:18"
xmlns:udt="urn:un:unece:unefact:data:standard:UnqualifiedDataType:18">
<rsm:FLUXReportDocument>
<ram:ID> c133b211-0b0e-4358-893c-7afb5437bd61</ram:ID>
<ram:CreationDateTime>
<udt:DateTime>2018-12-17T11:31:47.0Z</udt:DateTime>
</ram:CreationDateTime>
<ram:PurposeCode>9</ram:PurposeCode>
<ram:OwnerFLUXParty>
<ram:ID>SWE</ram:ID>
</ram:OwnerFLUXParty>
</rsm:FLUXReportDocument>

<rsm:VesselTransportMeans>
<ram:ID schemeID="CFR">SWE000007880</ram:ID>
<ram:ID schemeID="EXT_MARKING">S-381</ram:ID>
<ram:ID schemeID="IRCS">EI6207</ram:ID>
<ram:RegistrationVesselCountry>
<ram:ID>SWE</ram:ID>
</ram:RegistrationVesselCountry>

<ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>
<ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
<udt:DateTime>2018-12-17T09:30:47.0Z </udt:DateTime>
</ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
<ram:TypeCode>POS</ram:TypeCode>
<ram:SpeedValueMeasure>8.3</ram:SpeedValueMeasure>
<ram:CourseValueMeasure>50</ram:CourseValueMeasure>
<ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
<ram:LatitudeMeasure>50.563</ram:LatitudeMeasure>
<ram:LongitudeMeasure>009.252</ram:LongitudeMeasure>
</ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
</ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>

<ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>
<ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
<udt:DateTime>2018-12-17T11:30:47.0Z </udt:DateTime>
</ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
<ram:TypeCode>POS</ram:TypeCode>
<ram:SpeedValueMeasure>8.3</ram:SpeedValueMeasure>
<ram:CourseValueMeasure>50</ram:CourseValueMeasure>
<ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
<ram:LatitudeMeasure>50.123456</ram:LatitudeMeasure>
<ram:LongitudeMeasure>009.132</ram:LongitudeMeasure>
</ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
</ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>

```

```
</rsm:VesselTransportMeans>  
</rsm:FLUXVesselPositionMessage>
```

7. CODE LISTS

Vessel Transport Means²

Description: the entity containing the details of the identification and characteristic information of a ship or boat.

Mult.	Business term	Rel.	Type	Description
0..n	Identification	Att	Identifier	An identifier for this transport means vessel, such as an identifier defined by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the radio call sign, or an external marking.
0..1	Registration	Ass	Vessel_ Country Entity	The country of registration of this transport means vessel.
0..n	Specified	Ass	Vessel Position_ Event Entity	A position event specified for this vessel transport means.

Vessel Country¹²

Description: the entity containing the details of a country associated to a vessel.

Mult.	Business term	Rel.	Type	Description
1	Identification	Att	Identifier	The identifier for this vessel country.

Vessel Position Event

Description: The entity containing information obtained related to the position of a vessel.

Mult.	Business term	Rel.	Type	Description
1	Obtained_ Occurrence	Att	DateTime	The date and time when the position of the vessel was taken by the vessel's navigation equipment.
1	Type	Att	Code	The code specifying the type of vessel position event.

¹² For sake of clarity, the description of Vessel_ Transport Means; Vessel Country entities contains only the part that is necessary for this domain. The complete definition of such entities can be found in the Vessel domain document of the UN/FLUX standard.

0..1	Speed	Att	Measure	The measure of speed of the vessel for this vessel position event.
0..1	Activity_Type	Att	Code	The code specifying the type of activity, such as of the vessel or the crew, at this vessel position event.
1	Specified	Ass	Vessel_ Geographi cal Coordinates Entity	The set of geographical coordinates specified for this vessel position event.

Vessel_Geographical Coordinates

Description: The latitude and longitude of a specified place, by which its relative situation on the globe is known. The height above the sea level constitutes a third coordinate.

Mult.	Business term	Rel.	Type	Description
1	Latitude	Att	Measure	The measure of the latitude as an angular distance north or south from the Equator meridian to the meridian of a specific place for this vessel geographical coordinate.
1	Longitude	Att	Measure	The measure of the longitude as an angular distance east or west from the Greenwich meridian to the meridian of a specific place for this vessel geographical coordinate.
0..1	Altitude	Att	Measure	The measure of the altitude that reflects the vertical elevation of an object above a surface for this vessel geographical coordinate.
0..1	System	Att	Identifier	The identifier of the system used for measuring this specified geographical coordinate.

8. FLUX TL ENVELOPE PARAMETERS

The following FLUX TL parameters must be used for transmission of Vessel Position Messages.

Common name	FLUX TL Envelope Tag name	Value	Remark
Dataflow name	DF	urn:un:unece:uncefact:data:standard:FLUXVesselPositionMessage:4	

Timeout DateTim e	TODT	DateTime (in UTC) of creation of the envelope + 60 minutes.	Value expressed as XSD DateTime in UTC. Must be according to the definition provided in 6(2).
Acknowledg e Receipt	AR	False	Note: a non-delivery message is always sent when the recipient cannot be reached and timeout (TODT) time has expired.

**10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)***Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026***CC-10-07 / MoP-13-07**

Review of the options to facilitate and address the capacity building needs of CCP developing States, including Article 13

The SIOFA Secretariat

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ✓ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	This paper responds to the tasking from the twelfth Meeting of the Parties (MoP12 Report, para. 368). It presents the results of a second round of consultations with CCP developing States, setting out the capacity-building needs identified by those CCPs, the options selected to address those needs, proposed implementation modalities, and indicative budget estimates. The paper also provides an overview of existing mechanisms available to support developing States under Article 13 of the Agreement.

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

- The CC to **consider and revise** the options of capacity building related to Compliance listed in this document, and **recommend** its preferences to the MoP
- The MoP to **note** the capacity building needs and selected options submitted by CCP developing States as presented in Tables 1 to 4 of this paper;
- The MoP to **decide** whether to include projects aimed at capacity development for SIDS within the scope of a potential consultancy to develop a Capacity-Building Action Plan;
- The MoP to **endorse** the recruitment of a consultant to prepare a Capacity Building Action Plan, that will be assessed during SC12, CC11 and presented for adoption to MoP14.

Review of the options to facilitate and address the capacity building needs of CCP developing States, including Article 13

Background

Developing States and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) bordering the SIOFA Agreement Area face administrative and technical constraints in implementing the Agreement and its conservation and management measures (CMMs). Capacity building strengthens the technical skills, institutional capabilities, and resources of these States to enable them to fulfil their obligations effectively.

At MoP11, the Parties established a standing agenda item on Article 13 and tasked the Secretariat to develop a paper on existing support mechanisms. At MoP12, the Secretariat was further tasked to conduct a second round of consultations with CCP developing States on their preferred capacity-building options, and to submit an updated paper for review by SC11, CC10, and MoP13 (MoP12 Report, paragraph 368). This paper fulfils that tasking and incorporates outcomes from SC11.

Legal framework for capacity-building

Article 13 of the Agreement

Article 13 (Special Requirements of Developing States) is the legal basis for recognising and addressing the needs of developing States bordering the Agreement Area. Its key provisions are:

- Article 13(1) requires Contracting Parties to give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States bordering the SIOFA Area, in particular the least-developed among them and SIDS, in relation to the conservation and management of fishery resources and their sustainable development.
- Article 13(2) requires Contracting Parties to recognise the vulnerability of least-developed States and SIDS dependent on fishery resources, the need to protect subsistence, small-scale, and artisanal fishers and fish workers, and the need to ensure that conservation measures do not place a disproportionate burden on these States.
- Article 13(3) requires Contracting Parties to cooperate to enhance the ability of least-developed States and SIDS to manage fishery resources, develop their own fisheries, and participate in fisheries for such resources.
- Article 13(4) provides that such cooperation may include financial assistance, human resources development, technical assistance, and technology transfer directed towards data collection and analysis, stock assessment, scientific research, monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), capacity building, observer programmes, and participation in the Meeting of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

Participation and Transparency

Ensuring the full and effective participation of CCP developing States in SIOFA's decision-making and compliance processes is a key aspect of operationalising Article 13. In accordance with Rule 10.3(g) of the Rules of Procedure, consideration of the special requirements of CCP developing States is a standing agenda item at all ordinary meetings

Existing Capacity Building mechanisms

Secretariat Capacity-Building activities

Between MoP12 and MoP13, the SIOFA Secretariat undertook one capacity-building activity. At the request of the Cook Islands, the Data Officer (DO) spent one week at the Ministry of Marine Resources providing training and technical support in fisheries data management, with an emphasis on Microsoft Access databases and SIOFA data-checking procedures. Training covered general database modelling and best practices, the design and construction of a fishery database including tables, forms, and queries, an introduction to VBA, and a focused session on checking and importing data from Excel into Access. The DO also reviewed data files received from industry and observers at the Ministry, provided additional support to the laboratory officer regarding water analysis data.

Participation Budget

In accordance with Financial Regulation 3.4, SIOFA's draft budget includes a provision to allocate funds towards financial assistance for the purposes outlined in Article 13.4, specifically to support developing States bordering the SIOFA Area, in particular the least developed among them and SIDS.

Capacity building for non-CCP developing States

No formal capacity-building framework currently exists for non-CCP developing States bordering the Agreement Area. SIOFA's current approach is as follows:

- All adjacent coastal States are invited to attend SIOFA meetings as observers, and financial assistance is available to facilitate their participation.
- The Secretariat contacts neighbouring coastal States annually to encourage accession to the Agreement and provides support throughout that process.

EU Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Programme (SWIOP)

The EU Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Programme (SWIOP), implemented by Expertise France, is anticipated to commence in the second quarter of 2026, with the Memorandum of Understanding still under negotiation. The programme supports SIOFA's capacity building objectives for eligible CCPs, including Mauritius, Seychelles, and Comoros.

Results of the Second Round of Consultation

In accordance with the tasking from MoP12 (paragraph 368, MoP12 Report), the Secretariat initiated, on 22 July 2025, a second round of consultations with CCP developing States on their preferred capacity-building options. Seven CCPs were consulted: China, Cook Islands, Comoros, India, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Thailand. Each CCP was invited to prioritise its capacity-building needs, select from the options proposed in document MoP-12-25-Rev2, and indicate its preferred implementation modality.

Results are presented in the four tables below, organised by theme: General Capacity (Table 1), Compliance (Table 2), Data Management (Table 3), and Science (Table 4).

Tables legend:

	Shared need (2+ CCPs)
	Training delivered

Mauritius informed the Secretariat of a priority scale going from 1 being the highest priority, to 6 (being the lowest priority). The Secretariat associated number 1-2 to High priority, 3 and 4 to Medium priority and 5-6 Low priority.

Table 1: General Capacity

CCP	ID	Capacity-Building Need	Selected Option(s)	Implementation – Practical method	Priority	Estimated Budget
IND	28	Strengthening exchanges & cooperation	Option proposed by the CCP: Virtual experience-sharing meetings + study visits.		Low	TBD
IND	29	Resource conservation	Option proposed by the CCP: Policy workshops in India with international case studies.		Medium	TBD
IND	30	Identifying needs & addressing mandatory requirements	Option proposed by the CCP: Annual review meetings (virtual) + targeted physical workshops.		Medium	TBD

Table 2: Compliance

CCP	ID#	Need	Option	Implementation	Priority	Estimated Budget
SYC	13	Advanced surveillance operations, data collection & analysis	Option 2; IFacilitate workshops by a key expert on advanced surveillance operations, data collection, and analysis, including risk assessment in fisheries surveillance.	In-person workshop by key expert using real case studies	High	TBD
SYC	15	Support for acquiring/maintaining satellite & electronic monitoring systems	Option 1: Facilitate workshops by a key expert in the various satellite technologies used to monitor fisheries activities, including data analysis techniques for fisheries monitoring. Option 2; Facilitate engagement with potential service providers of such systems.	In-person workshop by key expert followed by virtual sessions with suppliers	High	TBD
SYC	14	Specialized training for enforcement officers	Option 1: Undertake in-country missions to conduct training in the SIOFA Port Inspection Scheme. Option 2 Facilitate workshops by a key expert on species identification of key SIOFA Species	In-person training in Seychelles with port-side practical sessions and facilitated workshop by Species ID expert	High	TBD

CCP	ID#	Need	Option	Implementation	Priority	Estimated Budget
			Option 3 could be considered if there are demands from many Members³			
IND	14		Option proposed by the CCP: Develop and distribute India-specific illustrated guides + hybrid training.		Medium	TBD
IND	27	Advanced surveillance and monitoring systems	Option proposed by the CCP: In-person regional workshops on satellite/VMS/EMS use, plus online modules for continuous learning.		High	TBD
SYC	16	Strengthening regional cooperation for information sharing & joint surveillance	Option 1: Proactively support ongoing regional initiatives aimed at sharing information regionally and undertaking joint surveillance (HSBI) in our capacity as an RFMO.	Regional in-person coordination meetings + virtual HSBI planning	Medium	TBD
SYC	17	Developing/participating in regional MCS networks	Option 1: Proactively support ongoing regional initiatives aimed at sharing information regionally and undertaking joint surveillance (HSBI) in our capacity as an RFMO.	In-person at regional MCS meetings	Medium	TBD
IND	26	Regional cooperation & joint surveillance for regional MCS Networks	Option proposed by the CCP: Table-top exercises virtually + one physical joint patrol planning meeting.		Medium	TBD
MUS	12	Strengthening of port state measures in connection with the implementation of SIOFA CMMs	Option 1: Undertake in-country missions to conduct training in the SIOFA Port Inspection Scheme. Option 3: Support for integration of SIOFA Port Inspection Scheme into domestic port inspection procedures	In-person training sessions in Mauritius	Low	TBD

³ This option has been deleted has no other CCP raised this need.

CCP	ID#	Need	Option	Implementation	Priority	Estimated Budget
IND	12	Strengthening of port state measures in connection with the implementation of SIOFA CMMs	Option proposed by the CCP: Onsite port inspector training at major Indian ports (e.g., Kochi, Chennai).		High	TBD
CHN	2	Improve compliance knowledge and language skills to effectively fulfill SIOFA obligations.	Option proposed by the CP during the 2nd consultation: Compliance training and language skills improvement	Online workshop	Medium	TBD
COM	25	Improve inspection techniques in ports and vessels				TBD

Table 3: Data management

CCP	ID #	Need	Selected Option(s)	Implementation Method	Priority	Estimated Budget
SYC	21	Data management & processing to meet SIOFA reporting obligations	Option 1: Gap analysis and in-country support workshop in the CCP Fisheries data collection and management centre. Identification of CMM requirements and relevant data available in CCP systems. Option 3; Support to establish or enhance CCP fisheries information database, and assistance in building standardized queries or reports that would generate appropriate datasets ready for submission according to SIOFA CMM and templates.	In-person technical workshop in Seychelles; remote data management support	High	TBD
IND	21	Data management & processing to meet SIOFA reporting obligations	Option proposed by the CCP: Onsite gap analysis workshop in Mumbai, Kochi or Chennai, followed by virtual dashboard-based reporting training.	Onsite gap analysis workshop+ virtual dashboard-based reporting training	High	TBD

COK	21.a	Training on MS Access database	Proposed option by the CCP	Requesting Data Officer, to train our data Manager how to develop and use a Microsoft Access database. Training may also include how to: - Input e-logs into the database - Input observer data - Extract data and create reports - Smart PDF links (more details when starting) - Create rules for data quality checks - ...Etc Host Data Officer in COK or send COK data manager to RUN.	Completed Only need for COK	SIOFA Data Officer provided training in 2025 ⁴
-----	------	--------------------------------	----------------------------	---	------------------------------------	---

⁴ See p.2 of this paper.

The Options in Table 4 were provided either by the CCP (if indicated), if not the options were proposed by the Secretariat (Science Officer) during consultation with the Secretary.

Table 4 – Science

CCP	ID#	Need	Options	Implementation – Practical option	Priority	Estimated Budget
SYC	18	Training on CPUE standardization processes	Option 1: Provide training on different CPUE calculation methods and how to standardize them across regions and fleets, including addressing biases and ensuring consistency in data. Option 2: Offer hands-on workshops on using statistical software (e.g., R, SAS) to standardize CPUE data and analyse catch trends across different fleet types and fishing locations.	In-person workshop in Seychelles, delivered by external CPUE/data experts; follow-up virtual peer review sessions	High	TBD
IND	18		Option proposed by the CCP: Virtual R-software training followed by collaborative data-cleaning exercises		Medium	TBD
SYC	19	Development & implementation of Harvest Control Rules (HCR) and Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE)	Option 1: Offer workshops focused on the theory and application of HCRs and MSE, emphasizing their role in ensuring sustainable fishery management and adapting to uncertainty. Option 2: Facilitate hands-on simulation exercises where participants develop HCRs and evaluate them through MSE models, helping them understand trade-offs and best management practices.	In-person regional workshop with hands-on simulation exercises, complemented by virtual follow-up	High	TBD
IND	19		Option proposed by the CCP: Simulation-based workshops (India/Norway model) + remote mentoring from experts.		Low	TBD

CCP	ID#	Need	Options	Implementation – Practical option	Priority	Estimated Budget
MUS	9	Undertaking stock assessment studies for deepwater demersal species	Option 1: Provide training on stock assessment methodologies, focusing on deep-water demersal species, including surplus production models, biomass estimation, and age-based assessments. Note that SC10 noted that other institutions (e.g. SPC, ICES) are providing stock assessment training that SIOFA CCP developing States might be able to participate in. Option 2; Organize workshops on the use of stock assessment software (e.g., Stock Synthesis, VPA, CASAL, JABBA, or biomass models) tailored to deep-water species.	In-person workshops dispensed by expert and organized by bodies or institutions where Mauritius and other participants could attend.	High (2)	TBD
IND	9		Option proposed by the CCP: In-person modelling workshops using Indian datasets + follow-up online clinics.		High	TBD
MUS	10 , 23	Preparation of a BFIA report, impact and risk assessment methods to incorporate in BFIA	Option 2: Conduct workshops on the preparation of BFIA reports, with a focus on data collection, impact pathways, and the relationship between fishing practices and ecosystem health	In-person regional workshop by expert in the field.	High (1)	TBD
COM	10, 23			Complementary training in an English-speaking State	High	TBD
THA	10, 23		Option 1: Offer training on various risk assessment frameworks (e.g., qualitative and quantitative risk models) and tools, with a focus on identifying the potential risks			TBD

CCP	ID#	Need	Options	Implementation – Practical option	Priority	Estimated Budget
			associated with bottom fishing on benthic habitats.			
IND	10, 23		Option proposed by the CCP: Virtual introductory courses + case-study workshops in Kochi or Chennai with SIOFA/ICES experts.		High	TBD
MUS	11	Collection and analysis of biological samples, such as gonads and otoliths, of deep-water demersal species	Option 1: Organize laboratory training sessions on the extraction and analysis of gonads and otoliths from deep-water species, including aging techniques and reproductive analysis	In-person workshop in Mauritius	Medium (3)	TBD
IND	11		Option proposed by the CCP: Onboard hands-on training with Indian research vessels, supplemented with virtual microscopy sessions.		Medium	TBD
THA	8, 22	Identification of VMEs	Option 3: Collaboration with Marine Taxonomists			TBD
MUS	8, 22	Identification of VMEs [indicator taxa]	Option 1: Offer targeted training on recognizing VME indicator species, such as certain corals, sponges, and other benthic organisms. Provide visual aids and interactive sessions with specimen samples, photos, and video footage of these taxa in situ.	Virtual workshop for identification methodologies, updating identification guides, translation of the SIOFA VMEs identification guide to local languages	Medium (4)	TBD

CCP	ID#	Need	Options	Implementation – Practical option	Priority	Estimated Budget
IND	8,22		Option proposed by the CCP: Field-based training on Indian research vessels with virtual refresher sessions			TBD
MUS	7	Identification of deep-water sharks	Option 3: Organize workshops focusing on the morphological characteristics and identification of deep-water sharks using field guides and expert-led sessions	Species Identification virtual workshops	Low (6)	TBD
IND	7		Option proposed by the CCP: Theoretical modules on DNA barcoding and lab workshops in India with FAO or SIOFA experts.	Hybrid approach: online and in-person	High	TBD
CHN	4	Strengthening its capacity in drafting and submitting BFIA documents, to ensure timely and accurate reporting in line with SIOFA requirements.	Option proposed by the CCP: Conduct a step-by-step training session under the Science Committee framework for developing States, covering the entire process of preparing a BFIA.	Conduct a step-by-step training session under the Science Committee framework	High	TBD
THA	24	Improve onboard data collection in trawl fishery	Option 3: Data Quality Control and Analysis Workshops	Conduct workshops focused on quality control procedures for onboard data, including strategies for minimizing errors in data entry and how to flag outliers or anomalies during data collection.		TBD
IND	24		Option proposed by the CCP: Combination of onboard practical training in Indian waters and online QA/QC sessions.		Low	TBD

Conclusion

The second round of consultations has confirmed that developing CCPs continue to face technical and operational challenges in implementing their obligations under the Agreement, and CMMs established thereunder. The prioritisation exercise has identified areas where regional or multi-stakeholder approaches could enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Key cross-cutting needs include practical, hands-on training, in-person workshops to strengthen scientific, compliance, data management and general capacity.

It is suggested to put in place a Capacity Building Action Plan that could establish a sequenced calendar of priority actions from January 2027, identify necessary budgetary allocations, and facilitate coordination with relevant partners and experts. The Capacity-Building Action Plan could be developed by a consultant financed through budget line 9.3 (Consultant/Expert/Service Outsourced) or by the Reserve Funds.

The consultant's scope of work could include the following tasks:

1. Define transparent criteria and vulnerability indices to determine eligibility for capacity building assistance;
2. Determine the budget required for in-person workshops and other priority activities;
3. Consult with relevant stakeholders, including CCPs, SIOFA subsidiary bodies, and potential partners, to organise training and workshops in the most appropriate format (in-person or virtual).

To ensure coherent and structured implementation, the MoP may wish to consider initiating the development of a Capacity-Building Action Plan through the recruitment of an expert consultant.

**10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)***Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026***CC-10-06 / MoP-13-06**

SIOFA Performance Review Recommendations

The SIOFA Secretariat

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ✓ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	
This working paper contains all the recommendations provided by the SIOFA Performance Review Panel, revised during the last meeting of the SIOFA MoP (MoP-11-02-Rev3 Report of the SIOFA performance review panel). The document contains the notes of SC11, and edits provide by CC8, CC9, MoP11, and MoP12. In accordance with paragraph 383 of MoP12 Report, this document is reorganised. Subsidiary bodies (SC and CC) will review and report on recommendations related to their own work. The MoP will focus only on: • recommendations requiring MoP direction, and • recommendations where progress has been made during the intersessional period. Recommendations that remain incomplete with no progress made between sessions will no longer be regularly reviewed by the MoP.	

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

- The CC10 to **consider** the updated status of the performance review tasks, as assessed by MoP12 and SC11 and to **consider** updating the status of its own tasks as appropriate.
- The CC10 to **consider** the perspective of a renewal of a Performance Review process.
- The MoP13 to **consider** the updated status of the performance review tasks, as assessed by SC11 and CC10 and **confirm** the current status of the Performance Review Recommendations and to **revise**, as needed, the proposed timelines.
- The MoP13 to **task** the Secretariat to put in place a second iteration of the new Performance Review process.

SIOFA Performance Review Recommendations

Introduction

In 2023, SIOFA conducted its first Performance Review, resulting in a report containing 49 recommendations. Following its publication, the Scientific Committee convened an extraordinary meeting (SC-EXTRA1) to consider the findings and formulate recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties, including a proposed implementation timeline.

At its 11th annual meeting, the Meeting of the Parties endorsed the Performance Review report and the majority of its recommendations, formally launching the implementation phase. Since then, the Scientific Committee, the Compliance Committee, and the Meeting of the Parties have worked alongside the Secretariat to advance implementation, with each body reporting progress at its annual meeting.

During the 12th Meeting of the Parties, The MoP agreed to simplify and improve the process for reviewing the implementation of SIOFA Performance Review recommendations.

This document integrates inputs from SC11 and provides an updated status of all recommendations.

Method

This document presents the updated implementation status of all SIOFA Performance Review recommendations.

Recommendations are organised by implementing body (the Meeting of the Parties, the Compliance Committee, the Scientific Committee, and the Secretariat). Where a recommendation involves multiple bodies, it appears under the MoP section.

Its structure has been modified in accordance with paragraph 383(d) of MoP12 Report, which agreed to streamline the process for reviewing recommendation implementation going forward. In accordance with the MoP12 decision, within each section recommendations are ordered as follows:

- Recommendations on which progress has been made in the intersessional period
- Recommendations adopted by the MoP and completed
- Recommendations not adopted by the MoP

In addition, the document also includes an additional sub-section titled “Recommendations for which implementation has not yet started or has been stopped”.

Within each group, recommendations are listed sequentially by their original recommendation number to facilitate cross-referencing with the Performance Review report.

A “traffic light” colour system is used in this table to rapidly visualize the status of the tasks assigned to the different SIOFA implementing body. The following table provides an explanation of the colour coding system:

Recommendation not yet addressed by the implementing body	
Recommendation with ongoing actions from the implementing body	
Recommendation completed by the implementing body	

Contents

Introduction	3
Method	3
SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the MoP	5
1. Recommendations on which progress has been made in the intersessional period	5
2. Recommendations for which implementation has not started or has been stopped	10
3. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed	12
4. Recommendations that the MoP has not adopted	17
SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the CC.....	19
1. Recommendations on which progress has been made in the intersessional period	19
2. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed	20
SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the SC.....	22
1. Recommendations on which progress has been made in the intersessional period	22
2. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed	25
SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the Secretariat	27
1. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed	27
Conclusion.....	28

SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the MoP

This section covers recommendations for which the MoP has been identified as a lead or co-implementing body. Per MoP12 recommendations, the section organised into four sub-sections: (1) recommendations on which progress has been made during the intersessional period, (2) recommendations for which implementation has not started or has been discontinued, (3) recommendations adopted by the MoP and considered completed, and (4) recommendations not adopted by the MoP. Recommendations within each section are presented sequentially.

1. Recommendations on which progress has been made in the intersessional period

No	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
11	The Panel recommends SIOFA discusses with CCAMLR concrete options to co-manage toothfish stocks shared between the 2 organisations and establishes either a prohibition of fishing for this resource outside established toothfish management units or revised the units as required so no activities escape the conservation measures established for this resource.	H	42. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 11 and noted that it is consistent with its discussions at SC8 (paragraphs 143–155, SC8 Report). 43. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorsed recommendation 11.	H	MoP	ongoing	The management of toothfish in South Indian Ridge (SIR) area is going ahead with a proposal of a catch limit of 66.7t. Currently there is not a formal co-management stock of toothfish, but it has been recommended to the Secretariat to develop a method paper detailing the calculation of the trend analysis rule catch limits, based on CCAMLR paper WG-FSA-2025/01 and the interpretation used by SIOFA in applying these rules to SIOFA toothfish stocks. This document will be submitted to SC12 for review.
13	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs adopt precautionary measures for target stocks other than the three key stocks of toothfish, orange roughy and alfonso.	H/M	46. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 13 and noted that it had discussed and recommended interim Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) for the key SIOFA stocks (paragraph 178, SC8 Report). 47. The SC endorsed the high/medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorsed recommendation 13	H/M	SC / MoP	ongoing	Note the development of harvest strategies for key stocks and note the ERA and proposed updates for future meetings (SC workplan). Note the work on CPUE for oilfish and escolar. Note the catch limits on species not otherwise assessed based on the average catch of a reference period already adopted by the MoP.

Nº	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
14	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs engage in discussions towards a future regime for the allocation of fishing rights.	L			MoP endorsed recommendation 14	L	MoP	5 years	An “interim” framework for allocating fishing rights in SIOFA fisheries, giving the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) criteria for distributing participation rights to Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CCPs) has been proposed during MoP12 by CKI. This framework would apply only until harvest strategies with quota allocation mechanisms are formally adopted for specific SIOFA fisheries. Its aim is to provide fair, transparent, sustainable, and effective criteria for allocating fishing participation rights in line with the SIOFA Agreement and for fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The discussions are always in progress and the MoP, during MoP12, agreed to continue to discuss this matter at MoP13.
--	Recommendations nr 10, 12 and 13, above on the implementation of the Precautionary approach apply also for the purposes of the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							
19	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs to agree urgently on measures to reduce shark by-catches, in particular by implementing any mitigation measures that identified as effective by the 2023 specific workshop on sharks to take place under the aegis of the Scientific Committee, including precautionary catch limits for Portuguese dogfish. Recommendation nr 2 on the assessment of the status of shark stocks is also relevant for the issues discussed under this criterion.	H	56. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 19 and noted that it held extensive discussions on measures to reduce shark by-catch measures at SC8, including the outcomes of the Intersessional Workshop on Deepwater Sharks in SIOFA Area and the SC recommendations to the MoP (paragraphs 225–257, SC8 Report). 57. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses recommendation 19	H	SC and MoP	1 - 3 years (work ongoing)	Note the projects in the SC workplan and discussions in the SC11 report

Nº	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
26	The Panel recommends and encourages SIOFA CCPs to continue their efforts to agree on a SIOFA VMS in order to verify vessels activity in the Agreement Area. The Panel also recommends that CCPs adopt rules for the submission VMS data until such scheme is adopted.	H/M	62. Regarding Recommendation Nr 26, the SC noted that the sharing of VMS data with the SC could be useful for enabling the verification fishing location data for its data checking procedures.	90. Regarding Recommendation Nr 26, the Compliance Committee endorsed the recommendation to continue efforts to agree on a SIOFA VMS and noted that this work is ongoing. 91. One CCP suggested that Recommendation Nr 26 should be assigned a priority of 'H' rather than 'H/M'. 92. Another CCP suggested that the second recommendation, to adopt rules for the submission of VMS data, should only be considered if and when a SIOFA VMS is agreed upon.	MoP endorses the recommendation, noting the statements of some CCPs that the rule of submission of VMS data, should only be considered if and when a SIOFA VMS is agreed upon	H	CC and MoP	1 - 3 years (ongoing)	Since MoP12, significant progress has been made in relation to the SIOFA VMS, including the procurement of the SIOFA VMS system and the implementation of a pilot phase prior to the system's entry into operation. See Paper CC-10-10.
27	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs urgently seek to clarify the various issues of interpretation affecting the implementation of several MCS measures, in particular those related to CMM 06 on the IUU vessel list, CMM 07 on Vessel authorisation and CMM 14 on the HSBI procedures, including by seeking independent legal or technical advice if necessary.	H		93. The Compliance Committee did not express any views regarding Recommendation Nr 27.	MoP endorses the recommendation, and notes that there may not be a need to seek independent legal or tech advice	M	SC CC MoP	ongoing (3 - 5 years)	CMMs are regularly reviewed by the MoP and its subsidiary bodies. CMM 06 was reviewed in 2024. CMM 07 was reviewed in 2025.
--	With regard to SIOFA's observer programme, and in general with regard to possible technical improvements for the standing measures, Recommendation nr 9 on a corpus of SIOFA CMMs applies also for the purposes of the issues assessed under this criterion								

Nº	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
31	The Panel recommends that SIOFA CCPs task the Secretariat to assess the capacity building needed in order to improve implementation of their obligations by the CCPs, prioritizing the most urgent and providing options to ensure appropriate assistance is provided to CCPs which so require.	M	63. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 31 and noted that it should be considered in conjunction with Recommendation Nr 6. 64. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.	97. The Compliance Committee endorsed Recommendation Nr 31 and noted that the identification of capacity gaps is an essential part of an effective CMS.	MoP endorses this recommendation. And notes that capacity building was already discussed	H	Secretariat CC SC MoP	1 - 3 years	CC8 recognized the need for capacity building within CCPs' delegations, which in part could be addressed by the workshop on the usage of the new CCR template. During the inter-sessional period between MoP12 and MoP13, the Secretariat conducted a second round of consultations regarding capacity building options for developing CCPs. The results are presented to CC10 through paper CC-10-07 and to MoP13 through paper MoP-13-07. Capacity-building options were also presented to SC11, see paper SC-11-23.
38	The Panel encourages SIOFA CCPs to continue and if needed intensify dialogue on matters of concern to different CCPs, where consensus has not been achieved in order to find a common view which can be satisfactory to all CCPs. In particular, the Panel recommends to address bottom fishing activities in the Saya de Malha Bank, the scope of boarding and inspection procedures under CMM 14 and the issue of managing overlapping obligations for vessels arising from both SIOFA and neighbouring RFMOs, in particular the IOTC.	M			MoP endorses the recommendation	M	MoP	ongoing	MoP11 notes that the issue of bottom fishing on Saya De Malha has been discussed at several MoPs without an agreed way forward. Regarding the overlapping area of SIOFA and IOTC, the parties have been working on establishing a formal cooperation framework and are already cooperating on several matters (data, IUU fishing).
42	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider strengthening cooperation with the IOTC, SWIOFC, SEAFO, SPRFMO, and CCSBT, as appropriate.	H	72. Regarding Recommendation Nr 42, the SC noted that for some stocks in some areas, the scientific information and methods applied by these regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) may be relevant to SIOFA and cooperation with them would be beneficial.		MoP endorses this recommendation, the MoP notes that cooperation with CCAMLR and other bodies (eg FAO) is also necessary.	H	SC, CC, MoP Secretariat	ongoing	The Secretariat has been working intersessionally to formalise cooperation between SIOFA and IOTC. However, as IOTC lacks independent legal personality and its Executive Secretary has no delegated authority from the FAO Director-General to sign formal instruments, cooperation is currently developing on an informal basis.

Nº	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
									The Secretariat participates in meetings remotely or in-person of neighbouring RFMOs and CCAMLR to the extent possible. Updates on the results of those participations are detailed in MoP-13-01 (Secretariat activities).
44	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider setting up a section on the SIOFA website dedicated to SIOFA's implementation of Article 13 of the Agreement, presenting the assistance that may be provided individually or collectively by CCPs to meet the special requirement of CCP developing States including, in particular, the least developed among them, and small island developing States.	M	73. Regarding Recommendation Nr 44, the SC noted that it could be tasked with capacity building in scientific areas. The SC noted that the FAO DSF Project may also share objectives that are aligned with this recommendation.		MoP endorsed this recommendation, and notes the comments provided by the SC	M	SC, CC, MoP Secretariat	3 years	The Secretariat has included a dedicated section on the website dedicated to the implementation of Article 13 (https://siofa.org/about/developing-states) This section could also be used to include the capacity building action plan, if it is agreed by the MoP (see papers MoP-13-07 and CC-10-07).
45	The Panel Recommends that SIOFA CCPs agree on a periodical review by the MoP of the organisation's implementation of Article 13 of the Agreement and encourage CCP developing States to proactively express their needs, challenges and special requirements affecting their contribution to SIOFA's work. The MoP may thereafter consider establishing a fund dedicated to these purposes or expanding the scope of the current one.	M/L			MoP endorses this recommendation, and notes that CCPs should report issues in regard to the implementation of article 13	L	MoP	ongoing	Some financial support is provided to developing CCPs under Article 13 of the Agreement for attendance to SIOFA meetings No specific support from SIOFA is provided to developing States bordering the Area that are not CCPs unless they express the intention to join SIOFA in the coming year as CCP. The MoP has established a standing agenda item relevant to Article 13 and tasked the Secretariat to provide a paper on this topic at its ordinary meetings. A paper on the implementation of Article 13 and the existing mechanisms is presented to the CC10 and the MoP13 through the documents CC-10-13 and MoP-13-13, respectively. These papers include the second round of consultation conducted by the Secretariat on options for developing CCPs' capacity building, thereby continuing to hone an up to date and

Nº	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
									precise understanding of developing CCPs' capacity building needs.
--	Recommendations nr 6, 31 and 34 on various areas where capacity building assistance could be provided by SIOFA also apply to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							

2. Recommendations for which implementation has not started or has been stopped

Recommendation Number	Performance Review Recommendation	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
21	The Panel recommends SIOFA carries out a review of the effect of effort limits applicable to relevant fleets to determine whether such limits constrain the fishing activity or not, and that a clear determination is made on the potential use of capacity or effort limits as a fishery management tool, especially with regard to fisheries conducted with gears other than bottom gears.	M	60. The SC noted Recommendation Nr 21 and that it could conduct the relevant analyses if requested by the MoP.		MoP endorses recommendation 21	M	SC and MoP	3 - 5 years	This recommendation will be considered within the ongoing work on the Precautionary Approach Framework and Harvest Strategies

23	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider the adoption of binding application of the Port Inspection Scheme to all ports of every CCPs, without the condition to apply to those having areas of national jurisdiction adjacent to the Agreement Area.	H/M		84. Regarding Recommendation Nr 23, the Compliance Committee expressed its general support for reviewing the scope of the Port Inspection Scheme. 85. One CCP supported expanding the scope of the Port Inspection Scheme but not to "all ports of every CCP" as stated in the Panel's recommendation, and cautioned that any potential amendment to the current scheme should be carefully considered to avoid adding unnecessary burden on ports not adjacent to the Agreement Area. 86. Australia expressed its intention to prepare a proposal to amend CMM 2020/08 (Port Inspection), based on Recommendation Nr 23 and the views expressed by CCPs, with the aim to present this proposal at CC8.	MoP agrees to review the scope of the PI scheme, and noted the recommendations by the CC	M	CC and MoP	1 - 3 years (stopped)	Australia conducted intersessional work, collecting CCPs views, and no consensus was reached on a way forward. The MoP during MoP12 agreed to not progress this work at this time.
24	The Panel recommends SIOFA adopts at least a minimum standard regarding inspection coverage of all fishing vessels carrying or landing resources of its competence which enter their ports.	H		87. Australia expressed its intention to consider Recommendation Nr 24 when preparing its aforementioned proposal to amend CMM 2020/08.	MoP agrees to consider minimum standards for PI coverage and noted the recommendations from the CC	M	CC and MoP	1 - 3 years (stopped)	Australia conducted intersessional work, collecting CCPs views, and no consensus was reached on a way forward. The MoP agreed to not progress this work at this time.
25	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs investigate possible landings or transshipments of SIOFA species at ports placed under the jurisdiction of non-CCPs, and if this is found to happen, initiate demarches with the relevant port States to request they become CCPs or cooperate with SIOFA as appropriate.	H		88. The Compliance Committee expressed its general support for Recommendation Nr 25. Some CCPs had different interpretations of the definition of "demarches" but agreed that, if possible landings or transshipments of SIOFA species are found to have occurred at ports placed under the jurisdiction of non-CCPs, the Secretariat should	MoP endorses the recommendation, noting the comments of the CC	M/L	Secretariat at CC MoP	3 - 5 years	The Secretariat sends annual invitations to coastal states to join the Agreement as CP or CNCP. The Secretariat reviews the inspections reports that are provided by other parties. CC recommends that the Secretariat widens the scope of information it collects to conduct this analysis, including information already available from other organisations (e.g. FAO statistics)

				contact the relevant port States to request they become CCPs or cooperate with SIOFA as appropriate. 89. The Chairperson of the Review Panel clarified that the key element of the investigation is the need to investigate possible landings or transshipments of SIOFA species at ports placed under the jurisdiction of non-CCPs.					[The 8th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC08) requested the Secretariat to broaden the range of data sources used in the analysis of potential landings or transshipments of SIOFA species at ports under the jurisdiction of non-Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (non-CCPs)—including data held by external organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)—To this end, the Secretariat undertook consultations with the FAO as well as several relevant non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Despite these efforts, no suitable or verifiable port landing data were made available to the Secretariat during the reporting period. As a result, it was not possible to complete the analysis as requested by CC08.]
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---

3. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed

Recommendation №	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
5	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs finalise the protocol on VME and protected area designation and speed up the process of progressing the agreed protected areas from their interim nature and identify any further areas in need for protection.	H/M	22. Regarding Recommendation Nr 5, the SC endorsed the recommendation and noted that related work is underway as part of the “PAE2022-MPA1 Protocols to designate and evaluate MPAs” EU funded project, which focuses on the designation and assessment of marine protected areas, and whose outcomes are expected to be delivered at the end of 2023. 23. The SC endorsed the high/medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses this recommendation	H/M	SC MoP	1 - 3 Years	Completed, see SC10 Report on revised protocol and proposed BPAs

15	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs agree on a definition of new fisheries and discuss a regulatory framework for new and exploratory fisheries incorporating the highest standards derived from international best practices. The framework should make proper use of tools already developed by SIOFA such as the fishing footprint, BFIA's and VME mapping.	H/M	48. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 15 and noted that there had been previous work on this matter, although not in recent years. The SC noted that it had recommended an updated bottom fishing footprint to the MoP and recommended that the MoP consider the implications of the bottom fishing footprint once it is agreed, including how new fishing should be considered (paragraphs 95 and 277, SC8 Report). 49. The SC endorsed the high/medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses recommendation 15 Work in ongoing	H/M	SC and MoP	1 - 3 years	Completed. A new CMM has been adopted MoP11 (CMM 17 (2024)).
--	Recommendations nr 10, 12 and 13, above on the implementation of the Precautionary approach apply also for the purposes of the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							
16	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs to make every effort to progress from the current interim arrangements for bottom fishing to permanent rules, retaking discussions on this issue from the proposal tabled in 2019 or an updated version of it. Recommendation nr 9 above, on a corpus of SIOFA rules, applies also for the purposes of the issues at stake here.	H	50. The SC noted that, with the provision of BFIA's in the past years and of an updated footprint presented this year, the MoP could decide to move towards a more permanent management of bottom fishing. 51. The SC also noted its recommendation to the MoP noting that new fishing would need to be considered when the bottom fishing footprint is agreed (paragraph 95, SC8 Report).		MoP endorses recommendation 16 Work in ongoing	H	SC and MoP	1 - 3 years	MoP11 noted that SC9 provided some details on how to address new and exploratory fisheries. By adopting the bottom fishing footprint many provisions in the CMM 01 should not be interim anymore. A new CMM has been adopted by MoP11 (CMM 17 (2024)).
20	The Panel recommends the SC effectively use the focused agenda item on seabird by-catch, decided by SC 8 in 2023 for future sessions, to identify necessary by-catch mitigation measures, including in trawl fisheries, as originally proposed at the time CMM 13 was adopted.	M/L	58. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 20 and noted that it plans to hold a focused agenda item on seabird data collection and bycatch mitigation measures at SC9 (paragraphs 265 and 268, SC8 Report). 59. The SC endorsed the		MoP endorses recommendation 20	M	SC and MoP	3 - 5 years	This is now a standing item of the SC agenda. Work has substantially progressed during SC10.

	SIOFA's cooperation arrangements with ACAP, but also with CCAMLR, should be strengthened including for the purposes of this work.		medium/low priority assigned to this recommendation.						
22	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider incorporating the principles of a flag State performance self-assessment into their compliance monitoring scheme, including by tasking the CC with reviewing the annual national reports submitted by CCPs and currently reviewed only by the SC.	H/M	61. Regarding Recommendation Nr 22, the SC noted that it reviews CCPs' annual national reports to obtain the most recent information fisheries data and to identify any potential new trends or scientifically relevant issues.	83. Regarding Recommendation Nr 22, the Compliance Committee noted that flag State performance self-assessment is already part of the CMS, and that the Secretariat identifies any potential compliance issues from the annual national reports and replies to compliance questionnaire and presents these to the Compliance Committee for its consideration.	MoP endorses the recommendation and notes the comments of the CC and the SC that such assessments are already performed.	M	SC CC MoP	1 - 5 years (and ongoing)	Annual reports are reviewed annually at SC. The SIOFA CMS captures this recommendation
29	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs agree on a review of CMM 11 on a Compliance Monitoring Scheme in order to facilitate its interpretation, taking into account the changes proposed by this Panel, including to the CCR template and the rules regarding follow up action on infringements identified in previous years.	H/M		95. The Compliance Committee noted Recommendation Nr 29 and that the review of CMM 2020/11 (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) is part of its ongoing work. The Compliance Committee agreed to consider the Review Panel's views as part of its CMS review process.	MoP endorsed the recommendation, and notes that work is on-going.	H/M	CC MoP	1-3 years	An Informal Workshop on the SIOFA CCR Template (CCRTW) was successfully completed in March 2025. Furthermore, the Secretariat developed the "Guidelines for Completing the New SIOFA CCPs Compliance Report Template" which complemented the workshop and is available to CCPs when completing their CCR
32	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs discuss the possible adoption of a new measure on a Catch Documentation Scheme, focusing, in particular, on CCAMLR's DCD, and explore options for its implementation. The Panel recommends SIOFA strengthens its cooperation with CCAMLR in this regard, including by requesting	H/M		98. The Compliance Committee noted that Recommendation Nr 32 pertains to a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for toothfish, noted that all SIOFA CCPs fishing for toothfish are Members of CCAMLR, where there is already a CDS for toothfish, and are thus already required to document catches of	MoP agrees with the recommendation made by the CC, and noted that it is therefore not necessary to establish a SIOFA CDS for toothfish, rather, it is adequate to continue its ongoing cooperation with CCAMLR	H	SC, CC and MoP	Completed	Collaboration with CCAMLR is ongoing under the SIOFA-CCAMLR Arrangement. As it is not necessary to establish a SIOFA CDS for toothfish, as the toothfish SIOFA area are covered by CCAMLR process, this recommendation may be considered as completed

	capacity building support for the Secretariat so that it can contribute to future joint work by the two organisations.			toothfish in the SIOFA Area, and agreed that it is therefore not necessary to establish a SIOFA CDS for toothfish, rather, it is adequate to continue its ongoing cooperation with CCAMLR.					
37	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider strengthening the use of intersessional decision procedures or inter-sessional working groups to facilitate the work of SIOFA as appropriate, in order to focus MoP discussions and make better use of the time available.	M/L	70. Regarding Recommendation Nr 37, the SC noted that it has trialled and recommended the continuation of a new combined SC meeting format, supplemented by workshops and focused agenda items (paragraph 337, SC8 Report).		MoP endorses the recommendation, and notes that Inter-Sessional decision process should be used only when exceptional	M / L	MoP	1-5 years	Intersessional works have been done frequently through Workshops organised by the Secretariat for the Scientific Committee or for the Compliance Committee. It has not been necessary to use Intersessional Decision as soon as the decision to be taken by the MoP are early anticipated. The use of Intersessional Decision keeps useful to take intersessional decisions on matters of procedure or exceptionally on matter of substance.
39	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs continue to review, clarify and amend as appropriate the relevant data rules or provisions so that all CCPs as well as observers and the general public have better access to data and information for the purpose of discussion and decision-making.	M	71. The SC noted that it has held discussions on rules of data access and dissemination at SC8 (paragraphs 96–108 and 114–119 and Annex E, SC8 Report) and that the development of standardised reports such as fisheries summaries and ecosystem reports should also facilitate better access to data and information.		MoP endorses this recommendation, and notes that this work is ongoing	M	SC, CC and MoP	ongoing	Public data access is governed by CMM 03. CMM 03 is planned to be revised at CC9 and MoP12 (ref paper CC-09-19 and MoP-12-35) Work has been done to improve the access to the RAV information, with the addition of vessels details pages. Note the update to CMM 03 in 2025 which enlarge the scope of public data (para 2 b ii).
41	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs engage in discussion on the rules, standards and procedures regarding the granting of CNCP status, including the clarification of the requirements for admission or CNCPs status renewal, in order to ensure a consistent reviewing approach. The adoption of clear rules as well as an application template is also recommended, providing CNCP with general instructions on the required	M			MoP notes that the procedure for becoming CNCP is in the SIOFA RoP, and notes that further discussion would continue if necessary.	L	Secretariat MoP	Ongoing	To date, the MoP assesses the CNCP status at its annual meetings. The SIOFA RoP are currently used for this task. MoP recommends that CNCPs attend to the Compliance Committee meetings.

	information, actions, and any other criterion.								
--	Recommendations nr 11, 20 and 32 on the strengthening of cooperation between SIOFA and CCAMLR also apply to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							
46	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs urgently agree on a strategic financial planning for the medium term taking into account the costs incurred over recent years for the funding of the Scientific Committee work, and commit to a fairer sharing of these costs, including by contributing in kind CCP scientific resources.	H/M	74. Regarding Recommendation Nr 46, the SC noted that strategic financial planning for the medium-term would allow the SC to plan and prioritize its work and that the Medium-Term SC Workplan (Annex F, SC8 Report) contributes to the achievement of this recommendation.		MoP endorses this recommendation	H	CCPs MoP	1 - 3 years Completed	At its annual meeting, the MoP adopts the budget for the coming year and considers the forecast budget for at least one additional year. The SC has extended its workplan and associated budget to cover a 3 year timeframe. Furthermore the Reserve Fund is strengthened each year and will allow to face to any unpredictable expense
47	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs discuss in depth the strategic plan presented by the Executive Secretary in 2022 but extend their discussions not just to the funding aspects of it, but also to its role. For this purpose, an analysis should be carried out of the Secretariat's degree of autonomy to identify areas where it could be allowed to operate in a more agile way.	M	75. Regarding Recommendation Nr 47, the SC noted that the creation of the Science Officer position and the appointment of Dr Marco Milardi has greatly enhanced the ability of the SC to advance its work programme.		MoP endorses this recommendation, MoP notes that is it part of an ongoing process, and notes that the addition of one SO and one CO enhanced the capacity of the Secretariat	M	SC, CC, MoP Secretariat	Completed	Note the SC workplan CC8 notes that this recommendation is more relevant to the MoP. The role of the Secretariat is determined by the MoP, and the SIOFA RoP. The RoP relevant to the Secretariat have not changed.
48	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs work towards a clear agreement on the use of consultants – or not – for the offices of subsidiary body chairpersons. Were the decision taken to continue using the current contractual arrangements a robust evaluation of the workload and appropriate funding should be agreed, in order to ensure these offices can be	H	76. Regarding Recommendation Nr 48, the SC noted the decisions by the MoP to appoint Mr Alistair Dunn as an independent SC Chair and to extend his term, as well as SC8's recommendation that his term be further extended for two years (paragraphs 361–363, SC8 Report). 77. The SC had no advice regarding Recommendations Nrs 14, 23–25, 27–30, 32, 36, 38, 40–41, 43, 45, and 49.		MoP has so far agreed to this arrangement, and also notes that further discussion on the workload and appropriate funding is necessary.	H	SC, CC, MoP	Completed	CC8 notes that this recommendation is more relevant to the MoP. The SIOFA budget provides defined funding for the use of external consultants. A specific process is in place for the selection of the consultants and for the assessment of their work through a review panel

	effectively and efficiently discharged.								
--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4. Recommendations that the MoP has not adopted

Nº	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
7	The Panel recommends either the deadlines for data submission under relevant CMMs or the schedule of the annual meeting of the Scientific Committee be revised to ensure the SC has the most recent data available ahead of its annual meeting.	H	27. Regarding Recommendation Nr 7, the SC noted that it had discussed this issue and reached the conclusion that: a. the current data submission deadline is the only feasible deadline for CCPs, as it comes after the end of the fishing season and that obtaining, entering and checking the data before submission to SIOFA would not be possible at an earlier date. The SIOFA Secretariat noted that, once received, these data are entered into the SIOFA databases, checked and validated, and that final versions of these data are only available for analysis around September, which would be after the MoP. b. rescheduling of the SC to a later date would therefore also not be a feasible option, as there would not likely be enough time to hold the MoP meeting within the same year. 28. The SC noted that it had previously discussed and requested the MoP to consider mechanisms to enable CCPs to submit data on a more frequent basis (e.g., monthly or quarterly		MoP agrees with the concerns expressed by SC. MoP does not endorse this recommendation. The MoP would however consider mechanisms to enable CCPs to provide data on a more frequent basis.				N/A

			reporting) where CCPs were able to (paragraph 64, SC7 Report). 29. The SC noted that the annual national reports provide a mechanism for the SC to have a summary of the most recent data and “could be used to support more informed discussions at the SC meeting” (SC8 para 52). The SC further noted that when conducting stock assessments on long-lived fish, the long-term trend is more important than the terminal year, and not being able to use the most recent data in a stock assessment is therefore not a major issue. 30. The SC recommended that the MoP note that it disagreed with Recommendation Nr 7.						
--	Recommendation Nr 34 on the implementation of reporting requirements, specifically on the development of an IT-platform for the management of data and information submissions also apply to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							See recommendation 34
12	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs to urgently agree on precautionary measures regarding alfonsino in light of the significant level of catches, second in the Area by weight, and of the fact that the stocks’ biological complexity makes it challenging to adopt measures other than precautionary, at least in the short-to-medium term. Effort and catches should be constrained to the lowest possible levels.	H	44. The SC disagreed with Recommendation Nr 12 and recommended that the MoP note that this recommendation was inconsistent with the previous alfonsino stock assessment advice (SC-05-29 Age-Structured Production Model assessments of the Alfonsino, and summarised in paragraphs 116–119 of the SC5 Report) and with the CPUE analyses conducted at SC8 (paragraph 130 and Figure 1, SC8 Report), which indicated that “the stock is fluctuating without trend in recent years”. 45. The SC noted that it discussed planned and ongoing		MoP does not endorse Recommendation 12. MoP noted the lack of management measures for Alfonsino, and requests SC9 to propose potential management measures for Alfonsino				N/A

			alfonsino-related scientific work at SC8 (paragraphs 131–140, SC8 Report).						
43	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs include a prerequisite in their consideration of CMM new or amended proposals the review of relevant measures adopted by neighbouring international organizations in order to promote a coherent approach and compatibility of fisheries management across RFMO boundaries.	M			MoP does not endorse the recommendation, and notes that SIOFA should develop its measures independently, especially if they are more effective than those of other RFMOs.				N/A
49	The Panel recommends that the term of office of the MoP Chairperson be extended to 2 years at least, to ensure continuity in proceedings.	M/L			The MoP notes this recommendation, and notes that further discussions are planned during the MoP10.				Not considered yet

SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the CC

This section covers recommendations for which the CC has been identified as a lead or co-implementing body. Per MoP12 recommendations, the section organised into different sub-sections: (1) recommendations on which progress has been made during the intersessional period and (2) recommendations adopted by the MoP and considered completed. Recommendations within each section are presented sequentially.

1. Recommendations on which progress has been made in the intersessional period

Recommendation Number	Performance Review Recommendation	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
17	The Panel recommends the MoP requests from the SC an evaluation of the frequency of VME encounters and of the compliance of fishing	H	52. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 17. 53. The SC recommended that the MoP consider this recommendation in conjunction with the		MoP endorses recommendation 17	H	CC and SC	1 - 3 years	See the SC workplan and the SC VME focused session at SC in 2025. CC08 noted that this work is ongoing.

	vessels with the reporting and move-on rule requirements.		outcomes of the VME workshop (paper SC-08-25), the analysis of available VME indicator taxa accidental captures data from the Observer and CatchEffort databases and their usability for setting VME encounter thresholds (paper SC-08-26) presented by the Secretariat at SC8, and the related discussions at SC8 (paragraphs 290-292, SC8 Report). 54. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.						Note the revised guidelines for annual national reports 2025 recommending higher resolution of VME incidental captures reporting.
--	---	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	---

2. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed

Recommendation Number	Performance Review Recommendation	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
9	The Panel recommends CCPs to launch an exercise of consolidation of the various CMMs into a corpus of SIOFA rules and regulations, with the aim of codifying the applicable rules to make them clearer, easier to interpret and easier to control in terms of compliance. This exercise should identify existing gaps and possible contradictions, issues of interpretation in need of resolving, and a future structure of the corpus that allows the different actors on whom the various obligations fall (from SIOFA's own bodies, to CCP authorities, to fishers) to have a clear and user-friendly access to their	M	35. Regarding Recommendation Nr 9, the SC endorsed the need to identify existing gaps and possible contradictions, and issues of interpretation in need of resolving, but did not consider there to be a strong need to consolidate the various CMMs. 36. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation. 37. The SC recommended that the MoP consider changing the naming convention for the CMMs so that the CMM number precedes the year the CMM was updated, e.g., CMM 2020-01 would become CMM 01-2020.	82. Regarding Recommendation Nr 9, the Compliance Committee endorsed the recommendation to identify existing gaps and possible contradictions, and issues of interpretation in need of resolving, while noting that this is part of the ongoing work of the Compliance Committee. The Compliance Committee did not endorse the recommendation to consolidate the various CMMs into a corpus of SIOFA rules and regulations.	MoP does not endorse the recommendation to consolidate the various CMM into a corpus of SIOFA measures. The MoP noted that the CC is continuously revising the CMM. MoP adopts the renaming convention of the CMM.	M	CC Secretariat /	Oct 2023 for CMMs renaming	Completed

	applicable rules and discipline.								
28	The Panel recommends including in the agenda of the Compliance Committee a specific standing item on follow-up actions in the framework of the CMS for the previous year or years.	H		94. The Compliance Committee endorsed Recommendation Nr 28 and noted that the review of follow-up actions is already part of its CMS framework.	MoP endorsed the recommendation, and noted the comments made by the CC.	H	CC	ongoing	The CC included a dedicated item on its annual agenda. A standing agenda item of the Compliance Committee
34	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider the option of establishing an IT-based data management platform taking into account the experience gained in the design and use of such platforms in other organisations, including in-built protocols for data verification, quality checks and the protection of confidential data. A decision to explore this option should only be taken if CCPs accept and assume the need for investment on capacity building as required.	H	67. Regarding Recommendation Nr 34, the SC noted that it would welcome any systems and processes that would improve the quality of data and allow the SC to conduct verification and quality checks. 68. The SC further noted that it has discussed the protection of confidentiality of data in past SC meetings and that processes that would protect confidentiality would be in line with recommendations that the SC has made previously.		MoP endorses the recommendation. And request the Secretariat to prepare a paper describing implementation possibilities (to SC and MoP)	H	Secretariat, SC, CC	1 - 3 years	The Secretariat has an in-house IT-based platform for managing data, datasets (metadata), and the fisheries (C&E, observer, vessels) databases. This was not designed to have an interface from outside of the Secretariat. The Secretariat currently applies a range of data related procedures: data submission, data checks, data release and data backup. The Secretariat considers that no further actions is required.
36	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs agree to share data regarding the implementation of their fisheries control obligations and utilise such data in the framework of CMM 11's Compliance Monitoring Scheme in order to assess whether SIOFA's control-related measures are effectively implemented.	H/M		99. The Compliance Committee did not express any views regarding Recommendation Nr 36.	The MoP endorses the recommendation. The MoP noted that further work was necessary on the CMS process.	H/M	CC Secretariat	1 - 3 years	Partially implemented by the Compliance Assessment Process. The Secretariat circulated the the CCP Compliance Report(CCR) Template for the Compliance Assessment Period 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025 via Circular 2026-03.

SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the SC

This section covers recommendations for which the Scientific Committee has been identified as a lead or co-implementing body. A parallel version of this document was submitted to SC11 under reference SC-11-22. Per MoP12 recommendations, the section organised into different sub-sections: (1) recommendations on which progress has been made during the intersessional period and (2) recommendations adopted by the MoP and considered completed. Recommendations within each section are presented sequentially.

1. Recommendations on which progress has been made in the intersessional period

Recommendation Number	Performance Review Recommendation	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
1	The Panel recommends that the SIOFA SC is tasked with conferring high priority to the improvement of stock assessments in order to reduce uncertainty as a necessary basis for the adoption of harvest strategies. This task should be subject to a target timeline and include a process for an independent peer review of assessment methods and results.	H	11. Regarding Recommendation Nr 1, the SC noted that it has made recommendations to the MoP on the development of harvest strategies and related data collection and stock assessment work at the Joint MoP-SC Harvest Strategies Workshop and at the SC8 meeting including the necessary steps and timelines for the stock assessments of the key SIOFA stocks. 12. The SC recommended that the MoP consider Recommendation Nr 1 in conjunction with paragraphs 166–197 and Annex F (Medium-Term SC8 Workplan) of the SC8 Report. 13. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 1 but recommended that the MoP note that it may be difficult to improve some stock assessments and reduce their uncertainty, because even though the catch and effort data collected are accurate, there may only be a limited amount of data available because of the small size of those fisheries. However, it is still possible to develop useful		MoP endorses recommendation 1 as commented by the SC in particular difficulties of improving SA and reducing uncertainty	H	SC	Ongoing, ref timeline recommended	See ORY, TOT, ALF projects in the SC workplan. Note the new (2024-2025) assessment of ORY (SC-10-40). Note new assessment of toothfish biomass (SC-11-17, 55, 57). Note the work done under the EU-funded SIOFA-PAM project. Note the work on ALF-2024-01

			harvest strategies based on stock assessments with a higher level of uncertainty, provided adequate management procedures are used to mitigate the risk and uncertainty. 14. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.						
2	The Panel recommends that SIOFA CCPs task the Scientific Committee with assessing the status of key shark stocks in the Area and that their status be kept under constant review over the coming years.	H	15. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 2 and noted that it has conducted discussions on assessing the status of key shark stocks in the SIOFA Area. 16. The SC recommended that the MoP consider Recommendation Nr 2 in conjunction with: a. the outcomes of the Intersessional Workshop on Deepwater Sharks in SIOFA Area, particularly the updated ecological risk assessment for deepwater chondrichthyan species (paper SC-08-29 Update on the ecological risk assessment of deepwater chondrichthyan species); b. paragraphs 224–257 of the SC8 Report, noting in particular the limited ability to conduct a stock assessment on shark species in the short-term, especially since the planned measures to reduce shark bycatch will result in less data being available; c. the shark-related scientific work in the Medium-Term SC8 Workplan (Annex F, SC8 Report). 17. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP supports this recommendation, work is already ongoing. Key shark stocks for assessment to be defined by SC.	H	SC	Ongoing	Task considered, ref SC9 report. Future SC meeting will need to define “key shark” species. Note the update in the shark ERA (SC-10-49). Note the ongoing project DWS-2024-01.
3	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs ensure that the fisheries summaries developed by the Scientific Committee contain clear	M/L	18. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 3. The SC noted that stock status will be included in the fisheries summaries and will be		MoP endorses this recommendation, work is ongoing	M/L	SC Secretariat /	3 - 5 Years	See the fisheries summaries updated in 2026 (SC11 Report).

	information on the stock status of species caught in the SIOFA Area, and that this information is promptly made available to the general public.		reported to the MoP. The SC also noted that the fisheries summaries should be made available to the public (paragraph 129, SC8 Report) and that the continued development of the fisheries summaries is a priority in the Medium-Term SC Workplan (Annex F, SC8 Report). 19. The SC endorsed the medium/low priority assigned to the recommendation.						
6	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider capacity building activities for developing States to undertake BFIA as per the SIOFA standards.	M	24. The SC noted that Recommendation Nr 6 should be considered in conjunction with Recommendation Nr 31. 25. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 6 but recommended to the MoP that broader capacity building, particularly data capture, data quality, and data reporting, rather than specifically to BFIA, would be of greater use to developing States. 26. Regarding the priority assigned to this recommendation, the SC considered it to be of a low priority if it only pertained to BFIA, but a high/medium priority if it pertained to broader capacity building that included data capture, data quality, and data reporting.		MoP endorses this recommendation	H/M H on data capacity building	SC Secretariat /	1 - 3 years	The Observers' harmonisation framework partially addresses the data capture and quality improvement (SEC2022-OBS1) The MoP tasked the Secretariat for developing a paper on options for facilitating and addressing Capacity Building needs of CCP development states for consideration at its next CC and MoP. The scope of the paper should encompass the broad range of areas as commented by the SC in relation to recommendation 6. See paper SC-10-24. Note the development of the BFIA Checklist. Note the Capacity building paper SC-11-23. Note the Capacity Building paper MoP-13-07.
18	The Panel recommends that SIOFA CCPs expand their consideration of actions aiming at the conservation of biodiversity to fishing activities other than those using bottom gears, extending the concept of Impact Assessment to such activities as well.	M	55. Regarding Recommendation Nr 18, the SC agreed that fishing activities other than those using bottom gears may affect biodiversity and noted that it could include such considerations in its workplan if requested by the MoP.		MoP endorses recommendation 18	M	SC	3 - 5 years	Note the new observer logbooks for squid fishing in CMM 02

33	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider the option of developing a SIOFA Reporting Manual to replace the present table of reporting requirements provided for in the organisation's website. Suggestions as to the structure and contents have been provided in our assessment under this criterion.	M	65. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 33 and supported improving communication around data collection, noting that the currently ongoing project on Harmonisation of Scientific Observer Programmes (Annex F, SC8 Report) would address some aspects of this recommendation. 66. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses the recommendation	M	Secretariat, CC, SC	3 years	Project SEC2022-OBS1 and the observer harmonisation workshops (WS2024-OBS and OBS2) have made recommendations for the consideration by SC10 on observer manuals and data reporting systems.
----	---	---	--	--	---------------------------------	---	---------------------	---------	---

2. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed

Recommendation Number	Performance Review Recommendation	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
4	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs assess the use of the VME Guide by observers and take action to ensure its use as required, and also implement awareness programmes targeting observers.	M	20. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 4 and noted that work is ongoing to make this information available on the SIOFA website and that the SC has discussed developing the VME Guide further with additional species. 21. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses this recommendation	M	SC Secretariat for publication CCPs for implementation	3 - 5 Years	Note work on the SIOFA VME Classification Guide (SC-10-26). Publication has been made by the Secretariat on the website. https://siofa.org/sites/default/files/documents/cmm/SIOFA-VME-taxa-guide-2025.pdf
8	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs task the Scientific Committee to develop a long-term strategic plan with identified priorities for its work and options for the use of independent consultants, academic institutions, private/public organisations and/or CCP expertise resources as feasible, taking into account funding requirements.	M	31. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 8. 32. The SC recommended that the MoP note that the SC is prepared to develop a long-term strategic plan with guidance from the MoP, and that a medium term plan had been prepared at SC8 for consideration by the MoP. 33. The SC recommended that the MoP hold a broader discussion on options for the use of independent consultants, academic institutions, private/public		MoP encourages SC to develop a long-term strategic plan. Topic will also be addressed at MoP10 under agenda item XX	M	SC	3 years	Completed. Note the SC workplan with priorities developed for up to 5 years

			organisations and/or CCP expertise resources as feasible. 34. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.						
--	Recommendations nr 7, 10 and 46 concerning, respectively, the scheduling of SC meetings, the development of a framework for Scientific Advice and the management of human and funding resources for its work apply also to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							
10	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs undertake the development of a framework for the provision of Scientific Advice that takes into account best international practices, whether or not combined with a framework for decision-making at managerial level in accordance with the Precautionary Approach. This could accompany or complement the already decided work line dedicated to the development of harvest strategies but would provide the basis for an urgent consideration of precautionary measures in the short term.	M	38. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 10 and noted that, with the adoption of harvest strategies and defined management targets and risk thresholds, the SC would be able to develop more formal decision-making tools that would be useful for the MoP. 39. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation. 40. The SC noted that the FAO DSF project is compiling information on how advice is requested and provided at different RFMOs as a way to share ideas and methods among RFMOs. 41. The SC noted that it would also be useful to develop a template or agreed language for framing stock assessment or ecological advice to the MoP.		MoP endorsed recommendation 10.	M	SC	1 - 3 years	Completed

SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the Secretariat

This section covers recommendations for which the Secretariat has been identified as a lead implementing body.

1. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed

Recommendation Number	Performance Review Recommendation	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
30	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs task the Secretariat with an assignment as high priority for the Compliance Officer the strengthening of the Secretariat's technical capacity to examine, analyse and verify the data collected for the purposes of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme.	H/M		96. The Compliance Committee expressed agreement with Recommendation Nr 30.	MoP endorses this recommendation.	H	Secretariat (ES and CO)	Completed	A Compliance Officer has been recruited in 2023. CC8 noted that additional activities to enhance the Secretariat capacity in relation to the Compliance Monitoring Scheme would evolve over time.
35	The Panel recommends, in case SIOFA CCPs are not prepared to implement an IT data platform as per Recommendation nr 34, urgent action is taken to ensure appropriate data verification protocols and quality checks are established.	H	69. Regarding Recommendation Nr 35, the SC noted that data verification protocols and quality checks are already in place, but acknowledged that they could be enhanced.		The MoP notes the comments of the SC, and that the work is ongoing	-		ongoing	The Secretariat notes that it currently has data check procedures for data submissions. Completed. The procedures are available on the SIOFA website (data section: https://siofa.org/Data/data-files).
40	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs task the Secretariat to review the documents and materials on the SIOFA website and make necessary tunings in accordance with any new data rules on dissemination and any relevant decisions of the MoP.	M			MoP supports the recommendation	M	Secretariat	ongoing	The Secretariat notes that the titles and abstracts of all SC11 restricted access documents have been made public on its website. In addition, versions of SC project reports (where appropriate) have also been made available publicly on the SIOFA website. The titles and documents for the MoP and CC that are in restricted access and Closed session, have only the abstract visible on the website(Title as well).

Conclusion

Most of the recommendations from the first Performance Review Panel have been completed or are close to finalisation. According to the first Performance Review Report (MoP-10-01, page 23) “A reiteration of the Performance Review process within an appropriate time frame, which we would recommend could be 5 years from now, given the fact this Review is the first such process carried out by the organisation”. In light of this recommendation, the MoP may wish to consider initiating a second iteration of the Performance Review process.