



SIOFA | APSOI

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

**10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)**

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

**MoP-13-INFO-12**

# Statement from The Pew Charitable Trusts to the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA

The Pew Charitable Trusts

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<b>Distribution</b>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Abstract</b>	
<p>The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes the opportunity to participate as an observer in the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (MoP) of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). This statement is provided to highlight issues of importance for the future management of SIOFA fisheries.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

## Statement to the 13<sup>th</sup> SIOFA Meeting of the Parties

Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 6 – 10 July 2026

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes the opportunity to participate as an observer in the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (MoP) of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). We urge members to hasten the adoption of new approaches that will provide greater resiliency and stability for the region's fisheries. As such, we urge members to take the following actions:

### ***Adopt the Precautionary Approach Framework***

The precautionary approach is listed in most RFMO treaties but there is rarely clear guidance on how an RFMO should apply this principle. The Scientific Committee (SC) has addressed this gap through the Precautionary Approach to Management (PAM) project and noted that it “*provided a strong scientific basis for advancing a precautionary approach to fisheries management within SIOFA*”. Going forward, SIOFA now has a documented pathway for ensuring that all the stocks under its purview are managed in accordance with the precautionary approach. **The MoP should therefore adopt the framework developed under the PAM project as recommended by the SC and continue development of management procedures for priority stocks using management strategy evaluation (MSE).**

### ***Improve Monitoring and Oversight of SIOFA fisheries***

While bottom fisheries are generally well monitored via the mandated observer levels in CMM 01(2024), other fisheries have no minimum observer requirement, even though there is a requirement under CMM 02(2023) for an observer program for all SIOFA fisheries. Given that bottom fisheries account for only approximately a quarter of SIOFA vessels, this represents a significant gap in mandated fisheries monitoring. For example, the oilfish and escolar fishery represents over a third of all landings and over half of the vessels currently listed as authorized to fish in the SIOFA area, and there is no explicit requirement to put observers or electronic monitoring on this fleet. **The MoP should agree to mandate minimum observer coverage levels for all fisheries via human or electronic monitoring systems.** To help facilitate this, the **MoP should also endorse electronic monitoring standards adopted by IOTC for all pelagic longline vessels and develop standards for all other vessel types.**

***Enhance the capacity of members to meet SIOFA obligations***

Capacity of members to meet RFMO obligations is an issue that frequently comes up in RFMOs around the world. The SIOFA secretariat has been charged with identifying options to address capacity needs of developing state members. To help identify these capacity needs, Pew has developed a self-assessment tool to help RFMO member governments identify and begin to address their institutional barriers and human and technical resource gaps.

Information on the capacity self-assessment tool can be found [here](#).

***Continue to engage with other international fora***

The entry into force of the *High Seas Treaty* and the *WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies* has highlighted the increasing overlap between RFMOs and other international fora. Until recently, RFMOs have largely been unaffected by obligations in other international treaties, but this is no longer the case. To be well placed to address these obligations, **the MoP should continue to maintain discussions on overlapping issues and investigate ways it can assist members in meeting their obligations under these international treaties.** In addition, **the MoP should also provide clear instruction to the secretariat on how they should engage in the BBNJ process.**